

DRC

Integrated Context Analysis for Displacement Anticipation in Fragile, Conflict, and Violence-Affected (FCV) Settings

A Multi-Country Assessment

Concept Note

1. Background

The **Global Anticipatory Humanitarian Action for Displacement (AHEAD) programme** is a global project implemented in Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Yemen and Myanmar, which aims to enhance humanitarian responses by improving the ability to anticipate and act before conflict-induced displacement occurs. By harnessing displacement early warning tools and anticipatory actions, the programme seeks to reduce the negative impacts of displacement driven by conflict, increase operational preparedness, and ensure more effective humanitarian interventions in times of crisis. In close collaboration with duty bearers and local and transnational partners, the programme also focuses on building sustainable Anticipatory Actions systems that strengthen long-term resilience. Grounded in a community-driven approach, AHEAD fosters inclusive engagement with affected populations, including those hard to reach, to shape anticipatory action that is responsive to their needs.

The assessment titled "**Integrated Context Analysis for Displacement Anticipation in Fragile, Conflict, and Violence-Affected (FCV) Settings - A Multi-Country Assessment**" will focus on analysing conflict drivers and understanding displacement risks, identifying entry-points for anticipatory action systems building through analytical sub-components in selected FCV admin II areas in, **Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar**. These countries, and the targeted admin level II areas represent diverse conflict environments where displacement is both frequent and intense, requiring tailored anticipatory action strategies.

2. Objective of the research

The purpose of this assessment is to provide an integrated, multi-country assessment at sub-national level focusing on pre-selected target district based on geographic prioritization and will identify displacement risks in **Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Ethiopia, Uganda, Yemen, and Myanmar**, focusing on key factors that drive displacement and entry-points and priorities for anticipatory programming. This research will focus on the following critical elements:

- *Context and Conflict Analysis*
- *Hard-to-Reach and Humanitarian Access Assessment*
- *Diaspora Stakeholder Mapping and capacities assessment*
- *Considerations for Anticipatory Action Programming*

The aim of the research is to deliver actionable insights and recommendations that will improve the anticipation and preparedness efforts of humanitarian actors, ensuring effective interventions before displacement escalates, including wider dissemination or publication of insights to inform shifts in practice.

3. Research elements

The analysis will focus on the following components:

3.1 Context and Conflict Analysis

A context and conflict analysis for anticipatory action programming on conflict-induced displacement involves examining the socio-political, economic, and security factors contributing to displacement risks in geographic conflict-induced displacement hotspots in the seven countries. This analysis identifies key drivers of conflict that generate displacement, enabling proactive interventions to mitigate its impacts.

This analytical segment will shed light on the specific historical context and actor networks relevant to each conflict scenario, identify causes and triggers of conflict intensification, and highlight current conflict trends. The following guiding questions will be addressed:

Historical context and actors:

- What is the history of tensions, conflict or violence in the area? 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?

Causes and triggers of conflict:

- What are key drivers of current or past conflicts and related displacement patterns? What triggered the outbreak of violence?
- How do tensions and conflict generally affect displacement patterns in the area?
- What are typical signs at the community level of impending conflict and displacement?
- 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?

Current landscape of Early Warning and Anticipatory Action investments:

- Which functional Early Warning Systems (EWS) are in place covering which shocks/hazards and what is their last-mile reach?
- What are relevant early warning dissemination channels that are in place?
- Are existing Anticipatory Action plans or frameworks in place and how could the AHEAD programme build on them?

DRC will utilize its Conflict Analysis Guidelines and produce an Actor and Power Map, a Dividers/Connectors Analysis and Conflict Timeline as direct outputs. Data collection for this analytical element will comprise of key informant interviews (KII) at sub-national and national level and focus group discussions (FGD) in select pilot communities. DRC will also make use of the novel Toolkit for Anticipatory Action in Fragile, Conflict- and Violence-affected settings (FCV) produced by the Red Cross Climate Centre (RCCC), Anticipation Hub, and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), conducting the first pilot of its methodology.

3.2 Hard to Reach and Humanitarian Access Assessment

To conduct a hard-to-reach (H2R) assessment on humanitarian access in Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Myanmar, the objective is to evaluate the challenges faced by humanitarian actors in reaching conflict-affected populations and identify geographic and logistical barriers. This would involve using the *H2R Qualification Tool* to assess five key access barriers (information and communication constraints, deliberate interference, physical constraints, restriction of movement, and violence/insecurity) against five drivers (legal and policy, social and cultural, political and governance, environmental and infrastructure, and violence and conflict).

Outputs of the H2R Qualification Tool will inform the development of an anticipatory action humanitarian action engagement plan, outlining stakeholder engagement priorities to be incorporated in AHEAD's implementation or included in anticipatory action plans developed under the programme. The assessment will further shed light on critical hard-to-reach population segments to be included in the design of impactful anticipatory actions.

3.3 Diaspora Stakeholder Mapping and Capacities Assessment

The purpose of this short assessment is to conduct a comprehensive mapping of diaspora communities from Burkina Faso, Niger, South Sudan, Uganda, Ethiopia, Yemen, and Myanmar in response to the ongoing humanitarian crises in their countries of origin. These nations are facing significant conflict, displacement, and instability, with large portions of their populations affected by violence, insecurity, and economic hardships. Many diaspora communities from these countries are among the largest globally, and their members have historically played a crucial role in supporting their home countries during times of crisis.

This diaspora assessment will aim at understanding the size, strengths, and capacities of diaspora actors from the seven project countries. Building on DEMAC's initial top-down approach mapping, it will also use bottom-up approach to effectively identify relevant diaspora entities. While the existing mapping provides a global overview of diaspora organization from each country in the project, it does not necessarily capture those actively engaged in the specific localities targeted by the project. To bridge this gap, consultations with local communities will help pinpoint the most relevant diaspora actors and shed light on the nature, quality, and relevance of their humanitarian support. The assessment will provide insights into how diaspora groups operate, the modalities and quality of their support, their relationships with local communities, and the broader impact of their engagement, particularly in emergency response and preparedness efforts.

A key objective is to determine in which contexts diaspora engagement is best positioned to contribute to anticipatory action, based on their strengths, capacities, and willingness to engage. The assessment will also identify gaps, capacity needs, and potential incentives to enhance diaspora involvement in AA systems that bring together a diversity of actors. Additionally, it will examine possible risks associated with diaspora engagement, including unintended consequences on community dynamics or challenges with a specific attention to marginalized and hard to reach communities, and propose mitigation strategies. The findings will inform concrete recommendations on how to integrate diaspora actors more effectively into anticipatory action frameworks, fostering collaboration and strengthening local resilience in relevant target countries.

3.4 Considerations for Anticipatory Action Programming

The context and conflict analysis will identify displacement drivers, conflict actors, and triggers, enabling the design of proactive interventions. Tools like Actor and Power Maps and Conflict Timelines will refine early warning systems and trigger mechanisms, enabling timely responses. Further, a stakeholder and systems mapping will identify existing early warning systems and last-mile early warning dissemination channels.

The hard-to-reach and humanitarian access assessment (H2R Qualification tool) will identify access barriers. This will be supplemented by workshops at the country level to identify humanitarian and engagement actions that will be taken to ensure the anticipatory actions can be implemented.

The diaspora mapping will assess how diaspora communities contribute to humanitarian responses, identifying key networks and mobilization strategies. This will help integrate diaspora support into anticipatory actions, identify coordination gaps, and foster multi-stakeholder approaches that overcome access barriers.

This research will produce detailed programmatic implications of conducted analyses on anticipatory action system building:

- a) **Implications on displacement early warning and trigger systems** - The context and conflict analysis, particularly through the Actor and Power Map, Dividers/Connectors Analysis, and Conflict Timeline, will highlight key drivers of displacement and potential conflict triggers. This will directly inform the early warning systems by identifying the most critical socio-political, economic, and security factors to monitor. By understanding the specific causes and trends in each sub national area, the assessment will support the development of more refined and context-specific trigger mechanisms, allowing for timely interventions before displacement escalates. The research will also help define clear triggers for early action, enabling anticipatory measures to be deployed as conflict risks rise or when key indicators of displacement are detected.
- b) **Implications on the design of impactful anticipatory actions** – The insights from the hard-to-reach and humanitarian access assessment will inform the design of anticipatory actions by identifying geographic and logistical barriers that hinder access to vulnerable populations. By understanding the specific barriers - such as violence, restrictions on movement, or physical constraints - the assessment will help tailor anticipatory actions to be context-sensitive and responsive to local challenges.

Additionally, the diaspora stakeholder mapping will reveal how diaspora communities contribute to humanitarian responses and provide important resources. This will guide the design of anticipatory actions that integrate diaspora efforts, such as leveraging financial support, in-kind donations, or volunteer mobilization, ensuring that these actions are not only reactive but also anticipatory and well-coordinated.

- c) **Implications on stakeholder engagement for anticipatory action** – The research will identify needs for enhanced engagement strategies between local stakeholders, international organizations, and diaspora communities. By mapping key stakeholders and their roles within the aid coordination system, the findings will inform the development of coordination frameworks that incorporate all relevant actors, including local NGOs, governments, diaspora networks, and international organizations. It will inform engagement strategies which will be utilized to gain access into the areas of displacement. This will help foster collaboration between humanitarian organizations and ensure that anticipatory actions are synchronized across all levels, making the response more efficient and impactful.

4. Methodology

The methodology will employ both qualitative and quantitative research methods tailored to each country's context. Data collection will involve:

- **Desk review** of existing reports, conflict analyses, and displacement data for each country.
- **Key informant interviews (KIIs)** with stakeholders, including government representatives, UN agencies, NGOs, diaspora leaders, local peacebuilders (particularly women and youth), and conflict experts.
- **Focus group discussions (FGDs)** with displaced persons, refugees, and local communities to understand displacement triggers, vulnerabilities, and needs.
- **Geospatial mapping** of displacement areas and humanitarian access challenges using GIS tools and remote sensing data, identifying operational hotspots.

5. Deliverables

The research outputs will be consolidated into the following deliverables:

- Full global report: *Integrated Context Analysis for Displacement Anticipation in Fragile, Conflict, and Violence-Affected (FCV) Settings - A Multi-Country Assessment* (proposed structure in Annex I)
- Executive summary and briefing paper

6. Expected timeline

Phase	Tasks	Estimated Commitment	Lead
Global AHEAD Task Force inputs – Data collection matrix	Mapping of data collection needs and key informants	1 week	<i>Global AHEAD Task Force (AA, H2R, EKL, Diaspora)</i>

Finalization of Data Collection Tools	Design of integrated data collection tools (KII and FGD guides)	2 weeks	<i>Global AHEAD Task Force (AA, H2R, EKL, Diaspora)</i>
Inception	Desk review / Scoping Interviews List	2 weeks	<i>Global AHEAD Task Force (AA, H2R, EKL, Diaspora)</i>
Review / Data Collection	Data collection	4 weeks	<i>RO and CO focal points</i>
Analysis and Report Drafting	Draft and final report	4 weeks	<i>Analysis Lead:</i> <i>Alexander Kjærum</i> <i>Lead Authors:</i> <i>Anna Lena Huhn</i> <i>Alexander Kjærum</i> <i>Rachel Sider</i> <i>with support from</i> <i>Global AHEAD Task Force</i>
Final Report and Presentation to Dutch MFA	Finalization of publication and facilitation of virtual dissemination event	2-3 weeks	<i>Lead Authors:</i> <i>Anna Lena Huhn</i> <i>Alexander Kjærum</i> <i>Rachel Sider</i> <i>with support from</i> <i>Global AHEAD Task Force</i>

7. Resources and tools

[DRC Conflict Analysis Guidelines](#)

[Conflict Sensitivity Toolkit](#)

[DRC H2R Qualification Tool](#)

8. Annex

Proposed Report Outline

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