

NEWSLETTER CONFLICT WORKING GROUP

NUMBER 1 | FEBRUARY 2023



NEWSFLASH! WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Hi everyone,

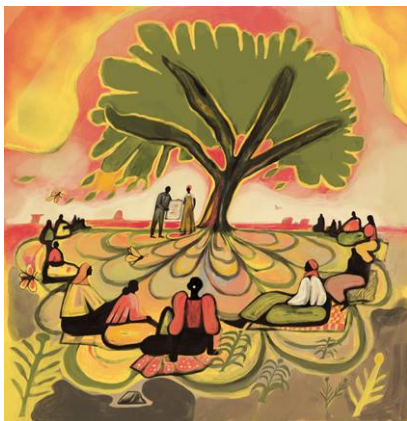
We started the new year with a rich discussion of the working group's vision for 2023, looking back at key achievements and insights from the last year, brainstorming topics of interest and envisioning opportunities to lead the conversation on AA in conflict. We're excited to present to you the outcome of these discussions in the form of the WG priorities 2023 in this newsflash.

Several knowledge products are currently under development and require your feedback, as outlined further below. Please use this opportunity to add your organization's perspective to the documents or to provide case studies of good practices from your work.

UPCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

- 27 March
- Option: Face-to-face during HNPW (end April)
- 19 June
- 18 September
- 20 November
- Face-to-face during GDP (beginning December)

SUMMARY OF THE FIRST WG MEETING



Our first meeting of the year took place on 30th January and provided a platform to look back at milestones and lessons learned in 2022 and forward at our activities for the new year. After a strong focus on the quantitative side of aa with various exchanges and technical sessions on the topic of conflict predictions tools for anticipatory action in 2022, this year we will shift towards more qualitative elements of aa, such as conflict-sensitivity and context analysis. Other topics of interest that were shared during the meeting include a further exploration of multi-hazard and compound risk settings for aa, the climate-conflict feedback loop and the collaboration with other working groups in the anticipation hub.

Two breakout sessions during the meeting gave the opportunity to brainstorm activities for the new work plan, which directly fed into the wg vision for 2023, and to engage with several knowledge products that are currently in development. Michaela Korodimou additionally reported back from the aa in conflict training in January, which was co-organized by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Bochum University. Learn more about these topics throughout this newsflash!

FOR NEW MEMBERS:

The Working Group on Conflict aims to meet once every two months, to exchange and learn from each other. As part of the working group, we hope you will contribute to some of the key knowledge products we develop. Besides the working group meetings and ongoing work on knowledge sharing, we also organize technical deep-dives/webinars.

THE VISION FOR 2023

Most WG activities in 2023 will fall into one of **three core work streams**:

- 'Traditional' AA in conflict-affected contexts: The application and mainstreaming of conflict sensitivity and context analysis in AA programming is a key priority for the WG this year. This will connect to issues of conflict seasonality and suitable triggers for changes in conflict intensity, compound risks in conflict settings, and the localization of AA. Drawing from the experiences of WG members, we also want to discuss practical challenges and no-go conditions for early action and explore implications for different actors involved with AA.
- Conflict impacts and AA: The technical capacity for conflict impact analysis and prediction is increasing, and the WG is well-placed to explore the challenges and opportunities for integrating such approaches in AA. There are opportunities to learn from rare existing applications of conflict impact prediction and from case studies in related fields, such as disaster risk reduction in fragile settings. With ongoing developments on conflict impact prediction, we can further inform research agendas to ensure that new tools are fit for purpose in AA.
- Complex crises and compound events: The anticipation of compound and complex crises where several climate- and human-induced hazards interact is crucial to mitigate humanitarian need, displacement and reverberating impacts. These crises also present new challenges for AA.

Through the collection of case studies on AA for compound crises and the conversation with academics and practitioners within and beyond the WG, we can contribute to a knowledge base on the topic and to identifying future research needs.

Next steps: We will reach out later this week with a dedicated email about the work plan. The aim is to hit the ground running at the next meeting. To this end, please think already about what you/your colleagues might find most interesting & where you can contribute within these thematic priorities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- **HNPW:** our in-person session titled "advancing protection in anticipatory action - an intergenerational discussion about current gaps and opportunities to ensure that aa lives up to its promise of leaving no one behind" with the pgi working group has been accepted. There are also a wide variety of other aa-related sessions. For more information, see: <https://vosocc.unocha.org/Report.aspx?page=00f9pExuBwPV6MxQ4aZ48ib4gExxslashiUS7LPQAS4nklalSxxequal>
Are you planning to attend the HNPW event in person, or will you be in Geneva at that time? We might organize a wg gathering in person. Please get in touch with Tesse.
- **Adaptation futures** - Sarah Gale is leading on the planning for a WG-led session (gale@climatecentre.org). For more information: <https://adaptationfutures.com/>

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS UPDATES

AA, Health, and Conflict Brief v2

In collaboration with the Health Working Group of the Anticipation Hub, Devin O'Donnell (Climate Centre) has drafted a short brief on anticipatory action for health in conflict settings. The brief serves as an annexe to the broader guidance note the Health WG is currently drafting. We would greatly appreciate your feedback! Please reach out to Devin (Odonnell@climatecentre.org) if you or colleagues are keen to contribute.

AA and Protection

The purpose of the brief on AA and Protection in situations of armed conflict, violence and displacement, is to provide a framework to establish the importance of incorporating protection actions as part of AA in conflict settings, developing context specific AA approaches and reducing harm for those affected. The document aims to be as practical and operational as possible for organizations and to act as a foundation upon which to build, develop and identify areas for further research, case studies, and collaboration.

While feedback is welcomed throughout the document, particular areas requiring contributions from WG members includes:

1. Examples and case studies throughout the document
2. Perspectives on challenges and opportunities for AA, protection and conflict
3. Perspectives on integration of conflict predictions to support protection informed triggers for AA

Policy messages

As demand for a clear policy position is increasing for AA in conflict, we are re-opening the discussion around the working group policy messages.

OTHER WORKING GROUP UPDATES

AA in conflict Webinar

Over the course of a week in January (19th -26th Jan, 2023) more than 80 humanitarian practitioners from across the globe came together for an online interactive course, titled *Anticipatory Action in conflict settings: A hands on introduction*. The program, designed and run by the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Bochum University involved a mixture of guest speakers and a live simulation where participants worked in teams and were given a fictional scenario and assigned specific stakeholder roles and tasked with developing an anticipatory action plan in line with their given contexts. Guest speakers included: Catalina Jaime (RC Climate Centre), Seth Caldwell (OCHA), Kim Kristensen (FAO), Evan Easton Calabria (RC Climate Centre, Tufts University) and Christer Lænkholm (Danish Red Cross). Alongside providing a short presentation on their area of expertise, these expert practitioners were able to work closely with the course participants, providing 1:1 feedback on their team projects and answering questions in small groups. Overall, the participants were able to not only engage with a variety of information and perspectives from the guest speakers, but also had the chance to network and form connections with their fellow participants who are working on similar themes across the globe. The course was facilitated by Mikki Korodimou and Tesse de Boer (both from the RC Climate Centre) and supported by Sören Schneider (Bochum University). The full course materials and recordings, additional readings and case study will be uploaded on the anticipation Hub website shortly. In the meantime, you can access the [resources via google drive](#). For further details on participating or supporting in a future iteration of the course, please reach out to the RC climate centre (Tesse on boer@climatecentre.org)

Do you want to share any updates in the upcoming newsletter? Feel free to reach out!

NEW MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP:

- Heath Macey, IRC Regional Emergency Director
- Katharina Davis, IRC Climate Change Advisor
- Male Thienken, CARE Germany programme development and donor engagement officer

Welcome and we look forward to meeting you properly in the next WG meeting!

Would you like to introduce new members, or share an idea for the WG? Please feel free to get in touch with Tesse (boer@climatecentre.org), Catalina (jaim@climatecentre.org) or Kim (kim.kristensen@fao.org).