



Anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific

Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group
on Anticipatory Action

Regional Roadmap 2023–2027



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Required citation:

Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action. 2024. *Anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific: TWGAA regional roadmap 2023–2027*. Bangkok.

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Acknowledgements:

Members of the Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (TWGAA) contributed to this roadmap through their responses in a regional mapping survey, their participation in consultation workshops and review meetings, and their provision of written feedback to earlier drafts. Drafts of the regional roadmap were also shared with country-level technical working groups in Bangladesh and the Philippines for feedback and input. The group thanks Lena Nur for her support in developing the roadmap.

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ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AA	Anticipatory Action
AATF	Global Anticipatory Action Task Force
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AHA Centre	Association of Southeast Asian Nations Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
ASMC	ASEAN Specialised Meteorological Centre
COP	Conference of the Parties
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
DREF	Disaster Response Emergency Fund
EPWG	Emergency Preparedness Working Group
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
GESI	gender equality and social inclusion
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
MOOC	massive open online course
NMHSs	national meteorological and hydrological services
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
PCRIC	Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company
PIF	Pacific Islands Forum
RCWG	Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group
REAP	Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership
RIMES	Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia
SAARC	South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation
SEADRIF	Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility
SPREP	Pacific Regional Environment Programme
SPC	Pacific Community
TWG	technical working group
TWGAA	Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action
UN	United Nations
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UN Women	United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and Empowerment of Women
WFP	World Food Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

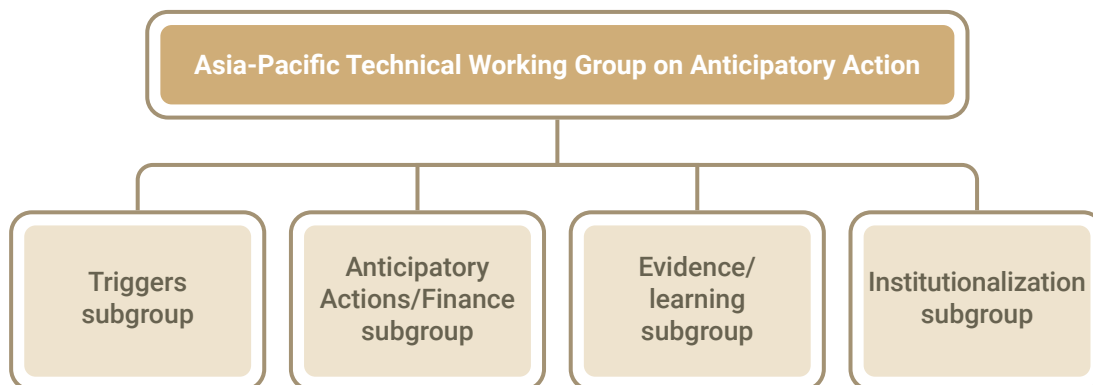


ABOUT THIS ROADMAP

This document presents the five-year vision and roadmap for anticipatory action prepared by the Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (TWGAA), covering the period 2023–2027.

The vision and roadmap build on the TWGAA’s Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific. They were developed through consultations done between May and July 2023, including a survey of organizations implementing anticipatory action in 14 countries across the region. Findings from the survey are discussed in the [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#). The consultation process also included an in-person workshop hosted by the TWGAA at the 7th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action held in Nepal on 13–15 June 2023, as well as written feedback and online discussions with the TWGAA, its co-leadership and its trigger subgroups in June–July 2023.

The TWGAA was created in 2019 to promote regional knowledge sharing and cooperation on anticipatory action (AA). The TWGAA is co-led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). As of July 2023, the TWGAA has convened around 80 members from over 25 agencies and have had four subgroups: evidence, triggers, training and policy. In June, the TWGAA 2023 was approved to become part of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) structure as a key working group endorsed by the regional directors.



Key functions of the group include:

- Developing a common framework and promoting the intellectual underpinning of anticipatory action (including definitions and standards) to ensure technical rigour in the region;
- Promoting the scale-up of collective anticipatory action initiatives and providing technical support to interagency efforts;
- Supporting governments and partners in developing collaborative, sustainable and holistic anticipatory action systems and streamlining coordination and requests on national actors;
- Generating joint evaluation methodologies and evidence, and disseminating lessons learned;
- Collaborating on events, advocacy efforts, knowledge products and workshops;
- Coordinating and engaging in joint resource mobilization for anticipatory action and flexible financing;
- Providing technical materials, trainings, tools and templates to guide countries in setting up anticipatory action systems;
- Supporting the linking of anticipatory action to key themes such as adaptive and shock-responsive social protection, cash preparedness, gender equality and social inclusion, and climate resilience;

- Providing regional early warnings updates for regional groups such as the Emergency Preparedness Working Group (EPWG), IASC, Regional Networks, and Regional Climate Outlook Forums;
- Extending technical assistance for practical and policy uptake to regional bodies on anticipatory action, e.g. the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), particularly the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management (AHA Centre); the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC); and the Pacific Resilience Partnership.

Box 1. Strategic connections of the Roadmap with existing initiatives

The Roadmap forges crucial connections with relevant networks, initiatives, and forums at the regional and global levels, ensuring that it does not function in isolation. The TWG AA engagement in these areas offers avenues for sharing knowledge, contributing to the milestones of broader programmes, and fostering a united and coherent voice from the region to support outcomes. Key linkages will be made over the coming five years to the following areas:

- **Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative:** Launched by the UN Secretary-General in March 2022, the EW4All initiative aims to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. The TWGAA will actively work towards supporting and contributing to the principal results of the EW4All initiative. Additionally, there will be a systematic integration of efforts across the four pillars of the initiative (Disaster Risk Knowledge, Observations and Forecasting, Dissemination and Communication, Preparedness and Response), aligning them with key outcomes of the Roadmap from 2023 to 2027.
- **ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management:** The ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management provides guidance for defining and contextualizing AA at the regional level with a proposed Plan of Action for 2021-2025. The TWG AA has aligned the definition and key building blocks of AA from the Framework with its Technical Standards on AA to support ASEAN's efforts. The Roadmap will further contribute to and facilitate the execution of the Plan of Action in ASEAN Member States.
- **Global Shield:** The Vulnerable Twenty Group, in collaboration with the Group of Seven and other supportive nations, inaugurated the Global Shield against Climate Risks in 2022 at COP 27. The primary objective of the Global Shield is to enhance and streamline pre-arranged protection measures against climate and disaster-related risks for vulnerable individuals and nations. The work outlined on financing for AA (Pillar 3) of this Roadmap will contribute to this initiative and support evidence-building in the Asia-Pacific region towards its key goals.
- **IASC:** In Asia-Pacific, the IASC has various sub-groups of which the TWGAA is one alongside the Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group (RCWG), Disaster Displacement Working Group, Emergency Preparedness Working Group, Accountability to Affected People and Protection from Sexual Exploitation and Abuse Working Group, Gender in Humanitarian Action Working Group and Gender-Based Violence working group. The TWGAA is already coordinating closely with various groups under the IASC such as the RCWG where ongoing guidelines, including the '[Anticipatory action and cash transfers for rapid-onset hazards: Practitioners' note for field testing](#)', are being created. The group offers a conducive space to showcase the value of AA across different areas in disaster risk management.
- **Anticipation Hub:** The Anticipation Hub provides opportunities to connect the region with the global anticipatory action community of practice through an online platform, a repository of guidance and evidence, and annual regional and global anticipatory action forums. A partnership with the TWGAA can support regular mapping of AA progress, knowledge exchange and learning beyond the region, and help the group share advancements on anticipatory action in Asia-Pacific.
- **Global Anticipatory Action Task Force (AATF):** The AATF includes actors implementing AA in over 60 countries, including those in Asia-Pacific. These are the FAO, IFRC, Start Network, WFP, and OCHA. The AATF sees its role in providing technical expertise, sharing knowledge and learning, and promoting partnerships to ensure the global AA agenda is shaped by country-level needs and best practices. A connection between the AATF and TWGAA can be fostered to promote the approach further and provide a collective voice to feed into ongoing initiatives at the global level.
- **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP):** REAP convenes partners from across the climate, humanitarian and development communities to reduce disaster losses and better protect people from disasters by enabling coherence, alignment and complementarity of AA initiatives. Likewise with the Anticipation Hub and the AATF, the TWGAA will contribute to key outcomes or normative guidelines produced by the REAP and offer knowledge sharing based on our experiences on rolling out the Roadmap over the next five years.

It is important to note that the [Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#), the [Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#), and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) are also at the forefront of the TWGAA agenda. These agendas will continue to serve as foundational pillars guiding our outputs of the Roadmap and ensuring the TWGAA is contributing to the wider agendas moving forward.

CONTEXT

Asia and the Pacific is highly exposed to natural hazard-related disasters.¹ While the region is at high risk from geophysical hazards such as tsunamis and earthquakes, hydrometeorological hazards, such as floods, droughts and storms, have caused more economic damage from disasters and accounted for the biggest number of fatalities and affected populations from 1970 to 2022. Between 2021 and 2023 alone, the region experienced a series of devastating disasters related to these hydrometeorological hazards: massive floods in Pakistan, India, Bangladesh and Afghanistan; heatwaves in India and Pakistan; drought in Afghanistan; Tropical Storm Megi in the Philippines; Cyclone Mocha in Myanmar and Bangladesh; and the impact of El Niño in the Equatorial Pacific. These occurrences highlight the region's susceptibility to disasters, which significantly affect marginalised groups and at-risk populations, particularly women, girls and people with disability. As a result of climate change, hazard risk in existing hotspots in the region is likely to intensify, and new hotspots could emerge in the future.²

Reflecting its high level of disaster risk, Asia and the Pacific has become a forerunner in disaster risk management in the world. Efforts to strengthen forecasting and early warning systems for hydrometeorological hazards have resulted in improved capacity to produce or customise forecasts at seasonal and short-term timescales in many countries in the region.³ Globally, Asia and the Pacific had the biggest share of countries (60%) that reported having a multi-hazard early warning system in place in 2022.⁴ It was also among the regions with the highest percentage of local governments that had a plan to act on early warnings between 2015 and 2022.⁵

Intending to harness this growing capacity, humanitarian and development partners supporting governments in Asia and the Pacific have turned their attention to developing, implementing and institutionalizing AA as part of their wider emergency preparedness and response operations. Since the first AA pilots in the region – in Bangladesh, the Philippines and Mongolia – around 2015–2017, AA initiatives have been established in at least 15 countries.

Anticipatory action is a set of interventions that are carried out when a hazard poses imminent danger based on a forecast, early warning or pre-disaster risk analysis.

Anticipatory action is taken by an individual or organization before an anticipated disaster to mitigate its impact on people, assets and infrastructure that are likely to be affected.⁶

1 Asia and the Pacific, in this document, spans from Afghanistan to Samoa. However, if some agencies include other countries in this grouping, we also encourage the application of this roadmap to those countries and contact the TWGAA co-leads on their inclusion.

2 Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP). 2023. [Seizing the moment: targeting transformative disaster risk resilience. Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2023](#). Bangkok: ESCAP.

3 United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 2022. [Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems: Target G](#). Bonn: UNDRR Bonn Office; AHA Centre. 2019. [ASEAN risk monitor and disaster management review: Bridging Science and Decision Making](#). Jakarta: AHA Centre.

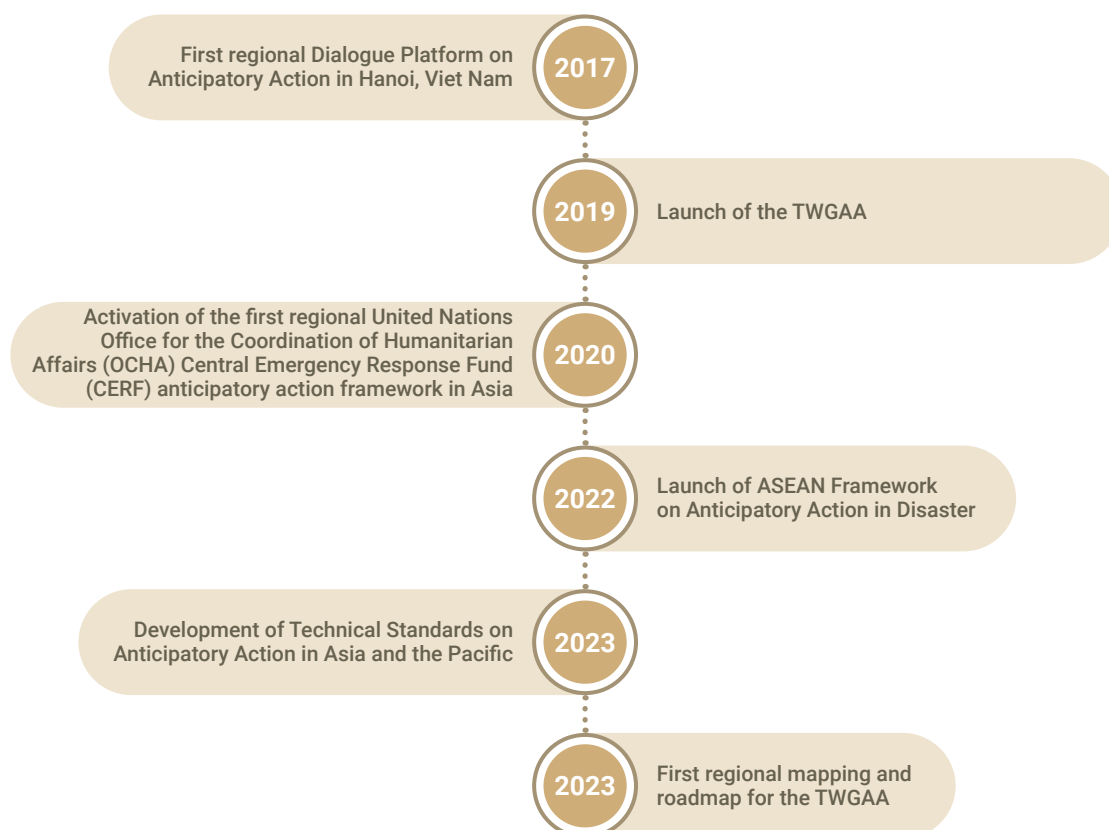
4 UNDRR and WMO. 2022. [Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems: Target G](#). Bonn: UNDRR Bonn Office.

5 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Indicator G-4: [Percentage of local governments having a plan to act on early warnings](#). The analysis is limited to those countries that reported to the Sendai Monitor during this period.

6 Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN). 2022. [ASEAN framework on anticipatory action in disaster management](#).

With evidence of positive impact from AA – for example, ahead of floods in Bangladesh⁷ or dzud in Mongolia^{8,9} – there are now intensified efforts to scale up and institutionalize AA within the established regional, national and subnational government systems for disaster risk management. A milestone in this regard was the launch of the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management in 2022, which provides regional guidance on the role and implementation of AA. Steps have since been undertaken to operationalise the framework, for instance through the development of a guide and a training module on gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) in AA.¹⁰ At the regional level, collaboration around anticipatory action is being supported by the TWGAA.

Figure 1. Milestones for regional collaboration on anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific



While AA terminology and the emphasis on systematic planning are relatively new, the concept of acting ahead to prevent or mitigate the expected impacts of a flood, storm, drought or other hazard event is not new to the region. Therefore, a major focus of this roadmap is to create an enabling environment – through capacity building, learning and advocacy activities – for laws and policies, institutionalization, and coordination related to AA within existing disaster risk management systems. By doing so, it places governments and mainstreaming efforts at the forefront while showcasing the steps needed to build better cohesion and understanding of AA in the region.

7 Pople, A., Hill, R., Dercon, S. and Brunckhorst, B. 2021. [Anticipatory cash transfers in climate disaster response](#). Working Paper 6. London: Centre for Disaster Protection.

8 Gros, C., Easton-Calabria, E., Bailey, M., Dagys, K., de Perez, E. C., Sharavnyambuu, M. and Kruczkiewicz, A. 2022. [The effectiveness of forecast-based humanitarian assistance in anticipation of extreme winters: a case study of vulnerable herders in Mongolia](#). *Disasters*, 46(1), 95-118.

9 *Dzud* is a Mongolian term for harsh winter conditions which involves extremely cold temperatures and heavy snowfall. This makes it difficult for livestock to access food and may result in high animal mortality rates. Dry summer conditions that precede the severe winter also reduce the availability of pasture, which in turn contributes to the vulnerability of livestock.

10 These are [Strengthening gender equality and social inclusion in disaster responsive social protection and anticipatory action in ASEAN](#) and the [Training module on gender equality and social inclusion responsive anticipatory action](#), both published by ASEAN in Jakarta.

Box 2. Enhancing connectivity through linking the TWGAA with National/Sub-Regional Coordination AA Structures in Asia Pacific

At the time of the release of the Roadmap, the Asia-Pacific region currently has eight existing national/sub-regional coordination structures on AA such as in the Pacific, the Philippines, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Timor Leste, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Pakistan. As this number is expected to grow over the Roadmap's lifetime, it is imperative for TWGAA to strengthen connections between them to foster cross-learning and coordination.

To achieve this, the TWGAA plans to host 'All-in' meetings quarterly, as outlined under Pillar 5, engaging with all national/sub-regional coordination AA structures. The objective of the 'All-in' meeting is to establish a feedback mechanism to understand the needs and preferences of the national/sub-national groups. Additionally, the opportunities and challenges encountered on the ground can be reflected in the outputs of the TWGAA Roadmap activities.

Levels of experience and engagement with anticipatory action vary across countries in Asia and the Pacific, and this roadmap aims to cater to this regional diversity. In defining its vision and objectives and identifying appropriate priority actions, this roadmap considered three types of countries based on their experience with and level of institutionalization of anticipatory action (Table 1).¹¹ These groupings are not intended to comment on the willingness, capacity or efforts of countries, organizations and institutions to develop and strengthen AA. Instead, they were used to identify common challenges and prioritize the anticipatory action support needed by different countries. The groupings could also encourage targeted and structured sharing and learning between countries of the same group or across different groups.

Table 1. Anticipatory action experience and institutionalization across countries

Level of experience with and institutionalization of anticipatory action
Organizations in the country have protocols for the implementation of anticipatory action. They must have successfully activated these protocols and implemented anticipatory action (at a small, medium or large scale); generated evidence on the effectiveness of anticipatory action; and noted an increasing government interest and ownership of the approach.
Some anticipatory action protocols exist, but coordination mechanisms are not yet well-established, and temperature checks with governments on their interest and on complementarity with existing disaster risk management systems are still being formalized. Some evidence also exists for scaling up or supporting mainstreaming efforts.
Organizations are starting to work on the concept of anticipatory action and exploring ways to develop their own protocols by gathering technical support and lessons learned from other contexts.

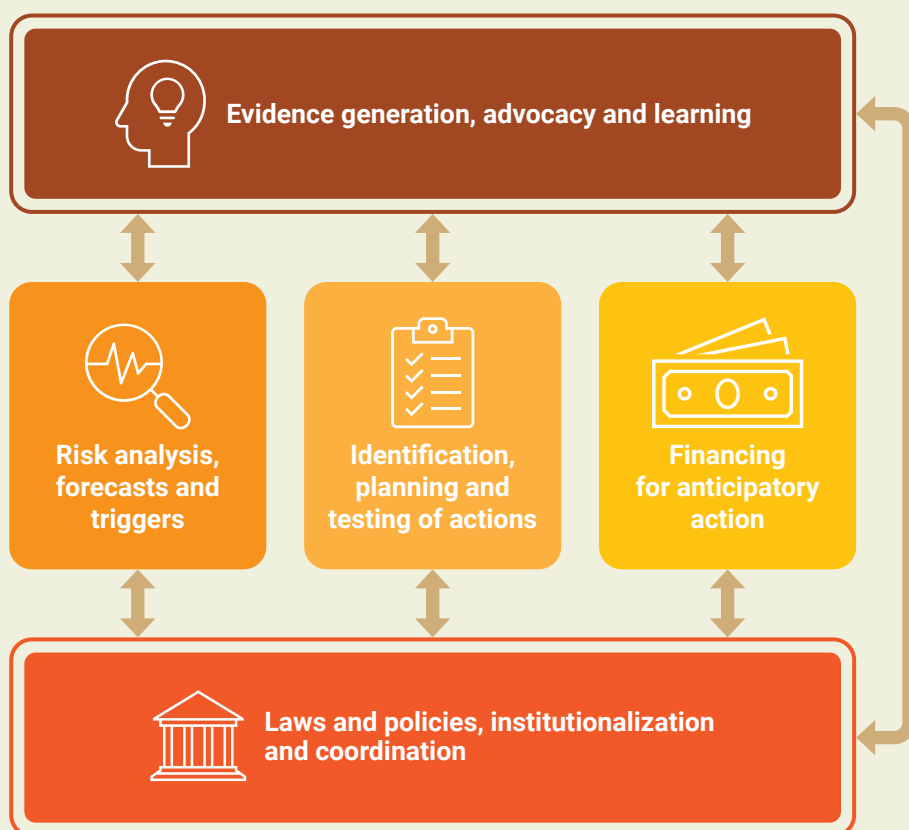
¹¹ See [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) for more details on anticipatory action initiatives and levels of institutionalization and mainstreaming in countries across Asia and the Pacific.



THE TWGAA'S VISION FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

People in Asia and the Pacific are applying, accessing and institutionalizing anticipatory action within disaster risk management policies and systems to effectively and efficiently protect livelihoods and lives and reduce human suffering, losses and damages from climate-related shocks through coordinated efforts by multiple stakeholders from local to regional levels.

To work towards this vision, the roadmap outlines measurable objectives and activities with proposed roles and responsibilities for the period 2023–2027 across five major areas:



These areas include the three building blocks for AA identified in the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management and the TWGAA's [Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific](#): 1) Risk information, forecasting and early warning systems; 2) Planning, operations and delivery; and 3) pre-arranged finance. They reflect the critical barriers to and opportunities for advancing anticipatory action in the region as identified in the consultation process. These include the need for enabling laws and policies and institutionalization efforts to establish and scale up AA, as well as the importance of generating robust evidence, advocating based on that evidence, and learning through knowledge sharing and training.



RISK ANALYSIS, FORECASTS AND TRIGGERS



Envisaged longer-term outcomes

Enhanced risk analysis and information about current and future risks and historical impacts are available at the regional, national and subnational levels. Climate and weather forecasts are skillful, localized and downscaled. There is a shared understanding of predictable hazards, the scale of their impact, and sector-specific actionable triggers in the region. Where possible, triggers are informed by impact-based forecasting which links all relevant institutions and stakeholders at the country level.

5-year objectives:

- Governments and partners have a better understanding of the need and requirements for establishing an anticipatory action trigger and advancing impact-based forecasting capacities.
- National meteorological and hydrological services and regional (hydro)meteorological centres disaster management agencies at the regional and national levels have improved knowledge, capacity and collaboration around approaches for developing triggers and sectoral thresholds for anticipatory action, including impact-based forecasting.
- The collection and use of gender, age, and disability disaggregated data for risk analysis, impact-based forecasting, trigger development and design of action plans are accelerated.
- The sharing of risk data and forecast information is improved. Risk information tools and products, particularly those aimed at scaling up risk analysis and promoting innovation, are widely disseminated within the region.
- Lessons learned from trigger development in the region are well-documented and are used to inform new and existing anticipatory action mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific.

Major challenges in risk analysis, forecasts and triggers

Among the major concerns related to risk analysis, forecasts and triggers for anticipatory action are the resolution, reliability and accuracy of forecasts required to trigger action. The limited capacity of NMHSs; inadequate weather observation stations; and limited information about the accuracy of forecasts contribute to this challenge. The reliance on global and regional forecast models can limit performance at the local level, which restricts these models' applicability to more granular targeting and their usefulness to communities and local governments at a smaller geographic scale.

The regional mapping showed that most anticipatory action mechanisms in Asia and the Pacific already rely on either national forecasts and observations or on a combination of national and international forecasts and observations to activate their anticipatory action plans. However, out of those organizations who had tested their trigger methodology, more than half found the methodology to be only "somewhat accurate" (TWGAA 2023 mapping report).¹²

¹² See 'trigger' section of [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#).

Another challenge highlighted during the regional consultations were the limited availability and accessibility of systemic risk and disaster impact data. The issue of accessibility includes insufficient sharing of risk data and forecast information between different agencies within a country, as well as between countries. For instance, coordination between line agencies, national disaster management authorities, and NMHSs to facilitate impact-based forecasting and multi-hazard early warning systems could be challenging.

The regional consultation also emphasized the need to strengthen early warning systems in the community. The lack of timely and relevant early warnings may result in the loss of lives and livelihoods, health risks, disruptions in education, increased vulnerability to violence and exploitation, limited access to resources, and increased gaps in raising critical issues/concerns including the opportunity to engage in decision-making. Marginalized groups lack access to early warnings due to their lack of access to technology, communications and services. Hazard detection and monitoring are greatly enhanced by locally led information gathering and data collection, which can provide unique insights and evidence about patterns and trends. In most countries, marginalized communities, including women and girls, benefit least from early warning systems, technologies and services. It is crucial to ensure that the most vulnerable and marginalized receive and benefit from early warning information. In most cases, organizations representing these communities are the first to identify their differential needs and concerns. The key, then, is for anticipatory action initiatives to engage these agencies from the beginning of their work in risk analysis, forecasts and triggers.

Limited government engagement and the lack of appropriate supporting policies and guidelines for designing and developing risk analysis and triggers – both within and beyond governments – hinder the establishment of triggers for anticipatory action in some countries in the region. This includes inconsistent information sharing at the country level due to dynamic leadership in and collaboration among relevant agencies. This is especially difficult for impact-based forecasting where hazard forecasts are combined with data on vulnerability and exposure.¹³ These data are often held in several institutions, thus requiring data sharing, collaboration and the capacity to analyse them.¹⁴

Asia and the Pacific already has some experience with impact-based forecasting and the use of two-stage triggers for preparedness/readiness activities and anticipatory action to address the challenge of short lead times for rapid-onset events.¹⁵ Sharing knowledge about trigger methodologies – ideally what has worked and what has not – plays a critical role in the TWGAA. The TWGAA already established a trigger subgroup, which could spearhead this work and help reduce the confusion and complexity that often surrounds this pillar of the anticipatory action approach.

13 ESCAP and World Meteorological Organization (WMO). 2021. [Manual for Operationalizing Impact-based Forecasting and Warning Services \(IBFWS\)](#). Bangkok: ESCAP.

14 See also the [TWGAA's Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific](#) for further discussion on impact-based forecasting.

15 See 'Triggers' section under the "State of anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific 2023" chapter in [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) for more details.

Priority activities for the TWGAA 2023–2027

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>1.1 Document and synthesize evidence and lessons learned from Asia and the Pacific on how triggers are being developed for different hazard contexts and used for anticipatory action, either from activations or testing triggers for slow-onset and rapid-onset hazards. Focus should be on experience with impact-based forecasting. This includes documenting trigger methodologies, thresholds and indicators. The TWGAA’s Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific and regional consultations identified topics that could be explored through this priority activity, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • how multiple risks inter-relate, how their impacts can compound each other, and how such repeated, cascading and compounding impacts from multiple events can be incorporated into trigger models; • how GESI can be best incorporated and the role of marginalized and vulnerable communities strengthened in the development of triggers and early warning communication channels; and • how trigger design could mean activation or non-activation of pre-agreed anticipatory action for the same hazard (e.g. some organizations were able to implement their pre-agreed Early Action Protocol in response to Cyclone Mocha while others could not). <p>The resulting information should be made available – in formats that are engaging and tailored to the needs of the target audiences – to provide guidance, especially to actors in countries with less experience in anticipatory action, and eventually to support greater harmonization of triggers.</p>	<p>2023–2025 with potential update in 2026–2027, the second half of the roadmap period</p>	<p>TWGAA trigger subgroup</p>
<p>1.2 Establish within the sub-working group on triggers a communication mechanism for sharing timely and updated information on potential hazards as they emerge throughout the region. The subgroup is already used by participating organizations as a platform to share El Niño Southern Oscillation (ENSO) forecasts and its potential impact. There is interest in using the subgroup as a platform for sharing and discussing information on other hazards as well, e.g. cyclones, more regularly. This can be done through asynchronous communication – for instance, via a Skype group where messages and documents can be shared – complemented with subgroup meetings that enable discussion internally and externally with experts who may be invited. The trigger subgroup could explore how this function relates to global initiatives such as the IASC horizon scan and Regional Monthly Review (RMR) scan, and collaborate with them as appropriate. In instances of severe climate risks, the group should raise the alarm to the wider TWGAA.</p>	<p>2023–2027: Timely and regular updates</p>	<p>TWGAA trigger subgroup</p>
<p>1.3 Develop, in collaboration with national technical working groups (TWGs), policy briefs to advocate open data, as well as risk data and forecast information sharing, between ministries in Asia and the Pacific countries, especially where the lack of data sharing hinders anticipatory action. In the first instance, two or three briefs could focus on countries or groups of countries, with the relevant countries identified and prioritized through the TWGAA working with national TWGs. At a later stage, the TWGAA may develop additional briefs that focus on the sharing of data and information between countries, in collaboration or consultation with regional organizations.</p> <p>The policy briefs should clearly define what information needs to be shared to enable risk analysis and trigger development for anticipatory action within/ between the selected countries; identify the barriers to data sharing; and propose concrete suggestions to address these barriers, targeting decision-makers and those who can influence them. The policy briefs should also include case studies from the region that illustrate where data sharing is successful and how that success was achieved.</p>	<p>2024–2025: Focus on within-country data sharing; 2026–2027: Focus on between-country data sharing</p>	<p>TWGAA</p>

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>1.4 Invest, with national TWGs and in-country partners, in strengthening the capacity of NMHS for improved weather observation, forecast data, and assessment of the accuracy of forecasts for anticipatory action in priority areas. This includes providing support and capacity building for localizing and downscaling of forecast information and assessing the accuracy (false alarms, hit rate, etc.) of such forecasts in line with the TWGAA's Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific. There are two major pathways for the TWGAA to pursue this priority: 1) by enabling the access of NMHS staff to formal training and technical assistance, and 2) by facilitating the knowledge exchange between NMHS across the region to support peer-to-peer learning in forecasting, skilled assessment of forecasts, and trigger development for anticipatory action.</p>	2024–2027	TWGAA trigger subgroup
<p>1.5 Develop training on impact-based forecasting, drawing on existing guidance materials about impact-based forecasting for anticipatory action. The development of a massive open online course (MOOC) on impact-based forecasting for anticipatory action already began in 2021, and the TWGAA can build on this. The specific purposes and target group of the MOOC and any other training developed through the TWGAA should be clear from the start and may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the development of impact-based forecasting and operation of databases and forecasting platforms for meteorologists, climate scientists or analysis units within disaster management offices, depending on who is responsible for impact-based forecasting in the country • the interpretation and use (for dissemination or anticipatory action) of impact-based forecasting for disaster risk management units, and other frontline professionals and community-based organizations 	2024–2026	TWGAA trigger subgroup to facilitate the training development that will be presented to the wider TWGAA; it will also backstop national counterparts on the training delivery.
<p>1.6 Conduct initial desk research on vulnerability curves and damage functions of different structures, crops, etc. against different hazards (flood, storms, strong winds, drought, etc.), and make the results available to all stakeholders for use as proxy for loss and damage from disasters in cases where data on disaster loss and damage is limited/inaccessible. This is particularly relevant in countries where disaster loss and damage is not well documented or where data is not sufficiently organized, digitized or shared.</p>	2024-2027	TWGAA





IDENTIFICATION, PLANNING AND TESTING OF ACTIONS



Envisaged longer-term outcomes

Anticipatory action protocols are established and harmonized across governments and partner organizations to support the effective and efficient implementation of multisector anticipatory action and disaster risk management for priority hazards, considering gender and social inclusion (GESI) as well as accountability to the affected people.

5-year objectives:

- Guidance is available in Asia and the Pacific for identifying and using appropriate anticipatory action measures in different hazard contexts in each country, including effective and coordinated planning, testing and implementation of those measures.
- Joint anticipatory action protocols are developed and endorsed at the national level under the leadership of governments with support from partners. The anticipatory action protocols are embedded in national contingency plans and disaster risk management frameworks of governments and Humanitarian Country Teams.
- GESI is strengthened in the identification, planning and implementation of anticipatory action to meet the needs of vulnerable and marginalized people, ensure their protection, and address discriminatory and exclusionary practices in programme delivery. Community-based solutions and localization pathways are established to build capacities from the ground up.
- Lessons and best practices in the development and implementation of anticipatory action protocols are documented and shared within the region to inform new initiatives and improve existing ones.

Major challenges in identification, planning and testing of actions

The biggest number of anticipatory action protocols established in Asia and the Pacific are for floods and cyclones. Several countries in the region have multiple anticipatory action mechanisms for events such as floods in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines or cyclones in Bangladesh and the Philippines. These protocols are mostly developed by partners and agencies catering to their individual institutional needs and priorities; they are not necessarily aligned with each other or integrated with government disaster management processes. In these cases, coordination can be a challenge and may result in over-reliance on humanitarian sectors rather than on government leadership. The TWGAA's 2023 regional mapping found that lack of coordination is one of the biggest operational challenges for anticipatory action.¹⁶ The duplication of actions and inefficient use of resources due to gaps in coordination and collaboration between sectors were highlighted as major challenges during the roadmap consultations, particularly for South Asia. Political barriers can prevent the collaboration between countries and institutions.

¹⁶ For more details on major operational challenges by hazard and country, see [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) 'anticipatory actions' section under the 'State of anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific 2023' chapter and Annex A: Country fact sheets.

The [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) also identified access to at-risk communities as a major operational challenge for anticipatory action, especially in the case of cyclones and epidemics. In countries with fragile and conflict-affected settings where information can be limited, coordination with government constrained, and certain areas inaccessible, this can be particularly problematic.

Further challenges identified in the consultations include the lack of nationally owned, harmonized standard operating procedures for anticipatory action; lack of sector-specific anticipatory action plans and strategies; and lack of region-wide guidelines and backstopping to support both.

Priority activities for the TWGAA 2023-2027

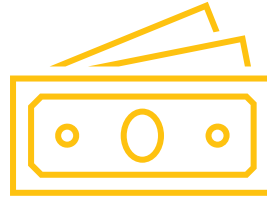
Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>2.1 Promote and advocate, with national TWGs and partners, the joint design and implementation of anticipatory action protocols under the leadership of government with support from partners to facilitate bigger coverage and better coordination at the national level. This is particularly important in countries where many agencies are already planning and implementing anticipatory action measures. In fragile and conflict-affected situations where direct support to government is challenging, the priority is to promote joint planning and coordinated implementation among non-government actors.</p>	2023–2027	TWGAA
<p>2.2 Develop guidance on how to target for anticipatory action in areas where there are already multiple partners and players, aiming to avoid duplication while exploring areas with potential crossover, in both terms of programme and geography. The tool could be applied to the country context, collaborating with a national TWG and partners, to make the process timelier and more coordinated. This activity directly supports the first priority activity.</p>	2024	TWGAA
<p>2.3 Establish a repository of cluster/sector-specific anticipatory action efforts in Asia and the Pacific with technical specifications and standards to guide the development and revision of anticipatory action plans. This will support governments and partners in understanding the specifics of the anticipatory action measure itself: why it was selected, what it achieved, and what it consists of (e.g. the height, diameter and transportation of waterproof drums). It could further break down who would implement and benefit from such actions and consider their appropriateness for certain vulnerable and marginalized groups.</p> <p>Results from the 2023 regional mapping exercise can be used as a starting point to set up the repository as it asked respondents about anticipatory action, although information on technical specifications and standards is limited. If the mapping is continued as a regular exercise (see evidence, advocacy and learning priorities), extracting information about actions from the mapping may be a relatively low-cost option to maintain the repository of anticipatory action efforts.</p>	2024–2025, with potential regular updates until 2027	TWGAA
<p>2.4 Establish a dedicated regional support team within the TWGAA to deliver help desk functions to assist governments and national partners in the development and harmonization of hazard-specific sectoral anticipatory action protocols, with a strong focus on GESI perspectives and accountability to affected populations. This could facilitate joint national-level planning and coordination (in support of the first priority action under this building block). It could also provide technical support for anticipatory action protocols at the national or local level to decentralize decision-making processes and strengthen the local implementation of anticipatory action protocols. The support team can be composed of experts across the three building blocks for anticipatory action, including GESI experts who will strengthen anticipatory action decisions, undertake GESI analysis, and address discriminatory and exclusionary practices during programme delivery.</p>	<p>2023–2024: Establishment of regional support team/help desk and promotion to national TWGs and partners.</p> <p>2024–2027: Provision of expertise and backstopping based on expressed needs from TWGs and national and community partners</p>	TWGAA

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
2.5 Explore how anticipatory action can be localized and driven by communities. Current anticipatory action approaches emphasize governments or agencies so finding avenues to scale up community-based actions can offer interesting pathways to sustainability beyond government systems.	2024–2027	TWGAA
2.6 Develop a simulation testing kit for anticipatory action. More and more agencies and governments are testing their anticipatory action protocols through simulation exercise. The TWGAA can gather what has worked well so far and provide advice and tools to countries and organizations in the earlier stages of developing anticipatory action.	2024	TWGAA
2.7 Conduct or commission the collection, analysis and dissemination of lessons learned on the design and setting up of pilots that strive to link anticipatory action to shock-responsive social protection systems. The link between the two areas is a hot topic in Asia and the Pacific. However, we still lack evidence on how it works in practice. As various systems for testing are put in place in the coming years, the TWGAA can gather critical learnings and use these to guide new countries interested in exploring the merits of the approach. This will require a deeper layer of making these systems gender-responsive.	2025–2027	TWGAA
2.8 Continue to explore the relationship between cash and anticipatory action through a guide that is updated biannually, based on evidence collected from activation. The first segment in the series was released in early 2023 on rapid-onset hazards and cash for anticipatory action. ¹⁷ It provided much-needed insights into why the modality is popular in these instances. It will be necessary to update these pieces and expand it to slow-onset scenarios.	2025 and 2027	TWGAA

¹⁷ See TWGAA and RCWG’s [Anticipatory action and cash transfers for rapid-onset hazards: Practitioners’ note for field testing](#).



FINANCING FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION



Envisaged longer-term outcomes

Entry points and learnings on finance for anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific are collected and used to inform the integration of anticipatory finance into risk financing instruments, as well as into systems of government and international organizations. This will also ensure the seamless incorporation of anticipatory action into disaster risk management strategies and operations. Sustainable finance is established, both in the public and private sectors, to support anticipatory action initiatives in the region, covering funding for system setup, maintenance and activation.

5-year objectives:

- Countries with disaster risk management and risk finance capacity in Asia and the Pacific are establishing or adapting budgetary instruments to fund anticipatory action as part of their wider systems for disaster risk management and finance, so that seamless financing can link and fund actions across all steps of the disaster management cycle.
- Best practices for establishing budgetary instruments and financing mechanisms for anticipatory action are shared among anticipatory action practitioners and stakeholders in the region and are used to inform new initiatives.
- Suitable and efficient financing mechanisms are identified and their feasibility is assessed for different types of countries and hazards in the region to fund both the system-building and the implementation of anticipatory action at the national and community levels.

Major challenges in financing

Anticipatory action requires ongoing resourcing for system setup and strengthening, whether a shock occurs or not – it could be for hazard monitoring, training, action plan development or simulation – and financing that can be released quickly to implement anticipatory action plans when protocols are activated. Funding arrangements for both are sometimes disconnected: some organizations that can access resources for setting up may struggle to pre-arrange quick-release funds for implementation, and vice versa. In cases where donors fund multiple partners to set up anticipatory action protocols in the same place/country, multiple trigger methods or uncoordinated actions between partners who are unaware of the other's programming can result in confusion. Improving donor coordination in this area may lead to better synchronization. Funding for anticipatory action is small compared to emergency response but it is also unclear how much is required and can be absorbed by implementing organizations within the forecast lead times for anticipatory action to cover at-risk populations.¹⁸

¹⁸ The TWGAA and RCWG's [Practitioners' note on anticipatory action and cash transfers for rapid-onset hazards](#) has started to unpack some of these questions in more detail.

A few governments in Asia and the Pacific have started systematically linking their own funds to forecast-based triggers for anticipatory action or related activities. However, as of November 2023, most of them are using contingency funds from humanitarian donors – including pooled funds such as the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), Disaster Response Emergency Fund (DREF) and Start Fund – or contingency funds from agencies, like those available in FAO and WFP. Complementary sources, such as climate finance or private finance, and risk financing instruments other than donor contingency funds, such as insurance, are mostly untapped in the region and their potential for anticipatory action underexplored.

While some governments are starting to invest their own resources in system support and anticipatory action implementation – for instance, in Mongolia or the Philippines¹⁹ – legislative and policy frameworks alongside public financial management regulations will need to be amended in many countries to allow the use of budgetary instruments for anticipatory action. Whether governments are willing and able to make such amendments will vary between countries, depending on the political economy, incentives and capacities of the different actors.

Priority activities for the TWGAA 2023-2027

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
3.1 Assess the specific barriers to anticipatory action in public financial management systems in at least two countries where governments have shown interest and capacity to invest in anticipatory action. The assessment should produce concrete recommendations for how the barriers can be addressed; this is likely most relevant for countries with experience in anticipatory action, as well as capacity in disaster risk management and risk finance. This could also include case studies in the region – and beyond, if considered helpful – where governments are financing anticipatory action through budgetary instruments.	2024	TWGAA
3.2 Undertake or commission studies in at least three countries to look at the broader financial risk financing mechanisms and instruments in these countries and assess the potential of their mechanisms to support or directly fund anticipatory action. This kind of assessment is already in the pipeline for Timor-Leste and several other Pacific Islands as part of a Green Climate Fund project. It could be expanded to other places in the region. In countries where disaster risk finance diagnostics have already been conducted by the World Bank, ADB or other experts, the materials can be used to explore specific finance options for anticipatory action. In Global Shield pathfinder countries – Bangladesh, Pakistan, the Philippines, and the Pacific Islands – where such diagnostics are likely to be done and climate risk financing needs identified through a government-led process soon, the TWGAA could support national TWGs in engaging with this process or it could work directly in countries where there is no national TWG for anticipatory action.	2023–2025	TWGAA

¹⁹ Please see the [TWGAA's Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific](#) document and the [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) for more detail.

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>3.3 Analyse the feasibility and cost-effectiveness of specific disaster risk finance instruments to enable anticipatory action for different hazards in the region. This could complement the assessments under the previous activity to look more closely at specific instruments or conducted a separate analysis. The instruments that the TWGAA is most interested in exploring are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Insurance linked to anticipatory triggers, particularly region-wide, through the major regional risk pools in Asia and the Pacific: Southeast Asia Disaster Risk Insurance Facility (SEADRIF) and Pacific Catastrophe Risk Insurance Company (PCRIC).²⁰ • Regional pooled funds that can be released to countries for the implementation of anticipatory action and that could be capitalized and replenished jointly by countries and partners/donors. • Community-level finance that could enable communities to directly access resources so they can engage in and implement anticipatory action according to local priorities. <p>The REAP and InsuResilience Global Partnership, through the Sectoral Community on Linking Anticipatory Action to Risk Financing, is producing a global discussion paper on the topic: How can different disaster risk finance instruments be adjusted to fuel anticipatory action? Feasibility assessments and cost-effectiveness studies in Asia and the Pacific could build on this work.</p>	2026–2027	TWGAA



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²⁰ This was explored to some extent for the feasibility of SEADRIF in the Red Cross Red Crescent Society in the Philippines and Myanmar, but not in relation to other instruments and other actors, e.g. governments.

EVIDENCE GENERATION, ADVOCACY AND LEARNING



Envisaged longer-term outcomes

Anticipatory action policy and programming in Asia and the Pacific are informed by robust evidence on processes and impacts. The regional anticipatory action community of practice speaks a common language that is reflected in advocacy directed at governments and donors.

5-year objectives:

- Effective knowledge management systems are established to document and share valuable insights, best practices, failures and innovative approaches in the implementation of anticipatory action as part of disaster risk management in the region.
- Evidence is gathered and presented in a harmonized manner that shows the bigger picture of what anticipatory action aims to achieve in Asia and the Pacific. This will require moving away from an agency-centred approach to one that understands the evidence needs of regional, national and local governments, and working together to fulfil this need.
- The TWGAA is represented in major regional platforms for humanitarian, disaster and climate action to push for collaborative, evidence-based positions and funding for anticipatory action. Advocacy is directed at international funding entities, donor agencies and private sector actors to ensure they channel development, humanitarian and emergency funds towards supporting anticipatory action in Asia and the Pacific.

Major challenges in evidence generation, advocacy and learning

The lack of strong evidence on the impacts of anticipatory action and the limited understanding of its processes and added value in risk management have posed a huge challenge for some governments and donors to fund and implement anticipatory action. The [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) identified the lack of evidence to be among the most important barriers in countries like Nepal, Indonesia and Timor-Leste. From the mapping, it is unclear what specific type of evidence would be required to facilitate government-led implementation of anticipatory action and what tools would be needed to collect this information. Consultations for the TWGAA's Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific and the development of this roadmap indicate that governments are looking for evidence of the cost-effectiveness of anticipatory action in their own countries. They are also seeking to understand the value added – in both monetary and social terms – of anticipatory action in the broader climate and disaster risk management. Regional, national and local governments must ensure their consultations align cohesively and harmoniously with the TWGAA to foster mainstreaming initiatives. Moreover, governments that are in the process of mainstreaming anticipatory action in disaster risk management are seeking assistance in enhancing their evidence-based practices and monitoring and evaluation perspectives. As of June 2023, 85 percent of anticipatory action mechanisms that existed or were being developed in Asia and the Pacific already had a monitoring and evaluation plan in place; more had feedback and complaints mechanisms established.²¹ However, not all of this information is available in the public domain.

21 This is according to the [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#).

Training materials on anticipatory action are available in the region. These cover key anticipatory action concepts, general awareness of the approach, and technical aspects such as developing an anticipatory action protocol, defining a trigger, or ensuring that anticipatory action is GESI-responsive.²² Some of these training materials are tailored to certain organizations or funding mechanisms; in other cases, the training requires context customization before it can be implemented. It is unclear how much of the existing training materials is ready to use, how much would require customization, and how much may not be transferable at all. The regional community could help facilitate access to information, training and peer learning across countries, potentially leveraging existing knowledge sharing platforms such as the Anticipation Hub.

Priority activities for the TWGAA 2023-2027

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>4.1 Take stock of the current evidence base in Asia and the Pacific and develop a toolkit for joint robust independent evaluations that prioritize addressing the evidence needs of governments. This should enable the group to collectively look at major themes in anticipatory action evidence in the region; identify gaps; consult jointly with governments at all levels about evidence and training needs; and guide governments and partners in assessing anticipatory action and ensuring comparability between interventions.</p> <p>For cases where joint evaluations are not feasible, the toolkit could suggest key indicators that TWGAA members and other partners can use for monitoring and evaluation and further meta-analysis. It could also include suggestions on assessing and monitoring anticipatory action to help the group systematically track knowledge transfer.</p> <p>The toolkit should draw on the regular mapping and inform the questions in future iterations of the mapping survey. This activity should avoid duplication with existing monitoring and evaluation efforts, as well as capacity assessment, of TWGAA member agencies and other stakeholders; it should instead aim to complement and synthesize them.</p>	2023	TWGAA members (developed by the subgroup on evidence and learning)
<p>4.2 Undertake regular updates of the regional mapping exercise to monitor progress on anticipatory action implementation in the region annually or biennially. Following the finalization of the 2023 mapping report and data analysis, the questionnaire should be revised based on lessons learned from the first round, to improve data quality and gather more targeted information on the TWGAA's priority topics, in line with the monitoring framework. Areas where data collection could be strengthened include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • finance for anticipatory action • impact-based forecasting • gender equality and social inclusion • beneficiary perspectives on their experiences of the anticipatory action process and implementation <p>If possible, consolidate TWGAA mapping with the global annual mapping undertaken by the Anticipation Hub to reduce the burden on implementing organizations and avoid respondent fatigue.</p>	2024–2027	
<p>4.3 Review and update the TWGAA's technical standards regularly (e.g. every three years) to reflect developments in the field and ensure that the standards remain relevant and useful for anticipatory action practitioners across Asia and the Pacific. Future iterations on the technical standards should consider how partners are using these technical standards in practice and address the evolving priorities of TWGAA members.</p>	2026	TWGAA

²² See for example the [training module on gender equality and social inclusion responsive anticipatory action](#) published by The ASEAN Secretariat in Jakarta.

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>4.4 Harmonize capacity strengthening tools and tailor them for specific country contexts, including different levels of anticipatory action experience and capacity (i.e. ensure materials can be easily translated into local languages and can draw upon local experiences). A first step towards this is the ongoing development of a minimum training package for the region, to be finalized in early 2024. For the remainder of the roadmap period, the minimum training package should be improved upon and updated regularly, based on feedback from practitioners. The training package will be designed to ensure local leadership—if requested—with backstopping support from the TWGAA. A step in this direction could be for the TWGAA to maintain a list of trainers in the region, which would help its members, countries and partners to connect with personnel or agencies for training support.</p> <p>Promote the use of the minimum training package and facilitate upskilling activities, as required, through national counterparts. In early 2024, the TWGAA will invite partners and local actors for a regional training of trainers to then contextualize and lead the rollout.</p>	<p>2023–2024: Harmonization, promotion and initial training of trainers</p> <p>2024–2027: Regular revisions and updates</p>	<p>TWGAA members developed by the sub-working group on evidence and learning but presented for endorsement and rollout by the wider group</p>
<p>4.5 Increase the quantity and quality of studies focusing on topics such as cost-effectiveness, return on investment, and added value of anticipatory action in climate and disaster risk management; the demonstrated impact of government and household-level interventions; beneficiary perspectives of anticipatory action; and the effectiveness of early warning messages among communities, for evidence-based decision-making. This can be done by conducting or commissioning independent and rigorous research and evaluation.</p> <p>To support this, it is important to promote the coordinated implementation of anticipatory action to facilitate larger sample sizes, which will allow better measurement and evaluation of knowledge transfer to governments and communities. This includes exploring the difference between anticipatory action and early response and traditional response.</p>	<p>2023–2027</p>	<p>TWGAA</p>
<p>4.6 Develop evidence-based business cases to strengthen advocacy efforts and demonstrate the value and effectiveness of anticipatory action interventions within the broader risk management, aiming to influence budgetary instruments, donor funding and private sector participation. These business cases should build on robust evidence from the respective country and region where advocacy efforts are targeted.</p>	<p>2024</p>	<p>TWGAA</p>
<p>4.7 Share evidence and advocate common regional priorities in the region by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Convening at least three regional advocacy events. These events could include technical sessions and updates targeted at donors, e.g. presenting the recent mapping exercise to showcase where agencies and donors are working and make the case for greater collaboration to avoid the duplication of efforts. Advocacy events can also be attached to regional events that attract a high-level humanitarian, disaster and/or climate audience. They should focus on government perspectives and areas to express challenges and opportunities for growth. • Continuing to take regional events and global platforms for humanitarian, disaster and climate action, such as the Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction 2024 and the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction 2025, as opportunities for advocacy. This includes applying for joint thematic or side events and coordinating such events among TWGAA members. These platforms provide opportunities for sensitization and advocacy to encourage the coordinated allocation of resources for anticipatory action by governments, donors and private sector actors. 	<p>2023–2027</p>	<p>TWGAA</p>

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>4.8 Conduct a stock-taking exercise towards the end of the TWGAA's 2023–2027 roadmap period to assess progress on anticipatory action in the region under the roadmap. The stocktaking should establish the extent to which objectives were achieved, discussing major barriers to and enablers of progress. It should also be used to review whether the TWGAA's vision and objectives remain valid or require updating. This could pave the way for a follow-up roadmap or joint action plan. Until then, the TWGAA may use opportunities such as the annual regional dialogue platforms to monitor and discuss progress against the priority activities, objectives and vision, and undertake course correction, as needed.</p>	2027	TWGAA (with inputs from all subgroups)





LAWS AND POLICIES, INSTITUTIONALIZATION AND COORDINATION



Envisaged longer-term outcomes

Intergovernmental agencies in Asia and the Pacific demonstrate knowledge and leadership to support countries in implementing anticipatory action and integrating it into national disaster risk management policies and practice. The wider regional anticipatory action community of practice works for interagency and intersectoral coordination, as well as the institutionalization of anticipatory action within national and local structures, operational protocols, and plans and budgets.

5-year objectives:

- Intergovernmental bodies in the region have stronger leadership and capacity to incorporate anticipatory action within regional disaster risk management frameworks and operations, and to support the national scale-up of anticipatory action through disaster risk management and shock-responsive social protection systems, among others.
- Regional experts backstop national technical working groups (TWGs) and partners to establish national multiagency anticipatory action frameworks aligned with national disaster risk management policies and the ASEAN framework (for ASEAN members).
- Collaboration between IASC working groups is improved and engagement between national TWGs for anticipatory action at different levels is strengthened. Regional intergovernmental bodies take on leadership roles in the TWGAA.
- Anticipatory action relationships with disaster risk reduction and climate change in Asia and the Pacific are better understood and documented. Key learnings are gathered regionally on how subnational governments integrate anticipatory action within disaster risk management policies, plans, operational protocols and funding mechanisms.
- Gender equality and social inclusion is mainstreamed into all regional anticipatory action frameworks, programmes, plans, guiding tools, monitoring and evaluation, and budgeting.

Major challenges in laws and policies, institutionalization and coordination

The lack of coordination around anticipatory action at the national level is a major challenge for many countries in Asia and the Pacific. The [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#) showed that some countries already have many anticipatory action mechanisms in place, e.g. for floods and typhoons in Bangladesh, floods in Nepal, floods in Pakistan, and typhoons in the Philippines. In these cases – and in countries where anticipatory action is growing – effective coordination among an increasing number of stakeholders who are implementing and governing anticipatory action will be critical to consolidate coverage and avoid duplication and fragmentation. This is important in countries with several active initiatives and those that are looking to institutionalize anticipatory action.

In countries like Bangladesh, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Fiji, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam, national TWGs or similar coordination mechanisms are already established to coordinate anticipatory action in particular or emergency preparedness and response, in general. However, representatives from national TWGs are not part of the Asia-Pacific TWGAA, creating a gap between national to regional coordination. In some countries with less anticipatory action experience and fewer initiatives, TWGs for the coordination of anticipatory action are less established and not known to all stakeholders.

At the regional level, there is growth in regional coordination for anticipatory action. In the Pacific, there is a Community of Practice for Anticipatory Action, which brings together over 80 stakeholders; it is led by the Pacific Islands Forum. ASEAN members, through their Prevention and Mitigation Working Group, also regularly discuss the approach and are championing the implementation of the [ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management](#). In South Asia, there is a gap in regional coordination that could potentially be addressed within the lifetime of this roadmap. As these groups develop, so do their need for technical support, knowledge sharing and training. The players comprising these groups must be updated on the approach so they can support their respective national TWGs. As regional bodies increasingly engage in anticipatory action, their leadership in the TWGAA will also become important.

Few national or subnational governments in the region have integrated anticipatory action into their national disaster risk management or social protection policies. Only a few governments use their own emergency funds or other public financial instruments to trigger resources for anticipatory action or to fund supplementary activities.²³ These examples where anticipatory action is mainstreamed within government policies and funds – and the lessons learned from them on achieving greater institutionalization – are not well known across the region.

Most countries in Asia and the Pacific are trying, in some way at least, to mainstream anticipatory action. This shows the potential for greater engagement of the regional community of practice and the TWGAA concerning policies and institutionalization processes in these countries. Government engagement is promising in Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Mongolia and Viet Nam; it is improving in Cambodia, Indonesia, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Philippines and Pakistan.²⁴ In countries where government engagement is limited, and where there are no clear pathways to the institutionalization of anticipatory action within government policies and processes – for instance as a result of conflict or sanctions – coordination among humanitarian and development partners should be a priority.

23 For further discussion on these points, see the [TWGAA's Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific](#) and the [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#).

24 See section on policy and institutionalization in the [TWGAA 2023 mapping report](#).

Priority activities for the TWGAA 2023-2027

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>5.1 Commission a study to analyse enablers and barriers from cases of successful or ongoing institutionalization and mainstreaming of anticipatory action within government policies and funding mechanisms. The lessons from these case studies should be synthesized in a guidance document on the institutionalization of triggers, plans and financing. It should be disseminated through the TWGAA and national TWGs, with a focus on countries that are working towards institutionalization or are interested in doing so. As a first step, the TWGAA should ask its members to identify relevant case examples and coordinate with the relevant in-country TWGs and partners.</p> <p>Develop policy briefs – depending on the study's findings – urging specific countries or regional institutions to push for required reforms, e.g. in disaster laws or public financial management regulations.</p>	2023–2024: initial case studies and guidance note; 2024–2025: targeted policy briefs	TWGAA
<p>5.2 Strengthen national–regional coordination and the ownership of governments and intergovernmental bodies in anticipatory action working groups by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing quarterly meetings that bring together the national and regional TWGs. These meetings should encourage participation by providing a slot for country updates and inviting specific national TWG representatives, including governments, to share their country's experience on topics that may interest the group. The participation of TWG representatives in these quarterly meetings could help identify specific areas in which national TWGs (especially newer ones) may have knowledge gaps or could benefit from regional backstopping to support national TWGs. • Supporting wider ownership of the regional TWGAA and exploring greater participation and potential co-leadership of regional intergovernmental bodies by the end of the roadmap period. 	2023–2027	TWGAA co-chairs
<p>5.3 Maintain a regional repository of national and subnational anticipatory action frameworks, along with the contact information of those who coordinated their development. This should be accessible to all national TWGs to guide them in developing similar frameworks. Establishing national anticipatory action roadmaps or frameworks is a priority in many countries in Asia and the Pacific. While the TWGAA may not be well placed to drive these processes within countries, it can facilitate knowledge exchange across countries within and beyond the region; provide technical backstopping; and support the integration of regional frameworks for anticipatory action into national ones.</p>	2024: Repository setup 2024–2027: Repository maintenance	TWGAA
<p>5.4 Support regional intergovernmental bodies in the creation and implementation of regional guidance, frameworks and tools on anticipatory action in disaster risk management. This should be based on the needs of the regional bodies and their members and could include the provision of technical support to develop guidance notes; capacity strengthening within regional agencies; and facilitating exchange across intergovernmental bodies in Asia and the Pacific, depending on expressed needs.</p>	2023–2027	TWGAA
<p>5.5 Work closely with IASC working groups and other relevant forums in Asia and the Pacific to explore options for crossover and to amplify key messages on the anticipatory action approach through publications and events. The TWGAA is already working closely with the Asia-Pacific Regional Cash Working Group, Emergency Preparedness Working Group, and the Asia-Pacific Disaster Displacement Working Group. Continue this crossover and look collectively to address challenges and needs that target the complementary groups.</p>	2023–2027	TWGAA co-chairs

Priority activities	Timeline	Responsibility for implementation
<p>5.6 Support cross-learning between national governments on mainstreaming opportunities, successes and challenges, in coordination with national TWGs where these exist. At advocacy or regional events, plan for workshops or discussions that put government voices at the forefront. Open a space for governments to learn from each other – both those entering the anticipatory action space and those with experience in mainstreaming and scaling up anticipatory action in disaster risk management and social protection policies and practice.</p>	2023-2027	TWGAA
<p>5.7 Promote and support anticipatory action awareness and mainstreaming in interagency disaster preparedness planning across Asia and the Pacific, focusing on countries with higher vulnerability, e.g. due to historical trends of recurring disasters; increased risk exposure due to climate change or prevailing climate patterns (e.g. El Niño); or weaker coping capacity.</p>	2023-2027	TWGAA



**Co-funded by
the European Union**

This publication is co-funded by the International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and American Red Cross. The views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the IFRC and American Red Cross.

This publication was made possible through the financial support of the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO) as part of the Pilot Programmatic Partnership between FAO and DG ECHO. The contents of this publication can in no way be taken to reflect the views of DG ECHO. The European Commission is not responsible for any use that may be made of the information it contains.