Intervention by

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In

The High-level Humanitarian event on Anticipatory Action: A Commitment to act before crises

Thursday, 9 September 2021
Virtual event
Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset, we express our appreciation to the United Nations, the Governments of Germany, and the United Kingdom for convening this meeting to advance anticipatory action to act ahead of crises.

In December 2020, we joined OCHA in celebrating the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview, by then a comprehensive outlook of the 2021 trends in humanitarian needs were outlined stating that around 235 million people will be in need of humanitarian assistance, largely due to conflicts, extreme climate events and COVID-19 pandemic. We convene today months later, and the number of people in need of humanitarian assistance has increased significantly since the launch of the Global Humanitarian Overview which was already the highest figure in decades. This is enough evidence of the urgency of the situation.

Fortunately, today we have enough evidence to predict many shocks and stressors before they hit, and we can determine those most vulnerable to the impacts of these crises. This is where anticipatory action can come into play - not only to act in advance of crises, but to also strengthen our ability to respond, to better protect, to save more lives and to increase the impact of funds.

During last year’s event, we have conveyed that Qatar Fund is looking at investing in capacities to support anticipatory action with great interest. Putting words into action, the fund has already embarked on supporting three anticipatory action frameworks: one for the drought and floods in Somalia, another for flooding in Bangladesh and a third in Pakistan through the support of strategic partners like WFP, Start Network and FAO.

In Pakistan for instance, we are capitalizing on the potential of forecast-based models to strengthen disaster preparedness, to enable NGOs to be better prepared and able to act in advance of crises, in close cooperation with the National Disaster Management Authority of Pakistan.

By the same token, our support to Somalia aims to avert the impact of droughts, cyclone and floods on livelihoods and food insecurity, through provision of support to small-holder farming households and emergency agricultural livelihood package ahead of seasonal rains.

In Bangladesh on the other hand, we are addressing climate-induced seasonal flooding through applying predictive data analytics to determine the likelihood of floods taking place and forecasting its impact on populations to better mitigate the humanitarian impact of such shocks.
Ladies and gentlemen,

We seize this opportunity to echo your call for anticipatory approaches for all types of humanitarian crises - both natural and human induced hazards.

We also reiterate our continued support for scaling up anticipatory action, and call on donors to support sufficient, predictable and flexible financing as prerequisite for successful anticipatory action. The state of Qatar has been a consistent partner and donor to CERF since 2008, and having chaired OCHA Donor Support Group in 2020, we are proud to have witnessed the central role played by the fund in shifting towards more anticipation in the humanitarian system.

As we approach COP26 and the Fifth UN Conference for Least Developed countries in Doha, anticipatory action can serve as a vital approach to reduce the humanitarian burden, save development gains, foster systemic resilience, and above all – provide a more dignified approach to crises.

We renew our appreciation to all actors and particularly UNOCHA that work tirelessly to enable early action and improve the effectiveness of emergency response.

Thank you.