



Innovative Approaches to Response Preparedness

IARP



Innovative Approaches in Response to Preparedness (IARP) Project

The Innovative approaches to response preparedness project was realized and inceptioned on 2018 with funding from Ikea Foundation through the Netherlands Red cross and British Red Cross.

The goal of the project was to help vulnerable communities fight the impact of climate change and be better prepared for disasters. Further, it sought to build the capacity of the Kenya Red Cross-National Partners to provide timely and practical support to the people that were assessed to be the most vulnerable to forecasted extreme disaster events.

The five-year project utilized innovative approaches such as Forecast based Financing, data preparedness and cash and voucher assistance programming to develop flood and drought early warning systems.

Other partners who were part of this project included the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (Climate Centre), Netherlands Red Cross Data Initiative (510) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

Key Achievements

I. Strengthening National Systems for Anticipatory Actions in Kenya (Focused Based Technical and Cash Based Working Groups)

Stakeholder collaboration and alignment was a continuous process throughout the programme. A national Forecast-based Financing Technical Working group (FbF-TWG) and a Cash Working Group were formed in 2019 to provide technical & advisory support in the development of national flood and drought Early Action

Protocols (EAP) and to support the implementation of the EAPs. The team were meeting on a monthly basis to fast track the development process. These collaborations were needed to ensure the EAPs were supported and aligned by mandated national organisations and actors. Additionally, the FbF-TWG has been critical in designing of the national Anticipatory Action road Map.

2. Development and Review of Cash and data Policies

Procedures on how to deliver cash interventions were not always established. Through the project, development of procedures to guide the delivery of cash interventions in disaster response were done to address existing cash transfer gaps and to create and support coordination mechanisms in using cash for early action. The Society also developed pre-agreements with potential cash delivery mechanisms or service provider such as Equity Bank and Safaricom for smooth cash transfer processes for the affected population. Part of developing cash procedures was the development of data protection policy. This was also done to ensure that the Society's work aligned with the beneficiary protection regulations to protect privacy-sensitive data while working with different data producers and users. Additionally, KRCS supported review of Social Protection Policy which led to inclusion of Shock Responsive Social Protection Pillar. This pillar also links the social protection with Humanitarian cash transfer.

3. Development of Disaster Decision-Making Support Tools

In Kenya, there exist no central disaster risk database. Through the programme, KRCS developed flood and drought impact databases which have been shared on humanitarian data exchange platform; available for download to the public.

A community risk assessment dashboard was also developed that serves as a data preparedness tool, as well as a multi-hazard risk assessment for Kenya.

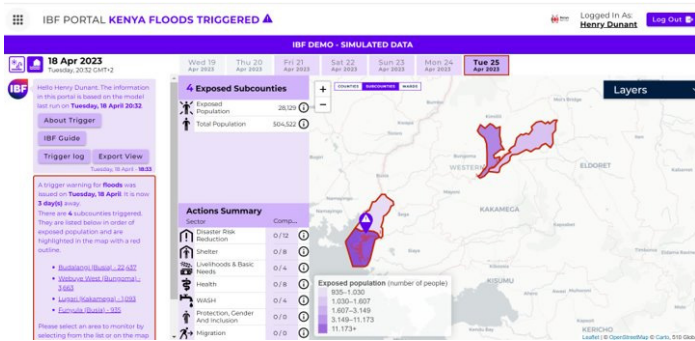
This platform provides information on community risk at county, sub-county and ward level enabling selecting of priority areas for implementation of early warning early action system. In order to monitor and disseminate information on the impact of an incoming disaster, an automated early warning system known as the impact-based forecast system (IBF) was developed to complement the EAPs. IBF tool monitors the forecasts, generates the intervention map and sends an alert message when the trigger is reached.

4. Integration of Local Knowledge in Anticipatory Actions

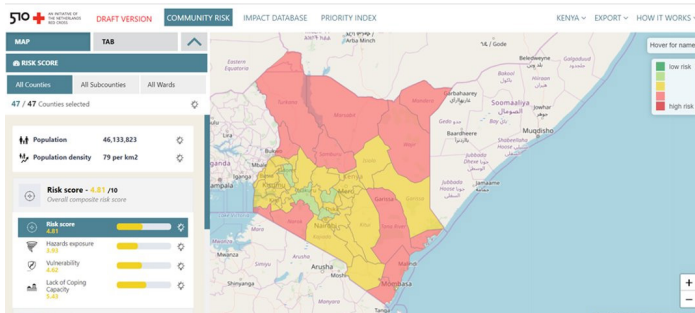
Many communities in Kenya have a traditional way of predicting weather changes. Through the programme, KRCS in its interventions, deliberately integrated community knowledge into the development of both floods and drought early warning systems. Harmonization of Indigenous Traditional Knowledge (ITK) with scientific information was conducted through participatory scenario planning workshops.

Additionally, KRCS conducted a study to understand traditional way of predicting weather changes and how this can be integrated with scientific forecasts.

This work was crucial in establishing risk communication and wider community engagement. Additionally, the engagement increased community trust and uptake of early warning messages.



IBF Automatic system portal



Community Risk Assessment (CRA) dashboard



5. Successful development of Floods and Drought Early Action Protocol (EAP)

The KRCS in partnership with the FbF-TWG developed national floods and drought EAPs to act as tools to guide the timely and effective implementation of early actions based on climate forecast information. These EAPs have been validated by the IFRC, which releases funding from the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) each time triggers are hit.

6. Floods EAP Simulation Exercise in Budalangi-Busia County

KRCS conducted a multi-stakeholder simulation exercise in Budalangi to test the application of the EAP to improve coordination, preparedness and use of early warning to inform early actions.

Through the exercise, KRCS hoped to

- (i) Test the practicality and feasibility of implementing the selected early actions within a defined lead time for the early action protocol (EAP)
- (ii) Test the effectiveness and relevance of the early action protocol (EAP) for floods
- (iii) Examine current policies and standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- (iv) Strengthen stakeholder engagement,
- (v) Assess the internal coordination mechanism and capacity of KRCS to implement the selected early actions and activate contingency plans and
- (vi) Document lessons learned and provide recommendations relevant to improving the implementation of similar interventions in other countries.

Through the exercise, a total of 431 Households were engaged through the Cash for Work system to undertake the clearing of drainage systems and reinforcing dykes and sandbags.

The simulation exercise led to the marking of historical flood hotspots with flood markers by the communities for flood disaster preparedness



and further integrated the county and sub-county Disaster Management Committees for progressive disaster preparedness and action.

7. Strengthening Capacities on Focused - based Financing, CVA and Data Preparedness

Through the programme, a total of 2158 persons have been trained on the data use in disaster response, Forecast- based Financing and Cash Voucher Assistance. These trainings were conducted to ensure that staff and volunteers are knowledgeable on the various aspects of FbF and enable integration of FbF Standard operating procedures (SOPs) into Contingency planning. In addition, this was also to ensure that the Society is prepared to collect and analyze data for Early Warning, Early Action.

8. Activation of Drought Early Action Protocol

Going into the OND season of 2020 and 2021, the drought EAP was activated after attaining trigger thresholds indicating below average seasonal rainfall in West Pokot, Kitui and Kwale Counties.

The exercise reached 1,418 HHs in 2021 and 4,205 HHs in 2022 through drought-resistant Seeds distribution. KRCS implemented anticipatory actions on water scarcity by rehabilitating nine (9) boreholes in target communities and food security through seeds distribution households. KRCS also spearheaded dissemination of drought early warning information through radio spots and conducted capacity building sessions to prepare the communities for the poor rainfall season. As a result of the activation, families could access three meals per day compared to the one meal before the exercise.

At the impact level, \$1 invested in food security had a return of \$8, while \$1 invested in WASH had a return of \$4.



9. Use of innovative approaches in Anticipatory Actions

Innovations and leveraging on technology is critical in disaster preparedness. The programme employed innovations such as use of mapathons, satellite imageries and drones in conducting disaster risk assessments.

In community engagement, the project focused on documenting community voices on their understanding, attitudes, perception and practices on Early warning Early Action through the Indaba process.

Through the project, four (4) community-led documentaries from Kitui, West Pokot, Kwale and Bunyala have been produced. Additionally, several publications have been done, they include:

- A Case of Risk Dashboards in Humanitarian Action
- Forecast Based Financing Implementation in Kenya (Challenges and Opportunities)
- Use of data in anticipatory risk management
- Strengthening Flood Response: Investing in RADAR Satellite imagery for effective flood response, and
- Barriers to using Climate and weather forecasting in drought planning and decision - making

Lessons Learnt from the IARP project

Disaster Anticipatory Actions require **deliberate involvement and coordination** of all actors for effective programming and sustainability. e.g., producers and users of early warning systems. This ensured the buy-in and commitment of stakeholders. The National Technical Working Group and partners were progressively involved in the project's activities. E.g Simulation, TWG formation and meeting, data sharing easiness.

Continuous Community Engagement as the experts: To allow community-led early action, it is critical to strengthen the community's capacity for anticipatory actions to ensure processes are undertaken within the community dynamics. This lays the foundation for the sustainability of anticipatory actions: E.g PSPs, Simulation and Activation.

Provision of Extension Services to the Farmers: This helps to identify gaps at the different stages hence better Production. E.g., Production and post-harvest support.

Technical capacity enhancement will ensure a better understanding of vital early actions.

Information uniformity delivery to all relevant stakeholders (KRCS field staff, county departments, and communities) was crucial in increasing trust levels among partners and the community.

Establishment of MOUs and legal frameworks at the project's early stage to ensure effective coordination, partnership and data sharing between partners.

Flexible funding allowed a learning implementation approach. This allowed a test and improved system while drawing lessons.

Systematic National structure/ strategy for accessing funding from other institutions/ partners will play a pivotal role in ensuring increased coverage and sustainability.

Recommendations

Strengthen Coordination of Disaster Response Actors

Increase resources for research and knowledge on the role and the use of traditional methods in predicting weather patterns and their integration with scientific forecasts.

Establish community-based early warning systems and provide local Community Disaster Management Committees with training and resources needed.

Invest in data-driven decision-making through developing a centralized disaster database repository for continuous risk assessment.

Harmonize review and enactment of all pending legislations; establish and activate the policy implementation agencies and allocate budgets towards their implementation.

Increase stakeholder and community engagement in disaster management's policy processes, including civil society organizations, the private sector, and communities.

Organize regular convening sessions with the technical working group on disaster management to ensure a continual assessment and modification of essential matters.

Deliberate Focused Based Financing for Anticipatory Actions



Photo of FBF - TWG; Members included:

National Disaster Operations Centre (NDOC) - **Chair**
 Kenya Red Cross Society (KRCS) - **Secretariat**
 Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) - Member
 National Drought Management Authority (NDMA) - Member
 Water Resources Authority (WRA) - Member
 National Disaster Management Unit (NDMU) - Member
 State Department of Social Protection - Member
 State Department of Crop Development in the Ministry of Agriculture,
 Livestock and Fisheries - Member
 Directorate of Resource Surveys and Remote Sensing (DRSRS) -
 Member

Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) - Member
 World Food Programme (WFP) - Member
 University of Sussex - Member
 University of reading - Member
 University of Nairobi - Member
 Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) - Member
 Regional Centre for Mapping of Resources for Development (RCMRD)
 - Member

Reviewed & Designed by Morris Makabe and Ronald Mwawaka

in partnership with:



supported by:  Rode Kruis  BritishRedCross

funded by: IKEA Foundation 