CONTENT

WHAT IS ANTICIPATORY ACTION?

What is anticipatory action?

Anticipatory action is defined as acting ahead of predicted hazards (both weather and non-weather) to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Anticipatory action serves as an umbrella for different terms such as Forecast based-Financing, Forecast-based Action or Early Warning Early Action.

Resolution 34IC/24/R5: A formal definition for anticipatory action

Within the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement and for the States that make up the International Conference, Resolution 34IC/24/R5 provides a formal definition of anticipatory action that serves as an agreed reference point.

The resolution defines anticipatory action as *"actions taken to reduce the humanitarian impacts of a forecast hazard before it occurs or before its most acute impacts are felt; the decision to take action is based on a forecast or collective risk analysis of when, where and how an event will unfold."*

The resolution further clarifies that anticipatory action can be most effective when triggers, actions, decision-making and funding are pre-agreed in a participatory manner. This definition is also used as a basis throughout this Manual.

A closely aligned definition can also be found in the outcome document of the Grand Bargain Caucus on Scaling Up Anticipatory Action, a time-bound initiative that brought together key humanitarian stakeholders to advance the scale-up of anticipatory action across the wider humanitarian system and that concluded its work in late 2024.