



ICPAC

# Eastern Africa Anticipatory Action Newsletter 2025

Regional Leadership  
and Coordination

Kenya's  
Innovation

Policy, Roadmaps and  
Framework Reviews

Digital  
Transformation

Partnership  
Excellence





## Editorial Note

The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) is pleased to present its 2025 Annual Regional Anticipatory Action (AA) Newsletter, highlighting key milestones achieved in advancing AA and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) across the Greater Horn of Africa (GHOA). The year 2025 marked significant progress in our collective efforts to strengthen disaster resilience through coordinated, forward-looking approaches.

This newsletter documents regional achievements in coordination, national DRM policy reviews, AA Roadmap development, trigger-threshold systems, capacity strengthening, partnerships, and resource mobilization. Regional coordination through the Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (TWG-AA) was substantially strengthened, resulting in four Quarterly Regional TWG meetings that convened participants from nine (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Somalia, South Sudan, Rwanda, Burundi, Sudan) Eastern African countries. These meetings brought together 24 multi-stakeholder institutions, representing humanitarian agencies, governments, research institutions, community-based organizations, and civil society.

All six sub-working groups under the TWG remained actively engaged throughout the year, while National Government-led TWGs worked closely with partners to advance country-level AA agendas. At the national level, notable progress was achieved with the development of National AA Roadmaps in Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda, and Kenya, while Ethiopia initiated the process of developing its multi-hazard National AA Roadmap.

These efforts directly informed DRM policy reviews and framework updates in South Sudan, Uganda, Kenya, and Ethiopia. A major milestone was reached with the formal launch of the South Sudan and Somalia National AA Roadmaps, setting a strong precedent for other IGAD Member States, including Sudan and Djibouti. Additionally, for the first time, the Government of Somalia, with support from regional partners and initiatives, hosted a National AA Dialogue, convening over 150 participants under strong government leadership.

Technical leadership at both national and regional levels yielded further gains. These included the technical review of Kenya's drought management guidelines, with the successful mainstreaming of AA, and its integration into the Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF), a critical step toward linking seasonal climate forecasts with actionable early interventions. Progress towards system development for Regional Trigger Threshold System (RTTS) —a comprehensive, web-based, multi-hazard platform designed to monitor and analyse hazard conditions across the region. RTTS is currently under development and critical reviews. The RTTS aims to support real-time risk assessment and enhance early warning and decision-making for AA.

Using co-developed triggers and thresholds, Kenya, Ethiopia, and Somalia successfully activated AA Protocols (AAPs) for drought, in partnership with the World Food Programme (WFP), IFRC, and respective National Red Cross Societies. These achievements, underpinned by strengthened partnerships with governments, UN agencies, humanitarian actors, and research institutions, demonstrate regional commitment to driving step change in transitioning the region from reactive crisis response to proactive risk management through AA.

ICPAC expresses its sincere appreciation to its donors and partners, particularly the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO) and European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO), whose support has been instrumental in advancing AA initiatives across the Greater Horn of Africa. We also acknowledge the strong commitment of IGAD Member States, partners, and dedicated technical teams whose collaboration continues to drive regional progress towards system development for Regional Trigger Threshold System (RTTS), a comprehensive, web-based, multi-hazard platform designed to monitor and analyse hazard conditions across the region was realised.

## Regional Leadership and Coordination

### ICPAC Strengthens Regional AA Coordination Through Multi-Stakeholder TWG Leadership

IGAD provides strategic leadership through its multi-stakeholder regional AA TWG that meets on quarterly basis.

There was increased engagement throughout 2025, with ICPAC hosting three TWG meetings that brought together representatives from nine countries and more than 25 institutions. Member States shared key milestones: during the final TWG meeting of 2025, Somalia and South Sudan reported significant progress on their AA Roadmaps and coordination structures.

Uganda completed its roadmap and is expected to be launched in quarter one of 2026 following

final validation.

Ethiopia began the formal development of its AA roadmap while continuing to refine its drought and flood frameworks. Discussions also focused on harmonising triggers and thresholds, improving early warning communication, and strengthening national ownership of AA.

#### Key Achievement:

Successfully broke down complex challenges, allocated expertise efficiently, and delivered accelerated progress on the most urgent AA priorities, thereby transforming collective ambition into a synchronized and actionable workplan.



## Charting the Course for Resilience: Organizing Committee Unveiled for the 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform

A pivotal moment at the combined Q3/Q4 Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (RTWGAA) in Maanzoni was the official unveiling of the Organizing Committee (OC) for the second Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform (EADP-2), scheduled for October 2026. This strategic move marks the transition from planning to execution, ensuring the region's premier anticipatory action forum builds decisively on the landmark success of EADP-1.

The newly formed committee, introduced by Dr. Ahmed Amdihun, Head of the IGAD DRM Programme, is tasked with steering the comprehensive preparation for EADP-2. Its immediate mandate is to define the event's

strategic positioning, consolidate a powerful overarching theme, and develop actionable sub-themes through a collaborative and competitive process, as demonstrated in dynamic working sessions at Maanzoni.

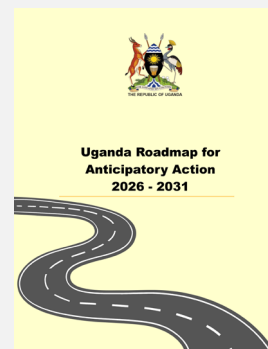
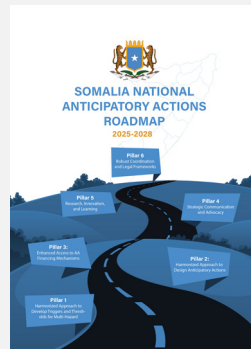
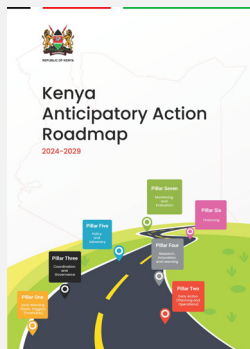
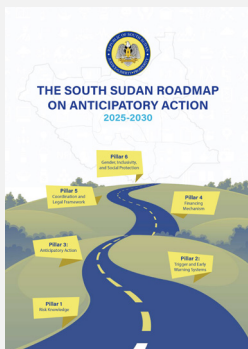
The OC will oversee critical logistics, including finalizing the host country and dates, and crafting a high-level work plan that ensures the platform delivers tangible, regionally-owned outcomes.

This establishment underscores a collective commitment to moving from dialogue to durable systems. By leveraging the robust framework of the RTWGAA and its six sub-working groups, the committee is poised to orchestrate an event that not only celebrates regional progress but also accelerates the practical integration of anticipatory action into policy, financing, and community-level resilience across Eastern Africa.

## Policy, Roadmaps and Framework Reviews

In 2025, ICPAC and partners made important strides in advancing national policy frameworks and roadmaps to accelerate the implementation of Anticipatory Action (AA) and Disaster Risk Management (DRM) across member states.

### National Roadmaps



**South Sudan:** ICPAC is proud to have served as a key technical partner in the development of South Sudan's Anticipatory Action Roadmap (2025–2030), officially launched in November 2025. The roadmap marks a transformative shift for the country—from reactive crisis response to proactive, risk-informed action—drawing on ICPAC's climate expertise and disaster risk management support.

The launch event in Juba brought together more than 85 delegates, including government officials, diplomats, senior representatives from FAO, WFP, UNDRR, World Vision, the South Sudan Red Cross, Action Against Hunger, and ICPAC, alongside other development partners.

“This roadmap is not just a policy document; it is a strategic framework to prepare for and respond to the increasingly complex crises driven by both natural and human-induced factors,” said Hon. Albino Akol Atak, Minister of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, South Sudan.





## South Sudan

### Historic Policy Integration: South Sudan Embeds Anticipatory Action into National DRM Framework

ICPAC achieved a major milestone in South Sudan through the July 7-12, 2025, workshop held in Juba, bringing together 57 participants from government ministries, UN agencies, and humanitarian partners.

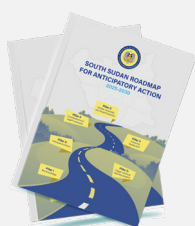
The workshop successfully integrated Anticipatory Action into South Sudan's revised Disaster Risk Management (DRM) policy as Pillar 9.4: Anticipatory Action for Effective Risk Management.

**Unified Vision Established:** "A resilient nation where anticipatory action is seamlessly

integrated into national Disaster Risk Management policies and systems."

This represents the first formal embedding of AA in a national policy framework in the region, setting a precedent for other IGAD member states.

Together, these milestones demonstrate the region's momentum in moving from policy discussions to institutional commitments, ensuring that AA is not just a concept but a practical framework embedded in governance and resource allocation.



The National AA Roadmap, structured around comprehensive pillars covering coordination, forecasting, financing, and gender integration, was officially launched in November 2025.

A significant step towards strengthening disaster risk preparedness in the Greater Horn of Africa took place in November 2025 with the launch of Somalia’s National Anticipatory Action Roadmap in Mogadishu. With this launch, Somalia became the third IGAD member state, after Kenya and South Sudan, to inaugurate its national AA roadmap.

The roadmap, developed through strong technical collaboration, reflects the country’s growing commitment to shifting from reactive crisis response to proactive risk management.

ICPAC played a central role in supporting the process, working closely with the Somali Disaster Management Agency (SoDMA), WFP, FAO, IFRC, DRC, and other partners to shape a harmonised framework that strengthens anticipatory action systems at regional, national, and local levels.

Partners reaffirmed their commitment to supporting government leadership in embedding anticipatory approaches into national planning and disaster management structures.

Aligned with the IGAD Regional Anticipatory Action Roadmap and the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) agenda, this milestone contributes to a more coordinated and resilient approach to managing climate and disaster risks across the region.

## Somalia Composes a New Anthem of Resilience at Historic Anticipatory Action Dialogue

In the halls of Mogadishu, where headlines of crisis too often prevail, a different sound emerged in December 2025: the strum of a Somali guitar, the cadence of traditional song, and the determined hum of over a hundred voices composing a new future. Somalia’s first National Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (December 9-11)—right after their roadmap launch—was not merely a meeting—it was a cultural and strategic symphony for survival, orchestrated to move a nation from the painful rhythm of reaction to the empowering beat of readiness. For three days, climate scientists sat with data analysts exchanged notes with elders, and satellite forecasts were woven with indigenous sky-reading wisdom. Each technical session on hydrological models or financial triggers embodied a core truth: Anticipatory Action is about people, culture, and the collective vision of a safer homeland.

The dialogue crescendoed into an Anticipatory Action Marketplace—a vibrant bazaar of hope where attendees touched explored digital flood maps, and forged partnerships over dynamic demonstrations. With this milestone, Somalia proved that the most powerful early warning system is a community united in purpose, ready to dance to the rhythm of resilience.







## Ethiopia

### SCALAA Project Drives Multi-Hazard AA Integration in Ethiopia

The July 1-3, 2025, consultative workshop in Addis Ababa marked significant progress in aligning the Scaling Multi-Hazard and Conflict-Sensitive Anticipatory Action (SCALAA) project with Ethiopia's Multi-Hazard, Impact-Based Early Warning and Early Action System (MHIBEWEAS).

ICPAC led consortium efforts involving IGAD, IFRC, WFP, FAO, and DRC to advance multi-hazard capacities and institutional coordination.

**Strategic Alignment Achieved: Strong**

compatibility identified between SCALAA and MHIBEWEAS across anticipatory action, rapid response, institutional coordination, capacity building, and policy integration dimensions.

#### Focus Areas:

- Building capacity for triggers and thresholds development.
- Creating national-regional AA systems.
- Harmonizing protocols and data sources.
- Supporting AA in displacement and conflict contexts.





## Kenya Policy Transformation

### Kenya Drought Response Guidelines 2018 Revised to Include Anticipatory Action

Through ICPAC's leadership and technical guidance, Kenya's drought response guidelines 2018, now known as Kenya Drought Response Guideline 2025 was revised to integrate Anticipatory Action principles into Kenya's drought management cycle. This was done during a multi-stakeholder meeting held in Naivasha.

promoted the replacement of "Forecast-Based Financing (FBF)" with the more comprehensive "Anticipatory Action (AA)" terminology across all guideline sections.

**Sectoral Integration:** All drought phase interventions now consider Pre-Alert activities, ensuring AA is mainstreamed across agriculture, health, education, and infrastructure sectors.

**Terminology Advancement:** Successfully



*A six-stage framework illustrating the progression from normal conditions through pre-alert, alert, alarm, and emergency, followed by recovery, to guide timely anticipatory action and response.*





## Mainstreaming AA into Seasonal Forecasting

In January, May and August 2025, three regional Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOFs) were held in Addis Ababa and Nairobi which resulted in integrating Anticipatory Action into

the forums. With participants from diverse sectors, ICPAC facilitated the development of sector-specific AA triggers based on seasonal forecasts.

### Sector-Specific Achievements:

- **Health Sector:** Developed drought-induced malnutrition triggers based on IPC Phase 2, with 1-3 months lead times.
- **Water Sector:** Established triggers based on water levels and rainfall forecasts with 20-40% tolerance.
- **Food Security & Livestock:** Created triggers using IPC Phase 2-3 and rangeland degradation indicators.
- **Peace & Security:** Developed conflict triggers linked to resource-based drought impacts.

**Technical Advancement:** Participants gained enhanced understanding of probabilistic forecasting, ensemble methods, and trigger design, moving beyond generic advisories toward actionable, context-specific guidance.

**Innovation Impact:** Clear distinction established between general GHACOF advisories and AA-specific interventions, with AA facilitating decisive actions and pre-positioned resources.



## 2nd Africa Climate Summit:

### ICPAC Champions Proactive Resilience at the 2nd Africa Climate Summit

ICPAC played a leading role at the Second Africa Climate Summit (ACS2), co-hosting a series of high-level forums on Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Anticipatory Action (AA), and Risk Financing between 8–10 September 2025 in Addis Ababa. The IGAD-led side events brought together over 412 delegates from governments, UN agencies, INGOs and partners, generating strong momentum for a shift from reactive crisis response to proactive, risk-informed governance.

Across the discussions, participants highlighted persistent challenges including chronic underinvestment in risk management, governance fragmentation, slow adoption of risk financing instruments, and limited public access to early warning systems—currently reaching only 40% of Africans.

The launch of the Africa Drought Watch was celebrated as a major milestone in expanding continental access to drought intelligence and strengthening anticipatory action.

ICPAC's technical leadership was a central thread throughout the Summit.

The Centre showcased its work in impact-based forecasting, AI-enabled risk monitoring, risk financing diagnostics, and support to national AA protocols across Somalia, Kenya, Ethiopia and Uganda. Delegates underscored ICPAC's growing role not only as a climate information provider but as a thought leader influencing resilience policy across the region.

Clear action points emerged from the ACS2 dialogues: scaling up the Africa Drought Watch across IGAD countries, strengthening sovereign and sub-sovereign disaster risk financing mechanisms, deepening policy coordination through IGAD resilience platforms, and expanding private-sector participation to sustain long-term resilience investments.

The Summit concluded with a strong consensus: Eastern Africa must urgently transition from declarations to predictable financing, early action and integrated risk governance. ICPAC's contributions positioned the institution as a continental catalyst driving that shift—bridging science and policy, and reinforcing the importance of a proactive approach to building a climate-secure future for the region.





## COP 30:

### Forging Proactive Futures: ICPAC Catalyzes Global Discussion on Anticipatory Action at COP30

At the landmark UNFCCC COP30 in Belem, Brazil, ICPAC co-convened a pivotal side event to champion the urgent shift from reactive crisis response to proactive risk management. Titled Early Warning, Anticipatory Action and Risk Insurance for Disaster Risk Reduction, the session on 12 November brought together a coalition of leaders from ACMAD, UN WFP, KIT, NORCAP, MCII, and the CVF-V20 to bridge the critical gap between climate forecasts and protective action.

ICPAC Director Dr. Abdi Fidar emphasized the existential urgency of the mission, highlighting ICPAC's operational frameworks—including the IGAD Disaster Operations Centre, the Regional Anticipatory Action Roadmap, and the Eastern Africa AA Dialogue Platform—as proven mechanisms for translating climate intelligence into national policy and community-level preparedness.

He called for continued investment in early warning systems and expanding risk insurance mechanisms to ensure no community is left behind.

The dialogue underscored a powerful consensus: while the science of prediction has advanced, financing remains the stubborn bottleneck. Experts noted that less than 1% of crisis finance is allocated to anticipatory action, despite overwhelming evidence of its cost-effectiveness.

The event served as a global call to action for predictable, pre-arranged financing—scaling up risk insurance instruments and ensuring that early warnings consistently trigger early, dignified action.

By uniting scientists, financiers, and policymakers, ICPAC's leadership at COP30 reinforced a core message: in the face of accelerating climate extremes, our greatest tool is not just forecasting the storm, but building the systems and securing the resources to act before it strikes.



## ICPAC Develops Cutting-Edge Digital Platforms for AA Implementation

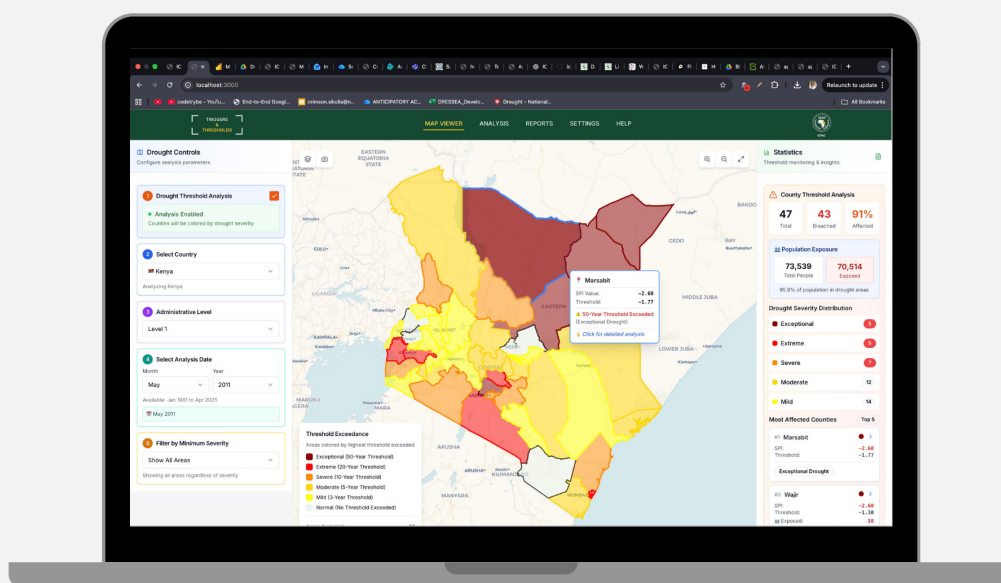
2025 witnessed significant progress in ICPAC's digital infrastructure development, with two innovative systems under development to support regional AA implementation:

### Anticipatory Action Webpage

- Central platform for communication and knowledge sharing
- Publication repository with preview capabilities
- Interactive event registration and feedback systems
- Growing case studies database
- Data protection compliance integration

### Triggers and Thresholds System

- Real-time operational decision-making support
- Data-driven threshold presentation
- Early warning indicator integration
- Activation tracking capabilities



**Development Approach:** Both systems are being refined based on Technical Working Group feedback, ensuring user-friendly design and alignment with stakeholder needs.



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## Partnership Excellence

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### Multi-Partner Collaboration Drives Regional AA Advancement

ICPAC's collaborative approach in 2025 demonstrated the power of strategic partnerships in advancing Anticipatory Action across the region. Key partnerships yielded significant results:

**Government Partnerships:** Direct collaboration with national governments in South Sudan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Uganda and Somalia resulted in policy integration, capacity building, and institutional strengthening.



**Regional Coordination:** Strategic partnerships with WFP, FAO, UNDRR, and UNOCHA facilitated comprehensive AA framework development and implementation support.



**Regional Coordination:** Enhanced collaboration with IFRC, DRC, and other humanitarian partners ensured multi-sectoral AA approach integration.



**Academic and Research Engagement:** Partnerships with University of Sussex, Jameel Observatory, and other research institutions strengthened evidence-based AA development.



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## Acting Before Crisis: Anticipatory Action Activations in 2025

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In 2025, countries across the Greater Horn of Africa demonstrated the growing value of anticipatory action by moving from forecast to early response—protecting lives and livelihoods before drought conditions reached their peak.

In Kenya, the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS), in partnership with the Government of Kenya and other stakeholders, activated their Anticipatory Action Plan following forecasts issued by the Kenya Meteorological Department in August 2025. The forecasts indicated an elevated drought risk across Marsabit, Wajir, and several Arid and Semi-Arid Land (ASAL) counties, with readiness triggers reached across mild, moderate, and severe drought scenarios. The activation enabled early implementation of pre-arranged interventions, helping vulnerable communities reduce humanitarian and economic losses typically associated with worsening drought.

In Ethiopia, the Ethiopian Red Cross Society activated its Early Action Protocol (EAP) for drought in the Oromia region, reaching approximately 35,000 people in Rayitu and Seweyna woredas ahead of peak drought conditions. The activation was informed by climate and environmental monitoring indicators, allowing partners to respond based on evidence of declining rainfall and vegetation conditions, and supporting communities before livelihoods were critically affected.

In Somalia, the Somali Red Crescent Society activated its EAP for drought in January 2025, initiating preparedness and early response measures guided by regional climate forecasts developed by ICPAC. These early interventions strengthened community resilience and improved preparedness for escalating drought impacts.

These activations were supported by funding from the German Federal Foreign Office (GFFO). ICPAC provided technical and capacity strengthening support across Ethiopia, Somalia, and Kenya, including the development of triggers and thresholds that enabled partners to translate early warning information into timely, life-saving action—demonstrating how early investment can reduce humanitarian need and strengthen climate resilience.

## Capacity Building Success

### Regional Capacity Enhancement Through Targeted Training and Workshops

ICPAC's comprehensive capacity building initiatives in 2025 reached diverse stakeholders across multiple sectors and countries:

#### Training Reach

**57** Participants in South Sudan policy integration workshop

**75** Participants in regional GHACOF AA integration workshop

**40** Members from 15 institutions in RTWGAA quarterly meeting

Multiple sector experts engaged across health, water, agriculture, and peace and security.

#### Skill Development Focus:

- Probabilistic forecasting interpretation and uncertainty management
- Trigger and threshold development methodologies
- Risk assessment and vulnerability analysis
- Institutional coordination and governance frameworks
- Digital platform utilization and data management

#### Knowledge Transfer Achievements:

- Enhanced understanding of AA vs. traditional preparedness approaches
- Practical experience in developing sector-specific triggers
- Improved capacity for ensemble forecasting application
- Strengthened coordination mechanisms across sectors and borders



**”** I am delighted to unveil the able team that will steer the leadership of the EADP2. Their collective expertise spans DRM, AA and Climate, Policy, Research and Operations, communications, and on-the-ground implementation.

**Dr Ahmed Amdihun - Head of DRM, IGAD**





## Impact Metrics

### Quantifying ICPAC's AA Leadership Impact in 2025



#### Engagement Statistics:

- **700+** total participants across major workshops and meetings (3 GHACOFs, ACS2, 3 TWGs, national workshops)
- **18** countries represented in various AA initiatives
- **20** major workshops conducted (South Sudan x5, Ethiopia x3, Uganda x2, Somalia x5, Kenya, ACS2, Regional GHACOFs x3)
- **15** institutions actively participating in RTWGAA



#### Policy Integration Achievements:

- **1** national DRM policy successfully revised to include AA (South Sudan)
- **1** national drought response guideline enhanced with AA principles (Kenya)
- **1** multi-hazard system aligned with AA approaches (Ethiopia)
- **4** sectors with developed AA triggers (health, water, livestock, peace & security)



#### Institutional Strengthening:

- **3** national technical working groups on AA supported or established
- **7** strategic pillars operational across regional AA framework
- **2** digital platforms under development for AA implementation
- Multiple partnership MOUs and collaborative agreements advanced



#### Knowledge Products:

- Comprehensive workshop reports documenting AA progress
- **1** podcast produced on "The Role of Media in AA"
- Multiple technical presentations and capacity building materials developed



## Looking Forward

### 2026 at a Glance

- The 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on AA, 28-30 October 2026, Mombasa, Kenya
- The launch of Uganda National AA Roadmap, 2nd April 2026, Entebbe Uganda
- The 14th Global Dialogue Platform on AA, Berlin, Germany
- Quarterly Regional Technical Working Group (virtual and in-person)
- Trimester Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum
- Launch of Regional Trigger Thresholds Multi Hazard AA system, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
- Capacity Development of MS and ICPAC staff
- The 1st National Dialogue platform on AA for South Sudan Government, Juba
- The 2026 UN Climate Change Conference (UNFCCC COP 31), Turkey
- Understanding Risk Global Forum 2026 (UR26), United Arab Emirates (UAE)





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