

World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe ANTICIPATORY ACTION Regional Summary

Anticipatory action (AA) is defined as acting ahead of predicted hazardous events to prevent or reduce expected acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. Emerging evidence suggests that AA – which focuses on providing assistance to people at risk – has the potential to deliver effective results, reduce costs and maintain the dignity of disaster-affected people more effectively than conventional humanitarian response. Although AA programming may not appear different than conventional humanitarian assistance, it is fundamentally different in that action is taken when risks increase as opposed to needs.

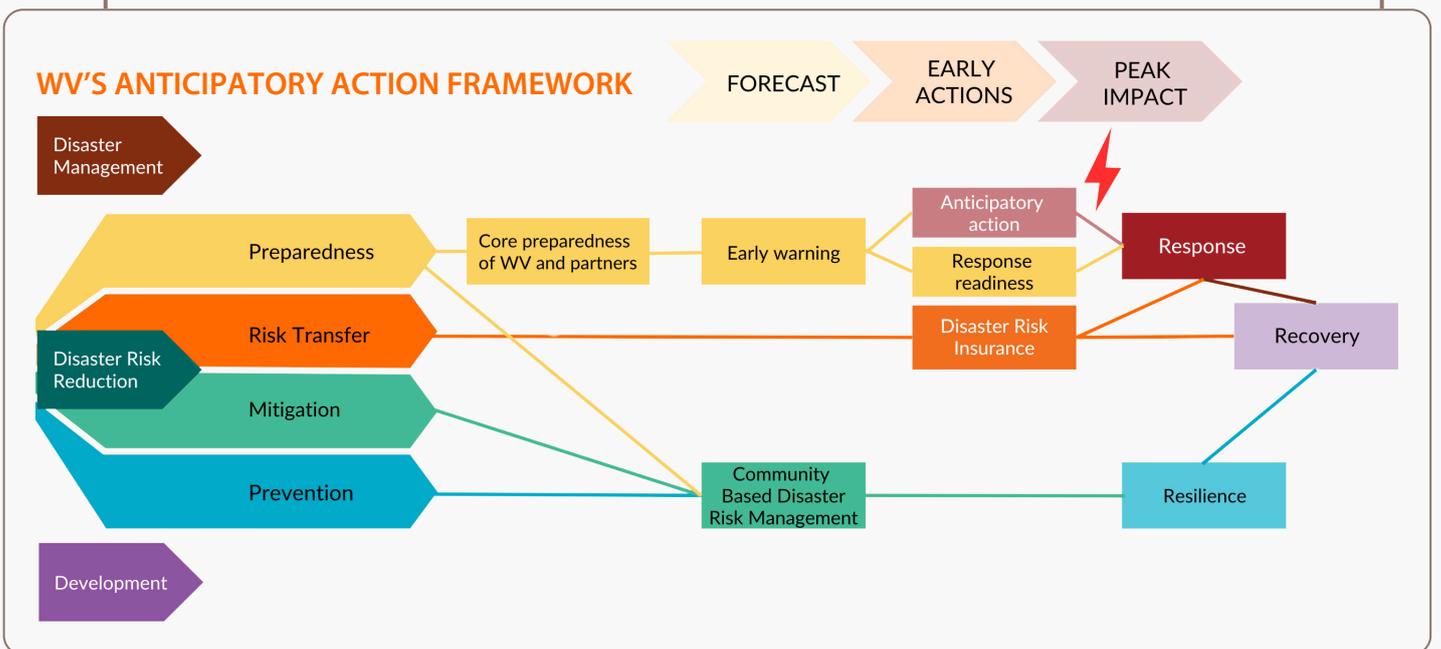
AA is a key component of WV’s Disaster and Risk Reduction (DRR) Roadmap. World Vision collaborates closely with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and local civil society to implement its AA projects.

We also contribute to global as well as regional dialogue and learning through participation in key AA networks, platforms, and events such as the inaugural MENA Regional AA Dialogue Forum held in Dubai in July 2024, hosted by IFRC and WFP.



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Through Anticipatory Action (AA) we aim to reduce the disaster risks and vulnerabilities of populations at risk, by adopting preventive measures and early warning interventions in collaboration and consultation with affected communities.





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In 2023, [World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe](#) (WV MEER) launched a pilot in the MEER region - specifically in Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria - with the aim of minimising the impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, particularly children, women, and marginalised communities. WV MEER is leveraging the AA approach through projects that focus on strengthening institutional and community capacity to respond to humanitarian crises, thereby enhancing local actors' ability to be pre-emptive in their response.



[World Vision Syria Response](#), in partnership with a local partner, implemented an anticipatory action project in Northern Syria. The project targets mitigating the impacts of [floods, droughts, and associated risks](#) through pre-emptive measures. Engaging extensively with [community stakeholders](#), the project addresses challenges like recurrent droughts, sporadic floods, and service provision gaps due to limited governance structures.



Iraq is among the top most vulnerable countries to climate change. The country is grappling with rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, severe droughts, water shortages, and frequent sand and dust storms. Disaster preparedness is limited by resource constraints, institutional weaknesses, and infrastructure issues, worsened by recent conflicts. Efforts to improve disaster response are often hindered by gaps in coordination and early warning systems. [World Vision Iraq](#)'s AA project and feasibility study focused mainly on [Hatra, in the Ninewa Governorate](#), and aimed at preparing and protecting vulnerable communities from [climate-induced challenges](#) such as drought and wildfires.



Lebanon experiences storms with heavy rain, snow, strong winds, and thunderstorms during winter, leading to flooding, landslides, erosion, potable water pollution, mudflows in downstream, clogged canals and severe damages on crops and yields. This especially affects farmers in the area relying on agriculture and livestock as their only income, as well as refugees living in Informal Tented Settlements (ITSs). Akkar, in northern Lebanon, is particularly prone to severe and frequent flooding. Municipalities lack the financial resources for essential flood mitigation tasks such as cleaning rivers and canals. [World Vision Lebanon](#) has been [proactive in flood response](#), notably during severe events in 2009, 2019 and 2024.

WAY FORWARD

FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION AT WORLD VISION MIDDLE EAST AND EASTERN EUROPE (WV MEER):

1 EXPANDING AA PROGRAMMING

WV MEER plans to continue supporting Field Offices (FOs) in their efforts to scale up or replicate their successful pilot projects, focusing on areas vulnerable to climate-related hazards like floods and droughts.

2 EVIDENCE BUILDING

WV MEER will gather and analyse evidence on AA effectiveness as part of continuous programmatic improvements across the region.

3 STRENGTHENING PARTNERSHIPS

WV MEER will prioritise fostering new relationships and strengthening existing ones with international donors, local organisations, and government agencies to leverage additional resources and expertise, ensuring long-term and sustainable support for AA initiatives.

4 CAPACITY BUILDING AND FUTURE FOCUS

WV MEER will focus on enhancing internal and external capacities. This includes securing more resources, strengthening partnerships with local and international stakeholders, providing training for staff and communities, as well as investing in new technologies and infrastructure.

5 CALL FOR MORE SUSTAINABLE FUNDING PATHWAYS

Funding for climate adaptation is disproportionately low in fragile contexts. Fragile contexts face significant challenges in responding to climate change, which can increase vulnerability to adverse effects such as food and water insecurity, displacement, and loss of livelihoods. Strengthening local governance and institutional capacity for proactive response is essential for supporting effective management of these impacts.



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