



Nepal Red Cross Society supports Government to Institutionalise Anticipatory Action through Dedicated Clinic

With climate risks escalating at an alarming rate, Nepal faces increasingly frequent and severe disasters. Traditional reactive measures are no longer sufficient to manage these growing risks. Recognizing this urgent need, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) with technical assistance from IFRC/Danish Red Cross (DRC) has been working in anticipatory action in Nepal since 2018, a proactive way to manage disaster risks based on weather forecast information. Over the past eight years, this approach has been tested and refined in close consultation with the communities and stakeholders.

Considering that AA was a new approach to disaster risk reduction in Nepal, NRCS created a learning and exchange platform named the Community of Practice (CoP) on AA. The platform has been supporting the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Authority (NDRRMA) to organise the National Dialogue on Anticipatory Action since 2022, an annual event that brings together scientists, academics, government authorities and humanitarian agencies to set the future direction for AA and help inform government's plans and policies. Based on the discourse of the 2nd National Dialogue, an AA Clinic at the NDRRMA was envisioned that would be central to furthering AA in Nepal through capacity strengthening, coordination and institutionalisation. The Clinic was officially launched on October 30, 2024.

Housed within NDRRMA under the Ministry of Home Affairs (MoHA), the AA Clinic serves as Nepal's dedicated technical hub for anticipatory action. Its establishment was spearheaded by NDRRMA in collaboration with NRCS, IFRC/Danish Red Cross,

and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)/British Red Cross, in partnership with the Risk-Informed Early Action Partnerships (REAP). This initiative marks a significant milestone in institutionalizing anticipatory action, ensuring its integration into national policies. The government of Nepal is now transitioning from a traditional reactive disaster management approach to a proactive approach to managing disaster risks. This shift aligns with Nepal's commitment to REAP, reaffirmed during COP 26, where NDRRMA pledged to actively contribute to global anticipatory action objectives. Additionally, this also aligns with Nepal's National Disaster Risk Financing Strategy 2021 and the Disaster Risk Reduction National Strategic Action Plan (2018–2030), reinforcing a more structured and coordinated approach to disaster preparedness and response.

The AA Clinic is tasked with developing Nepal's National Anticipatory Action Framework and Roadmap, systematic, well-coordinated humanitarian response in anticipatory action. It functions as a coordinating body, bringing together government agencies, humanitarian organizations, development partners, and the private sector to foster innovation, exchange ideas, and drive anticipatory action forward. Furthermore, the clinic strengthens institutional capacity through providing essential Anticipatory Action training packages and targeted training programs, equipping stakeholders with the necessary skills for pre-emptive disaster management. It also facilitates knowledge exchange through National Dialogues, CoP meetings, and global engagements, ensuring continuous learning and adaptation to emerging risks.

Complementing these initiatives, the Nepal Red Cross Society has played a key role in the development of the Shock Responsive Social Protection and Relief Distribution Standard, 2081 recently endorsed by the government. To further support the institutionalization process, the IFRC and its membership continues to collaborate with local governments in implementing anticipatory action. These collective efforts are laying the foundation for a disaster management system that prioritizes early action to minimize disaster impacts and enhances community resilience across Nepal.

