

# 11th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

People at the centre: scaling up anticipatory action

10 -12 October 2023, Berlin and online

## Concept note

The **11th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action** will take place as a hybrid event in October 2023. There will be an in-person conference and live studio in Berlin, Germany, as well as virtual sessions involving participants from around the world. This year's event is being held under the theme 'People at the centre: scaling up anticipatory action'.

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 (IFRC) and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. It is being organized in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), Start Network and the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.

## Main theme

The report [Anticipatory Action in 2022: A Global Overview](#) shows that a range of organizations now implement anticipatory action, getting ahead of many different hazards and reaching across an increasing variety of thematic areas. More than 3.6 million people in 30 countries were reached through anticipatory action in 2022, with at least 56 organizations supporting these efforts.

Yet this report also made it clear that anticipatory action is not yet being implemented at a scale commensurate to the opportunities it offers, nor for the needs faced by those at risk, which can be predicted. At this year's Global Dialogue Platform, we will on how to increase the inclusivity of anticipatory action and ensure that the people affected by predictable hazards are at its centre focus – examining this question from the technical, policy and financial perspectives.

Partners



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## Background

In 2014, the German Red Cross, the IFRC, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and WFP, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office, initiated the first Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action.<sup>1</sup> This event was held to capture lessons from pioneering projects and share ideas on how to move anticipatory action forward. Since then, the event has become established as an annual space for exchange and learning around this subject.

Global Dialogue Platforms gather a diverse audience from around the world. Participants include senior managers, policy-makers, practitioners, scientists and experts drawn from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, the United Nations, non-governmental organizations, governments, donors, academia, the private sector and the financial sector. To enable as many members of this growing community to participate, the 11th Global Dialogue Platform will again be held as a **hybrid event**. Based on the feedback from the event held in 2022, this year's event will also include more time and space for workshops, to allow for in-depth discussions on key topics.

### Objectives

Participants come together for the following objectives:

- Discuss how to drive anticipatory action forward, through increasing the reach of this approach, improving its quality, engaging new stakeholders in its implementation and development
- Strengthen synergy across key initiatives supporting the early warning and early/anticipatory action value chain
- Define its impact and determine the next steps as we continue to scale up anticipatory action as a growing community

## Thematic focus areas

There are many ways in which we can increase the inclusivity of anticipatory action and ensure that no one is left behind. Many of these will be explored during this year's Global Dialogue Platform.

### 1. The challenge of implementing anticipatory action in the context of protracted crises

The [\*State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World\*](#) report for 2010 defines protracted crisis situations as “characterized by recurrent natural disasters and/or conflict, longevity of food crises, breakdown of livelihoods and insufficient institutional capacity to react to the crises” (p.12). People living in such contexts are highly susceptible to suffering disproportionately from climate- and weather-related hazards. Affected by multiple vulnerabilities, there is an argument that they need anticipatory action support most urgently. Yet many opportunities still exist to implement anticipatory action in these contexts but the success of this is still not defined as this approach is not yet mainstreamed within the humanitarian programme cycle, nor the humanitarian–development–peace nexus.

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<sup>1</sup> Initially called the Dialogue Platform on Forecast-based Financing.

## **2. Funding is increasing – but is still often insufficient, inflexible and inaccessible**

As noted in the Anticipation Hub’s overview report, 2022 saw encouraging signs of more financing for anticipatory action. Germany committed to spending 5 per cent of its humanitarian budget for 2023 on anticipatory action, and other G7 Members also promised to significantly increase their financing. The IFRC, Start Network, OCHA, FAO and WFP are also increasing their commitments through their own financing mechanism and making funding more accessible than before. There is also growing interest in anticipatory action among donors ([REAP 2022](#)), with a corresponding increase in investment; for example, financing for action frameworks in 2022 reached 138 million US dollars ([Anticipation Hub 2022](#)).

However, this has not yet led to a systemic shift in funding and, as a consequence, anticipatory action is still not reaching enough of the people who it can protect. Fulfilling this potential requires partners and donors to provide more flexible funding, and consider committing a proportion of their budget towards anticipatory action as an initial step towards scaling up ([Chavez-Gonzalez et al. 2022](#)).

Beyond implementation by international humanitarian organizations, more funding must be made available and accessible for local and national organizations and governments, so they can support actions ahead of forecast hazards, while also building the systems needed to implement anticipatory action effectively. This will enable them to reach many of those who are currently left behind.

## **3. The need for more locally led anticipatory action**

Locally led planning by governments and humanitarian organizations, access to finance and risk data, and local actors’ operational readiness are all essential preconditions for the effective implementation of anticipatory action at the local level. Yet despite the critical role of civil society organizations, local government bodies and community leaders in managing disasters, 84 per cent of local actors report not being included in assessing threats, preparing policies and plans, or acting to reduce them ([GNDR 2023](#)). Women in particular often lack access to risk information and are not meaningfully engaged in decision-making processes. Local actors being able to effectively strengthen their own systems is crucial for the systems needed to mainstream and scale up anticipatory action at local levels – a major step towards ensuring that no one is left behind.

## **4. Using evidence to establish what matters most in anticipatory action**

Several new studies document the wide-ranging benefits of anticipatory action (e.g., [Poole et al. 2022](#)), from improved health outcomes to increased well-being among target populations. However, as the [2022 State of the Humanitarian System](#) report states, “[t]here is evidence for the effectiveness of anticipatory action, but the more critical question – is anticipatory action *more* effective (or cost-effective) than traditional post-crisis response? – has been difficult to answer” ([ALNAP 2022](#), p.177).

Evaluation methodologies differ, and several collaborations are currently trying to build common analytical frameworks for quantifying these benefits. More detailed evaluations can also lead to faster recovery times, for example by pinpointing the appropriate timing for different anticipatory interventions.

## 5. The need to increase attention on those with specific needs

Effective anticipatory action systems enable stakeholders to better predict how people might be affected by certain hazards. In this way, it can support and strengthen the ability of specific groups to cope better with shocks and stresses, and address any issues of discrimination. However, although there is increasing recognition of the importance of integrating [protective, gender-sensitive and inclusive approaches in anticipatory action](#), these are not yet consistently applied and typically lack the capacity, resources and monitoring mechanisms to ensure those most in need are prioritized. Anticipatory action should be tailored to ensure that we reach *all* people effectively and in a non-discriminatory and equitable manner. This requires efforts to further embed those dimensions in anticipatory action approaches and build an evidence and advocacy base for doing so.

### **From silos to synergy: scaling up anticipatory action across sectors**

For anticipatory action to be effective and reach its true potential scale, there will need to be partnerships and collaboration across and beyond the humanitarian system. When building systems and strengthening local actors' capacities to lead anticipatory action, actors from many sectors, including the development and climate sectors must be involved.

Donors and partners can work to incentivize this collaboration and encourage development, climate and humanitarian actors to combine their expertise when designing frameworks and projects. Key initiatives should also help to overcome the structural and administrative barriers that prevent local partners from accessing funds.

The 11th Global Dialogue Platform will host **two workshops** organized by the interim secretariat of the Global Shield Against Climate Risk and the pillar leads of the Early Warning For All Initiative (United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, World Meteorological Organizations, International Telecommunication and the IFRC)

### **About the Global Shield and the Early Warning For All Initiative (EW4ALL)**

In partnership with the Vulnerable Twenty (V20), the Group of Seven (G7) committed to jointly work towards a Global Shield against Climate Risks. The Shield aims to increase protection for vulnerable people against climate risks by substantially enhancing and scaling up prearranged finance, coupled with social protection mechanisms and early warning systems. Greater financial protection, and faster and more reliable disaster preparedness and response, will help to minimize and address the losses and damages exacerbated by climate change, and in a cost-efficient and effective way. The Global Shield has the potential promote anticipatory action through holistic approaches.

Launched by the UN Secretary-General in November 2022, EW4ALL is a groundbreaking effort to ensure that everyone on Earth is protected from hazardous weather, water, or climate events through life-saving early warning systems by the end of 2027. Through its strategic implementation of the four pillars, (1) risk knowledge; (2) observations and forecasting; (3) dissemination and communication; and (4) preparedness and response, there are opportunities to comprehensively scale up anticipatory action.

More details on the two workshops to be shared with the programme.