

Capability Statement

ANTICIPATORY HUMANITARIAN ACTION



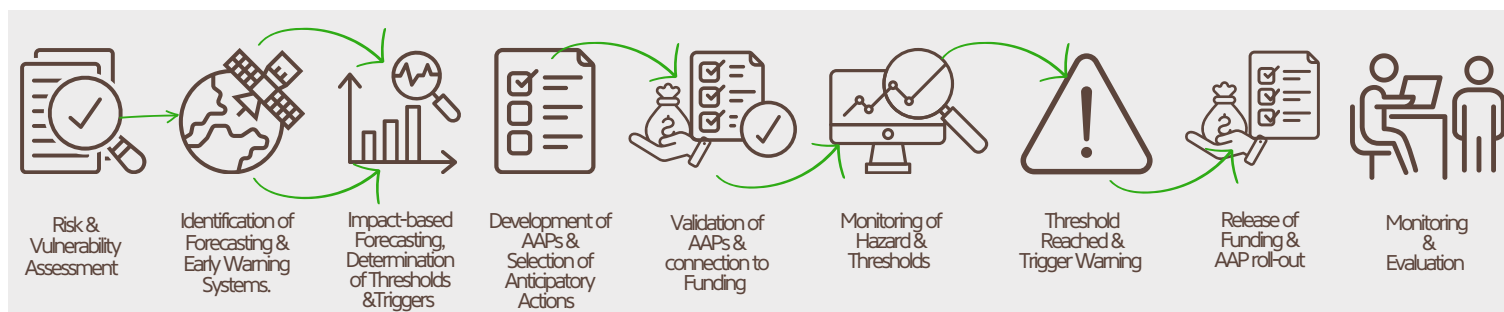
THE CHALLENGE

In response to increasing humanitarian needs, the humanitarian system requires innovation. To not only meet, but to reduce the need for humanitarian action, a shift away from reactive approaches to **Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (AHA)** is needed to decrease the severity of loss and damage.

Currently, there are about **360 million people who require humanitarian assistance** – a 30 % increase from last year. In addition, **281.6 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity**. While the need for humanitarian assistance is rising, stressors including

climate crisis and increasing conflict have made measures to respond to such needs challenging. While the need for humanitarian support remains pressing, most assistance is not triggered until communities have already experienced extreme loss and damage.

By shifting away from slow and reactive measures to AHA, humanitarian action **can address crises before their full impact unfolds**. This in turn will decrease the number of individuals requiring acute aid and increase monetary efficiency, allowing assistance to flow to other humanitarian projects.



WELTHUNGERHILFE'S STRATEGIC APPROACH

WHH is a dual mandate organization working along the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. As part of our humanitarian strategy, WHH follows the innovative approach of Anticipatory Humanitarian Action to reduce loss and damage and to actively use early warning information and the resulting window of opportunity to mitigate the effects of an impending hazard. Through detailed risk and threat analyses, we can predict extreme weather events with increasing accuracy and based on these early warnings implement action before a hazard unfolds its full impact. This enables people to make timely decisions on matters essential to their survival in the short time between the early warning and the onset of a disaster.

Decision- vs. trigger-based

In general, there are two forms of AHA: trigger-based AHA and decision-based AHA. WHH uses both approaches to diversify funding streams. Trigger-based mechanisms rely on a hazard prediction model that triggers the activation of the system. These types of mechanisms allow for more longterm engagement with communities and stakeholders. Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs) are developed collaboratively and supported by a sustainable funding mechanism to ensure timely implementation and accountability. Decision-based mechanisms, rather than relying on a forecasting model with fixed indicators, use other sources of early warning. Decision-based mechanisms allow for more ad-hoc verification and decision making in the event of an imminent hazard indicated by an early warning.

AAPs consist of:

- predefined early warning thresholds based on local risk factors,
- an outline of roles and responsibilities for all stakeholders involved,
- community-based prioritization and validation of anticipatory actions to mitigate the impact of the hazard,
- funding guarantees and approvals when early warning thresholds are surpassed and actions are triggered.

Once the early warning threshold is reached based on close monitoring, the pre-developed Anticipatory Action Plan is triggered, rolling out pre-defined anticipatory

actions to enable at-risk households to take precautionary measures. In terms of funding, successful anticipatory actions rely on pre-agreed and guaranteed funding, allowing for the rapid rollout of established plans. Once a hazard occurred, humanitarian action shifts from Anticipatory Action toward disaster response and recovery.

WHH is the first German non-governmental organization to pursue Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. This anticipatory approach to humanitarian action is fundamental to WHH's global work. Building on existing government structures for disaster risk management and complementing WHH's capacity-sharing activities, this approach helps us to reduce the impact of crises and disasters and thus protect people from emergencies.

RESULTS & KEY INTERVENTIONS

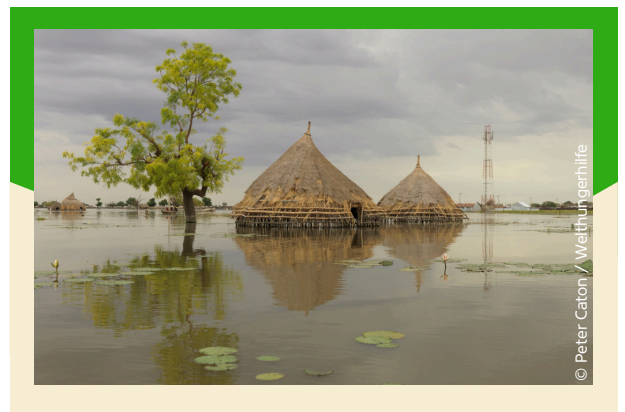
- WHH's pilot projects in Anticipatory Humanitarian Action were implemented as part of our Forecast-based Action (FbA) Program between 2019 and early 2023. In 2021, WHH implemented its first AAP rollout project in northern Madagascar. Based on projections of crop losses and an increase in food insecurity due to drought conditions, anticipatory cash transfers were initiated. Over six months, from pre-harvest through the lean agricultural season, nearly 1,500 households in vulnerable positions received monthly cash grants. The money helped families avoid resorting negative coping mechanisms such as limiting food intake. For the majority of participants, food security was stabilized or even improved. WHH has successfully extended this necessary shift to AHA to Zimbabwe and Kenya, where AAPs have been successfully implemented in 2022.
- Since May 2023, WHH continues to drive this humanitarian paradigm shift towards more anticipatory thinking and action in partnership with other NGOs. The WHH Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility (WAHAFA) aims to identify and analyze disaster risks, support the development of Anticipatory Humanitarian Action mechanisms, and secure funding to implement these mechanisms. The WAHAFA fosters the active participation of German NGOs and their Local

Humanitarian Partners (LHPs) in AHA by facilitating access to capacity, build and fuel pillars. Organizations are invited to participate in capacity sharing advances, receiving budgetary and conceptual support to develop scientific hazard forecasting models, and community-based AAPs. These plans outline appropriate actions for impending hazards, linked to guaranteed funding for pre-agreed anticipatory actions in the event that the scientific forecasting system is triggered.

- Localization and close collaboration with local civil society is an integral part of WHH's AHA programs and projects. While local NGOs play a critical role in humanitarian action, often as first responders, they frequently face power imbalances and barriers to access resources, especially sustainable funding. Together with the Start Network, WHH has developed and implemented the 'AAP Custodianship Approach' to promote formalized cooperation between international and local organizations in jointly developing and implementing AAPs. Pilots in the FbA program countries of Kenya, Madagascar, and Zimbabwe have successfully demonstrated improvements in local institutionalization, community involvement, and accountability to local stakeholders and beneficiaries.

NETWORKS

WHH works closely with a mix of German NGOs, the Start Network and LHPs to promote Anticipatory Humanitarian Action. In addition, WHH engages with various research institutions and networks, and network, co-chair the global Food Security Cluster's Anticipatory Action Working Group and works closely with the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and UN agencies.

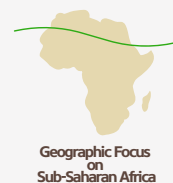


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More information: <https://www.welthungerhilfe.org/anticipation>