

Scaling Coordinated Multi-Hazard & Conflict-Sensitive Anticipatory Action in the Greater Horn of Africa

PROJECT BRIEF

Donor	Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (DG ECHO)
Partners	Danish Refugee Council (DRC), Intergovernmental Authority on Development Climate Prediction and Applications Center (ICPAC), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), Food & Agriculture Organisation (FAO), and World Food Programme (WFP).
Countries	IGAD region, with Ethiopia & Somalia as focus countries for national level Anticipatory Action activities.
Amount & Duration	4 million EURO over 2 years (2024-2026) from DG ECHO. 2.7 million EURO co-financing.

OVERVIEW

The compounding impacts of natural hazards (droughts and floods) and conflict in the Greater Horn of Africa have exacerbated the scale of the humanitarian crises in the region. This exemplifies the need for taking a comprehensive approach to disaster preparedness, and proactively reducing risks before they turn into crises. This multi-partner project is designed to have a holistic, regional, harmonised, multi-hazard, and conflict-sensitive approach to Anticipatory Action, to protect the most vulnerable from the often compounding impacts of climate change, conflict, and related displacement. The five Result Areas of the project (see below) take on a multi-hazard approach that is quintessential to ensure that prevailing and future risks, which are shifting and compounding over time, are adequately identified, prioritised and proactively mitigated based on early warning information.

Given the prevalence of cross-boundary hazards in the Greater Horn of Africa, the project emphasises regional coordination and analysis, coupled with national level application of a harmonized Anticipatory Action approach. The inherent multi-hazard approach aims to address the dynamic nature of climate-, conflict- and displacement-related risks. The project directly contributes to the [IGAD Roadmap for Anticipatory Action](#) and supports harmonisation and coordination of Anticipatory Action at regional and national levels through the [Regional Technical Working Group](#).

PROJECT RESULTS

- **Result 1:** Coordinated regional approaches for multi-hazard anticipatory action, including in conflict settings, are developed, and documented;
- **Result 2:** National multi-hazard anticipatory action systems are coordinated and implemented at scale;
- **Result 3:** Financing instruments for anticipatory action are aligned and support implementation at scale;

- **Result 4:** Conflict sensitivity, protection sensitivity and displacement are integrated in multi-hazard AA frameworks and systems;
- **Result 5:** Implementation of multi-stakeholder and multi-hazard anticipatory action plans is piloted.

Map 1: Countries Implementing Scaled Multi-Hazard & Conflict-Sensitive Anticipatory Action



This multi-partner project will adopt a Programmatic Partnership approach with the donor, ECHO, to ensure a long-term and holistic intervention logic. This project will build synergies with the Multi-Hazard, Conflict-Sensitive Anticipatory Action project in the Great Lakes region, also funded by ECHO, leveraging mutual learning and capacity-building efforts for Anticipatory Action systems across the two regions. These investments into Anticipatory Actions are part of a larger, and more cohesive African early warning systems.

DEFINITIONS

Anticipatory Actions (AA)¹ : AA is an approach that links early warning information with flexible funds to trigger actions that mitigate the impact of predictable shocks on the most vulnerable people. Components of AA:

1. an early warning system or a risk analysis with triggers, indicating the timing to implement AA (i.e. within the timeframe when a forecast indicates probability of hazard and the actual occurrence of the event or its impacts);
2. pre-agreed action plans and ideally an operational implementation plan to ensure timely delivery; and
3. pre-allocated finance that can be released immediately once a trigger has been reached.

Conflict-Sensitivity² : Minimizing chances of programming inadvertently having a negative impact on the dynamics of the conflict, including by exacerbating divisions and tensions. Conflict-Sensitivity also emphasizes on how programming can identify and capitalize on opportunities to contribute to social cohesion and peace.

Multi-Hazard³ : The specific contexts where hazardous events may occur simultaneously, cascading or cumulatively over time, with a potential of interrelated effects. Hazards typically included in a Multi-Hazard Early Warning System include (as mentioned in the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030) biological, environmental, geological, hydrometeorological and technological processes and phenomena

Programmatic Partnership⁴ : One of the instruments allowing DG ECHO (Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations) commit a multi-year funding modality, for longer-term logic of the intervention. The main advantages of Programmatic Partnerships are:

1. efficiency gain through economies of scale, increasing the number of direct beneficiaries;
2. more and greater outcomes (effectiveness gains) at the end of the programme than if the partner had embarked in successive but distinct annual actions without predictability of funding;

3. the opportunity for DG ECHO and its partner to jointly further promote shared priorities and strategies, with a view to influencing also the overall humanitarian response system;
4. a longer-term perspective and more predictable funding allowing sufficient time to e.g. build community trust and local actors' capacity, develop a Nexus programme, pilot innovative funding mechanisms, support the structural elements of a Rapid Response Mechanism, gather evidence when testing innovative policy approaches and/or bringing them to scale.

REFERENCES

- 1: FAO & WFP, [FAO-WFP Anticipatory Action Strategy: Scaling up anticipatory actions to prevent food crises](#), 2023, p. 2.
- 2: WFP, [Conflict Analysis and Conflict Sensitivity Risk Assessment: Guidance Note](#), 2021, p. 4.
- 3: ICPAC, [IGAD Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action](#), p. 14.
- 4: DG ECHO, [DG ECHO Guidance to Partners on Programmatic Partnerships in 2024, 2023](#), p.1.