



Anticipate and Act



Government Offices of Sweden  
Ministry for Foreign Affairs

The Stockholm High-Level Meeting on  
Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change  
co-hosted by the Swedish Government, UNDRR and WFP  
in collaboration with the Swedish Red Cross  
Stockholm, 21 October 2020

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Climate change is intensifying humanitarian needs, surpassing the capability of the current aid system which is already under stress. In fact, each year humanitarian agencies and governments spend billions to help people recover from climate-related disasters. Despite the increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, humanitarian responses continue to be launched once extreme weather events have already resulted in damages and losses for the most vulnerable people.

In an environment in which climate change acts as a risk multiplier exacerbating food insecurity in many economies, humanitarian programs need to become smarter and more integrated with investments in disaster risk reduction, early warning, and safety nets for the most vulnerable. This requires a shift from reactive and repetitive crisis response to more forward-looking and anticipatory risk management that also reduces future vulnerability.

Against this background, the Government of Sweden, WFP and UNDRR decided to host The Stockholm High-Level Meeting on Addressing the Humanitarian Impact of Climate Change – Anticipate and Act, on 21 October 2020. At the Meeting the Co-hosts agreed to:

- Urgently frontload investments into more forward-looking programs that help us mitigate and prevent predictable emergencies, encouraging partners to help finance and strengthen programs in the most vulnerable countries,
- Collaborate between themselves and with regional institutions to manage trans-boundary risks more effectively, by strengthening regional awareness of climate risk, upgrading forecasting and early warning systems, and coordinating early responses between governments, civil society and the humanitarian sector,

- Substantially scale up financial support to increase geographical reach and enable more anticipatory action to reduce risk and mitigate humanitarian impacts, thus providing more effective, cheaper and more dignified humanitarian assistance.
- Create opportunities for multi-tasking the policy and planning instruments available, including disaster risk reduction into the humanitarian planning cycle,
- Recognise the increasing number of people in need of humanitarian assistance and the ballooning cost of humanitarian response, and advocate in global fora for the cost-efficiency and sustainability of taking early action, in line with the Sendai Framework,
- Call on the private finance sector, the insurance sector and multilateral development banks to help develop risk informed business models,
- Compile and share an overview of available channels of financing to mitigate and adapt climate risk,
- Launch and financially support the Horn of Africa Partnership for Early Warning and Early Action with IGAD as partner, including establishing a cell at the IGAD Climate Prediction and Application Centre in Nairobi to help operationalise a regional multi-hazard early warning system for flood and drought risk,
- Initiate an inclusive process where all participants of the Anticipate and Act Meeting are invited to help elaborate concrete measures to support these recommendations,
- Meet again within 12 months to review progress on the Stockholm Anticipate and Act recommendations and to consider further recommendations, with a view to co-host a side-event at COP26.