

ANTICIPATORY ACTION NIGER

Getting Ahead of Drought

Today, we can predict with increasing confidence the occurrence and humanitarian impact of certain climatic shocks. By combining different analytical approaches, out-of-the-ordinary weather events can not only be predicted, but their projected humanitarian impact can proactively be mitigated based on pre-identified anticipatory actions.

Building on growing evidence that acting prior to the onset of a predictable, severe hazard is significantly more (cost-)effective than traditional humanitarian response, OCHA is facilitating the setup of multiple collective anticipatory action frameworks that, upon being activated, are implemented with funds allocated from CERF. Beyond CERF, other donors are encouraged to contribute funds to the frameworks within their own established criteria and in complementarity.

The framework for drought in Niger, a country that is highly exposed to climate risk, was designed by humanitarian partners under the leadership of the Humanitarian Coordinator, with support from OCHA. The framework was endorsed by both the Humanitarian Coordinator and the Emergency Relief Coordinator in January 2022 and is valid for a period of two years.

The objective of the anticipatory action framework is to mitigate the impact of forecasted severe drought on vulnerable, at-risk individuals and communities in Niger through collective, cross-sectoral anticipatory action.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION FRAMEWORK

THE TRIGGER

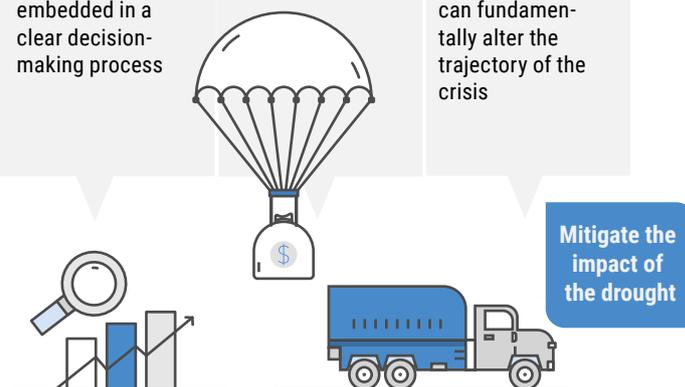
A robust forecasting embedded in a clear decision-making process

THE MONEY

Pre-arranged finance

THE DELIVERY

Pre-agreed action plan that can fundamentally alter the trajectory of the crisis



The Trigger Mechanism

Knowing when to act

The mechanism for the Niger framework consists of two forecast-based triggers and an observations-based trigger.

Each trigger has its own activation window, which corresponds to one of two tailored packages of anticipatory activities with a particular aim: whereas activities tied to the first trigger are primarily intended to mitigate harvest losses, activities tied to the second and third triggers are designed to mitigate the multi-sectoral impacts of the projected drought.

The framework has two triggers windows for two separate packages of anticipatory interventions

WINDOW 1

Safeguarding the harvest includes interventions primarily focused on activities to prepare agriculture and market gardens to make the most of the little rains that will fall.



WINDOW 2

Mitigation if direct drought impact includes interventions that directly target those most at risk and vulnerable to drought through a multi-sectoral package of activities.



	Trigger 1	Trigger 2	Trigger 3
Type	Forecast-based	Forecast-based	Observational
Indicator	Precipitation forecast	Precipitation forecast	SPI*
Target Period	Jul-Sep	Jul-Sep	Jun-July
Activation Timepoints	Jan, Feb, Mar	Apr, May, June	Aug
Lead Time	6 - 4 months	3 - 1 months	N/A
Activity Package	Window 1	Window 2	Window 2
Funding	\$5.25m	\$9.5m	\$9.5m

*Standardized Precipitation Index

Triggers 1 and 2 can activate the framework independently from one another. Trigger 3 can only activate the framework if Trigger 2 was not met.

Anticipatory Activities

Acting when the time is right

The anticipatory action frameworks facilitated by OCHA establish an action plan that is implemented by humanitarian agencies and their partners as soon as trigger conditions are met. Intended to alter the trajectory of an anticipated crisis, the pre-agreed activities are primarily selected based on the following criteria:



- Anticipatory character:** Actions included in the framework must be effective in preventing or reducing the humanitarian impact of drought.
- Timing:** Each potential action has a specific window of opportunity, outside of which an action loses much of its intended effect. This is defined in a crisis timeline. Only those activities that can be carried out between the trigger and the optimal moment for delivery of assistance are chosen for anticipatory action.
- Capacity:** To maximize the impact of assistance, it is critical that agencies and their partners have the institutional capacity (thematic, logistic, administrative, financial, human resources) to implement actions effectively given the available lead time and required scale.
- No regrets:** In the case of a false alarm (i.e., a scenario where a predicted shock scenario does not materialize), the proposed actions still benefit the targeted population.

Beyond meeting these criteria, all activities included in the anticipatory action framework for Niger are designed to build on and reinforce the existing and functioning disaster management architecture, and not build parallel systems. To promote multiplier effects, multi-sectoral, co-targeted interventions are given priority. As per CERF's rules and regulations, all activities funded by CERF must adhere to the fund's life-saving criteria.

The table below provides an overview of interventions included in the framework. In line with the trigger system that was developed for this pilot, anticipatory activities are split into two separate windows of action. Window 1 includes activities specifically designed to safeguard the food security and livelihoods of at-risk people as soon as there is an indication of severe drought. Beyond focusing on people's food security and livelihoods, activities in window 2 aim to mitigate impacts expected to materialize in other sectors.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION ACTIVITIES

<h4>Food Security & Livelihoods</h4> <p>PAM</p> <p>Window 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and awareness campaigns Rehabilitation of degraded lands by collecting runoff water (zai and half-moons) Rehabilitation and/or implementation of water supply structures for market gardening Protection of agricultural inputs (cash + awareness) <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information and awareness campaigns Rehabilitation of degraded lands by collecting runoff water (zai and half-moons) Rehabilitation and/or implementation of water supply structures for market gardening Protection of agricultural inputs (cash + awareness) Prevent a deterioration of the living conditions of farmers and breeders (cash + awareness) <p>FAO</p> <p>Window 1</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Campaign on good agricultural practices Distribution of seeds to communities involved in the recovery of degraded lands Drought-resistant seeds and other alternative crops Safeguarding market garden production with of innovative actions for water management <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Safeguarding market gardening production through the provision of market gardening seeds Sensitization on strategic destocking Firebreaks (cash for work) Safeguarding of the conditions of the livestock (cash+, feed, animal health) 	<h4>Protection</h4> <p>UNFPA</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Awareness raising to reduce the risk of sexual violence against women and girls Pre-positioning of inter-agency kits for reproductive health (IARH kit) Strengthen the referral system for obstetrical complications and the medical management of GBV Distribution of dignity kits to women and adolescents at risk of sexual violence Coverage of examination fees for adolescents girls <p>UNHCR</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Raising community awareness on disaster prevention and the risks of HR violations Monitoring of drought-related protection incidents 	<h4>Education</h4> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early detection of acutely malnourished children under 5 years of age Promotion of optimal infant and young child feeding (IYCF) practices
<h4>Multi-sectorial</h4> <p>UNDP</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Early Warning Strengthening social cohesion Firewalls (cash for work) 	<h4>Health</h4> <p>WHO</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Reinforcement of awareness on diseases with epidemic potential and of respiratory origin Reactivation and strengthening of the Rapid Intervention Teams (RIT) 	<h4>WASH</h4> <p>UNICEF</p> <p>Window 2</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of good hygiene practices Distribution of WASH kits and inputs (water storage tanks, home water treatment products) Rehabilitation and/or strengthening of water supply facilities
		<h4>Evaluation and Learning</h4> <p>OCHA invests in documenting evidence and learning from all frameworks. Once triggered, a collective effort is made to assess the impact of the anticipatory approach in relation to the premise of anticipatory action, namely that it can lead to a faster, more effective, and dignified humanitarian response, which can also protect development gains</p>