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## 1. Executive Summary

The purpose of this document is to present the framework for anticipatory action (AA) in Nepal, including the forecasting trigger, the pre-agreed action plans and the pre-arranged financing. The initial framework was endorsed in 2021 for a two-year period and subsequently extended for the 2023 and 2024 monsoon seasons. This document includes modifications made in previous years and lessons learned from the 2022 and 2024 activations. It covers the 2025 monsoon season. The 2025 version is aligned with the Government's Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) and Relief Distribution Standard which was launched in late 2024. The framework was developed through a participatory process of partners, coordinated by OCHA, under the overall leadership of the Resident Coordinator (RC) and in collaboration with the Government of Nepal.

**The objective** of this framework is to provide coordinated anticipatory humanitarian action to people at risk of severe monsoon flooding in Nepal. The initiative will aim to provide life-saving assistance to up to 50,000 people across 9 flood-prone municipalities ("palikas") in eastern Nepal:

- Koshi Province, Sunsari district – 4 palikas
- Madhesh Province, Saptari district - 5 palikas

In addition, other anticipatory action initiatives, including by the World Food Programme (WFP) and the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) are highlighted that will be implemented in western Nepal.

### The financing

The funding for the framework comes from different sources, mainly from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) of up to \$2.7 million. CERF financing will be released as automatically as possible immediately once the defined triggers are reached. In addition, partners are using internal resources to complement the CERF funding.

### The trigger

The trigger mechanism is based on parameters proposed by Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM). OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data (CHD), in coordination with national and local partners, supported the operationalization of the trigger as proposed. The Nepal framework relies on a two-step trigger system:

- **Stage I:** A readiness trigger based on the GloFAS<sup>1</sup> forecast that will provide a maximum of 7 days' lead time ahead of peak flooding.
- **Stage II:** An action trigger based on the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology's flood bulletin and special flood warning with a maximum of 3 days lead time.

### The action plan

The delivery of anticipatory action is time sensitive. Four United Nations (UN) agencies – Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), and the World Food Programme (WFP) – in partnership with national and local NGOs and in close collaboration with the federal, provincial and local government and district authorities, will:

- **Distribute multi-purpose digital cash payments:** Around US\$1.4 million will be transferred to vulnerable flood-prone households to meet their essential needs. UNICEF, FAO and WFP will provide 5,000 or 8000 Nepalese Rupees depending upon household size in line with the new Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard.
- **Provide in-kind assistance:** To complement the digital cash assistance, UN agencies will provide households with essential items to mitigate the potential impacts of the flood. UNICEF will distribute hygiene kits, water purification tablets, jerry cans, buckets and mugs and will install emergency toilets. UNFPA will distribute dignity kits and kishori kits. FAO will provide hermetic bags for waterproof storage of grains and seeds.
- **Delivery services:** Agencies and their partners will also provide early warning messages to vulnerable households. Trained personnel will provide important gender-inclusive services to at-risk households. UNFPA and its partners will deploy community psychosocial workers and female community health volunteers to promote sexual and reproductive health as well as gender-based violence services. UNICEF will deploy trained community psychosocial workers.

<sup>1</sup> The Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS), implemented by the European Commission, is designed to support preparatory measures for flood events worldwide, particularly in large trans-national river basins. GloFAS combines information from satellites, models and in-situ measurements. <https://www.globalfloods.eu/>

## Validity period

The ERC has pre-arranged financing from CERF for one severe flooding event until the end of 2025.

## 2. Monsoon Flooding in Nepal

### Exposure, vulnerability and impact

#### Exposure

One of Nepal's three geographical zones, the flat plains of the Terai areas, is at the highest risk of flooding during the monsoon season. Monsoon rains typically lead to landslide damming, excessive erosion of hill slopes, and rock falls in the country's two other geographical zones: the Hill and Mountain areas<sup>2</sup>.

#### Vulnerability

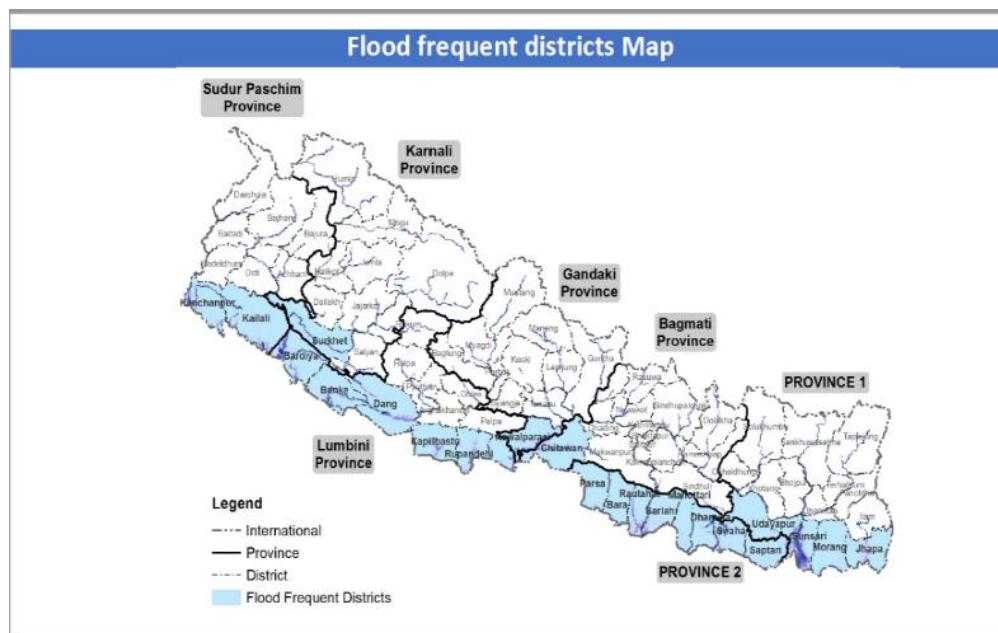
CERF-funded Anticipatory Action frameworks should be needs-based. They are encouraged to identify those groups that are especially vulnerable to the specific shock that is being anticipated, and should prioritize groups such as women, girls, persons with disabilities, and persons in need of protection assistance.

#### Humanitarian impact

In 2017, monsoon floods affected some 1.7 million people in the Terai, including 460,000 who were displaced. Economic losses were estimated at US\$705M. The flooding impacted 35 of the country's 75 districts, with the Ministry of Home Affairs reporting at the time that over 80 per cent of the land in the Terai – Nepal's breadbasket – was inundated.

Since 2006, CERF has allocated over US\$66M to Nepal, including US\$20M for floods through six rapid response allocations and two AA allocations. This places Nepal among the top three most frequent CERF flood funding recipients globally.<sup>3</sup> In October 2022 predicted severe flooding in western Nepal led to a full activation of this framework and the disbursement of US \$3.2M from CERF, enabling UNFPA, UN Women, WFP and their partners to distribute digital cash payments, comprehensive relief packages (food and non-food items, energy saving cooking device, solar radio, clothes) and hygiene, dignity and health kits; and to deliver services such as psycho-social counseling. In 2024, predicted flooding along the Koshi river basin in eastern Nepal triggered another framework activation and the release of \$3.4M from CERF to enable WFP, UNICEF, FAO and UNFPA provide life-saving cash payments, food, WASH, and health assistance as well as child protection and protection from gender-based violence.

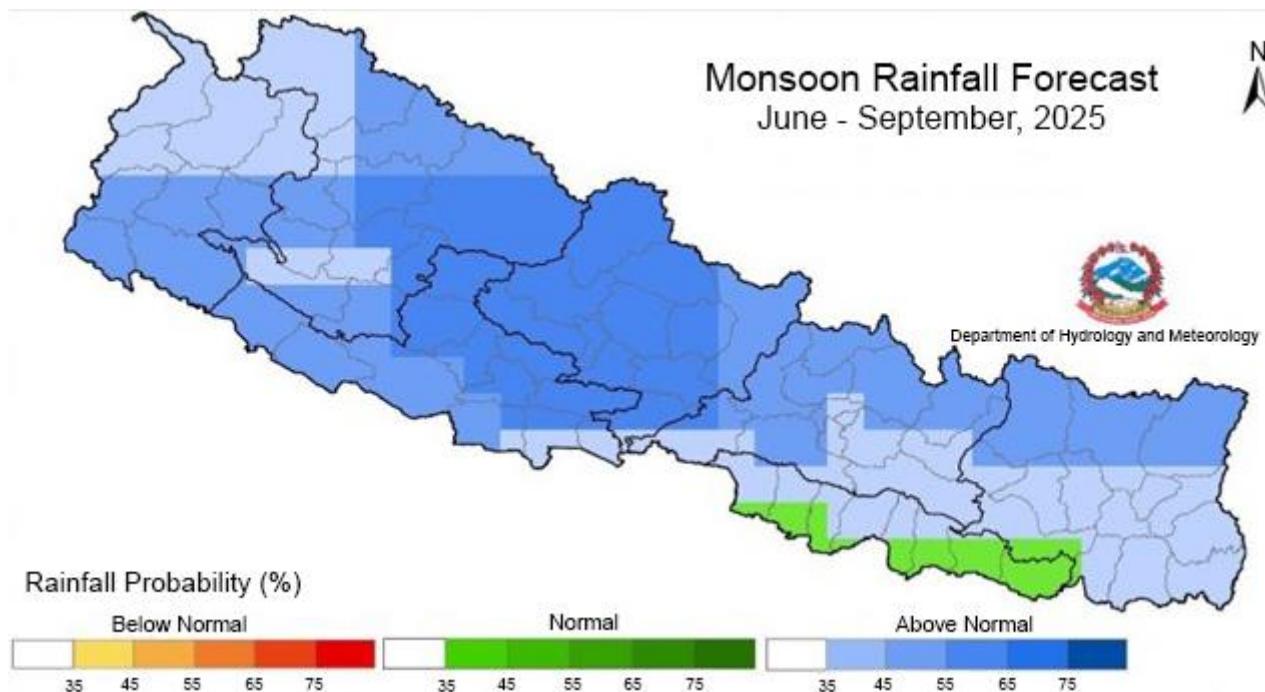
Flood typically affects the districts along the length of Nepal's southern border (See Figure).



<sup>2</sup> UN, *Nepal: Monsoon Emergency Response Preparedness Plan 2020* (2020).

<sup>3</sup> CERF funded flood responses in 2008 (US\$3.6M), 2014 (US\$1.9M), 2017 (US\$4.8M), 2021 (\$3.2M), 2022 (\$3.2), 2024 (\$3.4M), the latter two through anticipatory action framework activations

## Seasonal forecast for 2025



The Government of Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology has forecasted the 2025 monsoon season from **June 1 to September 30, 2025**. Below are the key details of the forecast:

**Overall Monsoon Outlook:** The most of Nepal's territory is projected to experience above-average rainfall with higher probability during the 2025 monsoon season.

### Provincial Outlook:

While all provinces are projected to experience above-normal rainfall, the intensity varies by region:

- Very High Rainfall (55–65% above normal): Certain areas in Karnali, Gandaki, and Lumbini Provinces are expected to receive significantly above-normal rainfall.
- High Rainfall (45–55% above normal): Parts of Karnali, Gandaki, Lumbini, Bagmati, Koshi, Madhesh, and Sudurpaschim Provinces fall into this category.
- Moderately High Rainfall (35–45% above normal): Some regions within Sudurpaschim, Karnali, Bagmati, Koshi, and Madhesh Provinces are also expected to experience above-normal rainfall, though to a lesser extent.

In summary, the majority of Nepal is expected to experience above-normal rainfall during the monsoon season, with certain regions having probabilities of normal monsoon conditions.

## 3. Coordination Arrangements

### Core group

The framework was developed under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator by a core group comprised of UN agencies, OCHA, the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology and the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority. Relevant coordination fora such as the UNCT, HCT and the cash coordination group were consulted.

### Synergies with other initiatives

The National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority has established an Anticipatory Action Clinic to facilitate coordination among AA initiatives and ensure a harmonized and complementary approach in line with national policies and to identify best practices for the development of a national anticipatory action framework. Representatives from the AA Clinic participated in meetings of the core group to ensure alignment.

## Alignment with Government Policy

The AA framework for Nepal is prepared in consultation with the Government of Nepal, Department of Hydrology and Meteorology, the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA), and relevant line Ministries (especially government cluster leads) for the different activities. It follows ongoing discussions from the National and Regional Anticipatory Action Dialogue Platforms, and builds on national, regional, and global good practices. The AA framework is fully aligned with the recently adopted Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard (December 2024) and will continue to evolve in line with the Government of Nepal's disaster act, policies, frameworks, and guidelines. The long-term goal is to support the integration of Anticipatory Action into local and national systems for disaster risk reduction and management, such as shock-responsive safety nets, to produce sustainable approaches to AA for the range of hazards, including climate adaption. Lessons learned from the implementation of this AA framework and related activities should inform the development of the national AA framework.

## 4. The Trigger Mechanism

### Triggers and thresholds

A trigger for anticipatory action should be based on a set of criteria to help answer the questions when and where to act before an imminent disaster. It should forecast when a hazard risks becoming an out-of-the-ordinary (or severe) shock and the humanitarian impact is likely to cross a certain threshold for the exposed vulnerable community.

There are two main challenges in developing a trigger for flooding: typically flood models can only provide a maximum of 2-3 weeks of advanced warning, and there is an inverse correlation between the reliability of flood warnings and the amount of warning time (i.e., the earlier the warning, the less reliable it tends to be).

Additionally, the development of a two-step trigger system<sup>4</sup> for the Nepal AA framework is more complex than elsewhere for several of reasons. Firstly, Nepal's mountainous terrain means that flood forecasting models struggle for lead times beyond a few days. Secondly, while water levels can be used to define historical flood events, the link between water levels and impact has not yet been clearly established.

The current trigger mechanism is based on parameters proposed by Nepal's Department of Hydrology and Meteorology (DHM). OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data (CHD), in coordination with national and local partners, supported the operationalization of the trigger as proposed. To provide agencies with the maximum window of opportunity for funding to be disbursed in time for agencies to deliver anticipatory action on a no-regrets basis, and building on the lessons learned from earlier AA projects, the Nepal framework relies on a two-step trigger system:

- **Stage I:** A readiness trigger based on the GloFAS<sup>5</sup> forecast that will provide a maximum of 7 days' lead time ahead of peak flooding.
- **Stage II:** An action trigger based on the Department of Hydrology and Meteorology's flood bulletin with a maximum of 3 days lead time.

Readiness Trigger	Action Trigger
GloFAS forecast predicts 50% probability of reaching 1-in-5-year return period in the following 7 days	<p>DHM Bulletin</p> <p>All of the following conditions have to be met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chatara Station is marked red in the DHM 3-day flood bulletin. (The water level at the station is forecasted to cross the danger level), and</li> <li>2. The water level trend is forecasted to "significantly increase", and</li> <li>3. The advisory section in the DHM flood bulletin mentions "extreme flooding" expected in Sunsari and Saptari district</li> </ol>

<sup>4</sup> Consisting of a 'readiness' trigger to launch a set of preparatory activities and an 'action' trigger to launch the delivery of assistance to people at risk.

<sup>5</sup> The Global Flood Awareness System (GloFAS), implemented by the European Commission, is designed to support preparatory measures for flood events worldwide, particularly in large trans-national river basins. GloFAS combines information from satellites, models and in-situ measurements. <https://www.globalfloods.eu/>

The action trigger is based on government-issued flood bulletins, specifically for Chatara Station, which affects Sunsari and Saptari districts. DHM requested that these bulletins form the basis of the action trigger to ensure alignment with government systems. However, the severity of the conditions described in the bulletins is not clearly quantified and instead depends on qualitative descriptors in the DHM flood bulletin. The exclusion of GloFAS from the action trigger is based on the recommendation from DHM against using the source for the action trigger, noting that while it performs adequately in capturing the timing of flood events, it does not reliably reflect the severity of such events.

#### Additional Considerations

- Both Sunsari and Saptari must be mentioned in the advisory. Since they are adjacent and both lie along the banks of the river, both would likely be affected under the same conditions.
- Flash floods from smaller tributaries may cause localized flooding, which further supports the use of station-based warnings as part of the trigger.

#### Limitations

- The return period equivalence of terms such as "significantly increasing" or "extreme flooding" is not defined. This creates uncertainty in the severity of the trigger.
- The DHM forecasting model has only been operational since 2020. While there have been two activations during this period using the previous trigger, neither would have met the current bulletin-based conditions. This indicates that the activations under the newer trigger mechanism are now less frequent than with the previous one. The Resident Coordinator's Office (RCO) is aware of this and has agreed to proceed with this to ensure alignment with the government's trigger proposal.

#### Future Improvement

- Clarify with DHM whether descriptors like "extreme flooding" correspond to specific hydrological thresholds.

River Basin	Koshi (EAST)
<b>Station that will be monitored using GloFAS</b>	Chatara
<b>Readiness Threshold: GloFAS – River discharge m<sup>3</sup>/s</b>	10300 m <sup>3</sup> /s
<b>Readiness Return period</b>	1-in-5 year
<b>Action Threshold: DHM flood bulletins</b>	<p>All of the following conditions have to be met.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Chatara Station is marked red in the DHM 3-day flood bulletin (forecasted to exceed danger level), and</li> <li>2. The water level trend is forecasted to "significantly increase", and</li> <li>3. The advisory section in the DHM flood bulletin mentions "extreme flooding" expected in Sunsari and Saptari district</li> </ol>

#### Roles and responsibilities in monitoring the trigger

Both the action and readiness triggers will be monitored by OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data and the Resident Coordinator's Office in Nepal.

#### Activation protocol

There are two key points in the sudden-onset AA frameworks that rely on a 2-stage trigger:

- Confirming that the threshold for the readiness trigger has been reached, which will precipitate the disbursement of funds and the implementation of readiness activities.
- Confirming that the threshold for the action trigger has been reached, which will precipitate the implementation of all anticipatory activities.

CERF will disburse funds as soon as the readiness trigger is reached. There is a non-negligible probability of reaching the action trigger directly without a readiness trigger first. In this event, CERF will disburse funds as soon as activation is confirmed.

Pre-defining this activation protocol is critical in order to avoid delays, miscommunication, uncertainty or errors once the trigger threshold is reached. The Resident Coordinator's Office of Nepal, with support from OCHA's Centre for Humanitarian Data, will monitor the GloFAS model forecasts and the DHM's bulletins, and will notify the UN agencies and CERF by email immediately once the readiness and action triggers are reached (see specific steps below). In addition, informal channels, e.g. via WhatsApp, will be established to ensure real-time communication. The RCO may call for additional meetings to facilitate coordination among partners. The table below outlines the different steps of the activation process.

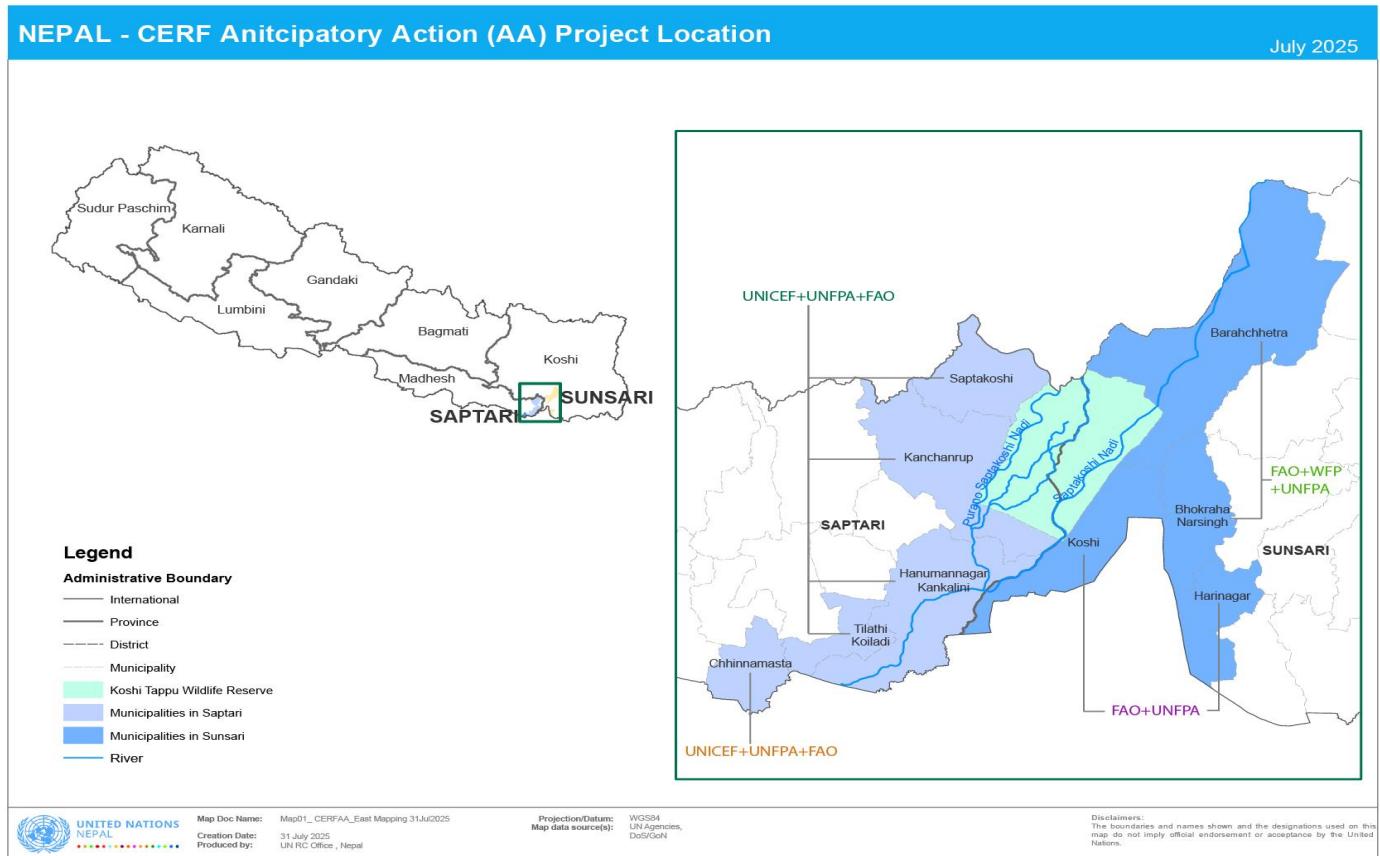
When	Who	What	How
<b>Readiness trigger</b>			
Daily during the monitoring period	CHD, RCO	Monitor the readiness trigger	Populate the log sheet
When readiness trigger is reached	CHD	Informs RC, RCO, CERF, UN agencies, NDRRMA, and DHM	Email
When readiness trigger is reached	CERF	Sends approval letters to UN agencies	Email
After CERF has sent approval letters	UN agencies	Begin implementing readiness activities only	As per the framework
<b>Action trigger</b>			
During the monitoring period	DHM	Publishes bulletins on the DHM website	<a href="#">DHM website</a>
During the monitoring period	RCO, CHD, NDRRMA	Monitor DHM bulletins	RCO supporting with the translation
When the action trigger is reached	CHD	Informs RC, RCO, CERF, UN agencies that action trigger reached <b>but no activation yet</b>	Email
When the action trigger is reached	RCO	Convenes activation group (RCO, WFP, UNICEF, FAO, UNFPA, DHM, NDRRMA, CHD, ROAP) to decide whether to recommend to the RC to <b>opt out</b> (activation is default) within 12 hours; decision is taken during the meeting by majority of UN agencies/RCO	Hybrid meeting
When the action trigger is reached	NDRRMA	Convenes executive committee confirming activation within 12 hours	<a href="#">NDRRMA website</a> and social media
<i>If there is no recommendation to opt out (default)</i>			
When the activation (action) is confirmed	RC	Informs CERF, UN agencies, NDRRMA, and DHM that framework is activated	Email
When the activation is confirmed	CERF	If no previous readiness trigger: Sends approval letters to the UN  If after previous readiness trigger: Confirms to agencies that they are authorized to use the readiness and action portion of the funding envelope	Email
After CERF has sent approval letters or confirmed authorization to use funds	UN agencies	Begin implementing activities	As per the framework
<i>If there is a recommendation to opt out OR executive committee does not confirm activation</i>			
	RC	Informs CERF and UN agencies that country is opting out of activation	Email

## 5. Geographical Focus and Targeting

### River basin and municipalities

The present document details coordinated anticipatory action in eastern Nepal covering the districts of Saptari and Sunsari along the Koshi river. Assistance will be provided in the following nine municipalities (palikas): Barachhetra, Bhokraha Narsingh, Harinagar, Koshi in Sunsari, and Chhinamasta, Hanumannagar Kankalini, Kanchanrup, Saptakoshi, and Tilathi

Koiladi in Saptari. The areas of implementation were selected based on the availability of reliable forecasts, operational capacity, and vulnerability (see details on targeting below).



The table below outlines which agency will implement their programme in each prioritized palika. Importantly, multi-purpose cash (MPC) will be provided in each municipality, complemented by a set of in-kind assistance and services.

District	Municipality	WFP		UNICEF		UNFPA		FAO	
		MPC	MPC	WASH	Child Protection	GBV	SRH	Agriculture	MPC
Sunsari	Barachhetra	X				X	X	X	
Sunsari	Bhokraha Narsingh	X				X	X	X	
Sunsari	Harinagar					X	X	X	X
Sunsari	Koshi					X	X	X	X
Saptari	Chhinamasta	X	X	X		X	X		
Saptari	Hanumannagar Kankalini	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Saptari	Kanchanrup	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Saptari	Saptakoshi	X	X	X		X	X	X	
Saptari	Tilathi Koiladi	X	X	X		X	X	X	

## Targeting

The framework relies on a three-stage approach to identify the most at-risk households:

- **Geographical:** Targeting is based on an overlay of flood risk (using Sentinel-1 imagery for 2017, 2019 and 2020) and socio-economic vulnerability measures including poverty, food security, housing condition, marginalized groups, stunting and wasting. Additionally, consultation with humanitarian organizations with extensive field-level experience on historical floods and flood response, engagement with local governments and seasonal monsoon forecast are taken into consideration for final selection of municipalities.
- **The Shock Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) and Relief Distribution Standard:** The SRSP and Relief Distribution Standard was adopted by the Government of Nepal in November 2024 to guide humanitarian partners in delivering timely and effective assistance during emergencies. This standard emphasizes the importance of leveraging existing social protection systems to ensure that support reaches the most vulnerable populations effectively. As part of this framework, humanitarian partners are required to prioritize individuals listed in the Social Security Allowance System. The process of beneficiary identification, data collection, verification, and approval must be carried out in close coordination with the Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC). This collaborative approach ensures transparency, accountability, and alignment with local needs and capacities.
- **Household-level:** In coordination with local governments at rural/municipal level, households-at-risk are identified in advance based on a combination of hazard maps based on historical flood events, exposure to floods, and socio-economic vulnerability of households. In line with the SRSP standard, partners will prioritize the following vulnerable groups listed under the Social Security Allowance System and Prime Minister's Employment Programme: landless people, daily wage workers, female headed households, senior citizens, single women as well as families with persons with disabilities and with children under five. The final beneficiary lists will be validated and endorsed by Local Disaster Management Committee (LDMC).

## Beneficiary registration

To ensure that multi-purpose cash and in-kind assistance can be distributed to those in need in the very short window of opportunity prior to the peak of the flooding, households meeting the pre-defined criteria will be pre-registered in advance. Agencies are jointly identifying common beneficiaries in coordination with the Local Disaster Management Committees (LDMCs). The registration processes are being conducted using the Social Security Allowance System. Partners will complete the registration prior to any framework activation.

## Data sharing

The Social Security Allowance System is a public information resource that can be shared with UN Agencies by the Local Disaster Management Committee. Since the UN Agencies are targeting the same group of beneficiaries, the processes of registration, selection, and verification are conducted jointly. Data is also shared collectively to ensure coordination and avoid duplication.

## 6. The Delivery: Anticipatory Action Plan

### Selection criteria

Anticipatory actions will aim to interrupt the pathways outlined in the crisis timeline section above by targeting populations most at risk of being impacted by a shock. The following criteria were applied to select actions:

1. **Anticipatory character:** Is the action effective in preventing or reducing the humanitarian impact of the shock?
2. **Ability to deliver within the window of opportunity:** Is it possible to carry out the action effectively with the available forecast lead time, i.e., in the window of opportunity between the trigger and the peak of flooding?
3. **Operational capacity:** Do the agency and its implementing partners (IPs) have the institutional capacity (thematic, logistic, administrative, financial, human resources) to implement the action effectively given the lead time and scale?
4. **No regrets approach:** In the case of a false alarm, will the proposed actions benefit rather than negatively the targeted population?

## Priority interventions

The pre-agreed actions will focus on the following core objectives:

- **Distributing multi-purpose cash (MPC):** Providing cash assistance is an appropriate and impactful modality given the very short window of opportunity between the readiness trigger and the peak of floods.
- **Communicating risks, engaging with communities, and messaging:** Dissemination of joint early warning signals as well as sector-specific messaging.
- **Providing in-kind assistance:** A limited set of in-kind assistance activities that can be mobilized within the very short window of opportunity will complement the cash transfers.
- **Facilitating access to services:** Trained personnel will facilitate critical sexual and reproductive health, and GBV services. Additionally, child protection services will be facilitated.

The summary table provides a snapshot of each agency's proposed activities. Further details can be found in CERF project documents.

## Summary table

Outcome	Intervention	Agency	Proposed activities
The most flood-vulnerable households are able to meet their essential needs	Multi-purpose digital cash payments	WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single MPC distribution</li> </ul>
		UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single MPC distribution</li> </ul>
		FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single MPC distribution</li> </ul>
The most flood-vulnerable households have improved access to WASH, sexual and reproductive health, and agricultural items	Non-food items	UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hygiene kits and hygiene promotion</li> <li>• Water purification tablets</li> <li>• Jerry cans, buckets and mugs</li> <li>• Emergency toilets</li> </ul>
		FAO	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hermetic grain storage bags</li> </ul>
		UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dignity and Kishori (Adolescent) kits</li> </ul>
The most flood-vulnerable households are able to access essential life-saving services	Services	UNFPA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of female community health volunteers (FCHVs) and Nepal Red Cross volunteers to promote SRH and GBV services with relevant risk communication materials. Conduct integrated SRH camps at the at-risk communities.</li> <li>• Deployment of trained community psychosocial workers in affected communities for psychosocial first aid and referral to GBV services</li> </ul>
		UNICEF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deployment of community psychosocial support workers for child protection</li> </ul>
		FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All agencies distribute early warning signals and sector-specific information</li> </ul>
Flood-vulnerable households receive early warning information	Risk messages		

## Early warning messages

All four participating agencies will provide early warning messages to at-risk communities after the readiness and action triggers are reached. The early warning messages will be closely coordinated with the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority.

Agency	Subject	Modality
FAO	Sector-specific messages (Agriculture)	Video through local TV channels, radio, social media, megaphones
UNFPA	Sector-specific messages (GBV, SRH)	Local radio, megaphones
UNICEF	Flood warning, MPC assistance, sector-specific messages (WASH, Child Protection and behaviour change)	Local radio /Megaphones/ SMS/interactive voice response (IVR)
WFP	Flood warning, MPC assistance	LEOC, social media, radio, SMS

## Multi-purpose digital cash payments

Three UN agencies will implement multi-purpose cash assistance across different municipalities, ensuring a harmonized transfer value of NPR 5,000 or 8000 depending upon household size. The assistance will be channeled through the Local Disaster Management Fund, with the Local Disaster Management Committee responsible for transferring the funds directly to beneficiaries' bank accounts prior to peak flooding using pre-registered information. This coordinated approach aligns with the Shock- Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard, which determined the transfer value to ensure consistency and equity at the household level across all targeted areas.

- **FAO:** FAO will sign a Letter of Agreement with local governments to facilitate the distribution of Multi-purpose Cash (MPC) assistance. The funds will be channeled through the Local Disaster Management Fund to reach the pre-registered beneficiaries when trigger meets.
- **UNICEF:** UNICEF will collaborate with local governments to implement activities aligned with the readiness and action triggers. Lessons learned from this process will contribute to institutionalizing the framework. Once the readiness trigger is activated, UNICEF will transfer funds directly to the local government's bank account. Upon reaching the action trigger, the local government will authorize banks or electronic fund transfer to beneficiary bank accounts of targeted households. Beneficiaries will receive an initial SMS notification about the upcoming assistance, followed by a second SMS once the funds are deposited. A small proportion of households without bank accounts will receive cash through designated cash camps managed by the local governments.
- **WFP:** WFP is in the process of signing the Memorandum of Understanding with the Local Disaster Management Committee in line with WFP's corporate policies and the Shock-Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standards. This will allow WFP to transfer funds to the pre-registered beneficiaries via Local Disaster Management Fund.

## Ensuring readiness for a timely implementation

All agencies participating in this framework confirm their readiness to implement activities as soon as a trigger is reached. Agency-specific preparedness plans are outlined below.

### UNFPA

UNFPA Nepal has experience in emergency preparedness, anticipatory action and humanitarian response, helping the identification of risks and the implementation of anticipatory actions. UNFPA has a sub-national presence with provincial offices in, Madhesh, Lumbini, and Sudurpaschim, and project level presence in Koshu and Karnali provinces. Collaborations with longstanding partners such as the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) and Women's Rehabilitation Centre (WOREC) ensure swift mobilization of early action efforts in gender-based violence (GBV) and humanitarian response sectors during crises. Furthermore, UNFPA has strategically positioned emergency supplies in five strategic locations and maintains long-term standby agreements with vendors for immediate procurement of essential kits. Collaboration with federal, provincial, and local governments, alongside district disaster management committees and implementing partners, underscores UNFPA's commitment to preparedness and response efforts. Through its provincial offices and implementing partners, UNFPA completes a range of preparedness activities ahead of triggers and establishes necessary operational arrangements for early action.

## UNICEF

UNICEF has a long history of working in emergency preparedness and humanitarian contexts, with all three tiers of government and humanitarian partners at different levels from federal to local levels including local NGOs with whom UNICEF has a long-standing partnership. UNICEF has prepositioned emergency supplies including WASH sector for approximately 10,000 households in five strategic locations of the country, one of those, nearby to the east river basin which is part of this programme. In addition, UNICEF will also preposition supplies with local NGO for targeted municipalities under the CERF AA once the readiness trigger activates. UNICEF maintains a roster of psycho-social counsellors who could be quickly deployed in the project locations upon readiness trigger and or action trigger.

## FAO

Since 2015, FAO has been dedicated to developing anticipatory action capacities globally, regionally, and at the country level. Specifically in Asia, FAO has implemented anticipatory action through the activation of protocols in countries such as Bangladesh, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Viet Nam, accompanied by return-on-investment studies to gather evidence. Since 2023, FAO has been actively investing in and contributing to the anticipatory action realm in Nepal, leveraging insights from these experiences in the Asia-Pacific region. FAO is collaborating with Koshi Victim Society (KVS), Volunteer Corps Nepal (VCV) Agriculture knowledge centers and rural municipalities along with the PUNOs to timely implement and deliver the planned activities during readiness and action phase. FAO has already prepositioned supplies like grain and seeds storage bags to cover 7000 households that will be prepositioned and mobilized during the readiness and action phase respectively for the CERF AA for Koshi river basin. Likewise, FAO will be disseminating risks communication messages in agriculture, livestock and fisheries to protect the agricultural livelihoods of the farming communities at risk of floods.

## WFP

The overall intervention design reflects WFP's experiences with anticipatory action approaches gathered since 2015, as well as lessons learnt from the 2022 anticipatory cash intervention in Lumbini and Sudur-Paschim provinces including 2024 CERF-based AA intervention in Koshi and Madhesh provinces. This has enabled identification of key risks, challenges and corresponding mitigation/prevention measures to ensure timely implementation of the proposed anticipatory intervention at scale. A number of preparatory activities need to be conducted before the triggers are reached, covering policy/guidelines around anticipatory interventions, institutional set up and operational/institutional arrangements.

The implementation of anticipatory cash assistance at scale requires close coordination with local governments, and cooperating partners with extensive experience in emergency preparedness, and anticipatory action response. WFP has been working with the SAPPROS and NEEDS Nepal, the proposed cooperating partner for the implementation of the anticipatory action plan, and with relevant government agencies at municipal, district, provincial and federal level to facilitate this process. The cooperation includes the policy/ guideline framework, SOPs for anticipatory cash assistance, early warning dissemination protocols, verification of beneficiaries, distribution plan and monitoring & evaluation including community feedback mechanisms.

Operational arrangements critical for implementation of anticipatory cash intervention and early warning dissemination that need to be conducted before the trigger is met include a range of activities related to consolidation of beneficiary lists. This includes verification of beneficiary data for the beneficiaries that are already included in the social protection and Local Employment Center database, and possible registration of additional beneficiaries in the selected areas in case these beneficiaries meet the pre-determined criteria. Under the leadership of NDRRMA officials, the SRSP and Relief Standard has been discussed across the Local Governments to facilitate targeting process through direct engagement of ward disaster management committee in the selection, verification and prioritization process.

As part of WFP's technical assistance to the Local Governments, WFP has been supporting in setting up pre-disaster risk assessment tools to introduce impact-based forecasting and warning services for identifying cluster-specific needs and design of pre-emptive actions including activation of AA-based contingency plans. These activities will be done by the cooperating partners jointly with the municipal governments to safeguard lives and livelihoods of communities at risk.

## Lessons from previous activations

The present framework is the result of several iterative improvements made since the first version was launched in 2020. Based on lessons from the 2024 activation, the framework underwent a major revision in close collaboration with government authorities. Changes include a revision of the trigger and activation protocol, adjustments to the cash transfer value and delivery as well as beneficiary targeting in line with the SRSP and Relief Distribution Standard, as well as revision to specific activities. Below is an overview of lessons each agency learned, and adjustments made based on past experience.

### UNFPA:

- Strengthen complaint and feedback mechanisms
- Ensure transparent beneficiary selection based on criteria that address the vulnerabilities of women, girls, and marginalized populations.
- Integrate PSEA information in community orientations, alongside use of distributed items.
- Document and share best practices and lessons learned to inform future preparedness and response planning at both UNFPA and inter-agency levels.

### UNICEF:

- Complaint and feedback mechanism led by local governments.
- Engaging communities in the planning process enabled the identification of the most at-risk children and allowed for tailored support. This approach resulted in minimizing the likelihood of dispute.

### FAO:

- Timely and transparent beneficiary selection ensures smooth distribution and fosters harmony within the community.
- Clear and practical orientation on hermetic bag usage, delivered through community training or local facilitators, empowers recipients to use them effectively and maximize their benefits.

### WFP:

- Clear, timely communication on cash assistance processes, including eligibility criteria, distribution schedules and collection locations is critical for efficiency and trust. Using multiple communication channels (e.g., SMS, community meetings, social media) ensures information reaches diverse stakeholders.
- Actively involving communities, alongside local governments, in beneficiary selection fosters transparency, strengthens local ownership and helps reduce perceptions of bias or favoritism.
- Locating collection points with consideration for travel distance, available transport and the needs of persons with disabilities and the elderly improves equitable access to assistance.
- Ongoing monitoring is needed to ensure that vulnerable households, especially those with large family sizes, are fairly represented and adequately supported throughout the assistance process.

## 7. Pre-arranged Financing

### CERF

For this revised anticipatory action framework in Nepal, the ERC has agreed to allocate **up to \$2.7 million** if triggers are reached. Further details can be found in the CERF application documents.

CERF will disburse funds once three conditions are met:

- Endorsement by the relevant Resident/Humanitarian Coordinator of the country-specific Anticipatory Action framework and the CERF application package; and
- Endorsement by the Emergency Relief Coordinator of the country-specific Anticipatory Action framework and the CERF application package comprising an application chapeau; and
- Activation of the framework by reaching the pre-agreed readiness trigger, or by reaching the action trigger and confirmation from the RC that the framework will be activated, until the end of the 2025 monsoon season

CERF will disburse funds on a no-regrets basis as soon as either the readiness trigger is reached or the action trigger is reached and the RC confirms activation. While a portion of the fund can be used immediately upon disbursement for readiness activities, the remaining portion of the funding can only be used if and when an action trigger is reached and the RC confirms activation. The amount of funding for readiness vs action activities will be clearly defined in the pre-approved project proposals and budget. The need to distinguish between these two cost categories in advance is important given the different potential scenarios:

- Scenario A: all-systems go (readiness trigger followed a few days later by an action trigger and RC confirmation)
- Scenario B: false alarm (readiness trigger, but no action trigger)
- Scenario B-2: false alarm, followed by readiness + action trigger/RC confirmation within a maximum of 6 months
- Scenario C: action trigger and RC confirmation, but no readiness trigger.
- Scenario D: no activation at all

Note: Having an anticipatory action framework supported by CERF does not preclude the RC/UNCT from seeking additional CERF Rapid Response funding to a country for the same or other shocks that may be experienced. At the same time, it does not guarantee it either.

## Co-financing

This framework for anticipatory action is not limited to CERF-funded activities.

### By agency

Agency	CERF funding (in US\$)	Preparedness co-funding (in US\$)	Implementation co-funding (in US\$)	Total (in US\$)
FAO	497,000	25,000	74,400	596,400
UNFPA	769,547	36,000	60,000	865,547
UNICEF	1,140,620	30,000	50,000	1,220,620
WFP	392,810	200,000	241,422	834,232
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,799,977</b>	<b>291,000</b>	<b>425,822</b>	<b>3,516,799</b>

### By sector

Sector	Agency	CERF funding (in US\$)	Co-funding (in US\$)	Total (in US\$)
Multi-purpose Cash	UNICEF	948,020	33,000	981,020
	WFP	392,810	441,422	834,232
	FAO	181,000	10,000	191,000
Food Security - Agriculture	FAO	316,000	89,400	405,400
Protection (GBV)	UNFPA	552,000	76,000	628,000
Health (SRH)	UNFPA	217,547	20,000	237,547
WASH	UNICEF	139,100	32,000	171,100
Child Protection	UNICEF	53,500	15,000	68,500
<b>TOTAL</b>				<b>3,516,799</b>

## 8. Learning

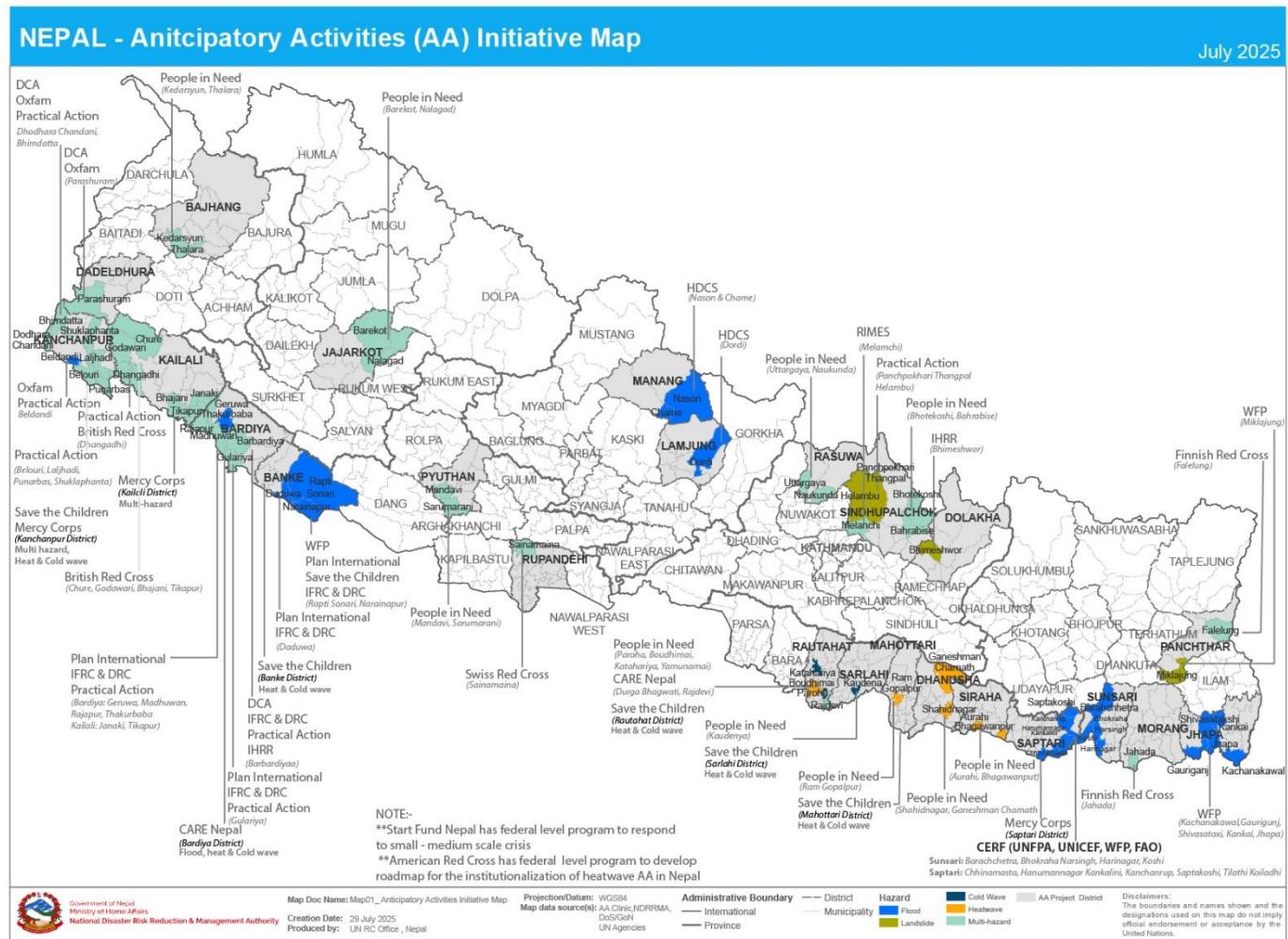
### Monitoring & Evaluation

Each agency will use its existing monitoring & evaluation systems to collect and track data on implementation progress and outputs achieved. This can be financed through the CERF funds if included in the pre-approved projects. All findings will be shared.

In addition, a joint Post Distribution Monitoring (PDM) will be conducted by third-party under the leadership of WFP on behalf of all participating agencies in case of a full framework activation in 2025. An independent research firm will be selected to undertake the evaluation after the action trigger is reached. All agencies agreed to share beneficiary data, within existing regulations, and commit to providing relevant inputs to support the PDM. The final PDM report along with data will be made available to all framework partners. The PDM will be done in close coordination and communication with participating agencies.

## 9. Annexes

## 9.1 Overview of other AA initiatives in Nepal



## 9.2 Anticipatory Action

### Objectives of anticipatory action

There is broad agreement on the need for the international humanitarian sector to move from a largely responsive approach to an anticipatory approach. An anticipatory approach leads to a more effective, efficient and dignified response. It also protects hard-won development gains.

Today, we can predict with increasing confidence the occurrence and humanitarian impact of certain climate- and weather-related shocks. By combining different analytical approaches, out-of-the-ordinary weather events can not only be predicted, but their projected impact can proactively be mitigated based on pre-identified anticipatory actions. Building on growing evidence that acting prior to the onset of a predictable hazard is significantly more (cost-) effective than traditional humanitarian response, OCHA has facilitated the setup of multiple Anticipatory Action frameworks.

Each framework comprises 3 core elements, all of which are underpinned by a clear learning, monitoring and evaluation plan:

- A robust forecasting embedded in a clear decision-making process (the **model**).
- Pre-agreed action plans that can fundamentally alter the trajectory of the crisis (the **delivery**).
- Pre-arranged finance (the **money**).

Anticipatory action is still an innovative space, requiring “proof of concept”. Thus, in addition to the 3 core elements, OCHA also invests in documenting evidence and learning from each framework.



### Core principles

Each anticipatory action framework is tailored to the local context. OCHA has identified nine core principles for the framework in Nepal:

- **Prioritizing a multi-sectoral approach:** Partners should prioritize multi-sectoral, co-targeted interventions when possible to maximize synergies and to achieve great impact.
- **Ensuring the centrality of protection:** In line with the IASC centrality of protection policy, and the principle of “leaving no one behind” (2030 Agenda), all partners implementing anticipatory interventions have the responsibility to ensure that their response will not aggravate the exposure of communities to risks of violence, insecurity, extortion and exploitation. Anticipatory actions must also ensure that they benefit all communities (local communities, displaced communities, returnees, and refugees) based on their needs, with due attention given to obstacles linked to gender, age, disability or social affiliation.
- **Promoting accountability to affected populations:** Partners engaged in the implementation of the anticipatory action framework are responsible for the integration of accountability to affected populations approaches in their activities. This includes making all efforts to solicit, hear, and act upon the voices and priorities of affected people (including the most marginalized and at-risk women, men, girls and boys) in a coordinated manner, before, during, and after anticipatory action. It also means ensuring that community feedback leads to corrective action in future anticipatory action.

- **Supporting localization:** All partners involved in the implementation of this framework are expected to honor the UNCT's commitment towards localization. Equitable partnerships with local actors building upon their long-term relationships and trust with communities during anticipatory action are crucial.
- **Engaging in partnerships:** Collaboration across humanitarian actors is key to ensuring that all sectors are engaged, and that assistance is mobilized according to the AA framework.
- **Using cash where possible:** OCHA encourages the use of cash as the default assistance modality where markets and operational contexts permit.
- **Generating development co-benefits:** Framework participants are encouraged to consider how financing for anticipatory action can complement financing for development by reducing suffering and addressing the root causes of problems. For instance, if the pre-agreed anticipatory action plan includes the repair of boreholes, implementing agencies should ensure that the quality of the repairs will last beyond the immediate humanitarian crisis.
- **Capturing learning:** Monitoring, evaluation and learning activities should be embedded at every phase of the development and implementation of the AA framework.
- **Striving for integration:** The framework seeks to integrate the anticipatory action activities into the existing humanitarian architecture and to foster linkages with long term programming, including resilience and development initiatives.