

Somaliland Anticipatory Action Technical Working Group – ToR

Context

Somaliland has always been prone to the extreme weather events and climate related hazards but also non-weather-related hazards such as droughts, floods, cholera and cyclones. Funding for emergency response is usually available when such disasters occur, and suffering is almost guaranteed. However, it is possible to prepare for such disasters and minimize their impact because most of the hydro-meteorological hazards can be forecasted in advance. Humanitarian actions could be implemented in the window between the forecast and occurrence of the event under the innovation of anticipatory action. The anticipatory action approach seeks to implement pre-defined early actions based on a scientific weather forecast and knowledge of risks with funding that is automatically allocated. By releasing funds in anticipation of a crisis, it is expected that the impact of the crisis will be reduced and that funding for emergency response will be saved, and more livelihoods and lives will be saved.

Many humanitarian actors including the UN missions in Somaliland have decided to engage in anticipatory action approach thereby improving their disaster preparedness measures. Anticipatory action is a rather new approach to disaster management in Somaliland. It is aiming towards addressing all hazards that can be forecasted, drought, floods, cholera etc. That means there is a need to work across sectors in an interdisciplinary manner to establish a well-functioning anticipatory action system. For that reason, it is found necessary to setup a Forecast Based Financing working group which will monitor, share and guide anticipatory action implementation.

The anticipatory action approach ideally should be implemented at national scale and hence the need for a multi-agency engagement. This document therefore seeks to provide guidelines for the establishment and functionality of the anticipatory action working group for the implementation of anticipatory action mechanism.

The specific objectives of the anticipatory action technical working group are outlined as follows.

Objectives

- Improve coordination, deliberation and discussion among stakeholders;
- Identify opportunities of collaboration between different organisations;
- Consolidate the anticipatory action efforts in the country and provide a platform for collective engagement and advocacy with the Government;
- Provide strategic guidance and support stakeholders on planning and implementing anticipatory action activities in Somaliland
- Discuss Country/ Organisations **strategic ambitions** on anticipatory action and preparedness measures.
- Discuss on the various **impact-based forecast model** to use as the basis for the FbA for drought (el Niño influenced drought and recurrent drought).
- Advocate for inclusion of FbF/preparedness measures **in key National strategic documents**, e.g., DRM framework and the National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS).

- Define and agree on sustainable and potentially **country-wide method for mapping and analysis of hazard exposure, vulnerability and coping capacity** - that supports anticipatory action needs.
- Provide implementing **guidelines on approaching partnerships** with government and INGOs involved in anticipatory action.
- Ensure alignment of Monitoring and Early Warning Systems with the needs of anticipatory action
- Discuss and take **positions in recent developments** in the overall anticipatory action implementation and coordination.
- Wherever possible facilitate joint review, planning, and reflections on anticipatory action Harmonise the anticipatory action approach in country recognising differences in thinking, interventions and specific strengths.
- Wherever possible facilitate joint review, planning, and reflections on anticipatory action

Tasks

- Establish a common narrative on anticipatory action for general understanding;
- Identify and map key actors and stakeholders on anticipatory action
- Organise regular meetings: once every two months plus additional meetings as deemed necessary by the Working Group members;
- Organise and coordinate capacity strengthening trainings/orientations/refreshers on anticipatory action
- Organise National Dialogue Platforms on anticipatory action with the support of all the group's members;
- Provide and facilitate access to meetings/trainings/conferences/workshops/field studies and missions on anticipatory action as well as government-led process depending on each other's strengths and respective networks;
- Support the joint planning, review and reflections, wherever required;
- Bridge communication with the different clusters (e.g., WASH) and other working groups;
- Organise sharing and advocacy meetings with the Government and other stakeholders- at least once a year;
- Form Technical Committees as deemed necessary for achieving any special tasks.
- Establish contacts and coordination with the regional disaster management agencies and forecasting centres in East Africa, e.g., ICPAC

Composition

- Humanitarian organisations, government departments /ministries, the academia and independent consultants that are working on Early Warning Early Action, Disaster Preparedness and Resilience building in Somaliland.

Structure of meetings

- In the interim SRCS and the Meteorological Services Department will convene meetings up until when we establish a formal and fully functioning working group.

- During the first year of inception the group will meet quarterly to ensure smooth launching of anticipatory action in Somaliland. This is the period when strategic decision will be taken and where key stakeholder meetings will take place such as the dialogue platform and other coordination/cooperation mechanisms will be initiated.
- For the subsequent implementation of anticipatory action quarterly meetings will suffice as the strategic directions have been taken and coordination/cooperation is established.
- Meetings will take place in any of the available boardroom of the membership.
- Minutes of the previous meeting should be distributed electronically to all participants at least two (2) weeks after each meeting.