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STEP 3: ESTABLISH COORDINATION MECHANISM

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In order to ensure sustainability, ownership and alignment of the trigger, it should ideally be embedded in the national early warning and alert system. At the very least, key actors should be involved in or endorse the trigger development process and its outcomes. Ideally, as trigger development can be a very technical process, you cooperate with meteorological services, disaster management authorities, and other experts and institutions that work in the field of interest. This also enables other government agencies to participate in anticipatory action. To begin with, you can think about the following aspects that might also shape your advocacy strategy (please refer to [chapter 2](#): Engage your stakeholders).

Mandates

Who has the mandate to issue forecasts and early warning messages? Ensure that you are in line with the official regulations and procedures. For extreme weather events, for example, the meteorological service usually has the mandate to issue forecasts and early warning messages together with disaster management authorities. For epidemic outbreaks, however, the ministry of health might be the relevant authority for surveillance and / or early warning. Regardless of the hazard in question, integrating or the very least aligning the trigger with relevant mandates is important to avoid confusion, which could happen if there were many actors issuing their own alerts.

Existing initiatives

In many cases, the national meteorological agency is already involved in initiatives around impact-based forecasting or anticipatory action. For example, in Mozambique the government partnered with the World Food Programme (WFP) to develop harmonized drought triggers that are owned by the government. If such early warning mechanisms already exist, you should tap into those to avoid a duplication of work. Perhaps there are existing agreements, MoUs, or trigger activation systems already established.

On the regional level, technical working groups also shape the anticipatory action landscape and thus trigger development. There are several examples in Africa, but also in Latin America and Asia Pacific. Please find an overview of the regional technical working groups [here](#). These technical working groups can often provide overviews of existing initiatives that are relevant to the trigger development in the context of interest.

On local level there might already be a community early warning system in place that can be built upon and adapted for anticipatory action or municipal authorities might have plans in place that include elements of anticipatory action.



Technical standards in the Asia-Pacific region

As anticipatory action is gaining momentum in Asia-Pacific, there is a growing demand for coherent terminology and approaches to building an anticipatory action system. Recognizing the need, the Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (TWG AA) has collectively developed Technical Standards on Anticipatory Action in Asia and the Pacific through a consultative process with its members. The document draws upon the definition and three key building blocks set out in the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management. You can access the document via the toolbox.



Guiding questions to establish a coordination mechanism:

- Who are the key actors issuing forecasts and early warning messages?
- Are there existing initiatives on anticipatory action, such as technical working groups?
- Are there existing agreements or risk information systems that could be used for any of the three parts of the trigger (trigger statement, intervention selection, and trigger monitoring and activation processes)?
- Is there political will within the government to own and maintain the trigger monitoring and activation processes?

