Anticipatory Humanitarian Action is defined as **acting ahead of predicted hazards to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold.**

This requires **pre-agreed plans** that identify **partners and activities**, **reliable early warning information**, and **pre-agreed financing**, released predictably and rapidly when an agreed trigger-point is reached.

(GFFO (2022) - G7 Foreign Ministers’ Statement on Strengthening Anticipatory Action in Humanitarian Assistance 2022)

**Important key characteristics of AHA:**

- The actions are taken before a hazard turns into a crisis or disaster.
- The activities undertaken are preventative.
- The decision to act is based on a scientific forecast, and/or collaborative risk analysis.

For a world without hunger
Anticipatory Humanitarian Action…

… makes use of advances in climate and weather forecasting by making use of available early warning information to inform decision making

… is faster, more cost-effective and more dignified than traditional humanitarian response

… reduces the impacts of extreme events before they occur by protecting livelihoods in the first place

… protects development gains

… increases the impact of available funds, especially while climate change and the increasing frequency of extreme events have a stressing impact on available funding
WHAT FORMS CAN AHA TAKE?

- AHA can be linked to existing humanitarian mechanisms, e.g. DREF, START Ready, CERF
- Development and implementation of government or community owned anticipatory action plans
- Anticipatory action as part of ongoing projects, e.g. using funds from a crisis modifier to protect project area and development gains of livelihood project from incoming storm/drought/cold wave

Trigger-based Anticipatory Action

- Long-term, strategic development
- Scientific hazard model and impact-based forecasting
- Leadtime depending on the hazard model
- Developed Early Action Protocols
- Long-term funding
- Financial and human resources for capacity strengthening, preparedness and change of mind-set

Decision-based Anticipatory Action

- Short-term, in face of imminent, anticipated crisis
- Seasonal forecast predicts humanitarian Impact
- Leadtime due to seasonal forecast longer, but also forecast less skilled
- One time funding
CURRENT STATE OF PLAY

In 2022, 7.6 million people worldwide were covered by anticipatory action frameworks.

In 2022, there was pre-agreed financing worth almost 138 million US dollars available.

The breakdown of figures excludes data from Food, as FMD's funding is flexible and determined based on a biennially expected impact and the available funding.

Pre-agreed OCHA funds for anticipatory action currently amounts to about 11 million US dollars. Considering the average cost per direct beneficiary from previous interventions, this could directly protect the agricultural livelihoods and food security of approximately 11,000 people ahead of forecast shocks.
BRIDGING THE GAP IN THE DRM CONTINUUM

PREPAREDNESS
The knowledge and capacities developed to effectively anticipate, respond to, and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disaster/emergencies.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION
Prevents or mitigates potential impacts of disasters/crises prior to a shock or before acute impacts are felt.

(EARLY) RESPONSE
Saves lives, meets basic needs and avoid further losses. Respond to ongoing and escalating hazards and impacts.

RECOVERY
Support people’s efforts to cope, recover, and rebuild by restoring services and assets in a resilient manner.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION
Anticipatory action clearly contributes to the objectives of disaster risk reduction (DRR), which are outlined in the Sendai Framework as “preventing new and reducing existing disaster risk and managing residual risk.”

More traditional, long-term DRR programmes build structures, strengthen policies and governance, and prepare people in at-risk areas through assessments, trainings, awareness-raising, and mitigation measures for future extreme events, yet they often have limitations as to how much early action can be supported when an event is imminent.

Anticipatory action complements longer-term DRR by enabling shorter-term measures, implemented based on concrete warnings, supporting those living in areas where forecasts indicate high probability of an imminent extreme event.
AHA – RELATION TO PREPAREDNESS

- Efforts to develop anticipatory action plans and establish mechanisms for their implementation complement, and are part of **preparedness**

- Contingency planning is an important part of preparedness: preparing communities, authorities, and organizations to effectively act before, during, and after, an emergency event. Anticipatory action focuses specifically on the 'before', and goes beyond theoretical planning by setting up financing mechanisms to activate the plans and enable action before the event

➢ There is no Anticipatory Humanitarian Action without Preparedness

➢ Do we need new, more, less or different approaches to preparedness?
  ➢ New logistical necessities?
  ➢ Operational readiness?
  ➢ Administrative preparedness?
Anticipatory action itself consists of the activities that are carried out based on the warning (trigger) ahead of the crisis impact:

- **Readiness activities**: Activities that ensure that once the plan is developed; the organization is and remains ready to activate

- **Prepositioning stock**: Procurement and prepositioning of stocks to ensure all the material that cannot be procured on very short notice and is needed during activation is available.

- Opportunity for logistics and preparedness to plan ahead before each season & towards expected needs
- Enable increased and new forms of collaborating and cooperating between organizations, agencies and authorities
- Enables joint approaches to enhance preparedness and readiness
  - Examples:
    - Mutual use of risk analyses & Impact-based Forecasting
    - ESUPS & WAHAFA
THANK YOU

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Project Duration:
May 2023 – April 2026

Project Region:
Sub-Saharan Africa

OBJECTIVE
WAHAF A aims to strengthen the humanitarian system in the implementation of Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (AHA) in African countries particularly threatened by disaster risks through the contribution of German NGOs and their local partners.

HOW?
- Push for Humanitarian Paradigm Shift towards AHA
- Geographic Focus on Sub-Saharan Africa
- Push for Multi-hazard Approach
- Strengthen NGO Participation and Localization in AHA
Mitigation

Structural and non-structural measures that seek to sustainably and proactively minimize disaster risks and impacts

Preparedness

Enhance and sustain the capacities to effectively anticipate and manage emergencies from anticipatory action to recovery

Anticipatory Action

Implement early actions to reduce the impacts on lives and livelihoods prior to a forecasted event and before acute impacts are felt

Response

Implement humanitarian response to save lives and livelihoods and minimize further impacts

Recovery

Support initiatives for recovery and efforts to ‘build back better’

Early warning and/or trigger point

Impact of disaster and/or crisis

Reduce impact

Respond to impact

Lead time

Disaster Risk Management