**Introduction**

- Thank you for inviting me to be a part of this important discussion today.
- As others have noted, with global humanitarian needs at an all-time high, and finite resources to respond to humanitarian crises, we **all** need to look for ways to better anticipate needs and take action earlier.
- The U.S. government has long been supportive of anticipatory and early action, and today continues to contribute in three critical ways. First, by investing in data that serves as the foundation of forecasting, early warning, and risk assessment. Second, by working with partners to implement evidence-based risk-informed actions and decisions. And third, by scaling the strategic layering of different kinds of crisis financing, including anticipatory action and innovative risk financing instruments, respectful of humanitarian principles.

**Data and evidence**

- Early on, we set the groundwork for disaster risk management by investing in disaster risk reduction and early warning, especially for climate-related hazards.
- On the heels of devastating famines in East and West Africa in the 1980s, USAID established the Famine Early Warning Systems Network, or FEWS NET, which is now a leading provider of early warning and analysis on food insecurity.
- Through FEWS NET, we are providing evidence-based analysis on some of the world’s most food-insecure countries to help decision-makers and communities take early action to mitigate worsening food insecurity. Today, our data and analysis in places like Haiti, Madagascar, and Yemen allow us to forecast the number of people in need of emergency humanitarian assistance, where they are located, and the severity of their need, so USAID and partners can deliver the right assistance in time to save lives.
- We are committed to strengthening data collection and analysis as the basis for anticipatory action. Through innovative partnerships with OCHA, MIT Lincoln Labs, ACAPS, and others, the U.S. is supporting the humanitarian community’s ability to anticipate and respond to crises. The U.S. has also joined Germany and the Netherlands in exploring the Complex Risk Analytics Fund, in partnership with the UN.

**Disaster Risk Reduction programming**

- We have invested significantly to strengthen the capacity of communities to prepare for and reduce the impacts of disasters before they happen through disaster risk reduction programs, or DRR.
- In Indonesia, for example, we are working with communities to replant mangroves in vulnerable coastal areas to reduce the impact of coastal erosion and storm surge.
- We will also continue to engage in government-to-government dialogues and technical exchanges through the UN DRR Global and Regional Platforms and through our partnership with the World Meteorological Organization.
Disaster Risk Financing

- Building on these efforts, we have expanded our disaster risk management to disaster risk financing, supporting humanitarian rapid response funds and flexible contingency funding, which enable our partners to respond faster and save more lives.
- We are increasingly supporting innovative disaster risk financing instruments. For example, in Vietnam we are supporting forecast-based financing through the Vietnam Red Cross, or VNRC.
- Through this program, data and forecasts provided by national meteorological and hydro-meteorological agencies allow users to project potential impacts on communities and enable countries to take early action.
- When experts forecast a storm that meets the trigger threshold, the financing model is automatically activated.
- VNRC will then actively share information with local counterparts, make decisions on how to spend the funds, and implement storm preparedness and response plans. For example, VNRC and local volunteers will reinforce house structures in advance of the storm, support evacuations, and conduct needs assessments after the storm.

Looking forward

- Moving forward, it is important that both humanitarian and development actors intentionally and strategically work together to finance anticipatory action.
- It is also critical that, as we work to expand these investments, we keep the needs and voices of communities and local organizations at the forefront and ensure they have a role in planning and decision-making.
- I look forward to further discussion about how we can each play our part to anticipate shocks, mitigate the impacts of disasters, and preserve more lives and livelihoods. Thank you for your time.