

95. THE RISK-INFORMED EARLY ACTION PARTNERSHIP (REAP)

ACTION AREA	CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
SOLUTION CLUSTER	CLIMATE RISK REDUCTION & MANAGEMENT
THEMATIC AREA	CLIMATE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM
SUBMITTED BY	IFRC, WFP, CGIAR

WHAT IS THE RISK, SHOCK, STRESS THAT THE SOLUTION IS TRYING TO ADDRESS?

Crises are increasingly multidimensional, severe and frequent with many countries experiencing multiple overlapping crises at any one time, both recurrent and protracted. Climate change is deepening and driving new and unexpected risks. It has been described as the ultimate threat-multiplier, accelerating risks of poverty, food insecurity, disease, conflict, migration and forced displacement, often hitting the poorest hardest. Climate variability is already a critical factor in determining the livelihoods of many poor and vulnerable people. By 2030, the farming activities of food producers, particularly in remote and marginal environments dependent on rain-fed agriculture, will be impacted by climate change and extremes. The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated with absolute clarity how various risks compound one another and why this forward planning, risk analysis and preparedness is imperative.

Interconnected risks are placing significant stress on food systems, especially in lower and middle-income countries, in countries particularly prone to climate shocks and stresses, and fragile states where food systems are already flawed or disrupted, threatening the food security and livelihoods of vulnerable people. They affect all aspects of the food system and all actors and livelihoods along the food value chain from farmers, traders, processors, distributors, and retailers, as well as the millions of consumers who rely on that chain to meet their basic food and nutritional needs.

Interconnected risks require interconnected action. Waiting for disasters to happen is no longer an option, particularly when we have unprecedented access to risk and forecast information that tells us they are imminent. Early action saves lives, livelihoods and protects food systems, as well as their development and resilience gains. Early action has repeatedly been shown to be cost effective. Taking early action in advance of a crisis must become the norm rather than the exception. While considerable progress has been made in developing and implementing Early Action approaches, significant barriers persist, which the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) aims to help address.

These include:

- The need for decisive leadership & decision-making on early action by national & local authorities.
- Siloed and insufficient provision for early action and climate adaptation within existing disaster and climate risk management governance, legislation and policies.
- Critical gaps in financing and failure to capitalize on opportunities to adapt existing funding streams to better enable and mainstream early action.
- Gaps in the design and implementation of Early Warning Systems that can enable Early Action.
- Need for stronger and more consistent coordination, collaboration and partnership between the broad range of stakeholders working on climate risks; silos between climate, development & humanitarian actors must be broken down as must silos between government & non-governmental actors, between international, multilateral organizations & local and civil society actors.

HOW DOES THE SOLUTION IMPROVE OR ENHANCE RESILIENCE OF FOOD SYSTEMS?

Unprecedented partnerships are needed because we are facing unprecedented levels of risk that no organization, country or sector can address in isolation.

The REAP has taken stock of the available evidence of the positive effects of early action, particularly the benefits on food systems as increased protection of food security and nutrition in the affected households and strengthening their resilience. Examples show that the early warning early action approach enhances crop productivity and causes less food insecurity during prolonged periods of drought and lower livestock mortality during severe cold spells. In coming together to form this partnership, REAP members have broad consensus that systemic barriers to early action must be addressed to take early action to scale.

The Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) has been launched with four ambitious targets which will drive a systemic shift towards acting earlier to reduce the impacts of disasters, including on food systems. They highlight the criticality of national planning, financing and delivery mechanisms to support early action, as well as investment and coverage in early warning systems with a focus on them reaching the most vulnerable, turning the 'last mile' into the 'first mile'.

Target 1: 50 countries have reviewed and integrated their crisis/disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies and plans to ensure that they reduce climate change impacts and exposure on people and the environment.

Target 2: 1 billion more people are covered by financing and delivery mechanisms connected to effective early action plans, ensuring they can act ahead of predicted disasters and crises.

Target 3: \$500 million invested in early warning system infrastructure and institutions to target early action in 'last/first mile' communities, building on existing initiatives.

Target 4: billion more people are covered by new or improved early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems and supported by public awareness campaigns.

All facets of REAP's ambitious agenda are rooted in a commitment to solutions and approaches that are people-centred; led and managed by those who are most at risk of climate-related crises.

IS THE SOLUTION RELEVANT TO BUILDING FOOD SYSTEMS RESILIENCE?

Anticipate shocks/risks/stress and/or reduce vulnerability, Manage risks, Prevent (reduce exposure), Absorb, respond/cope, Adapt to shock-affected scenarios and evolving risk scenarios, Transform the Food System when the current Food System is no longer sustainable

IN WHAT REALMS OF INTERVENTION IS THE SOLUTION DESIGNED TO ACT ON RESILIENCE?

Individual, Household, Community, Institutional

WHO ARE THE MAIN ACTORS THAT WOULD PUT THIS ACTION INTO PLACE?

Policymakers (government), Private (businesses, etc.), Civil (NGOs, etc.), Scientists

WHAT IS THE POLITICAL SUPPORT FOR THIS IDEA? DOES THE IDEA HAVE ANY MEMBER STATES OR POLITICAL INTERESTS? ARE THERE ANY STAKEHOLDERS WORKING ON IT?

Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) in September 2019, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) brings together an unprecedented range of stakeholders across the climate, humanitarian, and development communities with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.

The Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) is supported by countries, organizations and initiatives that share its ambition for making 1 Billion People Safer from disasters and identify actions or commitments towards achieving REAP's targets. Now, our partners include developed and developing countries, major international organizations and civil society, and private sector representatives. Established with the support of 24 convening partners and 15 countries, REAP continues to grow a diverse partnership.

Current REAP partners include: People's Republic of Bangladesh, Belize, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Finland, French Republic, Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Ireland, Jamaica, Ministry of Environment of Japan, Principality of Liechtenstein, Grand Duchy of Luxembourg, Republic of Malawi, Kingdom of Norway, Saint Lucia, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, UK Met Office, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Green Climate Fund (GCF), International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, World Food Programme (WFP), World Meteorological Organization (WMO), BBC Media Action, BRAC International, Centre for Disaster Protection, Global Heat Health International Network (GHHIN), Global Water Partnership (GWP), Global Network of Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR), Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), Insurance Development Forum (IDF), International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT), MapAction, Mercy Corps, Nexus Somalia NGO Consortium, Overseas Development Institute (ODI), PPP Europe, Practical Action, Resurgence, START Network.

IS THE SOLUTION APPLICABLE AT GLOBAL LEVEL, OR SPECIFIC CONTEXTS & PARTICULAR COUNTRIES?

The REAP Strategic Vision identifies three drivers of change for the Partnership in making 1 billion people safer from disasters.

- First, global commitment on policy and practice is required to scale up risk-informed early action. This includes the REAP Framework for Action, outlining the role of all REAP stakeholders, including partners, Board and Secretariat in achieving the targets, as well as ambitious partner commitments against the plan in the run up to COP26. It forms the basis for monitoring and measuring progress and success of the Partnership between now and 2025. Most crucially, the Framework for Action is intended to be a catalyst for increased membership and further commitment, investment and progress in the early action agenda.
- Second, under the leadership of partner countries, REAP will work to enable country and local level ownership of early action programmes. It will promote interventions by partners that are designed to work within and in support of national systems and local capacities, with a fundamental focus on the needs of the most vulnerable.
- Third, a REAP Marketplace will aim to connect and scale up existing efforts on early warning-early action by diverse actors, while offering a space to match needs with offers for support from REAP partners.

WHAT ARE THE KEY ACTIONS REQUIRED TO ADDRESS THIS SOLUTION?

REAP seeks to drive this change by:

- Securing global commitments on policy and practice
- Promoting and facilitating country-level leadership
- Creating a space for collaboration and matchmaking between partners in the form of Marketplaces

The core mission of REAP is to facilitate the following essential factors:

- Ensuring that early warning investments and initiatives lead to early action in at-risk communities.
- Engaging and enabling decision-makers in the design and, ultimately, leadership of comprehensive, integrated early action across timescales - ensuring that early action becomes the default way of addressing imminent risks affecting food systems.
- Facilitating implementation of successful Early Warning Early Action approaches at scale through high-level policy and advocacy initiatives that capture and promote learning and good practice exchange of REAP partners.
- Mobilizing substantial investments in all aspects of the Early Action spectrum of stakeholders and enablers with a particular focus on investment in ground-level, people-centered action.
- Brokering and facilitating new collaboration between climate, development and humanitarian partners working to achieve results under the target areas. All facets of REAP's ambitious agenda are rooted in a commitment to solutions and approaches that are people-centred; led and managed by those who are most at risk of climate-related crises.

ARE THERE ANY FINANCIAL SOURCES / FUNDS THAT IS SUPPORTING THIS IDEA?

In close collaboration with REAP Partners and Board members, the Partnership is taking stock of existing commitments and emerging opportunities to build support for the implementation of the Framework for Action. Deepening the collaboration with existing partners as well as the mobilization of new partners, particularly from the private sector, will be key to these efforts. The governance of REAP is structured around three bodies. A governing board provides strategic guidance and oversight to the development and implementation of the Partnership. Working Groups support the delivery of REAP's targets and advance specific thematic areas of work. The REAP Secretariat, hosted by International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supports the Partnership, its Board, and the working groups. The Secretariat has been fully formed in May 2020 and is currently funded by the UK government.

HOW DOES THIS SOLUTION CONTRIBUTE TO (A) EMPOWER WOMEN AND COMBAT GENDER INEQUALITIES, AND (B) THE FULFILMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS, ESPECIALLY THE RIGHT TO FOOD AND THE RIGHT TO WATER, (C) MAKE USE OF INNOVATIONS (TECHNOLOGIES, INSTITUTIONS, PROCESSES)?

It is well established that climate change and other crises impact the poor and the marginalized most severely, as individuals and communities are exposed differentially and vulnerable on the basis of factors such as wealth, education, race, ethnicity, religion, gender, age, class/caste, disability, and health status. Yet those most at risk are often the least able to influence decision-making that affects them.

It is crucial for risk-informed early action to centralize mapping and understanding regarding who is most at risk, and what barriers need to be overcome to reduce their vulnerabilities to hazards. This requires intersectional analysis to ensure no one is left behind.

Approaches to addressing climate risks that do not consider chronic inequalities, including gender inequality, will deepen existing vulnerabilities and encourage new forms of exclusion. Strengthening the role of vulnerable groups and local civil society in decision-making processes is crucial to affecting lasting change and must be a cornerstone of embedding early action at all levels.

REAP is committed to ensuring that vulnerable and marginalized communities are prioritised in enabling early action in advance of disasters, by adhering to and promoting key principles and frameworks. These include the Paris Agreement and its emphasis on the need for adaptation action to be gender-responsive and to follow country-driven, participatory, and transparent approaches, as well as the Sendai Framework with its commitment to gender-sensitive and participatory disaster risk reduction.