Scaling up Anticipatory Action to protect agricultural livelihoods and food security

**Objective**

Safeguard the agricultural livelihoods and food security of the most vulnerable households ahead of shocks and reduce humanitarian needs by systematically linking risk analysis to Anticipatory Action (AA) in high-risk countries.

**Activities implemented**

- Finalized six additional AA protocols for drought, while further protocols for floods as well as for crop and animal pests and diseases were initiated in 2023.
- Trained more than 4,700 people in risk analysis and early warning and 1,041 people in AA programming in agriculture and food security.
- Produced 23 learning and normative guidance products on AA and used for programming and advocacy; global products included: a position paper on slow-onset hazards; guidance on social protection and AA to protect agricultural livelihoods; disaster risk prioritization guidance; joint FAO–WFP AA strategy; document on anticipating food crises – common principles to address challenges relating to AA.
- Example activities implemented in various regions:
  - **Asia and the Pacific**: updated/developed 11 AA protocols (2023); created a regional subgroup on AA triggers; delivered monthly updates on the El Niño phenomenon and its expected impacts across the region; worked on the risk analysis of dzud and its consequences on herders’ lives and livelihoods (Mongolia).
  - **Latin America and the Caribbean**: trained 730 producers and 46 municipal governments in drought preparedness, and developed AA protocols for drought and floods (Bolivia); trained smallholder farmers in the use and management of climate forecasts and early warning (Nicaragua); finalized AA protocols for drought in Honduras, Guatemala, Nicaragua, El Salvador.
Results

• Strengthened FAO and partners’ capacities to implement timely and appropriate AA, contributing to assist 2 million people in 2023 (a fourfold increase compared with 2022) ahead of drought, floods, cyclones, pests and diseases, of whom around 565,000 people thanks to funding from Germany through the Special Fund for Emergencies and Rehabilitation Activities – AA window.

• Enhanced FAO’s technical capacities at regional and country levels for the establishment/improvement of AA protocols, including for the development of early warning triggers and the harmonization of approaches across various regions.

• Continued to play a leading role in providing normative guidance and setting standards for AA programming for agriculture and food security; building on region- and country-specific examples, case studies and lessons learned, guidelines and tools were developed in support of effective AA programming for agriculture and food security sectors.

• Strengthened global coordination and partnerships on AA in 2023; for instance, FAO and WFP launched their joint AA strategy to ensure synergies and coherence across the initiatives of the two organizations.

West Africa and the Sahel: put in place subregional AA initiative to mitigate the effects of floods on agricultural livelihoods; advanced coordination; established the Regional Task Force on AA for Food Security in the Sahel, in close collaboration with the CILSS, WFP, African Centre of Meteorological Application for Development, and IFRC.

Southern Africa: conducted community trainings on AA for drought in Mozambique, Malawi, Madagascar, Zimbabwe; facilitated the Malawi and Zimbabwe AA roadmap workshops; developed operational preparedness plans for El Niño-related AA; coordinated and co-hosted the Africa Dialogue Platform on AA.

Near East and North Africa: organized capacity building workshop on advancing AA to address the impact of compounded shocks and crises in the region; conducted internal trainings and capacity development workshop on AA.

Contact

Office of Emergencies and Resilience
OER-Director@fao.org | fao.org/emergencies
@FAOemergencies
Rome, Italy

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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