

Terms of Reference

ANTICIPATORY ACTION TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP (AATWG)

Bangladesh

I. Purpose and Roles

The Anticipatory Action (AA) Technical Working Group (TWG) in Bangladesh serves as a collaborative technical platform under the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) to bring together the key agencies implementing anticipatory action on the ground. The Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group (AA TWG) is part of the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT) efforts under the overall guidance of the Humanitarian Advisory Group (HAG) led by the UN Resident Coordinator.

The technical working group's mission is to reshape the humanitarian system by leading a shift from reacting to hazards to acting ahead of them. Acting before the onset of a forecast hazard helps to protect the lives and livelihoods of the at-risk populations of Bangladesh. It systematically links early warnings to early action. Acting before a hazard becomes a disaster helps to build people's resilience to future shocks and eases the pressure on strained humanitarian resources. Anticipatory action should not be seen as a substitute for longer-term investment in disaster risk reduction; instead, it aims to strengthen people's capacity to manage risks. AA technical working group focus will mainly on climate- and weather-related disasters.

The AA Technical Working Group plays an essential role in providing the Government-led Forecast-based Action (FbA) Task Force for mainstream anticipatory action into national disaster management systems and investing in early warning and preparedness capacities, especially at the local level. It also supports to mobilize flexible, coordinated, and predictable financing for anticipatory action.

While interest and investments in anticipatory action have been increasing, efforts now need to be scaled up. A system-wide shift toward a more proactive approach to humanitarian crises requires a concerted effort from all relevant actors. The purpose of having this technical working group is to provide a collective platform that will enable harmonized and consolidated AA efforts in Bangladesh for all actors.

II. Responsibilities

1. **Provide a functional platform to enable AA actors to coordinate, collaborate, and plan AA efforts in the country.**
 - Facilitate discussions to assess and review protocols, triggers according to context, needs, etc.
 - Support joint planning, review, and reflections and address technical issues relating to the implementation of AA.
 - Bridge communication with the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG), the Humanitarian Coordination Task Team (HCTT), and other working groups.

- Provide strategic and technical support to stakeholders on planning and implementing AA efforts in Bangladesh.
2. **Support to generate learning products through capturing existing evidence and knowledge resources available across the community.**
 - Establish a common narrative on AA for general understanding
 - Provide and facilitate access to meetings/trainings/conferences/workshops/field studies and missions on AA depending on each other's strengths and respective networks.
 - Organise National Dialogue Platforms on AA with the support of all the group's members
 - Periodically generate case studies and lessons learned reports for cross-learning
 3. **Enhance early warning, anticipatory action, and preparedness capacities at the national and local levels.**
 - Work together and come up with a model of multi-hazard AA for the country.
 - Collaborate with technical agencies, and data service providers to ensure quality data and prepare a common threshold, triggers against each individual hazard.
 - Harmonize and diversify the AA approach in the country recognizing differences in thinking, interventions, and specific strengths.
 - Organize sharing and advocacy meetings with the Government and other stakeholders- at least once a year.
 - Establish contacts and coordination with the regional disaster management agencies and forecasting centres in South Asia and the globe.
 4. **Support in advocating and mainstreaming anticipatory action into national disaster management systems (DRM)**
 - Organize sharing and advocacy meetings with the Government and other stakeholders- at least once a year.
 - Advocate to institutionalise AA in Government policy and strategies.
 - Consolidate the AA effort in the country and provide a platform for collective engagement and advocacy with the Government.
 - Facilitate capacity enhancement of government officials, protocols, and tools.

III. Chair and Secretariat

The Anticipatory Action TWG is hosted by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), and it is managed by a technical team of the German Red Cross, IFRC, and WFP – who forms the Anticipatory Action coordination team, led by the Coordinator of the Anticipatory Action TWG.

IV. Composition

The composition of the Anticipatory Action TWG with a diverse range of partners across the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement partners, UN agencies, I/NGOs, networks/platforms, governmental bodies, universities, and research institutes. Having such a broad and diverse range of partner organizations supporting the implementation of Anticipatory Action efforts in Bangladesh emphasizes our shared vision to collaborate and share knowledge to scale up anticipatory action in Bangladesh. Occasionally regional organizations, development partners, and the private sector will be invited, as needed.

V. Frequency and conduct of TWG meetings

The Anticipatory Action TWG will meet once every two months. Meetings may be held more or less frequently at the discretion of the TWG members. The TWG may invite attendees/observers to its meetings to assist in its deliberations.

The location and other administrative arrangements of the meetings will be discussed and agreed among the TWG members.

The meetings will be convened by the Secretariat.

VI. Structure

The AA TWG coordinates its work through two main structures:

AA TWG Advisory Group: The inter-cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) will act as the advisory body of the AA group. The ICCG will focus on technical discussions to support the AA TWG to make timely decisions.

AA Coordination Secretariat: Manages the day-to-day operation of the Anticipatory Action TWG, including implementing and reviewing the AA National Strategy in close collaboration with the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator, partners, and cluster coordinators. Two coordinators are assigned to ensure appropriate coordination of the TWG and will support the secretariat. They will be closely working with members of TWG and other instruments related to AA in Bangladesh. The secretariat of AA TWG is located at the Bangladesh Red Crescent Campus.

VII. Review

The Terms of Reference will be reviewed every two years or will be based on a major policy change related to the Anticipatory Action Framework in the country.