

2014 to 2021: Key Milestones for Anticipatory Action at OCHA

Anticipatory action as part of OCHA's roles and activities has been extensively discussed in intergovernmental forums, the CERF advisory group and within OCHA. A few Highlights include:

2013: The CERF secretariat and OCHA's Funding Coordination Section present a [paper to the CERF Advisory Group](#) on the potential role for CERF and Country-Based Pooled Funds (CBPFs) to support early action "in anticipation or at the earliest stages of an emergency".

2014: The General Assembly (GA) asks the humanitarian system to shift towards an anticipatory approach to prevent and reduce human suffering ([A/69/80-E/2014/68](#)).

2015: An independent study on the added value of a reformed CERF (commissioned in the context of considerations around a revised funding target for CERF) found support among CERF stakeholders for greater openness to early action.

2016: The [Grand Bargain](#) is signed with a purpose "to ensure that we are able to anticipate and prepare for crises".

2017: The [High-Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing](#) calls for a culture-shift away from reactivity towards anticipation. ECOSOC encourages the UN to explore forecast-based financing ([E/2017/L.24](#)). In October, the [CERF Advisory Group](#) (CERF AG) discusses anticipatory action for the first time.

2018: OCHA's Senior Management Team and Heads of Offices are invited to discuss the future of humanitarian financing and anticipatory action. The same month, all staff are invited to contribute to OCHA's vision on the future of humanitarian financing, including anticipatory action ("[Casement Lecture](#)"). In March, the [Independent Review of the Value Added of the CERF in the Countries Affected by El Niño](#) is published, urging CERF to systematically fund action that can be implemented before the anticipated hazard to mitigate or even prevent its impacts. In May, the [CERF AG](#) acknowledges the value and potential cost-effectiveness of anticipatory humanitarian action. In October, OCHA's Global Management Retreat recommends using more anticipatory approaches. Later that year, the [Secretary-General](#) highlights the benefits of anticipatory action and asks CERF to allocate funding ahead of disasters.

2019: In April, the Overseas Development Institute (ODI) publishes a [paper on what anticipatory action could look like](#) for CERF. OCHA's Global Management Retreat dedicates a session on operationalizing anticipatory financing. The [CERF AG](#) applauds OCHA's progress on anticipatory action and in [December](#) recognizes that anticipatory action fit within CERF's life-saving mandate. Also, that month, the USG/ERC provides an [updated "Casement Lecture"](#) and vision for the anticipatory approach in. This approach includes (1) Increasing the use of insurance; (2) using pre-agreed, contingency financing, especially by the IFIs; (3) expanding risk sharing with the private sector (4) Ensuring more complementarity of development and humanitarian financing; and most relevant to OCHA (5) anticipatory humanitarian action.

2020: The Global Management Team retreat reaffirms the importance of anticipatory action for OCHA. OCHA's Senior Leadership Team acknowledges that anticipatory action was a corporate priority and endorsed piloting in Somalia, Ethiopia, Chad, Malawi, Bangladesh and Cholera. The GA reiterates that the UN strengthen anticipatory approaches to reduce the impact of humanitarian disasters ([A/75/L.11](#) and [A/75/L.44](#))

2021: In February, the USG/ERC considers scaling-up anticipatory action and agrees to proceed with new pilots in Nepal, Philippines, Burkina Faso, Niger and Chad. The USG/ERC asks to build a pilot for South Sudan and suggested a pilot in Madagascar to focus on plague only. In September, the [High-Level-Event on Anticipatory Action](#) from 9 September 2021 demonstrated the buy-in from donors and humanitarian actors for humanitarian action, including an expectation for OCHA to play a key role in the space. The [USG/ERC](#) affirms that "the humanitarian system must be as anticipatory as possible, and only as reactive as necessary". The same month, the Secretary-General launches '[Our Common Agenda](#)', highlighting the importance of anticipating major risks requiring more innovation, more inclusion, and more foresight.