

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Building Evidence for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Conflict-Induced Displacement in the Sahel

Transforming displacement forecasts into early action so vulnerable communities can prepare before crises escalate.

DURATION
24 months
Jan 2026 to Dec 2027

COUNTRIES
Burkina Faso, Niger
Liptako-Gourma regions

FUNDING
Vitol Foundation

MECHANISM
Anticipatory Action Fund
Locally governed

CONTACTS

Papa Alioune Gueye, Global
papa.gueye@drc.ngo

Moumouni Ouedraogo, Burkina Faso
moumouni.ouedraogo@drc.ngo

Hamidou Diallo, Niger
hamidou.diallo@drc.ngo

OVERVIEW

The project aims to establish and test an anticipatory humanitarian financing mechanism for conflict-induced displacement in the Central Sahel, transforming displacement forecasts into early action that helps vulnerable communities prepare before crises escalate. Led by DRC under the AHEAD (Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement) initiative, the project addresses the critical gap in anticipatory action approaches and financing mechanisms dedicated to conflict-related displacement. It targets internally displaced persons, host communities, and particularly vulnerable groups including women, children, older persons, and persons with disabilities, while strengthening the role of local and national NGOs through direct participation in governance, planning, and implementation.

STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE

1. Establish the Fund: a locally governed Anticipatory Action Fund for conflict-induced displacement in the Central Sahel.

3. Localize: empower national NGOs and community-based organizations to lead anticipatory responses.

2. Finance and act: implement anticipatory actions based on displacement forecasts and community early warning indicators.

4. Learn: generate evidence on effectiveness and value for money of anticipatory action for displacement crises.

APPROACH: FROM LOCAL GROUNDING TO GLOBAL INFLUENCING

01

Predict and prioritize

Use the AHEAD forecasting model and community indicators to identify locations at highest risk of displacement.

02

Plan with communities

Co-design Local Anticipatory Action Plans with communities, local authorities and national NGOs.

03

Fund and implement early action

Activate the Anticipatory Action Fund and implement preparedness and protection measures before displacement peaks.

04

Learning and influence

Measure impact and value for money, disseminate evidence, and influence humanitarian policy and financing mechanisms.

Local implementation and evidence generated in Burkina Faso and Niger will inform national preparedness systems and contribute to global learning on anticipatory action for conflict-induced displacement through platforms such as the Anticipation Hub and the West and Central Africa TFAA (Task Force for Anticipatory Action).

TIMELINE

Year 1, first semester

Establish governance structures and operational tools for the Anticipatory Action Fund; map and engage local partners; develop Local Anticipatory Action Plans; strengthen community preparedness systems and design the MEAL framework.

Year 1 (second semester) and Year 2

Activate the Fund based on forecasts and triggers; implement anticipatory actions; evaluate effectiveness and value for money; document lessons learned.