

European Humanitarian Forum

Forum humanitaire européen



24-26 JAN, 2022



European Humanitarian Forum

Takeaways from the Preparatory Webinar

14th December (10:00 to 12:00 CET)

Tackling the humanitarian consequences of climate change: Scaling up anticipatory action

The takeaways in this document aim to capture the main ideas highlighted during the session, and do not necessarily reflect the position of the co-organizers of the webinar.

Around 200 participants joined for the webinar on ‘Tackling the humanitarian consequences of climate change: Scaling up anticipatory action’, held on 14th December 2021. The webinar was co-organised by France, VOICE, Anticipation Hub and DG ECHO. The recording of the webinar is available [here](#). The participants were largely from NGOs, RC/RC Societies, with good representation from government/donors and UN organisations, and other actors like academia.

The objective of the webinar was to delve further into what is needed to scale up anticipatory action (AA) as one of the means to address climate impacts and feed these discussions into the [European Humanitarian Forum](#) on January 24-26 2022.

The first session provided a scene-setter, including the latest data on the humanitarian needs rising from the climate crisis in the [Global Humanitarian Overview for 2022](#). A representative of France provided an overview of its activities, with strengthening the resilience of populations in the countries most exposed to climate change being a strong focus of the forthcoming French Presidency of the European Council in the first half of 2022.

Representatives of the IFRC and ICRC provided an update on [the Climate and Environment Charter](#), galvanising action from humanitarian organisations to respond to the climate crisis and reduce their environmental footprint; it has a total of 195 humanitarian organisation signatories and two supporting

countries. The charter does not include specific targets and is meant to inspire actions; signatories are invited to report on its implementation.

VOICE presented its [position paper on climate resilience](#), published on 14/12. VOICE is urging donors to invest more on climate adaptation, in particular AA and disasters risk reduction measures . There are three recommendations for the European Union and its Member States: step up efforts to scale up climate finance aimed at building climate resilience, ensure climate measures include locally-led adaptation actions and prioritize vulnerable and marginalized people, and enhance collaboration among different actors to scale up AA and disasters risk reduction.

UN OCHA ([on behalf of the Anticipatory Action Task Force](#) - AATF) presented robust evidence on AA being a faster, more efficient, more impactful and more dignified way to support people at risk of imminent disasters. Five requirements for scaling up AA were highlighted: 1) focus efforts on the 20 countries that represent 80% of global humanitarian needs 2) provide more flexible and more coordinated finance 3) invest more in forecast data and early warning system 4) expand AA to more shocks and understand its use for compounding risks, and 5) localize AA and use local knowledge in the design and application of AA.

An Anticipation Hub video then emphasized the power of learning, coordination and partnership for scaling up AA, calling governments, practitioners and scientists to join the Anticipation Hub to facilitate continued knowledge exchange.

A second session presented experiences and updates on AA from the Kenya Red Cross, the National Disaster Risk Management Commission of Ethiopia, the [IGAD Climate Applications and Prediction Centre](#), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) , [CARE Bangladesh](#) and Concern Worldwide Bangladesh. At regional level, AA has gained momentum in Asia, with its incorporation in the [ASEAN agreement on disaster management and response \(AADMER\) work programme](#). Experiences from IGAD show that it is crucial to link early warnings to early actions within institutionalized frameworks and plans; global initiatives such as the [Risk-informed Early Action Partnership \(REAP\)](#) and [Anticipation Hub](#) are key in advancing this agenda. The Kenyan Red Cross shared how they are currently activating Early Action Protocols for drought. Ethiopia outlined their efforts to develop a national Early Warning System that is multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and area specific. A national experience in Bangladesh shows that AA

needs to be in line with the national disaster risk management framework and that there is a need to apply a 'climate lens' in multi hazard analysis.

The third session was a forward-looking one involving experts from multiple sectors to look at what is needed to close the identified gaps and scale up AA. The AA community is growing fast with the [Global Dialogue Platform](#) on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (hosted by the Anticipation Hub, co-organized by FAO and WFP) attracting 1100 participants in the week of Dec 7th to Dec 9th, ready to support the work to scale up of AA and its integration/grounding in disaster risk management.

The following is a list of key takeaways for each priority area:

Generate an evidence base and promote exchanging knowledge to improve and expand AA:

- **Invest in monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL) systems.** WFP has developed a comprehensive [MEL guidance on AA](#) to generate evidence. Donors can help to expand the evidence base and fund research to expand and improve AA programming, e.g. for fragile, conflict-affected areas, epidemics and health, with a view to address compound risks. .
- **Improve gender sensitivity of AA and how to better link it to social protection.** Addressing these gaps will help to improve and expand AA programming.

Maximize the use of risk analysis and foresight to enable AA at the national level with impact-based forecasting

- **Improving the understanding of the potential impacts of severe hydrometeorological events is of key relevance to disaster reduction and civil protection agencies.** There is a need to 'provide a forecast that is useful, usable and used'. Forecasts not just of what the weather will BE, but of what the weather will DO are vital to save lives and livelihoods. The World Meteorological Organization launched a [new edition of its impact-based forecasting guidelines](#), which emphasises the importance of partnerships between governments, science/academia and practitioners. **A support network of 'translators' from scientific information to operations and policy is needed at national and local level.**
- Copernicus Emergency Management System (EMS) lessons learned for AA ([Global Flood Awareness System](#)) by the European Commission Joint Research Centre: the Red Cross Red Crescent is using Copernicus in six countries for its [DREF](#) operations, with ongoing efforts to improve forecasts and

co-produce early action plans with national authorities, for example in Uganda. There are plans to expand the use of other EMS systems for AA.

Mainstream AA at country and regional level across Disaster Risk Management and Climate Change Adaptation frameworks)

- **In order for AA to be sustainable, it ultimately needs to be integrated into regional and national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation frameworks and processes.** In some cases this will require technical assistance and support for capacity strengthening.
- Nepal experience: Nepal recently established a [national disaster risk financing strategy](#). It seeks to combine various risk financing instruments and link them, where appropriate and feasible, to AA. Establishing triggers, clarifying roles and responsibilities and exchanging knowledge on what works and what does not are major challenges. Nepal encouraged the EU and its Member States to support initiatives that help to advance the AA agenda, such as REAP.
- UNDRR experience on the implementation of the [Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action](#). Some implementing lessons learned are the need to ensure a framework with roles and responsibilities, including the role of donors, equip stakeholders with tools to exchange relevant data and information for impact-based forecasting, and link to contingency plans.

Enable flexible and predictable financing for AA and integrate across the climate, humanitarian, and development nexus

- **Donors should make AA a key priority, scale up funding and mainstream the approach across their organizations. Investment should be directed not only to funds for AA but to build local capacities, to enable AA in the first place. The EHF provides a good stage to encourage a broader engagement.**
- Example - Germany: Building on the [UN - OCHA high-level event](#) in September 2021, AA will be a priority for Germany during its G7 Presidency in 2022. Germany looks forward to creating synergies with France and EC on the AA agenda at the EHF.
- Example - InsuResilience Global Partnership: As humanitarians begin to act earlier, how can we make greater use of risk finance to provide the necessary funding for AA? Three key issues need to be solved:

(1) breaking silos: to enhance funding we need to break silos between humanitarians and development actors and systematically pull in the private sector

(2) greater use of predictive analytics: for risk financing instruments to pay out ahead of disaster, the triggers will need to be based on forecasts as opposed to ex-post disaster data

(3) Managing complexity: For linking disaster risk financing more systematically to AA, there needs to be a high-level of transparency, enhanced collaboration and an evidence-based learning culture, which this InsuResilience sectoral community is working towards achieving.

- Example - World Bank: The World Bank highlighted the importance of flexible financing for governments to prepare for and respond to disasters.

Expand AA to fragile and conflict-affected areas

- Of the 25 countries considered the most vulnerable and least ready to adapt to climate change by the ND-Gain Index, some sixty percent are also enduring conflict.
- Preventive measures, including AA, remain very weak in places enduring conflict, reflecting the significant gap in climate action and finance in these environments. **Efforts to scale up AA up must be accompanied by commitments not to exclude people in hard-to-reach or unstable areas.** The AA in Conflict Practitioners Group of the Anticipation Hub is working to advance knowledge exchange and collaboration in this area.

During the event, around 200 participants interactively shared their vision for AA in 2030. Insights reaffirmed the outcomes outlined above, while emphasizing the importance of government leadership, local collaboration, and collective learning to scale-up AA successfully.

-