



## ECOSOC HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS SEGMENT

UN HEADQUARTERS, NEW YORK 19-21 June 2018

### Title:

**Anticipation and Forecast-based Financing –  
Reducing humanitarian needs, risk and vulnerability within a forward-looking humanitarian system**

### Sponsors and Organizers:

**Permanent Missions of Germany, Bangladesh,  
United Arab Emirates and International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)**

**Date and Time: Tuesday, 19 June 2018, 13:15 – 14:30**

**Place: Conference Room 12, UN Secretariat, New York**

This side event, convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), presents a set of innovative, field-ready mechanisms to mobilize resources in advance of a credibly predicted crisis, as well as discusses how these mechanisms might be scaled up across the international humanitarian system. The event builds on this year's HAS theme: ***Restoring humanity, respecting human dignity and leaving no one behind: working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.***

### Background and objectives

More anticipation is needed within the humanitarian system from countries and humanitarian organizations to address the increasing number of natural disasters and climate risks. Often, available funding and mandates result in humanitarian relief being provided only after the impact of an extreme weather event. In many cases, anticipatory early action could have saved lives, reduced the overall impacts and associated suffering of vulnerable communities, and increased the effectiveness and cost-efficiency of humanitarian response. Anticipatory humanitarian assistance addresses this tremendous opportunity by using scientific indicators to systematically trigger early, pre-agreed actions and resource disbursements. While the humanitarian system as whole has not yet been structured for systematized early action, policy and practice are changing rapidly.

An increasing number of States and organizations are beginning to implement innovative anticipatory approaches, which will be presented during the side event. Forecast-based Financing is one of these innovative mechanisms developed by the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement based on a proposal in Germany's 2014 humanitarian climate action plan. Forecast-based Financing uses climate and extreme weather forecasts to enable the timely disbursement of funds to implement pre-agreed preparedness actions before a potential disaster is likely to happen. Bangladesh is among the countries where this innovative and anticipatory approach is currently being implemented successfully.

The side event will therefore provide an insight into ongoing Forecast-based Financing projects and will share experiences from the field. It will also present new risk financing solutions, like the new Forecast-based Financing Action by the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF). It will additionally highlight the work of other humanitarian and development actors, including Start Network, a network of 42 humanitarian NGOs, supported by DFID, Irish Aid, the Netherlands, ECHO and Belgium, and its early action engagement in relation to their Crises Anticipation Window.

### **Discussion points**

To develop recommendations and principles for relevant humanitarian policy processes, the event will focus on the following questions and discussion points:

- What have past disaster scenarios shown us? How can forecasts be better used to enable humanitarian stakeholders to take action before disaster strikes?
- What are the major opportunities and lessons learned from ongoing anticipatory approaches? How can we best serve the needs of at-risk populations?
- What are the major challenges to implementing and mainstreaming forecast-based financing and early-warning/early-action approaches in high risk contexts?
- What would an anticipatory humanitarian system look like in the face of climate change?
- What are the next policy steps to promote anticipatory approaches within the humanitarian system and at the national, regional and international levels?

### **Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

The side event will explore methods, tools and approaches for anticipatory humanitarian assistance to disasters and crises, ranging from the development of innovative risk financing instruments to the specific implementation of early actions in high risk countries. Furthermore, it will showcase how innovative concepts like Forecast-based Financing and anticipatory funding windows can contribute to the complementarity of humanitarian preparedness programs.

The side event will discuss how early warning early action approaches could be used to reduce risk and vulnerability factors of communities at risk in the context of climate change and natural disasters. It will highlight how humanitarian organizations in cooperation with donors and the private sector can accelerate innovations within the humanitarian system to reduce current, imminent and future needs, risks and vulnerabilities and increase the efficiency, effectiveness and accountability of the humanitarian system.

The side event will conclude by proposing concrete recommendations for the UN humanitarian system and ongoing policy processes which address natural hazards and climate change and on how anticipatory

approaches can be integrated more systematically into the humanitarian system at national, regional and international levels.

### **Format**

00.00h – 00.05h	Opening & Welcome by Ambassador Jürgen Schulz, Germany and Ambassador Masud Bin Momen, Bangladesh
00.05h – 00.10h	Keynote-Speech by ASG Ursula Müller, UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator OCHA
00.10h – 00.30h	Setting the Scene: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- The Forecast-based Financing concept incl. video presentation (German Red Cross)</li><li>- The Start Fund Crises Anticipation Window (Start Network)</li><li>- Forecast-based Action by the IFRC Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (IFRC)</li><li>- Anticipatory action in practice - Case studies (Bangladesh Red Crescent)</li></ul>
00.30h – 00.55h	Thematic panel discussion
00.55h – 00.70h	Questions & Answers
00.70h – 00.75h:	Closing remarks

### **Panel composition**

- ASG Ursula Müller, UN Deputy Emergency Relief Coordinator, OCHA
- Alexandra Rüth, Head of Climate Change Task Team, German Red Cross
- MD Belal Hossain, Director of Disaster Management, Bangladesh Red Crescent Society
- Sarah Klassen, Crises Anticipation Advisor (Start Network)

### **Panel moderator**

- Jemilah Mahmood, Under-Secretary General, IFRC

### **Background Material**

- IFRC and German Red Cross Website: [www.forecast-based-financing.org](http://www.forecast-based-financing.org)

- Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre: <http://www.climatecentre.org>
- German Red Cross: [https://www.drk.de/fileadmin/user\\_upload/FBF/FbF-An\\_innovative\\_approach.pdf](https://www.drk.de/fileadmin/user_upload/FBF/FbF-An_innovative_approach.pdf)
- START Network: <https://startnetwork.org/start-fund/crisis-anticipation-window>

## **Contact**

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