Create an FbA Intervention MEAL

What and Why

In order to be able to track the progresses made in and through Forecast-based Action (FbA) there is a need for a common understanding and shared practices of MEAL (Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning) for FbA initiatives.

This document intents to provide guidance for the design of Early Actions in FbA interventions by illustrating the problem analysis of drought-induced food insecurity and exemplifying the theory of change by means of an Early Cash intervention as selected Early Action\(^1\).

Development of a Problem Tree and Theory of Change (TOC)

In order to identify and prioritize suitable Early Actions to take, it is inevitable to identify likely effects to be experienced by the vulnerable population of targeted hazard, and which actions can and should be taken to prevent or mitigate these impacts while keeping the probability, intensity and lead time of the event in mind.

In the following a problem tree will be presented which serves as a template for WHH FbA Country Team’s own development of a project and context-specific problem analysis. Evaluating the underlying direct and indirect problems driving the impact of a potential hazard forms the basis for a brainstorming for potential timely and appropriate Early Actions to take in the event of a hazard warning. This brainstorming can then be incorporated in a TOC, which seeks to illuminate how change is expected to be seen by taking certain Early Actions.

The following two TOCs follow the same purpose, whereas the first one is rather basic, suitable for a first brainstorming, the second is able to incorporate different Early Actions in one graphic while visually explaining “if… then…” relationships. Therefore, the second TOC is particularly suitable for a more in-depth analysis of expected change induced by different Early Actions integrated in one EAP and later monitoring purposes.

\(^1\) The following graphs are based on the “Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) of Forecast-based Financing (FbF) - A practical reference for country-level implementation” guide by the RCRC Climate Center.
FBA INTERVENTION MEAL

MEAL Early Action Protocol – Problem Analysis for Early Action

**FOCAL PROBLEM**

FOOD INSECURITY OF DROUGHT AFFECTED COMMUNITIES

**CAUSE**

Lack of food supply
- Lack of water supply infrastructure
- Lack of irrigation systems
- Lack of food storage

Lack of preparedness measures
- Preparedness Measures not part of FbA

**EFFECTS**

Negative Coping Mechanism such as:
- Reduced productivity → vicious circle = even less income/food intake
- Reduced intake of calories → malnourishment
- Children drop out of school

Available calories per HH
- Increase of market prices

Drop in available income per HH
- Drop in livestock
- Drop in harvest

Low-income levels
- Lack of knowledge and awareness

DROUGHT

Climate Change

MEAL Early Action Protocol – Theory of Change for Early Action

**Impact**

Stabilized Food Security in targeted communities

No other Food Security-inducing factors are active

**Outcome**

HH have access to functioning markets

HH use early cash grants to prevent negative coping mechanism in response to drought

**Outputs**

All targeted HH in communities receive sufficient and timely cash grant (insert agreed amount)

Sufficient Early Cash are available

**Activities**

All stakeholders know their role and responsibilities according to the EAP

Early Cash is distributed in targeted communities

EAP and their Early Actions are triggered

Forecast is clear

Forecast indicated that drought danger level exceeded

Assumptions
MEAL Early Action Protocol – Theory of Change for Early Action

**Problem Analysis**

- **WHY?**
  - Lack of knowledge and preparedness
  - Lack of water for livestock and cultivation
  - Harvest declines
  - Livestock declines

**WHY?**

- **because**
  - HH loose income
  - HH lose food for own consumption

- **WHY?** Food insecurity in case of drought is induced

**Theory of Change**

- **Activation of EAP**
  - Forecast is clear
  - Warning is communicated

- **Forecast is ready to act**
  - Implementors are ready to act
  - Supplies are sufficient
  - EAP is clear and understood
  - Funding for activity is disbursed

- **If...**
  - Early Cash is distributed
  - Vulnerable HHs received cash grant
  - HHs do not have to resort to negative coping mechanisms

- **Then...**
  - Early Action B
  - Outputs B
  - Outcomes B

- **Then...**
  - Early Action C
  - Outputs C
  - Outcomes C

- **Then...**
  - IMPACTS: Food Security Situation is stabilized

**Assumptions**

- Food insecurity in case of drought is induced