

How Forecast-based Financing (FbF) is strengthening anticipatory humanitarian action in the RCRC movement

Anticipatory action is increasingly recognised as a key solution to reducing the impacts of climate change and weather events; early actions help people and organisations such as national societies build resilience to future shocks by better understanding risk and transforming this risk information into action before a disaster strikes.

Building on decades of experience in disaster preparedness, the IFRC and many other National Societies have pioneered the development of anticipatory action approaches such as Forecast-based Financing (FbF) since 2014. In 2018, IFRC launched Anticipatory Pillar of the Disaster Response Emergency Fund, the fund to provide reliable and predictable financing for National Societies to implement anticipatory action.

Why anticipatory action?

According to the World Disaster Report (WDR 2020), in the past ten years, 83% of all disasters triggered by natural hazards were caused by extreme weather and climate-related events, such as floods, storms and heatwaves. At the same time, forecasts and early warning for those events are improving, providing information about where and with what magnitude a hazard will strike. With anticipatory action plans, early warning information is linked to early action, allowing timely implementation of actions before a disaster strikes. While anticipatory action originates from addressing weather-related events, the concept is gradually being expanded to non-weather hazards, such as disease outbreaks and migration.

It is important to note that anticipatory action is not a substitute for longer-term investment in risk reduction. Anticipatory action aims to strengthen the capacity to manage risks and reduce residual risk not addressed by disaster risk reduction efforts.

What is anticipatory action?

Anticipatory action is defined as acting ahead of predicted hazards (both weather and non-weather) to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Anticipatory action serves as an umbrella term that encompasses different approaches such as Forecast based-Financing, Forecast-based Action or Early Warning Early Action.

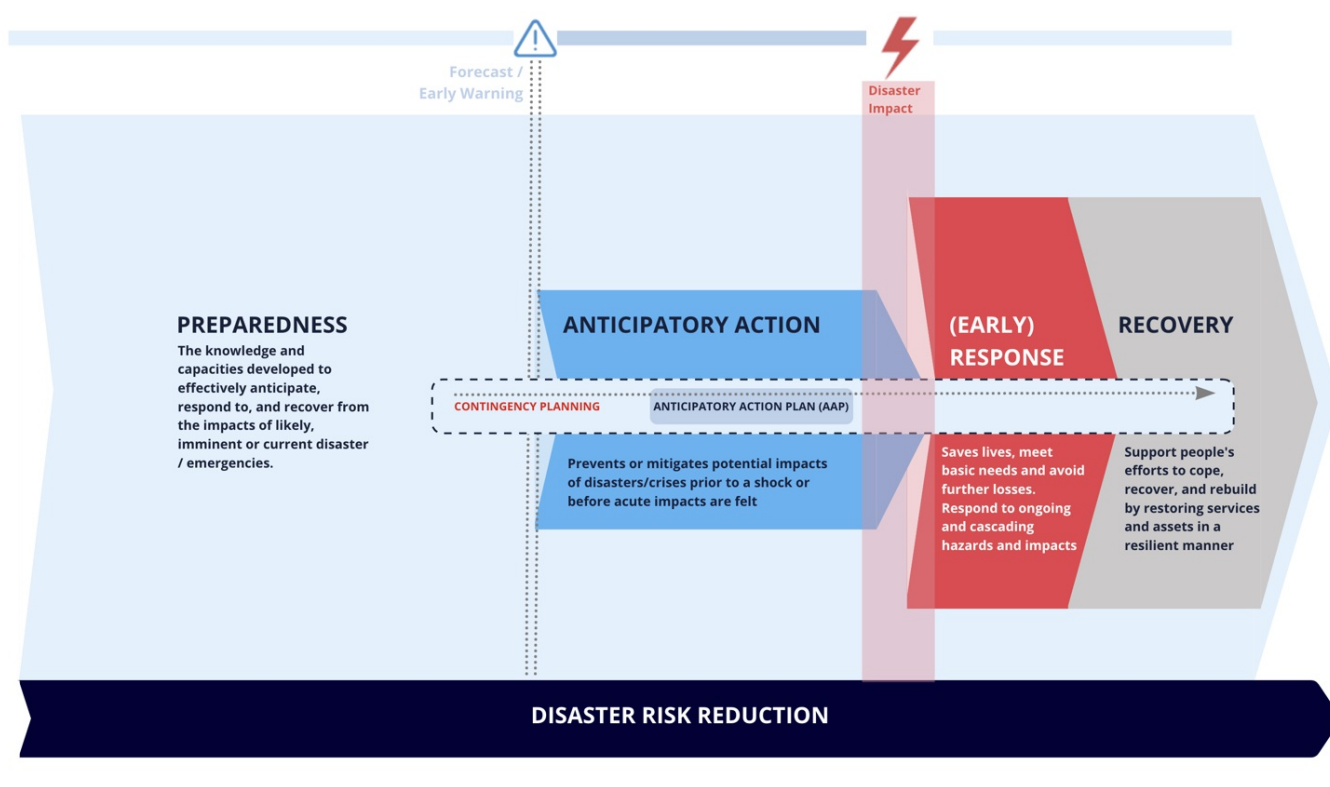
What are the common characteristics of anticipatory action?

Even though anticipatory action can be implemented differently across organisations (e.g. humanitarian organisations, but also governments or communities themselves) and with different approaches and methodologies and scales, three key parameters are generally agreed upon:

1. Protective intent: Early actions aim to prevent or mitigate the humanitarian impact
2. Time factor: Anticipatory action is implemented in the window of opportunity between an early warning, forecast or pre-disaster risk assessment and when a hazard occurs.
3. Risk-informed triggers: Early actions are triggered based on a forecast and/or collaborative analyses

See toolbox below for further readings, especially the *A short overview of anticipatory action*.

When is anticipatory action implemented?



Where is anticipatory action implemented?

To get an overview of anticipatory action initiatives around the world, please visit the [Anticipation Hub](#). The Anticipation Hub is a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance, and advocacy around anticipatory action both virtually and in-person.

