Anticipatory Action Video

- Thank you for affording Concern the opportunity to contribute to this critical high-level event on anticipatory action.
- The triple crises of COVID, climate and surging conflict is driving us back to a world we thought we had forgotten where poverty is deepening and famine is at the door.
- We need a radical rethinking of how we tackle crises. And key to tackling crisis is prevention. Here at Concern, we strongly support the call to prioritise and invest in anticipatory action. We know it makes sense and we have the evidence. And even in the most fragile contexts such as Somalia, Central African Republic, and Niger, we have seen the overwhelmingly positive effect of long term investment in prevention at community level.
- The great story of the recent years is prevention. And yet we know that for every ten dollars spent on humanitarian response, only one dollar is spent on anticipatory action.
- So we need to let success change the narrative. Success of programmes such as the Building Resilient Communities in Somalia programme, which Concern is implementing together with our partners Norwegian Refugee Council, International Rescue Committee, Save the Children, ACF and CESVI.
- The programme systematically monitors early warning indicators that then trigger a rapid localised response when signs of a potential crisis emerge. The central ethos is a ‘no regrets’ approach, designed to ensure there is never a repeat of the disastrous famine of 2011. Therefore, instead of responding to an emergency based on certainty, you begin to respond proportionately, to the probability of a disaster. And it’s working.
- And this is just one example of how relatively simple community based anticipatory action programmes can make all the difference. It requires time, money and above all long-term engagement with communities.
- So let’s champion success. Use the hard won evidence to end this cycle of crisis response and crisis. We know the solutions are there. And thank you for giving us this opportunity.