

NEWSLETTER CONFLICT WORKING GROUP

NUMBER 2 | APRIL 2023



NEWSFLASH! WHAT HAVE WE BEEN UP TO?

Hi everyone,

Our working group is growing rapidly, with around 20 new members having joined us so far this year! For us, this is a clear signal that the topic of anticipatory action in conflict-affected settings is getting more and more attention, with a wide range of organizations recognizing the need to adapt AA operations to conflict contexts. This also means that our work is more timely than ever, and the WG (and all of you!) is playing an important role in the discussion of AA and conflict.



During our last WG meeting, we discussed a number of opportunities to engage in and shape these discussions across various venues. One of the key WG priorities now is to finalize our policy messages, to ensure that we have strong and consistent communication on these issues. Find more information on the process and the need for your input below, alongside other follow-ups from our WG meeting.

UPCOMING WORKING GROUP MEETINGS:

Please note that these dates have been adjusted!

- 22 May
- 19 July
- 11 September

- Face-to-face during GDP (9-13 October)
- 20 November

SUMMARY OF THE SECOND WG MEETING

Our second WG meeting of the year took place on 27th March, during which we got to meet lots of new members - welcome all! We also took a quick look back at the European Humanitarian Forum, during which the Anticipation Hub hosted a session on AA, and forward to the Humanitarian Networks Partnership Week in late April. The main discussions focused on finalizing the [work plan for 2023](#) and preparing for the various events coming up this year, particularly regarding the working group's [policy messages](#), which were developed, but not finalized last year. Find more information on each of these topics below.

For a thematic deep dive, Dorothy Heinrich (Climate Centre) shared preliminary results from a feasibility study on AA in South Sudan, exploring what is feasible in this fragile setting and how to create a sustainable AA system that goes beyond specific projects. Stay tuned for the full report, which we will of course share with the group once it is published, and feel free to reach out to Dorothy (heinrich@climatecentre.org) and Evan (easton@climatecentre.org) if you would like to learn more.

UPDATES ON THE WORK PLAN 2023

The [WG work plan for 2023](#) has been taking shape over the past months, with some exciting activities planned for this year. Many WG members and organizations have already expressed interest to lead or contribute to different activities - a special shout-out to our colleagues at the Climate Centre, FAO, German Red Cross, IRC and OCHA for stepping up to lead activities this year!

However, **there are still some high-priority activities that need a lead**, otherwise they can't move forward. Note that leading an activity doesn't necessarily mean having to do all the work, but rather to coordinate the process and keep the activity moving. Activity leads also have ample flexibility regarding the format of their activity - you could opt to write a brief, organize a deep dive on the topic, host informal discussion sessions, etc.

Activities that still lack leadership:

- Discussions on the challenges of AA in conflict affected contexts/operative constraints (1.1)
- AA in conflict context and localization: The inclusion of local actors and consideration of different capacities (1.3)
- Conflict impact prediction (2.1 or 2.2)
- Donor / funding mapping (4.2)

[Link to work plan](#)

If you are interested in leading or contributing to any of the activities, please get in touch with Tesse (boer@climatecentre.org) and Juliane (schillinger@climatecentre.org).

POLICY MESSAGES

With several key events coming up this year, incl. COP28 with a focus on climate action in conflict contexts, our working group is regularly requested to contribute to the discussion or share policy messages on the issue. This means we need to finalize our joint messages.

[The current draft of the policy messages, based on last year's progress, can be found here and is open for comments by the WG members.](#) Katharina Davis (IRC) is taking the lead on consolidating everyone's comments and finalizing the messages. Please provide your comments as soon as possible, to ensure that we are ready in time for HNPW and other major events.

During our 2nd WG meeting, there was interest in a discussion on whether to include a message on financing AA, which will be revisited in a separate call for those interested.

FOR NEW MEMBERS:

If you are receiving this newsflash for the first time, welcome! 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.

Important links:

- [Working Group Google Drive with resources and session recordings](#)
- [Work plan 2023](#)

HUMANITARIAN NETWORKS AND PARTNERSHIPS WEEKS (HNPW)

HNPW 2023 is taking place in a few weeks (17-28 April)! If you are planning to attend in-person, please let us know - Catalina (jaime@climatecentre.org) and Tesse (boer@climatecentre.org) will be in Geneva as well, making this a great opportunity for face-to-face meetings.

We are co-organizing a session at HNPW with the PGI working group, titled ["Advancing protection in Anticipatory Action: An intergenerational discussion about current gaps and opportunities,"](#) on 27 April, 11:00-12:30h CEST. The session will explore linkages between AA and social protection, with a specific focus on youth inclusion. Please share widely in your network and we hope to see many of you there!

There are a large number of anticipatory action sessions, for more information see the HNPW event program.

ADVANCING PROTECTION IN ANTICIPATORY ACTION - AN INTERGENERATIONAL DISCUSSION ABOUT CURRENT GAPS AND OPPORTUNITIES



SCAN THE QR FOR MORE INFORMATION & REGISTRATION

Thursday 27 April
11.00 - 12.30 CEST
Hybrid



LOOKING BACK AT THE EUROPEAN HUMANITARIAN FORUM

At last month's European Humanitarian Forum in Brussels, the Anticipation Hub organized a session on 'Expanding anticipatory action: crises and conflict, disease outbreaks, food insecurity,' during which we led a breakout session on AA in fragile and conflict-affected settings. The session included presentations by the IRC (Anticipatory cash assistance project in Nigeria) and UNICEF (How to adopt a child-centred approach to AA in fragile settings), as well as reflections by the Start Network.

Between the three breakout sessions on conflict, health and food security, our conflict session was by far the most popular, both on-site and with livestream viewers, drawing in approximately 75% of attendees and highlighting the high level of interest in how to implement AA in fragile and conflict-affected settings.

- [Session recording](#)
- [Write-up on Anticipation Hub website](#)

ANTICIPATORY ACTION & SUSTAINING PEACE (WG BRIEF)

Sören Schneider is looking for case study/examples from practice to illustrate some of the aspects through which AA can support sustaining peace.

For example, in a recent seminar on AA in conflict for our NOHA students they referred to a FAO project on the Philippines to show how (conflict-sensitive) AA interventions can reduce the impact of natural hazards in conflict settings without jeopardizing peace outcomes and stabilization. However, more examples are needed for practical relevance of the links between AA and sustaining peace in a more comprehensive way.

Please share input with Sören: soeren.schneider-z5p@ruhr-uni-bochum.de

MATERIALS AND REQUESTS FOR INPUT SHARED BY WG MEMBERS

- South Sudan: Dorothy Heinrich (Climate Centre, heinrich@climatecentre.org) is looking for organizations active in AA in South Sudan, to explore how your experiences compare to the findings of the feasibility study presented during the 2nd WG meeting.
- Haiti: Silvia Pieretto (WFP, silvia.pieretto@wfp.org) is looking for colleagues and organizations who have done work in Haiti on forecasts, monitoring, EWS, AA, conflict sensitivity - please get in touch!
- Nigeria: IRC is currently finalizing its impact evaluation report for their pilot on [anticipatory cash to small-holder farmers and livestock owners in Northeast Nigeria](#), to be shared with the WG once available.

Do you have materials to share with the WG, or are looking for input from fellow WG members? Get in touch with Tesse (boer@climatecentre.org) and Juliane (schillinger@climatecentre.org)!

On to the next one!

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