

STEPPING UP THE DEC'S RESPONSE TO CLIMATE- BASED HUMANITARIAN NEEDS



Department of
International
Development



Olivia Burningham, Aala Hassan, Fernanda Salerno Dala Corte, Sofia Abecassis
Saldanha, Emily Boyle

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We would like to thank our clients at the DEC, Frances Crowley and Alexa Netty, for guiding us through the research process - their knowledge and feedback have been instrumental in enabling us to produce this report.

We would also like to express our thanks to the individuals who contributed their time and expertise during the interviews. Their perspectives allowed us to gain a deeper understanding of the experiences of some of the DEC members and thus enabled us to produce a report reflective of these experiences.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Meeting humanitarian needs and helping people adapt to the impacts of climate-related crises is one of the foremost challenges of the 21st century for humanitarian organisations and represents an important focus of DEC member charities. This report provides recommendations for how DEC members can adapt at a programmatic, organisational, and sectoral level to better meet these needs, based on an examination of the success of current practices, strategies for scale-up, and evaluation of the challenges faced, coalescing around three main themes emerging from the research. Through a series of interviews with DEC members and an evaluation of the literature, these three themes were identified as crucial to scaling up the DEC's response to climate change. These included anticipatory action, locally-led responses, and scaling up multi-actor involvement, which are outlined in this report.

Firstly, this report highlights anticipatory action (AA) as a key best practice in adapting to the effects of climate change, built on early warning systems and preparedness programmes that are imperative to build climate resilience and mitigate humanitarian needs caused by climate disasters. While some good individual examples of AA exist across DEC members, the report explores challenges regarding insufficient, inflexible and difficult-to-access funding which remain. Overall, the recommendations identified for DEC members include: a greater emphasis on AA in policy and budgeting; development of programs in partnership with local organisations and national governments; and leveraging local knowledge to enhance the efficacy of AA and mitigate humanitarian needs caused by climate disasters.

Secondly, the report discusses how DEC member efforts to shift power and funds towards more locally-led responses, needs scaling up in the field of climate response as well as further development to build greater trust and partnerships with local communities, involving a mindset shift of local people from 'beneficiaries' to 'partners'. Key recommendations for DEC members include: movement towards more horizontal practices built on trust which support and empower local communities; a shift in language to be more inclusive to local populations; and integration of local communities into decision-making entities to enable their participation and utilise their knowledge of their context.

The report then goes on to discuss the importance of scaling up multi-actor involvement, focussing on humanitarian collaboration with national governments, as well as improved inter-agency collaboration. The section discusses the cruciality (and current lack of) of government prioritisation in policy and funding for action both pre- and post-disaster, as well as current challenges in siloed organisational ways of working. Key recommendations for DEC members include: active collaboration of DEC members with functional national governments;

advocacy for increased government prioritisation of climate-related humanitarian needs; and building a more collaborative and cohesive space of working both among humanitarian organisations and with agencies and actors from the development sector.

Ultimately, outlining a number of best practices allows DEC members to engage more proactively and thoughtfully with practices of mitigating and responding to climate-based humanitarian needs. In efforts to build community resilience, leverage early warning technologies and scale-up collaborative partnerships, this report identifies a holistic pathway to do so. As it engages with the challenges posed at the programmatic, organisational, and sectoral levels, it emphasises the DEC community at the centre of change.

DEFINITIONS

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Anticipatory action (AA) entails implementing measures to prevent or mitigate disaster impacts before a shock occurs, based on predictions of how the impacts will unfold (IFRC, 2022).

Furthermore, “implementing anticipatory action requires developing pre-agreed action plans for response, setting out what early actions will be taken, based on what triggers, and tying that to pre-agreed and reliable financial resources.” (IFRC, n.d.)

LOCALLY-LED RESPONSE

Locally-led responses mean “increasing international investment and respect for the role of local actors, with the goal of increasing the reach, effectiveness and accountability of humanitarian action” (IFRC, n.d.).

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

The systematic development and application of policies, strategies and practices to minimise vulnerabilities and disaster risks throughout a society, to avoid or to limit the adverse impact of hazards, within the broad context of sustainable development (ISDR, 2004).

EMPOWERMENT

The process of “enabling people to increase control over their lives, to gain control over the factors and decisions that shape their lives, to increase their resources and qualities and to build capacities to gain access, partners, networks, a voice, in order to gain control” (UNDESA, 2012).

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Early Warning Systems (EWS) are an “integrated system of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction, disaster risk assessment, communication and preparedness activities systems and processes that enables individuals, communities, governments, businesses and others to take timely action to reduce disaster risks in advance of hazardous events” (UNDRR, n.d.).

PREPAREDNESS

The “knowledge and capacities developed by governments, response and recovery organisations, communities and individuals to effectively anticipate, respond to and recover from the impacts of likely, imminent or current disasters” (UNDRR, n.d.).

RESILIENCE

In the context of climate change, resilience is “the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from the challenges presented by climate change” (Concern Worldwide, 2021).

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AA: Anticipatory Action

ADAPT: The European Climate Adaptation Platform Climate-ADAPT

ALNAP: Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in humanitarian action

DEC: Disaster Emergency Committee

IASC: Inter-Agency Standing Committee

IFRC: International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

ISDR: International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

OCHA: United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

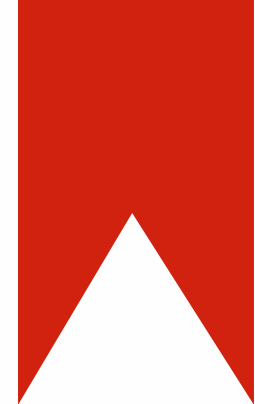
UNDESA: United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

UNDRR: United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UN: United Nations

TABLE OF CONTENTS



Executive summary	iii
Definitions	v
1. Introduction	1
• 1.1 Introduction	1
• 1.2. Report aims	2
• 1.3 Methodology	2
• 1.4 Limitations	2
2. Anticipatory Action	3
• 2.1 Scaling up AA	3
• 2.2 Preparedness	3
• 2.3 Emergency Response Planning	3
◦ 2.3i Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (PVCA)	4
• 2.4 Early Warning Systems	4
◦ 2.4i Case Study - SAPARM Initiative	5
• 2.5 Case Study - Oxfam's B-Ready Initiative	6
• 2.6 Key challenges to AA	8
3. Locally-led responses	11
• 3.1 Changing perspectives: from beneficiaries to partners	11
◦ 3.1i Case Study - Participatory Rural Appraisal	11
• 3.2 Learning from communities	12
• 3.3 Resilience through training and knowledge-sharing	12
◦ 3.3i Case study - The Red Cross and climate change curriculums	12
• 3.4 Participation and empowerment	13
• 3.5 Community-driven cash transfers	13
◦ 3.5i Case Study - Christian Aid's Survivor and Community-Led Response (SCLR)	13
• 3.6 Current challenges to effective locally-led action	14
4. Collaboration within and outside the humanitarian sector	
• 4.1 Lack of government prioritisation	16
• 4.2 Importance of governments	16
• 4.3 Challenges to inter-agency collaboration	16
• 4.4 Scaling up inter-agency collaboration	17
• 4.4i Strategies for collaboration	18
5. Conclusions and recommendations: the way forward	
• 5.1 Programmatic	20
• 5.2 Organisational	20
• 5.3 Sectoral	21
6. Bibliography	24

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Climate change remains an issue at the forefront of government policy and politics today, with humanitarian organisations increasingly acting as vehicles for climate response, mitigation, and addressing loss and damage. Considering the slow global progress in climate action, as greenhouse gas emissions, fossil fuel use, and the prevalence of climate disasters remain at an all-time high, the sector is positioned to play a vital role in defining this new phase. For a growing number, climate change is seen as the primary driver of humanitarian needs and human suffering as it exacerbates pre-existing vulnerabilities in some of the poorest countries (OCHA, 2021). The impacts of climate change are expected to continue rising, with the costs of climate-related humanitarian response anticipated to exceed 20 billion US dollars a year (IFRC, 2019). Beyond increasing the demand for humanitarian assistance, the nature of climate-related disasters is also changing, as new and unexpected patterns are forming and the number of unprecedented disasters is growing (de Geoffroy et al., 2021). Mitigating against the effects of climate change and climate disasters rests on collaboration across the humanitarian sector, where collectives like the DEC are pivotal.

Considering growing needs, several humanitarian organisations have begun investing in climate change mitigation, anticipatory action, and scaling up local community participation. Working within their resources, they have located ways of responding to climate change that suit the populations they are seeking to help. As climate change has become a larger concern in the sector, there have been considerable efforts to develop this further. However, the challenges they face span the programmatic, organisational, and sectoral levels. Humanitarian actors and donors so far have undervalued preparedness and early response to climate disasters. Furthermore, local knowledge and participation have not been implemented widely enough to ensure climate change initiatives work most effectively. The fractured nature of the humanitarian system has meant that there are often various programmes and initiatives taking place simultaneously, which may benefit from coordination or collaboration. Other factors, particularly funding, pose a substantial constraint on the progress of climate change response and environmental protection.

In efforts to improve climate change response strategies for the Disasters Emergency Committee, this report identifies several examples of best practices across the DEC member group. The report attempts to demonstrate how these practices could be scaled up for the DEC, while also identifying the challenges they face. Finally, this report maps out recommendations that could be applied at a programmatic, organisational, and sectoral level for DEC members and other external actors. DEC members, and their partners, represent a diversity of actors within the humanitarian sector and already incorporate a range of practices developed in the face of climate change response. This unique position makes them a vital catalyst for driving systemic change in how climate change is perceived and approached across the humanitarian landscape.

1.2 REPORT AIMS

This report aims to identify the current models of humanitarian response applied in relation to climate change adaptation and response amongst a number of DEC members. Using comprehensive literature and interviews with the DEC, the report aims to highlight key elements that need to be scaled up, as well as the number of challenges they face, supporting climate change adaptation and recovery phases of a response. Finally, this report offers recommendations at the programmatic, organisational, and sectoral level, outlining how DEC members can build on what is working in relation to climate change mitigation and response.

1.3 METHODOLOGY

This report was based on in-depth desk-based research, a grey literature review, and semi-structured remote interviews. The team did 10 remote interviews across 8 DEC organisations and followed a snowball sampling method. This method allowed us to gain from the experiences of key organisations and feed this into our assessment of the realities of humanitarian work in climate emergencies. This report also engages closely with grey and academic literature, in efforts to demonstrate a wider range of best practices in climate mitigation and in responding to climate-related humanitarian needs.

1.4 LIMITATIONS

While considerable effort was made to ensure this research was as comprehensive as possible, there were limitations to the research conducted which are important to acknowledge. These limitations are outlined here.

1. DEC organisations interviewed

The report accumulates the findings from 8 out of 15 DEC organisations and as a result, it does not wholly represent the DEC. Time and capacity constraints meant it was not possible to speak with all DEC members and obtain a wider range of best practices.

2. Non-DEC organisations

The team did not manage to speak with any non-DEC members. This would have given the team an insight into other organisational approaches and likely broadened the report findings and recommendations beyond the DEC circle. However, it was possible to draw in examples from publicly available information concerning initiatives external to the DEC.

This research has been carried out by LSE master's students in collaboration with the Disasters Emergency Committee.

2. ANTICIPATORY ACTION, PREPARADNESS AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

This section underscores the importance of a Anticipatory Action (AA) in mitigating climate-related stresses and crises. It depicts the importance of anticipating disasters, utilising early warning systems and preparadness to reduce disaster risks, as well as highlighting several case studies which demonstrate this.

2.1 SCALING UP ANTICIPATORY ACTION (AA)

AA incorporates a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the humanitarian impacts of a forecast hazard before it occurs. From interviews with DEC members, AA was emphasised as key to mitigating climate-related disasters. The best practices highlighted span risk assessments, response planning and Early Warning Systems (EWS). DEC members have highlighted the necessity of scaling up AA, investing in the range of assistance it offers, and increasing its funding base.

2.2 PREPAREDNESS

A complementary approach to AA is Preparedness. AA helps to strengthen communities' response to a crisis, and high levels of preparedness aid an efficient development and implementation of AA (Anticipation Hub 2023). Preparedness involves a range of activities including developing EWS, training and capacity-building and as such, it complements AA. However, not all preparedness measures are considered AA, and this is dependent on whether it is carried out in anticipation of a predicted shock. Preparedness is essential for recovery and progress towards durable solutions that take evolving and future disaster risks into account (UNHCR, 2023). Some interviewees connected preparedness and development projects, where one organisation, in Bangladesh, committed to raising houses on plinths to guarantee they were above flood levels. Another organisation mentioned an example in Vanuatu where village committees are being trained to be better prepared for climate-related shocks, with ambassadors in the community that support families to rebuild after a disaster. Research on preparedness emphasises its cost-effectiveness and life-saving potential, highlighting that without it, responses to humanitarian crises are delayed, particularly during high-stakes disasters (Fabre and Gupta, 2017). Therefore, the ability to anticipate, respond to, and recover from crises through preparedness is crucial.

2.3 EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANNING

Emergency Response Planning was highlighted by an interviewee from Christian Aid as an effective practice in mitigating climate-related needs. The approach necessitates that all programme countries have up-to-date, comprehensive emergency response plans with a detailed risk analysis. These are scenario-based tools used to plan humanitarian responses to potential emergencies, ensuring arrangements are made ahead of crises. It also enables organisations to have a more proactive approach to climate emergencies. Furthermore, it complements development resilience action at the national and local level, followed by preparedness capacity (IASC, 2015). Other DEC members have used similar tools more widely, particularly in response to Cyclone Idai

and Cyclone Kenneth (DEC, 2021). The effectiveness of this approach requires countries to maintain an updated tool where NGOs and partners can track climate-based needs and incorporate the AA approach.

2.3.I PARTICIPATORY VULNERABILITY AND CAPACITY ASSESSMENTS

A useful practice, outlined by a Christian Aid interviewee, is the Participatory Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (PVCA). The PVCA is a sector-wide tool for community-led analysis of vulnerabilities and perceived risks posed to their livelihoods from climate-related disasters. In doing so, it facilitates better design of livelihood improvement projects and optimises community-based response to climate-based disasters. Such assessments empower vulnerable populations to analyse their own problems and suggest solutions while ensuring greater transparency and measurable impact (Christian Aid, 2009).

PVCA was used in collaboration with community members in Myanmar, a region which experiences regular floods and typhoons. The community connected with other actors such as local authorities and NGOs to develop its capacity assessments. The need for a more systematic use of PVCA would benefit the sector due to increased locally-led collaboration and accountability.

2.4 EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Early warning systems (EWS) are highlighted in both the literature and across DEC members, as a crucial ally to AA. Integrated systems of hazard monitoring, forecasting and prediction are deemed essential by humanitarian and development actors, particularly in collaboration with national or local-level meteorological services, which possess the legal mandate to disseminate forecasts or warnings (IFRC, 2020).

National Climate Risk Assessments analyse climate risks and impacts from historical and future perspectives. In the absence of such assessments, information can be gathered after the immediate life-saving phase, in collaboration with national weather services, to inform longer-term recovery and resilience-building efforts (IFRC, 2020). EWS and Community-based Early Warning Systems (CBEWS) have improved disaster risk reduction efforts in coastal central Vietnam, concurrently fostering active citizen participation (Pham, Thielen and Bubeck, 2024). However, it is noted that less than half of the least developed countries and only 40% of small island developing states have a multi-hazard EWS; multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS) are significantly underfunded in fragile and conflict-affected contexts, despite being critical components of adaptation and risk reduction efforts (Relief Web, 2023).

Some interviewees highlighted that advancing technologies is crucial to implementing EWS and are more effective when led by local knowledge. One interviewee highlighted that integrated technology systems enable more proactive engagement with cyclical weather events. For example, El Nino, a

cyclical weather event, acts predictably and its effects can be mitigated better through EWS technologies. Early warning systems enable the DEC secretariat to be less reactive in the face of climate disasters and, primarily, reduce disaster risks ahead of a hazardous event. The effectiveness of EWS is heavily dependent on information sharing across a number of stakeholders. EWS which are integrated with local communities enable better co-production of information tailored to the specific needs of the population, reflecting the needs of local NGOs and the experiences of those at risk. Crowley et al. (2018) emphasised the importance of local knowledge which should not be set aside with the increasing use of technology for EWS. The paper demonstrated that local knowledge has greater acceptance and weight in decision making for farming communities than scientific forecasts, which illustrates that an integrated discussion with communities would allow a better implementation of EWS as more people believing the information. Furthermore, knowledge from indigenous communities and farmers complements the implementation and sustainability of any further disaster risk initiatives (Hermans et al., 2022).

Moreover, multi-stakeholder collaboration is vital for the promotion and precision of EWS. Initiatives like the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) are an example of efforts to improve how AA is approached across the sector. REAP brings together a variety of stakeholders across the climate, humanitarian, and development communities with the aim of integrating early action and anticipatory approaches more widely (Wagner, 2023). It enables information on disaster risk reduction, climate adaptation, and early action technologies to be shared more widely and identifies how to better invest across these programmes. DEC members who are REAP partners include Save the Children, Tearfund and World Vision International. REAP highlights the collaborative efforts needed to enhance early action response in the face of climate disasters.

2.4.I CASE STUDY - SAPARM INITIATIVE

The software initiative entitled Satellite Assisted Pastoral Resource Management (SAPARM) in Ethiopia is a tool to transform EWS, currently utilised by HelpAge International. SAPARM collects and disseminates climate information, such as droughts and subsequent potential vegetation loss, for pastoralists that provides them with reliable information which allows them to decide before moving their herds from one location to another. This technology appears to be effective in saving time, money, and resources.

2.5 CASE STUDY: ANTICIPATORY FUNDING FOR COMMUNITIES - OXFAM'S B-READY INITIATIVE

Community-led innovations are being piloted across the sector, with DEC members often leading the way. An important example of this is Oxfam's B-READY initiative in the Philippines, which combines an early warning system for typhoons with digital financial inclusion for vulnerable communities (Oxfam Philippines, 2024). The project uses weather parametric forecasting predictions, which indicate the likelihood of extreme weather events such as typhoons, which trigger a cash payment to households based on a pre-determined threshold, providing them funds with which they can carry out anticipatory and preventative action to mitigate the disasters' impacts. This type of investment represents a form of AA in which local communities have both increased resilience and enhanced dignity in being able to make their own decisions before a disaster strikes, and thus improves their chances of faster recovery, survival and reduced economic shocks, acting as a driver of social protection.

AN INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR DISASTER FINANCING - HUMANITARIAN INSURANCE SCHEMES

An innovative approach for disaster risk financing in the sector is that of humanitarian insurance, which can assist governments and organisations to predict and manage climate-related risks on a large scale (Start Network, 2021), representing a more proactive (as opposed to reactive) approach to managing humanitarian risks. Through such insurance programmes, state governments, as well as civil society organisations, can purchase insurance policies, which make pre-specified payouts when pre-agreed scientific triggers are met (Start Network, n.d.). This approach to funding is ideal for disasters which can be predicted, such as food insecurity produced by drought/floods, as forecasting technology enables these disasters to be anticipated months in advance, allowing funding to be put in place before they occur, and thus be available as soon as it is needed.

To best exemplify how this works in practice, the case study of ‘ARC Replica’ is a useful example, currently being utilised in Senegal, Somalia and Zimbabwe (Start Network, 2022). The African Risk Capacity (ARC) is a specialised agency of the African Union (AU), from which AU member states, as well non-governmental partners such as the Start Network, can purchase parametric insurance policies against particular climate disasters, such as drought. In this case, once rainfall levels drop beneath a threshold pre-defined in the policy, those who purchased the policy receive pre-determined pay-outs with which they can implement timely actions to protect vulnerable communities.

One interview suggested that while humanitarian insurance schemes often arise as a useful option for prefinancing, there are problems with this approach. In particular, they highlighted delays in cash distributions once the pre-defined scientific criteria is triggered as a key issue, hindering timely and effective responses. In particular, bureaucratic delays appear to arise from funds not being immediately available once the disaster criteria are met, with insurance holders instead having to ask the provider for the funding, producing delays. The interviewee highlighted that for humanitarian insurance to be effective, there should be clear criteria about when funding can be made available, as well as ensuring that once a disaster meets the pre-defined criteria for funding, the funds are immediately available, to produce the most effective responses.

2.6 KEY CHALLENGES TO ANTICIPATORY ACTION

COMPLEXITIES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS

DEC members acknowledged the complexity of the climate crisis and recognised that adaptation efforts alone might not suffice. One interviewee cited the case of South Sudan, where annual trench-digging was routine to prevent flooding however, it is not sufficient to deal with climate change, as it should be part of a global effort to stop climate stressors. Other DEC member interviewees pointed to opportunities and the importance of this type of approach in other flood-prone contexts which face repeated flooding, such as Malawi, Northern Mozambique, and Pacific Island nations.

UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES

DEC members highlighted the difficulty of anticipating other scenarios and how they affect AA, such as war, genocide, and other violent conflicts to ensure people's survival. One example was that EWS are hard to implement in places where there is 'crisis within a crises', such as an environmental disaster occurring in a setting of pre-existing conflict, such as Ukraine, Syria, and Lebanon. Systems in place in these contexts typically anticipate conflict displacement rather than climate change-related challenges.

INSUFFICIENT FUNDING

Another key challenge DEC members face is insufficient funding, which is needed to scale-up AA. Almost all DEC interviewees mentioned increasing the amount of money available for AA as crucial, with one interviewee calling it "the most pertinent challenge" for stepping up responses to meet humanitarian needs and help people adapt to the impacts of climate crises. Indeed, while humanitarian funding has long been scarce compared to needs, it is also predominantly spent on response rather than AA (Knox Clark, 2021). It was estimated that a mere fifth of global climate funding goes to adaptation (IFRC, 2022). Such financial shortcomings have led the humanitarian system to remain stuck in a system ruled by reaction rather than proactive anticipation. Contributing to the lack of anticipatory action funds is donors' hesitance to allocate resources to activities aimed at crises that may not materialize (ALNAP, 2023). This reluctance is exacerbated by the 'CNN effect', where donors tend to react to mediatised disasters instead of funding pre-disaster activities (Patel and Van Brabant, 2017). This challenge, identified by DEC interviewees, needs to be addressed at both the DEC and sector levels.

RIGOROUS REQUIREMENTS FOR ACCESSING FUNDS

The inability to scale-up financing for AA seems to stem partly from rigorous accountability requirements. This challenge was mentioned by half of DEC interviewees. The complexity and length of the forms required to request donor funding and their financial reporting requirements were particularly highlighted as burdensome. The Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office and the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operation criteria were mentioned as examples. Often, these procedures require significant staff capacity and availability, which was noted to be scarce among some members.

Moreover, one DEC interviewee noted difficulties in accessing funds for non-quantifiable AA objectives. The prioritisation of quantifiable activities and goals seems to be a feature of today's widespread results-based management. Tools, such as log frames, are often criticised for their focus on quantification and their “invisible power” to establish what counts and what does not, with non-quantifiable objectives being considered less important (Eyben, 2013; Krause, 2014). As one DEC interviewee said, activities which bring communities together, such as dances, can strengthen community cohesion and resilience and be termed climate preparedness. However, these are intangible goals, leading to underfunding.

INFLEXIBLE FUNDING

Another aspect hindering the scale-up of AA is donors' current inflexible approach to financing. Some DEC interviewees highlighted that donors tightly control how their funds are allocated. NGOs must predefine activities, goals, and costs, with any deviations being unwelcome. Contrarily, an adaptive approach to funding would encourage changing plans during projects and using donor money flexibly beyond initial agreements. Multiple interviewees highlighted such flexibility as the key to better anticipating and responding to climate-related humanitarian needs. This is particularly relevant due to the increased uncertainties and unexpected impacts that new and intensified climate-related disasters cause (de Geoffroy et al., 2021). A flexible approach would acknowledge that not all aspects of a project can be determined at its outset, enabling adaptation and response to unforeseen challenges and opportunities (Maclay, 2015).

THE START FUND

The Start Network consists of more than 90 non-governmental organisations (Start Network, n.d). The Start Fund is a pooled funding mechanism allowing Start Network members and their partners to access funding for response and anticipation of disasters. Some interviewees highlighted the Start Fund as an improvement towards anticipatory action and a locally-led funding mechanism. The Start Fund releases funds after an anticipation alert about a potential risk has been issued and commits to dedicating 25% of funding to local actors (Patel and Van Brabant, 2017). In 2021, it was ranked among anticipatory action's top five largest humanitarian financiers (Wagner, 2023). Moreover, it overcomes the “CNN effect”: instead of being driven by highly mediatised crises, it addresses minor and less visible ones (Patel and Van Brabant, 2017). However, interviewees had reservations, stressing the necessity of addressing the Fund's challenges. One interviewee emphasised that the Fund does not receive sufficient financing, while another expressed concerns about whether the focus was too narrow in addressing only certain hazards, leaving others underfunded. The Start Fund represents a step forward towards best practice in anticipatory action and local funding mechanisms, but to harness its full potential it could be expanded, and its challenges addressed.

3. LOCALLY-LED RESPONSE

The locally-led principle of humanitarian action acknowledges the fact that local NGOs and aid workers are often the first responders during a crisis (Goodwin and Ager, 2021). Further, local people, communities, and neighbours create support systems in response to crises which can be highly beneficial to humanitarian relief programs (Nightingale, 2012). These local aid workers and responders often have strong networks within communities which allow them to identify vulnerability and needs of those they are assisting. Developing and strengthening locally-led and collaborative approaches to the impacts of the climate crisis is a strategy which amplifies the voices of those most at-risk and “is a critical step towards improved humanitarian outcomes and community resilience” (Humanitarian Advisory Group, 2023).

3.1 CHANGING PERSPECTIVES: FROM BENEFICIARIES TO PARTNERS

Effective locally-led action can be encouraged through a change of mindset. Indeed, reframing past beneficiaries as active partners can be the first step to inclusive and participatory local action. Many DEC members highlighted their efforts to not only change mindsets but also change processes and terminology to be more inclusive and collaborative towards local partners. One interviewee mentioned that the sector is still quite conservative in this regard and advocated for a narrative change towards letting local actors engage in policymaking. They suggested involving local actors in needs assessments and advocacy campaigns. Some organisations are actively changing the language used in their programmes, notably no longer talking about ‘beneficiaries’ but ‘development partners’. This mindset change needs to be implemented hand in hand with platforms aimed at creating both shared knowledge and discussion with local populations and civil society. DEC members should encourage this approach to be adopted within their organisations as widely as possible.

3.1.1 CASE STUDY: PARTICIPATORY RURAL APPRAISAL

Some interviewees mentioned the Participatory Rural Appraisal (PRA) process, which recognises risk, resources, and vulnerability and is facilitated by AA. This approach allows organisations to transition from viewing communities as mere 'beneficiaries' to treating them as 'development partners'. Chambers (1994) argues that it empowers rural or urban populations to express, enhance, share, and analyse their knowledge of life and conditions, facilitating planning and action. One interviewee explained that this strategy represents a decolonial approach to work, operating through a federation of members or local partners.

3.2 LEARNING FROM COMMUNITIES

Community-led involvement is crucial to programme management. When discussing the need for locally-led participation in humanitarian programming, many interviewees highlighted the value of local knowledge, which often is neglected. Indeed, local pools of knowledge are often overlooked despite being one of the richest resources available for programme development. In the context of climate change, these dynamic local knowledge systems develop over several generations as communities adapt to the changing environment around them (Karki et al., 2017; Nakashima et al., 2012).

3.3 RESILIENCE THROUGH TRAINING AND KNOWLEDGE-SHARING

The need for upskilling and training of local partners was expressed frequently among DEC members. Indeed, another effective way of increasing the participatory nature of locally-led action is to extend collaboration and knowledge circles. Participatory action relies on empowering communities through knowledge creation. Many organisations are already providing toolkits and teaching materials to local communities to foster resilience and awareness. These can take many forms, including emphasising knowledge sharing with local organisers or local humanitarian workers. Some organisations also provide teaching materials specifically for emergency response and resilience. Such programs also contribute to preparedness and can be understood as AA. The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has been particularly successful at building local knowledge and empowering communities through awareness and education in schools. Thanks to their reach and established local connections, the Climate Centre has been able to widely implement these initiatives in schools and educational structures in communities around the world (see section 3.3i).

3.3.I CASE STUDY: THE RED CROSS AND CLIMATE CHANGE CURRICULUMS

The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre has developed a wide variety of such programs. Firstly, the Y Adapt curriculums, which are used to teach children about some of the key issues of climate change. The curriculum consists of seven sessions; Introduction, Climate Change Challenge, Map the Hazard, See the System, Act to Adapt, Choose your Challenge, and Join the Y-Adapt community. The sessions are aimed at young people and “help them to both understand climate change and to take practical action to adapt to the changing climate in their community. These actions are local interventions that reduce the impacts of extreme weather events” (IFRC, n.d.). The sessions are designed to be interactive and game-based, to facilitate learning and knowledge creation which supports participatory and local action. In addition to their school curriculums, the Climate Centre has developed climate emergency-specific educational tools. The pillowcase project helps young children “explore how climate emergencies affect us and discover ways to be better prepared for extreme weather events” in which children practice a range of coping skills and take part in role-plays and scenario-based activities (British Red Cross, n.d.).

3.4 PARTICIPATION AND EMPOWERMENT

Our interviewees all encouraged a scaling up of local empowerment in order to produce more meaningful, inclusive and participatory policy discussions in which local people can be included in policy development. Interviewees agreed that policy or programme decisions should never be made without consultation of the people affected. By learning from local communities, the humanitarian community will ensure real participatory implementation and ultimately stronger and more sustainable humanitarian strategies. Empowerment is key to strengthening the capacity for effective collaboration with policymakers.

3.5 COMMUNITY-DRIVEN CASH TRANSFERS

Many interviewees discussed microgrants as useful funding mechanisms to adapt to smaller crises and relieve pressures on local communities and vulnerable groups. Recognising that people affected by crises are the best informed of their needs and resources, microgrants enable communities to rapidly address their needs as they see fit. Humanitarian organisations have different approaches to micro-granting and funding allocation. In particular, organisations differ in the level of accountability they build into their funding partnerships. While some give relatively high levels of independence to their partners, other interviewees mentioned that they occasionally still struggle to relinquish control over the use of funding. One example of a successful micro granting approach is Christian Aid’s Survivor and Community Led Response approach (see section 3.5i).

3.5.I CASE STUDY: CHRISTIAN AID’S SURVIVOR AND COMMUNITY-LED RESPONSE (SCLR)

SCLR has proven itself to be extremely successful, according to interviewees. The innovative approach considers the fact that communities affected usually act as the first and last responders in a crisis. Providing microgrants allows communities to build on their existing work and knowledge, creating more sustainable and resilient communities. Practically speaking, this involves Christian Aid identifying and working with local partners at the start of a crisis and working together to “identify the most appropriate approaches to support the spontaneous initiatives in their contexts, according to the partners’ structure, work culture, geographical focus and expertise” (Di Vincenz and Halinan, 2023). The approach aims to ensure humanitarian organisations do not dismiss the efforts of communities who are already responding (Di Vincenz and Halinan, 2023). The particularity of SCLR is that, unlike other traditional individual or group cash transfer systems, it is driven by communities themselves and based on their own analysis of their needs, opportunities, and gaps and has lower accountability requirements than other response methods.

3.6 CURRENT CHALLENGES TO EFFECTIVE LOCALLY-LED ACTION NEED TO MAINTAIN MULTIPLICITY OF ACTORS

Some interviewees stressed the need for locally-led responses to be integrated and linked to government efforts, arguing that it should be implemented in a way that complements governmental efforts and encourages collaboration with other specialised agencies. When possible, interviewees encouraged humanitarian organisations to work with as many actors as possible, as needs often exceed the help available, in which case patterns of multi-actor collaboration would lead to improved relief operations.

“LETTING GO” AND HUMANITARIAN PERCEPTIONS OF LOSING CONTROL

Another challenge voiced by several interviewees was the difficulty of finding the balance between inclusive, participatory, and locally-led programs and effective organisational operations. Individuals highlighted the perceived loss of control that organisations might feel in reaction to increased locally-led action. Indeed, one interviewee linked these perceptions to the potentially paternalistic and colonial tradition of humanitarian interventions, still needing deconstruction (Barnett, 2012). Locally-led programs can only be efficient if they are built on a basis of trust between humanitarian organisations and local communities. Many of the aspects of locally-led action which need to be scaled up ultimately feed into the establishment of sustainable and trusting relationships (Di Vincenz and Halinan, 2023). Accountability and trust are key to effective implementation.

LOCAL POPULATIONS LACK ACCESS TO FUNDS

Most DEC interviewees highlighted challenges related to local communities' access to financing. Intermediary gatekeepers were often highlighted as a barrier for scaling up locally-led efforts. For example, one interviewee viewed the role of UN agencies as gatekeepers and receivers of most humanitarian funding as disproportionate and often unproductive for locally-led efforts. Within the cluster system, UN agencies receive 77.4% of the proposed financing, followed by INGOs which receive 15.2%, and local actors who fall behind with 7.3% (Konyndyk et al., 2020). The cluster system consolidates large agencies and NGOs' grip on financing, compared to local and smaller NGOs. Consequently, local people's power and ability to prepare for and respond to humanitarian crises could be diminished. The Charter for Change, of which some DEC members are signatories, and its commitment to providing 25% of funding to national and local organisations is a step towards improvement (Charter for Change, 2019).

As noted by some interviewees, this challenge is exacerbated by local NGOs' lack of capacity for filling out long and complex funding request documents and reporting requirements. Indeed, there seems to be a prevailing lack of confidence in locals among donors and INGOs, resulting in the necessity to meticulously control the allocation of funds and their use. Some DEC members discussed shouldering such burdens on behalf of local NGOs and working with them to increase their capacity for responding to such donor requirements. However, their organisations grapple with these same issues.

FUNDING FLEXIBILITY IN CASH-BASED TRANSFERS: MONITORING AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Although there seems to be a wide consensus over the effectiveness of microgrants for local communities, interviewees raised concerns regarding the necessary flexibility that should be afforded to such locally-led financing, particularly focusing on monitoring and accountability. Still, they differed in their views. One interviewee strongly emphasised the need to give local partners money to spend on what they think is best. They hinted at the humanitarian system's tendency towards monitoring and upwards accountability to donors, believing instead that “until we reduce top-down need to control everything we won't be able to do preparedness”. Contrarily, another interviewee advocated for heightened monitoring to ensure funds are accountable, allocated as intended, and without adverse effects. All interviewees mentioning microgrants agreed decision-making should lie with local communities but differed on their organisation's role within the decision-making process. Overall, it seems there is a need for INGOs to develop a “risk appetite” and to build relationships of trust with local communities.

VIEWS ON LOSS AND DAMAGE

A Loss and Damage Fund (L&D), formally established at COP 28, aims to provide funding to developing countries experiencing the negative effects of climate change. Interviewed DEC members welcome the Fund and see it as urgent, but they also regard it with caution and some reservations. Some interviewees highlighted L&D as a necessary additional source of funding for the humanitarian system but also highlighted its current financial insufficiency. Indeed, by December 2023, pledges to the fund amounted to \$700 million, representing less than 0.2% of the losses that developing countries incur annually due to global heating (Lakhani, 2023). Some DEC members also raised concerns about double-counting instead of L&D being new money. This is the possibility that governments will count humanitarian financing as L&D funding instead of filling the gaps the former cannot address. Additionally, some DEC interviewees considered the fund a positive step towards climate justice, but a few also highlighted that it does not address the root cause of climate change. Developed countries and corporations must still be compelled to reduce GHG emissions. Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that humanitarians' role in L&D is still a matter of debate (Worley, 2023; Slim, 2023). On the one hand, humanitarians could use such funding for anticipatory action and emergency response, where they play a role in avoiding and responding to loss and damage. On the other, the money could mostly go to governments as a form of “compensation”, as preferred by some states, or be used to address long-term needs beyond the scope of humanitarianism.

4. COLLABORATION WITHIN AND OUTSIDE THE HUMANITARIAN SECTOR

This section will explore the importance of, and challenges with, scaling up the involvement of actors in collaboration with the humanitarian sector, particularly national governments, and other groups such as development organisations who play a key role in responding to the climate crisis. This is in line with point 5 of the Climate and Environment Charter, committing to ‘work collaboratively across the humanitarian sector and beyond to strengthen climate and environmental action’ (The Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organisations).

4.1 LACK OF GOVERNMENT PRIORITISATION

A key challenge identified both by the existing literature and many interviewees in stepping up the humanitarian response to climate-related needs is the lack of government prioritisation of such needs in policy, practice, and funding. Poorer communities are especially susceptible to the effects of poor government prioritisation. Knox Clarke (2021) highlights that governments are sometimes unwilling to invest development financing funds in defending the livelihoods and lives of highly vulnerable communities as such investments are unlikely to produce substantial financial returns. Further, several interviewees discussed disasters as a political entity but highlighted a lack of discussion of climate change in disaster discourses, as well as funding gaps from many governments in climate finance, particularly in the rehabilitation phase post-disaster.

However, despite country-specific challenges, such as debt and budget shortages, interviewees highlighted that most governments are able to make some funding available for climate-related events, and the focus should therefore be on how to scale-up this financing. Correspondingly, the need for climate-related disasters to become a political agenda, with both policy instruments and political will to make funding available discussed as essential, with governments not relying solely on international financing sources but incorporating substantial funding for anticipation and resilience, disaster response, and longer-term rehabilitation into national budget systems. One interviewee discussed the need for advocacy and lobbying work to encourage governments to make decisions about and allocate appropriate funding for climate change-related events.

4.2 IMPORTANCE OF GOVERNMENTS

Associated with this, interviewees discussed the importance of governments as the primary stakeholders in preparing for and responding to crises, and therefore the need for governments to take a lead role in scaling up approaches to the growing needs brought about by climate crises.

Whilst humanitarians can play a role in advocating for this, for example by encouraging the expansion of social safety nets for the climate-vulnerable (de Geoffroy et al., 2021), the need for large-scale national transformations necessitates leadership of governments who have the capacity to spearhead such changes. As an example of this, existing literature has discussed the frequent failure of resilience strategies and programming, such as income generation, in building the resilience of communities to climate change in the long-term (de Geoffroy et al., 2021); this is explained as a consequence of the broad scale of the challenge, which is not paralleled by the scale of the projects themselves. Instead, for such programmes to be effective, big economic, cultural, and structural changes are required on a national scale, particularly in addressing extreme poverty (Knox Clarke, 2021). This is discussed as beyond the capacity of humanitarian organisations alone, and thus demanding responsibility and management from national governments.

Building on this point, both interviewees and existing literature highlight the need for humanitarian organisations to collaborate with and complement the efforts of governments where they are functional, as opposed to establishing parallel humanitarian architecture (de Geoffroy et al., 2021; Lilly, 2023). This is both because government and civil society structures already provide a majority of aid in most disaster situations (ALNAP, 2018), as well as to increase efficiency, as climate change-related humanitarian work appears most effective when humanitarian actors work under larger, government-led programmes (ALNAP, 2018) which have the capacity to produce transformational change. In cases where humanitarian principles prevent agencies from working directly with the government, de Geoffroy and colleagues (2021) recommend that humanitarian organisations should attempt to work via structures that mirror those of the government, through less politicised structures within national governments, or with local government structures (de Geoffroy et al., 2021).

4.3 CHALLENGES TO INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

A key challenge discussed in the literature and by interviewees in stepping up humanitarian responses to climate emergencies is the current practice of siloed and fragmented ways of working. This is both within humanitarian organisations themselves, where there is a widespread problem of atomisation, with different agencies competing for funding and visibility (de Geoffroy et al., 2021; Knox Clarke, 2021), but perhaps more importantly with regards to climate emergencies which require a multiplicity of actors, among organisations from humanitarian, development, climate, social protection, environment and disaster risk management agencies. The current landscape within preparedness, resilience, AA, response, and rebuilding is highly fragmented, with various stakeholders from different disciplines working in a segregated manner on one part of the issue, often resulting in parallel, duplicated work, as well as gaps, and the use of different terminology making cross-sector communication challenging (ALNAP, 2023), thus reducing the efficacy and

impact of these efforts. Further, there is typically a lack of integration across international financing sources: humanitarian, climate, and development funding streams often function with a lack of coordination, frequently leaving gaps in their coverage, with impacts at a local and community level (IFRC, 2020).

4.4 SCALING UP INTER-AGENCY COLLABORATION

Interviewees highlighted the need for more collaborative ways of working, to produce more cohesive, holistic, and effective responses to climate disasters. Particularly in the context of recurrent disasters, it is necessary for humanitarians to collaborate with those who are better situated to provide more long-term assistance, as solely providing aid after an emergency will be an ineffective strategy of assistance when disasters are likely to recur – instead, anticipatory action, adaptation and resilience work is needed (Knox Clarke, 2021), which is predominantly beyond the capacity of humanitarian organisations.

Some interviewees, complementary to the literature, highlighted the importance of adopting more of a nexus approach in program planning and delivery, particularly within adaptation efforts. One interviewee called for more specific integration between humanitarian and development actors focusing specifically on climate-related discussions, which can be brought into a space that exists between development work and humanitarian relief, as opposed to full integration which would prove incredibly challenging. Additionally, the need for cohesive funding streams is often discussed in the literature – inter-sectoral collaboration is crucial to ensure that different funding sources, including humanitarian assistance, disaster risk reduction, green recovery funds and development aid work to support one another and avoid the risk of duplication. Consolidated climate funding streams across humanitarian and development organisations could thus provide a more efficient practice of funding climate-related work (ALNAP, 2023; Lilly, 2023).

4.4.1 STRATEGIES FOR COLLABORATION

Collaboration is a key strategy highlighted in the ADAPT report (Knox Clarke, 2021). Convening a space for all organisations and platforms doing climate-related initiatives to come together in a formalised way would enable discussion of successes, best practices, and a mapping of how different programmes and projects interconnect to facilitate better collaboration. Other recommended strategies for collaboration can be found in the ALNAP Lessons Paper 2021 (de Geoffroy et al., 2021), and include agreement and clarification of respective roles and responsibilities, and a focus on common standards and support of the same country-level systems/structures to enable better alignment of programmes and mutual support in implementation.

DEBATES SURROUNDING THE ROLE OF HUMANITARIAN WORK

There appears to be disagreement as to the role of humanitarians in climate emergencies: while disaster response definitively falls within the realm of humanitarian aid, their role in mitigation, adaptation and longer-term resilience work is debated, making the division between humanitarian and development organisations more apparent (ALNAP, 2023). On the one hand, it is argued that humanitarian actors must recognise their limited and niche role in the climate crisis to avoid mission creep, and agencies should focus their efforts on where and how they can have the most impact compared to other actors (Lilly, 2023). However, some argue that humanitarian work is crucial in not only life-saving relief but also in longer-term recovery efforts, and the perception among donors of humanitarian aid as limited to immediate response represents a challenge to funding broader recovery projects.

This is associated with broader debates within the humanitarian sector, of traditional humanitarianism focussed on short-term emergency relief, versus the visions of ‘New Humanitarianism’ with an expanded remit of peacebuilding and development planning. Whilst further discussion of the debate is beyond the scope of this report, the disagreement must be brought into broader discussions surrounding climate and environmental emergencies to better establish the role of humanitarian actors in the sphere.



5. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: THE WAY FORWARD

This report highlights a shared perspective among interviewed DEC members, highlighting the importance of expanding anticipatory action and strong collaboration with key actors, notably local communities and NGOs, national governments, and development organisations. These elements are crucial for addressing and mitigating the escalating humanitarian challenges caused by the effects of climate change. Additionally, members expressed a wide range of challenges hindering the scaling-up of these efforts. Noticeably, they mostly focused on enhancing existing methods and overcoming their obstacles rather than introducing entirely new elements, however new, innovative approaches such as humanitarian insurance are apparent. The following recommendations emerged during the interviews. These are listed below.

5.1 PROGRAMMATIC

5.1.1 ANTICIPATORY ACTION

DEC members should utilise anticipatory action - building on early warning systems and preparedness more widely - to benefit from timely warnings of impending disasters and allow humanitarian actors and national governments to better respond to disasters. This should be particularly focused on hazard-vulnerable countries where multi-hazard warning systems do not exist. DEC members could advocate for increased donor funding of EWS implementation by drawing on success stories of existing efforts within the Secretariat, such as HelpAge's SAPARM initiative, and then proliferating anticipatory programmes that make use of them. Such early warning systems and forecasting technology can also be used by DEC members to facilitate the use of innovative approaches such as humanitarian insurance, enabling timely access to funding to improve humanitarian responses.

DEC members should also invest in ensuring local community knowledge is implemented throughout AA processes in order to strengthen communities' capacity to manage risks and ensure programmes are tailored to the specific needs of the population in question.

Further, DEC members should promote information sharing across organisations, and local and national governments in states vulnerable to climate change, to strengthen the effectiveness of preparedness and EWS technologies in AA.

5.1.II LOCALLY-LED ACTION

For locally-led action to be effective, there needs to be a re-evaluation of the way in which current relationships are established and maintained. DEC members and the wider humanitarian sector need to move towards collaborative and horizontal practices which both support and empower local communities. As such, DEC members should shift their language to be more inclusive to local populations, and practices should be supported through internal training and the establishment of new internal guidelines. In this way, ‘beneficiaries’ become ‘development partners’. Furthermore, organisations need to demonstrate trust, through the empowerment and inclusion of local populations in decision-making. Local communities are reliable sources of local knowledge in the effort to tackle climate change and its effects.

5.2 ORGANISATIONAL

COLLABORATION WITH ACTORS

Key organisational recommendations for DEC members arising from the interviews and literature include the need for humanitarian organisations to both actively collaborate, where possible, with national governments when responding to climate crisis-related needs, as well as advocate for increased government prioritisation, in terms of funding allocations and policy, of these needs. This is crucial to ensure the most effectual and constructive use of resources and ensure functional governments are able to take the lead in responding to these humanitarian needs.

Further, regarding inter-agency collaboration, it seems essential for DEC members to work towards building and sustaining a more cohesive space of programming, both among humanitarian organisations themselves and with agencies from other sectors, particularly those in the development sphere. In particular, consolidated funding streams may represent a useful path forward. This collaboration is essential to achieve a more holistic response, avoiding duplication of programmes and funding and ensuring minimal gaps exist.

5.3 SECTORAL

To scale-up AA and locally-led efforts and overcome the aforementioned financing challenges, a donor and NGO mindset shift is needed. Such a shift comprises acknowledging the importance of acting earlier and trusting NGOs, local organisations, and populations by facilitating easier and less bureaucratic access to funding and allowing more flexible use of such funds.

5.3.I INCREASE RISK-TOLERANCE AND TRUST

To increase the amount and flexibility of money allocated to AA and locally-led anticipatory efforts and responses, DEC members, alongside other INGOs and donors, need to become more risk-tolerant and foster relationships of trust with local populations and local NGOs.

DEC members, alongside other INGOs and donors, should confidently allocate funds for AA, even if that means committing funds to “abstract” crises that may never occur, to objectives that may not be identifiable at the outset of a project, or which may not be quantifiable. They should also reconsider the burdensome requirements for accessing funds. Additionally, DEC members could allocate funding to more innovative and informal local funding mechanisms, lower funding accessibility requirements, as well as confidently accept lower levels of accountability compared to typical approaches (e.g. Christian Aid’s SCLR, see 3.5i).

5.3.IA ADVOCACY AND GENERATING EVIDENCE

The DEC Secretariat, its members, and other INGOs can convince donors and fellow NGO employees of the positive impacts of increasing funding and its flexibility for AA and locally-led responses. They can advocate for this sectoral change through sharing assessments of their impacts. In this pursuit, qualitative evidence holds significant importance and should not be overlooked as it is vital in capturing the subjective benefits experienced by local communities and fostering trust in their perspectives. Evidence-based advocacy could provide additional security and convince donors and INGOs of the effectiveness and importance of allocating more funds with fewer accessibility requirements and more flexibility for AA and local populations.

5.3.IB ADVOCACY AND NETWORKING

The DEC Secretariat, its members, and other INGOs could also advocate for changes at the level of relationships, with networking taking the stage in convincing donors and other INGOs to allocate more early funding and promote locally-led efforts. Networking adds a personal touch to advocacy and builds relationships of trust which could be more persuasive than merely relying on spreading evidence.

5.3.IC MINDSET-BASED HIRING

A longer-term strategy that could be employed by DEC members and the humanitarian sector more generally would be to make the decision to hire new employees who already have a mindset whereby they recognize the need to act earlier, to be risk-tolerant, to “let go of control”, trust locals and give them power at every stage of the process – this could potentially be a powerful way to transform the sector.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this report serves as a call for action for the DEC Secretariat and its members, but also other humanitarian organisations and donors, to identify what is working well and take opportunities to scale up these approaches, as well as acknowledge where change is needed, act fast to shift ways of working and behaviours and advocate for changes beyond the remit of the sector. It outlines key recommendations to empower vulnerable populations and mitigate the humanitarian impacts of climate crises but also underscores the critical necessity of ongoing discussion on how to best create positive change for those populations most affected by climate-related disasters today and tomorrow.



6. BIBLIOGRAPHY

ALNAP (2018). The state of the humanitarian system. [online] London: ALNAP/ODI. Available at:

<https://sohs.alnap.org/system/files/content/resource/files/main/SOHS%20Online%20Book%201%20updated.pdf>

ALNAP (2023). The climate crisis and humanitarian action: current approaches and discourse. [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/climate-crisis-and-humanitarian-action-current-approaches-and-discourse>

Anticipation Hub (2023) A short overview of anticipatory action. Available at: <https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Briefing/short-overview-of-anticipatory-action.pdf> (Accessed: 26 March 2024).

Barnett, M.N. (2012). International paternalism and humanitarian governance. *Global Constitutionalism*, 1(3), pp.485–521. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1017/s2045381712000135>.

British Red Cross (n.d.). British Red Cross teaching resources: The Pillowcase Project. [online] British Red Cross. Available at: <https://www.redcross.org.uk/get-involved/teaching-resources/the-pillowcase-project>.

Chambers, R. (1994). Participatory rural appraisal (PRA): Analysis of experience. *World development*, 22(9), pp.1253-1268.

Charter for Change, 2019, “Localisation of Humanitarian Aid”, <https://charter4change.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/charter4change-2019.pdf> Accessed on 26/03/2024.

Christian Aid (2009). Christian Aid Good Practice Guide. [online] Available at: <https://www.christianaid.org.uk/sites/default/files/2022-09/christian-aid-good-practice-guide-pvca-oct-2009.pdf>

Climate Charter (n.d.). Climate Charter – Sign the Climate and Environment Charter. [online] Climate and Environment Charter for Humanitarian Organizations. Available at: <https://www.climate-charter.org/>.

Concern Worldwide (2021). What is climate change resilience? [online] Concern Worldwide. Available at: <https://www.concern.org.uk/news/what-climate-change-resilience>

Crowley, F., Audia, C., Visman, E. and Pelling, M. (2018). Interactions between local and scientific knowledge systems for weather and climate services. [online] BRACED. Available at: <http://www.braced.org/resources/i/local-and-scientific-knowledge-systems-for-weather-and-climate-services>.

DEC (2021). 2019 Cyclone Idai Appeal Final Report. [online] Available at: <https://www.dec.org.uk/report/2019-cyclone-idai-appeal-final-report>.

de Geoffroy, V., Knox Clarke, P., Bhatt, M. and Grunewald, F. (2021). Adapting humanitarian action to the effects of climate change. London: ALNAP.

Di Vicenz, S. and Hallinan, E. (2023). Letting go of control: Empowering locally led action in Ukraine. [online] Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/ukraine/letting-go-control-empowering-locally-led-action-ukraine-march-2023-enartruk>.

Eyben, R. (2013). Uncovering the Politics of ‘Evidence’ and ‘Results’. A Framing Paper for Development Practitioners. [online] Available at: <https://bigpushforward.net/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/The-politics-of-evidence-11-April-20133.pdf>.

Fabre, C., & Gupta, M. (2017). Localising the response: Putting policy into practice. [online] Available at: <https://www.oecd.org/development/humanitarian-donors/docs/Localisingtheresponse.pdf>

Goodwin, E., & Ager, A. (2021). Localisation in the context of UK government engagement with the humanitarian reform agenda. *Frontiers in Political Science*, 3, 687063.

Hermans, T.D., Šakić Trogrlić, R., van den Homberg, M.J., Bailon, H., Sarku, R. and Mosurska, A., (2022). Exploring the integration of local and scientific knowledge in early warning systems for disaster risk reduction: a review. *Natural Hazards*, 114(2), pp.1125-1152.

Humanitarian Advisory Group (2023). Bridging localisation and climate adaptation pathways: Case studies from Asia, the Middle East and Africa. [online] Available at: <https://humanitarianadvisorygroup.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/Bridging-localisation-and-locally-led-adaptation-pathways.pdf>.

IASC (2015). Guidance - Emergency Response Preparedness. [online] Inter-Agency Standing Committee. Available at: <https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/sites/default/files/migrated/2020-11/IASC%20Emergency%20Response%20Preparedness%20Guidelines%2C%20July%202015%20%5BDraft%20for%20field%20testing%5D.pdf>

IFRC (n.d.) What Is Anticipatory Action? Available at: https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/220203_IFRC_Anticipatory%20Action_Brochure_final.pdf.

IFRC (n.d.). Localization | IFRC. [online] www.ifrc.org. Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/happening-now/advocacy-hub/localization>.

IFRC (n.d.). Y-Adapt – Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre. [online] www.climatecentre.org. Available at: https://www.climatecentre.org/priority_areas/youth/y-adapt/.

IFRC (2019). The cost of doing nothing: The humanitarian price of climate change and how it can be avoided. [online] Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-07/2019-IFRC-CODN-EN.pdf>.

IFRC (2020). World Disasters Report 2020: Come Heat or High Water - Tackling the Humanitarian Impacts of the Climate Crisis Together. [online] Available at: https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2021-05/20201116_WorldDisasters_Full.pdf.

IFRC (2020) Community early warning systems: Guiding principles. [online] The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/document/community-early-warning-systems-guiding-principles>

IFRC (2022). Where it matters most: Smart climate financing for the hardest hit people. [online] Available at: https://www.ifrc.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/20221108_ClimateSmartFinance.pdf.

IFRC (2022). Operational framework for anticipatory action 2021-2025: IFRC, The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies. [online] Available at: <https://www.ifrc.org/document/operational-framework-anticipatory-action-2021-2025>

International Strategy For Disaster Reduction (ISDR). 2004. Living with risk: A global review of disaster reduction initiatives. Geneva: ISDR Secretariat.

Karki, M.B., Pokhrel, P., & Adhikari, J.R. (2017). Climate change: integrating indigenous and local knowledge into adaptation policies and practices: A case study from Nepal. [online] Available at: <https://www.cabi.org/wp-content/uploads/Book-resources/Environmental-Science/Finished-A10-Karki.pdf>

Knox Clarke, P. (2021) Climate change and humanitarian action. Oxford: ADAPT Initiative.

Konyndyk, J., Saez, P., & Worden, R. (2020). Inclusive Coordination: Building an Area - Based Humanitarian Coordination Model. Washington, DC: Center for Global Development.

Krause, M. (2014). The good project: humanitarian relief NGOs and the fragmentation of reason. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Lakhani, N. (2023). \$700m pledged to loss and damage fund at Cop28 covers less than 0.2% needed. The Guardian. [online] 6 Dec. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/dec/06/700m-pledged-to-loss-and-damage-fund-cop28-covers-less-than-02-percent-needed>.

Lilly, D. (2023). Humanitarian action is the answer to fewer and fewer of today's humanitarian crises. [online] Humanitarian Practice Network. Available at: <https://odihpn.org/publication/humanitarian-action-is-the-answer-to-fewer-and-fewer-of-todays-humanitarian-crises/>.

Maclay, C. (2014). Management not models: adaptability, responsiveness, and a few lessons from football. *Development in Practice*, 25(1), pp.42–57. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/09614524.2015.983460>.

Nightingale, K. (2012), Building the future of humanitarian aid: local capacity and partnerships in emergency assistance. [online] Available at: https://www.preventionweb.net/files/25978_buildingthefutureofhumanitarianaid1.pdf

Oxfam Philippines (2024). B-READY for a paradigm shift | Oxfam Philippines. [online] philippines.oxfam.org. Available at: <https://philippines.oxfam.org/latest/stories/b-ready-paradigm-shift> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2024].

OCHA (2021). Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs Mark Lowcock at the ODI Humanitarian Policy Group/ Institute for Security Studies webinar, ‘The climate crisis and humanitarian need: Taking action to support the world’s most vulnerable communities’. United Nations.

Patel, S., Van Brabant, K. (2017). The Start Fund, Start Network and localisation: current situation and future directions. Global Mentoring Initiative.

Pham, T.D.M., Thieken, A.H. and Bubeck, P. (2024). Community-based early warning systems in a changing climate: an empirical evaluation from coastal central Vietnam. *Climate and Development*, pp.1–12. doi:<https://doi.org/10.1080/17565529.2024.2307398>.

Relief Web (2023). Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems. [online] Relief Web. Available at: <https://reliefweb.int/report/world/global-status-multi-hazard-early-warning-systems-2023>

Slim, H. (2023). Is it right to count humanitarian aid as loss and damage? [online] Humanitarian Practice Network. Available at: <https://odihpn.org/publication/is-it-right-to-count-humanitarian-aid-as-loss-and-damage/#:~:text=Any%20attempt%20by%20states%20to>

Start Network, n.d, “About”, <https://startnetwork.org/about>. Accessed on 26/03/2024.

Start Network (n.d.). ARC Replica. [online] Start Network. Available at: <https://startnetwork.org/funds/disaster-risk-financing-support/arc-replica> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2024].

Start Network (2021). Innovative Approach to Insurance Enables Humanitarian Agencies To Proactively Manage Climate-Related Risks At Scale. [online] Start Network. Available at: <https://startnetwork.org/learn-change/news-and-blogs/innovative-approach-insurance-enables-humanitarian-agencies-proactively-manage> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2024].

Start Network (2022). ARC Replica. [online] Start Network. Available at: <https://startnetwork.org/learn-change/news-and-blogs/arc-replica> [Accessed 5 Apr. 2024].

UNDESA (2015). Empowerment: What does it mean to you? | Poverty Eradication. [online] Un.org. Available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/socialperspectiveondevelopment/2015/08/25/empowerment-what-does-it-mean-to-you/>.

UNDRR (n.d.). Early warning system. [online] www.undrr.org. Available at: <https://www.undrr.org/terminology/early-warning-system>.

UNDRR (n.d.). Preparedness. [online] www.undrr.org. Available at: <https://www.undrr.org/terminology/preparedness>.

UNHCR (2023). Emergency preparedness. [online] UNHCR. Available at: <https://emergency.unhcr.org/emergency-preparedness/unhcr-preparedness/emergency-preparedness>

Wagner, M. (2023). 'Early Action: The State of Play 2022'. Risk-informed Early Action Partnership, Geneva.

Worley, W. (2023). New Loss and Damage Fund means many things to many people. The New Humanitarian. Available at: <https://www.thenewhumanitarian.org/analysis/2023/12/12/new-loss-and-damage-fund-cop28>