

## Anticipating Climate Shocks

Side event on the margins of the Second Regular Session of the Executive Board  
Tuesday, 16 November 2021, 13:30 – 14:30  
Virtual event on Zoom

The World Food Programme is kindly inviting its partners and members to a side event on Anticipating Climate Shocks on Tuesday 16 November 2021. With perspectives from WFP, the Red Cross Climate Centre, Save the Children, and Denmark's Climate Ambassador, the event will focus on the evidence, the challenges, and the needs for implementing anticipatory actions ahead of climate shocks.

### Context

Building on the previous side event in February 2020 titled “Anticipating Disasters: Forecast-based Financing in WFP”, this follow-up event aims to share insights from the field and continue the conversation on the humanitarian impacts of anticipatory actions ahead of climate shocks, and the needed early warning systems to deliver them. With opening remarks from WFP's Director of Emergencies, the side event will explore the outcomes of anticipatory actions implemented during the 2021 La Niña drought in Ethiopia, hear from a diverse panel on recent activations in Bangladesh, Nepal, and Zimbabwe and on the challenges and successes in developing sustainable and scalable anticipatory action programmes.

Today we can predict with increasing confidence the occurrence and the humanitarian impact of certain crises, especially climatic shocks. Skilful early warning systems can help facilitate the decision to release prearranged finance for pre-agreed interventions before a climate shock occurs, minimizing losses and damages, protecting lives and livelihoods, and reducing the need for humanitarian assistance in their aftermath. By taking this anticipatory approach the humanitarian community can better protect vulnerable people, save more lives, and increase the impact of available funds.

Tried and tested since 2015, WFP's Anticipatory Action programme is changing the way the humanitarian system responds to climate-related disasters: it complements the existing preparedness plans of humanitarian and government institutions with pre-agreed actions and prearranged financing to reduce the scale of humanitarian needs before they materialize. This forward-looking risk management approach is protecting more lives, improving disaster management mechanisms, and lowering the cost of humanitarian assistance.

With financial support from Germany, Norway, Denmark, and Switzerland, WFP is working with humanitarian and government partners to strengthen nationally owned early warning systems and facilitate the delivery of timely and accurate anticipatory actions in 19 countries across Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. To support further reach of anticipatory humanitarian actions, WFP has established institutional linkages with key stakeholders including the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the START Network.

## Objectives

This side event is an opportunity for WFP's membership to engage with institutional perspectives and examples that highlight the challenges and successes of anticipatory humanitarian action – in the context of strengthening national climate risk management systems and anticipatory humanitarian actions.

The session will explore:

- The role of early warning systems to enable anticipatory action and address the increasing frequency and intensity of climate hazards;
- Experiences with technical and financial partnerships for anticipatory action programs
- Challenges and successes when working in fragile states and under-funded emergencies;
- Impacts and lessons learned from the 2021 drought in Ethiopia;
- The way forward in developing the anticipatory action programme in WFP, the humanitarian community and partner countries.

## Agenda 13:30 – 14:30

### (5 min) Welcome and opening comments

- Ms Margot van der Velden, Director of Emergencies, WFP

### (3 min) WFP anticipatory action video

### (5 min) Donor perspectives - getting ahead of the curve

- Mr Tomas Anker Christensen, Climate Ambassador, Denmark

### (10 min) Anticipatory action intervention: Ethiopia 2021

- Ms Jennifer Bitonde Deputy Country Director Ethiopia, WFP
- Ms Maurine Ambani, Anticipatory Action Regional Coordinator Kenya, WFP

### (20 min) Anticipating climate Shocks – facilitated panel discussion

- **Moderator: Mr Jesse Mason**, Global Coordinator Anticipatory Actions, WFP
- **Ms Francesca Erdelmann**, Country Director, WFP Zimbabwe
- **Mr Sultan Latif**, Director, Humanitarian Climate Crisis Unit, Save the Children
- **Mr Robert Kasca**, Country Director, WFP Nepal
- **Mr Dan Osgood**, Lead Scientist, International Research Institute for Climate & Society

This panel aims to share perspectives by partners on the critical needs to ensure that anticipatory action programs, which lie at the nexus of system strengthening and the delivery of humanitarian aid, can help reduce growing humanitarian needs in a changing climate. The discussion will focus on opportunities and challenges in the scale-up of anticipatory action programs.

### (5 min) Closing comments

- Mr David Kaatrud Director of Programme - Humanitarian and Development Division, WFP

**Q&A from the audience** will be addressed through the Zoom chat function concurrent with the session.