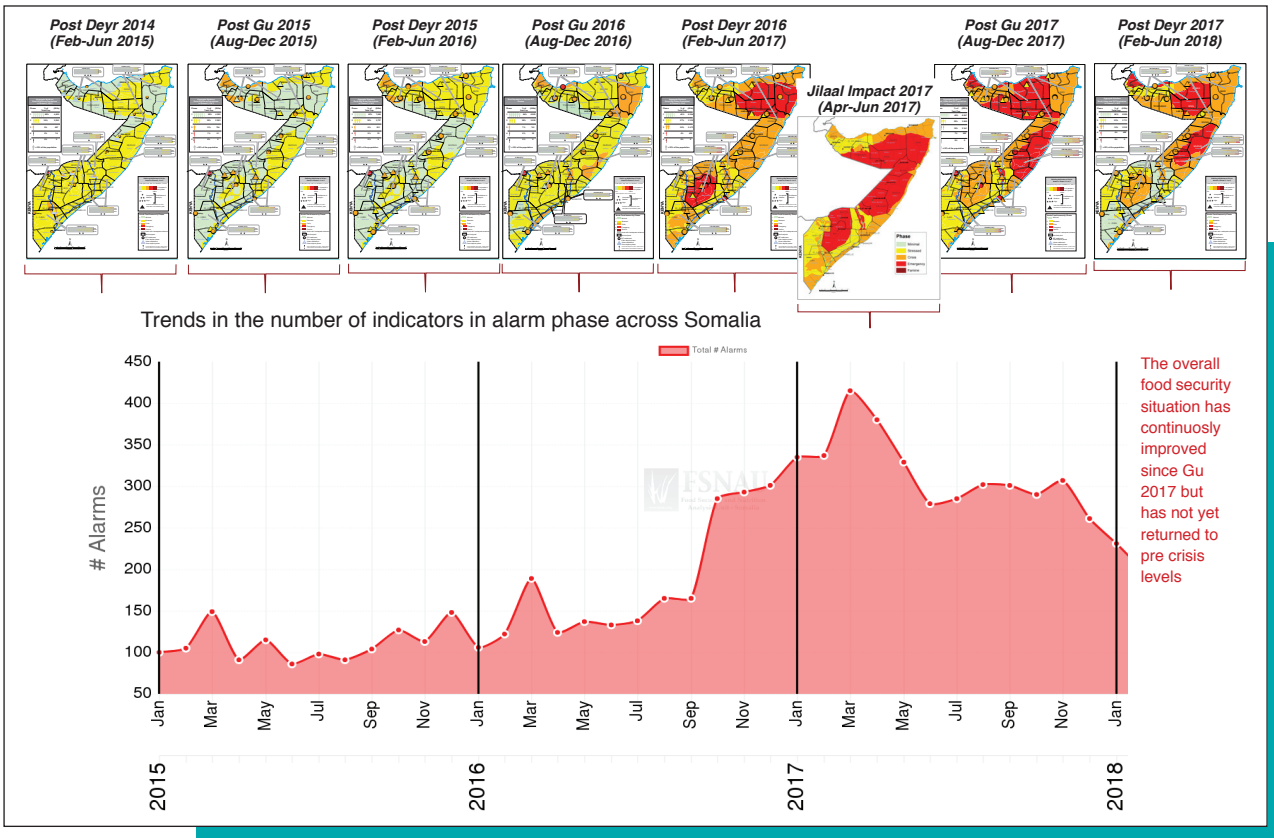
Stakeholder Consultation Workshop Report

Linking Early Warning to Early Action in Somalia

6th -7th June 2018,
Nairobi, Kenya



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FSNAU Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit - Somalia

Oxfam

BRCiS Building Resilient Communities in Somalia

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ACRONYMS

BRCiS	Building Resilient Communities in Somalia – a consortium of NGOs
DANIDA	Danish International Development Agency-Denmark
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action
EW	Early Warning
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
FSNAU	Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit-Somalia
HCT	Humanitarian Country Team
IASC	Interagency Standing Committee
ICCG	Inter-Cluster Coordination Group - IASC
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
SomReP	Somalia Resilience Programme – a consortium of NGOs
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
UN	United Nations
VDC	Village Development Councils
VFM	Value for Money

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The onset of conflicts or disasters in Somalia often mean death or displacement for vulnerable populations. Years of suffering for such populations have always driven the need for early warning/trigger systems to protect and improve the coping capacities of affected persons and enable early response by humanitarian actors. The link between early warning and early action however remains weak thus limiting impact and holistic recovery.

Routine tracking of hazards and disasters by early warning systems remain relevant in ensuring humanitarian actors in Somalia are able to take early action and mitigate their impact on vulnerable populations. The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FNSAU), a multi-donor project managed by FAO, plays a key role in monitoring risk elements such as food security, health and nutrition, among other indicators that may be affected during disasters in Somalia.

This report is the final yield of discussions held on linking early warning to early action in Somalia led by the FNSAU, FAO, Oxfam and Building Resilient Communities in Somalia Consortium (BRCiS) in consultation with government authorities and other stakeholders present. The report highlights how different humanitarian actors translate early warning into early action across different shocks and stresses and the associated challenges. Opportunities to address the challenges have been discussed in detail to ensure an adequate and early response by the different stakeholders.

The report captures discussions on the FSNAU Early Warning-Early Action (EWEA) Dashboard and its potential to trigger early action in Somalia, building on the recommendations and insights from the Oxfam review (October 2017). Related to this, the discussions focused on recommendations for the refinement of the dashboard such as the review of the indicators and the design. The discussions also focused on a more clear accountability framework for early action to reinforce the mechanism by which action is taken when triggers are reached.

The key conclusion of the Workshop was that the FSNAU Dashboard should have the potential to trigger early action. In order to do so, the data and indicators which make up the FSNAU dashboard need to be reviewed and designed into seasonality based triggers to enable the release of early warning statements at critical points during the year. This way, the FSNAU will be able to deliver objective, evidence based 'triggers' for early action based on the best available data when the situation is deemed abnormal and/or is expected to worsen.

In terms of the Early Action Protocol, the Workshop concluded that for FSNAU to be an effective early action trigger mechanism, the Accountability Framework needs to be reinforced through the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG)-led design of an Early Action Protocol for Somalia which would be tied to the FSNAU early warning triggers. The protocol will represent to all intents and purposes a commitment to initiate early action in relation to Early Warning triggers acceptable to all humanitarian agencies in Somalia.

Finally, the report concludes with a way forward outlining the next steps and timelines, including the establishment of two Technical Working Groups for the revision of the Dashboard (led by FSNAU) and the design of the EA Protocol (ICCG). A final validation workshop is proposed for November 2018 which will bring together the two work streams into a common Early Warning Early Action framework for Somalia.

1. INTRODUCTION AND RATIONALE FOR THE WORKSHOP

The 2011 famine in Somalia was the turning point for the importance accorded to humanitarian early warning systems and their ability to prompt timely and early action. The events leading up to the peak of this crisis were discussed and analyzed in depth, with the widely-acknowledged conclusion that there was an unacceptably slow response to available early warnings.

At the request of the Somalia UN Humanitarian Country Team (HCT) in 2015, FSNAU started to develop an online tool to provide the HCT with a consistent and accessible monitoring of key early warning indicators for the country, with the aim of linking that to early action to mitigate the kind of large scale events which can severely impact food access and security. The resulting FSNAU Early Warning-Early Action (EWEA) Dashboard uses key sets of food security related risk indicators monitored on a monthly basis at district level and with systematically established thresholds, which are classified as normal, alert or alarm. The Dashboard data is complemented by an Accountability Framework which sets out, in broad terms, the roles and responsibilities of key actors in the humanitarian community.

In mid-2017, Oxfam carried out an exploration of the two elements of the FSNAU Somalia' trigger mechanism: 1) the Dashboard and 2) the Accountability Framework. The review concerned specifically in relation to the 2016-17 drought, to evaluate to what degree it had been effective in meeting its objectives. The discussion paper found that overall the Dashboard was successful in providing information on the deteriorating situation in Somalia. The report also signaled aspects which need to be further clarified and developed, such as: what is the primary objective of the Dashboard (early action or timely response), the weighing of indicators, the timeliness and interpretation of results, forecasting ability, and finally, regarding the Accountability Framework, the main areas of improvement were to increase buy-in from relevant actors (greater engagement of stakeholders), getting the shift to action (how the process could become workable in practice) and the gender blindness.

In parallel to this, at corporate level, FAO has been investing in better using risk analysis to prompt earlier operational response. The Early Warning Early Action capacity at FAO was established in 2015 to enable the organization to act early and effectively mitigate or prevent the impact of disasters on food insecure communities through a systematic use of early warning analysis and forecasts. The 2015/16 El Niño event was particularly catalytic for the EWEA work in FAO given the extensive impact of the event on agriculture and food security. It prompted the organization to establish an Early Action Fund and start systematically developing the capacity to act early in high risk countries.

The 2015/16 El Nino was a major event, severely affecting countries around the world and requiring coordination and action at global, regional and national levels. One of the outcomes of this event was a joint Inter Agency commitment by FAO, OCHA, WFP and IFAD to design a framework and procedures for effective coordination on early warning and early action for El Niño and La Niña events. The resulting Inter Agency ENSO Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) – designed through a process led by FAO and OCHA - were approved in March 2018 by the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals and constitute a useful model for inter sector early action coordination.

Objectives and Outcome of the Workshop

The consultative workshop sought to provide an opportunity for stakeholders operating in and from Somalia - such as representatives of Federal Government of Somalia, Puntland and Somaliland, International Organizations, international and local NGOs, UN agencies, donors and experts - to reflect and share their different perspectives and experiences in regard to linking Early warning to Early Action in Somalia, and specifically to examine how the FSNAU EWEA system can better support this objective.

Specifically, the workshop sought to:

- Share experience and latest developments and explore lessons learned in linking Early Warning to Early Action;
- Discuss common approaches and gaps while considering whether more research/advocacy/programme development and/or collective action is required;
- Explore the FSNAU Early Warning-Early Action Database and Dashboard and providing feedback on how it can be improved, and facilitate the development of jointly agreed action points to serve as a basis for further refinement, including providing a clearer accountability framework for timely as well as early action;

- Provide a preliminary list of sector-specific early actions developed through consensus which could be a basis for further work on designing a fully developed Early Action protocol (Standard Operating Procedures-SOPs) for Somalia.

The conference was attended by 95 participants with representation across the State and Non-State Actors. Among the State Actors were: representatives from Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority (NADFOR) while representatives from Non-State Actors included, INGOs, national and local NGOs, UN agencies such as OCHA, UNICEF and DFID, a donor and technical partners.

The first day concentrated on a range of presentations from various agencies showcasing different approaches to EWEA. In the afternoon, working groups discussed various functionalities and areas for improvement of the FSNAU EWEA dashboard. The second day included a preliminary discussion on developing sector-specific early action protocols. This report presents a synopsis of the key points presented and emerging issues, views and reactions from the plenary sessions. The report concludes by identifying key issues and next steps on the way forward.

2. SHARING EXPERIENCES AND LEARNING ON EWEA IN SOMALIA

Setting the scene

The workshop was opened by distinguished speakers from FAO/FSNAU, the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation of the Federal Government of Somalia and DFID. It was recognized that the workshop comes at an opportune time when Somalia has suffered from a continuous food insecurity and climate related disasters, with a need to strengthen the early warning system in Somalia. Critically, a strong early warning system provides objective triggers for early action which can mitigate the impact of these disasters on food security, preventing emergency or famine outcomes.

The 2011 disaster generated a lot of reflection to make sure famine and mass mortality is minimized and partners and government should strive to improve and strengthen the link between early warning and early action. The traditional aid model however mostly relies on quantifiable evidence of large scale impact of a disaster on the population in order to ignite response including the release of funds. DFID acknowledged the need for multi-year programming in Somalia and that there is a good return on investment in early action. According to the Grand Bargain (May 2016), https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/grand-bargain-hosted-iasc, if donors and agencies each make changes (e.g. if donors reduce earmarking and agencies are more transparent with how funds are spent), aid delivery would become more efficient, freeing up human and financial resources for the direct benefit of affected populations.

It was noted that the FSNAU EW-EA Dashboard has already had an impact – in January and February 2017 DFID used its data as evidence to release their first tranche of funds to support the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Somalia. Somalia has therefore the means to set the pace on early warning. "No other country has an early warning dashboard", said the DFID representative.

Several presentations were given, sharing different organization's learning and experience. For further details, see the Workshop Agenda in the Annex.

The need to accelerate early action

FAO underlined that disasters are increasing in frequency and intensity globally, hence new approaches are needed which reduce the impact of disasters on livelihoods. FAO presented empirical evidence from its EWEA pilot programme which not only demonstrates that early action is operationally feasible but is also significantly cost effective. Oxfam underscored that the objective of early action is to reduce the impact of the impending crisis and actions should be taken *before* a crisis peaks - by both development and humanitarian actors, from their comparative advantage. While no-one would disagree with this, in practice, many organisations struggle to conceptualise activities that would constitute early action.

Given the relatively recent nature of this approach, there is growing but still limited evidence to guide decision-makers and implementers with respect to what the most effective early action interventions might be, when they should be initiated, and what levels of investment would be appropriate. Currently, there is no common view on when early action should begin and precisely what it should be. This means that different actors have very different perceptions of objectives and success. There is a need for dialogue around the question of when early action should start (how early is early?). As a starting point, distinction is required between early action and timely response. However, it should be noted that early warning does have a role in triggering timely response in humanitarian crisis that has already materialized (ongoing).

Obstacles for each action include: decision-makers not feeling and being held accountable for *preventing* crises'; early action falling between humanitarian and development stools, the humanitarian appeals process relies on shock effect of visual and numerical evidence of acute human suffering, development donors historically tending not to focus on risk reduction, and development funding cycles simply not designed to be proactive. In conclusion, Oxfam summarised that there's need for predictable funding for predictable needs, political will, financial, operational and effective delivery of early warning that leads to early action.

Implementation of Early Warning Early Action at FAO

FAO's has publicly committed to increasingly investing in early action. For agriculture-based livelihoods, which still account for the majority of the world's poorest people, protecting productive assets and food security ahead of disasters is a critical approach which can pave the way for more effective and faster emergency response as well as protecting development gains. FAO's EWEA programme consists of three main components: a global risk analysis capacity, an Early Action Fund, and country level EWEA systems and activations.

Lessons learnt from FAO projects on EW triggers in seven countries (Kenya, Ethiopia, Somalia, Madagascar, Sudan, Mongolia and Niger) indicate that early warning information can increasingly be used to trigger early actions, and that early actions in agriculture are a particularly effective way to protect rural livelihoods against incoming shocks.

Particularly relevant to the Somalia context are the drought early action projects implemented by FAO, for example in the Horn of Africa. These were triggered by early warnings in October/November 2016 (while the government declaration of emergency in Kenya was in February 2018). The actions implemented focused on protecting vulnerable pastoralist households by keeping core breeding livestock alive. A subsequent empirical study showed that for every 1 USD invested in early actions, the households received 3.5 USD in benefits which were further invested to ensure food security, education and health for family members.[1] A similar return on investment study done in Mongolia recently showed a return of 7.1 USD on every dollar spent. The Sudan pilot on the other hand showed how early action can be triggered also in the absence of a pre-existing early warning system, by selecting and piecing together indicators from different sources, weighing them in a way that signals deterioration, and verifying the findings through field missions.[2]

FAO EWEA is supporting the FNSAU in reviewing the EWEA Dashboard, taking into account the insights and recommendations of the 2017 Oxfam review. Building on FAO's experience in EWEA including in the Horn of Africa, FAO EWEA supports the development of a forward looking FSNAU EWEA system which can effectively trigger collective early action for large scale disasters, as well as supporting the design of an inter cluster early action protocol linked to the EW triggers.

Using Crisis Modifiers - the SomReP Flood Experience

SomReP highlighted the effectiveness and gains of using crisis modifiers to monitor the performance of individual sectors and systems to trigger early action. SomReP stressed further that timely and appropriate action within a given sector is important for long-term growth and to navigate period of downturn.

With funding from DANIDA, the project works with Village Development Councils (VDC) for planning and management of development of community Action Plans which are updated on a weekly/monthly basis depending on the magnitude of the hazard. The SomReP Crisis Modifier system anticipates a need to respond to changing conditions, timely and strategically, in key sectors or pillars which supports the local economy and society preparing communities to act on the warnings generated by the systems and even save assets. Some of the successes of this strategy are attributed to the latest floods in Somalia, where communities supported by this project salvaged their resources before the floods.

Value for Money Triggers: Practical Steps to Forecast-based Financing in Somalia – from Concern

Concern conceptualized an action plan to building a functional early warning, triggers and forecast-based financing system in Somalia. The proposed concept incorporates several necessary interdependent components and how those components could be brought together. This included defining disasters, creating disaster probability models and establishing *Value for Money (VfM) Triggers* based on the cost-effectiveness of actual programmatic early action and response options.

The proposed system is intended to enable field-based donors to have a pre-established early warning and triggers system that links methodically to forecast-based finance arrangements made with donor capital-based humanitarian funding streams. It works from a basic premise that increasing cost-effectiveness of humanitarian funding will allow humanitarian aid to stretch further, reach more people and therefore have higher impact than less cost-effective approaches. This would work based on a formula which determines the VfM for any given early action intervention.

BRCiS Approach to Early Warning and Early Action - from NRC

An early warning in itselfis of little value and what is fundamental is how people react to it. The ultimate indicator of the effectiveness of warning system is the recipient's response to the warning. On this basis, BRCiS Approach links EW to EA through mechanisms to reduce losses and damages in the event of risk of a disaster or a "bad event" occurring. The emphasis is on recognizing and managing the risk rather than waiting for it to affect vulnerable communities.

1 FAO Impact of EWEA Horn of Africa study: www.fao.org/3/ca0227en/CA0227EN.pdf
2 Article on FAO Sudan and Madagascar EWEA projects: www.fao.org/in-action/prevent-food-crises-sudan-madagascar/en/

There are four components to the BRCiS approach

1. Risk knowledge – which must be people-centered, using participatory techniques
2. Risk monitoring – which builds on the above
3. Communication and dissemination of risk information
4. Responses to the risk – these are planned right from the onset and reviewed from time to time based on the monitoring and forecasting data. Key aspects are a no regrets approach, program flexibility and adaptation, contingency funding and a crisis modifier funding stream

3. A DASHBOARD FOR LINKING EARLY WARNING TO EARLY ACTION IN SOMALIA

Introduction

The EWEA dashboard uses key sets of food security related risk factors/indicators and systematically established thresholds specific to each indicator, with the monthly results for each indicator classified as Normal, Alert and Alarm. The indicators used for EWEA fall into 5 groups: (1) Climate (rainfall and vegetation cover), (2) Market (prices and terms of trade), (3) Nutrition (new admission to treatment and feeding centers), (4) Health (AWD/Cholera and measles) and (5) Population movement.

In its current form, the EWEA dashboard treats all risk factors as being equally important (weighted equally). However, the EWEA dashboard was still able to detect the rapid deterioration in these indicators starting in October 2016, 3 months before FSNAU and FEWS NET issued a Famine Alert in January 2017.

Currently, the early warning value of the FSNAU EWEA dashboard is in its ability to detect a deteriorating situation before and after seasonal assessments are undertaken. However its analysis is situational (based on current or past data) and does not yet have a forecasting element/tool. Additionally, some of the challenges highlighted were:

- The choice of indicators, thresholds and how the indicators are combined to develop a composite chart and map;
- Timely sharing of data by some partners;
- As originally envisaged in the approved EWEA concept note, the development of a prototype regular analytical report (monthly/bi-monthly/Quarterly basis) to be reviewed and further refined by the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group (ICCG) prior to submission to HCT for review and action (formalizing the decision support and accountability framework component);
- The need to incorporate a forward-looking, forecasting element to the data in the EWEA dashboard (e.g. weather forecast and price projections).
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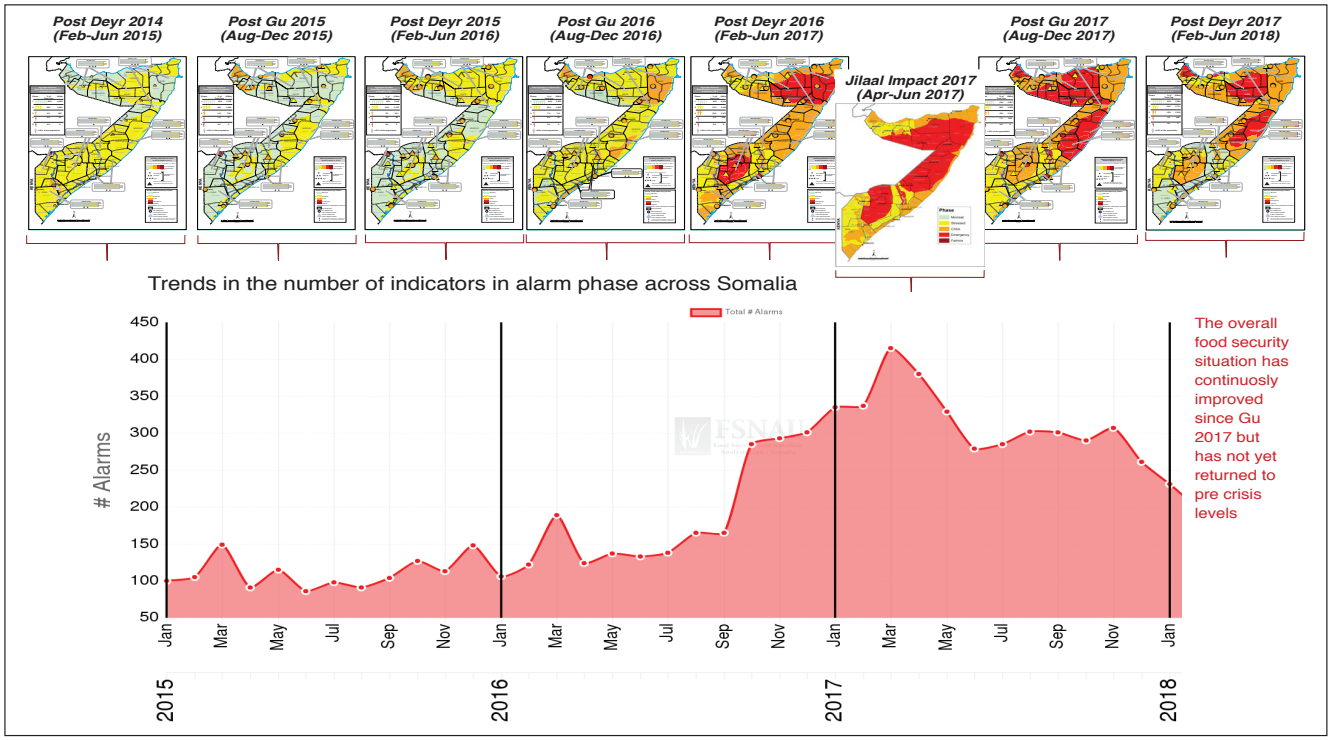
Recent Trends in Food Security Related Risk Factors in Somalia: 2015-2017 (FSNAU)



The challenges above were buttressed by the findings from a discussion paper on the EWEA by Oxfam (October 2017) which acknowledged that the dashboard appears to have been more successful in terms of providing information on early warning indicators for use on an ongoing basis but identified a number of challenges as listed below:

- Need to clarify whether the objective of the EWEA dashboard is early warning or timely response;
- Review of the indicators and thresholds, including weighting, use of uniform thresholds across such localized contexts,

and need for indicators to be predictive if they are to inform decisions on early action;

- Ensuring accurate and timely data, and the need for triangulation (validating data through cross-verification from two or more sources);
- Making the data more accessible and better understood – while the dashboard is perfectly functional, many users would like a more dynamic, interactive interface;
- There is a need for an informed analysis to accompany the monthly report, based on an understanding of trends, local contexts, cumulative impacts and forecast events;
- While the trigger mechanism is slowly gaining traction, there are calls for clearer leadership to raise awareness, and greater engagement of stakeholders; in particular, the Somali authorities and other local actors, who must play a bigger role if the mechanism is to be sustainable;
- Getting the shift to action – while there is broad support for the accountability framework in principle, there is some skepticism as to whether the process is workable in practice. There's a need for more clarity on what specific actions the mechanism should trigger, to be implemented by whom and by when, and whether this should be hardwired to funding.

The following sections summarize the thoughts, presentations and plenary discussions from the working groups.

Working Group discussion on the Pros and Cons of the FSNAU EWEA dashboard, led by FAO

3.1 EWEA dashboard indicators, thresholds and weighting

Pros of Dashboard

- Latest information on a monthly basis
- Information is provided by region and district
- Multi sector
- Very specific information is provided
- Very visual and easy to compare areas on the map
- Trend analysis of data

Cons of the Dashboard

- Use of data from limited sources
- Information (data) gaps
- Delays with information provided (eg nutrition data often over a month behind)
- Need briefs on the methods applied
- How is secondary data used in the dashboard?
- Not context-specific, same specific thresholds applied across the country
- Need to enable data download –
- Color coding to be adequately explained or modified to minimize confusion with colors used for IPC
- Does not combine key indicators with forecasting information which is needed to trigger *early* action

Indicators should be prioritized/weighed according to which are the key ones capable of the best tracking of deteriorations and therefore possibly used to trigger early action. Information should be triangulated with different sources (multiple sources). Forward looking indicators such as weather forecasts and price projections need to be included and combined with existing ones.

Seasonality

The key conclusion of the Indicator session was that the FSNAU Dashboard should have the scope to trigger early action. While the relatively high number of indicators tracking specific information is useful and should be maintained for situational and trend analysis, there needs to be a critical group of indicators associated with forecasts on weather, food security and prices which can effectively trigger collective early action to prevent large scale impact on people in Somalia.

Seasonality is key from this point of view given the predominantly seasonal nature of food insecurity outcomes. Introducing critical periods (seasonality based) to the EWEA dashboard would be useful to inform and support decisions for early action. This will focus on reinforcing the monitoring and warning process during key seasonal periods throughout the year, which relate to either the Deyr (October-December) or Gu (April-June) rains and the key crop harvests that subsequently follow. It is suggested that January, April, June, August and October could be useful periods for issuing early warning due to the aforementioned seasonal patterns i.e. the post-harvest assessment, onset of the short rains, onset for the long rains.

The result would be that the FSNAU would be able to release early warning statements at these critical points in time which would combine the existing indicator analysis with forward looking elements (IPC projections, price projections, weather forecasts, potentially others) to offer an objective, evidence based 'trigger' for early action based on the best available data when the situation is deemed abnormal and/or is set to worsen.

This functionality would help repurpose and acknowledge FNSAU Dashboard as the main inter sector early warning tool for Somalia, delivering seasonality based triggers for early action to mitigate and/or prevent major disasters.

To achieve this, an analytical layer needs to be added to the Dashboard, and will combine indicators on the current situation (food security-nutrition-markets-health etc.) at district level with forecasts and IPC projections to generate composite forward looking early warning 'statements'. These will act as the critical signals ('triggers') to the HCT to start planning or taking action.

This work will be carried out by a dedicated Technical Working Group (WG) to be convened by FSNAU. The WG will have two main workstreams:

1. A Data workstream which will look at examining the current indicators, identifying key ones based on historical tracking analysis, their weighing, the identification of the gaps for forward looking information and the best sources for this (e.g. weather forecasts, which ones, from where etc.), the identification of the key ' trigger' timings when statements will be released, the data sources and quality;
2. An Information Management workstream which will look at the outputs of this analysis i.e. what format will these statements have, and how they are transmitted to decision makers (ICCG), as well as how timely the data provided is and how to improve this;

Once the WG completes the indicator work, a further workshop will attempt to bring this aspect together with the separate WG workstream on the Early Action Protocol.
Due to time constraints, an in depth technical discussion on thresholds for indicators and weighing of specific indicators was not feasible. The session rather focused on gaining a consensus on the approach and concrete objectives which the Technical WG will work to accomplish.

3.2 Data sources and partnerships

Potential Data Sources

a) Consortiums: Are beneficial in carrying out implementation, shields double counting and undertake joint assessments
b) Individual organizations: Support with feeding data directly into the system, help with data validation,
c) Federal govt states: Support by sharing data, buy-in and goodwill, complementarity, regional balance of data, help solve biases in data
d) Communities: They are the source of the primary information, support with surveys and helps with information on traditional early warning systems to complementthe more scientific EWS
e) private sector, intergovernmental organizations, think tanks, universities, research institutions and consulting firms: help with surveys and assessments, development of early warning systems, cultural dynamics, integration at community/HH level

Partnerships

A mapping exercise should be conducted to review the activities of various actors in Somalia in relation to content and data gathering. This process should be applied to all EWEA indicators and for all clusters.

FSNAU should explore and nurture Government/Federal states partnerships and keep them involved and informed for their buy-in and collaboration, including through clear and structured engagement of government focal points (development of ToRs etc.). Partnerships with NGO consortia should be explored and practiced. There's also a need to involve other partners such as the private sector, the media, security agencies/firms, hospitals/medical agencies.

3.3 Presentation of data, analysis and maps on the EWEA dashboard

Suggestions in terms of improving accessibility and presentation of data on the dashboard included:

- The dashboard should create overlays (mapping/GIS) of indicators and make it interactive to the user. This involves providing alternative links for users to choose various and multiple indicators (map layers) for analysis.

- There's need for descriptive information to provide clarity on the quantitative data. This will also help in avoiding misinterpretation of the data available.

- Timeframe and periodicity of data & maps should be clearly highlighted for frequent users of dashboard. However, there should be a caveat warning the users on the incompleteness of the already available data. Suggestions of monthly upload were given.

- Export of data should be explored whereby various user levels are introduced with varying user rights. This will enhance more interaction of data to different users, i.e. donors, researchers, program staff, media team etc. However it was acknowledged that this may be limited by the copy right/data sharing rights. Therefore, users interested in accessing data should contact the originators (e.g. UNHCR for PRMN data, WHO/Health Cluster for health data, etc.) as FSNAU access with these partners does not include sharing data with third parties.

- The user interface should be enhanced to include proper map titles and legend descriptions. Analysis should involve pre-defined recommended actions for alarms/alerts (protocols). There need to be a spark line to provide an initial preview of the projections.

- Data sources should be revealed to the users and further allow contact access for feedback provision or further inquiry directly to the data sources.

- Email alerts for users should be activated to enhance dissemination of information synthesized within the dashboard.

The fundamental question which emerged from the participants was how possible it was to harmonize all data sources for the benefit of the dashboard. This thought was ignited by the fact that the presentation highlighted various data sources which to an extent posed a challenge on how FSNAU will harmonize data from existing and additional (new) sources while ensuring data quality verification.

It was identified that there's need for actualizing Data Protocols. This involves thinning the levels of response and actioning levels of data analysis and translating them into early action is necessary for effectiveness of the dashboard.

In addition, it was concluded that identifying each data source with the specific indicator being addressed will provide remedy to some of the challenges on data quality.

4. DEVELOPING PRELIMINARY SECTOR/CLUSTER SPECIFIC EA FOR SOMALIA

Food Security and Livelihoods Working Group discussion on Protocols for Early Action, led by FAO

What is an Early Action Protocol?

To be effective, early actions need to be based on triggers and rapidly executed, given the limited amount of time usually available for mitigation or prevention. For this to happen, pre-arranged financing is indispensable, as well as pre-defined plans or protocols for acting early. Pre-defined Early Action Protocols save considerable time which would otherwise be spent while trying to identify appropriate early actions, geographic and targeting priorities, and if coupled with operational planning also can save time on operational constraints such as procurement and logistics. For multi sector early action in particular, such Protocols are critical as they give the opportunity to actors to jointly plan ahead, increasing effectiveness and potentially cost savings.

The Inter Agency ENSO Standard Operating Procudures (SOPs[3]) provide an important basis for the discussion of an Early Action Protocol for Somalia. The ENSO SOPs, in addition to explaining the procedures for early warning analysis and information, offer a list of suggested early actions by sector. These are organized into three phases, each triggered by the increasing level of 'warning' on El Nino/La Nina event. Each activity has a lead agency which is accountable for carrying it out.

This model was used as the basis for the session on discussing a draft Early Action Protocol in Somalia. Participants were divided into 4 Working Groups by sector and were given a list of sector specific examples of early actions to discuss/amend/delete/add based on the relevance to the Somali context.
The groups were formed as per the sectors present who contribute to the indicators supporting the ultimate analysis of the information in the dashboard: Food Security, WASH/Health, Nutrition and Coordination and Information Management. The purpose of the session was not to deliver a final EA Protocol for Somalia which needs to be done through a longer process involving the whole ICCG, but to introduce the concept and have a basic draft to be presented to the ICCG.

Since the number and composition of the triggers for action still have to be defined (and will be given by FSNAU), hypothetical triggers were used (Trigger 1 – early indications, Trigger 2 – alert phase, Trigger 3 – alarm phase/disaster starting to affect people) against which possible early actions were proposed by sector.

3 https://interagencystandingcommittee.org/system/files/23032018_ia-enso-sops_final_endorsed.pdf

The resulting draft list of actions will be handed over to the ICCG to be further developed and finalized. The draft Protocol will then be re-linked to the FSNAU triggers once these are ready.

This section presents discussions and findings from group sessions based on the review of the early action examples provided. The full list of early actions that served as a basis for the discussion is contained in the Annex.

4.1 Nutrition Sector

Analysis of seasonal trends in Somalia has so far shown that during the *Gu* rains the nutrition situation deteriorates leading to increases in the levels of Acute Malnutrition.

One important was highlighted to be taken into account: the "more risky" season in terms of malnutrition does not necessarily coincide with the "more risky" season for food security, so it will be important to highlight that into the calendars for preparedness.

Trigger 1:

- Nutrition cluster updates broader targets for Acute Malnutrition for the country base on Gu Assessment results
- Revise outdated protocols
- Coordination with WASH was seen to be fitting more into trigger 3

Trigger 2:

- Prepositioning of supplies during dry seasons (November) which allows easier access into inland Somalia.
- Coordinate with WASH cluster on infrastructure
- Planning for nutrition targets
- Strengthening the supply chain
- Surveys

Trigger 3:

- Coordinating with WASH at micro-level i.e. work with facilities and community health units.

Members of the Health/Nutrition group led by Unicef during the Early Warning Group Discussions workshop

4.2 Coordination and information management

Based on the discussions and presentations of this group, it was evident that indicators for trigger 1, 2 and 3 are relevant to the Somalia national context and build a good base for EWEA. The group added that all indicators are government supported and selected.

A recent case presented was the leadership displayed by the current Somali government which attracted the most donors – mobilization and support for agencies during the 2017 drought crisis.

4.3 Food Security and Livelihoods

Trigger 1:

- There is need for broadening the meaning of seed stores to avoid confusion or misinterpretation.
- Assessing the strategic reserves and restrictions – can be quite controversial. Is it at communal level or national? Might be an expensive early action
- Livestock value chains – adapted and relevant breeds plus animal health and treatment.
- Inland vs. costal fisheries – to compare two and segregate into these two groups
- Maintain of coastal habitats – not applicable for Somalia
- Aquaculture – advisory on potential impact (and for marine fisheries)
- Limited number on forestry livelihoods (this should be dropped)

Trigger 2:

Presentation from this group agreed with most of the early actions as relevant for Somalia Context. However, some of the actions contested were as below:

- Commercial destocking – not an early action, not to be recommended and should be dropped. People are attached to animals. Status with having animals – also because of financial inclusion.
- Rehabilitation of water –early action should be broken into two. Using cash-for-work has a different early action recommendation and not necessarily targeted to water point.
- Fisheries – support aqua health systems – do not have the experts in treatment in aquatic ecosystems – not to be included in the Somalia context
- Forestry are dropped

Members of the Food Security group led by NRC during the Early Warning Group Discussions workshop

4.4 WASH/Health

WASH and Health groups agreed that most of the triggers and the actions were applicable to the Somalia context. However, some of the actions were suggested as follows;

- Development an emergency plan – should be moved to the first trigger and where exposure can be identified
- Health and Nutrition interventions should be done together
- In Trigger 2, training of Community Health Workers (CHWs) should be done at Trigger 1 and not after
- Trigger 3 in WASH should avoid strengthening or training
- Preposition should be ongoing and up scaled along with trigger intensity
- Provision of water and hygiene for health facilities should be before and after crisis.
- Emergency plans for safe excreta disposal should be developed a part of emergency plans (SoPs) and not during trigger 3.

EA protocol plenary discussion

Plenary discussions concluded that a lot of the early actions adopted from ENSO SOPs were applicable to the Somali context, however, there's a need to re-examine some of them for the effective use on the dashboard as suggested during the group discussions.

The sector WGs presented their lists of applicable early actions to the plenary. The overall conclusion was that while many of the proposed early actions were relevant to the context, others were either not relevant or needed further discussion. The session was useful for the participants to gain an understanding of an EA Protocol and the kind of technical and management discussions to be had in order to finalize it.

Ultimately, it was reiterated that an EA Protocol for Somalia needs to be designed, discussed and finalized by the ICCG. This includes reviewing technically the activities proposed, their collocation in terms of timing in relation to triggers, and respective responsibilities (who are the lead agencies). All of this will need a process and a timeline, in parallel to the technical work on the indictors/ triggers to be done by the FSNAU. The first draft of actions produced at this workshop will be used as a basis to brief the ICCG and kickstart this process.

CONCLUSION AND WAY FORWARD

The workshop concluded that the Dashboard is a functional tool able to reliably signal deteriorations in key indicators in Somalia. However the Dashboard requires an additional functionality to enable it to be an effective Early Warning *Early Action* tool. This functionality is to be obtained through combining existing indicators and food security information with forecasts at key points during the year to give forward looking early warning which can provide an objective trigger for action. In addition, the Accountability Framework that has been envisaged as part of the EW-EA concept note should be strengthened through the introduction of an Early Action Protocol with proposed early actions by sector and importantly – responsibilities and roles to activate them.

To improve the effectiveness of the dashboard, the workshop suggested the following actions by October 2018:

1) First step: FSNAU to brief the Inter-Cluster Coordination Group by sharing the outcome of the workshop and priority actions identified for the way forward for the improvement of the dashboard so that it can support early and timely action. Specifically, two Technical Groups need to be identified:
   Group 1: Dashboard Technical Group to work on the indicators, thresholds, triggers and modalities of how the analysis supports decision making;
   Group 2: EA Protocol Technical Group to work on the Early Action protocol to be associated with the triggers

   This first meeting should establish the composition of the two groups and the leads as well as agreeing on broad timelines which would see the results delivered by end October 2018 with a final workshop planned for November 2018.

2) Second step: the two Technical Groups meet to discuss the workplan for going forward as well as a more detailed timeline and modalities of sharing updates between the two groups which should work in a coordinated way.

The Dashboard Group will have two work streams:

1. A Data workstream which will look at examining the current indicators, identifying key ones based on historical tracking analysis, their weighing, the identification of the gaps for forward looking information and the best sources for this (e.g. weather forecasts, which ones, from where etc.), the identification of the key ' trigger' timings when statements will be released, the data sources and quality;
2. An Information Management workstream which will look at the outputs of this analysis i.e. what format will these statements have, and how they are transmitted to decision makers (ICCG), as well as how timely the data provided is and how to improve this;

The objective is, as per the Workshop outcome, to establish seasonal outlooks at key times throughout the year to provide forward-looking early warning which combine all the best available data (dashboard indicators, IPC current and projections, seasonal climate and short term weather forecasts and price projections).

The EA Protocol Group will lead work on:

1. Drafting a sector/cluster specific Early Actions which will be brought into a common EA protocol linked to FSNAU triggers
2. Establishing clear roles and responsibilities
3. Working on defining the coordination and procedure aspect of the Protocol, in terms of how will the implementation of Protocol be ensured and what challenges/gap need to be addressed in order for this to happen

3) Third step: Final validation workshop on the EWEA system for Somalia – November 2018.

   At this workshop, the two Technical groups will present their results and align them in a way which clearly connects all the activities of the Protocol with the EW triggers of the Dashboard. It is of course implied that most of this technical work will have already taken place in the months leading up to the workshop, and that the workshop represents a validation of the improved system, and a showcasing of the new products.

Specifically the new products presented have to include:

i) The new 'EW outlook' brief which constitutes the output of the new ' trigger' functionality of the FSNAU Dashboard

ii) The new EA Protocol agreed on by the Clusters

The workshop should also include a day for discussions with donors and government officials to discuss the financial component and any other pending challenges for a full acceptance of the EWEA approach in Somalia and proposed ways to address this challenge.

ANNEXES

Workshop agenda

Stakeholder Consultation Workshop On Linking Early Warning to Early Action
The Food Security and Nutrition Analysis Unit (FSNAU)
In collaboration with Oxfam and BRCiS Consortium
The Node, Jacaranda Hotel, Nairobi - 6-7 June 2018

Purpose:

The purpose of the stakeholder consultation meeting is to

- Share latest developments and explore lessons learned in linking Early Warning to Early Action.
- discuss common approaches and gaps - consider whether more research/advocacy/programme development and/or collective action is required
- explore the FSNAU Early Warning-Early Action Database and Dashboard, providing feedback on how it can be improved.
- discuss on approaches for sector-specific Early Action and the development of SOP for Somalia

Day One	**Wednesday, 6 June**
08:00-08:30	Arrival and registration of workshop particpiants
08:30-09:00	Welcome, Introductions: FAO
09:00-09:30	Introduction on why early action is important: development, humanitarian and financial gains:Oxfam
09:30-10:00	Linking Early Warning to Early Action: FAO
10:00-10:15	**Coffee Break**
10:15-10:45	Linking Early Warning to Early Action: BRCIS
10:45-11:15	Linking Early Warning to Early Action: Concern
11:15-11:30	Linking Early Warning to Early Action: SOMREP
11:30-12:00	An Overview of the FSNAU Early Warning-Early Action Database and Dashboard: FSNAU
12:00-12:30	Plneary discussion on EW-EA lessons learned from the various presentations
12:30-13:30	**Lunch at the Jacaranda (All Participants)**
13:30-14:30	Working Group Session: • EW-EA indicators, thresholds and weighting • Data sources and partnership • Presentation of data, analysis and maps on the EW-EA dashboard • Providing decision support to ICCG and HCT (synthesis reporting): linking Early warning/information to Early Action
14:30-15:00	Working Groups Presentations, followed by plenary discussion
15:00-15:30	**Coffee Break**
15:30-16:00	Plenary Discussion: The way forward (priority actions) for the Dashboard
Day Two	**Thursday, 7 June**
08:45-09:15	A presentation and discussion on the SOP EA protocol
09:15-10:00	Working Group Session to develop preliminary Sector/Cluster specific Early Action for Somalia: (1) Food security, (2) Nutrition, (3) WASH/Health
10:00-10:30	**Coffee Break**
10:30-11:00	Working Group Session cotinued
11:00-11:50	Working Group presentation on sector-specific Early Action and and plenary discussion on the development of SOP for Early Action for Somalia
11:50-12:20	Plenary Discussion: The way forward (priority actions) for the EW-EA in Somalia
12:20-12:30	Closing remakrs
12:30-13:30	**Lunch at the Jacaranda (All Participants)**

List of Workshop participants

S/N	Full Name	Organization
1	Mallary Taylor	IRC Somalia
2	Hellen Kioinba	ADP
3	Kenneth Odhiambo	ADRA
4	John Ndezwa	ADRA
5	Ken Othiambo	ADRA
6	Catherine Ombasa	Agency for People and Development
7	Sharmake Hussein Bilaah	Alta-Juba Relief and Rehabilitation Organization- AJRRO
8	Sundus Abdinasir Mohamed	Alta-Juba Relief and Rehabilitation Organization- AJRRO
9	Abdirahman Mohamed	ARDO
10	Henry Maina Macharia	ASAL
11	IDIRIS SAHAL KALON	Aspire Organization
12	Mardyn Goddens	BRCiS
13	Mary Waga Omondi	BRCiS
14	Abdikani Ali Ahmed	CARE International
15	Mohammed Bare	CESVI
16	Piya Smith	CESVI
17	Abdifatah Ahmed	Common Action for Reintegration
18	Dustin Caniglia	CONCERN
19	Kathlyn Scott	CONCERN/Somali Cash Consortium
20	Wesley Kimutai Bii	CRADLE AFRICA INTERNATIONAL (CAI)
21	Abdullahi Hasham	CRS
22	Clayton Maring	CRS
23	Priyanka Jagtap	CRS
24	Amy L.	DFID
25	Seb Fouquet	DFID
26	Abdullahi ABDISALAN	DKH
27	Catherine Jones	FAO Headquarters
28	Dunja Dujanovic	FAO Headquarters
29	Luca Russo	FAO Headquarters
30	Abdullahi D. Khalif	FEWS NET Regional (East Africa)
31	Nigist Biru	FEWS NET
32	Abdi Roble	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
33	Abukar Yusuf	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
34	Ahmed Mohamoud	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
35	Alex Koton	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
36	Daniel Molla	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
37	Edwin Ouma	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
38	James Chelogoi	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
39	Kyalo Ndungi	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
40	Mohamed Borle	FSNAU/FAO Somalia
41	Mohamud Mohamed Said	Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management Agency, Puntland
42	Hilda Owiti Aboge	International Medical Corps
43	Rashid Abdullahi Ibrahim	INTERSOM
44	Catherine Gutu	IPSO
45	Mohamed Nasib	IRC
46	KASIM MOHAMED MUYA	Living with Peace Kenya(LWPK)
47	SALIM MANANGERA RAMAZANI	Living with Peace Kenya(LWPK)
48	Koutahr Abdi Abdi Nor	MARDO

S/N	Full Name	Organization
49	Yasin Artan	Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation, FGS
50	Ridwaan Abdi	Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, FGS
51	Mohamed Abdalle Hussein	National Disaster Preparedness and Food Reserve Authority, Somaliland
52	Charles Obayi	NRC
53	Dickson Okumu Aduwo	OCHA
54	Mohamed Hassan Abdi	OCHA
55	Patricia Agwaro	OCHA
56	Fatuma Ali	OSPAD
57	David Njuguna	OXFAM
58	Denis Kongere	OXFAM
59	Lorena Audadell	OXFAM
60	Musa Akello Otengo	Phase organization
61	Felicity Makena	PPRI
62	Hassan Maalim Abdullahi	PPRI
63	hibo ahmed abdikadir	RACIDA
64	Makandi murithi	RACIDA
65	Doreen Achieng	RCC
66	Felicity Makena	RCC
67	Lenard Simyu	RCC
68	Charity Mumbua	REACH Initiative
69	Denis Mutai	REACH Kenya/Somalia
70	Charles Muthui	Red Crescent Society
71	Mohamed Abdullahi	SADCO
72	Lilliane Mwende	SADO
73	Binyam Gebru	Save the Children
74	Narangui, Henry	Save the Children
75	Mohamed Diba garro	SEA Organization
76	Sahro Mohamed Adan	SEA Organization
77	Ibrahim Kallo	Secours Islamique
78	Hassan Abdikarim Mohamed	SERDO
79	Saleh Ahmed	SERDO
80	Zahra Abdulahi Adam	SERDO
81	Mohamed Adan Mohamed	SODAS
82	NOOR HASSAN YAHYA	SODAS
83	Grace Muema	Somali Community Concern
84	Fred Ouma	Somali Lifeline Organization(SOLO)
85	Kevin MacKey	Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP)
86	Solomon Kibkururi	Somalia Resilience Program (SomReP)
87	Hodan Barre Mohamud	SORADIS
88	Abdirashid Mahamed Ahmed	Sustainable Livelihood Relief Organization (SLRO)
89	Mohamed Omar Abdikadir	Sustainable Livelihood Relief Organization(SLRO)
90	Dorothy Nabiwemba	UNICEF
91	Mohamed Haibe	USWRDO
92	Jaboma Allan	Welthungerhilfe / WHH
93	YAKUB HASSAN JELLE	Women and Children Humanitarian Aid (WOCHA)
94	Francis Omude Emoru	WORLD VISION
95	Eric Simiyu Wanyama	ZAMZAM Foundation

List of Early Action examples

Food Security and Agriculture

Trigger	Examples of early actions to consider implementing
TRIGGER 1 Example: Long rain assessment + IPC projection + Short rain forecast (August)	Consider traditional methods (country specific) of famers responding to drought events and evaluate if these methods could be up-scaled or improved with technical expertise. If **agriculture** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following early actions: - Conduct a seed security assessment, giving due attention to the function and scope of local markets for providing farmers with diverse and adapted crops and varieties. - Assess market conditions for seeds/fertilizers - Establish community seed stores - Establish agriculture calendars to forecast crop production - Diversify outlets - Access mechanisms and partners for demand-based seed supply which promotes innovations (for example small seed packets to promote new varieties, or working through diverse outlets to market seed) - Build up links with market-oriented channels that farmers mainly use in seed acquisition - Assess strategic food reserves and required restrictions - Conduct a stock-take on seed stores and ensure seeds are procured and readily available to correspond with the anticipated ENSO influenced conditions If **livestock** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following: - Assess livestock value chain for potential intervention options such as support to livestock markets and commercialisation - Reinforce animal health surveillance awareness campaigns and collaborate with the health sector regarding zoonotic diseases If **fisheries and aquaculture** constitute an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following early actions: - Scope likely impacts of past ENSO events on fisheries and aquaculture along the value chain, as well as secondary impacts related to water, feed supply and safety for fishers, migration, etc. - Enhance preparedness and risk management/prevention including through stocking excess of harvest, restoring and/or maintaining coastal habitats (mangroves, seagrasses and reefs) - Produce (advisory) communication material on potential damage and adaptations in fisheries and aquaculture. If **forestry** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following: - Develop forest management plans/strategies that address multiple benefits from forests, including livelihoods, ecosystem services and DRR - Assess suitability of species for reforestation and afforestation proposes - Assess role of forests in regulating, enhancing and maintaining water supply, and incorporate findings into DRR, forest, watershed, etc. plans - Assess the risk of forest fires and forest health diseases and propose management plans to deal with it. Provide technical assistance to the host government and sectoral ministries to develop relevant policies, procedures and plans on livelihoods. Seek ways to shift focus from livestock/agriculture based livelihoods to other sources, such as vocational and technical trainings, skills development, micro, small and medium enterprises Promote access to market and finance through establishment of value chains, such as cooperatives, financial institutions and banks Develop climate resilient community infrastructure and irrigation facilities, such as rural market, food storage facilities, dams, canals, animal health services centers and communication and information systems Introduce improved irrigation facilities, such as open water reservoirs and canals, drip irrigation, sloping land agricultural technology (SALT), sprinkler irrigation and tunnel shelters Introduce appropriate technologies and techniques to reduce dependency on natural resources, such as alternative energy (solar energy and bio gas)

TRIGGER 2 **Example: Short rain onset + Dashboard indicators + Forecast for rest of season (November)**	Advocate to increase and expand social protection mechanism in affected areas If **agriculture** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, and based on the initial impact assessment, consider implementing the following early actions: - Provision and distribution of drought of flood tolerant seeds or crops - Promote water harvesting or water efficiency techniques - Upgrading/maintaining irrigation systems - Promote mulching in drought like-conditions - Ensure seed and grain stores are raised or secured in waterproof drums - Assess market conditions for seeds and other inputs in the formal sector - Conduct an inventory of project-supported seed multiplication groups - Prioritise support to income-generation and savings - Evaluate the impact and threat of crop diseases and develop management plans if there is a risk of occurring If **livestock** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, and based on the initial impact assessment, consider implementing the following early actions: - For pastoral societies: assess needs and options for external support to indigenous mobility and relocation - Commercial destocking (e.g. transport subsidies to livestock markets) - Veterinary support (vaccinations and treatment) - Support to animal health system (e.g. support to public sector, training of animal health workers) - Enhance feed storage and conservation - Rehabilitation of water points through cash-for-work where appropriate - Veterinary support: monitoring for diseases and ensure adequate stock of vaccines and treatments If **fisheries and aquaculture** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, and based on the initial impact assessment, consider implementing the following early actions: - Assess the fishery and aquaculture value chain for potential intervention options such as early harvesting, storage, cold chain/drying/etc., cold chain and transport subsidies. - Support aquatic animal health system incl. capacity building in monitoring, surveillance and communication of options - Advise on management regimes that address water stress (extremely high or low temperature) to mitigate poor performance and water availability/quality in aquaculture. - Advise on management measures to adapt to changes in the distribution and productivity of fisheries including adjusting fishing effort, investing in vessels and gear that can pursue the resource in its new habitat, facilitating collaborative management between countries, etc. If **forestry** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, and based on the initial impact assessment, consider implementing the following early actions: - Reduce unsustainable forest exploitation as a distress livelihood option - Promote indigenous species and appropriate management for multiple benefits - Assess the demand and supply of wood fuel for energy proposes. - Assess if wildlife has been affected and propose options of management. Strengthen capacity of government officials and local stakeholders in disaster-resilient livelihoods preparedness and recovery Protect water catchment areas through bioengineering/plantation of high value, climate sensitive trees and shrubs Establish community nursery and seed banks Construct rain water harvesting structures and dig wells for agriculture and livestock

TRIGGER 3 **Example: Onset of long rains + Dashboard indicators + forecast for the rest of the season (April)**	If **agriculture** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following: - Construction of bunds, distribution of tools/sandbags to protect crop fields and roads to markets - Provision of seed protection bags – e.g. triple-layer bags for hermetic seed storage - Provision of seeds from a range of crop and varieties, which are proven to be adapted and meet farmers' preferences, via: direct distribution, vouchers/seed fairs, or cash - Provision of fertilizers, tools, irrigation equipment - Training in resilience-enhancing areas, such as nutrition, natural resource management, or income generation (e.g. with vegetable seed production) - In areas with significant donor-support seed development programs, repurpose part of the development to meet short-term acute needs that would erode development gains if not addressed - If crop diseases are evident the following actions can be taken: altering planting schedules and procurement and preposition of chemical/biological control methods If **livestock** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following: - Assessment of vulnerable beneficiaries - Destocking (slaughter destocking and distribution of dry meat), under acceptable ante- and post-mortem inspection - Veterinary support (vaccinations and treatment) - Feed supply (e.g. feed camps) - Provision of water (e.g. water tucking) - Building animal shelters with cash-for-work If **fisheries and aquaculture** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, and based on the initial impact assessment, consider implementing the following early actions: - Early harvest - Change in the production cycle to avoid extreme impacts - Advise not to stock (to avoid loss of crops and disease) - Improve on farm water storage - Build community reservoirs - Install pond liners - Cyclone proofing of fishery shore infrastructures and provision of facilities for removal of vessels and storage of gear in areas exposed to storms and hurricanes If **forestry** constitutes an important livelihood in the areas potentially affected, consider implementing the following: - Adjust pruning to ensure shoots are above predicted high water mark - Reduce shading to reduce fungal diseases - Clear canals, diches, culverts, firebreaks, undergrowth - Establish fire-watch rotas Support to enterprises and entrepreneurship development Increase coverage of micro-finance and promotion of savings and loan groups Provide credit and small grants to support vulnerable individuals and households with small business

Nutrition

Trigger	Examples of programmes to consider implementing
TRIGGER 1 **Example: Long rain assessment + IPC projection + Short rain forecast (August)**	Strengthen supply chain capacity and pipelines for essential nutrition actions. Undertake capacity building activities to strengthen the ability of local authorities/sector coordinators to coordinate nutrition in emergencies (NiE) interventions If protocols for assessment and NiE interventions don't exist, work with relevant authorities to develop them and disseminate to partners Scale up community-based nutritional surveillance systems Integrate nutrition surveillance into facility-based disease surveillance reporting on acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies Provide training for health workers in nutrition assessment, managing acute malnutrition, promoting infant and young child feeding practices, and micronutrient supplementation
TRIGGER 2 **Example: Short rain onset + Dashboard indicators + Forecast for rest of season (November)**	Strengthen or scale up nutrition supply chain capacity and/or community-based nutritional surveillance systems Integrate nutritional surveillance into facility-based disease surveillance reporting on acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. Train health workers in nutrition assessments particularly in: managing severe acute malnutrition, promoting infant/young children feeding practices, and micronutrient supplementation.
TRIGGER 3 **Example: Onset of long rains + Dashboard indicators + forecast for the rest of the season (April)**	Community and facility-based nutritional and disease surveillance, including on micronutrient deficiencies Provide supplementary food rations to pregnant and lactating mothers Distribute and preposition general food rations and supplies for the management of acute malnutrition and with or without medical complications In drought-affected areas, establish list of critical locations for maximum coverage to guide the deployment of mobile health and nutrition teams Procure, replenish, distribute and preposition supplies for the management of acute malnutrition and medical complications

Health

Trigger	Examples of programmes to consider implementing
TRIGGER 1 **Example: Long rain assessment + IPC projection + Short rain forecast (August)**	Identify priority areas for strengthening local and national capacities based on risk assessment and experience from past ENSO events, including secondary risks from water, agriculture, food security, migration, etc. Consider country, community and traditional methods for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery to/from the health risks associated with ENSO-related episodes and evaluate if these methods could be scaled-up Develop disease prediction models based on seasonal calendars, biological and environmental factors to support prediction of disease outbreaks Build up links with other sectors – including WASH, nutrition, food security and animal health for zoonotic diseases – to ensure that ENSO-related health risks are addressed in sector programming at all levels Based on multi-hazard epidemiological profiles, strengthen disease and nutrition surveillance systems to monitor potential increased risks and incidence of infectious diseases, malnutrition, heat stress, HIV and other potential health effects from ENSO, diseases as well as prevention measures for those health conditions Consider strengthening and scaling up primary health care services (e.g. immunization, maternal and newborn health) and facility-based services in higher risk areas Take necessary action to ensure that supplies will be readily available for any surge in demand from events influenced by ENSO conditions Enhance risk management for extreme heat events and high levels of air pollution due to forest fires and heat inversion events Strengthen health facility-based plans for emergency risk management, based on an assessment of the siting, structural and non-structural safety and functionality of health facilities for climate-related hazards Retrofit and protect health infrastructure from cyclones, floods, heat waves and other weather-related events in high-risk areas based on health facility safety assessments Review health services, staffing levels and other resources in areas at higher risk of ENSO-related events (and other risk factors including conflict) and consider strengthening and scaling up primary health care services (e.g. immunization, maternal and newborn health) and facility-based services in higher-risk areas Increase stakeholder participation in health emergency risk assessment, planning and health services, with a focus on people with higher levels of risk due to ENSO (pregnant and lactating women, neonates, infants, children, adolescents, older people, people with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, and people with less access to health services). Include ENSO-related scenarios in training of health workers and health simulation exercises

TRIGGER 2 **Example: Short rain onset + Dashboard indicators + Forecast for rest of season (November)**	Where there is an increased risk of **infectious diseases** due to ENSO, implement actions to manage risks, including: - Scale up routine surveillance systems and disease early warning systems for infectious diseases (endemic, water-borne, vector-borne) in both health and animal health sectors - Ensure that supplies (including vaccines, medications and equipment for high risk diseases) are procured and readily available for anticipated ENSO influenced conditions. Where there is an increased risk of **malnutrition** due to ENSO (see also food security and nutrition sector SOPs), implement actions to manage the risks of malnutrition and health consequences, including: - Scale up community-based nutritional surveillance systems focusing on acute malnutrition (and linked with infectious disease and HIV surveillance), including review of coverage, capacity and quality of available services and capacity/needs for scale-up (technical, operational, logistics, etc) - Integrate nutritional surveillance into facility-based disease surveillance reporting on acute malnutrition and micronutrient deficiencies. - Stock-take of food and health supplies for the management of acute malnutrition and treatment of medical and obstetrical complications - Train health workers in managing the health aspects of acute malnutrition and support for infant and young child feeding, and develop protocols to guide community health workers on managing and referring SAM cases Where there is an increased risk of **respiratory diseases (dust, smoke, air pollution)** due to ENSO, implement actions to manage risks of risks of respiratory diseases, including: - Scale up air pollution monitoring and respiratory disease surveillance systems in countries affected by increased air particles from fire, dust - Disseminate risk communication products on respiratory diseases to help reduce health effects and fatalities Where there is an increased risk to the **water, sanitation and hygiene supply in health facilities** due to ENSO: - Implement actions to ensure WASH in health facilities and nutrition rehabilitation centres Where there is an increased risk of **heat stress and other health conditions due to heatwaves** due to ENSO, implement actions to manage health effects of heatwave, including: - Review or establish heatwave action plans in areas of high risk and among high risk populations (including older persons) Where there is an increased risk of **HIV/AIDS** due to ENSO: - Implement early actions to reduce risk of spread of HIV - Regularly distribute information on facilities/posts eligible to provide adequate prevention testing and treatment service and referral - Ensure appropriate food is provided to people living with HIV and on treatment Where there is an increased risk of **disruption to health services** due to ENSO: - Implement actions to protect facilities, staff, equipment and services from hazards and maintain health services and supplies (e.g. staffing, medical supplies for medical and obstetrical emergencies, infectious diseases and non-communicable diseases, clinical management of rape/sexual violence, health facility emergency preparedness)

TRIGGER 3 **Example: Onset of long rains + Dashboard indicators + forecast for the rest of the season (April)**	**Infectious diseases** - Strengthen routine surveillance systems and disease early warning systems for infectious diseases (endemic, water-borne, vector-borne) in both health and animal health sectors (by increasing facility based monitoring, updating diseases testing criteria) - Distribute and preposition vaccines, medications, equipment and devices for infectious diseases associated with ENSO - Conduct health promotion campaigns to prevent diseases outbreaks and transmission - Implement immunization through accelerated routine immunisation and emergency vaccination campaigns (e.g. where indicated, for measles and other vaccine preventable diseases) - Conduct event-based risk assessment to inform ongoing health and multi-sectoral preparedness and response for disease outbreaks **Malnutrition (see also food security and nutrition sector SOPs)** - Distribute and preposition supplies for the management of acute malnutrition and medical/obstetrical complications - Establish list of critical locations in drought-affected areas for maximum coverage to guide the deployment of mobile health and nutrition teams to provide access to life-saving health and nutrition services - Scale up programming to support infant and young child feeding - Enhance risk communication regarding management of malnutrition, early interventions and availability of services, and need to seek health interventions early **Water, sanitation and hygiene for health facilities (see also infectious diseases, disruption to health services, and the water, sanitation and hygiene sector SOPs)** - Provide emergency water and sanitation services in health facilities (including maternity and birthing homes), schools and prisons/ closed settings and through water rehabilitation schemes **HIV/AIDS** - Scale-up food and nutrition interventions (e.g. counselling and support) for households vulnerable to and people living with HIV - Test all children with Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) and Moderate Acute Malnutrition (MAM) for HIV in high prevalence settings and provide effective linkage to needed HIV treatment and services - Strengthen tracing activities and outreach to re-engage ART patients lost to follow up **TB** - Scale up health, food and nutrition interventions (e.g. counselling and support) for people living with TB - Strengthen tracing activities and outreach to re-engage TB patients lost to follow-up **Disruption of health services (due to damage, loss of infrastructures, supplies, staff absences, surge in health care demand)** - Protect facilities, staff, equipment and services from hazards (e.g. elevating equipment in areas of flood risk) - Provide emergency support to health care workers and to health facilities to remain functional and able to respond to increased and changed health needs after different types of emergencies, with staff trained appropriately **Air pollution (due to smoke, dust)** - Scale up risk communication programmes to communities concerning actions to reduce risks of respiratory diseases and where health assistance is available - Provide emergency health care to people with increased risk of respiratory diseases **Heatwave** - Scale up risk communication to community at risk to stay safe in hot weather reduce exposure to heat, recognise signs of heat-related illness and seek medical care when needed - Provide emergency health care to treat heat-related illnesses (e.g. heat stroke) and other health complications (including worsening of existing chronic diseases)

WASH

Trigger	Examples of programmes to consider implementing
PHASE 1	Ensure minimum WASH facilities/services in refugee centres. Update likely hotspots where there are regular WASH-related disease outbreak and mobilise relevant working groups Establish strategies for vector control and sustainable sanitation (e.g. sanitation marketing and community-led total sanitation) Assess and map community/health centres/schools/prisons access to water sources (to ensure minimum WASH standards), market systems, sanitation facilities and existing humanitarian/DRR/Resilience WASH programs Assess local water tanks, wells and other water sources that may require repairs or upgrading
PHASE 2	Follow up water source availability and set up information system with the communities in collaboration with state technical services (monitor groundwater table level, springs yields, river levels, ensure communications between water monitoring stations and downstream communities is in place to send warning and floods) Scale up existing WASH programs that reinforce community based water resource management, including groundwater, surface water and rainwater: - Improve rainwater storage and rainwater infiltration (aquifer recharge) - Promote rational use of water sources for domestic and livelihoods purposes Improve protection and maintenance of water infrastructures and irrigation systems by, for instance: - Repair damaged water tanks, wells, water pumps or other water sources that were classified as damaged or at-risk. - Conduct procurement and prepositioning of netting to protect water sources and providing training on water-way clearing (for example, clearing gutters, positioning of water tanks for maximum capacity during the drought and for safety reasons during floods/cyclones) - Assess facilities for people to excrete safely and hygienically Develop and conduct hygiene promotion campaigns
PHASE 3	Water trucking strategy with a clear exit or vouchers purchase of water or hygiene items Develop emergency safe excreta disposal strategy and prepare for post-flood chlorination of drinking water, flushing and cleaning of ditches and canals Activate communication channels to: Ensure information of risks reaches the most vulnerable; Coach community surveillance systems and state technical services Provide emergency water and sanitation services in health facilities (including maternities), schools and prisons/closed settings and through water rehabilitation schemes. Maintain water supplies to health facilities (including maternities) to ensure level of function Scale up on existing or implement new WASH programs to reduce vulnerabilities of WASH facilities (water points to avoid contamination of water sources, promote raised latrine in flood prone areas) Preposition hygiene kits (including soap), water bladders, netting to cover open water sources, water containers/tanks/barrels, and purification tables in at-risk communities Ensure prioritisation of continuous school-level access to water; develop water trucking strategy for schools where needed with a clear exit (boreholes drilling or deepening)

COORDINATION IM EARLY ACTION EXAMPLES

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No.	**Actions/Tasks**	**Lead**	**Timeframe**
TRIGGER 2/ Example: Short rain onset + Dashboard indicators + Forecast for rest of season (November)			
Key objectives: (a) Conduct joint assessments of vulnerable areas (b) Initiate early action planning (c) Implement early action where appropriate and minimum preparedness actions			
1	If one doesn't already exist, encourage the creation of a high-level multi-stakeholder platform led by government, which could bring together relevant development and humanitarian partners and other relevant partners such as the private sector. If not appropriate, through the HCT/UNCT, identify the appropriate multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism and ensure appropriate linkages with government counterparts. Ensure government coordination set-up takes into consideration all relevant stakeholders (including NGOs, networks, private sector). Discuss ways to ensure community-level involvement		
2	Contact national meteorological office to obtain national forecasts		
3	Work with the government, where relevant, to convene the coordination group to coordinate the implementation of phase 1 early actions (below) – determine regularity of meetings		

4	Analyse country specific impact patterns and lessons learned of past drought events as well as any available forecasts (which regions in a country have or are likely to be affected, in which way (including forced or pre-emptive displacement patterns), who are the most vulnerable populations and sectors, how were different sectors affected, etc.). Ensure inter-sectoral approach. Develop country-specific timelines (and sector-specific, where necessary) of the evolution of the anticipated risks / effects along with turning points for actions. Determine any gaps in vulnerability data (that are then to be addressed in Phase 2)		
5	Work with the government to bring the above information together into a consolidated situation and risk analysis and ensure that key information is sent as an 'early warning' to relevant humanitarian and development partners, government ministries, the private sector, communities and other relevant stakeholders, with early action options		
6	Based on a review of ongoing DRR, resilience-building and social protection programmes, identify which ones need to be reprioritized/repurposed or scaled up (e.g. to target areas or vulnerable people likely to be most affected) and where there would be a need for new programmes to address gaps. Determine any needs/ opportunities for strengthening government capacity in DRR Regarding social protection, clarify the nature of what exists (including whether it is scalable and if so how)		
7	Engage with the government to review funding available in the event the situation deteriorates, and discuss the strengthening of reserve funds and dedicated budget lines for risk management. Also discuss the appropriate moment for activation of national reserve funds for early action, if applicable, as well as reprioritization of development funds		
8	Discuss and advocate with donors to reprioritize or redirect development funding to mitigate the risks or build the resilience of the most vulnerable		
9	Work with the government to assess market and financial sector conditions including: a) potential cash-based interventions in different sectors b) transport systems and c) logistical arrangements. If not yet done, conduct a cash feasibility study and, based on this study, meet relevant development partners to ensure understanding of and coherence with existing social safety net programmes		
10	Determine the need to update the UNDAF Results Groups' joint work plans and/or development programmes to take into consideration the risks and ensure plans are best tailored to build the resilience of the most vulnerable and address the above-identified gaps		
11	Identify overall available resources and financing gaps. Engage in ex-ante financial planning measures, including identifying potential resources for reprogramming and mapping of existing and new actors such as international financial institutions, private foundations, international business and new donor governments. Also identify what financial vehicle could capture the funding. Determine if the current funding mechanisms in the country are adequate to channel potential funds or if there needs to be an additional pooled fund		
12	Support ministries and national sector coordination mechanisms to: review sector-specific disaster risk management capacities; raise sector awareness of the risks to relevant systems; and develop, if necessary, national sector-specific SOPs or plan for implementation of early action and preparedness measures (including supporting mobility as a life-saving strategy (e.g. relocation), while also reducing the duration and impact of disaster-induced displacement). Ensure inter-sectoral approach		
13	Discuss with the government desired support (e.g. capacity building; CADRI mission) and risk financing tools, and how they are working with at-risk communities for DRR/ DRM		
14	Consider the status of national early warning systems and opportunities to help strengthen them. Assess Early Warning System (EWS) capacities, including: (a) community engagement in EWS and (b) information/communication channels. If need be, support the development of a multi-hazard early warning early action trigger mechanism (for emergency response)		
15	Discuss with the government the thresholds for phases Alert and Alarm		
16	Coordinate the updating – or implementation – of priority ERP Minimum Preparedness Actions (MPAs). Ensure consultation with and engagement of at-risk communities. Ensure inter-sectoral approach		
17	Identify the organizations/bodies involved in early warning/early action messaging to ensure forecast information is sent as needed to relevant government ministries, the private sector, communities, humanitarian and development partners and other relevant stakeholders		

18	Convene the agreed coordination mechanism to coordinate the implementation of relevant Alert early actions		
19	If one doesn't already exist, determine the need for a cash coordination mechanism and appropriate lead		
20	If these don't exist, coordinate with national authorities (wherever possible) to establish effective sectoral coordination mechanisms		
21	Support the government to conduct multi-sector and – if appropriate – sector-specific risk and vulnerability assessments taking into consideration protection issues, gender and vulnerable groups. Sectors should collaborate to ensure consistency of methodological approach to enable inter-sectoral consolidation of analysis and cost-efficiency		
22	Based on revised vulnerability assessments, review national seasonal forecasts from highly vulnerable areas and assess potential impacts, including sector-specific impacts		
23	If need be, support national forecasting and disaster risk management agencies to design impact-based forecast scenarios for the most exposed areas in the country		
24	Update or fine-tune assessment of market and financial sector conditions in the potentially affected areas of the country for the potential scale-up and/or use of social safety nets and other multi-sector cash and market based transfer programmes; incorporate options for scaling up in early action and preparedness plan (below)		
25	Determine what is in place or needed, in terms of infrastructure and materials, to respond to large-scale displacement if such scenarios are likely. Determine the best approach to respond to large-scale displacement (including potential cross-border movements) requiring collective facilities or large schemes of service provision in coordination with other active sector and contingency plans.		
26	Coordinate the implementation of ERP APAs that are agreed to be a priority. Ensure an inter-sectoral approach		
27	Convene an early action and preparedness workshop to update, or produce, an Early Action and Preparedness Plan (see below)		
28	Consult with the government and relevant ministries to update (or elaborate, if one doesn't already exist) the Early Action and Preparedness Plan. The plan should be concise, costed and operational, with strategic programmatic objectives which are harmonized with and complement on-going humanitarian, DRR and resilience building initiatives. Share Plan with key stakeholders in country and at regional and global levels, including private sector. Discuss how to ensure community-level involvement and accountability to affected people. Ensure an inter-sectoral approach		
29	As part of the early action and preparedness planning process, develop a coordinated emergency supply pre-positioning strategy. Review needs and pipeline status of supplies likely to be required and status of supply chain management to deliver essential actions		
30	Determine how to track funding to the early action and preparedness plan		
31	Identify the organizations/bodies involved in early warning/early action messaging to ensure forecast information is sent as needed to relevant government ministries, the private sector, communities, humanitarian and development partners and other relevant stakeholders		
32	Activate forecast-based budget lines, when applicable. Request new funds for early action and preparedness		