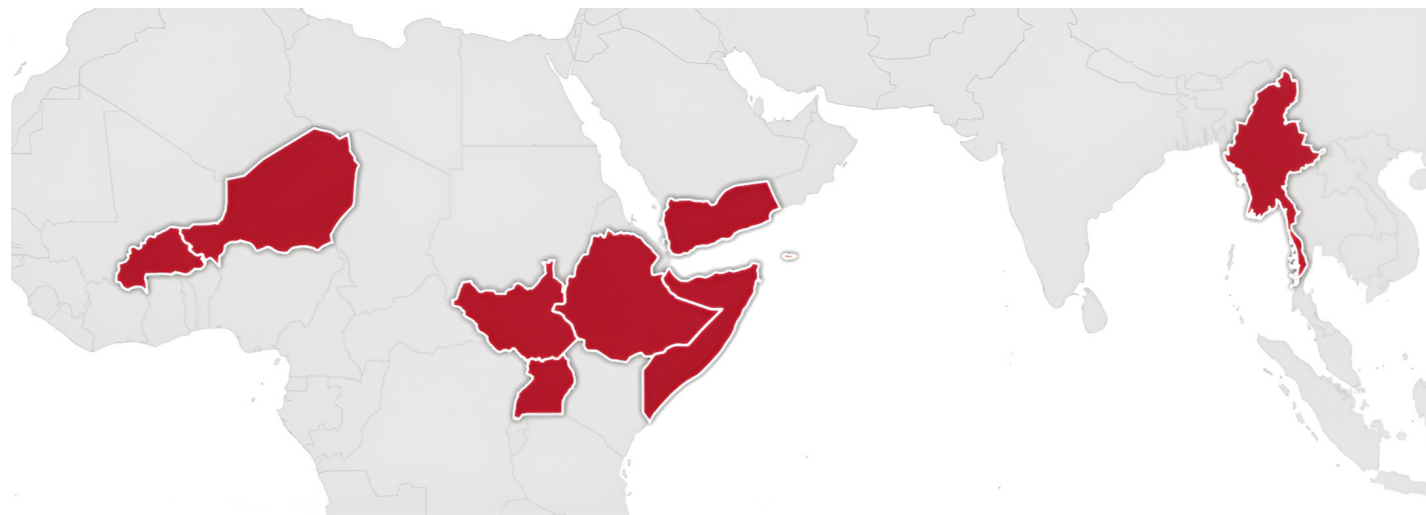


WHAT IS AHEAD?

Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) is an €18 million project funded by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented by the Danish Refugee Council from April 2024 to December 2027. Its purpose is to reduce upward pressure on humanitarian needs due to conflict-induced displacement by expanding anticipatory action (AA) approaches to enable more timely, dignified, efficient and sustainable humanitarian response.

The project operates across **eight countries** with diverse conflict contexts: **Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Somalia, Yemen and Myanmar.**



These contexts offer opportunities to understand what types of approaches work best in different conditions, including forecasting, anticipatory action service delivery, diaspora engagement, and addressing access challenges for hard-to-reach communities.

WHAT ARE AHEAD'S THREE PROGRAMMING PILLARS?

01

AHEAD relies on two complementary sources of information for acting ahead of displacement: (1) a machine-learning displacement forecasting model, which predicts displacement several months in advance at the admin-2 level; and (2) biweekly community-level monitoring for each in-country pilot, tracking local AA indicators that serve as short-lead early warning (EW) signals of conflict-induced displacement.

02

In each country, AHEAD co-designs an AA Plan (AAP) with local communities and authorities. When triggers from the displacement model or community-level indicators are met, predefined AA activities are delivered to at-risk populations before displacement occurs or otherwise earlier than typical post-shock support by virtue of early forecasting data. A robust monitoring system captures evidence from each activation.

03

AHEAD will use evidence from pilot activations to advocate for greater uptake and investment in AA for conflict-induced displacement, and to support governments and partners in strengthening national AA systems. Depending on the context, this may involve advocating for integrating conflict-related AA into existing AA or disaster risk management frameworks or co-developing new national frameworks. In highly sensitive contexts with limited national-level engagement, it may focus on subnational multistakeholder frameworks and AAPs.



WHAT DOES AHEAD WANT TO LEARN?

AHEAD focuses on a set of core learning questions that guide how evidence is generated and used:



How can we better utilize and integrate **community level data** and **alternative data sources** (such as earth observation) into AA mechanisms and what is the added value?



What are the **opportunities** and **challenges** of integrating **local communities**, **actors**, and **diaspora organizations** into AA design, and how does this impact project outcomes?



How can AA mechanisms be designed to better reach **hard-to-reach populations**?



What is the **optimal process** for developing joint, collaborative AA mechanisms for displacement?



What are the benefits on **humanitarian needs** of AA responses to displacement, what are the **response activities** or **modalities** that yield the **highest benefits** and how are benefits distributed across different types of groups?



What are the **cost-efficiency** and **value for money** aspects of AA responses, and what are the benefits and challenges of different **funding modalities** for AA?

WHAT IS AHEAD'S DIASPORA COMPONENT?

Drawing on DRC's 15+ years of engagement with humanitarian diaspora organizations, AHEAD is exploring the role diaspora can play in AA for conflict-induced displacement. This includes research on how diaspora can contribute to forecasting, engage in AA design and delivery, mobilise resources ahead of shocks, provide systematic early warning information to affected populations, and support AA advocacy.

WHAT IS AHEAD'S CURRENT STATUS (NOV 2025)?

Throughout 2024 and 2025, AHEAD conducted extensive research to inform country pilot designs, including analysis of conflict dynamics and sensitivities, mapping EW systems, assessing AA readiness, reviewing access constraints in hard-to-reach areas, and understanding diaspora engagement. The displacement forecasting model was expanded to all project countries, and community-level AA indicator data collection mechanisms are being established. Country teams are developing AAPs, including trigger thresholds, delivery protocols, community engagement processes, and budgeted activation scenarios. These plans will be finalised in early 2026, after which pilots will become fully active. Once they are, AHEAD will wait for triggers to be met. When this happens predefined anticipatory actions will be delivered, and evidence will be captured from each activation. This evidence will then be leveraged to strengthen AA systems and advocate for wider uptake of conflict anticipatory action among governments, donors and implementing partners at national, regional and global levels.

