



Title of Side Event: *Scaling up and mainstreaming anticipatory approaches through empowered locally led action*

This is one of the side events to be convened on the margins of the 2022 ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment (HAS), which builds on this year's HAS theme: *"Humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis: escalating risks, challenges and actions"*

Sponsors and Organizers:

Sponsor: Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations

Organizers: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), World Food Programme (WFP), Start Network, and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

Date and Time: Tuesday 21 June, 1.15- 2.45pm (New York time)

Location: Hybrid (Conference Room 1, UN Headquarters, New York) and via Zoom

Background:

This year's report by the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change](#) (IPCC) notes for the first time that the climate crisis is a humanitarian crisis, which is particularly affecting the world's most vulnerable. Climate change will increase the frequency, intensity and severity of droughts, floods and heatwaves, and continued sea level rise will increase risks to food security in vulnerable regions. Climate- and weather-related extreme events are increasingly driving displacement in all regions, with Small Island States (SIDs) disproportionately affected. In addition, flood and drought-related acute food insecurity and malnutrition have increased in many countries in Africa and Central and South America.

These compounding crises are leading to a rise in humanitarian needs, as is the number of people displaced by conflict, which is now the highest on record, since the Second World War. While non-climatic factors are the dominant drivers of existing intrastate violent conflicts, in some regions climate and extreme weather events have had an adverse impact on their length and severity. The impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic are also significantly exacerbating these trends.



At the same time, acute food insecurity is deteriorating due to compounding drivers, such as economic shocks, conflicts, and extreme weather events, often affecting the same people at the same time. According to the latest [Global Report on Food Crises](#), about 193 million people faced acute hunger in 2021, which has increased by 80% over the last five years. The report also found that the impact of weather-related hazards on acute food insecurity has intensified since 2020, with African countries facing the harshest consequences.

One of the key solutions identified to limit and reduce the loss and damage from climate change and associated impacts is anticipating predictable disasters and crises and acting ahead of time to protect people in the most vulnerable situations. Anticipatory action is shifting the focus from a traditional reactive response to a more proactive humanitarian response, protecting people ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. This type of approach requires planning ahead, reliable early warning information, and pre-agreed financing, but it has proven to be a more dignified and cost-effective way to save lives and livelihoods ahead of disasters and crises.

When it comes to the use, scaling up and mainstreaming of anticipatory action, there has been increased interest, uptake and commitment from humanitarian organizations, governments and other stakeholders. As the Anticipatory Action Task Force, the IFRC, WFP, FAO, OCHA and Start Network are implementing anticipatory action in more than 70 countries. For anticipatory action to be the modus operandi, this number needs to be scaled up, to cover more regions, more shocks, and more people, particularly at the local community level, as well as to expand anticipatory action beyond weather-related hazards and to include epidemics, pandemics, food chain crises and other drivers of humanitarian needs.

The rationale for increasing investment in anticipatory action is becoming increasingly clear. A growing bank of evidence shows that these approaches are more effective, cost-efficient and provide a dignified and quick way to manage risks before they become humanitarian disasters. Crucially, these anticipatory approaches also protect development gains.

In parallel, there are global commitments, which need to translate into local actions. On World Meteorological Day this year, Mr. António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General, announced that the United Nations would spearhead new action to ensure hundred percent coverage of early warning systems within five years. Early warnings are not as effective if they do not translate into early actions to save lives and livelihoods.

The High-Level Event on Anticipatory Action held in September 2021 urged the humanitarian system to shift away from a solely reactive response to crises towards an increasingly proactive, anticipatory approach – acting on risks instead of only reacting to needs.

A key element of effectively scaling up anticipatory action is investing in and empowering locally led action that must be driven by local actors and organizations. Local actors especially focus on vulnerable communities and are the closest to the crises. It is important for local actors to have access to early warning and forecasting information, which supports local priorities and systems to guarantee sustainability in the long term and to reach at-risk populations.

Finally, for the systems' shift to become truly anticipatory, collective efforts from humanitarian, development, and climate communities are needed for integrating anticipatory action in national disaster risk management and climate change adaptation plans, policies and strategies. Working transversely across ministries, departments and organizations at all levels can help break silos to institutionalize anticipatory action.



Objectives of event:

Drawing upon the experience of key agencies and organizations working in this space and bringing together government and humanitarian organizations' representatives, this official ECOSOC HAS side event will examine the ways to further scale up and mainstream anticipatory action and provide forward-looking considerations in terms of next steps for anticipatory action.

The event will further explore some solutions to address humanitarian impacts of the climate crisis and will determine the key actions required to scale up anticipatory action from the ECOSOC members and pave the way for translating global commitments to concrete actions.

The event will also deliberate on some lessons learnt on anticipatory action and replicate good practices in other contexts. It will highlight the importance and practice of working together and through coordinated actions to enable anticipatory action and pre-agreed ex-ante financing.

Discussion points or guiding questions:

- What are some of the recent lessons learnt, best practices and key recommendations in addressing humanitarian impacts of climate change? What should be replicated and what are the major challenges in addressing escalating risks?
- How anticipatory action approaches have been effective in the face of increasing climate risks? What have we learnt so far?
- What are some of the enabling environments for nationally and locally led anticipatory action and what is required to scale up such practice?
- How can anticipatory action be more locally led and what would the humanitarian system gain from listening to local actors when acting ahead of crises?
- How can we move beyond conceptual misunderstandings, to collaborate and meaningfully engage across sectors, levels and organizations in anticipatory action? What are the learnings from the existing frameworks and multi-stakeholder collaborations?
- How can we increase humanitarian financing for anticipatory action, i.e., enable funding pre-hazard impact with a no-regret approach, rather than it turning into a disaster?

Key concrete action points and recommendations/take away messages:

The side event will generate recommendations on:

- 1) Need and ways to scale up of anticipatory action to address humanitarian impacts of climate change
- 2) How to draw and use lessons learnt from anticipatory approaches to tackle future risks
- 3) Ways to develop synergies and work in a more coordinated manner to scale up, mainstream and institutionalize anticipatory action

Background Material (feel free to share links to relevant documents):

- [IFRC Operational Framework for Anticipatory Action 2021-2025](#)
- [“Information is Power: Connecting Local Responders to the Risk information that they Need”](#), Start Network
- [‘Harnessing anticipatory action to avoid or reduce disaster displacement’](#), Anticipation Hub



- [‘How can we mainstream anticipatory action in disaster risk-management system?’](#), Anticipation Hub
- [IPCC report ‘Climate change 2022: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability](#)
- [Anticipatory action. Changing the way we manage disasters. FAO \(2021\)](#)
- [E-learning course: ‘Developing an Anticipatory Action System’. FAO \(2020\)](#)
- [Hunger Hotspots. FAO-WFP early warnings on acute food insecurity - June to September 2022 Outlook](#)

Connection details to join the event

For virtual participation please register by visiting this zoom link:

https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUtcuGhrTMtGtCUArDsCFsltq1Mx_iQeiTr

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