



Capacity Development Workshop on Anticipatory Action

29 – 30 November 2023

Colombo, Sri Lanka

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INITIATIVE ON
Climate Resilience

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CONTENTS

LIST OF ACRONYMS.....	4
SUMMARY	5
INTRODUCTION	6
WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES	7
TRAINING PROCESS	7
LIST OF PARTICIPANTS	10
TRAINING PROCEEDINGS	11
DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD.....	12
CLOSING REMARKS	12
ANNEXURES	13

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AA	Anticipatory Action
AWARE	Early Warning, Early Action and Early Finance
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DOM	Department of Meteorology
DMC	Disaster Management Center
DRF	Disaster Risk Finance
DEM	Disaster Emergency Management
EW	Early Warning
ID	Irrigation Department
NBRO	National Building Research Organization
NDRSC	National Disaster Relief Services Centre

SUMMARY

To enhance disaster management strategies in Sri Lanka, crucial change from reactive to proactive approach is important. Anticipatory Action, a proactive approach, involves early risk identification, monitoring, and preparedness measures. Establishing an Anticipatory Action framework requires collaboration and awareness among relevant agencies. A comprehensive two-day residence training program, designed by World Vision Lanka (WVL) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI), aimed to equip government agencies with skills to develop Anticipatory Action protocols. The program covered key modules, including the concept of Anticipatory Action, components involving knowledge products and tools, distinctions from traditional response mechanisms, viability assessment, early warning practices, and the development of Anticipatory Action protocols and triggers. Special emphasis was placed on financial integration, MEAL planning, simulations, and addressing operational challenges. A total of 27 Participants from Disaster Management Centre (DMC), Department of Meteorology (DOM) National Building Research Organization (NBRO), Irrigation Department (ID), and National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC) actively participate for the training. The program utilized a module-based approach for an interactive learning experience. The program concluded with discussions on the way forward, emphasizing Anticipatory Action's essential role in national disaster reduction, highlighting a collaborative commitment to enhancing disaster preparedness and management in Sri Lanka.

INTRODUCTION

Sri Lanka's susceptibility to a spectrum of natural hazards, the country faces an increasing risk of both flood and landslide disasters, particularly exacerbated during the monsoon seasons extending from May to September and October to January, depending on the specific regions. In elevating disaster management practices, a compelling imperative emerges to transition from conventional reactive measures to proactive approaches, effectively mitigating and minimizing the impact of natural disasters. This strategic shift is critical, enhancing the nation's resilience and responsiveness to the emerging challenges posed by natural disasters.

Anticipatory Action serves as a proactive approach aimed at mitigating the impact of future disasters or crises before their onset. This approach involves the identification of potential risks, monitoring, early warning, and implementing measures to reduce the vulnerability of communities. The key role of Anticipatory Action is to undertake preventive measures in advance, based on forecasted events or indicators, to reduce the severity of the impact and enhance the overall preparedness process.

Establishing an Anticipatory Action framework in Sri Lanka requires a combined effort to raise awareness among relevant agencies actively engaged in disaster management and mitigation activities. The main objectives of the training program are to stand in a constructive dialogue regarding the establishment of the Anticipatory Action framework in Sri Lanka and to communicate the building blocks of Anticipatory Action to individuals at every level within the administrative structure of stakeholder agencies.

To overcome the objective of a two-day training program was methodically planned to train the government agencies, including the Disaster Management Center, the Meteorological Department, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), and other pertinent entities. The program was collaboratively designed by World Vision Lanka (WVL) and the International Water Management Institute (IWMI). The training modules directly aimed to equip participants with the necessary knowledge and skills to develop Anticipatory Action protocols for flood and drought. WVL provided full financial support to ensure the successful completion of the training program, emphasizing the collaborative commitment to enhancing disaster preparedness and management in Sri Lanka.

WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

The main objectives of the training program are to initiate a constructive dialogue on the establishment of the Anticipatory Action framework in Sri Lanka. Additionally, the program undertakes to effectively convey the concept of Anticipatory Action to individuals of stakeholder agencies.

Specific objectives;

- To ensure a comprehensive understanding of the required support from stockholder agencies
- To train to develop the Anticipatory Action protocols for relevant Divisional Secretariates Divisions (DSD) or Gramaniladari Divisions (DSD).

Dates of workshop: 29th – 30th November 2023

Venue of workshop- Pegasus Hotel, Wattala

TRAINING PROCESS

The training program was carefully developed adopting a module-based approach, which encompasses a diverse array of informative methods to ensure a comprehensive and interactive learning experience. This includes engaging presentations designed to convey key concepts, thought-provoking group exercises to facilitate the practical application of theoretical knowledge, dynamic group discussions promoting collaborative learning and idea exchange, and dedicated feedback sessions to provide participants with constructive insights and enhance the overall effectiveness of the training curriculum (Table 1).

Table 1: Outline of training modules

Session outline	
Session	Outline
Concept of Anticipatory Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Definition of Anticipatory action• Pillars of anticipatory action• Anticipatory action process
Day 1- Building Block 01- Risk information, forecasting and early warning systems	
Elements of AA with knowledge products and tools	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Natural Hazards in Sri Lanka• Reactive to Pro-Active in DEM• Shift in disaster management strategies• Why anticipatory action

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elements in Anticipatory Action • Risk Assessment and Trigger Mechanism • Early Warning Systems • Early Action • Community Engagement and Awareness • Governance and Coordination • Monitoring and Evaluation • Financial Mechanism (Early Finance) • Benefits of AA
Feasibility for Anticipatory Action –	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Broader criteria that can be used for studying the feasibility of AA • Risk information generation • Data collection for vulnerability assessment • Research covering Baseline data on AA parameters
EW practice and impact-based forecasting for AA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current Multi-hazard EW dissemination mechanism in SL • Landslide thresholds established by NBRO • Analysis of attainment of thresholds in Nuwara Eliya and Ambagamuwa DSDs. • The concept of Impact based forecast and its appropriateness from the user viewpoint
Day 1 - Building Block 02- Planning, operations and delivery	
Developing Anticipatory Action Protocol(early action protocol)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of AA protocol • Components in AA protocol • Key characteristics of anticipatory actions selected for AA protocol design • Various forms of possible pre-agreed actions • Preparedness phase, pre-positioning and activation
Developing AA trigger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • identifying the forecast-based impacts • Developing actions to reduce the forecast-based impacts • Developing threshold based early action trigger as a component of AA protocols • trigger statement which provides conditions for implementation • EV dissemination mechanism and reaching out to the beneficiary communities
Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concept of Standard operating procedures(SoP) • SoP Objectives • How to develop a SoP to suit the community needs • Operationalizing SoPs
Day 2 - Building Block 03 - Pre arranged finance	
Pre-arranged financing for anticipatory action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dedicated AA funds in DRM budgets and contingency plans

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DRF instruments include AA and link to AA triggers/protocols
Day 4 - Building Block 04 - Strategies for effective implementation of AA projects	
AWARE Platform	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview of AWARE Platform • Early Warning Capabilities • User Interface and Accessibility • Digitalization of AA protocols
Exploring Key Thematic Areas in Anticipatory Action Implementation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritized hazard and its historical impact • Prioritized risks to be addressed by the anticipatory actions and their link to the hazard • Introduction to thematic areas
Effective Dissemination of Early Warning and Establishment of Local-level Early Warning Systems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to Trigger(s) statement • local level EW system and dissemination mechanism
Anticipatory Action Interventions across Readiness, Prepositioning, and Early Response Phases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work using selected thematic areas of the protocol. Participants will be asked to discuss readiness phase activities, prepositioning and early response phase activities • Groups will make a presentation • WVL AA team will provide comments using their project experience
MEAL planning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Objectives of the MEAL plan • Strengths & weaknesses • M&E framework • Indicators • Performance Tracking and reporting • Data quality assurance mechanisms • Opportunities for learning
Conducting simulations, training & awareness creation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Methodology used in conducting field simulations. • Community-level training and awareness creation in AA target communities.
Discussion on operational challenges and possible solutions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Group work on possible contributions during the preparedness phase and protocol activation and operational challenges • A discussion around • EW and dissemination • Preparedness for response and pre-positioning of material • Resource inputs for response, coordination & administration

LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

A total of 27 participants actively engaged in the comprehensive two-day training program (Table 2), representing diverse entities including the Disaster Management Center (DMC), Department of Meteorology (DOM), National Building Research Organization (NBRO), as well as Irrigation Department (ID) and National Disaster Relief Services Centre (NDRSC). This strong attendance highlights the broad engagement and collaboration across a spectrum of organizations, contributing to the success and inclusivity of the training initiative of Anticipatory Action.

Table 2: List of participants for Anticipatory Action training program

Name	Designation
Mr. Chathura Liyanaarachchige	Director (Preparedness) - DMC
Mr. Pradeep Kodippili	Director (Training & Awareness) - DMC
Brig. T.C. Harasgama	Director (Operations) - DMC
Mr. Nalaka Priyashantha	Director (Planning) – Ministry of Defence
Mr. Chathuranga Kumarasiri	Scientist - NBRO
Mr. Indika Pushpakumara	Deputy Director (Planning & Preparedness)
Mr. W S U Prabath	Deputy Director - NDRSC
Ms. Lashika Sabesan	Scientist - NBRO
Ms. Sudarshani Widanapathirana	Director Irrigation – Irrigation Department
Mr. K P U K Thilakarathne	Director Irrigation – Irrigation Department
L M Sujith Silva	Senior Special Grade - Department of Meteorology
Ms. S M M D Senanayaka	Assistant Director - NDRSC
Ms. M B Iranganie	Department of Meteorology
Mr. Kushan Vimukthi	Scientist - NBRO
Mr. Sandaruwan Middeniya	Management Assistant
Mr. A M A N Chandrasiri	DD Gampaha - DMC
Mr. N R A Viraj Dissanayaka	DD Kurunagala - DMC
Lt. Col Gallage RSp USP	DAD Galle - DMC
Lt.Col.Kandambi Arachchige Ariyawansa	AD Matara - DMC
Wing Commander K C de Silva	AD Hambathota - DMC
Mr. H. M. N.P. Bandara	DD Nuwaraeliya - DMC
Mr. E M L U Kumara	DD Badulla - DMC
Mr. I A K Ranaweera	DD Kandy - DMC
Mr. A H R Kumara	DD Monaragala - DMC
Mr. Chaminda Amaraweera	DD Matale - DMC
Col EAUA Amarasekara	AD Kalutara - DMC
Commander WAP Wickramaarachchi	DAD Colombo - DMC

TRAINING PROCEEDINGS

Welcom remarks by Jude Kuruvitaarachchi, (Manager HEA, World Vision Lanka)

World Vision Lanka has piloted this anticipatory action project in Sri Lanka during last 15 months targeting 20 estate divisions and landslide and flood hazards. Transformational Development, Advocacy and Humanitarian and Emergency Affairs are the main pillars of world vision. As a humanitarian agency which is worked and working almost all the districts during last 4 decades, believes capacity enhancement of the partners is a key for sustainability. This capacity development programme is structures based on the three building blocks which you will be learning during next sessions. I hope this will be an eye opener to streamline AA in our organizational and country level.

While welcoming you all to this programme again I also wish to express thanks and gratitude to the Director General of Disaster Management Centre, and other heads of the organizations that you all are representing for allowing you all to attend this all important programme.

Opening Remarks by Dr. Dhanan Senathirajah (National Director, World Vision Lanka)

During the oening remarks by Dr Dhanan Senathirajah highlighter that anticipatory action is a growing area of disaster management that relies on data analysis to predict where crises might strike and act ahead of time. Humanitarian Agencies across the world are playing a vanguard role in bringing this kind of early, protective interventions into the mainstream of humanitarian programming.

I believe that anticipatory action is a kind of protective humanitarian programming that more and more agencies and governments around the world are now using to shield people from climate- and human-induced disasters. And that's with good reason: evidence continually shows that anticipatory action supports vulnerable people at a stage when receiving aid bears the biggest results: before a crisis has taken place. This means humanitarian interventions can become investments in resilience and progress rather than recovery. Therefore, I trust stakeholders who present here too take necessary proactive steps to mainstream anticipatory action into the country's disaster management paradigm,

Anticipatory action acknowledges vulnerable people as leaders in development and agents of change in their own lives and communities. And by providing them the right kind of support at the right time. Since acting early to protect is often many times cheaper than responding and rebuilding, anticipatory action is not just the more dignified way of supporting communities, but I believe it's also often the smarter choice financially. And that's not a trivial point at a moment of unprecedented needs across the world, with aid budgets stretched to the extreme to meet them.

Early Warning, Early Action and Early Finance are the pillars of the anticipatory action and I'm sure that training programme will enhance the knowledge to implement successful anticipatory action initiatives at your respective areas. The survey conducted by CERF, reveals that more than 70% of the vulnerable people prefer to get support before any disaster and they believe with those support they can reduce the impacts to their lives and livelihood.

Opening and Opening Remarks Chathura Liynaarachchige (Director Preparedness, Disaster Management Centre)

In his opening remarks, Chathura Liynaarachchige, the Director of Preparedness at the Disaster Management Centre, provided valuable insights into Anticipatory Action. He emphasized the significance of Anticipatory Action as a novel approach for the DMC, underscoring its practicality. Additionally, he highlighted the importance of training in this area, recognizing it as a crucial aspect for the effective implementation of Anticipatory Action strategies.

DISCUSSION AND WAY FORWARD

Upon the conclusion of the training program, a vibrant and constructive discussion expanded, involving all participants. This session was thoroughly designed to capture valuable feedback, touching upon various crucial aspects related to Anticipatory Action as follows:

- Usefulness and Applicability of Anticipatory Action
- Institutional Responsibility for the Implementation of Anticipatory Action Plans
- The Process to Develop the National Framework for Anticipatory Action
- Arrangements with the Government for Early Finance

CLOSING REMARKS

In his closing remarks, Dr. Niranga Alahacoon emphasized the essential role of advancing Anticipatory Action (AA) as a strategic approach to national disaster reduction. Emphasizing the timeliness of AA, he stressed the importance of integrating previous financial approaches and agreements into its framework. Mr. Chathura Liynaarachchige highlighted the necessity of aligning these strategies with the mandates of disaster management institutes during his closing remarks. Furthermore, emphasize the proactive nature of AA and its potential to elevate the overall disaster preparedness and response framework. Additionally, Mr. Chathura Liynaarachchige emphasized the need for more training and implementation approaches in the future to drive the AA initiative forward.

ANNEXURES

Annex -1: Photos from the Capacity Building on Anticipatory Action



Opening remarks by Dr. Dhanan Senathirajah (National Director, WVL)



Opening remarks by Mr. Chathura Liyanaarachchige (Director Preparedness, DMC)



Closing remark by Mr. Winson Gnanatheepan (Specialist - Disaster Risk Reduction, WVL)



Lecture by Dr. Giriraj Amarnath (Principal Researcher, IWMI)



Group activity during the training



Presenting the outcome of the group activity by group members



Group photograph

Annex -2: Agenda of the event

Dates: 29th – 30th November 2023

Venue- Pegasus Hotel, Wattala

Day 01		
09:30-10:00	Registration	
10:00-10:05	Welcome Remarks	Jude Kuruvitaarachchi, <i>Manager HEA, World Vision Lanka</i>
10:05-10:15	Opening Remarks-WVL	Dr. Dhanan Senathirajah, <i>National Director, World Vision Lanka</i>
10:15-10:25	Opening Remarks-DMC	Chathura Liynaarachchige, <i>Director Preparedness, Disaster Management Centre</i>
10:25-10:30	Briefing about the training programme	Winson Gnanatheepan, <i>Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist, World Vision Lanka</i>
10:30- 10:45	Group Photo and Break	
10:45-11:00	Concept of Anticipatory Action	J. Jebaraj <i>Regional Manager, Asia Anticipatory Action Project</i>
Building Block 01- Risk information, forecasting and early warning systems		
11:00-12:00	Elements of AA with knowledge products and tools	Dr. Giriraj Amarnath, <i>Principal Researcher - Disaster Risk Management and Climate Resilience at International Water Management Institute</i>
12:00-13:30	Feasibility study for conducting AA, hazard forecasting & EW practice, impact-based forecast for AA	Susith Arambepola <i>Freelance Disaster Risk Management Expert</i>
13:30-14:15	Lunch	
Building Block 02- Planning, operations and delivery		
14:15-15:45	Developing AA trigger and Anticipatory Action Protocol Standard Operating Procedures (SoPs)	Susith Arambepola <i>Freelance Disaster Risk Management Expert</i>
15:45-16:00	Break	
Building Block 03- Pre-arranged finance		
16:00-16:30	Dedicated AA funds in DRM budgets and contingency plans	Winson Gnanatheepan, <i>Specialist Disaster Risk Reduction, World Vision Lanka</i>

	DRF instruments include AA and link to AA triggers/protocols	
GEDSI Perspective in Anticipatory Action		
16:30-17:00	"Prepositioning Kits on Dignity Kits and Maternity Kits for Women and Girls - Protocols for Quick Deployment"	UNFPA
Day 02		
08:45-09:00	Recap Day 01	
09:00-10:00	AWARE Platform	Dr. Niranga Alahacoon, <i>Researcher Remote Sensing and Disaster Risks, International Water Management Institute</i>
Thematic Sessions: Strategy for effective implementation of AA project for enhancing the current status of Anticipation project indicators.		
10:00-10:30	Session 1- Thematic areas for anticipatory action	Susith Arambepola <i>Freelance Disaster Risk Management Expert</i>
10:30-11:00	Break	
11:00-11:30	Session 2 –EW dissemination and setting up local level EW systems	Susith Arambepola , <i>Freelance Disaster Risk Management Expert</i>
11:30-12:00	Session 3 – Anticipatory Action Interventions (under Readiness phase, Prepositioning, early response phase)	Susith Arambepola, <i>Freelance Disaster Risk Management Expert</i>
12:00-12:30	Mainstreaming anticipatory action into the government system	Damien Riquet, <i>Regional Anticipatory Actions Specialist at FAO Regional Office for Asia Pacific</i>
12:30-13:15	Lunch	
13:15- 13:45	Session 04: MEAL Planning	Samson Alexander <i>Programme Manager, World Vision Lanka</i>
13:45-14:15	Session 5 -Conducting simulations, training & awareness creation	Premakumar V <i>Team Leader, Anticipatory Action Project, World Vision Lanka</i>
14:15-15:15	Session 6 –Discussion on operational challenges and possible solutions	Dr. Niranga Alahacoon, <i>Researcher Remote Sensing and Disaster Risks, International Water Management Institute</i>
15:15	Concluding Remarks and tea	