ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR DISPLACEMENT AT DRC
ANNUAL REVIEW 2025: PROGRESS, LEARNING AND PRACTICE

DRC DANISH REFUGEE COUNCIL

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FOREWORD

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Anticipatory action has gained considerable traction across the humanitarian system in recent years, particularly in relation to climate-related hazards. Yet anticipatory approaches that explicitly address displacement and especially conflict-driven displacement remain underdeveloped. This gap is becoming increasingly consequential at a time of rising humanitarian needs, constrained resources, and growing expectations that the system move earlier, faster and more preventively.

The past year has been marked by deepening funding constraints, reflecting wider shifts in the humanitarian and development architecture, articulated through the Humanitarian Reset and UN80 agendas. As a result, these shifts are accelerating demand for prevention, data-driven decision-making, locally led responses and greater cost-efficiency. In the current climate, displacement forecasting, community-based early warning and anticipatory action have become increasingly relevant, creating a clear opportunity to bring anticipatory approaches for displacement into the mainstream of humanitarian practice. If displacement is predictable, there is no reason it should sit outside the scope of anticipatory action particularly in conflict-driven crises where its impacts are most severe.

Since 2021, the Danish Refugee Council (DRC) has been a global leader in applying forecast-based, proactive interventions in displacement settings, linking AI-powered displacement early warning models with timely, community-led action. DRC's anticipatory action portfolio currently spans 15 countries, deploying anticipatory action as an impactful and dignified approach across the displacement risk cycle from mitigating primary forced displacement and preventing secondary displacement, to enabling faster progress towards durable solutions. This work is grounded in an understanding of the multi-dimensional drivers of displacement, including both climate- and conflict-induced displacement, as well as the impacts of predictable shocks on populations already affected by displacement.

At the strategic level, DRC has produced Global Displacement Forecast reports annually since 2021 using the Foresight model. These forecasts provide a forward-looking view of cumulative forced displacement one to three years ahead, supporting organisational planning, scenario-building, and policy engagement at both global and country levels.

Building on the analytical foundations and organisational learning generated through Foresight, DRC has subsequently developed a suite of predictive tools tailored to operational decision-making. These tools deliver displacement forecasts with shorter lead times and greater geographic granularity, enabling anticipatory action closer to where risks materialise. This includes the **Pastoralist Insecurity (SPIN)** model that forecasts risk levels in pastoralist communities, particularly in the Sahel, by analysing historical security incidents to predict future alerts and map safer corridors for pastoralists. The **Slow-Onset Drought-Related Displacement (SODRD)** model examines interdependencies between rainfall, livestock, land use, and socio-economic conditions to forecast drought-related displacement among pastoralist populations in Ethiopia and Somalia. In partnership with IOM, DRC has also expanded towards multi-hazard displacement forecasting, piloted through the joint **Somalia Movement Projections Dashboard**, which provides projections for conflict-, drought-, and flood-induced displacement.

To advance predictive capacity specifically for conflict-induced displacement, DRC developed the **Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD)** model, which forecasts displacement at sub-national level (admin 1 and 2) three to four months in advance to support anticipatory action planning and implementation. The AHEAD model was first piloted in the Sahel and East Africa bringing predictive analysis closer to operational decision-making in fragile contexts. AHEAD focuses on forecasting conflict-induced displacement at sub-national level approximately three to four months in advance, enabling teams to trigger earlier, more cost-effective anticipatory action.

With support from the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AHEAD has since expanded beyond the initial Burkina Faso and South Sudan pilot to Niger, Mali, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar.

Under the global AHEAD project, DRC is now linking these forecasts to the development of conflict-relevant anticipatory action frameworks that are nationally grounded, inclusive, and shaped by multiple stakeholders in Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar.

As this Annual Review demonstrates, our work prioritises learning, advocacy, and sector-wide engagement to advance anticipatory action, particularly anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement, as a recognised and scalable approach that shapes humanitarian response while increasingly informing development and policy decision-making.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In 2025, DRC's work on anticipatory action for displacement focused on consolidation, learning and system-level positioning, at a moment when humanitarian needs continued to rise while resources became increasingly constrained. Against the backdrop of deepening conflict, fragility and funding pressure, 2025 was deliberately used as a bridging year: one that translated early operational experimentation into stronger evidence, clearer analytical frameworks and a more coherent approach to enable concerted action at scale from 2026 onwards.

Across fragile and climate-vulnerable contexts, DRC applies anticipatory action to reduce the humanitarian impacts of predictable shocks by linking displacement-centric early warning to timely, community-led action. In Somalia, DRC co-developed flood anticipatory action plans for internally displaced populations, combining forecast dissemination with support for safe evacuation and freedom of movement, the provision of rain kits and boats, and unconditional cash transfers to enable households to secure shelter and essential items ahead of flooding. In Venezuela, DRC strengthened hazard-based early warning and anticipatory action systems through hydrometeorological monitoring, climate data analysis, and collaboration with civil protection authorities, while supporting communities to develop anticipatory action plans with clear indicators, triggers, and preparedness measures.

Complementing these approaches, the Karamoja Strong Project in Kenya and Uganda integrated drought early warning with climate-smart livelihoods, water and livestock management, and peacebuilding efforts, demonstrating how anticipatory action can be embedded within broader resilience-building and conflict-sensitive programming.

Rather than launching new interventions in 2025, DRC concentrated on strengthening the foundations of anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement. Early pilots implemented in South Sudan and Burkina Faso in 2024 were analysed, validated, and positioned as proofs of concept, generating concrete learning on what it takes to apply anticipatory action in highly volatile, conflict-affected settings. These experiences demonstrated that, when predictive analysis is combined with community insight and carefully sequenced programming, anticipatory action can reduce harm, improve preparedness, and generate cost efficiencies. While results remain context-specific, they provide credible evidence that anticipatory action for displacement is both feasible and impactful beyond climate-related hazards.

At the analytical level, 2025 marked a step change in DRC's evidence base for anticipatory action. Through expanded forecasting coverage and the completion of the **Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) under the**

AHEAD project, DRC sharpened its understanding of where, when, and how anticipatory action can be responsibly applied in constrained environments. The AHEAD ICA reinforced that forecasting alone is insufficient: effective anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement requires conflict sensitivity, protection-first approaches, community engagement, and a clear assessment of access, governance, and operational feasibility. This analysis now provides the backbone for more targeted, realistic, and scalable anticipatory action design.

In parallel, DRC used 2025 to shape the global anticipatory action agenda, ensuring that displacement and conflict were more deliberately integrated into a field still largely oriented around climate-related hazards. Through leadership roles at the Global Dialogue Platform, regional dialogue platforms and the launch of the IOM–DRC Global Working Group on Anticipatory Action for Displacement, DRC helped advance shared learning, coordination and advocacy across the sector.

For DRC 2025 represents a pivotal transition point in anticipatory action for displacement. It consolidated early operational experience, strengthened the analytical and ethical underpinnings of the approach, and positioned anticipatory action not as a standalone innovation, but as a system-level response to rising displacement risks in fragile settings.

Building on this groundwork, 2026 will mark a shift from preparation to delivery. Anticipatory action mechanisms are expected to go live, triggers to activate, and embedded monitoring, evaluation and learning systems to generate real-time evidence on what works, for whom, and under what conditions. This next phase will test not only the technical robustness of forecasts and triggers, but also the operational, ethical and financial viability of anticipatory action at scale in conflict-affected displacement contexts.

At the same time, DRC will deepen system-level engagement, using new evidence to influence policy, financing and practice. This includes operationalising the Global Anticipatory Action Pooled Fund, advancing research and operational partnerships, including with diaspora organisations and positioning anticipatory action for displacement within high-level global fora and strategic dialogues, including engagement with multilateral development actors.

Through this progression, DRC is moving beyond isolated pilots toward a more predictable, principled and scalable approach to anticipatory action for displacement, one grounded in evidence, shaped by communities, and embedded within the wider humanitarian and development system.

IN FOCUS: ANTICIPATORY ACTION FOR CONFLICT-INDUCED DISPLACEMENT (AHEAD)

The Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) project is DRC's flagship initiative to advance anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement.

AHEAD was developed to address a critical gap in the humanitarian system: while anticipatory action has expanded rapidly for climate-related hazards, approaches that anticipate displacement in fragile and conflict-affected settings remain limited. Building on earlier work in the Sahel, AHEAD focuses on anticipating where, when and how displacement is likely to occur and translating that insight into earlier, more effective humanitarian action.

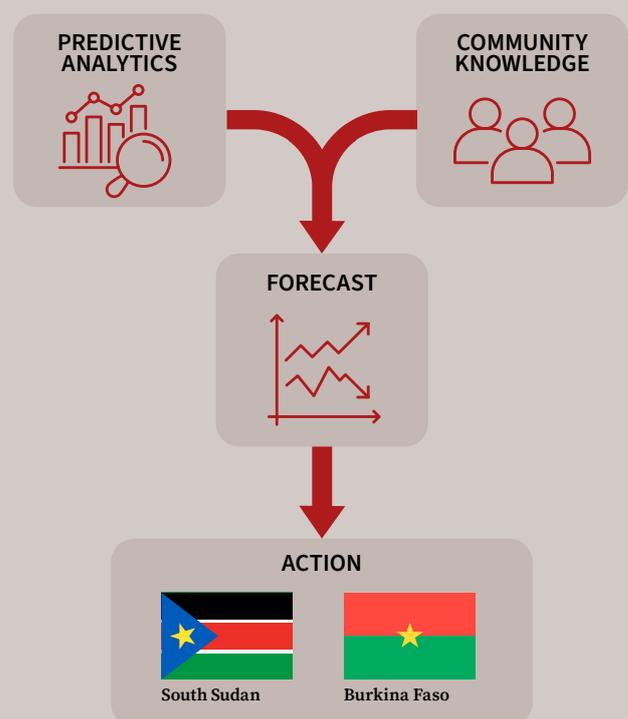Supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, AHEAD operates across **Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethio-pia, South Sudan, Uganda, Yemen and Myanmar**. At the core of AHEAD is a sub-national displacement forecasting model developed by DRC, designed to project the number of internally displaced people three to four months into the future at administrative level 1 and 2. This time horizon is intentionally aligned with operational decision-making, allowing humanitarian actors to anticipate where displacement is most likely to occur and to implement responses that are more timely, targeted and cost-effective.

To support operational uptake, AHEAD model outputs are made available through an interactive dashboard and are published on the Humanitarian Data Exchange. This makes forecasts more accessible to humanitarian actors for coordination, prioritisation and planning.

FROM PREDICTIVE ANALYSIS TO ACTION

AHEAD is the displacement forecasting model. It's the technical engine. It uses historical data and indicators to estimate how many people are likely to be displaced, and where, at admin-2 level, across multiple countries. Although often referred to as a single model, it is actually adapted for each country and operates as separate, country-specific models.

Forecasts are the outputs of the model. Every time AHEAD is run for a country and time period, it produces a set of forecasts, e.g. X people likely displaced in location Y over period Z. These forecasts inform our selected areas of intervention for programming under AHEAD.

PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS

COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

FORECAST

ACTION

South Sudan

Burkina Faso

WHAT IS AHEAD?

AHEAD was developed to address a critical gap in the humanitarian system: while anticipatory action has expanded rapidly for climate-related hazards, approaches that anticipate displacement in fragile and conflict-affected settings remain limited.

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COMBINING PREDICTIVE ANALYTICS WITH COMMUNITY KNOWLEDGE

Anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement is inherently sensitive and cannot rely on technical indicators alone. Unlike climate hazards, conflict dynamics are shaped by human behaviour, local tensions and rapidly shifting power relations, factors that communities themselves are often best placed to detect early. DRC's approach therefore combines sub-national predictive analysis with community-generated, rights-informed data to ensure anticipatory action is both protection-sensitive and contextually grounded.

By working at district level and engaging sub-national authorities and community actors, early warning signs of displacement risk can be identified alongside locally defined safeguards, enabling anticipatory interventions that reflect local dynamics, reduce harm and exclusion, and strengthen national and local systems before displacement, economic loss or protection risks materialise.

EARLY RESULTS FROM SOUTH SUDAN AND BURKINA FASO

Across the humanitarian system, the focus of anticipatory action has shifted from whether it works to how it can be embedded, financed and scaled in complex operating environments.

For DRC, this shift has been shaped by two conflict-related anticipatory action pilots, implemented in South Sudan and Burkina Faso in 2024, testing how predictive displacement modelling can be combined with community-led monitoring to enable earlier, more impactful responses.

SOUTH SUDAN (AKOBO, JONGLEI STATE)

In Akobo County, anticipatory action was triggered by predictive modelling and community protection indicators signalling heightened risk of inter-communal violence between the Lou Nuer and Murle communities. Preventive actions focused on activating community peace committees, dialogue facilitation and information-sharing. Evaluation findings indicate reduced tensions, fewer violent incidents and the return of abducted children during the peak risk period in mid-2024.

A return-on-investment analysis found that the intervention likely prevented displacement of at least 2,800 people, with a plausible upper estimate of up to 7,000. Using the most conservative estimate, €6.6 was saved for every euro invested, avoiding displacement response costs that would otherwise have exceeded €250,000.

BURKINA FASO (BOUCLE DU MOUHOUN)

In Burkina Faso, anticipatory action focused on host community response rather than displacement prevention. When conflict-related alerts were triggered in August 2024, DRC worked with community-based Alert Committees to support host-community sensitisation, contingency planning, identification of reception areas and pre-positioning of assistance.

Although registration requirements delayed individual assistance, the pilot still enabled DRC to act more than one month earlier than the average humanitarian response. Household-level comparisons showed improvements between baseline and endline surveys, indicating positive outcomes despite severe access and security constraints.

STRENGTHENING THE FOUNDATIONS:
DEEPENING SUB-DISTRICT ANALYSIS THROUGH THE INTEGRATED CONTEXT ANALYSIS

In 2025, the Integrated Context Analysis (ICA) was the central analytical investment underpinning AHEAD's work. The analysis was carried out in selected locations within the seven AHEAD countries: **Burkina Faso, Niger, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar**. It combined extensive field-based qualitative research with sub-district-level perspectives to deepen understanding of how conflict dynamics, displacement patterns, humanitarian access, and early warning systems interact across diverse contexts.

Working closely with local communities, authorities, and civil society actors across seven countries, the ICA captured granular insights that are rarely reflected in global forecasting or early warning systems. This included community-defined signals of escalation, patterns of cyclical displacement, informal early warning practices and the realities of operating in hard-to-reach and contested areas.

By anchoring the model in lived experience and locally observed dynamics, the ICA strengthens the accuracy, credibility, and relevance of anticipatory analysis and anticipatory action planning. It ensures that future forecasts and anticipatory action are informed not only by data, but by how risk is actually perceived, anticipated and managed on the ground paving the way for more contextually grounded humanitarian responses.

* Burkina Faso: Dédougou and Toma, Boucle du Mouhoun region; Niger: Téra and Torodi, Tillabéri region; Ethiopia: Liban Zone of Somali region; South Sudan: Akobo and Pibor, Jonglei State; Uganda: Imvepi and Rhino camps of West Nile region; Yemen: Alkhawkhah, Hays, Mawza and Tuban spanning multiple governorates; Myanmar: Momauk (NGCA) and Waingmaw (GCA) townships, Kachin state

THE ICA

is used to inform the design of the programming under AHEAD. The ICA focuses on areas that help us understand which activities to design, for whom, and what the displacement dynamics and triggers are. These insights in turn inform the design of Anticipatory Action Plans (AAP), encapsulating all of this valuable data.

WHAT IS BEING REFINED?

Throughout 2025 we worked on refining the model, which practically means improving the model's structure, data inputs, assumptions, and validation so that future forecasts are more accurate and useful.

INSIGHTS ON PREDICTABILITY

Monthly forecast snapshots produced through the AHEAD model showed that displacement risk is often preceded by consistent signals: changes in conflict intensity, deteriorating food security, climatic stressors, restricted movement and community-reported protection concerns. While uncertainty remains inherent particularly in highly volatile contexts, these indicators provided sufficient lead time to inform preparedness and early action when combined and interpreted together.

OVERVIEW OF KEY FINDINGS FROM THE ICA

KEY CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT DYNAMICS

Drawing on consultations in **selected sub-national locations and local communities across the seven countries**, the ICA found that displacement, **within the districts** it surveyed, is driven by recurring, context-specific patterns of violence rather than isolated shocks.

- **Sahel (Burkina Faso and Niger)**: Expansion of non-state armed groups, proliferation of community defence groups and retreat of state authority have produced fragmented territorial control and reshaped how communities manage safety, mobility and access to resources.

- **Ethiopia and South Sudan:** Cyclical intercommunal and political violence, often linked to cattle raiding, revenge attacks and seasonal migration, continues to drive displacement, compounded by competition over land and water and climate stress.

- **Yemen and Myanmar:** Prolonged political crises and state fragmentation, marked by overlapping authorities and contested control, have resulted in restricted humanitarian access, large-scale displacement and heightened civilian exposure to violence.

CROSS-CUTTING FINDINGS

Despite differences in conflict drivers, the consequences across contexts are strikingly similar.

- **Community-based systems are central:** Local structures, including peace committees, elders' councils, religious networks and community watch mechanisms, play a critical role in protection, information-sharing and early warning in the absence of functioning state institutions.

- **Humanitarian access is persistently constrained:** Across all settings, insecurity, blockades, movement restrictions and politicised permissions limit reach, reinforcing the need for anticipatory approaches that can operate through trusted local networks.

WHY THIS MATTERS FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION

The ICA shows that displacement risk is shaped by interacting conflict, governance and access dynamics that are often predictable, even in highly volatile environments. While forecasting provides early signals, it is insufficient on its own.

Effective anticipatory action for displacement must be conflict-sensitive, locally anchored and operationally feasible. This requires integrating sub-national displacement analysis with contextual understanding of conflict dynamics and the insights of local actors, particularly where formal humanitarian coordination is constrained.

By grounding anticipatory action in this contextual evidence, the ICA has strengthened the relevance of forecasting outputs and sharpened DRC's understanding of where, when and how early action can be operationalised in a conflict-sensitive and contextually appropriate way.

METHODOLOGY:
ENGAGING COMMUNITIES ACROSS SEVEN CONFLICT-AFFECTED CONTEXTS

Between April and June 2025, qualitative data were collected across the seven countries under the AHEAD project through key informant interviews (KIIs) and focus group discussions (FGDs).

The primary objective was to generate contextual evidence to inform the design of AHEAD anticipatory action pilots and strengthen broader learning on anticipatory action in conflict settings.

Data collection was led by DRC field teams, using tools that were contextualised and conducted in local languages, ensuring accessibility, accuracy and meaningful community participation.

Interviews and discussions were documented in real time and analysed thematically, focusing on con-flict dynamics; displacement impacts and emerging needs; conflict trends and projections; humanitarian access and hard-to-reach (H2R) dynamics; diaspora influence; community-based early warning systems; and the current state of anticipatory action. These themes directly informed the structure of the analysis presented in this report.

The ICA produced an extensive dataset derived from a total of 73 focus group discussions (FGD) and 184 key informant interviews (KII) conducted across the seven diverse fragile and conflict-affected contexts. It constitutes, to date, the largest dataset on community-level conflict and displacement early warning and anticipatory action patterns, providing valuable insights into upcoming anticipatory action mechanism design processes.

IN FOCUS:
STRENGTHENING CONFLICT-SENSITIVE AND DISPLACEMENT-AWARE ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN THE GREATER HORN OF AFRICA

DRC works with the World Food Programme (WFP), the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), and the IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (IGAD/ICPAC) on the project "Greater Horn of Africa – Scaling coordinated, multi-hazard and conflict-sensitive Anticipatory Action for improved disaster preparedness and humanitarian response." The project aims to strengthen coordination and coherence of anticipatory action (AA) across regional, national, and sub-national levels, ensuring that AA frameworks are multi-hazard and fit for fragile and displacement-affected contexts.

Within this collaboration, DRC brings a strong focus on displacement analysis, protection principles, and conflict sensitivity, supporting their integration into anticipatory action frameworks in ways that are operationally feasible in contexts characterised by insecurity, population mobility, and governance constraints. This contributes to shared learning and alignment among regional institutions, governments, and peer AA actors.

In 2025, DRC worked with FAO to advance protection- and conflict-sensitive anticipatory action through the development of a dedicated guidance note. The guid-

ance provides practical, field-oriented safeguards to support the safe and ethical application of AA in fragile and conflict-affected settings. Grounded in Core Protection Standards, it promotes a rights-based and inclusive approach, with particular attention to sex, age, disability, and displacement status, alongside safeguards for the ethical use of data. It recognises the need for anticipatory action to remain adaptive in volatile environments, accounting for shifting authorities, changing access, and evolving feasible geographies, while reinforcing Do No Harm as a foundational principle and highlighting opportunities for positive contributions to social cohesion and conflict risk reduction where conditions allow.

In parallel, DRC supported the development of government-led anticipatory action roadmaps in Somalia, Uganda, and South Sudan. Through this engagement, displacement-aware, conflict- and protection-sensitive considerations were integrated into national AA frameworks, strengthening linkages with disaster risk management, early warning, and social protection systems. Together, these efforts contribute to regional and national processes to strengthen anticipatory action practice in complex crisis settings, in collaboration with regional bodies and peer actors.

FROM PRACTICE TO INFLUENCE:
ADVANCING ANTICIPATORY ACTION IN 2025

FROM CLIMATE-CENTRIC ANTICIPATION TO CONFLICT AND DISPLACEMENT

In 2025, DRC significantly strengthened its role as a convenor, contributor and agenda-setter within the global anticipatory action ecosystem, with a clear emphasis on conflict, displacement and protection-sensitive anticipation. Across global, regional and thematic platforms, DRC consistently brought evidence, methods and operational experience from displacement contexts into spaces where anticipatory action has historically been framed primarily around climate-related hazards.

WHERE DRC ENGAGED.

Throughout the year, DRC was present across three complementary layers of the anticipatory action ecosystem:

1. GLOBAL AGENDA-SETTING SPACES

DRC played a visible role at Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week (HNPW) and joined the organising team of the Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (10th anniversary edition). In these forums, DRC helped shape discussions on:

- Anticipatory action for displacement (not only climate shocks)
- Conflict- and protection-sensitive trigger design
- Ethical risks, including the trade-offs between action and inaction
- Extending anticipatory action beyond hydrometeorological hazards

DRC also co-convened, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) and the German Red Cross, a dedicated post-Global Dialogue Platform for Anticipatory Action workshop on anticipatory action for displacement, bringing together over 40 stakeholders from 20+ organisations to advance joint priorities for 2026 and beyond.

2. REGIONAL DIALOGUE AND INFLUENCE

DRC deepened its regional engagement through leadership roles in:

- The Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (APDP) in Yogyakarta
- The first-ever West and Central Africa Regional Dialogue Platform in Dakar

In the Asia-Pacific, DRC deliberately positioned conflict-induced displacement within a climate-dominated agenda. Here we led Dialogue Platform sessions on trigger approaches in conflict settings and the operational and ethical implications of anticipating violence. These engagements opened concrete pathways for collaboration with partners such as the German and Finnish Red Cross societies and generated interest from regional institutions, including the ASEAN AHA Centre.

In West and Central Africa, DRC used the inaugural regional platform to showcase its conflict-sensitive expertise, strengthen partnerships with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), and to raise visibility of its global anticipatory action portfolio among donors and regional institutions.

3. COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE AND CAPACITY BUILDING

A major milestone in 2025 was the launch of the IOM–DRC Global Working Group on Anticipatory Action for Displacement, now bringing together 100+ organisations to address fragmentation in tools, data and guidance. The Working Group has become a central space for harmonisation, joint advocacy and evidence development.

In parallel, DRC invested in broadening participation beyond traditional humanitarian actors, notably through the AHEAD Learning Series hosted by Diaspora Emergency Action & Coordination (DEMAC) in Nairobi. This initiative strengthened the capacity of diaspora organisations and their local partners to engage in anticipatory action, recognising their role as early responders, information brokers and community connectors.

Alongside coordination and learning, DRC also used 2025 to advance discussions on financing models capable of supporting anticipatory action for displacement. This included the establishment of the Global Anticipatory Action Pooled Fund under AHEAD, intended to provide more predictable and flexible financing aligned with displacement forecasting, triggers and early action in conflict-affected contexts.

WHAT DRC PUBLISHED AND CONTRIBUTED

Across 2025, DRC's written outputs and knowledge contributions consistently reinforced this positioning. These included:

- Lessons Learned report on anticipating displacement in South Sudan and Burkina Faso
- Assessment report on AA activation in South Sudan
- A scientific journal article on modelling displacement for anticipatory action
- The Global Displacement Forecast Report 2025
- Blogs and think-pieces hosted through the Anticipation Hub, including work on operational options for anticipatory action in displacement contexts

Together, these publications anchored DRC's advocacy in evidence from practice, rather than conceptual argument alone.

2025 Q4 HIGHLIGHTS

At the 8th Asia-Pacific Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (4–6 November 2025, Yogyakarta, Indonesia), DRC engaged to advance anticipatory action approaches tailored to conflict and displacement settings, beyond climate-only hazards.

DRC led discussions on conflict-sensitive triggers and forecasting, while exploring collaboration with Red Cross partners and ASEAN on adapting the AHEAD methodology in contexts such as Myanmar and the Philippines.

The engagement highlighted a clear regional capacity gap, reinforcing DRC's role in shaping next-generation anticipatory action frameworks for conflict and displacement in Asia-Pacific.

WEST & CENTRAL AFRICA DIALOGUE PLATFORM

Photo caption: Participants of the 1st West and Central Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action, organized in Dakar (Senegal), 28-30 October 2025.

At the 1st Regional Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action for West and Central Africa (28–30 October 2025, Dakar, Senegal), DRC engaged to strengthen its role in anticipatory action across a region facing rapidly escalating risk.

DRC co-led expert discussions with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and the World Food Programme (WFP), reinforcing partnerships with key technical and operational agencies while showcasing its conflict-sensitive approach.

The participation boosted visibility of DRC's global anticipatory action portfolio and opened pathways for deeper collaboration with donors, regional institutions, and peer organisations.

AHEAD LEARNING SERIES:
BUILDING DIASPORA CAPACITY FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION

IN NOVEMBER 2025 IN NAIROBI, THE DIASPORA EMERGENCY ACTION & COORDINATION
(DEMAC) global initiative hosted by DRC, as part of the AHEAD project, hosted the AHEAD Learning Series, convening diaspora organisations and their local partners for a two-and-a-half-day workshop on strengthening anticipatory humanitarian action.

The Learning Series positioned diaspora actors as critical first responders and addressed barriers to accessing forecasting tools, anticipatory action frameworks, and flexible financing through practical, skills-focused engagement.

Through expert sessions, peer exchange and hands-on exercises, the initiative strengthened diaspora-led early action and reinforced a shift toward proactive, community-driven responses to displacement risks.

Photo caption: Participants and Facilitators of the 1st AHEAD Learning Series, organized by DEMAC in Nairobi (Kenya), 27-29 October 2025.

At the Global Dialogue Platform for Anticipatory Action in Berlin (10th anniversary edition), DRC joined the organising team, alongside FAO, WFP, United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), Start Network and others, under the Anticipation Hub with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.

Beyond its organising role, DRC led sessions on anticipatory action for displacement and last-mile delivery, and contributed to discussions on conflict- and protection-sensitive anticipatory action, diaspora engagement, and non-hydromet hazards.

The platform provided a key forum for DRC to advocate for extending the benefits of anticipatory action to displacement-affected and conflict-impacted communities.

Following the GDP, DRC together with IOM and German Red Cross organized a workshop specifically on AA for displacement hosted by the Anticipation Hub. The objective of the workshop was to catalyze collaboration and continue progress on key joint deliverables to accelerate our work in 2026 and beyond. The workshop marked the first full-day meeting since the establishment of the Working Group in April 2025 and builds on previous exchanges both within the Working Group and in two Workshops on Anticipating the Humanitarian Impacts of Displacement hosted by DRC, IOM, German Red Cross, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)

and FAO under the umbrella of the Anticipation Hub in 2023 and 2024 respectively. Bringing together +40 stakeholders from +20 organizations, the workshop focused specifically on 1) Anticipatory action for already displaced populations ahead of climate-related hazards, and 2) Anticipatory action, in anticipation of displacement and its impacts to mitigate rates and length of displacement, and key humanitarian impacts.