

# NEXUS' ANTICIPATORY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE FUND



**NEXUS**  
Stronger Together

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# Nexus' Anticipatory and Emergency Response Fund

A key element of Nexus' different ways of working in Somalia is the fully locally-led and managed Anticipatory and Emergency Response Fund. It adopts a forecast-based-financing approach, with anticipatory and emergency response characteristics to address the vulnerability of Somalia's predominantly rural population to recurring climatic shocks through a collaborative and community-informed approach to gathering, sharing and acting on early warning data. The fund is designed to address needs in a pre-emptive manner, and effectively respond to local emergencies, thereby supporting the community to mitigate losses and building resilience to future shocks.

## 1. The need for a fully locally-led and managed anticipatory response fund in Somalia

While pooled funding mechanisms such as the START Network regularly announce calls for proposals for Somalia (anticipatory and emergency response), these can only be accessed by START members, who are predominantly INGOs at the global level; many local NGOs are not members of START or other mechanisms and therefore excluded from applying directly, having to ask and wait for international NGOs to partner with them. Other anticipatory funding allocations for Somalia, such as the recently announced UN Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) contribution to support a series of anticipatory action interventions, or even the SOMJR funding, most often are handed to international organisations as principle recipients, which reinforces the existing subcontracting relationship with local partners. This inevitably leads to long fund transfer processes with a number of intermediaries. As a result, emergency funding often loses the 'quick-response' emergency aspect, putting local partners in the difficult position of having to pre-finance the response and

only receiving response funding in the midst or in many cases towards the end of short responses. Moreover, such contractual relationships perpetuate unequal power dynamics, and fail to draw on strengths of local actors in terms of knowledge, access, decision-making and responsiveness to triggers.

## 2. Nexus' fund overview: Listening to local knowledge, facilitating locally-led responses, investing in local capacity and resilience

The Nexus fund learns from elements of successful anticipatory and reactive funds piloted by START, Forewarn, REAP, NEAR and the SOMJR, contextualising and localising them to meet the needs of the Somali context. A strong emphasis is placed on collaboration with government actors and communities on early warning systems and forecasting, as well as linking any response to the triple nexus and longer-term resilience building outcomes. Triggers, criteria and proposal templates are closely aligned with the SOMJR crisis modifier piloted with local partners in 2020 – however, one of the main differences being that the Nexus' fund is fully locally managed and distributed. Funds will be dispersed by Oxfam to Nexus in advance, allowing Nexus members the flexibility to take ownership of decision-making on allocations to anticipatory actions within the funding mechanism.

### A) COLLABORATION ON EARLY WARNING AND PREPAREDNESS

In addition to the above, the anticipatory mechanism incorporates components that focus on strong government engagement and collaboration. Nexus members have already invested individually in supporting the regional and national governments in early warning and response systems, to improve the quality of early warning and

forecasting in Somalia. In communities where Nexus members are working, Nexus will actively engage in community disaster risk reduction and preparedness consultation exercises, to harness local knowledge in early warning, prioritization and response planning. Nexus' activities will directly support the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management's recently initiated Multi-Hazard Early Warning Center in Mogadishu as well as early warning initiatives by the Somaliland Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (NADFOR) and the Puntland Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA) by feeding into data collection, research, monitoring and overall information-sharing.

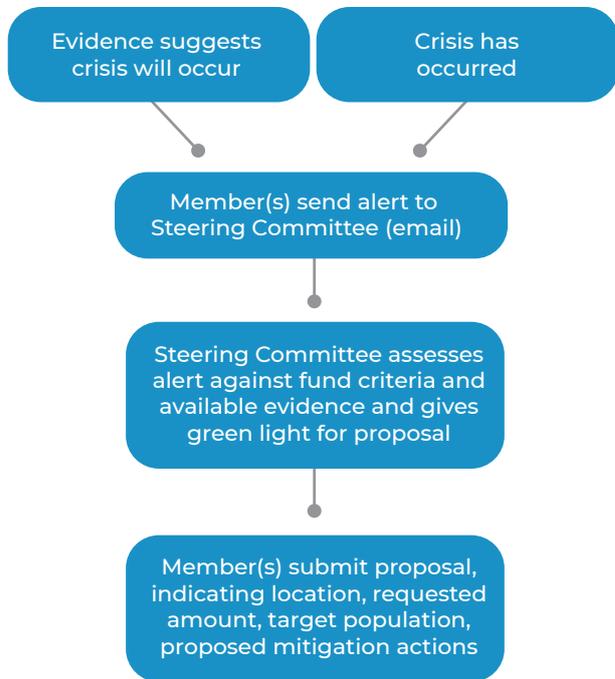
Nexus' early warning support will also complement ongoing initiatives by Oxfam and the multi-agency Somalia Resilience Programme (SomRep), who have already piloted a community-driven early warning system with the Somaliland Disaster Preparedness and Prevention Agency (NADFOR) and the Puntland Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency (HADMA), in which communities share their early warning reports via an Interactive Voice Response system with the lead agencies. SomRep is currently scaling up the platform in South Central Somalia. Utilising the strength of Nexus' geographic coverage, as a result, Nexus anticipatory actions and responses can therefore feed into the system across all regions in Somalia.

**By focusing on collaborative anticipatory action, Nexus invests in:**

- **Addressing gaps** in national-level preparedness and forecasting in a localised community-based approach, by linking duty-bearers to affected communities who are the source of primary information on traditional early warning - which will be complementary to scientific early warning systems
- **Shared risk analyses and decision-making:** strengthening joint monitoring of risks in Somalia and promoting evidence-based decision-making and resource allocation

- **Providing community-driven information to complement ongoing initiatives** on early warning systems piloted by Oxfam, multi-agency resilience programmes such as SomRep or BRICS, FSNAU and government authorities
- **Promotion of adaptive programming with local partners in Somalia:** provide evidence for adaptive and flexible programming and funding to local organisations in Somalia, for more effective programmes grounded in local realities and knowledge

**B) RAISING AN ALERT**



**C) CRITERIA AND TRIGGERS**

The World Meteorology Office ENSO<sup>1</sup> has forecast La Niña, and has already identified Somalia as one of the *Countries at Risk*, based on analysis of the upcoming October 2020 – January 2021 seasonal forecast and humanitarian context. The WMO has predicted Somalia will have 'below-average rainfall' from October – December, which would likely result in the second below-average harvest in southern cropping areas. In central and northern agropastoral and pastoral areas, it would result in earlier depletion of water and pasture, which will likely cause declines in livestock body conditions (affecting livestock export/

sales to the Middle East). Nexus will monitor this situation, and develop alert guidance and trigger protocols for the most common, reoccurring crises facing Somali communities: Drought, Flooding, Locusts, Disease Outbreak, Conflict/Displacement, Heatwaves. However, Nexus recognizes the importance in ensuring that the Anticipatory Fund remains flexible, to respond to the changing nature and phenomenon of climate-related crises (eg. fires, dust storms etc.) that may also have devastating impacts on lives and livelihoods.

Key criteria for the Nexus' fund activation (anticipatory and emergency response) are:

- **Scale:** (impeding) crises Nexus members will respond to are small to medium shocks which are 'under the radar' and attract less attention and often do not mobilize international response; at least 100 people need to be affected. Small and medium scale crises are for example spikes in chronic humanitarian crises or cyclical hazards representing unusually high risks to communities, as defined by the START Fund.
- **Presence:** responding members have to be present throughout the response and have access in the locations they plan to respond in, highlighting an understanding of local dynamics and existing relationships.
- **Community-driven:** Nexus members are guided by the request for assistance from communities who are engaged and lead key activities
- **Triple Nexus:** every activation has to clearly link response activities to the triple Nexus and long-term development outcomes – 'one-off' responses should be avoided.
- **Coordination and complementarity:** identifying gaps in ongoing responses/preparedness and working in coordination and complementarity with other stakeholders
- **Duration:** implementing members have a response window of max. 60 days
- **Amount per activation:** between 50,000 to 80,000 EUR

Nexus will leverage its networks including with the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) and START Forewarn, and the Red Cross Anticipation Hub<sup>2</sup> to draw on best-practice in the design of triggers and pre-alert guidance and protocols. Alerts will be raised considering a variety of information sources, and potential impacts, such as:

#### **Predicted impact - an assessment of the following**

- How many people are likely to be affected?
- Who are the most vulnerable groups?
- What are the coping mechanisms?
- What are the likely consequences for food security and nutrition, livelihoods, protection, WASH, community tension/conflict?
- What other funding mechanisms are available to respond?
- Weather/ seasons
- Livelihoods & Farming practices
- Markets
- Political factors/conflict dimensions

#### **Information sources:**

- FSNAU
- Community data sources: e.g. Radio Ergo; SomRep Interactive Voice Response system
- National weather agencies/regional seasonal forecasts, World Meteorology Office
- Public Health Authorities
- Red Cross Climate Center/REAP Partners
- WHO Disease Outbreak Notifications
- FAO Desert Locusts information service
- LOOP app
- Quick onset disaster alerts by government

#### **Examples of effective anticipatory actions to pre-empt crisis may include:**

- Cash transfers, loans and insurance
- WASH interventions
- Climate smart agriculture
- Utilizing technology
- Advocacy, communication and information sharing
- Risk mapping and monitoring
- Surge health systems strengthening

<sup>1</sup>World Meteorology Office prediction El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) as at 29 September 2020

<sup>2</sup>IFRC Anticipation Hub <https://www.forecast-based-financing.org/anticipation-hub/>

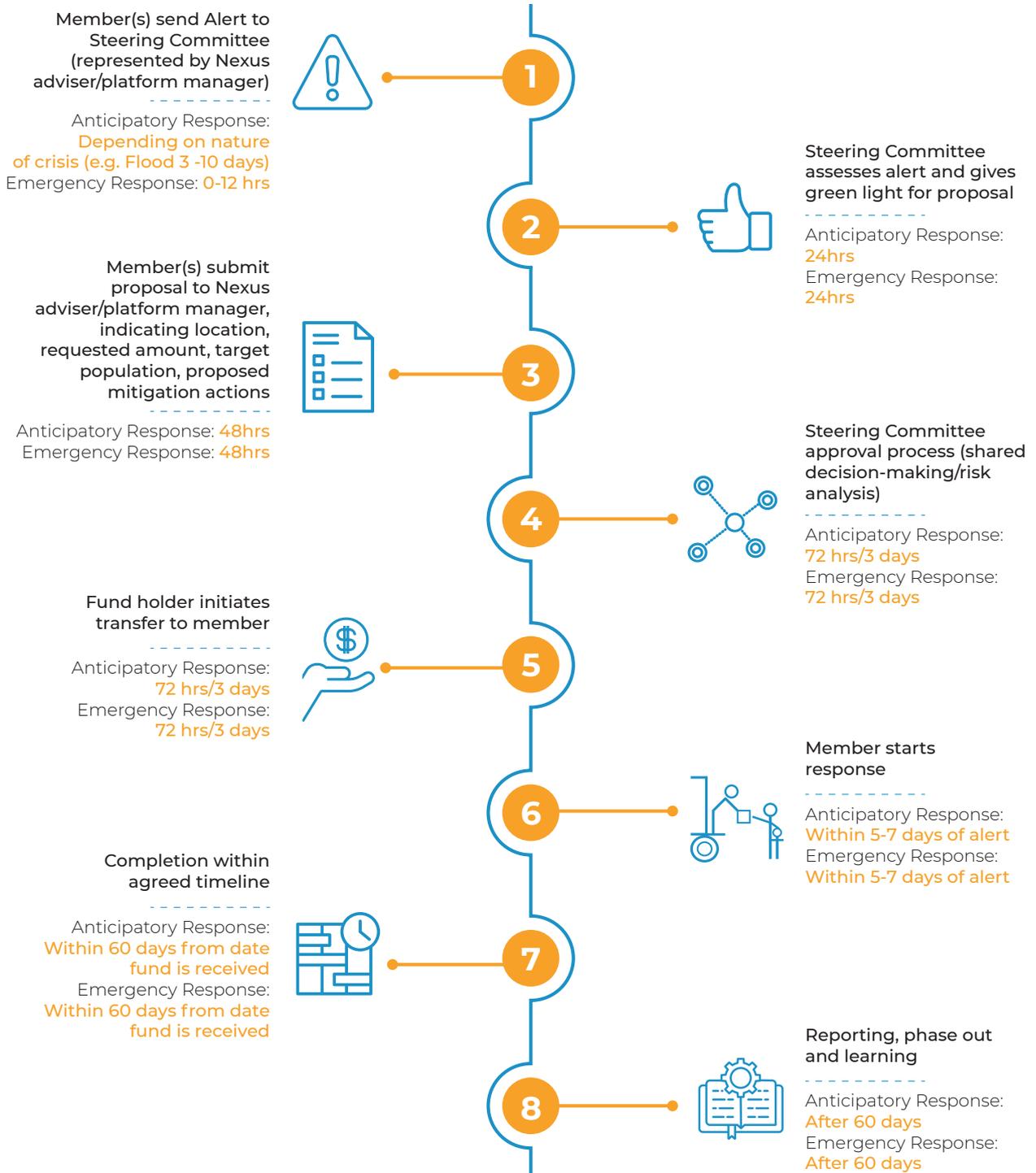
**Draft Indicators to support monitoring in advance of anticipatory actions<sup>3</sup>:**

Drought	Flood	Locusts	Disease Outbreaks	Conflict Displacement	Heatwave
Reduced water levels	Unusually high dam/reservoir levels	Heavy rains	Insufficient nutrient intake and unsafe food and water	Disruption of livelihoods	High night temperatures, high humidity, low wind speed, low soil moisture
Below average seasonal rainfall totals	Water levels in neighbouring countries (eg. Ethiopia)	Flooding	Lack of ability of the health system to detect, map and contain disease outbreaks	Social discontent	Power availability
Deteriorating vegetation conditions	Saturated ground due to heavy rainfall		High population density and overcrowding	Rising costs of living & a declining economy	Populations engaged in outdoor manual labour
Poor soil moisture reading	Above average seasonal rainfall totals		Remoteness or challenges accessing an area of potential outbreak	Deteriorating or changing relationships between key actors	Community vulnerability
Previous failed/delayed seasonal rains leading to low crop production			Displacement and other movement patterns that may contribute to disease spread	Heightened vulnerability due to other shocks or stresses	Access to medical care
Large-scale food insecurity			Forecast weather patterns – particularly rain	Destabilising role of neighbouring countries	Access to cooling spaces
Rising water & food prices			Lack of ability to communicate outbreaks and mitigation measures to the public	Use of negative coping strategies	
Abnormal out-migration of livestock			Poor vaccination coverage	Competition over resources	
Negative health effects					
Increasing debt levels					
Asset selling					

<sup>3</sup> Indicators based on the START Network lessons learned; to be contextualized further

### D) FUND ALLOCATION PROCESS

The anticipatory and emergency response funding allocation is outlined in the following internal Nexus process:



### E) FUND MANAGEMENT

The anticipatory fund is hosted by one of the nine Nexus members. This set-up allows for quick in-country release of emergency funding based on the allocation decision by the Steering Committee. Lengthy fund transfers from INGOs to LNGOs can therefore be avoided and the (anticipated) emergency addressed in a timely and effective manner. It ensures the decentralisation of responsibilities for managing risk and taking action.



## ABOUT NEXUS:

Nexus is a paradigm-shifting platform of Somali civil society, strategically investing in the institutions of civil society and government to lead the way in identifying, scaling and integrating community-owned and driven solutions to humanitarian, development and peacebuilding needs.

<http://nexusom.org/>



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