



Method Brief

Crisis Calendar for Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Crisis Calendar for Anticipatory Action

Crisis calendars are a vital component of Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs). They help identify when hazards and vulnerabilities are likely to converge over the course of a year, providing a time-

based lens to plan and prioritize anticipatory actions. Welthungerhilfe (WHH) under the WAHAFA program promotes the use of locally informed seasonal and hazard timelines to align early

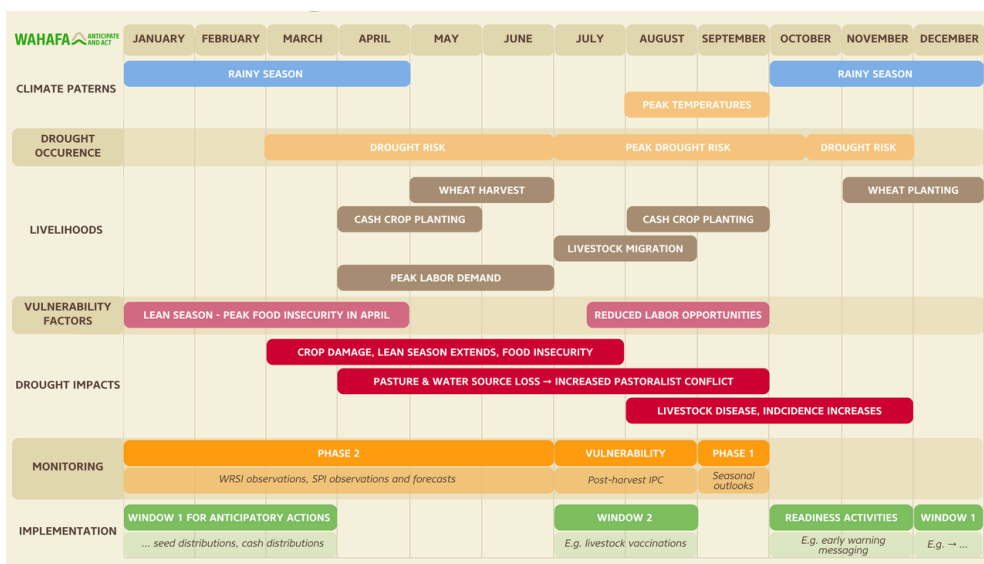
warning systems with agricultural cycles, climate patterns, and livelihood risks — ensuring that anticipatory actions are timely, relevant, and grounded in community realities.

How to Build a Crisis Calendar

Crisis calendars are context-specific tools that visualize how seasonal climate patterns, hazard risks, livelihood activities, and vulnerability factors interact over the course of the year. They help anticipate when and which impacts are most likely to occur and identify when and which anticipatory actions can be most effective. Each calendar is tailored to the local context and specific hazard types, drawing on historical

data, community knowledge, and lived experience. Developed through a participatory process, crisis calendars bring together communities, local stakeholders, and technical experts to map out key periods for monitoring,

readiness activities, and anticipatory actions — ensuring plans are not only evidence-based but also locally grounded, relevant and actionable.



Key Elements to Consider when Developing a Calendar, Regardless of the Hazard

Climate Patterns	Identify the key seasonal drivers of hazards in the area. These might include rainy seasons, dry periods, high temperatures, storms, snowmelt, or oceanic cycles (e.g. El Niño). Include all relevant environmental factors that increase the likelihood of a hazard occurring.
Hazard Occurrence	Document when the hazard typically occurs and when the peak risk period is expected. Consider historical trends, recent events, and any known variations linked to climate or weather patterns. If multiple hazard types are present, note their respective timelines.
Livelihoods	Add the timing of critical livelihood activities, such as planting and harvesting seasons, pastoral migration, fishing cycles, or labour demand peaks. This information helps assess when livelihoods may be most exposed or disrupted by a hazard.
Vulnerability Factors	Include seasonal vulnerability trends, such as the lean season, periods of high food insecurity, reduced income opportunities, school dropouts, or health risks. These help show how seasonal stressors interact with hazard exposure to worsen humanitarian outcomes.
Impacts	Describe the typical impacts of the hazard over time — including both immediate and secondary effects. These could include displacement, damage to infrastructure, livestock loss, disease outbreaks, or protection concerns. Focus on impacts that can be addressed through anticipatory actions.
Monitoring	Mark periods when key monitoring data becomes available, such as seasonal forecasts, vegetation indices, rainfall anomalies, or vulnerability assessments (e.g. post-harvest IPC assessments). This helps align early warning systems with decision-making processes.
Implementation	Identify the windows for readiness and anticipatory actions, based on forecast lead times and risk thresholds. This is where early action planning is operationalized — ensuring activities like early warning dissemination, cash transfers, or livelihood support occur before impacts escalate.

Locally Led Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Our approach explained in 2 minutes



Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (AHA) takes different forms depending on the context in which people live, their needs and priorities and the nature of the risk they face. That's why we place communities at the center of our work to ensure ownership and effective support that meets local realities. The perspectives and ideas of people we work with, as well as existing local strategies and structures, form the foundation of our anticipatory work. Integrating the experience and expertise of communities and local governmental actors is also crucial to ensure that early warnings are effective and contextualized and that AHA becomes an integral part of a society's risk management.

Contact

Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V.
 WHH Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility (WAHAFA)
WAHAFA@whh.de

[More Information: Anticipatory Humanitarian Action – Welthungerhilfe](#)