



Project Brief

WAHAFA WHH Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

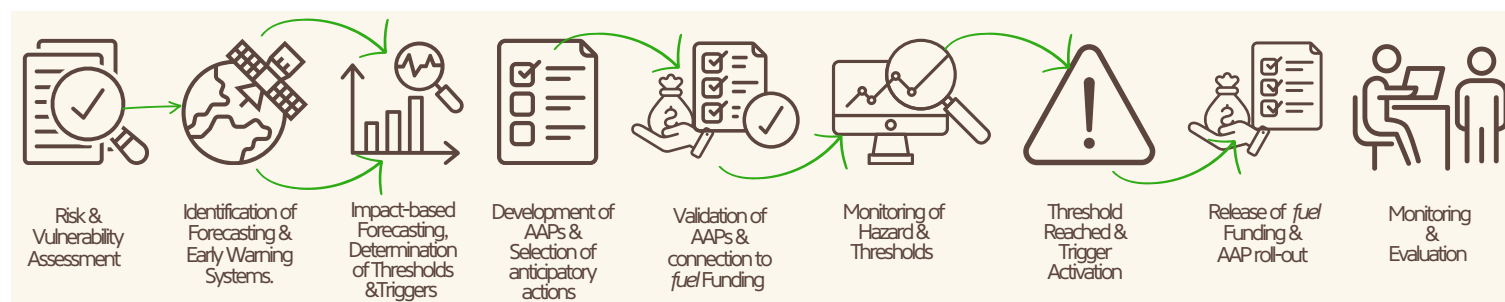
THE CHALLENGE

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.

In 2025, an estimated 305 million people will require urgent humanitarian assistance—a stark reminder of the escalating global needs. The primary drivers of these needs are the growing frequency and severity of climate-related hazardous events, coupled with protracted and emerging conflicts that devastate lives and livelihoods. The

humanitarian system faces immense challenges in responding effectively. Increasing demands are outpacing available resources, exacerbated by a persistent shortfall in humanitarian funding. Additionally, most assistance arrives only after communities have already endured significant loss and damage.

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



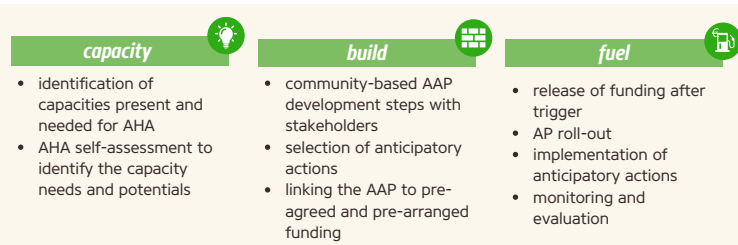
WHH'S STRATEGIC AHA PROGRAM (WAHAFA)

The WHH Anticipatory Humanitarian Action Facility (WAHAFA) aims to identify and analyze hazard risks, support the development of AHA mechanisms, and secure funding to implement these mechanisms. The initiative enables WHH Country Offices as well as German NGOs and their Local Humanitarian Partners (LHPs) to actively participate in the humanitarian paradigm and jointly push for AHA.

Through sub-projects, WAHAFA supports access to essential key pillars of AHA: **capacity**, **build** and **fuel**.

The overall objective of the three -year project is to enable German NGOs and their LHPs to take the first steps in AHA capacity sharing and the building and fueling of first AHA mechanisms in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Participating organizations will be invited to join the capacity sharing advances (*capacity* pillar) and receive budgetary and conceptual support to develop and maintain AHA mechanism (*build* pillar). These can further be linked to guaranteed funding of pre-agreed anticipatory actions in case of an early warning (*fuel* pillar).



AAP CUSTODIANSHIP APPROACH

AHA seeks to transform traditional humanitarian methods by highlighting the importance of forecast- and risk-based contingency plans, known as Anticipatory Action Plans (AAPs). These plans enable the precise and timely delivery of assistance when specific warning and risk trigger levels are met. To ensure the sustainability of AHA mechanisms within NGO settings, critical factors such as establishing trigger models, continuous maintenance, monitoring, and activating AAPs must be addressed. It is crucial to foster formalized collaboration among AAP stakeholders, emphasizing local institutionalization, community engagement, and accountability to stakeholders.

It is against these requirements that WHH, under the WAHAFA project, follows an **AAP Custodianship Approach** that distinguishes **four dimensions**:

1. AAP Capacity Dimension
2. AAP Build Dimension
3. AAP Fuel Dimension
4. AAP Accountability Dimension

The **"AAP capacity Dimension"** encompasses various elements such as structures, procedures, knowledge, skills, abilities, and behaviors. To qualify as an AAP Custodian and ensure quality, predictability, and compliance in engaging in AHA, certain capacity requirements and pre-conditions must be met. These include the presence and registration in the project country, presence in the specific AAP area identified through disaster risk analysis, a commitment to long-term engagement (more than 5 years) in-country, experience in implementing humanitarian relief and disaster risk reduction measures, collaboration with LHPs, established cooperation with local agencies and communities among others.

In the **"AAP build Dimension"**, NGOs and their LHPs seeking eligibility for WAHAFA *build* sub-projects follow a selection, assignment, and cooperation process.

LOCALIZATION

WAHAFA places people, including communities, local stakeholders, and LHPs, at the forefront of efforts. To achieve this, WAHAFA has developed an AAP Custodianship approach, encouraging German NGOs to collaborate with LHPs. The LHPs take a leading role in developing the AAPs by contributing its unique skills and knowledge to the process. The custodian engages with actors at various levels, from community members to local and national governments.

WAHAFA ensures contextualized AAP development by providing guidance for community-based approaches. Involving a LHPs or CBOs as the custodian, in collaboration with stakeholders at different levels, creates a space for local actors to participate in designing processes and desired outcomes. This approach helps ensure that AAPs include anticipatory actions that are meaningful, relevant to the local context, and garner high acceptance and buy-in from people at all levels. Ultimately, this makes the entire process more sustainable and aligned with the needs of populations at risk from hazards.

Custodian Selection Process

- involves identification of potential countries through country risk assessment,
- calls for participation from interested NGOs and their LHPs in selected countries,
- conducts a consultative evaluation of applications against pre-set criteria, available resources, and feasibility,
- formal assignment of AAP Custodianship follows a successful WAHAFA Build project application,
- involves a Partner Agreement (PA) with WAHAFA.

Custodian Assignment Process

- outlines entitlements, responsibilities, and duties of AAP Custodians & detailed in standardized Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Custodians are**
- responsible for actively and financially leading AAP, development, validation, and institutionalization with local stakeholders,
 - accountable for all actions and resources related to AAP development,
 - ensure quality in compliance with WAHAFA standards,
 - participate in local hazard expert groups or in-country disaster risk stakeholder groups.

The **"AAP fuel Dimension"** involves the banking, activation, and implementation of the AAPs. This process is built upon the outcomes of WAHAFA *build* projects, which deliver two essential elements: a) comprehensive, standardized, and quality-checked AAPs tailored to specific hazards, and b) fully functional trigger-monitoring mechanisms specific to those hazards. In this dimension, AAP Custodians are tasked with responsibilities such as monitoring triggers, issuing trigger alerts, signing the WAHAFA *fuel* project PA following positive validation, and ultimately implementing the AAP according to pre-agreed terms and in full compliance with established standards.

The development of AAPs carries significant responsibility toward the people and communities at risk. After completing projects like WAHAFA, those affected rightfully expect the release of funds and the implementation of AHA measures when a hazard threshold is reached. For AAP Custodians, commitment extends beyond the WAHAFA project period when applying for an AHA *build* project. Hence, the **"AAP Accountability Dimension"** points out responsibilities include maintaining operational trigger monitoring mechanisms, alerting in case of trigger thresholds, ensuring compliant AAP implementation, and actively seeking diversified funding opportunities for the long term. This signifies a commitment to ongoing engagement and responsibility that goes beyond the duration of specific projects.



In anticipation of another peak drought season, farmers receive training on how to produce nutrient-rich feed for their cattle © Tendal Marina / Welthungerhilfe

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