

CERF AT THE FOREFRONT OF ANTICIPATORY ACTION



Beyond ensuring swift and strategic funding in response to sudden onset, escalating and protracted crises, the **Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)** is also a leading global humanitarian funding tool for Anticipatory Action. Starting with the establishment of the first Anticipatory Action framework in Somalia in 2019, CERF has been at the forefront of advancing Anticipatory Action and is today the largest contributor to Anticipatory Action frameworks globally, supplying over 50 per cent of all pre-arranged funding for Anticipatory Action in 2023.¹ CERF-funded Anticipatory Action frameworks cover both climate-related shocks (droughts, floods, and storms) and disease outbreaks, primarily cholera. In November 2024, CERF's level of commitment to Anticipatory Action has reached \$122.8 million in pre-arranged funding for Anticipatory Action frameworks, compared to \$48 million in 2020. Of this overall commitment in 2024, 108.2 million remain pre-arranged as of 15 November following recent activations.²

What is Anticipatory Action?

Anticipatory Action enables humanitarian organizations to act ahead of a predicted hazardous event. In doing so, they can provide critical assistance to people before the shock strikes, prevent or lessen the humanitarian impact of the event, and mitigate needs before they escalate. Anticipatory Action enables vulnerable families to help themselves through a crisis. This can take the form of one-off cash transfers ahead of a storm or climate-smart farming packages ahead of drought. Anticipatory Action can also contribute to resilience, for example outfitting boreholes with solar power will enable communities to access water during a predicted upcoming drought, but also during future shocks.

\$104M

disbursed by CERF for Anticipatory Action frameworks between 2020 and 2024 to

8 countries reaching

4M people³

\$122.8M

committed by CERF in pre-arranged funding for AA frameworks covering

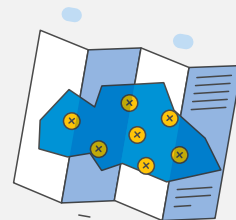
4M people in **17** countries⁴

16 Active frameworks

in **13** countries

4 Frameworks

in development in **4** countries



Cholera Outbreak Control in the Democratic Republic of the Congo



In 2023, following a sharp rise in suspected cholera cases in the endemic North and South Kivu Provinces in the DRC, the threshold for triggering the Anticipatory Action framework was reached. CERF swiftly allocated \$750,000 to curb the spread of the disease, assisting over 230,000 people through water, sanitation, hygiene, and health activities implemented by UNICEF, WHO and their humanitarian partners.

Mani, a mother of three displaced by the conflict in North Kivu, vividly recalls her arrival at the Rutshuro displacement camp: "When I arrived, I had no water. It is difficult to live without water". The lack of access to clean water and proper sanitation services exposed children and their families to increased risks of waterborne diseases, particularly cholera. With the support of CERF funding, UNICEF was able to provide prevention kits to 3,500 displaced families and to quickly set up water points and sanitation services, ensuring sustainable access to clean water.



[Read more about the impact of the Pooled Funds on StoryHub](#)

1. [Anticipatory Action in 2023 \(Anticipation Hub, 2024\)](#)

2. Total funding amount currently endorsed by the ERC for active AA frameworks, pre-approved amount for frameworks under development, and disbursed amounts between 2020 and 2024.

3. Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Chad, Ethiopia, Nepal, Niger, Somalia (no longer active), South Sudan (ad-hoc allocation for floods in 2022, no longer active)

4. \$108.2m remain pre-arranged as of 15 November 2024 following most recent activations)

* Photo credit: UNOCHA/Wassy Kambale

Developing CERF Anticipatory Action



1 The establishment of an Anticipatory Action framework begins with a request from the Resident Coordinator/ Humanitarian Coordinator (RC/HC) to the Emergency Relief Coordinator (ERC). The ERC reviews the requests with support from OCHA's Anticipatory Action Working Group.



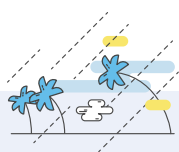
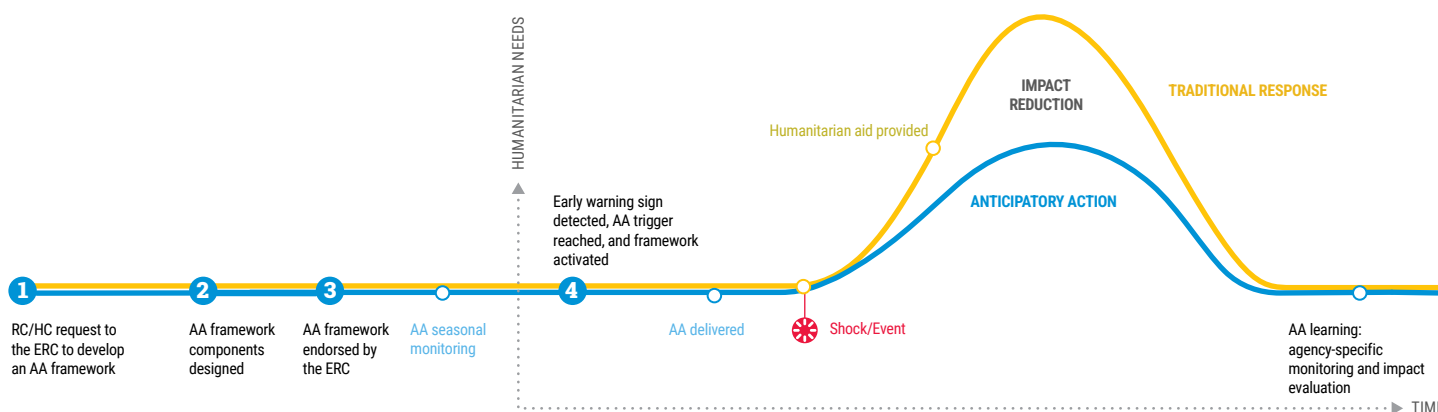
2 Following ERC request approval, the RC/HC leads the development of the framework, in collaboration with OCHA, the Humanitarian Country Team, government entities, and key partner organizations that jointly develop four essential components of the Anticipatory Action framework: First, a **pre-agreed trigger** is established, consisting of specific thresholds and reliable forecasts. Second, **pre-planned activities** are designed, detailing feasible actions to be rapidly implemented between the trigger moment and the full impact of a shock. Third, **pre-arranged financing** is secured by CERF and other donors, guaranteeing the immediate release of funds once the trigger is activated. Finally, a **learning approach is agreed upon** to assess the framework's effectiveness and improve future responses.



3 Once all four components are agreed upon, the ERC endorses the framework, initially for a period of two years.



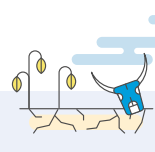
4 When a trigger is reached, an automated allocation process is activated, and CERF funds are quickly disbursed against the pre-approved projects.



Storm framework triggers activate based on meteorological data from national forecast centers, such as wind speeds, rainfall intensity, and storm categories. When these indicators meet set thresholds, like predicted storm strength or proximity to the coast, the framework is triggered. For instance, the framework in Fiji activates if the Regional Specialized Meteorological Center forecasts a tropical cyclone to reach Category 4 or 5 while within 250 km of Fiji.



Flood framework triggers rely on hydrological forecast and real-time river monitoring to predict rising water levels and confirm flood risks. In Bangladesh, the framework is activated when water levels are forecasted to exceed the Government's defined danger level by 0.5 meters at the downstream Mawa station or 0.85 meters at the upstream Bahadurabad station and continue rising - conditions that led to the activation of the framework in July 2024.



Drought framework triggers are based on forecast data from precipitation forecasts, and real-time observations. A drought framework usually operates in phases, with associated triggers. The earlier phases are triggered based on rainfall forecasts while later phases are triggered based on observational data obtained during the rainy season. In Chad, the first phases of the framework are triggered when there is at least a 42.5 per cent risk of below-average rainfall between July and September, in 20 per cent or more of the target area. The later phase of the framework is triggered when biomass measured in early September indicates an 80 per cent anomaly.



Cholera framework triggers are activated by changes in epidemiological data or external shocks, such as floods or displacement, which disrupt access to clean water and sanitation. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), the framework triggers if there is a sudden increase in suspected cholera cases over a period of three weeks, as was the case in 2022 and 2023. Additionally, the framework can also trigger in endemic areas if there is a shock that increases the risk of cholera (e.g. floods, displacement), and CERF responds to this shock with an RR allocation.

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

El Salvador
Guatemala
Honduras
Nicaragua

Droughts
Haiti
Tropical storms

Niger
Droughts/
Floods

Burkina Faso
Droughts

Democratic Republic of the Congo
Cholera

Mozambique
Cholera/
Tropical storms

Chad
Droughts/
Floods

South Sudan
Floods

Ethiopia
Droughts

Somalia
Droughts

Malawi
Dry spells

Afghanistan
Droughts

Nepal
Floods

Bangladesh
Tropical storms/
Floods

Philippines
Typhoons

Framework
■ Activated
■ Endorsed
■ In development

Fiji
Tropical storms

2024 framework activations and allocations

As of November 2024

\$6.2M
allocated within 16 minutes to mitigate the humanitarian impact of floods in **Bangladesh** in July.

\$3.4M
allocated within 6 minutes to help **Nepal** get ahead of severe monsoon rains in September.

\$5M
allocated to support people at-risk in **Chad**, preparing for a >90% chance of riverine flooding in October.

\$10M
allocated to mitigate the impact of impending drought conditions for 540,000 people at risk in the southeast of **Ethiopia**. The allocation was complemented by \$10 million from the Ethiopia Humanitarian Fund.⁵

Flood Response in Bangladesh

On 4 July 2024, after heavy monsoon rainfall in Bangladesh, the Anticipatory Action framework trigger for floods in the Jamuna River basin was reached at the Bahadurabad monitoring station. Just 16 minutes after the alert, CERF allocated \$6.2 million, enabling WFP, FAO, UNICEF, and UNFPA to provide life-saving multi-purpose cash assistance, as well as agricultural and reproductive health support to 388,000 people.

With CERF's support, FAO was able to broadcast early warning messages and distribute nutritious animal feed and waterproof storage silos to over 56,000 people. Shaheda, who received animal feed and silos ahead of the expected floods, shared: "It's harder for cows to survive than people, and it's difficult to manage food for them than for ourselves. If I provide this food to my cows, then they will be healthy, and I can sell them at a higher price. If I sell them now, during this stage, I will only get half the price of what they're worth."⁶

Climate change has increased the severity and frequency of flooding in Bangladesh. This activation of the framework in July 2024 follows an earlier one, exactly four years before, on 4 July 2020, when severe floods were forecasted along the Jamuna River, prompting CERF to allocate \$5.2 million.



Anticipatory Action and the CERF Climate Action Account

To reach more people and scale action in response to increasingly frequent and severe climate challenges, OCHA launched the CERF Climate Action Account at COP28 in December 2023. Contributions to the Account are exclusively used to boost humanitarian responses to climate-related disasters and scale Anticipatory Action for predictable climate shocks. As of November 2024, the Climate Action Account helps support 19 frameworks in 16 countries for climate-related disasters,⁷ backed by \$106.7 million in pre-arranged funding. The \$6.2 million allocation for Bangladesh in July 2024, the \$5 million allocation for Chad, \$3.4 million for Nepal, and the \$10 million allocation for Ethiopia were notably made possible thanks to the support of the Account.⁸



CERF aims to further expand and sustain its support for Anticipatory Action and continue delivering timely, dignified, and cost-effective humanitarian responses. Given the decline of CERF's annual income, the need for additional contributions is critical to sustain these efforts.

[Donate to CERF](#)

[Donate to the Climate Action Account](#)

5. This was an anticipatory allocation that leveraged existing elements from the Ethiopia drought AA framework under development

6. Read more in the press release [here](#) or read the features on anticipatory action in the Humanitarian Response Plan for Cyclone Remal and Monsoon Floods in Bangladesh [here](#).

7. This excludes non-climate related AA frameworks.

8. More information on the Climate Action Account is available [here](#).