



ICPAC

Q2, 2026 Anticipatory Action Newsletter

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Editorial Note

Dear Partners,

Every quarter tests whether Anticipatory Action (AA) is truly becoming the region's default way of working — and this quarter, the evidence is hard to miss. Across the Greater Horn of Africa, a shared regional tool became a live system, two more Member States turned years of planning into adopted national policy, and a new platform took its first steps toward closing the last mile between a forecast and the people who need it most.

The headline achievement was regional: the Triggers and Thresholds System, validated by all ten Member States served by ICPAC and stress-tested against three decades of climate data, was officially launched on the margins of the 73rd Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF-73). What began as a technical concept is now a tool any Member State can put to work — turning a forecast into a trigger, and a trigger into action, before a hazard becomes a crisis. That launch did not happen in isolation. It followed a Regional Technical Working Group meeting that brought together nearly seventy participants from across the region to take honest stock of where Anticipatory Action stands, and where the persistent gaps — above all, pre-arranged financing — still need to close.

At the national level, momentum kept pace. South Sudan's stakeholders spent five days validating a revised Disaster Risk Management Policy that, for the first time, places Anticipatory Action at its core. Uganda moved just as decisively, pairing a technical training on its Multi-Hazard Integrated Early Warning System with the launch of a six-year national Roadmap. And in Sudan, a new chapter opened with the inception of the HUSIKA platform — a reminder that even the most sophisticated forecast is only as good as its ability to reach a community in language, in time, and in a form they can act on. None of this happens without the sustained commitment of our partners and supporters. Every investment in a regional tool, a national roadmap, or a last-mile platform is an investment in the seasons ahead — in the floods that don't become famines, and the droughts met early rather than endured.

As you read this edition, we invite you to see not only how far the region has come, but how quickly the architecture for anticipatory action is now moving from framework to function.

Thank you for standing with us on this journey. Your partnership continues to make anticipation possible, and resilience achievable, for millions across the Greater Horn of Africa.



Regional Leadership and Coordination

From Forecast to Action: The Region Launches Its Triggers and Thresholds System

In May, on the margins of the 73rd Greater Horn of Africa climate outlook Forum (GHACOF-73) in Addis Ababa, IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Centre (ICPAC) turned two years of technical groundwork into a live regional tool. The Regional Triggers and Thresholds System for Anticipatory Action was officially launched-the moment when forecasts stop being just information and start becoming instructions for action.

The system does something the region has never had before: it tells decision-makers not only that hazard is coming, but exactly when a predefined threshold has been crossed and action must begin-before a drought, flood, or heatwave hardens into a full-blown crisis.



We mark an important step in strengthening how our region prepares for climate risks, especially when faced with uncertainty. The launch reflects a growing recognition that timely information, collective coordination and forward-looking decision-making are key for sustainability in our region.

Dr. Abdi Fidar, Director of ICPAC, at the launch.



Regional stakeholders at the official launch of the Multi-Hazard Triggers and Thresholds System for Anticipatory Action

The launch was never a solo act. It is the product of Member States, technical partners, humanitarian actors, and donors pulling in the same direction — proof that when a region invests in shared early warning infrastructure, it pays forward into shared resilience. IGAD reaffirmed its commitment to keeping credible, actionable climate and sectoral information flowing freely across borders, so that decisions are timely, efficient, and coordinated rather than fragmented and late.

For the Greater Horn of Africa — a region where drought, floods, and extreme heat increasingly compound one another — this is more than a technical milestone.

It is the clearest signal yet that the region is completing its pivot: from reacting to disasters after they strike, to anticipating them and acting first. The JJAS seasonal forecast, made available alongside the launch, gives the system its first real test in the field in the months ahead.

What began as a shared ambition among ICPAC's partners and national meteorological services is now a platform any Member State can put to work. The real story of this launch will be written in the seasons that follow — in the floods that don't become famines, and the droughts met with cash and food before the first crop fails.



2 YEARS

Technical groundwork



Multi hazard

Drought | Flood | Heat



Regional

Across the Greater Horn of Africa



Putting the System to the Test: Ten Countries, One Validated Tool

Before any system earns the right to be trusted with people's lives and livelihoods, it has to be tested against reality. That is exactly what happened in Machakos in April, when technical teams from all ten IGAD Member States sat down with ICPAC and partners to stress-test the Regional Triggers and Thresholds System against thirty years of historical drought and heatwave records.

The verdict: the system held up. Validation across all ten countries confirmed strong overall performance, with the Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI) — which factors in evapotranspiration, not just rainfall — consistently outperforming its predecessor, especially in the region's arid and semi-arid zones. It was unanimously recommended as the primary drought indicator going forward. For heatwaves, country teams landed on a clear, usable rule: three consecutive days beyond threshold conditions now qualifies as an event, giving responders an unambiguous trigger to act on.

But the training was as much about people as it was about statistics. Government officials, meteorologists, and humanitarian actors from Disaster Risk Management, water, and agriculture sectors spent three days getting hands-on with the platform, and the shift in confidence was striking: participants who came in with limited familiarity with the regional system left reporting they were confident, or very confident, in using it — and most said they were likely to put triggers and thresholds directly into their own decision-making.



Technical teams from IGAD Member States working through the Regional Triggers and Thresholds System during the three-day validation training

Countries didn't just validate the system — they shaped it. Kenya flagged a threshold discrepancy that opened a technical dialogue with its national meteorological authority. Uganda proposed masking Lake Victoria to eliminate false drought signals. South Sudan and Sudan surfaced administrative boundary corrections needed before rollout. Every one of these fixes makes the system sharper, and every country that raised one now has ownership in the platform's success.

This is what regional readiness actually looks like: not a system handed down from the centre, but one pressure-tested, corrected, and endorsed by the very people who will use it when the next drought watch turns red. With country-specific validations for Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, and South Sudan already done, the work of grounding the region's flagship early warning tool in national reality continues.



10 COUNTRIES

Validated across all
IGAD Member States



SPEI PERFORMED BEST

Especially in Arid
and semi-arid zones



STRONGER OWNERSHIP

Country level fixes made
the system more accurate,
usable and relevant

Ten Countries, One Table: The Region Takes Stock and Sets Its Course

Nearly 70 people — government officials, meteorologists, and partners from across the board filled a room in Machakos in April, all there for the same reason: to take an honest look at how far Anticipatory Action has come in Eastern Africa, and to chart where it needs to go next.

The picture that emerged was one of real, hard-won momentum. All ten Member States — Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, Djibouti, Tanzania, Rwanda, and Burundi — presented their national progress, and a clear trend stood out: Anticipatory Action is no longer a pilot idea sitting at the margins of disaster policy. Kenya, Somalia, and South Sudan have now formally launched National AA Roadmaps, with ICPAC supporting others to follow.



Delegates from across the region in discussion at the Q1 2026 Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action meeting

Participants were candid about what still stands in the way. Pre-arranged financing — money set aside and ready to move the moment a trigger is hit — remains the single most consistently cited barrier to scaling Anticipatory Action across the region. Fragmented coordination between DRM, meteorological, agriculture, and water sectors, and the challenge of translating regional early warning into timely, country-specific decisions, were close behind.

Rather than simply naming the gaps, the meeting moved the region forward on several fronts at once. Delegates reached consensus that harmonizing Anticipatory Action across hazards should begin with drought and extreme heat — where the Triggers and Thresholds System already provides a regional foundation — before progressively extending to floods.

They agreed on a transparent, criteria-based process for selecting the Regional Technical Working Group's next rotational co-chair, ensuring leadership of the platform continues to rotate fairly across Member States. And the Organizing Committee shared strong progress on the Second Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform (EADP-2), with budget, call for sessions, and the event page already taking shape.

The throughline across two days of discussion was unmistakable: sustained political commitment and continued technical investment are what will carry Anticipatory Action the rest of the way — from policy commitments on paper to triggers that release real resources, in real time, to the people who need them. The Regional Technical Working Group remains the space where that translation happens, one quarter at a time.



Policy, Roadmaps and Frameworks

A Nation Rewrites Its Rulebook:

South Sudan Validates Its Anticipatory Action-Inclusive DRM Policy

For nearly a decade, South Sudan's national disaster policy sat on the books without ever fully coming to life — approved in 2016, but never implemented, and silent on Anticipatory Action altogether. In June, in Juba, that changed. Over 100 people — senior government officials, parliamentarians, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector — spent five days validating a revised National Disaster Risk Management Policy that, for the first time, puts Anticipatory Action at its core.

The urgency was impossible to miss. In his keynote, Hon. Albino Akol Atak Mayom, Minister in charge of the Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, laid out the scale of what South Sudan is up against: floods alone affected over 1.35 million people in 2025 and displaced 376,000, compounded by an influx of returnees and refugees fleeing conflict in neighbouring Sudan. His message was direct — the country must shift from reacting to disasters to anticipating them.



Senior government officials, parliamentarians, and partners at the validation workshop for South Sudan's revised, Anticipatory Action-inclusive Disaster Risk Management Policy

This validation didn't happen in isolation. It is the latest step in a process that began in 2023 and gathered real momentum in mid-2025, when stakeholders in Juba finalized a seven-pillar national AA Roadmap and agreed to embed Anticipatory Action directly into the DRM Policy as its own dedicated pillar. The Roadmap launched soon after; the June workshop was where the policy built on it was finally put to the test.

Working groups spent days pulling the draft apart line by line — testing institutional arrangements, early warning provisions, financing mechanisms, and inclusion of vulnerable groups including displaced persons, returnees, youth, and persons with disabilities. What came back was sharper on every front: a call for a national situation room, standard operating procedures for anticipatory action, formal recognition of indigenous knowledge alongside scientific forecasting, and a dedicated government fund to make financing predictable rather than improvised.

The workshop produced its own milestone — a roadmap for a South Sudan Multi-Hazard Early Warning System, drawing on ICPAC's regional East Africa Hazards Watch and the HUSIKA last-mile platform, complete with a vision for a national technical working group to carry it forward.

By day five, the room had done what workshops rarely achieve: it reached unanimous adoption of the revised policy. As the Minister put it, "Together, we can build a future where no community is left behind, and where the resilience of the South Sudanese people is matched by the strength of their government." With the policy validated and a clear roadmap to formal approval now in motion, South Sudan has moved Anticipatory Action from an idea partners were championing to a principle the government itself now owns.

Uganda Turns Training into a National Roadmap — and a New Early Warning System

Some launches take years to build toward; this one took just three days to cross the finish line. In June, a team of ICPAC experts sat down with government institutions, technical specialists, and development and humanitarian partners in Entebbe for an intensive three-day technical training on operationalizing Uganda's Multi-Hazard Integrated Early Warning System (MHIEWS) — and by the time the training closed, Uganda had two new national assets to show for it: an operational early warning system, and the Uganda Anticipatory Action Roadmap (2025–2031).

The training itself was the hard, unglamorous work that makes an early warning system trustworthy: strengthening the country's ability to detect multiple hazards at once, and — just as critically — to translate that detection into coordinated, timely action rather than information that arrives too late to matter. For a country that continues to face recurrent floods, droughts, and disease outbreaks, closing that gap between warning and action is not a technical nicety. It is the difference between a hazard and a disaster.



IGAD Head Of Mission to Uganda Ms Joselyn Bigirwa flanked by Hon Sam Engola, Uganda Minister of Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Refugees at the launch of the Uganda Anticipatory Action Roadmap and MHIEWS



The Roadmap that followed gives Uganda a single, coordinated framework to carry that momentum forward, built around six strategic priorities: strengthening multi-hazard early warning systems; scaling Anticipatory Action across sectors and communities; strengthening policies and institutional frameworks; improving governance and coordination among stakeholders; mobilising sustainable financing; and enhancing monitoring, evaluation, research and learning. Together, they read less like a wish list and more like a checklist for turning political will into operational reality — with financing and governance treated as first-class priorities alongside the technical system itself.



The Office of the Prime Minister led the launch, backed by a coalition that speaks to how broad the ownership of this milestone truly is: IGAD/ICPAC, the Uganda Red Cross Society, UNDRR, WFP, FAO, the European Union, the World Bank, German humanitarian assistance, and the Danish Refugee Council all stood behind the framework, alongside senior government officials, academia, civil society, the private sector, local governments, and community representatives.



For a region where the Regional Triggers and Thresholds System has just gone live and Member States are racing to plug it into national systems, Uganda's twin achievement — a functioning MHIEWS and a fully articulated six-year Roadmap — is exactly the kind of national follow-through that turns a regional tool into lived protection for communities. Uganda now joins Kenya, Somalia, Ethiopia and South Sudan among the Member States that have moved Anticipatory Action from framework to formally adopted national policy, with a road ahead already mapped out to 2031.



Partner Activations & Impact

Beyond Weather: Inside the Q1 RTWGAA Meeting, Partners Show How They're Anticipating Hunger, Violence, and Lost Learning

When the Regional Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (RTWGAA) gathered in Machakos in April, the agenda wasn't only country progress and governance. A dedicated session gave the floor to regional partners — and what they shared reframed what Anticipatory Action can mean. It's often pictured as rainfall and rivers. In that room, four organizations made the case that the same discipline can just as powerfully anticipate what climate shocks do to people.

Action Against Hunger (ACF) opened with malnutrition, presenting their MERIAM model — Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition — the first tool of its kind built to forecast acute malnutrition up to twelve months out, at a level of detail fine enough to guide district-level response. In validation, its forecasts matched observed prevalence with 80% accuracy. The stakes are hard to overstate: nearly 50 million children worldwide suffer from acute or moderate malnutrition, and close to half of all deaths among children under five are linked to it. A tool that flags rising risk before it crosses a crisis threshold, rather than after, is a tool that saves young lives.



Participants at the Q1 2026 RTWGAA meeting in Machakos

NORCAP took the discussion to protection, posing a question the region rarely asks out loud: what happens to gender-based violence risk when a shock hits? Their presentation walked partners through work embedding GBV risk intelligence directly into Anticipatory Action system design — turning scattered, underused protection data into coordinated, intelligence-informed action, with shared triggers and joint validation across agencies.

The International Rescue Committee closed another gap: turning a forecast into a picture of who, specifically, will be affected and how. Their "Follow the Forecast" approach, presented in Machakos, pairs early warning signals with Household Economy Analysis, translating a coming shock into livelihood-zone vulnerability outcomes by wealth group — so cash, nutrition, and WASH responses can be targeted with precision, not guesswork.

And the Norwegian Refugee Council showed that even education can be anticipatory. Presenting their Education Cannot Wait-funded pilot with local partners GREDO and READO in Somalia, NRC shared frameworks for drought and floods that link early warning directly to pre-agreed education response — schools staying open, teachers staying present, and learning continuing largely uninterrupted, even amid crisis.

By the time the session closed, the Working Group had heard, in one sitting, how four sectors are putting the same early-warning logic to work. As these frameworks mature alongside the region's flagship Triggers and Thresholds System, the Q1 meeting made clear that Eastern Africa is building something rarer than any single tool — a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral anticipatory ecosystem, with the RTWGAA as the table where it comes together.



Community Strengthening

Closing the Last Mile: Sudan Lays the Groundwork for HUSIKA

A forecast that never reaches the people who need it isn't early warning — it's a missed warning. That is the gap ICPAC, Save the Children International, and the Sudan Meteorological Authority set out to close in May, when they convened national stakeholders for the inception workshop of the HUSIKA Early Warning Platform in Sudan.

HUSIKA is built to solve a problem every early warning system eventually runs into: the "last mile." Sudan already has a functioning dissemination chain — the Sudan Meteorological Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation generate forecasts and advisories, which move out through radio, television, social media, and SMS partnerships with major telecom operators Zain, MTN, and Sudani. But the workshop surfaced exactly where that chain strains: SMS alerts capped at 70 characters that risk fragmenting mid-message, patchy reach into remote areas, and — perhaps most tellingly — no structured way for communities to talk back and confirm a warning actually landed and made sense.



ICPAC, Save the Children International, and Sudan Meteorological Authority representatives at the inception workshop for the HUSIKA Early Warning Platform

HUSIKA is designed to close precisely those gaps. It's a multi-channel, multi-device system — mobile app, web interface, and SMS together — built to keep working even where smartphones and data connections are scarce. It pushes out alerts, forecasts, and broadcasts, and, critically, it listens back: a built-in feedback loop lets communities respond to what they receive, turning early warning from a one-way broadcast into a genuine two-way conversation. And it is being built for Sudan specifically — localized into Arabic and local dialects, and engineered to plug into the country's existing dissemination architecture rather than compete with it.

What made the workshop matter wasn't just the platform demonstration — it was watching national ownership take shape in real time. Focal points from the Sudan Meteorological Authority and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation left with direct access to HUSIKA's administrative dashboard, meaning Sudanese institutions, not outside actors, will create and push out the alerts their own communities receive. Participants also worked through the technical detail that will decide whether HUSIKA succeeds where past systems have stalled: fitting within the existing telecom-based SMS matrix, and funding a feedback channel that costs communities nothing to use.

The path from here is already mapped: technical working sessions to finalize system architecture, onboarding and training for institutional users, and a pilot in the Nile Basin and Red Sea states to put multi-channel dissemination and community feedback to a real test. For a country where the space between a forecast and a flooded field or a failed harvest is often measured in hours, HUSIKA is a bet that the last mile doesn't have to be the missing mile.

Impact Metrics

Policy Integration & Framework Advancements

- 1 Regional Triggers and Thresholds System officially launched at GHACOF-73
- 1 Regional Triggers and Thresholds System validated across all 10 IGAD Member States
- 1 South Sudan DRM Policy (AA-inclusive) validated and unanimously adopted
- 1 Uganda National AA Roadmap (2025–2031) launched
- 1 Uganda Multi-Hazard Integrated Early Warning System (MHIEWS) operationalized
- 1 HUSIKA Early Warning Platform inception initiated in Sudan

Partnership & Coordination

- RTWGAA convened by ICPAC with Member States and partners.
- Uganda launch coalition: OPM, IGAD/ICPAC, Uganda Red Cross Society, UNDRR, WFP, FAO, EU, World Bank, German humanitarian assistance, DRC
- South Sudan validation brought together government, parliamentarians, UN agencies, NGOs, civil society, and the private sector
- HUSIKA inception convened ICPAC, Save the Children International, Sudan Meteorological Authority, and the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation

Knowledge Products

- MERIAM model (ACF) — forecasts acute malnutrition up to 12 months out with 80% accuracy
- NORCAP framework embedding GBV risk intelligence into AA system design
- IRC's "Follow the Forecast" Household Economy Analysis approach
- NRC's Education Cannot Wait-funded AA framework for drought and floods (Somalia)

Capacity Building

- 70 participants at the Q1 2026 RTWGAA meeting
- 10 countries' technical teams in the validation training
- Country-specific validations completed (Ethiopia, Uganda, Somalia, South Sudan)
- 100+ participants at the South Sudan DRM Policy Validation Workshop
- 3-day MHIEWS technical training in Uganda
- 4 partner organizations presenting at RTWGAA

On The Horizon

Mark Your Calendars

14th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Humanitarian Action

Date: 20-22 October 2026

Venue: Berlin, Germany and Online.

The Platform brings together the AA community to explore what is needed to sustain and scale what has been collectively built.

Q3 & Q4 2026 RTWGAA Meeting

Date: 26-27 October 2026

Venue: Mombasa, Kenya.

The Regional Technical Working Group reconvenes to track progress against Q2 commitments.

EADP-2 (Second Eastern Africa Dialogue Platform)

Date: 28-30 October 2026

Venue: Mombasa, Kenya.

The region's flagship AA dialogue platform, reconvenes to take stock of progress since EADP-1 in 2024, building on strong Organizing Committee momentum this quarter.

COP31 (UN Climate Change Conference)

Date: 9–20 November 2026

Venue: Antalya, Turkey.

COP31 is the region's next global stage to elevate the Triggers and Thresholds System, the growing roster of national AA roadmaps, and the case for pre-arranged, anticipatory financing among the world's climate decision-makers.



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