



The IGAD Secretariat on Anticipatory Action Terms of Reference (ToR)

1. Background

The IGAD region continues to suffer the burden of the impacts due to drought, floods, conflicts, epidemics, among others, and with the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme hydrometeorological events, the trend certainly will persist (IPCC, 2021). These risks compounded with other non-climatic stressors like epidemics, conflict, displacement, desert locust exacerbates the region's vulnerability to climate extremes. And within the Horn of Africa drylands (HAD) areas of the region, the situation is dire amplified by socio-economic challenges ranging from: acute malnutrition amongst children, declining agricultural activities, livestock deaths, and increased poverty level. In some parts of Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia, the sustained failed rainy seasons for October-December 2020, March-May 2021, October-December 2021, and March-May 2022 has resulted in economic losses in the form of millions of dollars. The March-May 2022 rainy season was the driest on record in the last 70 years - making the 2020-2022 surpass the horrific droughts in both 2010-2011 and 2016-2017 in duration and severity (OCHA 2022).

Humanitarian actors and the community of practice in disaster risk management have made attempts to build capacity of vulnerable people before the onset of disasters through Anticipatory Action (AA) which aims to enable the communities to anticipate, prepare for, and take early action. This is in recognition that climate extremes, which are the primary drivers of disasters, can be anticipated using early warning information and based on this information, decisions to act early can be made. Most anticipatory action initiatives in the region remain at pilot scale and need to be scaled-up to cover all vulnerable people and mainstreamed in national government strategies and plans to improve community resilience. Various organisations and institutions are currently working in the region to advance anticipatory action agenda, but often in a fragmented manner. It is crucial to document the lessons learned and harmonise the approaches towards mainstreaming and scale-up to address challenges inflicted by recurrent hazards in the region.

According to the IGAD Regional Report on Food Crises (2021), around 31.4 million people across the IGAD region are experiencing high levels of acute hunger requiring urgent



assistance (IPC Phase 3+) in 2020. Also alarmingly, this report showed that the number of people in Crisis or worse (IPC Phase 3 or above) food insecurity has increased steadily each year since the start of the Global Report on Food Crises in 2017. Similarly, overall humanitarian needs have steadily increased, globally and in the East Africa region, and with limitations on funding, the magnitude of unmet funding requirements have also grown (Source: Global Humanitarian Assistance Report 2019).

Given rising humanitarian needs and expectations that the frequency and intensity of disasters in the East Africa region will continue to increase due to the effects of climate change, it is clear that the humanitarian community needs to take a new approach. Rather than waiting to respond to crises, actions need to be taken earlier, as soon as there are indications of a future hazard that could threaten households' livelihoods and food security. Several studies by WFP, WMO, IFRC, FAO have shown that when the costs of avoiding emergency assistance and livestock restocking were factored in, this ratio rose to 9 and indication of potential of early actions has high returns on investment (https://www.fsnnetwork.org/sites/default/files/FAO%20EWEA%20ROI%20Key%20Findings_Resilience%20Evidence%20Forum_Oct2017_280917.pdf).

Despite this evidence, significant progress to scale-up and institutionalise anticipatory action is still needed. For example, despite all countries in the IGAD region having some type of country-led early warning system, there are many examples in the region of inaction leading to many people being affected and losing their livelihoods, property and driving high levels of food insecurity, despite sufficient and timely early warning information.

Due to learnings from recent anticipatory action pilots (e.g. Red Cross, FAO, WFP, OCHA, NGOs, ICPAC), as well as academic studies such as [one recently conducted by Tufts University](#), the humanitarian community has identified what works, what doesn't, and what needs to be improved to fully up-scale and institutionalise AA in IGAD region. Harmonisation of national approaches to AA by various actors requires a coordinating platform to provide guidance and leadership.

To address these challenges, a regional secretariat on AA has been established. The secretariat is housed within the existing IGAD/ICPAC structures of early warning systems. Its mission is to promote the use of AA approaches to manage climate and humanitarian risks in the region in various sectors. The secretariat provides leadership and strategic direction for regional coordination mechanisms of AA activities at National level through established National Technical Working Groups (NTWGs). The AA approaches are currently being rolled out in 35 countries by international agencies and humanitarian actors like WFP, FAO, IFRC, Start Network, OCHA, ECHO amongst others. The AA initiatives contribute to long term development gains and resilience to affected communities. The secretariat operations are guided through specific tasks and responsibilities aligned to national targets of the countries and outlined in the IRRAA.



2. Objective of Secretariat

The overall objective of the Secretariat is to create a platform for knowledge sharing and promotion of AA agenda across the region through an established framework for anticipatory actions. The specific activities of the secretariat will be developed once a fully operational regional technical working group is established.

3. The specific objectives

- i. Roll-out, and institutionalisation of the working group's efforts at the national level across the region.
- ii. Design and support implementation of a framework for coordination of AA in the IGAD region, focussing on multi-hazard approaches and promoting multi-sectoral anticipatory response plans.
- iii. Develop and recommend regional strategies, policies, and guidelines for EWEA and anticipatory action in the IGAD region.
- iv. Establish links with related fields of work and platforms such as FSNWG, prediction and tracking of displacement.
- v. Advocate for the integration of AA principles into national and regional disaster management frameworks and financing mechanisms
- vi. Joint Regional Resource mobilisation to support AAs anchored on IRRAA and mainstreamed at national level.

4. Membership and Working Modalities

The Secretariat for the regional technical working group will play an advisory role to the TWG and will oversee the operations of the RTWG on a regular basis. The secretariat will comprise members from:

- a. IGAD
- b. WFP
- c. FAO
- d. ECHO
- e. OCHA
- f. IFRC
- g. UNDRR
- h. START Network

i). Regular membership for Technical Working group

The membership of RTWGAA is open to any organisation working on or interested in anticipatory action. These members could include, but are not limited to:

- i. GIZ
- ii. Other UN organisations



- iii. NGOs and private sectors
- iv. Representative from National Technical working Groups and National Government
- v. Private sector

5. Governance

IGAD will chair working group and partners will be co-chairs in a rotational basis.

i. Roles and Responsibilities:

- a) Provide a platform for member states to share information on early warning systems, disaster preparedness, and response efforts.
- b) Collaborate with relevant stakeholders to develop and implement capacity-building programs, training, and workshops on EWEA and anticipatory action.
- c) Identify funding opportunities and advocate for financial support for EWEA and anticipatory action initiatives in the IGAD region.
- d) Monitor and assess the effectiveness of early warning systems and anticipatory action measures within the IGAD member states.
- e) Develop and maintain a database of best practices, case studies, and lessons learned in Anticipatory Action.
- f) Facilitate the development of regional policies, strategies, and guidelines on and Anticipatory Action, and advocate for their adoption at the national level.
- g) Organize regular meetings, workshops, and conferences to facilitate knowledge exchange and collaboration among member states and partners.

ii. Reporting:

The RTWG will report its activities and progress to Secretariat in consultation with ICPAC Disaster Risk Management Unit and other relevant IGAD bodies as necessary. A summary of the TWG's activities and achievements will be presented at IGAD's periodic and ad hoc meetings and other appropriate forums.

iii. Duration

The TWG on Anticipatory Action is established for an initial period of three years, with the possibility of extension based on its performance and relevance to the region.

iv. Review:

The ToR and the effectiveness of the TWG will be reviewed periodically, with input from member states and relevant stakeholders, to ensure that it remains aligned.



v. Quorum and Frequency of meetings

The Secretariat meetings will be held every last Wednesday of the month, notice of the same to be done two weeks before by communication unit of the Secretariat. For a meeting to be properly constituted, atleast 2/3 of partners should be present.

