Toolkit for Anticipatory Action in Fragile, Conflict- and Violence-affected settings (FCV)

MARCH 2025

Climate Centre

Anticipation Hub

IFRC

IWMI International Water Management Institute

CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration

About the institutions

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (Climate Centre) is a technical reference centre that supports the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and its partners in reducing the impacts of climate change and extreme weather on vulnerable people, working at the intersection of science, policy, and practice. Hosted by the Netherlands Red Cross in The Hague, the Climate Centre operates with a mostly virtual team spanning more than 30 countries, as well as affiliations with universities, foundations, UN agencies, and professional associations. A core objective is to make the best global scientific insights operable at the local level. Key elements include support for awareness-raising and capacity-building, especially in developing countries where people are particularly vulnerable to climate change. Focus areas include anticipatory action, heat, climate and conflict, locally led adaptation, health, and social protection.

The Anticipation Hub is a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance, and advocacy around anticipatory action, both virtually and in person. The Anticipation Hub is a joint initiative between the German Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and the Climate Centre. The Anticipation Hub brings together partners across the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, universities, research institutes, (i)NGOs, UN agencies, governments, donors, and network initiatives.

The International Water Management Institute (IWMI) is an international, research-for-development organization that works with governments, civil society, and the private sector to solve water problems in developing countries and scale up solutions. Through partnership, IWMI combines research on the sustainable use of water and land resources, knowledge services and products with capacity strengthening, dialogue, and policy analysis to support the implementation of water management solutions for agriculture, ecosystems, climate change, and inclusive economic growth. Headquartered in Colombo, Sri Lanka, IWMI is a CGIAR research centre with offices in 16 countries and a global network of scientists operating in more than 55 countries.

CGIAR is the largest agriculture innovation network, boasting a research portfolio of USD 900 million, over 3,000 partners and clients in more than 70 countries. It is focused on enhancing food and nutrition security through a science-based approach to emerging development issues. The main scientific areas of focus include supporting food systems transformation, driving sustainable land and water use, fostering resilient agri-food systems, and creating genetic innovations through crop breeding and seed systems. These efforts aim to adapt food and farms to meet goals for poverty reduction, gender equality, nutrition, climate, and the environment. Its research is carried out by 13 CGIAR Centers and Alliances in close collaboration with hundreds of partners, including national and regional research institutes, civil society organizations, academia, development organizations and the private sector.

Authors

Climate Centre | **Juliane Schillinger**, Technical Adviser

Climate Centre | **Tesse de Boer**, Technical Adviser

IWMI | **Juan-Carlos Sanchez,** Research Group Leader Water Governance and Political Economy

Climate Centre | **Evan Easton-Calabria**, Technical Adviser

Climate Centre | **Madeline Ewbank**, Junior Researcher

Climate Centre | **Maya Dominguez**, Junior Researcher

Climate Centre | **Catalina Jaime**, Head of Climate and Conflict

Citation: Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre; Anticipation Hub; International Water Management Institute (IWMI). 2024. *Toolkit for anticipatory action in fragile, conflict- and violence-affected settings.* Colombo, Sri Lanka: International Water Management Institute (IWMI). CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration. 84 p.

Acknowledgements

This toolkit was developed by the Climate Centre, the Anticipation Hub, and the International Water Management Institute.

The toolkit is based on an original idea of the Climate Centre, and its development was enabled in the context of the CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict, and Migration (FCM). We would like to thank all funders who supported this process through their contributions to the CGIAR Trust Fund, as well as the German Federal Foreign Office for the financial contributions from the Anticipation Hub. We also wish to thank Sandra Ruckstuhl (IWMI), co-lead of the CGIAR Initiative on Fragility, Conflict and Migration, for her support and inputs to the development of the toolkit.

This toolkit draws on the extensive experience of the conflict and multi-risk working groups of the Anticipation Hub. The development of this resource was a collaborative effort. The authors would like to acknowledge Kim Kristensen (FAO) as a key contributor to the inception and key materials of the toolkit. Furthermore, the authors wish to recognize the contributions that enabled the development of some of the modules of this toolkit, including the CREWS initiative, UNDRR/WMO Center of Excellence and the Danish Red Cross. We draw on relevant content from the Navigating Fragility, Conflict and Violence to Strengthen Community Resilience handbook, developed by IFRC, ICRC, the German Red Cross, and the Climate Centre, and funded by the German Federal Foreign Office.

The authors of this report would like to extend their gratitude to all the stakeholders who contributed to this toolkit. Contributors to this report include Alexander Kjærum (Danish Refugee Council), Clare Clingain (International Rescue Committee), Debora Gonzalez (Action Against Hunger), Edward Parkinson and Ella Gerry (Start Network), Ioannis Kaffes (UNOCHA). We are grateful for reviews from Marie Wagner and Beth Simons (Welthungerhilfe), Stefanie Lux (German Red Cross), Kara Siahaan (WMO and CREWS), Dorothy Heinrich, Irene Amuron, Karine Zoghby, Kiswendsida Guigma, Madhab Uprety, Rana El Hajj, Sayanti Sengupta and Shaban Mawanda (Climate Centre), Gana Gantulga (IFRC), Andy Wheatley (ICRC), Celine Gagne (Independent Consultant), and Emanuela Macková (People in Need).

Games in the toolkit build on the Climate Centre resources and were further developed for FCV contexts by Madeline Ewbank, Margot Curl, Bettina Koelle, Tesse de Boer, Juliane Schillinger, Marcel Goyeneche and Mikki Korodimou.

Copyediting and proofreading: Patrick Fuller
Design: Eszter Saródy

Toolkit outline

Anticipatory action in FCV settings

In **fragile, conflict- and violence-affected (FCV) settings**, acting early to reduce the impact of hazards is crucial to protect the lives and livelihoods of those most in need, and to avoid further pressure on already burdened disaster response systems and funding.

Recent progress notwithstanding, implementation of **anticipatory action** (AA) in contexts of fragility, conflict, or violence is still limited. Insecurity, weakened governance structures, infrastructure damage, severe socioeconomic hardship, and other challenges present obstacles to the actors at the forefront of AA efforts, including governments, humanitarian, development, and environmental (e.g. water and climate) organizations. The combination of such challenges and other hazards creates **complex multi-risk environments**, which can make it difficult to anticipate hazards and implement actions.

For more guidance on AA in complex environments, see the Anticipation Hub's learning modules.

AA in FCV settings is thus a sensitive undertaking. It is not, however, impossible. Informed by a thorough understanding and monitoring of the specific local context and the hazards and vulnerabilities at play, AA frameworks can be designed to enable effective, context-sensitive actions and navigate the challenges of different complex settings. Supporting the development of such frameworks, this toolkit provides **practical resources to ensure conflict-sensitive, effective, and sustainable AA programming in FCV contexts**.

Building on emerging lessons, best practices, and an understanding of persistent challenges and knowledge gaps (Jaime et al. 2024), this toolkit brings together **hands-on resources** to support practitioners in implementing AA in FCV contexts, including locations with significant displacement. It **complements existing guidance** on anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction in FCV settings by working together with populations affected by the intersection of conflict, displacement, and climate.

WHAT IS ANTICIPATORY ACTION?

Anticipatory action (AA) refers to "a set of actions taken to prevent or mitigate potential disaster impacts before a shock or before acute impacts are felt. The actions are carried out in anticipation of a hazard impact and based on a prediction of how the event will unfold." (IFRC, 2020) AA can take different forms and happens on a range of scales, depending on the local context, hazards, available forecasts, and organizations involved in the AA framework. Activities, as well as triggers or decision-making rules, should be pre-agreed, and decisions are made to guarantee the fast release of pre-arranged funding.

Looking for practical guidance on anticipatory action or additional readings on FCV settings? The Annex provides an overview of relevant supplementary materials.

Strengthening anticipatory action in fragile contexts: IWMI's systems-based approach

Anticipatory action is an approach within the wider disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience continuum. AA works in tandem with overarching natural landscape management and governance to effectively reduce climate hazards. Through the CGIAR Fragility, Conflict, and Migration Initiative, IWMI provides the scientific foundation and systems perspective necessary to bridge water, climate, and governance systems in a way that supports both AA and broader climate adaptation efforts. By leveraging its expertise in water resource management, climate resilience, and socio-ecological systems, IWMI enables a more integrated approach to understanding and addressing the root causes of vulnerability to climate hazards.

This toolkit reflects IWMI's approach, bringing together technical and governance insights to strengthen AA in FCV contexts while ensuring alignment with broader climate adaptation strategies. IWMI's systems-based perspective and partnerships with diverse actors position it as a critical resource for those seeking to operationalize and scale these efforts while addressing the complex interconnections between natural resources, governance, and climate resilience.

WHY ANTICIPATORY ACTION IS REQUIRED IN FRAGILE AND CONFLICT SETTINGS:

Listen to this podcast to hear from the Climate Centre, IWMI, and Resurgence on how acting before a crisis hits can reduce impacts on the most vulnerable.

Introduction to the toolkit

TARGET GROUP

This toolkit is primarily aimed at practitioners **involved in planning and implementing AA in FCV contexts who already understand the basic principles of AA**. Users should be familiar with or have already implemented anticipatory action yet may not have designed or implemented it in contexts affected by fragility, conflict, and/or violence. This may include members of international organizations, governments, NGOs, or civil society organizations, such as implementing partners in AA interventions.

WHAT THIS TOOLKIT IS NOT:

While some models now forecast violence and other forms of fragility, this toolkit primarily focuses on implementing AA in contexts already affected by fragility, conflict, and/or violence, rather than on anticipating these dynamics.

USING THE TOOLKIT

This toolkit is designed as a **complementary resource** to existing anticipatory action processes that organizations and agencies are already undertaking. Tools, resources, and special considerations for FCV settings presented in the different modules should be integrated into relevant frameworks throughout the design and activation of AA, rather than being considered stand-alone approaches. The tools can be further adapted to fit specific operational contexts and organizational procedures.

While some tools can provide in-depth information on FCV settings, they can also be time- and resource-intensive to use. Ensure you **balance available resources and access with actual information needs** when using these tools to determine what is 'good enough' in your specific situation.

How to use this toolkit

The toolkit modules follow the traditional sequence for developing an anticipatory action programme. However, they can be used independently from each other.

- **Module 1:** Assessing the feasibility of AA for various hazards in FCV settings
- **Module 2:** Understanding the local context and conflict dynamics
- **Module 3:** Risk analysis in multi-risk environments
- **Module 4:** Designing robust forecast systems and trigger models
- **Module 5:** Selecting effective and feasible actions that address impacts and reach those most in need
- **Module 6:** Ensuring smooth activation and implementation of the AA framework
- **Module 7:** Evaluating AA frameworks in FCV settings to support meaningful learning processes

Several cross-cutting topics are highlighted in spotlight sections throughout the toolkit, including community engagement, considerations related to protection, gender and inclusion, early warning communication, and displacement.

SERIOUS GAMES FOR CAPACITY BUILDING ON FCV SETTINGS

'Serious games' are games designed for objectives beyond entertainment, often for educational or advocacy purposes. As a method, serious games can uniquely enhance **capacity building**, **training**, and **stakeholder engagement** through experiential learning.

Throughout the toolkit, various serious games are presented to support capacity building on FCV-related considerations in AA programming. An overview of all available games can be found in the Annex.

Note: *This toolkit is considered a 'living document'. A shorter, condensed version for practitioners seeking key takeaways will be made available at a later date, with additional information added to this version as relevant.*

Fragility, conflict and violence: Definitions

The terms fragility, conflict and violence refer to a range of challenging situations that manifest differently depending on particular contexts. There are also multiple definitions for each, and important work highlights how conflict, for example, is not necessarily harmful but indeed has constructive and transformative potential (Berghof Handbook for Conflict Transformation). While different definitions and aspects of each term are undoubtedly important, we focus here on those relating to contexts where anticipatory action may be implemented and may need to be tailored accordingly (e.g. while conflict can of course exist between two people, we focus here on violent conflict that may interrupt or impede interventions without careful planning).

The definitions used in this toolkit are adapted from the Red Cross and Red Crescent handbook Navigating FCV to Strengthen Community Resilience and the WMO/UNDRR Centre of Excellence's handbook Early Warning Systems and Early Action in FCV Contexts. These two handbooks provide more in-depth information on each of the three terms, as well as relevant implications for anticipatory action and disaster risk reduction broadly.

FRAGILITY

Governments, systems, or communities face high risks but lack the ability to effectively manage or reduce them. Fragility can be caused by political, socioeconomic, or environmental challenges, as well as conflict and violence. It encompasses multiple dimensions, including the six dimensions of fragility: economic, environmental, human, political, security, and societal. For more detailed information, refer to the OECD Multidimensional Fragility Framework.

CONFLICT

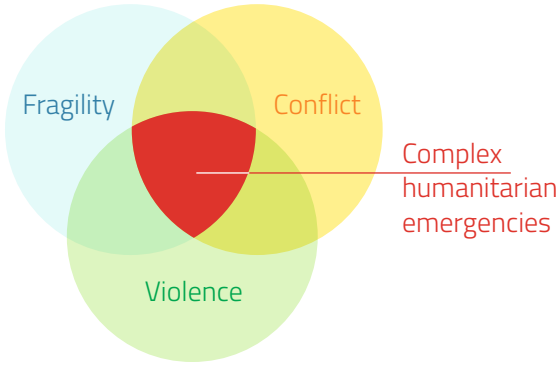
Conflicts can range from grievances and social tensions to significant disruptions of social order and escalations into violence. This range is commonly described by conflict intensity, where low-intensity conflicts cause occasional disruptions and pose danger to the health and safety of affected populations, and high-intensity conflicts are characterized by persistent armed fighting and hostilities that threaten lives and livelihoods. Under certain circumstances, conflicts are recognized as armed conflicts under international humanitarian law. For more information, see WBG (n.d.).

VIOLENCE

Violence refers to the intentional or unintentional use of force that harms people physically, mentally, or socially. It can be direct, like crime or assaults (physical violence), or indirect, like social systems that deny certain groups their basic needs and rights (*structural violence*). This includes sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV), encompassing direct physical violence such as rape and mutilation, as well as other forms of SGBV, such as trafficking, forced child marriages, and sexual exploitation. For more information, see UNDRR (n.d.).

Fragility, conflict and violence: Complex crises

Fragility, conflict and violence rarely occur on their own. Where these overlap or lead to other challenges such as displacement or health crises, complex and protracted situations emerge that are often difficult to resolve. For instance, fragile regions with insufficient transportation infrastructure are at risk of being cut off due to hazards like floods, which can be exacerbated by access restrictions from insecurity or roadblocks. Such situations could lead to trapped populations, public health crises, and heightened food insecurity – each a crisis in itself.



The UN defines a complex humanitarian emergency as "*a humanitarian crisis in a country, region, or society where there is total or considerable breakdown of authority as a result of internal or external conflict and which requires an international humanitarian response.*"

In such situations, AA programming needs to account not only for the existing and potential individual impacts of fragility, conflict, or violence but also for the compounding effects of their interactions and the negative impacts they can lead to – or their potential interactions with other hazards.

Watch the COP29 session 'Embracing complexity' to learn more.

Fragility, conflict and violence: Example scenarios

Throughout the toolkit, real-world examples from various contexts will demonstrate how different organizations are implementing anticipatory action in various FCV settings.

Each FCV context is different, and even within a country, different areas can face different realities. Let's consider a few example scenarios to explore how FCV settings can present themselves and how they may impact anticipatory action programming. These example scenarios are meant to be illustrative rather than exhaustive, highlighting common or possible challenges that AA actors may encounter in different types of FCV settings.

Learn more about different challenges and potential limitations to anticipatory actions in FCV settings and how they can be mitigated in Module 5.

For additional insights on different FCV settings and the challenges, constraints, and potential for action in each of them, consider this guidance by ICRC and ODI on addressing climate risks in conflict and fragile settings.

PROTRACTED CONFLICT SETTING: In a protracted conflict setting, conflict remains active over an extended period but is no longer fought at high intensity. As a result, a semblance of daily life can resume in many areas. Nonetheless, interruptions due to renewed conflict escalation can be expected, as tensions and hostilities between conflict parties and/or associated parts of society persist. Limitations in institutional capacity and risk-averse international donors often mean that essential service provision remains low, making humanitarian assistance key in enabling access to such services.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION? Anticipatory action programming may face a range of different challenges in protracted conflicts, depending on specific local circumstances. This makes local context and stakeholder analysis a crucial part of the programme's inception phase. *Weak governance and public institutions* may limit the extent to which programming can be planned and implemented in collaboration with government authorities. Additionally, the *disruption of essential services* due to repeated infrastructure damage can create logistical challenges for programming and result in significant humanitarian needs for affected populations. *Population movement* throughout the conflict may lead to protracted displacement, and some groups may face differential risks related to *specific population characteristics*.

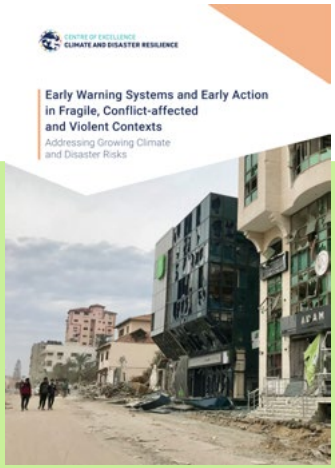
AREA UNDER THE CONTROL OF A NON-STATE ARMED GROUP: Over the course of a conflict with the state or other non-state actors, non-state armed groups may establish territorial control and become the de facto authority of a certain area. The administrative capacity and ability to provide services by non-state armed groups varies widely, and access to their territory is often contested. Given this, the state government may not be able to provide any services even if institutionally capable or may refuse humanitarian actors to enter or provide assistance to areas controlled by non-state armed groups.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION? Anticipatory action programming may encounter *access restrictions* for areas under the control of a non-state armed group, and humanitarian diplomacy may need to be considered as part of programming. Government-run weather stations, demographic data and other monitoring systems may not cover areas that have been outside of government control for a prolonged period, leading to *limited data availability* to base anticipatory action on. Depending on the armed group, programming might also have to navigate challenges related to *corruption* and violence against *specific population groups*.

Think through anticipatory action planning in an area under the control of a non-state armed group in the **Tumerington exercise** in Module 5!

HIGH-INTENSITY ARMED CONFLICT: Significant levels of fighting and hostilities between different parties in an armed conflict are likely to lead to a high level of casualties and extensive infrastructure damage, along with severe impacts on public health, access to essential services, and civil protection. These environments can be extremely volatile and difficult to navigate.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION? During periods of high-intensity armed conflict, anticipatory action programming may need to be suspended or modified due to elevated *levels of insecurity, violence, infrastructure damage, and disruption of essential services. Access restrictions* stemming from security concerns, destruction of transport infrastructure, or interference by conflict parties may occur. Including worst-case scenarios in the design of the AA framework is essential to enable swift adjustments. During conflict escalations, a careful feasibility assessment is required, considering the safety and security of staff and communities, to determine whether effective AA is possible under current conditions – for instance, through remote programming approaches. Some *population groups* may be at greater risk than others; therefore, it is critical to identify alternative methods to deliver AA for rapid-onset hazards such as floods or extreme heat, especially for populations living in displaced camps because of high-intensity conflict.



LEARN MORE about real-world examples of different FCV settings and their implications for early warning systems in Annex 2 of the WMO/UNDRR Centre of Excellence's Early Warning Systems and Early Action in Fragile, Conflict-affected and Violent Contexts handbook.

POST-CONFLICT SETTING: It is often difficult to pinpoint the end of an armed conflict, and conflict-affected areas rarely become peaceful immediately. Post-conflict settings are commonly characterized by fragility and weakened trust in government institutions, as well as lingering tensions between former conflict parties or societal groups in the absence of effective reconciliation measures. Violence may persist, leading to insecurity in some areas. Depending on the type of conflict, the institutional capacity of public institutions may remain weak for the foreseeable future, and public infrastructure may be damaged and in need of costly repairs. Mental and physical health impacts on conflict-affected populations are key aspects to consider in the design of AA systems in these contexts.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION? Anticipatory action programming in post-conflict settings often needs to navigate challenges related to the capacity and position of public authorities in the post-conflict society, especially if the government is intended to be a key partner or implementer of anticipatory action. *Weakened governance structures*, a *loss of trust in various actors,* and *social tensions* can complicate programming and necessitate the inclusion of comprehensive stakeholder mapping, context analysis, and trust-building measures. Additionally, lingering *insecurity* and violence, as well as persistent *infrastructure damage and disruptions of essential services*, can present further logistical challenges in some areas.

URBAN VIOLENCE: Gang violence and other forms of organized crime in urban areas can have significant implications for everyday life. Actual or perceived insecurity can limit access to certain parts of the city or specific times of day, and certain inhabitants may be more exposed to different forms of violence than others, for instance, based on their gender, age, or ethnicity. Illicit economies such as drug trafficking may develop, exacerbating other socio-political and economic root causes of violence.

WHAT COULD THIS MEAN FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION? *Insecurity, violence,* and *crime* usually present the most significant challenges for anticipatory action programming in areas affected by urban violence. These issues may be exacerbated by *corruption* and *access restrictions* to gang-controlled areas of the city, requiring further adjustments to programming. *Certain population groups* may be at a higher risk of violence, and outbreaks of violence can trigger significant *population movement* within the city or towards other areas. There is also a risk of trapped populations who lack access to basic resources and may be unable to take anticipatory actions or be reached by humanitarian actors.

Conflict sensitivity in AA

Don't let the name fool you – conflict sensitivity is a non-negotiable part of AA programming in any context, not just in conflicts or other FCV settings. To be more inclusive of other environments, conflict sensitivity is sometimes referred to as context sensitivity instead.

Conflict-sensitive AA means that programming has taken the necessary steps to **ensure that no harm is done and to accentuate positive impacts in the community.** Conflict sensitivity can be seen on a spectrum (see conflict sensitivity spectrum below). Minimizing negative impacts from programming, such as tensions or conflict in a community or unexpected socioeconomic harm, is the minimum requirement and first step towards success.

However, AA programming should go further and maximize positive impacts by focusing on opportunities to strengthen social cohesion and peacebuilding capacities. For instance, AA programming could bring a community together to jointly strengthen their anticipatory capacities.

Conflict sensitivity comprises three steps:

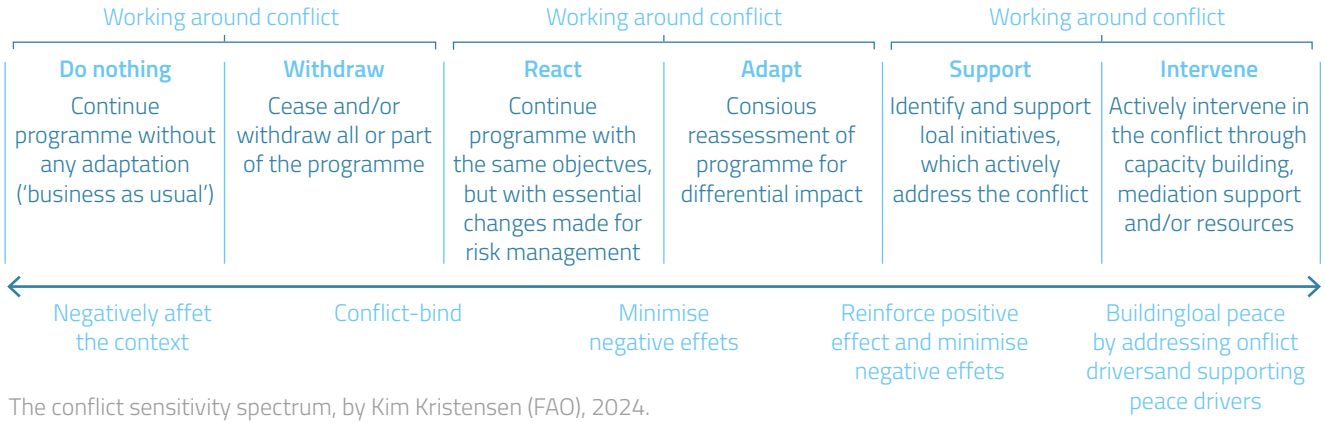
1. Understanding the context: Analyze the environment where AA will take place.
2. Analyzing interactions: Understand how the AA programme (as a whole or specific elements) interacts with that context.
3. Acting on understanding: Use this understanding to minimize negative impacts and maximize positive impacts in the community.

To ensure that anticipatory actions do not inadvertently cause harm or tensions, AA programming should be co-developed with communities and informed by prior conflict and context analysis. Practical tools for conflict analysis for AA are introduced in Module 2. Modules 3, 4, 5, and 6 focus on integrating this contextual knowledge for conflict-sensitive programming.

Many existing conflict-sensitivity resources provide foundational learning for AA and can be adapted for AA programming. Some of these key resources include:

- IFRC. 2021. Better Programming Initiative. How to do conflict-sensitive context analysis.
- FAO. 2019. The Programme Clinic: Designing conflict-sensitive interventions – Approaches to working in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
- World Food Programme. 2021. Conflict Analysis and Conflict Sensitivity Risk Assessment Guidance Note

Conflict-sensitive programme management (CSPM) goes beyond focusing on a specific AA framework or intervention to encompass the broader institutional context. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation compiled a toolbox to support CSPM on both the programme and the institutional level.



The conflict sensitivity spectrum, by Kim Kristensen (FAO), 2024.

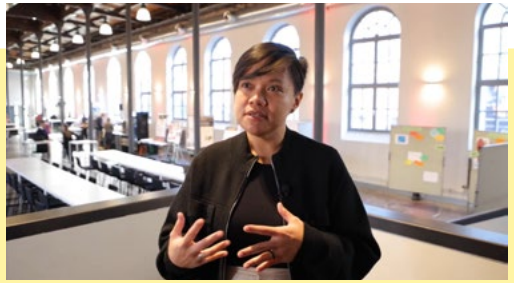
Staying alert to conflict-sensitivity risks throughout the AA lifecycle

Rebeka Ryvola / CartoonCollections.com

Conflict sensitivity is not just an exercise to be completed prior to the development of an AA programme – it needs to inform the entire project cycle and be continuously considered during the implementation of AA. This requires a conflict-sensitive lens when designing AA and considering the contexts in which it is to be implemented. Given the volatility and changing dynamics of many FCV contexts, the toolkit emphasizes context monitoring and strategies to respond to **changes in the level of fragility, conflict, or violence** that will affect conflict-sensitivity considerations and programme implementation.

While Module 2 delves deeply into conflict analysis, offering tools and guidance, the following points are important to consider from the beginning:

- **Embed conflict sensitivity as a regular practice:** Allocate appropriate resources (time, space and finance) to train and facilitate regular group sessions with staff to ensure conflict sensitivity is integrated into AA programming.
- **Conduct ongoing conflict analysis:** Conflict analysis is critical during the inception planning phase of AA as it provides the analytical basis for core design decisions. It must also be a recurring element throughout the design process and implementation to ensure that changes in the conflict context do not go unnoticed.
- **Utilize conflict analysis for informed decision-making:** Conflict analysis serves not only as a foundation for conflict sensitivity but also provides valuable information to guide decisions on feasibility, trigger thresholds, and more.



HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

How can we navigate anticipatory action programming in a dynamic environment with many moving parts? Ansherina Grace Talavera, Humanitarian and Peacebuilding Coordinator at CARE Philippines, reflects on CARE's experiences on the design and implementation of conflict-sensitive anticipatory action in the Philippines.

Funding for AA in FCV settings

Key financing mechanisms in the humanitarian sector for anticipatory action (AA) include the IFRC's DREF, which allocates 25 per cent of its funding for AA, the UN CERF open to all UN agencies and the Start Network's Start Fund and Start Ready. To date, these funds have mostly been used in peaceful and fragile contexts, aligning with the common settings for AA frameworks over recent years. In contrast, conflict-affected contexts – high-intensity, protracted and post-conflict – continue to experience significant funding gaps.

Over the past years, the lack of climate finances reaching FCV contexts, especially those in conflict, has become increasingly clear. The IPCC Sixth Assessment Report highlighted the adaptation gap in conflict settings, while the Coalition for Climate Action in Conflict and Fragile Settings and other actors have emphasized the climate finance shortages needed to support people in the most complex humanitarian crises.

Ongoing advocacy and policy efforts are bringing these financing challenges to the forefront. Initiatives such as the COP28 Declaration on Climate, Relief, Recovery and Peace have underscored the significant gaps in AA investments – a topic that was further highlighted at COP29. Learn more about the COP28 Peace Declaration and anticipatory action in this Anticipation Hub Community Conversation.

CHALLENGES IN ACCESSING FINANCING FOR AA IN CONFLICT- AND VIOLENCE-AFFECTED SETTINGS PRIMARILY ORIGINATE FROM:

- Lack of funding to design and set up an AA framework in the first place, which often requires different funding sources than pre-positioned finance for activations.
- Insufficient funding for robust and long-term capacity building of national and local actors, who are at the forefront of early warning communication and anticipatory actions. Local actors are often also best suited to navigate the complex power and security dynamics in FCV settings and maintain access to the most difficult areas.
- Lack of funding flexibility to accommodate changes in conflict and violence conditions. Volatile FCV conditions can require swift changes in activities, including top-up funding for additional activities that would enhance safety and security. In some contexts, crisis modifications have been used to manage such challenges.
- Different manifestations of fragility, conflict, and violence across a country can mean that some regions enjoy peaceful conditions while others experience conflict. In such settings, funding is often focused on the peaceful areas, where programme implementation is less challenging.

MODULE 1:

FEASIBILITY

OBJECTIVE:

Assess the feasibility of AA in your FCV context and consider whether adjustments to your organization's established ways of working may be needed.

CONTENTS:

- Considerations for feasibility studies in FCV settings
- Example feasibility studies
- Serious game: Adaptation Labyrinth

Note: *Not every organization should aim to implement AA in FCV contexts! If a feasibility study shows low feasibility or appropriateness to the context, it is a better choice to explore how consortia or collaborations could be established with organizations working in the areas, to implement through and/or with them.*

Before starting the full development of anticipatory action frameworks, it is important to lay the foundations for successful implementation. This includes ensuring that there is sufficient buy-in from key partners, that anticipatory action is feasible in the target area, and that there is capacity among key partners to engage in developing and eventually implementing anticipatory action. Such assessments are common across organizations, although the specific setup of the inception phase and the required processes and documentation vary significantly.

In various types of FCV settings, additional challenges may influence the feasibility of anticipatory action, the types of stakeholders to involve, and the options for the anticipatory action design process. While this can make AA programming more difficult, it does not make AA wholly infeasible, and many of these challenges can be addressed with context-informed programming and adjustments to established processes.

Considering fragility, conflict, and violence in feasibility studies

In FCV settings, standard approaches to feasibility studies should be adjusted to reflect and account for local realities. This includes FCV-related risks, stakeholders, safety of potential interventions, and the organization's capacity to operate within these conditions in a conflict-sensitive manner.

The following feasibility study considerations tool outlines guiding questions on additional considerations for feasibility studies in FCV settings, to determine how feasible anticipatory action programming by your organization is in the given FCV contexts. The answers obtained should provide practitioners with sufficient context and knowledge of the conditions to proceed with AA or explore alternatives, such as community-based early warning systems. Modules 2–6 provide more in-depth resources on how to best adapt an AA programme to the FCV setting, taking into consideration the results of the feasibility study.

If your organization's approach does not include a feasibility study, the guiding questions can also serve as a checklist for AA framework development.

1.	2.	3.	4.
Risk / hazard prioritization and feasibility	Forecast and trigger approaches	Organizational capacity	Action feasibility
Modules 2 & 3	Module 4	Modules 2 & 6	Module 5

FEASIBILITY STUDY CONSIDERATIONS IN FCV SETTINGS

- **WHAT:** Guiding questions for feasibility studies
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** The tool includes important additional questions to ask for the core elements of the inception phase (risk prioritization, forecast scoping, capacity assessment, anticipatory action scoping).
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

Different FCV settings will bring various challenges for the feasibility of anticipatory action programming, whether at large or for specific actions. These challenges particularly relate to the capacity of government agencies, whose involvement in AA programming can be crucial to programme sustainability, and to operational risks related to insecurity and uncertainty.

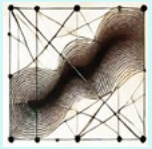
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE: EXAMPLE FROM GFDRR/ WORLD BANK IN MALI

Feasibility studies for anticipatory action must account for local conditions and challenges in fragile, conflict-affected settings. In Mali, a disaster preparedness project revealed risks such as confusion between civil protection and military forces, making them potential targets, and community fears of retaliation. By integrating conflict sensitivity, the project adapted plans, such as avoiding shelters in high-risk areas, ensuring safer and more effective outcomes.

Learn more: Find this and more case studies in the Early Warning Systems in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence-Affected Settings report (2024) from GFDRR/World Bank.

THE FOLLOWING LIST PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF RELEVANT CONTEXTUAL FACTORS AND HOW THEY MAY INFLUENCE THE FEASIBILITY OF AA:





- **STATE CONTROL:** The following list provides an overview of relevant contextual factors and how they may influence the feasibility of AA:
- **STATE INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITY:** Availability and capacity of government agencies as partner organizations; financial systems; public perception of the government.
- **LEVEL OF VIOLENCE:** Availability and capacity of government agencies as partner organizations; financial systems; public perception of the government..
- **LEVEL OF VOLATILITY:** Risk of unexpected conflict escalations; importance of contingency planning; precautions to ensure programming does not expose community members to potential harm.
- **MIGRATION AND DISPLACEMENT:** Changes to population data; informal settlements or camps; language barriers and other special population characteristics to account for.

Example feasibility studies for AA in FCV settings

FEASIBILITY OF ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN SOUTH SUDAN (2023)

ORGANIZATIONS: Climate Centre, South Sudan Red Cross, Danish Red Cross.

PRIORITY HAZARDS: Floods, extreme heat, wildfire, drought, diseases.

This feasibility study acknowledges *conflict and fragility as important drivers of risk* in South Sudan and assesses the different levels of vulnerability to climatic hazards faced by various population groups, including internally displaced persons. Given the political instability and risk of renewed conflict outbreaks in different parts of the country, the study recommends building the capacity of the South Sudan Red Cross for anticipatory action at the branch level, with a strong focus on contingency planning.

MORE INFORMATION on this feasibility study is available from the Climate Centre upon request.

FEASIBILITY OF ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN IRAQ (2023)

ORGANIZATIONS: Climate Centre, IFRC, Iraqi Red Crescent Society, Danish Red Cross, Norwegian Red Cross, German Red Cross.

PRIORITY HAZARDS: Dust storms, heatwaves, drought, floods.

This feasibility study features an extensive analysis of different climate-related hazards and the exposure and vulnerability of various population groups. The capacity of the Iraqi Red Crescent Society to engage in AA, as well as the enabling institutional environment and technical capacity of available forecasting services, are assessed in detail as well.

In addition to climatic drivers of risk, the feasibility study considers factors such as displacement caused by military interventions and restricted access to water infrastructure due to conflict. One proposed anticipatory action for floods is the rehousing of internally displaced persons (IDPs).

ACCESS the feasibility study here.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR FLOODING IN PAGALUNGAN, PHILIPPINES (2023)

ORGANIZATIONS: World Vision, Aktion Deutschland Hilft.

PRIORITY HAZARDS: Flooding.

OTHER IDENTIFIED HAZARDS: Typhoons, drought, conflict, diseases.

This feasibility study puts a strong emphasis on capacity assessment for different actors, including World Vision itself, the local government, technical services and early warning systems; and institutional services related to disaster risk management and social protection. It highlights the need for active integration of protection, gender, and inclusion, and consideration of the impacts of displacement and migration resulting from conflict and other hazards.

Recommendations for effective AA programming in Pagalungan include:

- Conduct a comprehensive risk assessment
- Strengthen early warning and forecasting systems
- Build local capacity and promote community participation
- Enhance social protection mechanisms
- Monitor and evaluate initiatives

ACCESS the feasibility study here.

Serious Game: Adaptation Labyrinth

This activity explores group decision-making and the challenges that teams may encounter while implementing a joint vision. In this variation of the game, the group will encounter obstacles in the labyrinth that reflect challenges frequently observed in the feasibility assessment, design, and implementation of anticipatory action projects in FCV settings. In the debriefing session following the game, participants are prompted to reflect on real-world solutions to these challenges and the role of adaptive management in overcoming feasibility barriers to anticipatory action in FCV settings.

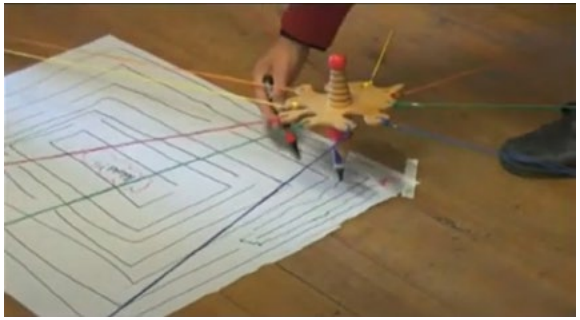
LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To introduce several common challenges to anticipatory action in settings affected by fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV).
- To explore the importance of a joint vision and teamwork for overcoming these challenges through collaboration and adaptive management approaches.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: AA/DRR practitioners, students and youth, volunteers.

 # OF PARTICIPANTS: 8–12.

Learn more about the game:



HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Anticipatory action is only one piece of the puzzle, and FCV settings can require us to think a bit broader. Gaby Moubassat, Technical Manager Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change at the German Red Cross, shares insights on linking anticipatory action and adaptation in conflict environments.

ADAPTATION LABYRINTH – FCV TWIST

- **WHAT:** Teambuilding and capacity building activity
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Use this exercise as part of your training programme to strengthen the capacity of your team
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Serious games package

MODULE 2:

CONFLICT ANALYSIS

OBJECTIVE:

Ensure that AA programming is based on a thorough and continuously updated understanding of the FCV context and the relevant stakeholders.

CONTENTS:

- Conflict analysis – an overview and rapid analysis tool
- Practical tools for conflict analysis for AA
- Informing conflict sensitivity: Dividers and connectors
- Stakeholder analysis

FCV settings are complex and dynamic environments. Pre-existing tensions can present a challenge to AA programming even in the absence of overt conflict, as they may spark mistrust or affect the willingness of community members to engage in AA. AA programming needs to carefully navigate such tensions and ensure that it is conflict-sensitive, i.e., does not reinforce any tensions and instead contributes to social cohesion.

This module provides practical tools for conflict analysis as part of conflict-sensitive programming, which should be integrated into the AA framework development process and implementation. It is important to remember that conflict analysis is not a one-off exercise. **FCV settings can be volatile, and continuous monitoring of the local context is important to stay aware of relevant developments.**

Module 2 outlines tools to support comprehensive conflict analysis, with the objective to ensure conflict-sensitive AA programming and effective stakeholder engagement; and provide a baseline for multi-risk analysis that accounts for FCV-related hazards and drivers of risk.

Conflict analysis overview and rapid analysis tool

AA programming does not exist in a vacuum. Conflict analyses explore conflicts and grievances currently present in an area, and the risk of future tensions. It is an important part of the initial context assessment for AA programming and should be regularly updated to:

- understand the operating environment, including potential risks related to conflict or violence
- make necessary adaptations to ensure that AA programming is conflict-sensitive, i.e., does not cause additional tensions and, ideally, contributes to resolving existing tensions.

Danish Refugee Council has produced conflict analysis guidelines, and FAO has developed a tool for designing conflict-sensitive interventions known as the Programme Clinic, as well as a guide to 'good enough' conflict/context analysis.

Depending on the context and organizational framework, conflict analysis may involve desk research, key informant interviews, or community workshops to ensure diverse perspectives. The following key questions and tools can be incorporated into existing context analysis processes.

KEY QUESTIONS FOR RAPID CONFLICT ANALYSIS

Where a full conflict analysis may not be feasible due to limited time or resources, the following key questions provide an overview of the most important aspects to support conflict-sensitive AA.

HISTORICAL CONTEXT AND ACTORS:

- What is the history of tensions, conflict, or violence in the area? Are there hotspots that have been historically more affected than others? Who has historically been most targeted or affected? How?
- Who have been the main actors involved in tensions, conflict, or violence? What are their roles? What are their motivations?
- What were the most significant social, political, or economic developments in the past one or two years?

CAUSES AND TRIGGERS OF CONFLICT:

- What are key drivers of current or past conflicts? What triggered the outbreak of violence?
- How do tensions and conflict generally affect programming in the area?
- Are there prospects for peace? If so, how could they be supported?

CURRENT TRENDS:

- Have social tensions, conflict, and violence been increasing or decreasing recently? What triggers might intensify them in the foreseeable future?
- Are there windows of opportunity for peacebuilding?

Conflict analysis does not only cover armed conflicts. It also captures simmering social tensions that may not actually lead to violence but affect trust, the willingness to collaborate with different actors, and other aspects of community dynamics. Conflict analysis is therefore important in any context.

Practical conflict analysis tools

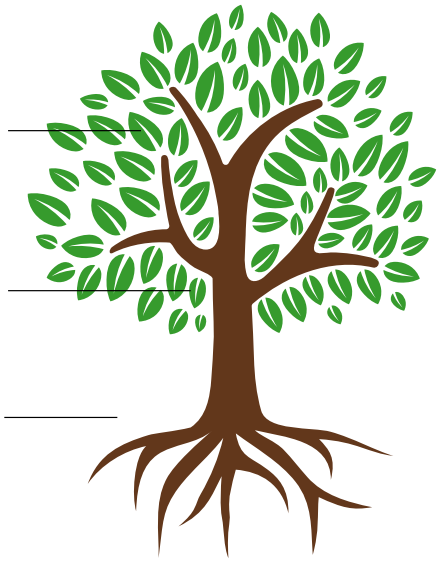
Understand the **impacts and root causes** of different conflicts or social grievances using the tools in the 'Navigating FCV' handbook's conflict sensitivity repository.

For example, the **Conflict Tree** helps to analyze both visible and invisible conflict dynamics:

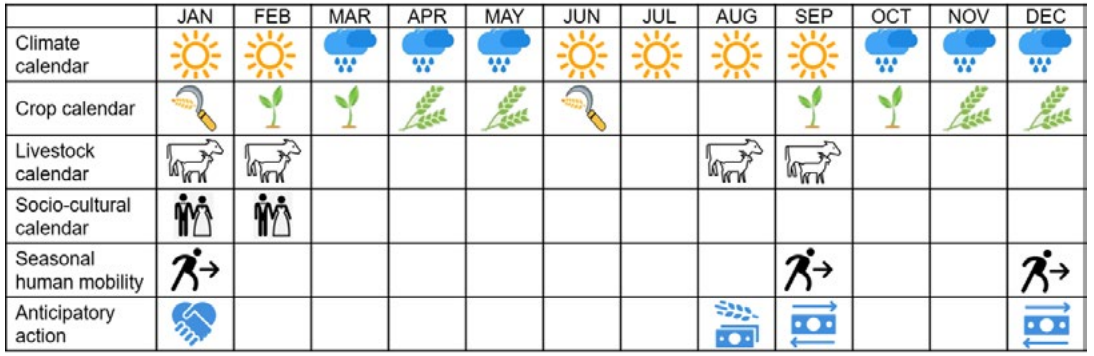
Branches: The effects of the social problem or conflict. These are often symptoms that can be observed in an area or community.

Trunk: The social problem or conflict at the heart of this analysis.

Roots: The underlying causes of the social problem or conflict. These may be structural issues which are invisible to the casual observer.



Source: IFRC Better Programming Initiative



The **Crisis Timeline+** is a tool designed to map and analyze the interconnected **seasonality** of hazards, including climate and human-induced hazards, and other seasonal events such as socio-cultural, economic, and human mobility events.

By integrating agricultural calendars, historical climate data, and other seasonal information, the Crisis Timeline+ provides a holistic understanding of the temporal dynamics of hazards and their potential impact. It highlights the interplay between climate and human-induced hazards, thereby serving as a guide for conflict-sensitive decision-making and planning.

This information can also be combined with known patterns of conflict or grievances to identify times of higher conflict risk, for example, related to competition over grazing land or livestock looting.

CONFLICT ANALYSIS TOOLS REPOSITORY

- **WHAT:** Toolbox of conflict analysis
- **CREATED BY:** IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.
- **HOW TO USE:** Use the different tools for conflict analysis as part of your internal assessment and/or in stakeholder workshops to identify local perspectives on existing grievances.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** 'Navigating FCV' tool repository.

Additional considerations for a Crisis Timeline+, developed by FAO

1. Climate calendar

- Indicators: rainfall levels, temperature anomalies, drought indicators
- Vulnerabilities and risks: regions most impacted by climate variability, e.g. drought-prone areas
- Trendlines: past trends in rainfall, heatwaves, or flooding
- Cross-sectoral interactions: climatic impacts on agriculture, water resources and management, human mobility

2. Crop calendar

- Key indicators: planting, growing, and harvesting periods for key crops
- Vulnerabilities and risks: impacts of climate and human-driven hazards on key crops
- Trendlines: yield variations over recent years; major disruptions noted
- Cross-sectoral interactions: impact of climate and human-driven hazards on livelihoods; associated protection risks
- Gender and inclusion: roles of and impact on women and marginalized groups

3. Livestock calendar

- Key indicators: breeding, birthing, and transhumance periods
- Vulnerabilities and risks: disease outbreaks, pasture availability, water access, etc.
- Trendlines: livestock losses in prior crisis periods; adaptive practices
- Cross-sectoral interactions: livestock's role in socio-cultural events, human mobility, market stability, etc.

4. Sociocultural calendar

- Key indicators: significant events such as festivals, ceremonies, elections, etc.
- Vulnerabilities and risks: tensions or vulnerabilities amplified by sociocultural or political events
- Trendlines: seasonality of events and their impact on social cohesion, human mobility, and protection risks
- Cross-sectoral interactions: sociocultural events' impact on livestock movements and crop calendar

5. Human mobility

- Key indicators: migration patterns/routes, displacement triggers and return movements
- Vulnerabilities and risks: conflict, climate, socioeconomic and environmental stress as triggers and drivers of movement
- Cross-sectoral interactions: displacement impacts on food security, health, protection, etc.
- Gender and inclusion: gendered dimensions of mobility, including gender-specific protection and conflict risks

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

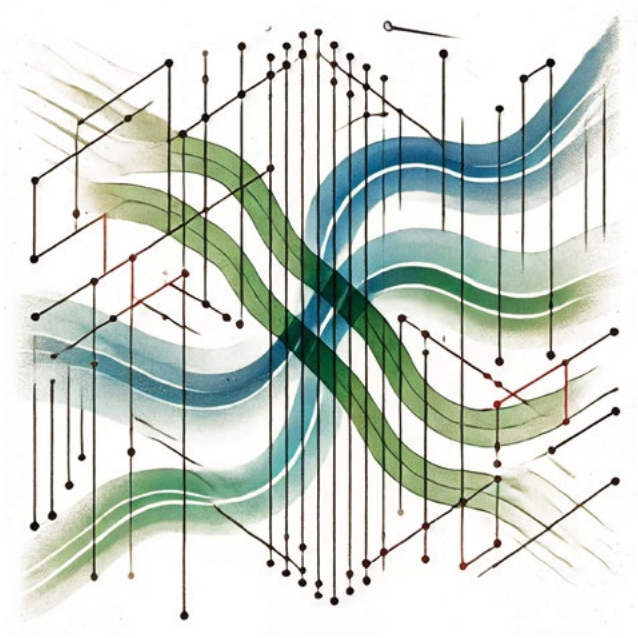
Reaching populations in remote and conflict-affected areas can be very challenging. Rama LeClerc-Tribot, Residence and Emergency Coordinator for West Africa at FAO, reflects on the complex challenges encountered by FAO and provides recommendations on how to deliver anticipatory action to hard-to-reach areas.

6. Anticipatory action

- Key indicators: triggers and thresholds for activating anticipatory action plans
- Pre-identified anticipatory actions: proposed actions tied to each calendar, e.g., mitigation of food insecurity, protection services, cross-referenced for conflict sensitivity
- Monitoring and evaluation framework: indicators to measure effectiveness and conflict sensitivity of anticipatory action

Informing conflict sensitivity: Dividers and connectors

The Dividers and Connectors tool helps to identify important contextual factors in conflict-sensitivity analyses, such as individual and group identities, gender, values, power and equality, wealth, and diverse life experiences, as well as the systems and structures that create or bridge social, economic, and political differences between people.



Connectors represent opportunities for peace. They can build bridges across societal divisions and enhance local peacebuilding capacities by bringing people together.

Dividers represent sources of tension in a community. They are accompanied by vested interests to maintain divisions and tensions in society, which can reinforce existing conflict and cause harm. They can also create situations that put community members, staff, volunteers, and overall programming at risk.

CONFLICT CONTEXT

Weaken dividers	Dividers	AA programming	Connectors	Strengthen connectors
Options to redesign programme elements	Systems & institutions Attitudes & actors Values & interests Experiences Symbols & occasions	Consider elements such as: ▪ Partner organizations ▪ Target groups ▪ Staff composition ▪ Timing ▪ Anticipatory actions ▪ Funding sources	Systems & institutions Attitudes & actors Values & interests Experiences Symbols & occasions	Options to redesign programme elements

DIVIDERS AND CONNECTORS TEMPLATE

- **WHAT:** Template document
- **CREATED BY:** IFRC, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross
- **HOW TO USE:** Identify dividing and connecting factors based on guiding questions, covering systems and institutions, attitudes and actions, values and interests, experiences, and symbols and occasions.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** 'Navigating FCV' tool repository

Stakeholder analysis

Crucial to conflict-sensitive approaches is an in-depth stakeholder analysis for FCV contexts. This can increase understanding of who may need to be involved in AA design and help foresee potential risks and opportunities. The decision to work or not to work with actors can impact AA outcomes both positively and negatively, as it can have implications for acceptance, access, and engagement.

During the initial scoping phase, it is important to be aware of specific actors that are active in the context. Potential **non-conventional stakeholders** to AA in FCV settings include:

- Security forces
- Law enforcement
- Peace actors
- Non-state armed groups
- Organized crime actors
- Civil society organizations
- Migrant or refugee representatives/organizations
- Religious organizations
- Foreign actors supporting different conflict parties

KEY QUESTIONS ON STAKEHOLDERS, THEIR RELATIONSHIPS AND POWER DYNAMICS

- What is the relationship between the different actors? Could changes in these relationships fuel (or reduce) FCV? How might this affect AA implementation?
- Which actors influence the behavior of key stakeholders necessary for the successful implementation of AA in the context?
- Who is trusted by different community members or specific population groups? Who is not?
- To what extent could cooperation between traditional and non-traditional AA stakeholders enhance social cohesion?
- What are the pitfalls of collaboration between traditional and non-traditional AA stakeholders?
- What are the risks of involving armed actors, i.e., non-state armed groups or state armed forces, in AA considerations, for example, playing a role in early warning dissemination?

STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS AND ACTOR MAPPING TOOLS

- **WHAT:** Tools within the Better Programming Initiative toolkit
- **CREATED BY:** IFRC, German Red Cross, Swiss Red Cross
- **HOW TO USE:** Use the different tools to map relevant stakeholders, their relationships and interests.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** 'Navigating FCV' tool repository

Conducting a stakeholder analysis in FCV contexts

While many of the considerations presented in the previous section (Stakeholder analysis) are relevant for anticipatory action more generally, there may be challenges when conducting a stakeholder analysis in an FCV context, such as rapidly shifting stakeholder roles or power dynamics, including those that follow escalating events or other contextual changes.

In addition, the representatives of certain population groups, such as migrants or refugees, may change frequently.

Conflict analysis is often informed by community perspectives, for example from key informant interviews or focus groups. When engaging community members or other stakeholders to gather such data, it is important to ensure that participants are fully aware of the nature, risks and benefits of their participation and have given their informed consent. Where available, institutional review boards and/or ethics committees can provide guidance on this process.

CHECKLIST:
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES TO STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS IN FCV CONTEXTS

Ensure that local, regional, and/or national experts on relevant FCV dynamics are involved in the design and contingency planning of the AA programme.

Acknowledge that power relations are dynamic and sometimes fluid. Chart out how AA might be affected if power relations change between different stakeholders. This will help to identify alternate options if certain stakeholders or modes of working become inaccessible.

Identify backup stakeholder references for each identified stakeholder group to provide valuable flexibility in quickly shifting contexts

Explore alignment of interests per actor:
- What role might this actor play in AA?
- How might the actor perceive the approach on AA?
- How might the intended outcomes of the project affect this stakeholder's operations or goals?

Assess potential influence of cooperation for AA:
- How can this actor enable more effective AA?
- How can the presence and influence of the actor influence access to vulnerable populations and the delivery of AA-related support?
- What type of support might a stakeholder provide? (logistics, advocacy, reconciliation)
- What interests might an actor have to support implementation of AA? How can these interests change if there's an escalation of violence?

Understand potential negative influence on AA:
- How can this actor constrain or actively obstruct AA?
- How do the activities of this stakeholder complicate logistical planning and coordination for anticipatory actions?
- How might this actor's influence affect local perceptions and support for anticipatory actions?
- How might the stakeholder's support or lack thereof influence the participation of other actors?
- What useful mechanisms exist for managing conflicts among stakeholders in this FCV setting?

Examples of conflict and stakeholder analysis

EXAMPLE FROM WORLD VISION IN COLOMBIA: GOOD ENOUGH CONTEXT ANALYSIS FOR RAPID RESPONSE (GECARR)

WORLD VISION ran a rapid context analysis exercise in 2018 to understand the local context and capacities for responding to mass population movement from Venezuela. As there was a lack of public policy and dialogue on the crisis, the exercise critically brought together key stakeholders, establishing a platform for affected communities to voice their needs and concerns to government representatives. The involvement of religious leaders in the process further supported breaking down barriers between Venezuelan migrants and Colombian host community members, laying the foundation for church-based community projects to expand social services and improve social cohesion.

LEARN MORE: Use of GECARR in conflict contexts – Case Study: Colombia

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Few organizations have as much experience in conflict-affected settings as the ICRC. Andy Wheatley, Regional Anticipatory Action Advisor for Africa at the ICRC, shares experiences with El Niño anticipatory action in Somalia and reflects on how to navigate the complex risk landscape in conflict settings.

EXAMPLE FROM THE LEBANESE RED CROSS IN LEBANON

THE LEBANESE RED CROSS (LRC) has developed a standard approach to gauge community interest and acceptance in DRR programming, identifying key entry points where the LRC can implement projects to build community trust and increase buy-in for larger-scale activities. This approach integrates the following types of analysis to select entry points:

1) Initial secondary data review of the specific community, complemented by primary data.
2) Stakeholder mapping of key actors and their relationships.
3) Initial consultations with the municipality and other relevant actors during primary data collection to understand their interests and acceptance of LRC's engagement in the community.

LEARN MORE: Find this and more case studies in the Navigating Fragility, Conflict and Violence to Strengthen Community Resilience handbook (2024) from IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

SPOTLIGHT:

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement involves working with traditional, community, civil society, government, and opinion groups and leaders while expanding collective or group roles in addressing issues that affect their lives. This can cover a spectrum of engagement, with objectives to inform, consult, involve, collaborate and/or empower. Community engagement is essential to ensure AA is relevant, effective, efficient, and accountable to the needs of the communities. For more details on community engagement in AA and practical approaches, see the FAO Guidance Note on Community Engagement in AA and the FAO Community Engagement Compendium (FAO 2024).

It is important to note that there may also be times or situations where engaging communities living in an FCV context may be inappropriate, such as if no direct assistance will be made available. This illustrates the context-dependent nature of AA.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT IN AA COMPENDIUM

- **WHAT:** Collection of tools and practical examples on community engagement in AA
- **CREATED BY:** FAO
- **HOW TO USE:** Get inspired by the experiences of the FAO and use available resources to improve your own community engagement strategies.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** FAO community engagement compendium

1. **Inform**
   Provide the community with relevant information
2. **Consult**
   Gather imput from the community
3. **Involve**
   Ensure community needs and assets are integrated into the process and inform planningn
4. **Collaborate**
   Ensure community capacity to play leadership role in the implementation of decisions
5. **Empower**
   Foster democratic participation and equity by bridging the divide between community and governance through community-driven decision-making

Facilitating Power. 2020. The Spectrum of Community Engagement to Ownership. In: Facilitating Power. As cited by FAO, 2024.

MODULE 3:

RISK ASSESSMENT

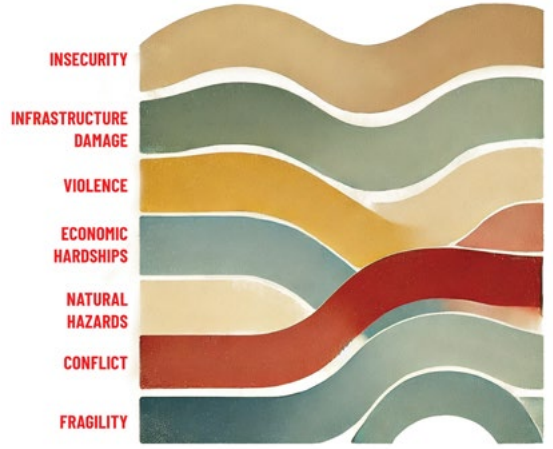
OBJECTIVE:

Analyze how FCV-related risks and drivers of vulnerability overlap or interact with other risks in your risk assessments.

CONTENTS:

Fragility, conflict, and violence can both create new hazards and amplify vulnerability and exposure to existing hazards. For example, FCV can lead to displacement, undermine livelihoods, and limit mobility. Understanding how different hazards and risks interact in such settings is crucial for designing effective trigger models and selecting appropriate anticipatory actions.

This module outlines several approaches to multi-risk analysis that are particularly well-suited for exploring the overlaps and interactions between different hazards in FCV settings. These approaches build upon established risk assessment methods to support AA practitioners in accounting for complex FCV dynamics within multi-risk assessments.



Embracing complexity in multi-risk settings

In contexts with frequent or protracted humanitarian crises, multiple risks typically exist – sometimes reinforcing each other. **Not only can natural hazards influence one another (e.g. heatwaves and drought, cyclones and flooding), but fragility, conflict, and violence can also affect risks and their impacts.** During the risk assessment phase, it is important to identify relevant risks from both natural hazards and FCV-related issues, as well as their potential impacts on people and operations. While each organization has its own approach and requirements for risk assessments, the tools in this section can be used to integrate methodologies for analyzing how different risks may interact in FCV settings.

THIS TOOLKIT SPOTLIGHTS THREE TYPES OF MULTI-RISK ANALYSIS:

1. Layering approaches: Overlaying information from natural hazards, conflict and violence, vulnerability and exposure can help identify the types of risks present and locate hotspots of overlapping risks. *However, please note that these approaches typically do not elucidate the interrelationships between risks.*

2. Compound risk interaction analysis: Various methodologies explore how risks may influence (compound) one another, both qualitatively and quantitatively. This toolkit highlights retrospective forensic analysis as an accessible method to investigate the multiple drivers of risk at play in past disaster events.

3. Forward-looking scenario analysis: Scenario approaches, based on different future situations or contexts, allow for the exploration of multiple drivers of risks and their impacts.

Additional types of multi-risk analysis are discussed in this Multi-Hazard Risk Analysis Methodologies blog post on the Anticipation Hub website.

Serious Game: Farming Juggle

This energetic, physical ball game demonstrates the complex and compounding effects of multiple stressors and their impact on community resilience. In this FCV twist on the original game, participants will encounter both climate and conflict-related stressors as they collectively work to juggle their effects. In a round of reflection after the game, participants are prompted to discuss the real-world risk interactions between FCV and climate-linked shocks.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To reflect on compounding effects of multiple stressors, both linked to natural hazards and to conflict, and their implications for community resilience.

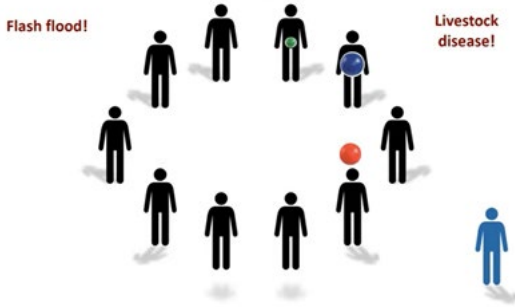
INTENDED AUDIENCE: AA/DRR practitioners, community members, students and youth, volunteers.

 # OF PARTICIPANTS: 10-50.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Anticipatory action in fragile, conflict-affected and violent settings takes place in complex multi-risk environments. Tesse de Boer, Technical Advisor on Climate and Conflict at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre shares insights on the current state of research and practice on complexity in anticipatory action approaches.

Learn more about the game:



FARMING JUGGLE – FCV TWIST

- **WHAT:** Dynamic ballgame illustrating the compounding effects of climate and conflict stressors in a multi-risk setting
- **CREATED BY:** Indigo, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Use this exercise as part of your training programme or community engagement programme to introduce the importance of multi-risk assessment
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Package of serious games for AA in FCV settings

Multi-risk analysis approach 1: Layering multiple risks

Several open-access tools with regional or near-global coverage overlay data on various hazards (including conflict), exposures, and vulnerabilities. It is important to evaluate the suitability of these products for your specific purposes. For example, ensure that data is being overlaid for all populations and types of sites being targeted to avoid inadvertent exclusion. Many governments do not include refugees or migrants in irregular situations in population statistics, and refugee or IDP camps may not be represented on certain maps.

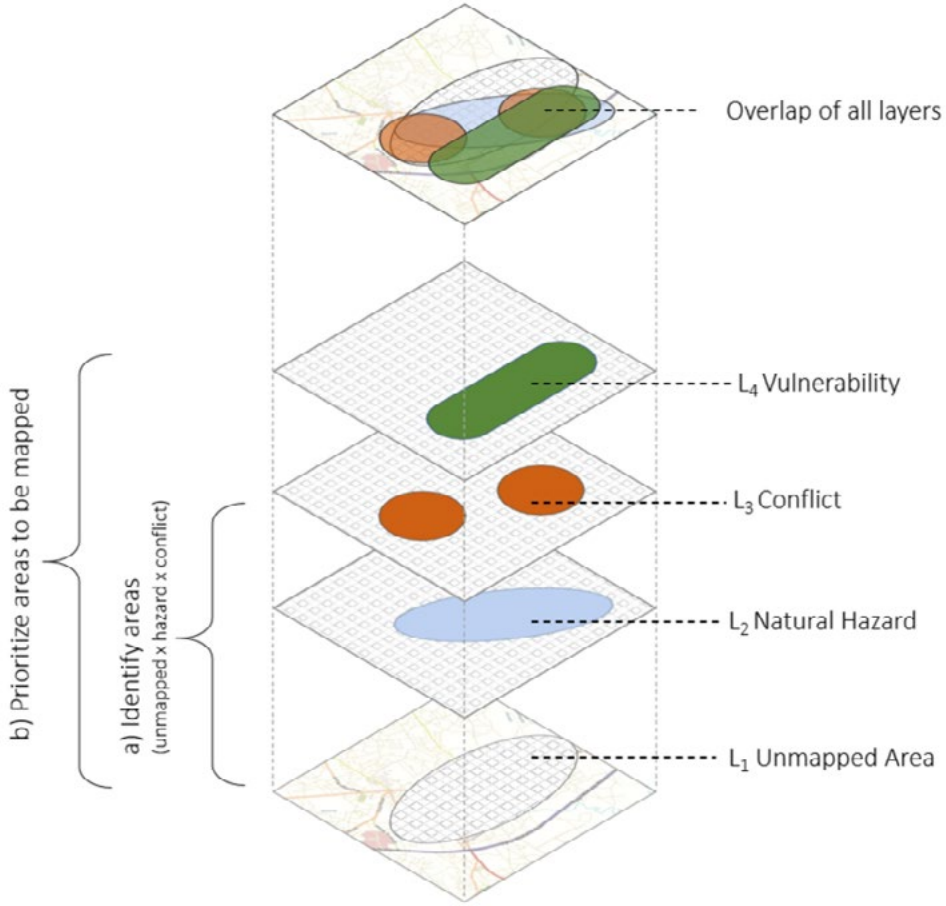
	TOOL	East Africa Hazards Watch	INFORM Risk	Platform for Real-time Impact and Situation Monitoring (PRISM)	Strata	ThinkHazard!
	Developed by	IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre	European Commission Disaster Risk Management Knowledge Centre	WFP	UNEP, FAO	GFDRR/World Bank
	Coverage	East Africa	Global	West Africa	82 countries	Global
Map Layers & Indicators	Natural hazards risk information		○	○	○	○
	Hydro-meteorological forecasts	○		○		
	Long-term (climate) projections	○		○	○	
	FCV dynamics		○	○	○	
	Socio-economic vulnerability		○	○	○	
	Food security	○		○	○	
	Coping capacity		○	○		
	Unique features	*Includes experimental pilot forecasts; more vulnerability layers are under development*	*Calculates composite risk scores; subnational analyses available for some countries*	*Includes information about historical conditions, observed and projected shifts, and some forecasts*	*Visualizes 'hotspots' of converging conflict-related stressors and climate stressors*	*Designed to make natural hazard information accessible for non-specialists*

Example: Hotspot mapping in Sudan

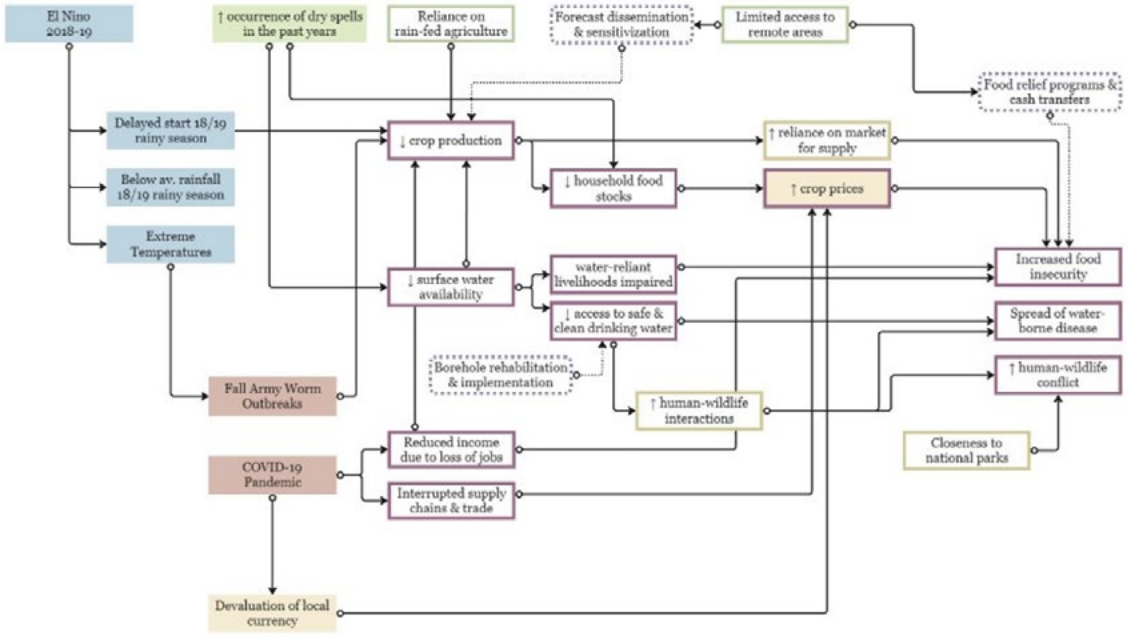
EXAMPLE FROM THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE AND DANISH RED CROSS IN SUDAN

To support the design of anticipatory action programming in Sudan, the Climate Centre conducted a hotspot mapping exercise to pinpoint high-risk areas where conflict impacts, exposure to floods and/or drought, and high vulnerabilities overlap geographically. Vulnerability data included a map layer marking the locations of refugee and IDP camps, using inputs from UNHCR and OCHA. The conflict map layer utilized data from the Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED) on all historical conflict incidents from 2000 to 2021, which were subjected to a density analysis to identify geographic hot spots for conflict impacts. The exercise also included a layer for areas that were still unmapped in OpenStreetMap. Unmapped hotspots with high levels of conflict impacts, vulnerability, and exposure to floods and droughts were prioritized for an ongoing, crowd-sourced mapping initiative via the MapSwipe App and the Humanitarian OpenStreetMap Team Tasking Manager. Volunteers from around the world have contributed to mapping tasks, such as reviewing satellite imagery to confirm the locations of buildings and roads, thereby filling geospatial data gaps in high-risk areas of Sudan that were flagged during this exercise.

LEARN MORE: Compound Risk Analysis: Climate & Conflict in Sudan, 'Off the grid' research article



Multi-risk analysis approach 2: Retrospective disaster analysis



To understand how different drivers of risk contribute to specific impacts, it can be helpful to examine past events. Such studies are based on the idea that disaster impacts result from the interaction of hazards, vulnerability, and exposure, all of which can change over time. In this way, multiple hazards may combine, trigger, or influence each other, leading to a greater net impact.

Retrospective (forensic) disaster analysis is an in-depth, qualitative assessment of a specific event in the recent past, which delves into how these different factors combined to result in a humanitarian crisis. The risk relationships identified in this process can provide valuable insights to guide AA and DRR programming moving forward.

These types of analyses typically focus on specific events, although there are also approaches that look at the future and general risks.

RETROSPECTIVE FORENSIC INVESTIGATIONS FOR DISASTERS

- **WHAT:** Methodology brief with examples of several retrospective disaster analyses for AA
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, based on work with IWMI
- **HOW TO USE:** Follow the steps outlined in the brief to conduct a retrospective forensic disaster analysis, with various options suitable for different objectives and resource availability
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

Example: Retrospective disaster analysis in Honduras

EXAMPLE FROM THE RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE IN HONDURAS

This retrospective disaster analysis examined the numerous risk interactions that led to a complex humanitarian crisis in the wake of Tropical Storms Eta and Iota in November 2020. The analysis identified several compounding hazards – including the COVID-19 pandemic, prolonged drought, a severe dengue outbreak, and high rates of various types of violence – that deeply impacted the vulnerability, exposure, and coping capacities of the affected communities. The analysis also found that many of the areas hardest hit by flooding during the storms were regions that had historically witnessed the highest incidences of conflict and violence. These areas are connected to a range of risk drivers, such as internal displacement and migration dynamics, and limited uptake of early warning messages as many community members were unwilling to evacuate their homes due to fears of robbery.

LEARN MORE: For a detailed visualization of the disaster's impact and the analysis process, explore the Tropical Storms Eta and Iota in Honduras StoryMap

Multi-risk analysis approach 3: Forward-looking Scenario Analysis

Scenario analysis can inform AA approaches and support decision-making, particularly in contexts where conditions may change rapidly. This methodology can build on past events (see retrospective analysis), risk analysis, and/or context analysis, adding several "what if" options to explore possible futures. Options should include positive, neutral, and negative events, ideally expanding beyond 'best', most likely', and 'worst' to more comprehensively consider future paths. Developing such scenarios together with relevant stakeholders helps jointly explore potential compound-risk scenarios and build on a diverse set of perspectives and local knowledge. For an example of how conflict-related scenarios can be integrated into trigger approaches, see Module 4.

Depending on the time and resources available, there are several options for scenario analysis. The list of feasibility assessment considerations from Module 1 can support scenario development for AA in FCV settings as well.

ACAPS SCENARIO-BUILDING METHODOLOGY

- **WHAT:** Technical brief on how to build scenarios in preparation for or during humanitarian crises
- **CREATED BY:** ACAPS
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult the brief for an overview of the purpose, key principles, and step-by-step process of scenario building to support implementing this method within your team or organization. *Note that this is a resource-intense process and requires several days or weeks of dedicated staff time!*
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** ACAPS website

SCENARIO ANALYSIS BASED ON GECARR

- **WHAT:** Rapid context analysis tool
- **CREATED BY:** World Vision
- **HOW TO USE:** World Vision's Good Enough Context Analysis for Rapid Response (GECARR) is a useful tool to conduct the initial context analysis that will feed into scenario development and has been successfully applied in a range of cases.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Overview of the tool, contact rapidcontextanalysis@wvi.org for further information.

Note that a thorough scenario analysis can be time-intensive and require several workshops, supported by desk analysis and/or key informant interviews. Alternatively, there are more rapid scenario-building exercises, such as those featured in the GO-Science Futures Toolkit and IFRC Solferino Academy, which can be selectively run based on team needs and objectives.

Next to risk analysis aimed at designing effective anticipatory actions, forward-looking scenario analysis can also support institutional preparedness and contingency planning when done well and based on reliable information. The CARE Emergency Toolkit provides practical guidance on the use of scenario analysis in strategic planning, which can also be applied to AA programming.

GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR SCENARIO DEVELOPMENT ON AA IN FCV SETTINGS, BASED ON THE CARE EMERGENCY TOOLKIT

- What are the likely triggers for change in the situation?
- What are the environmental conditions affecting the AA programme? In the case of a natural hazards, is there potential for another disaster event (for example, a secondary cyclone or earthquake) or for conditions to worsen (such as continued rains)?
- Is there potential for the conflict to develop or escalate? What would be the impacts of an escalating conflict on the population? What would be the impacts on AA programming or the feasibility of selected actions?
- What are the possible political reactions? How will these affect AA programming, including cooperation with different stakeholders?
- In the event of a conflict escalation, what are the likely response scenarios by your own organization and other stakeholders? How would they affect AA programming?
- What are the views towards international aid agencies among the general population, government authorities, and political groups, and how may they change?

EXAMPLE FROM WORLD VISION IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO (DRC)

World Vision conducted a GECARR scenario analysis in 2016 ahead of a highly tense electoral period to inform preparedness activities as well as programming, security, advocacy, and communications. Staff observed that the analysis was particularly valuable as an entry point for orienting and engaging key donors, critically strengthening advocacy messages, and enhancing the understanding of context for the wider organization and humanitarian community in the DRC.

LEARN MORE: Use of GECARR in conflict contexts – Case Study: Kasaï, the Democratic Republic of Congo

Vulnerability analysis

Fragility, conflict, and violence broadly amplify systemic disaster risk by creating and increasing vulnerabilities, in conjunction with other impacts on exposure, hazards, and coping capacities (Caso et al. 2023; Peters 2021; UNDRR 2021). Like FCV conditions, vulnerability is non-static and may evolve substantially over time and space.

It is thus especially important in FCV settings to recognize the dynamics of vulnerability, which may further influence the magnitude and type of impacts from a hazard, as well as the timing and type of anticipatory action possible. Changes in territorial control in a high intensity conflict may, for example, influence which areas can be accessed and which stakeholders need to be involved. In other cases, previous shocks may increase vulnerability such that lower-intensity hazards may still result in large-scale impacts.

In conducting analyses such as the Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment to unpack how FCV dynamics are shaping vulnerability and disaster risk in a given context, the following tools and resources can support AA-implementing organizations to explore:

- Who should be engaged in community-based vulnerability assessment processes, and how?
- What are the differential impacts of FCV-related shocks and stressors on the vulnerabilities of population sub-groups?
- How are socioeconomic vulnerabilities linked to environmental vulnerabilities, particularly in the context of population movements and protracted refugee crises?

"STAGE 2" IN THE *NAVIGATING FRAGILITY, CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE TO STRENGTHEN COMMUNITY RESILIENCE HANDBOOK*

- **WHAT:** Key considerations for conducting an Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA) in FCV settings
- **CREATED BY:** IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Review for more information and case studies on ways to implement and adapt EVCA tools and processes in FCV contexts
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** 'Navigating FCV' handbook

Population groups at high risk of disasters in FCV settings

POPULATION GROUP	Sub-groups in FCV settings
1. Children and Adolescents	Orphans; child soldiers; children living in conflict zones; children separated from their families; unaccompanied minors; street children
2. Women	Pregnant women; mothers with young children; survivors of sexual and gender-based violence; female headed households; widow
3. Elderly	Elderly living alone; elderly with chronic illnesses; elderly caregivers
4. People with Disabilities	Physically disabled individuals; visually impaired individuals; hearing impaired individuals; individuals with intellectual disabilities
5. Ethnic and Religious Minorities	Indigenous populations; minority religious communities; minority ethnic communities; migrant workers
6. LGBTQ+ Individuals	Transgender individuals; gay, lesbian and bisexual individuals; gender non conforming individuals
7. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)	Families in informal settlements; individuals in IDP camps; displaced agricultural workers
8. Refugees and Asylum Seekers	Urban refugees; refugees in camps; stateless persons; asylum seekers in detention
9. People with Mental Health Conditions	Individuals with severe mental illnesses (e.g., schizophrenia, bipolar disorder); individuals with anxiety and depression; individuals with substance use disorders
10. Combatants, Veterans and people in detention	Former child soldiers; disabled veterans; demobilized combatants; individuals deprived of liberty (in detention centers/jails)
11. Civilians in High Intensity Conflict Zones	Rural villagers; urban residents; business owners and workers; farmers and agricultural workers
12. Health Care Workers	Doctors and nurses; paramedics and emergency responders; community health workers; mental health professionals
13. Humanitarian Aid Workers	Local NGO staff; international NGO staff; volunteers; logisticians and support staff
14. Journalists and Media Personnel	War correspondents; local journalists; freelance reporters
15. Rural and Isolated Communities	Farmers (e.g. involved in illegal crops); Indigenous communities; nomadic groups; fishing communities
16. Urban Poor	Slum dwellers; informal sector workers; homeless individuals; squatters

INTEGRATED HOST COMMUNITY VULNERABILITY FRAMEWORK

- **WHAT:** Analytical tool for understanding vulnerabilities in refugee hosting communities, with an emphasis on water- and climate-related risks. The framework builds on prior case studies from Jordan, Ethiopia, Chad and Pakistan, as well as cross-cutting research on gender-inclusive anticipatory action
- **CREATED BY:** IWMI
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult for guidance on design and implementation of interventions to promote resilience across refugee hosting landscapes
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** CGIAR website

Adapted from: Jaime, C. 2024. Analytical Paper to guide the development of Operational Procedures on CREWS Programming in FCV settings. Reproduced with permission from the author.

EXAMPLE FROM THE PHILIPPINE RED CROSS IN MINDANAO

During the COVID-19 pandemic, a full standard Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment was not feasible to implement in Mindanao, due to country-wide travel restrictions as well as clashes within communities and family feuds (rido) that further impacted security and access. Building on a shortened Community Preparedness Assessment developed by the British Red Cross in the Caribbean island of Anguilla, the Philippine Red Cross (PRC) decided to conduct a two-day, adjusted Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment, which prioritized activities most relevant to the data and information that PRC needed to make key decisions on project design and implementation. Community members reported that the shortened assessment felt less intimidating and intrusive, which in turn increased participation in the process.

LEARN MORE: Find this and more case studies in the Navigating Fragility, Conflict and Violence to strengthen community resilience handbook (2024) from IFRC, ICRC, German Red Cross, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Flexibility is crucial when navigating difficult operating environments. Nok van de Landenberg, Head of Humanitarian Action at CARE Nederland, draws from CARE's experiences to provide recommendations on how to conduct impactful anticipatory action in complex humanitarian settings.

EXAMPLE FROM CGIAR IN IRBID AND RAMTHA, JORDAN

This research study examined the dynamics of climate change and water scarcity in refugee-hosting communities in Northern Jordan to support the design of anticipatory action programming, as well as other disaster risk reduction and early warning initiatives. The study identified different vulnerabilities experienced by host communities and Syrian refugee communities, as well as ways in which the population influx in Irbid and Ramtha governorates has amplified environmental and socioeconomic vulnerabilities for host communities. These include increased pressure on water supply and solid waste management systems, as well as increased social tension due to competition over access to social services and employment. The findings indicate that it is especially critical for anticipatory action initiatives to take an integrated climate resilience approach, considering both refugee and host community needs and vulnerabilities in project design.

LEARN MORE: Climate and water-related vulnerabilities in refugee hosting communities in northern Jordan: Irbid and Ramtha municipalities

SPOTLIGHT:

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION

Fragility, conflict, and violence have different impacts on different population groups and individuals, for example – depending on gender, disability, ethnicity, and socioeconomic status. To illustrate, this blog post from IWMI provides several examples of gendered barriers to participation in AA. Protection, gender, and inclusion (PGI) responsive anticipatory action identifies and addresses the specific needs and risks faced by diverse groups. The PGI toolkit by Plan UK International, developed in collaboration with the Anticipation Hub's PGI in AA working group, provides guidance on how to integrate PGI considerations into AA, address critical gaps, and apply good practice.

PROTECTION, GENDER AND INCLUSION IN ANTICIPATORY ACTION

- **WHAT:** Guide and toolkit
- **CREATED BY:** Plan UK International and the PGI in AA working group
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult the guide for a practical, step-by-step guidance and tools for applying PGI-responsive and transformative approaches throughout AA programming. This includes partnerships and coordination; risk information and forecasting systems; planning, operations, and delivery; financing and resource management; and monitoring, evaluation, and learning
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

DEFINITIONS BASED ON THE PGI TOOLKIT AND THE 'NAVIGATING FCV' HANDBOOK

Protection focuses on addressing violence and keeping people safe from harm. The Sphere Handbook outlines four protection principles for humanitarian action: 1) Enhance the safety, dignity, and rights of people, and avoid exposing them to harm. 2) Ensure people's access to assistance according to need and without discrimination. 3) Assist people to recover from the physical and psychological effects of threatened or actual violence, coercion, or deliberate deprivation. 4) Help people claim their rights.

Gender describes an aspect of people's socially determined identity that may or may not align with their biological sex. Social, cultural, and structural expectations of gender strongly influence people's social roles, power, rights, and access to resources. These gender-based roles and other attributes change over time and vary across different cultural contexts.

Inclusion improves the conditions of participation in society and access to resources for people who are disadvantaged based on their identity (e.g. gender, age, religion), origin (e.g. ethnicity, race), health status (e.g. disabilities), economic status (e.g. employment status), and other factors.

MODULE 4:

TRIGGER APPROACHES AND RISK MONITORING

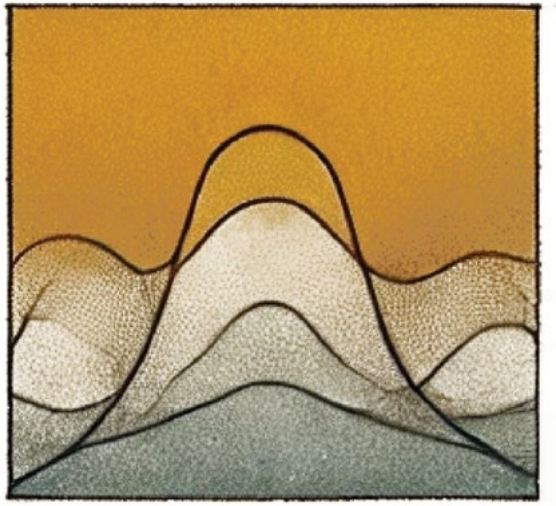
OBJECTIVE:

Explore how to approach trigger mechanisms in FCV settings to ensure that they account for FCV-related challenges and capture relevant multi-risk dynamics.

CONTENTS:

- Climate and weather services in FCV settings
- Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative
- Monitoring and emerging forecasts on conflict and violence
- Potential challenges for trigger mechanism design
- Typology of trigger approaches in multi-risk and complex settings
- Examples of trigger mechanisms developed for FCV settings

In FCV settings, the decision-making process to activate an AA framework for any hazard depends on factors such as a reliable and continuously accessible forecast, a dynamic understanding of context and risks and, importantly, consideration to how risks compound and cascade over time. Context monitoring is a key component of conflict-sensitive AA, and should take a variety of indicators into account, including conflict and fragility.



From AA's inception, trigger mechanisms have predominantly been based on forecasts and monitoring products for hydro-meteorological conditions. As AA frameworks are increasingly developed for complex, multi-risk FCV settings, the field is expanding to integrate new tools, data sources and approaches that factor a wider range of risk drivers into the decision to activate. These advancements include innovations in forecasts and monitoring products for conflict and violence, such as assessing the impacts of conflict on humanitarian needs like displacement, food insecurity, or disease outbreaks. Additionally, dynamic and flexible trigger approaches are being developed to address the effects of FCV conditions on vulnerability and exposure.

Climate and weather services in FCV settings

Climate and weather services, including weather forecasts, can be severely limited in FCV settings, particularly in conflict-affected areas. Local and national hydro-meteorological services may face challenges such as the **destruction or decay of infrastructure and equipment**, the **loss or lack of historical data**, and the 'brain drain' of local experts, limiting weather observations and forecast reliability. Institutions may also be underfunded.

While some ongoing initiatives, including the CREWS, SOFF and WISER programmes are working to increase the capacity of hydro-met services in such settings, domestic climate and weather services may still be limited.

In the absence of reliable, national-level forecasts, **regional climate and weather institutions** play a key role to support domestic institutions and promote business continuity during conflict. Additionally, global forecast models offer opportunities to set up AA systems. While these models may lack precision and granularity, they can still be sufficient to trigger effective anticipatory actions (Jaime et al. 2022).

EXAMPLE FROM THE SUDAN METEOROLOGICAL AUTHORITY (SMA) AND THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL AUTHORITY ON DEVELOPMENT (IGAD)

During the outbreak of conflict in April 2023, the SMA divided into three teams, dispatching one team to the Egyptian Meteorological Authority, one team to IGAD, and one to the SMA coastal office in the city of Port Sudan. This emergency plan has supported business continuity for both local and regional climate services despite the ongoing conflict. The SMA's strategies underscore the importance of regional and international partnerships to adapt essential weather and climate information services to continue to serve vulnerable communities affected by conflict and violence.

LEARN MORE: Sudan Meteorological Authority on the Climate Action Frontline

EXAMPLE FROM UN OCHA IN SOUTH SUDAN

The wetlands ecosystem in South Sudan is highly complex, presenting substantial obstacles to developing accurate forecasts and predictive models for extreme flooding, particularly while the available data is so scarce due to ongoing conflict. OCHA thus decided to forego an AA framework based on hydro-met forecast triggers and opted to monitor supplementary indicators, such as existing levels of malnutrition and standing floodwater levels. This flexible approach was instrumental in enabling OCHA to coordinate action ahead of potentially catastrophic flooding during the 2022 rainy season, which otherwise would not have met activation thresholds based on hydro-met forecasts alone.

LEARN MORE: Possibilities and limitations of anticipatory action in complex crises: Acting in advance of flooding in South Sudan

Promoting Early Warnings for All (EW4All) in FCV settings

There is a growing focus on the inclusion of all populations in early warning systems (EWS), including in anticipatory action. This is exemplified by the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, which aims to ensure that everyone on Earth is covered by early warning systems by 2027.

The inclusion of populations in FCV contexts is an important component of these efforts. Of the top 25 countries most vulnerable to climate change impacts, a striking 19 have fragile and/or conflict-affected contexts (GAIN-Index 2024, World Bank 2024), illustrating the importance of ensuring vulnerable populations in these areas have access to the warnings and anticipatory actions they deserve. Six of the initial 22 priority countries in the EW4All Initiative have FCV contexts (WB 2024, ITU 2024). The CREWS analytical table provides an overview of the multi-faceted and far-reaching impacts that FCV conditions may have on the early warning system value chain.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

National hydro-meteorological services play a key role in anticipatory action for climate-related hazards. Mussa Mustafa, Deputy General Manager at the Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia in Mozambique, reflects on the delivery of forecasts and early warning messages to conflict-affected areas and highlights the importance of local engagement to reach communities in need.

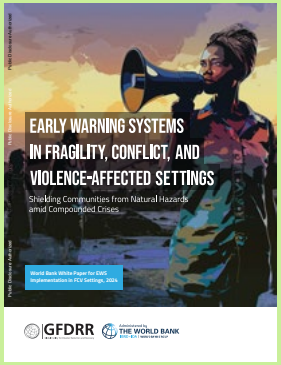
DETAILED ANALYSIS OF FCV IMPLICATIONS IN THE EWS VALUE CHAIN (FROM CREWS ANALYTICAL PAPER)

- **WHAT:** Master table organizing various types of FCV constraints on the individual components of early warning system value chains
- **CREATED BY:** Catalina Jaime
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult for key considerations and challenges affecting early warning systems in FCV settings
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Annex 1 to CREWS Analytical Paper

Examples of strengthening EWS in FCV settings

Given the obstacles to EWS development in FCV settings, innovations in weather and climate services from international and humanitarian organizations can critically bolster local authorities' forecasting and early warning capacities – in addition to anticipatory action initiatives.

CASE STUDY FROM THE WORLD METEOROLOGICAL ORGANIZATION (WMO) IN AFGHANISTAN



The prohibitive cost of technical equipment for weather stations has posed a significant barrier to the quality and coverage of weather data needed for forecasting and early warning in Afghanistan. In 2024, WMO piloted a 3D-Printed Automatic Weather Station, equipping local hydro-met offices with solar-powered stations at a fraction of the cost. This 3D printing technology offers conflict-affected areas an affordable stopgap solution when traditional weather stations are infeasible to maintain.

LEARN MORE: Find this and other case studies in the Early Warning Systems in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence-Affected Settings report (2024) from GFDRR/World Bank.

CASE STUDY FROM IWMI IN AFGHANISTAN

In response to the 2018 drought, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan launched the Early Warning, Early Finance, and Early Action initiative funded by the World Bank. As part of this initiative, IWMI developed and introduced the Afghanistan Drought Early Warning System (AF-DEWS) Tool in 2020. The tool systematically monitored and forecasted drought conditions in Afghanistan, providing institutional decision-makers with maps, data, and a composite drought severity index to aid decision-making. In 2021, when the Interim Taliban Authorities came to power, the freeze and suspension of international assistance significantly affected drought monitoring capacities and funding, including AF-DEWS, which became inactive, as well as the Afghan Meteorological Department, whose ability to collect and analyze weather data was significantly diminished. The project illustrates both the tremendous potential to support national disaster risk governance through EWS, as well as the challenges of sustaining EWS in conflict settings.

LEARN MORE: Afghanistan Drought Early Warning Decision Support (AF-DEWS) Tool and Afghanistan: Understanding Drought.

Monitoring and forecasting conflict and violence

Anticipatory action in FCV settings increasingly addresses the challenge of **forecasting conflict and violence hazards, as well as their humanitarian impacts** (see Overseas Development Institute 2019; OCHA & Centre for Humanitarian Data 2022). Even for AA frameworks that do not specifically focus on conflict-related hazards, accounting for conflict trends can be useful for:

- Multi-risk trigger development that incorporates conflict-related risks
- Programme management, enabling preparation for operational challenges linked to conflict or violence

Conflict analysis can also support impact-based forecasting for hazards where conflict conditions are an important risk driver. For example, the flagship Modeling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM) initiative by Action Against Hunger integrates conflict factors alongside climate factors as lead indicators in the development of predictive models. These models forecast acute child malnutrition prevalence and caseloads in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan up to 12 months into the future. The model builds on extensive research and context analysis, establishing conflict activity as a key predictor of acute malnutrition in the region (Backer & Billing 2024).

Various methods are also emerging to forecast spikes in ongoing FCV situations, supporting early warnings and anticipatory actions to mitigate the humanitarian impacts of surges in conflict and violence, such as the following:

- Anticipation of electoral violence in Kenya in 2022 by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Start Network and the Kenya Red Cross Society
- Early warnings and peacebuilding activities by Concordis International Advisory Groups to address rising community tensions in the Central African Republic and South Darfur
- 2023 Early Action Protocol for large-scale population movement in Honduras by the IFRC and Honduran Red Cross

Current conflict prediction models still struggle with accuracy and cannot predict the outbreak of new conflicts (see OCHA 2022). Conflict prediction is also ethically sensitive and fraught with political challenges, particularly for humanitarian organizations.

It is important to recognize the uncertainties in conflict forecasts and to carefully weigh options before choosing a certain approach or service provider. Additionally, it is crucial to ascertain the type of anticipatory action that could be triggered by such information (for examples, see ODI 2019).

The Anticipation Hub catalogue ~~below~~ lists some of the existing initiatives for forecasting and anticipating conflict, providing an overview of the wide spectrum of methods currently under development.

CATALOGUE OF EARLY WARNING TOOLS FOR ANTICIPATING THE IMPACT OF CONFLICT

- **WHAT:** List of existing tools and methodologies
- **CREATED BY:** ACAPS, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Identify existing tools that may support conflict and violence monitoring for your AA framework.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR CONFLICT THROUGH THE START FUND

- **WHAT:** Guidance and toolbox
- **CREATED BY:** Start Network
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult this guide and the tools outlined in it when deciding whether and how to include conflict-related context monitoring in your AA framework.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Start Network website

Start Network's "Tools and Approaches: Anticipatory Action for Conflict through the Start Fund" provides practical guidance on the use of open-source conflict forecasting tools, including key considerations on how to use conflict forecasts and selection criteria to consider when choosing one tool over another. Additionally, the tool includes mapping of non-hydrometeorological indicators, such as conflict intensity, population displacement, food security, and economic stability – crucial in FCV settings.

START NETWORK

USER GUIDANCE PACKAGE: USE OF TOOLS AND APPROACHES TO ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR CONFLICT IN THE START FUND
(February 2023)

This guidance package provides Start Network members, implementing and partner agencies with the necessary information and guidance on the use of open-source conflict forecasting tools and data sources to inform conflict-related anticipatory action. It gives clear guiding criteria, recommendations, and tips to support raising comprehensive and risk-informed anticipatory alerts notes to enable informed decision-making in the Start Fund's anticipatory alert note process. In addition, a mapping exercise of more than 50 existing conflict anticipation resources, tools, and models, categorized into typology categories (e.g., type of data analysis, type of conflict risk, geographic scope etc.), accompanies this resource.

Potential challenges for trigger mechanism design in FCV contexts

OBSERVED CHALLENGES

(adapted from CREWS Analytical Paper)

- Primary risk drivers may be overlooked during **indicator selection** due to an over-emphasis on easily quantified climate hazard indicators or insufficient context/conflict analysis.
- Fixed, inflexible **threshold values** may fail to account for dynamic conditions of exposure and vulnerability – e.g., transhumance or sudden population movements – which can rapidly shift the baseline at which hazard events become disasters.
- **Decision-making** to act on triggers is inhibited by weakened trust between local communities, external actors, and government actors, as well as lower risk tolerance among donors.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE: EXAMPLE FROM THE INTERNATIONAL RESCUE COMMITTEE (IRC) IN NORTHEAST NIGERIA

While developing an AA framework to support flood-prone farming communities affected by conflict, the IRC implemented the following modifications to ensure that the trigger mechanism design was responsive to the high levels of vulnerability faced by households:

- Activation thresholds were lowered in coordination with hydro-meteorological agencies
- Lead time was extended to two weeks, increasing forecast uncertainty but ensuring that households had sufficient time to prepare
- Community-based early warning workers monitored river levels, sharing photos & videos via WhatsApp to document changing conditions on the ground

LEARN MORE: Acting Before Disaster Strikes: The impacts of anticipatory cash transfers on climate resilience in Northeast Nigeria.

Trigger approaches in multi-risk and complex settings

The approach to triggers or funding release mechanisms strongly depends on the prioritized risks, organizational procedures, and available data, which can be greatly impacted by FCV dynamics (see: Potential challenges for trigger mechanism design in FCV contexts). Fundamentally, several categories of useful trigger approaches for multi-risk settings are emerging to address such challenges:

- **Scenario-based:** Adding different types of scenarios and attaching specific implementation approaches to each scenario. Can support adjusting anticipatory action and implementation depending on different FCV scenarios, aligned with contingency/scenario planning.
- **Consensus-based:** Alerts and activations based on expert judgment, drawing on various information sources and in line with pre-agreed trigger or activation criteria.
- **Impact-based:** Infusing vulnerability and exposure data into predictive models to forecast the cumulative humanitarian impact of hazard events. Where impact-based forecasting is available, FCV dynamics can be included to account for context influences on risk.
- **Community-based:** Supporting at-risk communities in understanding and monitoring hazards. Can empower communities to take actions even when humanitarian organizations cannot access their area due to conflict conditions.

The following examples illustrate how AA-implementing organizations have developed or adapted trigger mechanisms to address FCV conditions.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Hear from the experts: The anticipation of epidemics is an emerging field of anticipatory action programming. Mauricio Santos Vega, Assistant Professor at the Universidad de los Andes and Technical Advisor at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, provides an overview of important considerations for the design, implementation and activation of anticipatory action for epidemics in conflict settings.

IMPACT-BASED & COMMUNITY-BASED TRIGGER APPROACH

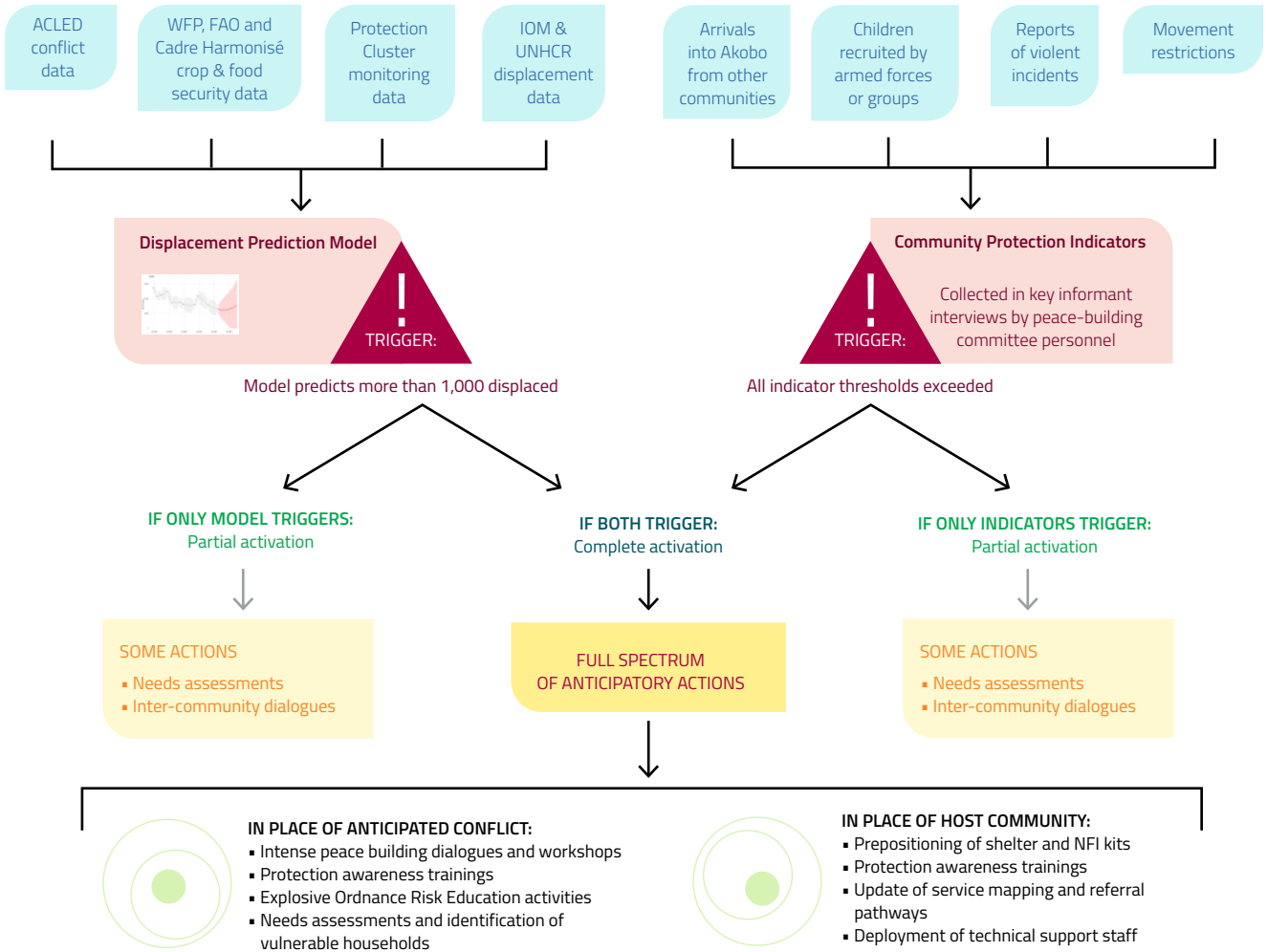
DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL (DRC) AA FRAMEWORK FOR CONFLICT DISPLACEMENT IN AKOBO, SOUTH SUDAN

HAZARDS: 1) Inter-ethnic clashes over territory and scarce resources, such as land and water for cattle grazing, lead to 2) Conflict-induced displacement, which in turn drives a host of 3) Protection issues, including sexual and gender-based violence and violence against children.

FORECASTING AND RISK MONITORING: The DRC developed a displacement prediction model using regional data sets on conflict-linked factors, combined with a community-level monitoring system based on quantitative protection data collected by peacekeeping committee members on the ground. These mechanisms are integrated into a dual, phased trigger model, where the framework is partially activated if one mechanism's threshold is met and fully activated if both are met.

LEAD TIME: 3 months.

LEARN MORE: DRC Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) Project One-Pager and Forecasts and Reports.



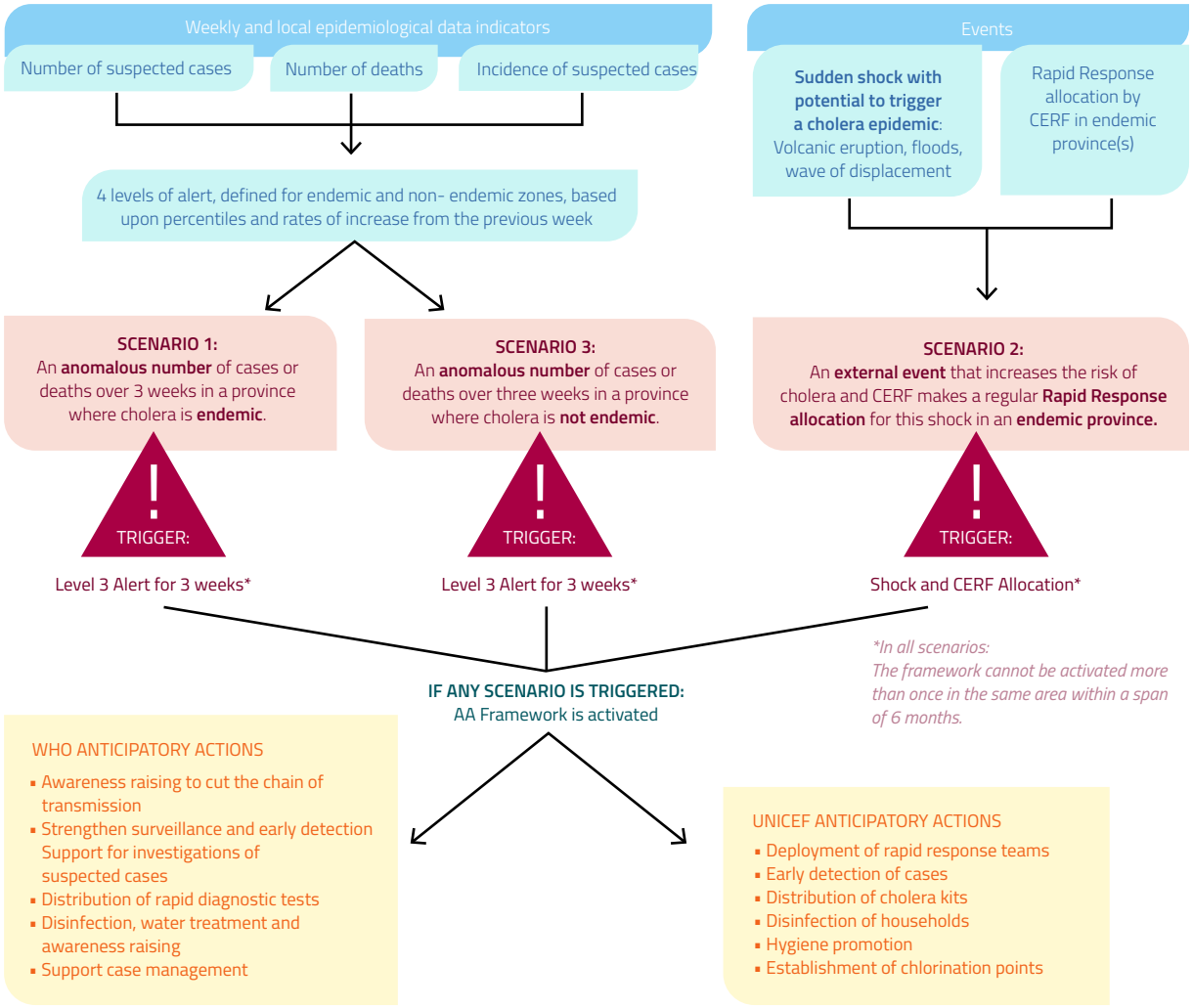
SCENARIO-BASED TRIGGER APPROACH

OCHA AA FRAMEWORK FOR CHOLERA OUTBREAKS IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF CONGO

HAZARDS: Major cholera outbreaks and epidemics, often linked to cascading impacts from other hazard events such as **floods**, **volcanic eruptions**, and **displacement** due to conflict or other shocks.

FORECASTING AND RISK MONITORING: The scenarios developed for this trigger approach are based on an analysis of high-risk hotspots, categorizing provinces in the DRC as either endemic (where cholera outbreaks regularly occur, predominantly in the Eastern provinces) or non-endemic (where cholera outbreaks are not common). Using this classification, OCHA and its partners developed three scenarios, each capable of independently triggering an activation of the AA framework. Scenarios 1 and 3 utilize surveillance data from local and national health authorities to classify the risk for a large cholera outbreak in endemic and non-endemic provinces, respectively. Scenario 2 is based on specific external events which are assumed to correlate with increased cholera risk.

LEARN MORE: UNOCHA (2022) *Pilot Anticipatory Action Framework for Cholera in the Democratic Republic of Congo* (French) and UNOCHA (2023) Anticipatory Action - Democratic Republic of the Congo Infographic.



CONSENSUS-BASED TRIGGER APPROACH

START NETWORK START FUND

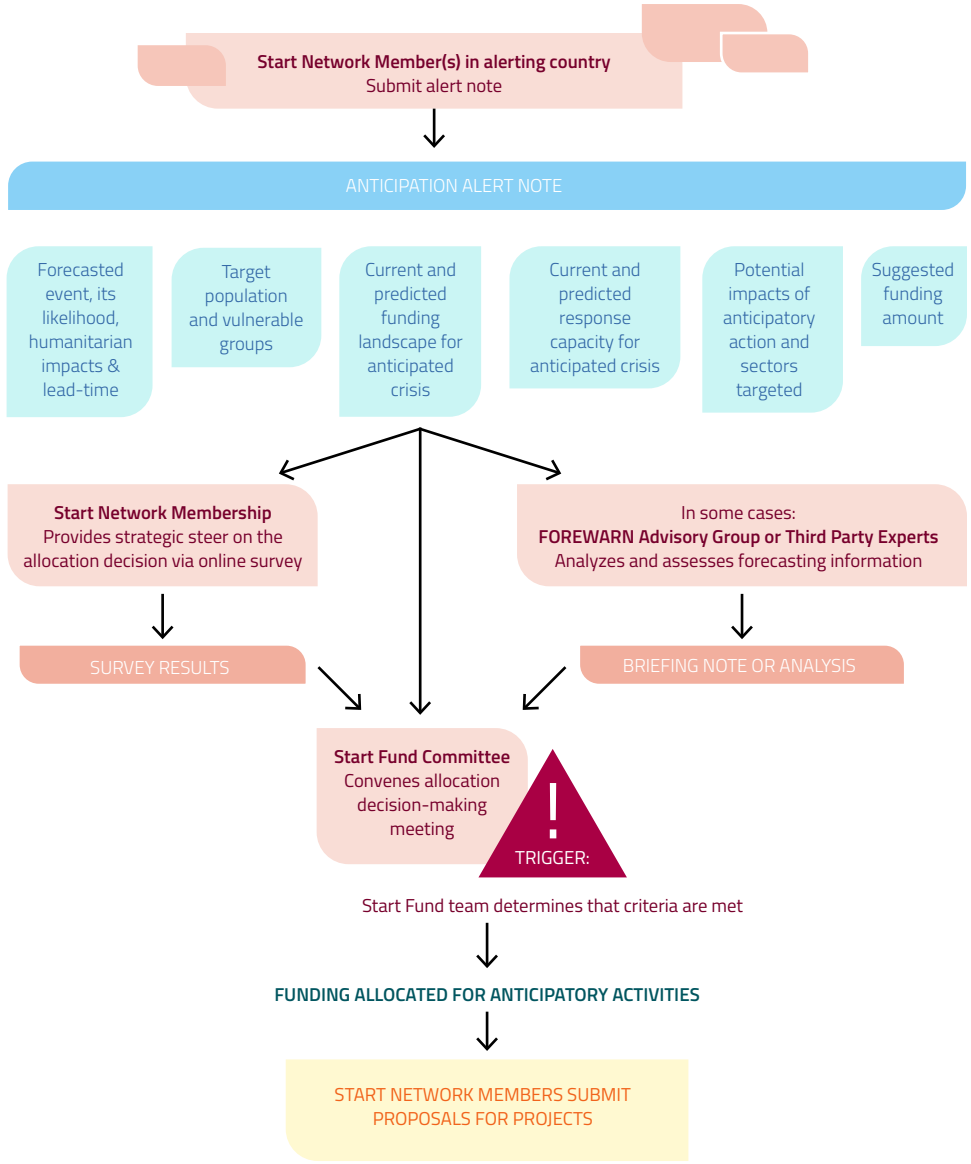
HAZARDS: Start Network's 90+ humanitarian member organizations may raise an 'anticipation alert' for any hazard event in their area(s) of operation where humanitarian impacts are expected, including situations of anticipated conflict or displacement, provided they fall under Start Fund's scope:

- *Upcoming crises where risk is informed by a forecast and where action can be taken in advance or as early as possible*
- *Forecasted specific spikes in a chronic and/or larger-scale crisis*
- *Underfunded small to medium-scale crises*

FORECASTING AND RISK MONITORING: Start Network members may use a variety of resources for forecasting, depending on which information sources and products are most reliable for the type of crisis and area. Start Network offers guidance on forecasting and indicators for various crisis types, including conflict and displacement. Members also receive support from FOREWARN, an advisory expert pool offering technical support and risk analysis. Members are encouraged to collaborate on developing anticipatory alerts through Start Fund Skype groups organized by the alerting country.

APPROACH TO ACTIVATION: The Start Fund model relies upon member consensus and expert judgment to determine whether pre-defined criterion for anticipatory funding allocation have been met. Core considerations include scope, quality of the risk analysis, alert timeliness, implementation period, current and predicted funding landscape, current and predicted response capacity, crisis media profile and disbursement capacity.

LEARN MORE: Start Network, Start Fund Anticipation.



SPOTLIGHT:

EARLY WARNING COMMUNICATION

Early warning communication is crucial for enabling anticipatory actions. In FCV settings, such communications can be disrupted or undermined by:

- Damage to telecommunications infrastructure
- Lack of trust in government or humanitarian messaging
- Lack of data transparency or data availability alongside the early warning

The volatility of some FCV contexts underscores the importance of cooperating with security actors to ensure plans and information are up-to-date, conflict-sensitive, and account for the intersectoral impacts of fragility, conflict, and/or violence.

Particularly affected populations, such as displaced people, may face hazards they have not previously encountered and/or deal with language barriers and other forms of marginalization, making them less likely to receive or heed early warnings.

Various approaches can strengthen early warning communication, including contingency planning that identifies alternative communication channels in case of infrastructure damage. Collaboration with trusted community leaders can build trust and increase uptake of early warning communications. Greater awareness and feelings of agency could also be fostered through the provision of information about hazards and the identification of anticipatory elements such as the location of evacuation shelters discussed with community members in advance. Activities such as these may lead to a higher uptake of action, as sudden warnings would be coupled with prior information and knowledge.

FURTHER RESOURCES ON EARLY WARNING COMMUNICATION

- Pillar 3 Considerations in the Handbook on Early Warning Systems and Early Action in Fragile, Conflict-affected and Violent Contexts: Addressing Growing Climate and Disaster Risks (CoE 2024)
- Early Warning for Early Action: Toward More Behaviorally Informed Early Warning Systems (USAID/REAL 2020)
- Gender-Responsive Early Warning: Overview and How-to Guide (UN Women 2012)

IFRC's Community Trust Index: Developed by the IFRC Community Engagement and Accountability (CEA) Unit, this is an evidence-based tool to measure and enhance trust between humanitarian organizations and the communities they serve. Trustful relationships are an important component of effective early warning communication.

ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE: GOAL IN HONDURAS

In Tegucigalpa, where over half the population lives in informal settlements, high rates of extreme poverty, gang violence, and migration exacerbate underlying vulnerabilities and heighten disaster risk. Since 2010, the NGO GOAL has worked with residents and local governance actors to coproduce early warning and response systems for floods and landslides, ensuring that at-risk communities in informal settlements and peri-urban spaces are closely involved in programming. This participatory approach has increased local awareness of risks, safety zones, and emergency actions, promoting community cohesion and ownership of the process.

LEARN MORE: Warnings in Violence and Conflict: Coproducing warnings with and for those most at risk.

MODULE 5:

ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

OBJECTIVE:

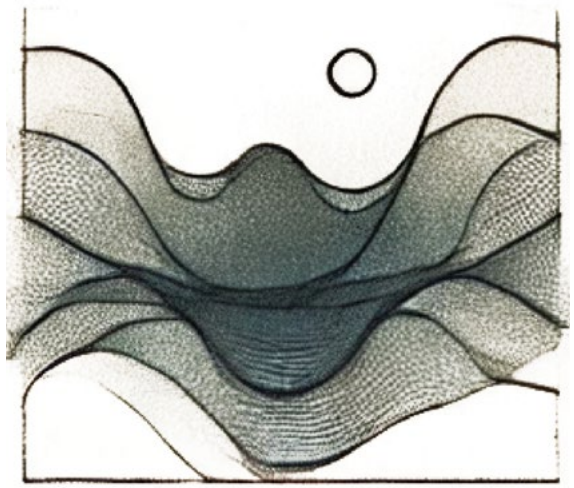
Consider FCV dynamics when selecting suitable anticipatory actions to ensure they are feasible, effective, and conflict-sensitive in each context.

CONTENTS:

Anticipatory action planning in FCV settings must be tailored to priority hazards, local needs, vulnerabilities, and capacities to ensure early warnings effectively translate into AAs that mitigate risks to local populations. Additionally, they must account for potential disruptions due to fragility or violence. For example, a planned evacuation route may suddenly become unsafe due to an outbreak of violence.

The selection and design of anticipatory actions should be informed by earlier context and risk analyses, as well as FCV-related considerations in trigger design. AA frameworks need to be adaptable to volatile circumstances, identifying which risks can be reduced upfront and which need to be mitigated continuously. In some instances, it may not be safe or appropriate to share anticipatory action plans publicly due to the potential for misuse or harm.

In FCV contexts, AA may require coordination with additional actors less familiar with AA, such as crisis groups, UN Humanitarian Coordinators, or Camp Coordination and Camp Management (CCCM) actors.



This module presents a comprehensive inventory of possible anticipatory actions and their associated considerations in different FCV settings to inform AA selection. It also highlights common pitfalls in designing anticipatory actions, such as ensuring the selection of recipients so that AA programming reaches those most in need.

Conflict-sensitive anticipatory action planning

Anticipatory actions should be pre-identified and validated based on community engagement and aligned with context analysis findings, including stakeholder analysis, power analysis, gender analysis, and divider/connector analysis. This ensures that identified anticipatory actions do not inadvertently cause harm or create tensions, as illustrated in the table.

		Intervention examples	
Impact on context	Definitions	Conflict-insensitive	Conflict-sensitive
Distribution, prioritization, or attention effects	Distributing resources, information, or services along predefined criteria with little or no room for adapting to local or contextual vulnerabilities.	Provision of resources (e.g. food, cash, shelter) to male-headed households.	Provision of resources based on vulnerability criteria that integrate gender-based violence and other protection risks (e.g., provision of a Minimum Initial Service Package for women and girls).
Legitimization effects	Giving legitimacy to a group or leader by working with them.	Selection of recipients based on input from one or a few leaders without an actor/ power mapping.	Triangulation of recipient lists through vulnerability mapping and community engagement to ensure transparent and neutral selection.
Market effects	Changing local markets with an influx of outside resources.	Provision of in-kind resources that alter prices, availability, and labour force.	Livelihoods assistance informed by markets assessments (e.g., considering inflation, and climate impacts).
Substitution effects	Replacing existing functioning systems or structures.	Distribution of externally procured seeds in an area with locally available seeds.	Provision of cash and in-kind resources based on needs, markets, and seeds assessments accounting for conflict-induced effects (e.g. inflation, and access restrictions to farms).
Theft/diversion	Fueling the conflict or division with stolen or diverted resources.	Theft of cash or in-kind resources by armed groups.	Provision of accessible complaints and feedback mechanism and closing of the feedback loop.

Contributed by Kim Kristensen, FAO

Anticipatory action selection: Considering FCV-related limitations

Each anticipatory action (AA) has prerequisites to ensure that it is effectively implemented and reaches those most in need. When selecting anticipatory actions, consider the specific FCV context, both in its current state and likely future developments, to verify whether these prerequisites can be met or if mitigation measures are needed. Common limitations in different FCV settings include:

Limitation	Access restrictions	Infrastructure damage and disruption of essential services	Insecurity	Displacement
Implications for anticipatory actions	Access to certain areas may be restricted due to roadblocks or checkpoints by different armed actors or due to fighting, leading to insecurity, and/or damage to the road network. The suspected or confirmed contamination with explosive weapons, such as landmines or unexploded ordnance, presents additional security risks and restricts access to affected areas. Curfews may be in place at certain times. This makes it more difficult to maintain access to communities or households and may disrupt evacuation routes and supply chains.	Infrastructure damage may originate from ongoing fighting, including the use of explosive weapons, a lack of maintenance that results in infrastructure falling into disrepair, targeted sabotage, and theft. This can affect critical infrastructure required to provide essential services and protect populations from hazards (e.g. WASH infrastructure, transportation networks and electricity grids); shelters and residential housing, as well as hazard monitoring and early warning communication infrastructure. Warehouses for pre-positioned materials may be damaged, leading to the loss of materials.	Violence and crime present significant challenges for actions and can affect the hazards to which populations are exposed. An outbreak of violence (or a high risk thereof) can deter people from traveling to distribution points and disrupt evacuation routes. Theft of materials can occur at distribution points when transporting materials or in warehouses that store pre-positioned materials. Gender-based violence is often particularly prevalent and should be addressed through actions. These issues are particularly common and difficult to resolve in areas with high levels of organized criminal activity.	Populations may move at small or large scales due to FCV, posing challenges for both identification and assistance in advance of a hazard. Different population groups experience displacement differently (e.g. women, people with disabilities, and unaccompanied children). Population movement is often sudden and ad hoc but can be better understood and anticipated through tracking and monitoring. While some movement is assumed to be temporary, most displacement is protracted, lasting over five years in sometimes 'temporary' settlements. Depending on their circumstances, displaced people may not have the same rights or freedoms as others, such as restrictions on movement outside of their camp.
Mitigation options / contingency planning	▪ Consider actions that can be conducted remotely (e.g. remote cash transfers) ▪ Humanitarian diplomacy with focus on humanitarian access ▪ Establish alternative evacuation routes ▪ Shorten procurement supply chains as much as possible ▪ Establish mobile clinics that provide consultations and first aid, including online clinics if feasible/relevant	▪ Identify alternative access to essential services ▪ Incorporate mobile infrastructure (e.g. water trucks, and generators) ▪ Consider actions that don't rely on telecommunication systems (e.g., physical distribution of items or cash) ▪ Spread materials over several warehouses to reduce the risk of total loss	▪ Consider actions that can be conducted remotely (e.g. remote cash transfers) ▪ Incorporate protection-related actions ▪ Explore additional security measures for distribution points, transport and warehouses	▪ Ensure that actions are accessible to people on the move and actionable for displaced people, including understanding their rights (e.g. evacuation may not be possible for refugees in some camps). ▪ Work with community focal points or displacement focused organizations to ensure actions reach displaced populations.

Limitation	Corruption	Loss of trust	Weak governance	Data availability
Implications for anticipatory actions	Corruption can increase challenges to swift and effective action implementation (e.g. when cash or goods meant for distribution are being misappropriated). Contexts with high levels of corruption are also likely to have low levels of community trust, increasing the importance of education and outreach about AA, and co-designing AA with communities to the greatest extent possible.	People living in FCV contexts may have had experiences due to conflict or other crises that have led to a loss of trust in authority figures, which can impede the receipt and uptake of actions and impair decision-making. Responses to traumatic experiences may make people less likely to heed early warnings, take anticipatory action, or otherwise engage in AA.	Government actors and/or defacto authorities in areas outside central state control may be unable or unwilling to co-produce or participate in AA. They may lack sufficient influence or knowledge to prompt informed action when warnings are issued or, to support AA effectively. Additionally, they may seek to benefit from or redirect AA to serve themselves or specific groups/ communities. The presence of multiple actors (state and non-state) can further complicate AA implementation, necessitating changes in AA design to include multiple stakeholders.	Weather and population data may be limited or unavailable, with documentation often lost or destroyed during hostilities. The dynamic nature of FCV contexts can make regular or comprehensive data collection impossible, further compounded by low institutional memory and knowledge due to high staff turnover. This can hinder the ability to ascertain effective actions for specific groups or to select recipients based on characteristics, location, and other factors.
Mitigation options / contingency planning	▪ Identify the likelihood or risk of corruption in certain areas based on experience or other organizations' experiences, and identify contingency plans accordingly. ▪ In contexts with high levels of corruption, keeping a separate pot of funding to deal with situations of stolen goods, bribes, etc., may be necessary to ensure an AA activation can take place effectively. ▪ Increasing awareness among corrupt actors about the aims of AA and its positive impact may help minimize corruption, particularly in cases where actors have direct links to recipient communities.	▪ Focus on building trust as a prerequisite of many actions ▪ Engage the community throughout the action selection process and raise awareness of priority hazards ▪ Work with trusted community leaders to disseminate information on actions (e.g., location of evacuation shelters)	▪ In contexts where governments are party to a conflict or governance is very weak, it may be most appropriate for a humanitarian and/or other organization to lead AA, bringing in government actors whenever possible. ▪ Linking community leadership and governance structures to AA processes, including action selection. ▪ Conduct a stakeholder and power analysis to identify and assess key actors with significant influence, ensuring strategic engagement in specific contexts. ▪ Consider implementing actions through different actors in different areas, based on their legitimacy with specific populations, levels of trust, reach, and influence.	▪ Identify and use sources of proxy data (e.g. multisource remote sensing) when determining geographic locations and populations for targeting. ▪ Identify and utilize community/ indigenous forms of communication (e.g., community WhatsApp groups, community-based protection mechanisms for communication). ▪ Identify whether local observations/ warnings are being used and trusted for decision-making and planning. ▪ Establish a basic understanding of technical data among end-users (e.g., local communities) to promote trust and warning uptake.

Limitation	**Social tensions**	**Special population characteristics**
Implications for anticipatory actions	Providing assistance of any type is fraught with issues of fairness across groups who may or may not have been included as recipients. In FCV contexts, the targeting or distribution of actions can provoke not only anger over perceived bias but also the incitement or escalation of violence or conflict. Therefore, careful context analysis and selective population targeting are crucial to reduce the likelihood of such outcomes. For further guidance on early selection in situations of social tension, see Module 2: Conflict Analysis.	Particular populations may face greater risks from certain actions due to special characteristics and conflict dynamics. For example, women may be at greater risk of GBV in an evacuation shelter, while people with disabilities may be more vulnerable during evacuation due to mobility challenges, especially if they come under fire from armed groups. Special characteristics including race, religion and others, may expose certain groups to negative targeting in FCV contexts while undertaking actions. For more information on early selection in situations involving special population characteristics, see FAO's Community Engagement in Anticipatory Action, 2023; Plan International, UK's Protection, Gender and Inclusion In Anticipatory Action Guide and Toolkit, 2024.
Mitigation options / contingency planning	▪ Identify key social tensions and the risks of bias based on recipient targeting and adapt targeting accordingly. ▪ Undertake prior communication with leaders/representatives of different groups to reduce the likelihood of escalation due to actions (e.g. the theft of other communities' goods). ▪ Ensure that communities take the lead in planning and decision-making procedures with a conflict-sensitive lens (for AA prioritization, targeting, etc.) to increase ownership and reduce the risk of tensions. ▪ Conduct a "do no harm" analysis to ensure that activities do not incite or exacerbate tensions or conflict.	▪ Carefully consider special characteristics of target populations and conduct risk assessments to ascertain the risk of actions to particular groups in the specific FCV context. As far as possible, include these populations in different scenarios, and develop assessments, AA, etc., with communities to ensure needs will be addressed through the planned intervention and harm is not increased. ▪ Develop contingency plans for the interaction of particular FCV dynamics with particular group characteristics. ▪ Do not implement actions if the risk threshold is considered to be too high for populations with special characteristics.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ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE: CYCLONE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMME IN COX'S BAZAR, BANGLADESH

Camp and host community volunteers, trained by the IFRC and Bangladesh Red Crescent Society as part of the Cyclone Preparedness Programme, work together to disseminate early warning messages to their communities. Volunteers pre-identify and assist vulnerable households with evacuation to shelters, while female volunteers go door-to-door to ensure that early warning messages directly reach female camp residents. This process considers conflict impacts, such as mental and physical health in the Rohingya population.
LEARN MORE here.

Inventory of anticipatory actions and FCV considerations

The anticipatory action inventory provides an overview of relevant FCV considerations for different types of AAs, including how these considerations may differ from one FCV setting to another. The examples below illustrate how to link the previously introduced limitations to specific anticipatory actions.

Click here to access the full inventory of anticipatory actions and relevant considerations in different FCV settings.

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

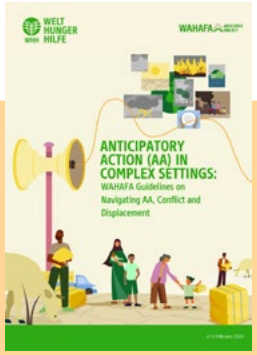
While anticipatory action programming is often led by international organizations, local actors play a crucial role in reaching communities and those most at need. Angelo Amaro, Executive Director of Kukumbi, a local NGO in Mozambique, outlines recommendations for anticipatory action for persons directly affected by conflict, building on Kukumbe's experiences in supporting families through mental health, trauma and other personal issues related to the conflict setting.

Example of anticipatory action planning in FCV contexts

EMBEDDING ANTICIPATORY ACTION WITHIN SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS: EXAMPLE FROM THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME (WFP) IN HAITI

WFP's anticipatory action framework for floods and cyclones in Haiti builds on broader initiatives to strengthen early warning and social protection systems in partnership with government; building trust, capacity, and ownership among national actors and institutions. This AA framework expands upon foundations and relationships established under Adaptive Social Protection for Increased Resilience (ASPIRE), a World Bank grant-funded social assistance programme co-implemented by WFP and the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labor. ASPIRE provides cash transfers to vulnerable groups. Leveraging the Ministry's existing information system, programme participant database, and e-wallet cash distribution system developed for ASPIRE, the AA framework was activated in November 2023, enabling vulnerable households to receive anticipatory cash transfers ahead of forecasted rainfall. In post-distribution monitoring, 99% of respondents reported successfully withdrawing cash from their e-wallets, and 97% reported spending it on preparations for the rains.

LEARN MORE: Linking Anticipatory Action and Social Protection in Fragile and Conflict-Affected Settings: The Case of Haiti.



LEARN MORE about possible entry points and other considerations for anticipatory action planning in settings of conflict and/or displacement in Welthungerhilfe's guidance document on Anticipatory Action in Complex Settings, which was developed under the Welthungerhilfe Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility (WAHAFA).

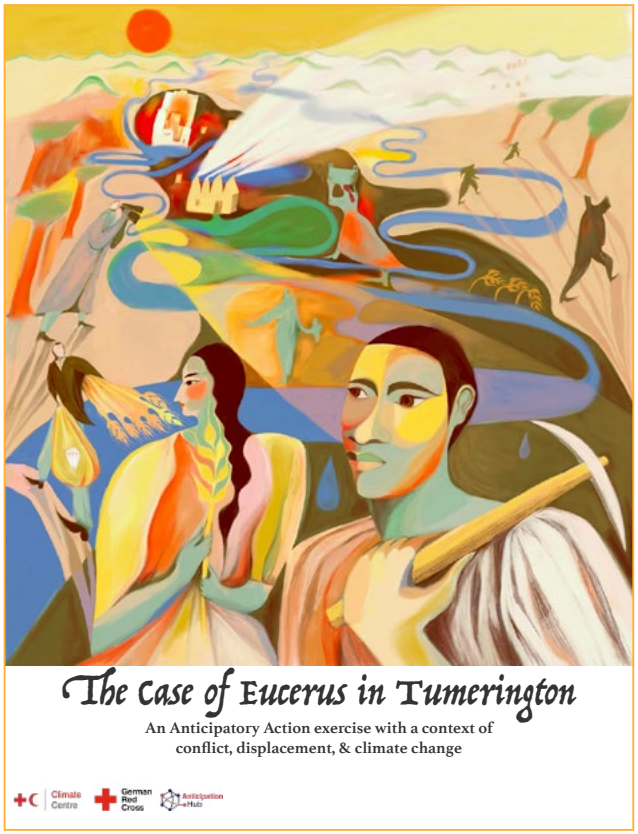
Serious Game: Tumerington exercise

The more complex a setting, the harder it becomes to select and prioritize anticipatory actions. Whose needs should be prioritized with limited funding and high levels of need? Who participates in the AA selection process when multiple stakeholders, including conflict stakeholders, are involved?

The Tumerington exercise is a **capacity-building** tool designed to sensitize AA practitioners to the complexities of **anticipatory action selection** in FCV settings. Set in the fictional country of Tumerington, participants take up different roles in a newly established AA committee for the conflict-ridden region Eucerus. Participants must navigate the interests of different stakeholders, identify the key challenges in their context, and develop a set of anticipatory actions that will be most beneficial to the region given its tensions and conflict.

The classic Tumerington exercise focuses on developing an early action plan for flooding in an area controlled by a non-state armed group. However, the scenario can easily be adapted to address other hazards, FCV settings, or different aspects of AA planning.

For example, the exercise could focus on hazards involving evacuation shelters, such as tropical cyclones. In such scenarios, particular characteristics of evacuating populations, such as gender, tribal affiliation, or religion, could be considered in relation to conflict dynamics to better understand how to increase early action uptake without inciting or escalating conflict.



TUMERINGTON SIMULATION EXERCISE

- **WHAT:** Role-playing exercise for capacity building
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, German Red Cross, Anticipation Hub
- **HOW TO USE:** Use this exercise as part of your training programme to strengthen the capacity of your team
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

Other challenges to anticipatory action planning in FCV contexts

RECIPIENT SELECTION:

- Selection is perceived as biased toward one group (e.g. clan, religious affiliation, conflict actor) in ways that incite or increase tensions.
- Recipients mistakenly include active parties to a conflict.
- Impact of FCV is not fully considered or addressed in recipient selection, such as mobility issues due to disability, language barriers caused by displacement, or ongoing mobility due to conflict.

What else could go wrong – in FCV settings and beyond? Check out the Anticipation Hub's Lessons learned page!

EARLY WARNING COMMUNICATION:

- Insufficient time or effort is dedicated to building community trust, disseminating information about anticipatory actions, or ensuring required resources, leading to low uptake of early warnings.
- Early warnings are not provided in accessible languages or formats for all populations in FCV contexts (e.g., mobile/SMS messaging fails due to limited electricity or non-functioning IT/ telecommunications).
- Trusted interlocutors for early warning messages are not considered, such as when messages are sent through government networks in contexts where the government is a conflict actor.

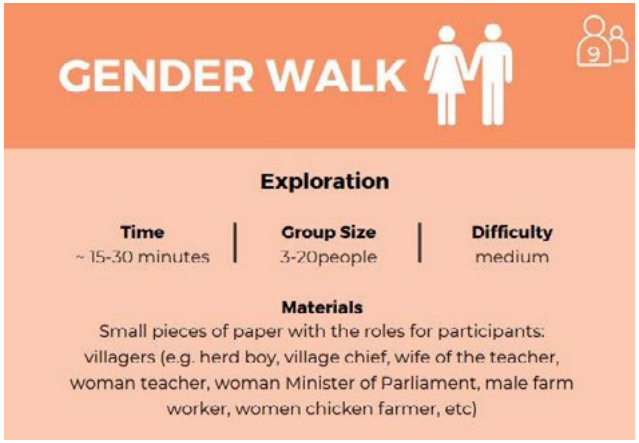
ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN PRACTICE: EXAMPLE FROM GFDRR/WORLD BANK IN YEMEN

Protracted conflict in Yemen has led to fragmentation and decreased social trust, compounded by the proliferation of early warning systems (EWS) from NGOs and community organizations for specific hazards, such as cholera outbreaks. In some cases, NGO-led EWSs have further eroded community trust in national EWS. To increase the uptake of early warnings, the World Bank and GFDRR are promoting projects in Yemen aimed at restoring social trust in early warning information.

LEARN MORE: Find this and more case studies in the Early Warning Systems in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence-Affected Settings report (2024) from GFDRR/World Bank.

Serious Game: Gender Walk

This participatory activity facilitates dialogue about the differentiated impacts of disasters on community vulnerability, focusing on dimensions of gender, age, and ability. In this FCV twist, the game also encourages individual deliberation and group discussion on the ways in which conflict dynamics further shape community members' experiences, levels of access to early warning messages and anticipatory actions, and engagement with DRR actors.



LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To reflect on how dynamics of gender, age, and ability, combined with fragility, conflict, and violence (FCV) dynamics, influence community members' access to and participation in anticipatory actions.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: AA/DRR practitioners, community members, volunteers.

 # OF PARTICIPANTS: 3–20.

GENDER WALK – FCV TWIST

- **WHAT:** Interactive role-play activity
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Use this activity to supplement capacity building, training, or outreach initiatives for AA and EWS
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Serious games package

SPOTLIGHT:

ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS IN DISPLACEMENT SETTINGS

As of mid-2024, an estimated 120 million people are displaced worldwide. Many of these populations are in hazard-prone areas in camps or cities and towns. These contexts as well as key considerations below are important to consider when developing AA in displacement settings.

Category of displacement: Whether displaced people are refugees (outside their country of origin due to persecution, generalized conflict, or other reasons), internally displaced people (IDPs) (within their country of origin), or other categories of displaced persons - affects their rights, access to assistance, and the types of AAs that can be implemented.

Freedom of movement: Many refugees and, in some cases, IDPs face legal restrictions on their right to freedom of movement, often confining them to camps or preventing legal recognition as inhabitants in urban areas. It is important to assess whether displaced people can leave the camp, if necessary, when selecting appropriate actions.

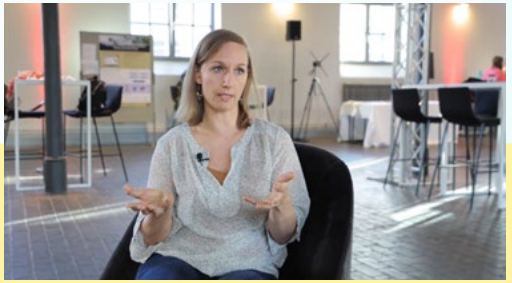
Characteristics of displaced populations: More than half of the world's refugees are women and children, with female single-headed households often comprising a large percentage of camp inhabitants. Access to livelihoods and income opportunities varies greatly, depending on the specific circumstances. Understanding these characteristics is imperative to deciding how displaced people can best be helped.

Haphazard housing/infrastructure: Lack of decent shelter and limited access to essential services are key concerns in both camps and urban informal settlements, often exacerbated by the long-term nature of displacement. Some host governments forbid the construction of durable shelters for refugees. Reinforcing shelter and infrastructure is often a valuable EA for displaced populations.

Trauma-informed AA: Trauma outcomes and symptoms can reduce the likelihood that displaced people will heed early warnings, take early action, or engage in AA. Developing trauma-informed EAs for conflict-affected populations is a critical component of extending AA to displaced populations.

IWMI's Integrated Host Community Vulnerability Framework highlights the importance of taking an area-based approach to understanding opportunities and constraints of AA for refugees and in refugee-hosting areas, emphasizing the importance of considering people, processes, and place.

TO LEARN MORE about designing AA for displaced people in camps, take a look at this working paper.



HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Anticipatory action in settings of displacement needs to account for both the physical environment in host areas and the experiences of displaced persons. Evan Easton-Calabria, Senior Researcher at Tufts University and Senior Technical Advisor at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, shares the latest research and practice on how to design and implement effective and trauma-sensitive anticipatory action in such environments.

MODULE 6:

ACTIVATION AND IMPLEMENTATION

OBJECTIVE:

Explore and account for FCV-related challenges in the activation of AA frameworks to ensure uninterrupted and safe implementation of anticipatory actions.

CONTENTS:

- Stress testing
- Activations in FCV settings
- Safety and security

Once an AA framework is triggered, the clock starts ticking, and anticipatory action implementation must proceed as quickly and smoothly as possible within the lead time.

Minimizing disruptions related to FCV requires thorough preparation, including stress testing, contingency planning, and regular updates to the data on which AAs are based, e.g. local population data.

Apart from potential disruptions to anticipatory actions, some FCV settings can also present security risks to staff and volunteers, including violence. Coordinated efforts to raise awareness and increase the acceptance of humanitarian organizations, including those involved in AA, can lower some of these security risks.

Module 6 outlines tools and practical considerations to address FCV-related limitations and challenges in activating AA frameworks, helping to ensure uninterrupted implementation and the safety of staff and volunteers.

Stress testing for AA in FCV settings

Designing an AA framework is only half the work. It is important to regularly evaluate the framework/protocol/plan through simulations or desk-based exercises. Stress testing the AA framework can help explore potential impacts from stressors and shocks in the context, such as ongoing climatic changes, population shifts, conflict, economic shocks, and other factors. Incorporating FCV scenarios into AA (and other) simulations and drills can be a valuable means to identify areas where the AA framework may need to adapt or incorporate different actors, tools, or approaches.

The main steps for stress testing an AA framework are:

1. Defining the system and scope.

2. Identifying stressors.

3. Stress testing.

4. Identifying solutions.

5. Reflection and sense-making.

STRESS TESTING FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION: IDENTIFYING RISK MULTIPLIERS

- **WHAT:** Guidance note
- **CREATED BY:** CLARE-REPRESA/Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Consult this document for step-by-step guidance on stress testing in anticipatory action, including various tools to use throughout the process, and an example application in an FCV context.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Anticipation Hub website

Activation in FCV settings

PRIOR TO THE ACTIVATION

During the anticipatory action selection and design phase, various assumptions are made, such as which local population groups are most vulnerable and what is needed to most effectively mitigate risks to them. Given the dynamic nature of FCV settings, these assumptions must be regularly reviewed and updated. The checklist ~~below~~ serves as a reminder of the most important elements to consider.

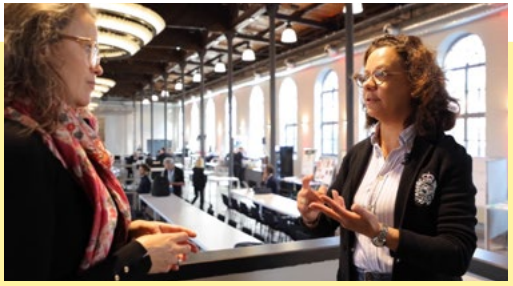
Checklist:
Ensure that you remain prepared for an activation

- Has there been any significant population movement, either from the area or into the area? If so, update population data and target group selection to ensure that the framework still covers the most vulnerable people and has sufficient supplies for all of them.
- Have there been significant shifts in local conflicts (e.g., escalation or spread into new areas) or socio-economic conditions that might lead to tensions (e.g., an economic crisis, such as during COVID)? If so, re-evaluate local needs and vulnerabilities.
- Does the successful implementation of anticipatory actions rely on the availability of essential services or telecommunication structures? Regularly assess the availability and reliability of these services and structures and identify alternatives in case of disruption.
- Do anticipatory actions require prepositioned materials? Periodically check that all materials are still available and undamaged, and stored in secure places away from active fighting or other areas of heightened insecurity.

IMPLEMENTING ANTICIPATORY ACTIONS

Some risks to the uninterrupted implementation of anticipatory actions cannot be mitigated upfront, but they can be prepared for. Using the information on various anticipatory actions from Module 5, **contingency plans** can be created for the most impactful risks.

Throughout the implementation phase, security risk management is key to keeping staff and volunteers safe.



HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

Anticipatory action in fragile, conflict-affected and violent settings often needs to balance what is needed with what is feasible. Karin Zoghby, Consultant at the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, shares insights from anticipatory action programming in the Middle East and North Africa to explore the opportunities for effective and conflict-sensitive anticipatory action in such complex conditions.

Example AA activation in FCV settings

EXAMPLE FROM THE MALIAN RED CROSS

The Malian Red Cross Early Action Protocol (EAP) for floods in the Niger River Basin was activated in September 2022 in the Mopti region of Mali. Early actions included 1) evacuation to emergency shelters, 2) protection of houses and public infrastructure with sandbags, and 3) distribution of water purification tablets, bleach, and mosquito nets. These actions supported 3,045 people during the floods and helped mitigate damage to businesses and public infrastructure. While the operation illustrated the potential to prevent the loss of human lives, homes, and critical infrastructure by scaling up anticipatory action in Mali, staff also observed that future EAPs could be improved by increasing trigger mechanism flexibility to account for conflict dynamics, conducting scenario planning, and further integrating conflict sensitivity into risk analyses.

LEARN MORE: Anticipatory action for floods in conflict-affected Mali StoryMap.

Distribution of supplies and equipment in Kaka, one of the early action activities taken as part of the September 2022 EAP activation. © Mali Red Cross

HEAR FROM THE EXPERTS:

The security of staff, volunteers and communities is paramount when operating in conflict-affected settings. Tobi Salawu, Director of Programmes at the Christian Rural and Urban Development Association of Nigeria, reflects on operational aspects of security and the related challenges when setting up an anticipatory action system with people affected by conflict in Nigeria.

Safety and security

When implementing anticipatory actions in FCV settings, the safety of staff or volunteers is paramount. The ICRC's extensive experience of working in complex and often dangerous situations is reflected in the Safer Access Framework, which provides guidance on how to minimize security risks when possible and manage residual risks when needed.

SAFER ACCESS FRAMEWORK TOOLBOX

- **WHAT:** Guidance and toolbox
- **CREATED BY:** ICRC
- **HOW TO USE:** Incorporate the different tools from the Safer Access Framework into organizational processes where appropriate to strengthen safe access and institutional capacity to manage security risks.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Safer Access Framework website

Building blocks of safe access (ICRC Safer Access Framework)		AA specific
Context and risk assessment	Clear understanding of the political, social, cultural and economic context and the inherent risks.	*Consider how contexts and associated risks may change rapidly in the lead-up to an activation or in response to an early warning, and how this might affect safety and security during the implementation of anticipatory actions.*
Legal and policy base	Sound legal and statutory instruments in line with the organization's mandate, humanitarian principles, international law and domestic legislation of the country in question.	*AA frameworks often aim to include government authorities to ensure longevity of the framework. Depending on the context, this needs to account for applicable laws and policies, and/or the role of the government in an armed conflict.*
Acceptance of the organization	High degree of acceptance as an organization operating in accordance with humanitarian principles.	*Next to safety and security, organizational acceptance is crucial to build trust in early warning messages and anticipatory action instructions communicated by the organization.*
Acceptance of the individual	Staff/volunteers are accepted by key stakeholders and communities.	*Staff/volunteers from within the community may be better placed to act with community acceptance once anticipatory actions are triggered.*
Identification	Clear and recognizable visual identity that helps identify the organization's staff/volunteers and property.	*Prepositioned materials should include vests or other clothing with clear identification, to allow staff/volunteers to be easily identifiable when guiding the implementation of anticipatory actions on short notice.*
Internal communication	Well-developed internal communication structures to enable efficient coordination within the organization.	*Contingency plans should be made for internal communication and coordination in case of an activation, to ensure valuable time is not lost due to the disruption of primary communication structures.*
External communication	Well-developed external communication structures to enhance coordination with partner organizations and other external actors.	*Clear messaging may be needed regarding the selection of target populations in the AA framework, to minimize the risk of misunderstandings or perceived bias.*
Operational security risk management	Effective operational security risk management system that reflects the organization's duty of care towards its staff/volunteers.	*Operational security risk management needs to cover both the regular framework operation (e.g. trigger monitoring, preparedness) and the action plan in case of activation.*

MODULE 7:

EVALUATION

OBJECTIVE:

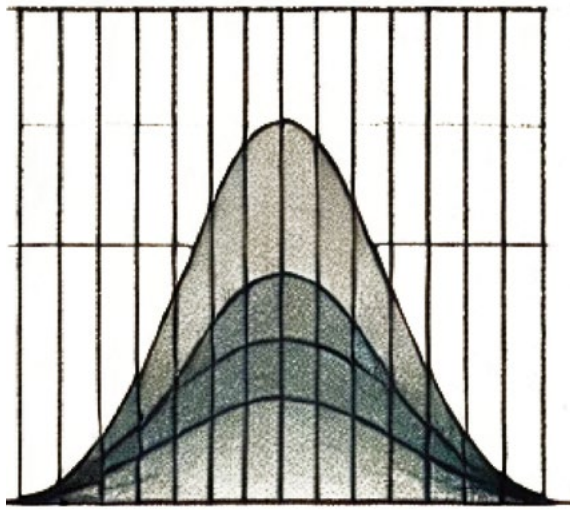
Design and conduct evaluation processes that support learning processes in FCV contexts.

CONTENTS:

- Evaluation design in FCV settings
- Practical guidance and examples from monitoring, evaluation, and learning in FCV settings
- Serious game: Madeupsville
- Further guidance on monitoring, evaluation, and learning in FCV settings

After activation of AA and implementation of actions, it is time to evaluate and learn for future activities. Monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEAL), is a core element of the AA process. However, in FCV contexts, conditions may be extra challenging. For more information on general MEAL for DRR programming in FCV contexts, refer to the 'Navigating fragility, conflict and violence to strengthen community resilience' handbook. Complementing existing guidance on MEAL for AA (e.g. WFP 2021) and the ongoing work of the Anticipation Hub MEAL working group, this module outlines some specific considerations for MEAL in FCV settings.

In complex crises, where multiple hazards and protracted conflict converge, evaluating the impact of AA programmes can be challenging. For an example, see Anticipatory Action in Complex Crises: Lessons from Ethiopia by Tufts - Feinstein International Center. The focus of this module is to help design and conduct evaluation processes that support learning and remain flexible considering dynamic FCV contexts.



Evaluation design in FCV settings

The following guidance on evaluation is based on the Red Cross Red Crescent 'Navigating FCV to strengthen community resilience' handbook.

Step	Description	Special FCV considerations
1. Assess evaluability	Determine the feasibility of the evaluation given the FCV contexts, notably recent or projected developments, and consider how its results will be taken into account to improve future programming. Does it make sense to evaluate right now?	*Clarify the availability of stakeholders and data required for meaningful evaluation and identify and address potential tensions by engaging with particular stakeholders and not others.*
2. Define purpose and scope	Agree on the purpose of the evaluation: accountability to donors, accountability to communities, support learning processes, entry points or outcomes for conflict resolution/peacebuilding, and particular consideration of how the intervention interacted with the FCV contexts (e.g. was harm unintentionally caused as a direct/ indirect result of context or failure to take context into account?). Define the scope of evaluation, e.g. the types of interventions, geographic areas, or specific population groups.	Learning processes are crucial to continuously improve AA programming in FCV settings. Ensure that this is the agreed-upon primary objective of the evaluation, with clear learning objectives related to FCV and interactions with AA process and outcome.
3. Type and timing	Type and timing of the evaluation should be aligned with the identified purpose(s). Formative evaluations are conducted throughout the project to evaluate progress so far and identify opportunities or needs for improvement. Summative evaluations assess the contribution of a project after its conclusion.	*Formative evaluations are an important element of adaptive programme management in FCV settings to ensure that programme objectives and approaches remain suitable to the current context.*
4. Evaluation criteria	There are various frameworks of evaluation criteria that can be applied here. It is important to be realistic in how many criteria can reasonably be assessed and supported by robust evidence, and it often makes sense to pick two or three criteria. Specific tools: Better Evaluation's M&E in FCV Settings, EU Capacity for Development Evaluations in Contexts of FCV, OECD-DAC evaluation criteria; Evaluating humanitarian action using the OECD-DAC criteria. An ALNAP guide for humanitarian agencies.	*In FCV contexts, the OECD suggests applying three additional criteria:* ▪ *Does the programme address the driving factors of conflict* ▪ *Have conflict and fragility dynamics been analyzed and influenced programming and implementation?* ▪ *Is programming coherent and coordinated with other actors working in the environment?*
5. Approach and methodology	Define the overall strategy and specific methods and tools for the evaluation in line with the chosen purpose, scope, and context. Ensure conflict-sensitivity throughout as relevant and include key indicators for fragility, conflict, and/or violence.	*Consider potential constraints to data availability or ability of stakeholders to engage in the evaluation process. Depending on the setting, quantitative indicators might not be feasible for all evaluation criteria.*

Practical guidance on monitoring, evaluation and learning

CONFLICT SENSITIVITY AND MONITORING & EVALUATION TOOLBOX

- **WHAT:**
  Toolbox on conflict-sensitive M&E, based on experiences from Lebanon
- **CREATED BY:**
  United Nations Development Programme
- **HOW TO USE:**
  Tools in the toolbox are intended to be used as reference point throughout the M&E process. While it was developed specifically for Lebanon, its contents are applicable to other countries too.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** UNDP website

Additional resources on monitoring, evaluation and learning in anticipatory action are available via the Anticipation Hub, including:

- World Food Programme's guidance note and toolbox on 'Monitoring and evaluation of anticipatory actions for fast and slow-onset hazards'
- Climate Centre's practical guidance on monitoring and evaluation of forecast-based financing

AA evaluation examples from FCV settings

AA IMPACT EVALUATION IN AFGHANISTAN FROM THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS (FAO)

In the process of data collection for an evaluation of anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of drought in 2021, Afghanistan witnessed a drastic change in political leadership that presented significant security and access challenges. The evaluation team noted that the change in security situation prevented the participation of women in data collection and interviews, skewing the analysis towards male perspectives.

LEARN MORE: Afghanistan: Impact of Anticipatory Action.

QUALITATIVE PROCESS EVALUATION OF AN OCHA-FACILITATED ANTICIPATORY ACTION/EARLY ACTION PILOT IN SOUTH SUDAN

How can anticipatory action be effectively implemented in complex crises, including those with high levels of displacement? A qualitative process evaluation explored the evolution of decision-making, determinants, process, and outcome of an anticipatory action pilot in advance of extreme flooding in South Sudan, including in an IDP camp.

LEARN MORE: Acting in Advance of Flooding: Early action in South Sudan; Possibilities and limitations of anticipatory action in complex crises: acting in advance of flooding in South Sudan.

UNDERSTANDING THE IMPACT OF ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN COMPLEX CRISES: EVIDENCE FROM ETHIOPIA (PILOT LED BY UNOCHA)

This study examines how anticipatory action was perceived and experienced among Ethiopians living with drought alongside other crises, including conflict. The findings from this research confirm that the biggest challenges for drought-affected people are reduced food consumption and the loss of livelihoods. The assistance received in many cases had a positive impact on quality of life. However, this impact was likely short-lived, underscoring the need for further study and discussions on effective assistance strategies for protracted or multiple crises.

LEARN MORE: Anticipatory Action in Complex Crises: Lessons from Ethiopia; Examining the role of anticipatory action in complex crises; Listening to those in crisis: understanding perspectives on anticipatory action in Ethiopia.

Serious Game: Madeupsville

This storytelling activity is designed to foster a culture of learning and collaboration through creating a safe, imaginative space where practitioners can recount their experiences from anticipatory action projects without disclosing specifics of people or places involved. Stories collected during this exercise are shared using anonymous, creative mediums to record key learnings and reflections.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

- To stimulate individual reflection and enhance group understanding of anticipatory action lessons.

INTENDED AUDIENCE: AA/DRR practitioners.

 # OF PARTICIPANTS: 3–100.

MADESUPVILLE – FCV TWIST

- **WHAT:** Collaborative storytelling activity
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Use this activity to spark deeper discussion and group learning from past experiences.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Serious games package

Guidance on monitoring, evaluation and learning in FCV settings

Programme monitoring and evaluation can serve different purposes – accountability towards donors, accountability towards affected communities, and enabling learning processes. The following resources provide further guidance on these topics in FCV settings and can be used as starting points to reflect on existing monitoring and evaluation structures.

Resource	Accountability to donors	Accountability to communities	Learning
Back to Basics: A compilation of best practices in design, monitoring & evaluation in fragile and conflict-affected environments (DFID, 2013)	○		○
Conflict-sensitive approaches to development, humanitarian assistance and peacebuilding, resource pack (Safer World, 2004)			○
Managing performance in peacebuilding: Framework for conflict-sensitive monitoring and evaluation (UNDP, 2009)			○
Principles and methodologies for strategic monitoring in fragile states (Keough School of Global Affairs, 2020)			○
Evaluation in contexts of fragility, conflict and violence (Hassnain, Kelly and Somma, eds. 2021)			○
Evaluating peacebuilding activities in settings of conflict and fragility: Improving learning for results (OECD, 2012)			○
Anticipatory Action in Complex Crises: Lessons from Ethiopia - Tufts - Feinstein International Center		○	

AA in wider disaster risk management and resilience processses in FCV settings

Anticipatory action plays an important role in reducing residual risks and minimizing further shocks to already stretched systems in FCV settings. At the same time, it is only one part of the broader disaster risk management process. Connecting AA with preparedness activities, long-term disaster risk reduction, and broader climate action and natural resource management can provide a holistic approach to both hazards and underlying drivers of vulnerabilities. This undertaking involves a wide range of stakeholders and requires the prioritization of needs, especially in FCV settings. Practical resources like the 'Navigating fragility, conflict and violence' handbook, in combination with systems-based approaches, can offer a way to unpack this complexity and ensure that efforts are collaborative, conflict-sensitive, and needs-driven.

IWMI SUPPORTS RESPONSE AND RELIEF EFFORTS FOR SUPER CYCLONE AMPHAN

In May 2020, IWMI leveraged satellite-based technology to assist authorities in India and Bangladesh as Super Cyclone Amphan, the strongest tropical cyclone to strike the Ganges Delta since 2007, threatened millions. Collaborating with Sentinel Asia and the International Disaster Charter, IWMI scientists provided government authorities with real-time satellite maps forecasting the cyclone's trajectory and landfall location, enabling the evacuation of millions.

LEARN MORE: Using maps to save lives when a super cyclone strikes

CGIAR'S EARLY WARNING, EARLY ACTION, EARLY FINANCE (AWARE) PLATFORM

The AWARE platform disseminates information on climate, market, health, nutrition, and population displacement to promote coordination and collaboration among government agencies, humanitarian organizations, and funders at local-to-national scales. AWARE additionally includes forecasts and monitoring indicators, information on the types of anticipatory actions that can be taken to reduce hazard impacts, and a finance module to analyze and assess resources needed to implement anticipatory actions. The project strives to equip stakeholders on the ground with tools to translate early warning into early action and promote "governance for resilience". It is structured around three core elements of anticipatory action, which can be used to connect broader disaster risk management to AA: early warning, early action, and early finance.

ANNEXES

CONTENTS:

- Practical resources on anticipatory action
- Resources and further reading on programming in FCV settings
- Serious games inventory for AA in FCV settings

Practical resources on anticipatory action

If you are new to AA and want to learn more about the overall concept, consult the following resources by the Anticipation Hub and its members:

- A short overview of anticipatory action
- Learning modules on anticipatory action
- IFRC online curriculum on anticipatory action

For practical guidance on AA, consult:

- Forecast-based Financing (FbF) Practitioners Manual: A step-by-step guide through the design and implementation of anticipatory action by German Red Cross, IFRC, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. It primarily targets National Societies but is useful to anyone working on AA.
- OCHA Anticipatory Action toolkit: Practical guidance to field staff on how to build, activate, and evaluate an AA framework by UN OCHA. Next to tools and resources, it showcases examples of prior activations around the world.

Resources and further reading on programming in FCV settings

The following practical resources should be used alongside this toolkit for foundational guidance on AA and FCV settings:

- Anticipation Hub learning module for Anticipatory Action in complex settings
- 'Navigating FCV to strengthen community resilience' handbook: A handbook for disaster risk reduction practitioners working in FCV settings by the German Red Cross, IFRC, ICRC, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. It centres on questions of community engagement, multi-risk environments, and resilience strengthening.
- 'Early warning systems and early action in FCV contexts' handbook: A handbook on early warning systems in FCV settings by the UNDRR/WMO Centre of Excellence for Climate and Disaster Resilience that addresses FCV considerations along the four pillars of the Early Warning for All initiative.

Additional background on AA in FCV settings is available for further reading in:

- Anticipation Hub 2025. Anticipatory action in and for conflict-affected settings
- Jaime, C. and Wagner, M. 2020. An Agenda for Expanding Forecast-Based Action to Situations of Conflict
- World Bank/GFDRR 2024. Early Warning Systems in Fragility, Conflict, and Violence-affected Settings: Shielding Communities from Natural Hazards Amid Compounded Crises
- Welthungerhilfe 2025. Anticipatory Action (AA) in Complex Settings: WAHAFA Guidelines on Navigating AA, Conflict and Displacement
- Jaime, C. 2024. Analytical Paper to guide the development of Operational Procedures on CREWS Programming in FCV settings
- Fearnley, C.F.; Kelman, I. 2025. *Creating Effective Warnings for All: Multiple perspectives on the state of the art.* London, Ubiquity Press. (*forthcoming*)

Of particular interest are Chapter 14 on methods to address compound, cascading, and unprecedented risks and Chapter 16 on accessible early warnings and early action in fragile contexts.

Serious games inventory for AA in FCV settings

'Serious games' are games played for objectives beyond entertainment, often for educational or advocacy purposes. As a method, serious games can uniquely enhance **capacity building**, **training**, and **stakeholder engagement** through experiential learning. Serious games can be a highly effective tool, but in settings experiencing especially high levels of tension, games may be inappropriate or even counterproductive. **Ensure you assess whether serious gaming is a suitable approach in your context.**

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has developed an extensive library of tried-and-tested 'serious games' to accelerate education and dialogue on climate risk, disaster resilience, and anticipatory action over the past decade. This serious game package includes facilitation instructions and guidance for **five interactive serious game activities** that practitioners can use to spark insights and conversations about AA in FCV settings.

Game	Facilitation Skill Level	Corresponding Toolkit Module & Key Learnings
Adaptation Labyrinth	● ● ○ ○ ○	**Module 1: Feasibility** Introduces common obstacles to the feasibility of AA in FCV settings and explores the importance of adaptive management and collaboration.
Farming Juggle	● ○ ○ ○ ○	**Module 3: Multi-hazard risk analysis** Illustrates the concepts of compounding stressors and the challenges of multi-risk settings.
Gender Walk	● ● ● ○ ○	**Module 5: Anticipatory action planning** Prompts reflection on the ways in which conflict dynamics impact affected populations' access to and participation in AAs, with particular consideration to gender, age and ability.
Tumerington Exercise	● ● ● ○ ○	**Module 5: Anticipatory action planning** Fosters creative thinking through role play around the nuances of anticipatory action selection in FCV settings.
Madeupsville	● ● ○ ○ ○	**Module 7: Evaluation** Facilitates collaborative dialogue and reflection about lessons learned from anticipatory action.

SERIOUS GAMES INVENTORY AND FACILITATION GUIDANCE PACKAGE

- **WHAT:** Five serious games and facilitation guidelines
- **CREATED BY:** Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre
- **HOW TO USE:** Integrate these experiential activities into training and outreach programmes to support capacity building and engagement.
- **WHERE TO ACCESS:** Serious games package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