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Other hazards

While the preceding sections address health and displacement, two areas where dedicated technical guidance and multiple s/EAPs now exist, the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement is also beginning to extend anticipatory action to other hazards that do not fit neatly into established climate or weather forecasting systems. This section briefly outlines emerging considerations for such hazards. In these cases, operational experience remains limited; the guidance offered here is therefore deliberately concise and should be understood as reflecting early-stage practice.

Wildfires

Wildfires present a growing humanitarian challenge, particularly in regions where climate change, expanding agro-forestry land use, and the growth of settlements in fire-prone rural areas are increasing both the frequency and severity of fire events. The speed at which wildfires spread, combined with the scale of potential impact on homes, livelihoods, and human safety, makes them a hazard where acting ahead of impact peaks can significantly reduce harm, yet their inclusion in anticipatory action frameworks is still very recent.

The Chilean Red Cross sEAP for wildfires, developed with technical support from the German Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and the IFRC, is the first and currently only approved wildfire sEAP within the Movement. It was activated for the first time in January 2026 in the Araucanía region, marking a global milestone for anticipatory action on this hazard. The protocol targets communities in central-southern Chile exposed to wildfire risk and focuses on three priority impacts: damage and loss to homes, overexposure of people attempting to combat fires without adequate protection, and loss of livelihoods.

A distinctive feature of the sEAP is its trigger mechanism, which draws on fire-behavior forecasting rather than weather forecasts alone. The protocol is activated when conditions known as the “Red Button” are met: An ignition probability equal to or greater than 70%, wind speeds of at least 20 km/h, and relative humidity below 30% in the targeted territory, with forecasts maintaining these conditions eight days in advance. These conditions are monitored by Chile’s National Forestry Corporation (CONAF), which produces fire-spread forecasts, while the National Disaster Prevention and Response Service (SENAPRED) issues the formal alerts. The protocol also includes a stop mechanism: an updated forecast three days after activation confirms whether conditions still exceed the thresholds or whether the probability has decreased. Upon activation, the Chilean Red Cross implements early actions including multipurpose cash transfers, for example to cover costs for transportation, evacuation or storage of assets, as well as evacuation kits and protective tools for vulnerable households, and coordination with local authorities and community leaders. During the January 2026 activation, the protocol reached approximately 400 families within the eight-day implementation window, in an area that had not yet been directly affected by the fires spreading elsewhere across the country.

The Chile experience illustrates several broader considerations for wildfire-related anticipatory action:

- Consider a combination of environmental variables, such as ignition probability, wind, and humidity, rather than a single forecast product as a basis for your trigger model. This requires close collaboration with national fire and meteorological agencies.
- Take into account that lead times tend to be short (days rather than weeks), which demands a high emphasis on readiness activities, pre-positioned supplies, and volunteer training. As with all sudden-onset hazards, these activities should already be in place before the fire season begins.
- Establish a robust stop mechanism. While this is good practice for many different hazards and a specific requirement in s/EAPs, the inherent uncertainty might be even bigger for fire-behaviour forecasting. Against this background, it is essential to have a solid mechanism in place that allows resources to be scaled down or relocated if conditions change.
- Capture and share learnings from wildfire-related anticipatory action initiatives even if they do not result in an s/EAP. As operational experience accumulates not only from this or future activations, but also from any other related initiatives, learnings should be captured systematically to inform the application of the concepts and mechanisms of anticipatory action in other fire-prone contexts.

Desert locusts

Desert locusts are among the most dangerous migratory pests in the world because they can rapidly multiply, form massive swarms, and move across countries in a short time. A single swarm can contain millions to billions of locusts, devouring crops, pasture, and natural vegetation wherever it lands. This makes them a major humanitarian threat, especially in vulnerable regions where people depend heavily on farming and livestock for food and income. When locust swarms destroy harvests and grazing land, they can trigger food shortages, loss of livelihoods, rising prices, and greater poverty.

The Somali Red Crescent Society has developed the first sEAP for desert locusts. It is designed to protect food security and livelihoods by acting before outbreaks reach crisis level. It focuses on high-risk pastoral and agropastoral areas and combines surveillance, early warning, advisory support, and multi-purpose cash assistance to help vulnerable households reduce losses.

The protocol follows a two-stage trigger system. First, a readiness trigger is activated when FAO bulletins and national monitoring show likely breeding or possible migration of locusts into Somalia within the coming six weeks. This leads to increased surveillance and preparedness. Second, an activation trigger is reached when the National Desert Locust Centre (DLC), using field survey results and satellite data, confirms that locusts pose an imminent threat to crops and food security. This then triggers wider early warning dissemination and targeted cash assistance.

The main actions include strengthening locust surveillance, sharing early warning and advisory messages through volunteers and media, and providing cash transfers to vulnerable households so they can take protective measures such as buying food, fodder, tools, or other essentials.

Implementation depends on close cooperation between the Somali Red Crescent Society (SRCS), which leads delivery on the ground, and the National Desert Locust Centre, which provides technical surveillance and trigger analysis.