



Concept Note
The 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (EADP-2)
Venue: Mombasa, Kenya
Dates: 28-30 October, 2026

Theme: Transforming Risk into Resilience: Institutionalising Anticipatory Action through Localisation, Multi-Stakeholder Coordination, Sustainable Financing and Evidence-Driven Policy

1. Setting the scene

Eastern Africa continues to face one of the most complex humanitarian landscapes globally, shaped by compounding risks driven by climate, conflict, economic, and public health stresses. As of December 2025, 48.5 million people across the region required humanitarian assistance, representing about 20% of the global caseload. The failed October-November-December (OND) 2025 rains associated with La Niña occurred at a time when livelihoods, communities and sectors were yet to recover from the residual effects of the 2020–2023 drought. Region-wide, 36 million people were projected to face crisis-level food insecurity (IPC 3+) between June and September 2025.

In February 2026, over 8 million children under five and 1.3 million pregnant and breastfeeding women were acutely malnourished; 25 million people remained displaced across the region (19.4 million IDPs and 6 million refugees and asylum seekers), due to intensified conflict in Sudan. Cholera, Mpox, Marburg, and other outbreaks severely strained public health systems, with recorded cholera cases in 2025 being 36% higher than the previous year. Despite immense needs, funding shortfalls persist: only 34% of the USD 8.6 billion requested for 2025 was mobilised.

In this context of escalating multi-hazard risks, Anticipatory Action (AA) has emerged as a critical tool for reducing humanitarian impacts by acting before crises materialise. Regional experience over the last decade - codified through the IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action - demonstrates that timely anticipatory actions can reduce losses, protect livelihoods, strengthen community resilience, and ensure more efficient humanitarian response systems.

The 1st Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform (EADP-1, October 2024) established a shared ambition to scale up AA across the region through stronger evidence generation, harmonised triggers, inclusive community engagement, multi-sectoral planning, and government-led coordination. The forum produced a 17-point agenda under the



“Mombasa Declaration 2024”. The declaration outlined clear regional priorities aligned with global initiatives to strengthen partnerships and co-develop actionable solutions to advance AA at scale. The Declaration sets a strategic pathway for implementation, aiming to minimise bottlenecks, reduce duplication, and enhance coherence in regional AA efforts.

The Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (RTWG) has since expanded regional learning, consolidated mapping of AA progress evidence, and strengthened cross-country collaboration on triggers, early warnings, and early anticipatory actions. Members of the RTWG have also played a central role in supporting member states to develop and strengthen national AA roadmaps in Kenya, South Sudan, Somalia, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan and Djibouti as a key strategic effort towards government-led AA

The second Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action (EADP-2) will build on this momentum to transition AA from pilots to institutionalised, system-wide practice embedded within national frameworks, regional mechanisms, and sustainable financing structures. The event is being convened at a critical juncture for the humanitarian system. The global humanitarian reset calls for a more efficient, equitable, and risk-informed approach to humanitarian assistance, and AA has emerged as a key strategic approach towards this vision.

The 13th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action (December 2025) emphasised the need to institutionalise AA at scale, integrate it with early warning systems, and unlock innovative financing. The 2024 Grand Bargain Caucus reaffirmed the central role of Government leadership in mainstreaming AA within the national systems and structures. EADP-2 will contribute regional perspectives and commitments to these global discussions, ensuring Eastern Africa's voice and priorities inform the evolving AA agenda.

2. Objectives of the EADP-2

EADP-2 aims to advance the institutionalisation and scaling of AA across Eastern Africa by focusing on five overarching objectives:

- **Take stock of progress since 2024**, highlighting achievements and progress towards the 17-point agenda under ‘Mombasa Declaration 2024’, review evidence generated, remaining gaps, and innovations across countries and sectors.
- **Define priority actions for policy, practice, and financing** to embed AA into government-led systems, multi-sectoral plans, development goals and localisation agenda.
- **Strengthen coordination and partnerships**, including cross-border collaboration, public–private partnerships, and improved governance mechanisms to deliver coherent, government-led anticipatory action.



- **Generate Evidence-Based Recommendations** by producing actionable recommendations on institutionalisation, financing, localisation, and conflict-sensitive approaches for scaled AA.
- **Co-produce and reaffirm actionable commitments**, including a regional EADP-2 Declaration, outlining recommendations and priority actions for institutionalising anticipatory action in Eastern Africa, to be used for regional and global advocacy.

3. Thematic Areas

EADP-2 will focus on the following interconnected sub-themes:

Sub-Theme 1: Learnings from AA delivery in multi-hazard, multi-risk contexts in Eastern Africa

Several AA activations have occurred in Eastern Africa since 2024 across different countries and organizations. This sub-theme will provide an opportunity to examine the varied experiences and lessons learnt, including innovations and evidence from past activations and non-activations, to identify practical solutions and shared pathways for more effective anticipatory action across the region.

Key Discussion Points:

- System bottlenecks and operational hurdles that limit the timeliness and effectiveness of anticipatory actions in multi-hazard settings.
- Strengthening integration between sectors and organizations to jointly deliver anticipatory actions that fully address the interconnected risks communities face.
- Examples of government-led delivery of anticipatory action including enablers and efforts to strengthen this towards institutionalization of AA in government systems.
- Demonstrating locally-led AA where communities implemented the actions themselves and good practices in supporting such implementation.
- Opportunities, challenges and lessons learnt from AA delivery in fragile and conflict settings.
- Lessons learnt from non-activation of AA either when the trigger is met and actions were not delivered or when the trigger does not detect a hazardous event
- Evidence and learning from AA delivery, including innovative systems and innovative actions delivered.

Sub-Theme 2: Localising Anticipatory Action for Enhanced Community Resilience

Rationale: Anticipatory action is most effective when it is led and owned by local actors, is context-specific, and integrated into local risk management systems. Localisation ensures that vulnerable populations are at the centre of co-design, co-implementation, and decision-making processes, and that anticipatory interventions are culturally appropriate, accessible, and sustainable.



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Key Discussion Points:

- Strengthening local and national actor capacity to access anticipatory financing, design frameworks, and implement anticipatory actions at scale.
- Integrating traditional and indigenous knowledge systems with scientific forecasts, early warning information and triggers.
- Establishing trusted last-mile dissemination mechanisms that communicate early warnings in formats communities understand, trust and can take their own anticipatory actions.
- Embedding community-led selection and implementation of anticipatory action as a standard practice.
- Removing barriers to participation, including gender inequality and social exclusion, across design, targeting and implementation. Adapting locally led anticipatory action models for fragile contexts, including conflict-affected and displacement settings.
- Leveraging local networks and partnerships for effective local ownership and sustainable impact
- Share lessons on the latest innovation, research and evidence on localisation of AA in Eastern Africa.

Sub-Theme 3: Evidence-Based Early Warning and Information Systems

Rationale: Reliable, timely, and actionable early warning information is the foundation of effective anticipatory action. Despite progress, gaps remain in forecast skill, data availability, sub-national coverage, and integration between information systems managed by meteorological services, government sectors, humanitarian actors, and end-users. Strengthening early warning systems is critical for expanding anticipatory action to cover multiple hazards and contexts.

Key Discussion Points:

- Improving forecast skill and lead time for slow and fast-onset hazards, including droughts, floods, heatwaves, and disease outbreaks
- Strengthening sub-national and local-level early warning data and infrastructure, and integration into national systems
- Enhancing development of impact-based forecasting for multiple hazards and integration into anticipatory action frameworks
- Harmonising triggers and thresholds across actors to enable coordinated anticipatory action
- Harnessing technology and innovation, including AI, Earth Observation, and mobile networks, to strengthen early warning, targeting and communication
- Developing AA systems in fragmented or data-sparse contexts
- Integrating cross-border information and trigger systems to support AA across agro-climatic landscapes.
- Present on innovation, research and evidence on improving/customising/EWS and triggers for AA.



Sub-Theme 4: Strengthening Policy, Governance and Coordination Mechanisms

Rationale: Institutionalising anticipatory action requires clear policy frameworks, governance structures and coordination mechanisms, at national, regional, and global levels. Effective coordination ensures efficient use of resources, avoids duplication, and enables collective action across humanitarian, development, climate, and government sectors.

Key Discussion Points:

- Enhancing government-led technical working groups and coordination platforms to steer anticipatory action.
- Integrating AA into policy frameworks to enable multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral shared responsibility and accountability.
- Evolving governance structures to support timely and at scale AA in complex and multi-hazard contexts.
- Aligning coordination from regional to national and local levels while reducing parallel structures and maintaining complementarity of AA and related initiatives.
- Operationalising coordination across humanitarian, development, climate, and disaster risk reduction communities.
- Drawing innovation, learning from research and evidence on strengthening policy, governance and coordination for AA.

Sub-Theme 5: Innovative and Sustainable Financing for AA

Rationale: Sustainable financing is essential for scaling anticipatory action beyond pilots. While anticipatory financing has grown, it remains largely donor-driven, short-term, and fragmented. Transitioning to predictable, multi-year financing through regional and national systems, and innovative financing mechanisms, including climate finance, is critical for long-term sustainability and government ownership.

Key Discussion Points:

- Governments' role in transitioning from project-based funding to sustainable finance for system strengthening and AA activations
- Integrating anticipatory action into national disaster risk financing mechanisms (including parametric insurance, contingent credit, risk pooling), social protection systems, and contingency budgets
- Leveraging climate finance (including adaptation funds, loss and damage mechanisms) for anticipatory action
- Ensuring equitable access to anticipatory financing for local and national actors
- Demonstrating AA value for money, cost-effectiveness and return on investment
- Lessons from innovation, research and evidence on innovative and sustainable finance mechanisms for AA in the region, including in fragile contexts.



4. Expected Outcomes

The EADP-2 will deliver the following tangible outcomes:

- Regional stocktake and evidence synthesis capturing progress since 2024, lessons learned, and evidence on effective anticipatory action in Eastern Africa, supported by curated case studies, impact evaluations and operational guidance for replication and scale.
- Evidence-based recommendations addressing policy and regulatory priorities, institutional arrangements, financing mechanisms, and operational modalities required to scale and institutionalise anticipatory action across the region, with clear ownership and follow-up actions.
- Enhanced partnerships and coordination mechanisms among regional bodies, national governments, UN agencies, NGOs, research institutions, the private sector, Donors, and civil society organisations.
- EADP-2 Regional Declaration containing actionable commitments for institutionalisation AA through Localisation, Multi-Stakeholder Coordination, Sustainable Financing and Evidence-Driven Policy.
- Amplified regional influence in global policy and practice through a consolidated set of regional priorities, evidence and commitments that inform international anticipatory action discussions and investment decisions affecting Eastern Africa.

5. Format and Modalities

The EADP-2 will be a three-day in-person event, convened to maximise regional participation and inclusivity.

The event will open with a **high-level plenary session**, setting the strategic tone and framing regional priorities for anticipatory action. This will be followed by **thematic deep-dives** that bring together experts, practitioners, and policymakers to explore the sub-themes from multiple perspectives. Participants will engage in **parallel technical sessions** designed to unpack operational, scientific, and policy dimensions of anticipatory action in greater detail. To foster hands-on exchange, the programme will include **interactive workshops and case clinics**, allowing stakeholders to analyse real-world scenarios and co-develop practical solutions. There will be an evening **Town Hall session with live media coverage and discussions**, featuring interactive engagement and questions from both online and in-person audiences. The session will focus on key thematic issues and regional priorities, aimed at expanding the reach, visibility, and impact of the event. Throughout the event, a dynamic **marketplace and exhibition space** will showcase AA evidence, research, innovations, tools, dashboards, and community-driven models from across the region. The EADP-2 will conclude with a **closing plenary**, culminating in the collective review and endorsement of the EADP-2



declaration, reaffirming shared commitments to scale and institutionalise anticipatory action across Eastern Africa.

The event will be conducted in **English**.

6. Participants

Governments, humanitarian and development organisations, donors, research institutions, universities, the private sector, civil society, media, and members of AA and other relevant thematic working groups in the region.

7. Costs

The organising committee will cover the cost of the conference venue, facilities, equipment, documentation, and meeting materials. Participants are expected to cover their own travel and accommodation costs.

8. Contact Information

For additional information on EADP-2, please contact rtwga@igad.int.

9. Organising Committee



The 2nd Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform represents a critical opportunity to consolidate gains, address persistent challenges, and chart a course toward institutionalised, government-led anticipatory action that protects lives, preserves dignity, and builds resilience across the region. We look forward to your participation and contributions.