



Terms of Reference

RCRC Working Group on Anticipatory Action and Health

The Anticipation Hub Working Group on Anticipatory Action (AA) and Health seeks to advance the work done by the RCRC Movement on anticipating and preventing negative health outcomes (including nutrition). The Movement-specific Working Group will do so by fostering collaboration and exchange (within and beyond the Movement), advancing methodologies and tools, capturing good practice and contributing to the evidence base.

Extreme climate and weather events have been the focus of many anticipatory action initiatives to date but there are increasing opportunities to anticipate and act ahead of other hazards such as epidemics and disease outbreaks, which may or may not be linked to weather or climate factors. Technological progress in scientific modelling and forecasting systems in concert with community-based surveillance alerts is enabling better predictions of who, how, when and where people might be affected by disease outbreaks and epidemics. These advances are providing increased opportunities to develop, implement and expand anticipatory action approaches for health, such as anticipating cholera epidemics and dengue outbreaks.

While this Working Group is RCRC-internal to strengthen collaboration and coordination within the Movement at this point, close contact is kept with the multi-agency sister AA and Health Working Group, composed of diverse health actors, and co-led by MSF and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (to be launched in summer 2022).

Objective / Work Packages

The Anticipatory Action and Health Working Group seeks to advance, in a more **systematic way**, internal **knowledge sharing and practice** (including tools) on anticipating and preventing negative health and nutritional outcomes, and to foster improved **internal collaboration** within the Movement. Ultimately we are working towards:

Building the **evidence base and strengthening our practice of effective anticipatory actions for health and nutrition** - aiming to build an iterative basis for health-risk specific EAPs.

To achieve this, the WG will set clear annual aims that are underpinned by priority work packages. The aims for the first year are:

1. To map all existing health-related initiatives across the Movement to understand what has been implemented, what has worked, what has not worked, what resources exist and where there are gaps (WP1).
2. Strengthen internal RCRC Movement collaboration on Health and AA and explore partnerships and initiatives with other actors in a more systematic way (WP2).
3. Clarify the language and conceptual understanding of anticipatory action for health (develop glossary and position paper on AA & Health for the Movement) *in consultation with the*

external AA and Health WG, the RCRC EAP Validation Committee, and any other relevant stakeholders identified (WP3).

Membership

The membership includes RCRC partners who are working in the field of Anticipatory Action and Health, or who have strong ambitions to do so.

The working group is hosted by the Anticipation Hub and currently co-chaired by the German Red Cross and the RCRC Climate Centre.

The co-lead of the working group may rotate among the members every 12 months to allow for equitable and diverse representation.

Please get in touch with the Anticipation Hub or the co-chairs for more information on joining the working group.

Working Modalities, Members' Inputs

The group intends to work together by setting up:

1. Virtual meetings every 6 weeks convened by co-chairs. Meetings need to consider that members are based in different time zones around the world. The timing will therefore rotate allowing for members from all regions to participate and not one region to be disadvantaged.
2. Ad hoc emails that every member can send to the group distribution list, to share information, seek guidance, or suggest topics for discussion.
3. Ad hoc meeting when necessary to plan for joint events, joint documents, etc.
4. A work plan specifying the joint work packages and knowledge products, including relevant events and dates.
5. Based on agreed-upon outputs and workplan, sub-working groups may be formed to advance and work on certain deliverables to be later on shared and discussed with the wider group.