

14th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Connecting efforts, strengthening systems, enabling scale:
financing the future of anticipatory action

20-22 October 2026, Berlin and online

Concept note

Over the past decade, anticipatory action has become an established approach for protecting people ahead of predictable crises. It has been demonstrated that acting before shocks occur or fully unfold can save lives and livelihoods, reduce humanitarian impacts, preserve people's dignity, and make more effective use of available resources. Yet, anticipatory action is doing so in a context of growing humanitarian needs, increasing climate-related risks, and constrained humanitarian funding.

The 14th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action will take place from 20 to 22 October 2026, in Berlin and online. This year's platform will be held under the theme "Connecting Efforts, Strengthening Systems, Enabling Scale: Financing the future of anticipatory action."

Setting the scene

Since the first Global Dialogue Platform in 2015, anticipatory action has evolved from a number of pilot initiatives into a globally recognized approach to humanitarian action. Governments, humanitarian organizations, scientists, communities, and donors have worked together to establish systems that enable action ahead of predictable hazards and crises.

In 2025, anticipatory action reached 9.6 million people through 146 activations in 54 countries¹. The number of active anticipatory action frameworks increased by 70% from 154 the year before to 262, while 57 countries are now working to institutionalize anticipatory action within national systems. The approach continues to expand beyond weather-related hazards and is increasingly embedded within government-led disaster risk management systems, humanitarian planning

¹ [Anticipatory Action in 2025: A Global Overview](#), Anticipation Hub

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The Anticipation Hub is an initiative of

processes, and sectoral programmes. Growing evidence continues to demonstrate that anticipatory action protects lives and livelihoods, reduces humanitarian impacts, improves cost-efficiency, and preserves people's dignity.

At the same time, the context in which anticipatory action operates is changing rapidly. Humanitarian needs continue to rise as risks continue to grow. Climate change, conflict, displacement and other drivers of vulnerability are increasing the number of people exposed to shocks – in 2026, almost 240 million people globally require humanitarian assistance – while the humanitarian system continues to be severely underfunded. Against this backdrop, the anticipatory action community remains committed to ensuring that the approach keeps growing to reach more people at risk and that the systems built over the past decade can be maintained, strengthened and expanded. What remains is building the financing and partnerships to match the ambition.

Scaling anticipatory action requires collective and complementary action across actors and sectors. This involves optimizing the use of existing humanitarian resources by connecting efforts, bringing in new financial sources and partnerships, and working with governments and local actors to ensure capacities, resources, and ownership are in place to sustain anticipatory action over time.

The 14th Global Dialogue Platform will provide a space to explore these questions: How can the anticipatory action community use available resources even more efficiently and strategically? How can we better join forces for scaling up? What role can climate finance, development finance, international financial institutions, and the private sector play in supporting anticipatory action? And how can governments and local actors continue to strengthen and sustain effective anticipatory action within their own systems?

Thematic focus areas

The 14th Global Dialogue Platform aims to foster exchange, learning and collaboration around three interconnected areas that will shape the future scale and sustainability of anticipatory action.

1. Making the most of available resources

Over the past decade, investments in anticipatory action have increased, but available resources do not reach the scale required for it to fully realize its potential. At the same time, constrained humanitarian resources require an even stronger focus on scope and boundary setting, prioritization, efficiency, and demonstrating impact.

Discussions under this theme will explore how to prioritize humanitarian resources for anticipatory action to ensure they protect those most at risk. How can the anticipatory action community maximize the benefits of anticipatory action and use resources even more efficiently, including through stronger collective approaches, improved coordination, shared learning, robust monitoring of results and continued investment in evidence? What bottlenecks exist to reach the maximum number of people with the resources available, and how can they be addressed?

Sessions will also examine how existing evidence on the impact, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of anticipatory action can support continued commitment to scaling the approach and what more evidence is needed.

2. Connecting with new partners and sources of finance

The scale of future anticipatory action cannot rely on humanitarian funding alone; it depends on collaboration that extends beyond traditional humanitarian actors. Increasingly, opportunities

exist to embed anticipatory action more strongly within climate programming, disaster risk reduction, social protection, and development planning.

Discussions will focus on how anticipatory action can connect with new partners, including climate finance, development actors, international financial institutions, the private sector, and initiatives supporting early warning and disaster risk financing. Participants will examine how different financing streams and partnerships can complement each other, how barriers to engagement can be addressed, and what is needed to create a stronger financing ecosystem for anticipatory action.

As anticipatory action continues to mature, collaboration across sectors will be essential to ensure that it is not viewed solely as a humanitarian approach, but as a shared investment in resilience and risk management.

3. Strengthening regional, national and local systems for sustainable scale

Over the past decade, anticipatory action has advanced significantly through the joint efforts of humanitarian organizations, governments, technical agencies, donors, and local actors. However, as anticipatory action continues to scale, attention is shifting towards how anticipatory action can become an integrated and sustainable part of national and local risk management systems, ensuring it can thrive independent of individual projects and humanitarian funding cycles.

Across many countries, governments and regional entities are taking leadership in advancing, coordinating and implementing anticipatory action, while civil society, in particular local actors, continue to play a central role in ensuring approaches are grounded in local contexts, inclusive, and reach the most at-risk communities.

For anticipatory action to reach a sustainable scale, it needs to be embedded within the systems and institutions responsible for managing risks. National disaster management authorities, hydrometeorological services, line ministries, regional organizations, and local administrations all have important roles. As anticipatory action continues to expand, national, regional, and local ownership, capacity, and financing will be critical for its continued evolution.

Sessions under this theme will examine what is required for anticipatory action to become a sustainable part of national and local systems. Participants will explore lessons from government-led and locally driven initiatives, discuss pathways to institutionalization, and consider how capacities, financing, and decision-making can be anchored in national and local systems. There will be a particular focus on the conditions that enable anticipatory action to adapt, endure, and continue delivering results over time.

About the event

Global Dialogue Platforms have grown into landmark annual events that bring together up to 2,000 practitioners, scientists, local stakeholders, and policymakers from across government, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, United Nations agencies, non-governmental organizations, academia, development partners and the private sector.

The 14th Global Dialogue Platform will be held as a hybrid event, bringing together participants in Berlin and online. Through panel discussions, creative plenary formats, ignite talks, and thematic parallel sessions, the program will foster exchange, joint learning and innovation. In line with the spirit of the Global Dialogue Platforms, the event aims to provide space for diverse perspectives, including those of local and national actors from civil society and government, while encouraging dialogue across levels and sectors. The main language of the event is English, with simultaneous

interpretation available in Arabic, French, and Spanish during the plenary sessions (to be confirmed).

Organizers

The Global Dialogue Platform is hosted by the Anticipation Hub, a joint initiative of the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. It is being organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the World Food Programme, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Start Network, Welthungerhilfe, and the Danish Refugee Council, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office. The programme is also developed in close consultation with stakeholders working on issues related to this year's theme, including (among others) the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems and the Global Shield.