FRAMEWORK FOR ACTION

REAP

Risk-informed
Early Action
Partnership

List of abbreviations

ARRCC	Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate
COP26	26th session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC)
CREWS	Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems initiative
CSO	Civil Society Organization
EWEA	Early Warning Early Action
EWS	Early Warning Systems
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross Red Crescent Societies
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
REAP	Risk-informed Early Action Partnership
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNCAS	United Nations Climate Action Summit
WFP	World Food Programme
WISER	Weather and Climate Information Services
WMO	World Meteorological Organization
3Ws	Who, What, Where

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More than a million homes have been swept away, damaged or destroyed by some of the worst floods in Bangladesh near major rivers such as the Brahmaputra in South Asia in recent decades. © IFRC

INTRODUCTION

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

The partnership was launched with four ambitious targets which will drive a systemic shift towards acting earlier to reduce the impacts of disasters. REAP creates a space in which partners and aligned organizations from across its various constituencies will use the ambitious targets to mobilise commitments and inspire action.

Three main drivers of change will enable the partnership to make 1 billion people safer from disasters. First, **global commitment on policy and practice** is required to scale up risk-informed early action. Second, under the leadership of partner countries, REAP will work to **enable country and local level ownership** of early action programmes. It will promote interventions by partners that are designed to work within and in support of national systems and local capacities, with a fundamental focus on the needs of the most vulnerable. Third, a **REAP Marketplace** will aim to connect and scale up existing efforts on early warning-early action by diverse actors, while offering a space to match needs with offers for support from REAP partners.

This Framework for Action outlines the necessity of REAP's ambitious targets and begins to lay out a roadmap to achieving them through partner commitments and the facilitation of REAP's coordination and governance structures. It describes the role of all REAP stakeholders, including partners, Board and Secretariat in achieving the targets. It forms the basis for monitoring and measuring progress and success of the partnership between now and 2025. Most crucially, the Framework for Action is intended to be a catalyst for increased membership and further commitment, investment and progress in the early action agenda.

The Framework for Action complements REAP's Strategic Vision[1]. While the Strategic Vision outlines the founding principles and systems-change approach of the partnership, the Framework for Action describes the ways in which partners will turn ambition into action, securing tangible, impactful commitments towards our four targets, and milestones for their achievement by 2025.

Why Early Action?

Crises are increasingly multidimensional, severe and frequent with many countries experiencing multiple overlapping crises at any one time, both recurrent and protracted.[2] Climate change is deepening and driving new and unexpected risks. Climate change has been described as the ultimate threat-multiplier, accelerating risks of poverty, food insecurity, disease, conflict, migration and forced displacement – often hitting the poorest hardest.[3] As the OECD have noted, "*strategies that do not take into account the systemic and linked nature of…climate fragility risks will fail, and may exacerbate the risk they set out to address.*"[4]

The COVID-19 pandemic has devastated lives and economies all over the world, making it more challenging to find resources to invest in planning and preparedness. Nevertheless, it has also demonstrated how various risks compound one another and why forward planning, risk analysis and preparedness is imperative.

1 *See: https://www.early-action-reap.org/reaps-strategic-vision-draft*
2 *Ref CDP Call to Action*
3 *(Ruttinger et al., 2015; OECD, 2018*
4 *(Hallegatte et al., 2017 OECD*

Interconnected risks require interconnected action. Waiting for disasters to happen is no longer an option, particularly when we have unprecedented access to risk and forecast information that tells us they are imminent. Early action saves lives and livelihoods and protects development and resilience gains. Aside from these crucial people-centred justifications, early action has repeatedly been shown to be cost effective. Investment in protective or preventative actions before a hazard becomes a disaster saves money and lives.[5]

OCHA notes that in 2017 and 2018, the global economic cost of weather-related disasters was an estimated $653 billion. The Global Commission on Adaptation found that Early Warning Systems save lives and assets at least ten times their cost. Just 24 hours' warning of a coming storm or heatwave can cut the ensuing damage by 30 per cent. Spending USD800 million on such systems in developing countries would avoid losses of USD 3–16 billion per year. [6]

People at the Centre

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

Building on and learning from the Pro-Poor Principles[7] developed by the InsuResilience Global Partnership (IGP), REAP will work with partners to ensure that all guidelines, principles, analysis and position papers have a strong focus on embedding people-centred approaches. REAP will seek to advance the body of evidence on people-centred early action, demonstrating not just why this is crucial but how it can be done effectively.

While a pro-poor focus forms the basis of a people-centred approach to early action, a rigorous approach to inclusion of other vulnerability factors will be embedded in the work of the partnership, including paying special attention to gender, age and disability and other vulnerabilities as dictated by context. REAP will work with partners to promote and develop rigorous guidance on inclusive early warning and early action.

REAP is committed to ensuring that these commitments are integrated within the partnership's ways of working. This is reflected in the principles guiding the Monitoring, Evaluation & Learning Framework, as well as the makeup of REAP's Governing Board in ensuring diverse stakeholder representation. In addition, ongoing efforts to expand the partnership pay particular attention to increasing the representation of global south countries, local actors and civil society voices.

Current Partners

REAP is open to all countries, organizations and initiatives that share its ambition for making 1 billion people safer from disasters. While it continues to grow a diverse partnership, REAP partners currently include developed and developing countries, international organisations, civil society and private sector representatives. For more information on partners, please see the REAP website.[8]

5 *Insert reference to the GCA, Cabot Vernon, FAO, WDR reports Global Commission on Adaptation (2019) Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*
6 *Global Commission on Adaptation (2019) Adapt Now: A Global Call for Leadership on Climate Resilience*
7 *InsuResilience Pro-Poor Principles: https://www.insuresilience.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/06/insuresilience_propoor_190529-2.pdf*
8 *www.early-action-reap.org*

Ambitious Targets

Convening partners of REAP worked together to establish high-level targets which will drive a systemic shift towards acting earlier to reduce the impacts of disasters. They focus on the criticality of national planning, financing and delivery mechanisms to support early action, as well as investment and coverage in early warning systems with a focus on them reaching the most vulnerable, turning the 'last mile' into the 'first mile'. Crucially, the targets are only achievable through convening a diverse partnership across the climate, development, humanitarian and hydro-meteorological communities.

Target 1

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

Target 2

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

Target 3

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

Target 4

1 billion more people are covered by new or improved early warning systems, including heatwave early warning,[9] connected to longer-term risk management systems, and supported by effective risk communication and public stakeholder dialogue to prompt informed action.

9 *see page 29*

Earthquake and tsunami response in Dongala, Sulawesi, Indonesia. Ernawati, 60, lost everything when the tsunami destroyed her home. She is now living in a small temporary room at her neighbour's house.
© Benjamin Suomela / Finnish Red Cross

THEORY OF CHANGE

Problem

The number of people in need of humanitarian assistance due to climate-related disasters alone could double by 2050 to 200 million a year, yet with concerted action could decrease by as much as 90% to 10 million[10]. In a global context of growing climate risk, where hazards are increasingly forecastable and loss of life and livelihoods is therefore not inevitable, it is imperative that systems adjust and adapt, moving from reactive to proactive, anticipatory approaches.

REAP was established not because of a lack of successful early action approaches but because of the urgent need to take early action to scale. We must be frank in stating the scale of the problem and bold in expressing the systemic change and resource mobilization necessary to address it.

While considerable progress has been made in developing and implementing early action approaches, significant barriers persist, which the partnership aims to help address. These include:

- **The need for decisive leadership and decision-making on the early action agenda by national and local authorities:** Currently, this is hampered by the low risk appetite of key decision makers - from institutional donors to government authorities and affected communities - to take early action under uncertainty over future hazard impacts. Increased ownership of efforts to embed early action is needed from national and local authorities. This can be enabled by coordinated, coherent and contextualized approaches to engagement and capacity strengthening by international actors already engaged in spearheading early action.
- **Siloed and insufficient provision for early action and climate adaptation within existing disaster and climate risk management governance, legislation and policies.** There is a critical need to build upon and expand the evidence base for early action to ensure that a widening group of stakeholders is engaged. This is critical for building buy-in from national and local government and informing the role of REAP in enabling their leadership of early action approaches. Further, there is need for a greater emphasis on matching high-level policy change with strengthening the participation, capacity, and decision-making authority of those at the so-called “last mile”.
- **Critical gaps in financing and failure to capitalize on opportunities to adapt existing funding streams to better enable and mainstream early action:** There is a clear and critical gap in suitable financing for turning early warnings into early action. Finance may be insufficient or entirely absent, or the available financing mechanisms may not be sufficiently flexible, predictable or timely. Increased earmarked funding is necessary, but there are also many untapped opportunities to adapt existing climate, development and humanitarian financing architecture to better facilitate early action. A lack of inclusion of civil society and other local level actors in design, development and implementation of early actions drive another critical inefficiency and lost opportunity. Civil society and local actors are frequently excluded from the limited financial resources available for early action despite often having the best information and access to inform early action.

10 *IFRC The Cost of Doing Nothing*

- **Gaps in the design and implementation of Early Warning Systems that can enable Early Action.** Substantial investment in early warning systems is not translating into consistent, life-saving early action, as critical early warning information does not always reach the people and places impacted when they need it. While increased investments in hydromet and other forecasting systems have been made in recent years, there has been a tendency for major investments to focus on forecasting hardware and technology, and not the impact of investments on communities most at risk. Critical gaps in the availability of multi-hazard early warning analysis and impact- based forecasting approaches persist and must be addressed to mainstream early action and ensure return on investment while centring the needs of disaster-affected people. Central to this is a need to move away from the default approach of focusing on specific hazards and events in isolation from each other rather than a multi-hazard, multi-timeline approach that focuses not primarily on the hazard itself but on its human impact.
- **A need for stronger and more consistent coordination, collaboration and partnership between the broad range of stakeholders working on climate risks;** silos between climate, development and humanitarian actors must be broken down as must silos between government and non-governmental actors, between international, multilateral organizations and local civil society actors. Further, there must be stronger coordination, collaboration and understanding between early warning providers and those who will ultimately make decisions to take early action. The current silos are preventing holistic risk analysis and management, preventing actors across all sectors from benefitting from the work of aligned stakeholders.

As part of disaster risk reduction activities, members of a community-based action team have planted thousands of mangroves as a protective barrier against the sea. © Finnish Red Cross

The change needed

REAP envisages a world where early action is the norm rather than the exception; where decision-makers at all levels have the information, plans and resources to take protective or preventative action in advance of a hazard becoming a disaster. If we know that people and communities are going to slide into crisis, we have an obligation to act. As noted by FAO, *"acting early is not only possible – it is a responsibility. There is more and more solid evidence available to ring alarm bells and provide triggers"*.

Aside from the humanitarian imperative, early action makes financial and political sense. In coming together to form this partnership, REAP members have broad consensus that systemic barriers to early action must be addressed to take early action to scale. As outlined in the REAP Strategic Vision, the core means by which REAP seeks to drive this change are:

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

Recognition of the uniqueness of every country and context is inherent to REAP, and it is acknowledged that appropriate solutions will vary. A Theory of Change to be included in the Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework will outline the overarching principles and approaches that influence the current and future interventions and collaboration of REAP partners.

REAP partners work on risk-informed early action for a wide range of climate- and non-climate-related shocks and stresses, both individual and inter-related hazards.

As an initiative emerging from the UN Climate Action Summit and with the 26th Conference of Parties to the UN Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC COP26) as one its initial milestones to catalyse international action, the primary remit of REAP is climate-related early action. However, climate change and the resultant shocks, stresses, and disasters, do not occur in a vacuum. Ongoing responses to COVID-19 highlight the interrelatedness of risks and that both the need for early action and the benefits of the partnership are wider in scope.

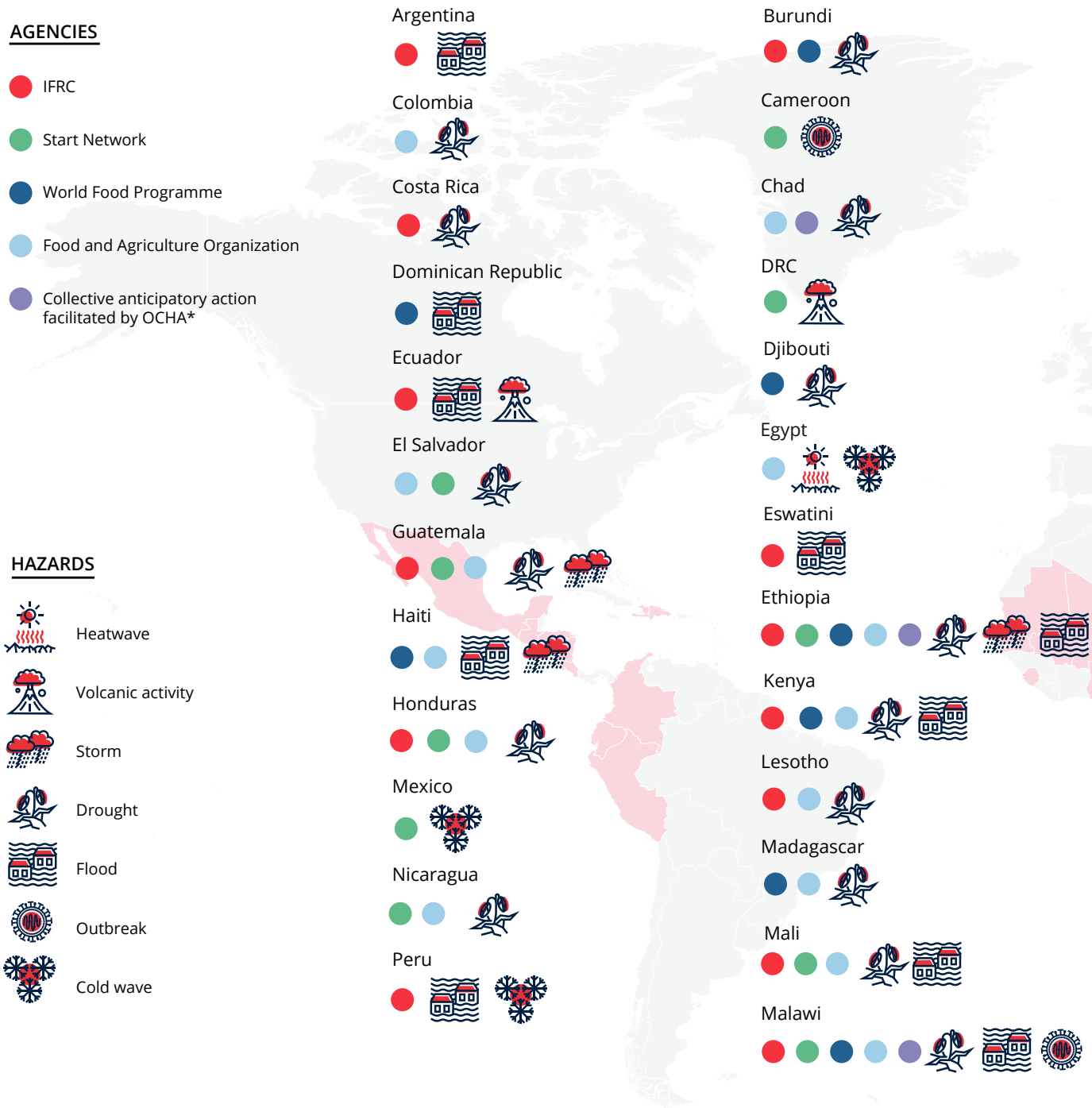
We broadly categorize the core mission of REAP as facilitating the following essential factors:

- Ensuring that early warning investments and initiatives lead to early action in at-risk communities.
- Engaging and enabling decision-makers in the design and, ultimately, leadership of comprehensive, integrated early action across timescales - ensuring that early action becomes a default way of addressing imminent risks, integrated within Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Management approaches.
- Facilitating implementation of successful Early Warning-Early Action approaches at scale through high-level policy and advocacy initiatives that capture and promote learning and good practice exchange of REAP partners.
- Mobilizing substantial investments in all aspects of the Early Action spectrum of stakeholders and enablers with a particular focus on investment in ground-level, people-centered action.
- Brokering and facilitating new collaboration between climate, development and humanitarian partners working to achieve results under the target areas.

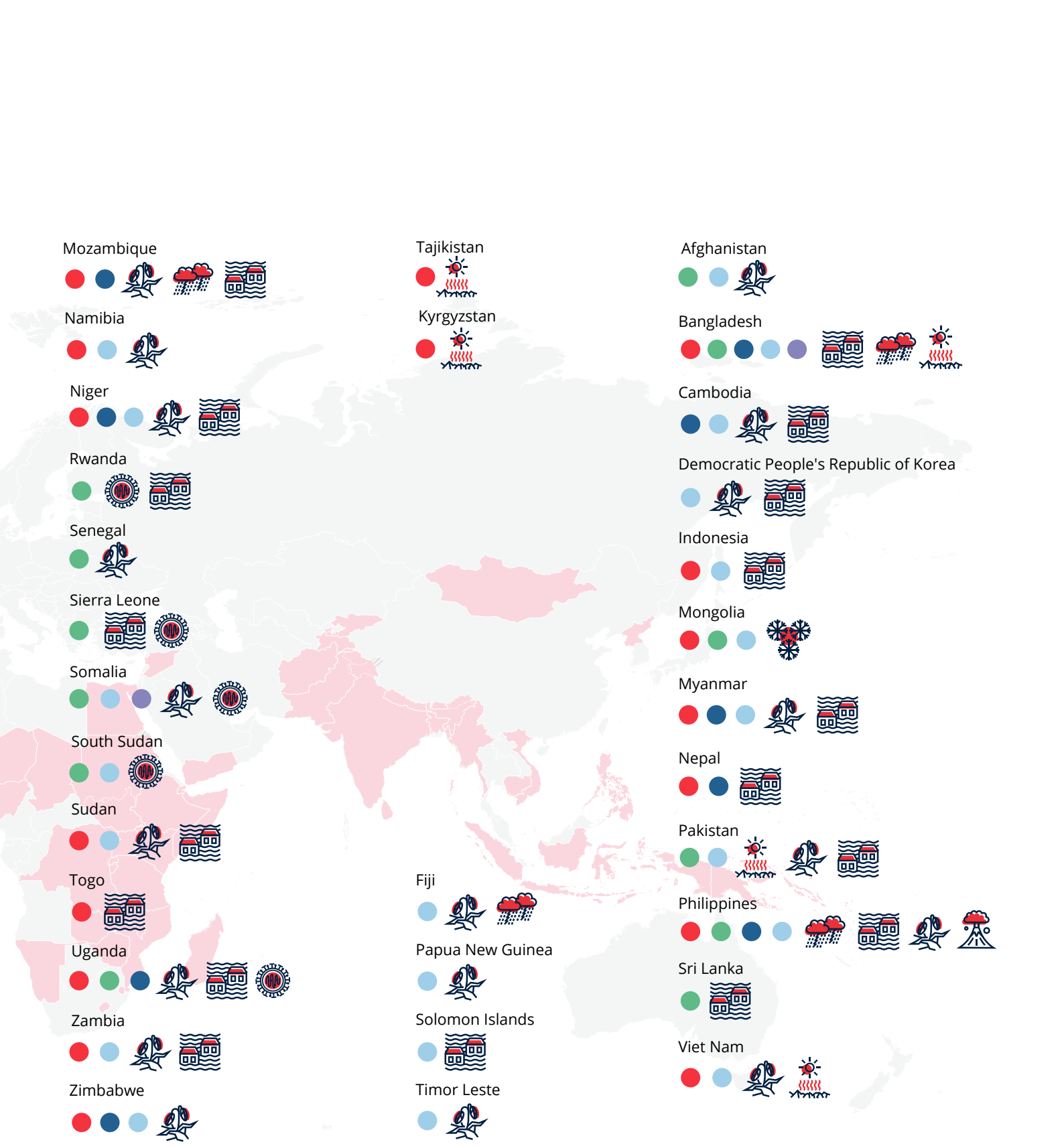
The following section outlines the detailed commitments necessary to effect the changes desired.

> **"Acting early is not only possible – it is a responsibility. There is more and more solid evidence available to ring alarm bells and provide triggers."**
>
> *– FAO*

Figure 1: 2020 Global Early Action Implementation Snap Shot



Source: Anticipatory Action Focus Task Force and IFRC World Disasters Report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Kyrgyzstan
Fiji
Papua New Guinea
Solomon Islands
Timor Leste
Afghanistan
Bangladesh
Cambodia
Democratic People's Republic of Korea
Indonesia
Mongolia
Myanmar
Nepal
Pakistan
Philippines
Sri Lanka
Viet Nam

Heavy flooding in the rainy season followed by severe dry spells made the people living in the Nsanje district of Malawi food insecure as crops failed for a large amount of the population. © Thea Rabe / Norwegian Red Cross

TARGETS AND COMMITMENTS

Background on the establishment of Targets

The four REAP targets are undoubtedly ambitious and will require substantial commitments and resources to achieve. However, this level of ambition is required due to the scale and severity of the challenges we seek to address.

REAP partners recognize that piecemeal, project-level approaches will not be sufficient to provide a credible response to the challenges of an increasingly volatile world. Billions of dollars are required because the lives and wellbeing of billions of people are at risk. Unprecedented partnerships are needed because we are facing unprecedented levels of risk that no organization, country or sector can address in isolation.

While REAP acknowledges that there are still significant gaps in the quantitative evidence base on what is required to scale early action, the partners also commit to addressing that gap both through work with partners and the commissioning of key pieces of work. However, in the interim, we believe that the information provided under each target below qualifies the ambitious demands of the targets. It is now important to work together to secure the necessary commitments to take us towards each of the target outcomes.

> **"Strategies that do not take into account the systemic and linked nature of . . . climate fragility risks will fail, and may exacerbate the risk they set out to address."**
>
> *— OECD*

TARGET 1

50 countries have reviewed and integrated their crisis/disaster risk management and climate adaptation laws, policies, national frameworks for climate services and/or plans to ensure that they reduce climate change impacts and exposure on people and the environment.

In Pakistan, a school safety programme helps children and their communities better prepare for disasters, and know how to react if one strikes. More than 3,000 students in 40 schools in Sanghar district are now aware of the disasters that could affect them. © WFP / Mahira Afzal

WHY

Target 1 focuses on the necessity to better connect the complementary goals of disaster risk reduction/management and climate change adaptation. While the need for more consistent alignment between climate change adaptation and disaster risk management has been widely recognised, integrated approaches at the national level are still in the early stages of development. This is illustrated by a lack of consistent understanding of how existing climate risks relate to disaster risk management, and how disaster risk reduction laws, policies and plans systematically consider future climate change patterns.[11]

There is increased understanding at policy and decision-making levels of the critical need to better understand and prepare for systemic climate and disaster risk. However, much more work is needed to create linkages between policy work at the global level, and to effectively support governments to integrate them into national and local legal and policy frameworks. Early action has the potential to be a bridge between efforts to embed both climate and disaster risk management within national legislative and policy frameworks, providing policy makers with a framework for considering risks across a spectrum of timeframes, stakeholders and hazards.

Integrated approaches to risk analysis, planning and decision making for climate and disaster risk management reduces risks, increases community resilience and accountability and supports governments' sovereign responsibilities to protect populations, locations and economies from predicted hazards. However, stronger political commitment for this shift towards integrated approaches is required.

Governments have the primary responsibility to assist and protect citizens from risk and crises. International actors, notably donor governments and multilateral institutions, support affected governments to meet their commitments under the UNFCCC Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Sendai Framework. This includes early action which can support management of climate risk, reduce disaster losses and also the need for external assistance.

There is a critical role for international organisations and initiatives to play in supporting governments to achieve the ambition under this target. Currently, disjointed approaches by a very broad range of issue-specific organisations to already over-burdened governments, undermine potential for comprehensive, integrated approaches and contribute to inertia in the face of multiple policy demands.

HOW

For early action to advance at scale, enabling national legal and policy frameworks must be the foundation. It is critical that governments are supported to adapt existing policies, processes, frameworks, and tools to integrate disaster and climate risk management and governance in relevant programmes, instruments and budgets. International organizations who have pioneered disaster risk management and governance approaches have a critical role in supporting this effort, not least through the sharing of learning and evidence.

Securing increased political commitment is critical to achieving this target. This work will be led by partners and stakeholders including governments and international organisations such as IFRC, UNDP, UNDRR and UNFCCC with expertise and operational experience in supporting governments to adapt and update policy and legislative frameworks for both disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

In addition to working bilaterally with governments, REAP aims to facilitate inter-governmental collaboration and knowledge exchange. This may include identifying champions or leaders to advocate for integrated approaches. REAP partners in country will work to support the integration of climate and disaster risk management in relevant climate, development, and humanitarian laws, policies and strategies, specifically National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions, Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies and Disaster Risk Management legislation. This may involve bringing together relevant stakeholders from across different departments, ministries and fields of expertise.

11 IFRC (2019) Literature review on aligning climate change adaptation (CCA) and disaster risk reduction (DRR). Available at: https://ifrcgo.org/africa/img/disaster-law/resources/20191208_CCA_DRR_Review_.pdf

Typhoon Haiyan struck the Philippines on 8th November, 2013. Volunteer Lenita Macavinta-Diego used a megaphone when the typhoon hit the barangay Aliputos. © Jarkko Mikkonen / Finnish Red Cross

REAP can be both a vehicle for and beneficiary of systematically joined-up climate change adaptation and disaster risk management efforts. Therefore, REAP will focus on supporting partners, including national governments, who are already leading efforts to do this. At the same time, REAP will seek to ensure that ongoing or planned work on climate change adaptation and disaster risk management embeds early action considerations. This will be done through both the promotion of existing learning and successes and the commissioning of research, evidence and tools that support the creation of enabling policy environments. Finally, resource mobilization to support the integration and mainstreaming of disaster and climate risk management in relevant frameworks and instruments is key. Governments in the poorest countries are often severely resource constrained, with less than US$100 of public funding per citizen per year to allocate across all sectors.[12]

Efforts to achieve Target 1 will be supported by efforts to achieve Targets 2, 3 and 4. Target 2 seeks to ensure that decision makers have the resources to implement early action plans dictated by national policies while Targets 3 and 4 seek to ensure that risk information is delivered in a way that enables decision making in the short term and informs climate and development planning in the medium to long term.

EXISTING COMMITMENTS BY REAP PARTNERS

REAP partners have already made significant commitments to achieving this target through a variety of approaches including supporting governments with integrated approaches to early action, climate change adaptation and disaster risk management in national laws and policies. In addition, partners have committed to further developing the evidence base and policy guidance to support these efforts.

Full details of partners commitments to date and suggested future commitments can be found in Commitment Tracker (Annex 1).

KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN MEASURING SUCCESS

Critical to monitoring and measuring the success of REAP partners in achieving this target will be establishing the parameters by which it will be defined in collaboration with partners leading these activities. For example, what is understood by the term “reviewed and integrated”? What is the minimum level of programming that will count towards this? Further, how will the impact of these activities be measured? That is to say, even if core elements of early action are incorporated into a country’s Disaster Risk Management policy, this does not necessarily mean that an environment conducive to the implementation of early action has been fostered.

Identifying the parameters by which this target will be monitored and identifying key success criteria that will be applicable to the wide range of partners working in this area will be a core facet of the REAP Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework, as outlined in the relevant section below.

In addition to enabling progress monitoring of REAP’s ambitions, the MEL work on this target will contribute to a growing body of evidence on identifying - and even creating - enabling environments for early action at scale.

12 *Kharas in The Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation and UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, 2019*

TARGET 2

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

In Laos, a woman cuts bamboo thatching to restore window shades during a Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction (CBDRR) simulation. The exercises and drills focus on disaster preparedness and response at village level
© Bart Verweij

WHY

While expansion and improvement of early warning systems and legislative frameworks is crucial, without pre-agreed planning and financing arrangements, early warnings do not translate into early action. To be effective, anticipatory action requires establishing and maintaining systems as well as capacity to implement early action. Target 2 recognizes that even with the most timely and accurate warning, people at risk and those assisting them are not always able to take early action if the appropriate pre-arranged and predictable financing and delivery mechanisms are not in place. The core objective of Target 2 is to ensure that Early Warnings can be actioned with robust plans and reliable, appropriate financing delivered through efficient and effective channels.

A vastly increased commitment to driving both humanitarian and climate finance closer to the ground is needed. IIED's Where the Money Matters report notes that only around 10% of climate finance was prioritised to local-level activities between 2003 and 2016. This a critical gap to address if we are to meaningfully support 1 billion people to become safer from disaster- and ensure that decision making sits as close to the ground as possible.

Predictable resources and consistent pre-event coordination are critical to ensuring early action. Timely early action requires investment in preparedness, for example through putting climate and disaster risk finance and insurance solutions in place that provide rapid liquidity when disasters occur. This also enables better planning that is commensurate with the investment in early warning. Early action is most effective when governments, organisations and communities are prepared to act, and are confident of having the resources to do so.

To be successful, early action must be linked to existing early warning, preparedness, resilience and adaptation processes, laws and plans. Scaling up early action will require a holistic approach across all stages of the disaster cycle, that integrates early action into both humanitarian and risk-informed, resilience-based development programmes in hazard-prone areas.

HOW

To leverage resources, build synergies and avoid parallel funding modalities, innovative partnerships and new financing arrangements are needed across humanitarian, development and climate boundaries based on comparative advantages and collective outcomes.

Funding models at both the global and national level must be adapted to integrate climate, development, and humanitarian risk management approaches in a coherent and complementary manner. While humanitarian funding is often timeframe restricted and governed by consideration of humanitarian imperative, development and adaptation financing is longer term but much less flexible or adaptable to emerging crises. Funding must be allocated in a manner that considers all stages of disaster cycle management and climate change adaptation, investing in building both resilience and the capacity for early action across sectors. Both crisis and climate financing packages at country levels should be underpinned by risk conscious development investments to support national efforts to better prevent and prepare for crises.[13]

Many REAP partners are developing innovative approaches to these issues. In addition, there is a wealth of financial instruments which, when layered appropriately to the contextual risks of a given country, can support credible and sustainable response to the risks faced by the most climate vulnerable communities. The InsuResilience Global Partnership supports countries in building up comprehensive climate and disaster risk financing strategies, including a risk-layering approach that allows for national planning with the most cost-effective risk financing solutions.

There are growing bodies of evidence to support the use of these instruments and a wealth of existing practice and learning that can be used to support actors in scaling-up financing that supports early action. These instruments include but are not limited to:

- Local or institutional contingency budgets and funds
- Pooled Funds
- Crisis modifiers
- Contingent financing (e.g. Forecast-based Financing, contingent credit lines)
- Market-based instruments (e.g. (index based) sovereign insurance and microinsurance , cat bonds)
- Hybrid instruments such as the Famine Action Mechanism

13 *Ref CDP Call to Action*

However, as noted in the previous section, simply increasing the amount of money earmarked specifically for early warning-early action, will not be sufficient to achieve the ambitions inherent in this target. Review and reform of the way that development and crises are funded is required. Making additional funding available for early action is welcome and much needed. However, to truly embed anticipatory approaches, existing funding streams and implementation modalities must be adapted to ensure that the capacity for early action is mainstreamed. As noted previously, early action is not only more cost effective than humanitarian response but has huge potential to de-risk and protect investments in development, resilience and adaptation.

Innovation in existing financing instruments, mechanisms and portfolio is required to fully capitalize on this. Disjointed approaches to how we plan for and finance disasters undermine effort to provide comprehensive solutions and even exacerbate risks.

With this in mind, REAP is strongly committed to joining, supporting and amplifying collective efforts to reform; adapting existing crisis financing modalities is an essential pre-requisite for achieving this target. REAP fully endorses the Centre for Disaster Protection calls to donors to adhere to the following principles and standards to provide coherent country-level crisis financing:

- Tailor country-level crisis financing packages to an assessment of risks and funding and financing needs;
- Integrate incentives to take responsibility for prevention and preparedness in financing packages;
- Underpin crisis financing packages with risk-conscious development investments.

While the need to scale-up the availability of early action financing is critical, this must also be matched with capacity to conduct cross-sectoral early action planning and programming. Many REAP partners have been leading on piloting and scaling up early action planning and protocols. Organizations such as the IFRC, FAO, WFP and the UK Met Office have been working with governments for years supporting the mainstreaming and integration of forecast-based early action protocols into risk monitoring and disaster management.

Proven mechanisms include early action plans that identify the actions that different government agencies, civil society, and individuals will take when an early warning arrives. Early action plans must be linked to specific financing mechanisms to ensure adequate human and operational resources are available to respond to warnings. Financial protection measures, including climate and disaster risk finance instruments such as catastrophe bonds, national budget allocations, contingent credit and contingency funds, can help ensure that predictable, adequate, and timely financing is available to support early action. Private finance also has a role to play in increasing the supply of funding and designing and providing new financing instruments, in collaboration with public actors.

Likewise, early action plans should be linked to delivery mechanisms, including shock-responsive social protection and humanitarian cash programming, that can be triggered to provide support to vulnerable households and individuals, so that they can take anticipatory action and better cope with disasters and crises. Investment to strengthen these delivery mechanisms is required so that they are robust, efficient and ready to scale-up when needed.

There are multiple methods for delivering early action programming, many of them pioneered by REAP partners. Investment in national systems in key sectors is critical to ensure more effective delivery channels are established and made adaptable when needed, including core and shock-responsive social protection and humanitarian cash programming where national systems are weak or non-existent.

As we seek to scale up early action, there are many positive examples to look to and build upon, including:

- Early Action linked to Community Development programmes (e.g. by Togo Red Cross, Impact Based Forecasting in Ethiopia)
- Early Action delivered through social protection and safety nets (e.g. WFP in Bangladesh, Haiti, Nepal, Philippines and Dominican Republic, Hunger Safety Net Programme in Kenya)
- Early action facilitated by humanitarian funds (e.g. UN Central Emergency Response Fund, Start Network, IFRC Forecast-based Action by the Disaster Relief Emergency Fund)
- Early action linked to shock responsive climate and development programming and financial protection instruments such as parametric and index-based insurance
- Early action funded by Local Government Units' annual budget allocation (e.g. Philippines)

EXISTING COMMITMENTS

To date, REAP partners have committed to a wide range of efforts to scale up early action financing and programming at global, national and subnational levels. These commitments include scaling up available funding, adapting existing programmes, increased capacity building and strengthened integration between programmes. Due to the strong complementarity between the InsuResilience Global Partnership and REAP, all poor and vulnerable people benefitting from risk financing solutions that support early action under InsuResilience will contribute to REAP's target 2 of covering 1 billion more people by financing and delivery mechanisms. The InsuResilience Global Partnership's Vision 2025, presented at the UN Climate Action Summit in 2019, aims at, inter alia, covering 500 million poor and vulnerable people against climate and disaster shocks by 2025. Full details of confirmed partner commitments can be found in Annex 1.

KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN MEASURING SUCCESS

The first step in measuring success regarding this target will be to establish the minimum standards to define terms such as "covered by" and "effective". This target requires the establishment of criteria that are sufficiently robust to measure the impact and effectiveness of interventions, while being flexible and adaptable enough to be used by a wide range of stakeholders. Efficiency or speed of financial flows and timelines between triggering of finance and initiation of early actions will be a key success criterion for this Target, as well comparative analysis of counterfactuals; what would have happened if early actions had not been taken. This will support expansion of the evidence base for early action, making it accessible and convincing to an increasing range of audiences.

While this target is very much focused on the operational factors that will take early action to scale, it will be very important in the design of the relevant sections of the MEL Framework to embed explicit elements of impact and quality measurement of actions. In the efforts to reach 1 billion, it is critical that the focus on delivering impactful programming embodies the principle of protecting lives, livelihoods, economies and development gains.

WFP's R4 Rural Resilience Initiative has broken new ground in climate risk management by enabling the poorest farmers to pay for drought insurance with their labour, while developing their capacity to pay for it with cash.
© WFP / Badre Bahaji

TARGET 3

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

In Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, retaining walls, concrete drainage and brick footpaths are replacing weather-worn sandbags all across camp as the authorities seek to ensure that the heavy rainfalls can run off in proper channels without further destabilizing the denuded slopes causing flooding and landslides. © IFRC

WHY

Target 3 aims to address the issue of continuing gaps between increased investments in early warning infrastructure and the capacity of those systems to reach the people most affected. In establishing this Target, the success of existing initiatives such as CREWS[14] is acknowledged and promoted as a sector standard.

Despite advancements in communications technology, there remains a critical gap between those who observe and generate hazard warnings and those who receive and respond to their impact – this is the "last mile challenge"; resolution of which is one of the most universally necessary improvements required in early warning system development, management and communication.

Under Target 3, partners aim to couple the investment in early warning systems to investment in the capacity and agency of 'last mile[15]' communities to take early action. Much of the investment in early warning systems to date has focused on equipment and technology to forecast hazards, without ensuring that warnings translate to early action in the most at-risk communities. Many systems are early warning-centred, and REAP partners want to see them become people-centred.

Between 1970 and 2019, 79% of disasters worldwide involved weather, water, and climate-related hazards. These disasters accounted for 56% of deaths and 75% of economic losses from disasters associated with natural hazards reported during that period. As climate change continues to threaten human lives, ecosystems and economies, risk information and early warning systems are increasingly seen as key for reducing these impacts. The majority of countries, including 88% of least developed countries and small island states, that submitted their Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to UNFCCC have identified early warning systems as a "top priority".[16]

A 2012 study, The Cost Effectiveness of Early Warning, looked at how investments in early warning in developing countries similar to those already made in developed countries could lead to major cost efficiencies. The study estimated returns of between $4 and $36 for every $1 spent on investment in early warning.

Sustainable basic weather observations are a fundamental pre-requisite for weather forecasts, climate information and early warning systems, yet large gaps persist, especially in LDC's and SIDS. Critical gaps in investment persist at both the global and national levels. As the 2020 State of Climate Services Report shows, many nations lack Multi Hazard Early Warning System (MHEWS) capacity and financial investment is not always flowing into the areas where investment is most needed. The report notes the following stark realities:

- Data provided by 138 WMO Members (including 74% of LDCs and 41% of SIDS globally) show that just 40% of them have MHEWSs.
- One third of every 100,000 people in the 73 countries that provided information is not covered by early warnings
- There is insufficient capacity worldwide to translate early warning into early action – especially in LDCs.
- Africa faces the largest gaps in capacity. For example, just 44,000 people in 100,000 in Africa are covered by early warnings in countries where data are available. Furthermore, REAP partners such as WMO advise that accurate hydrological info is even more scare despite the leading role hydrology plays in the impacts of climate change through droughts and floods. Greater attention is needed on the interlinkages between climate and water risks, leveraging global processes such as the UN Water Action Decade, the UN Water Global Accelerator Framework and the WMO Water and Climate Coalition for SDG6

14 https://www.crews-initiative.org/en
15 REAP use 'last mile' to reflect that often those who are most exposed or vulnerable to the risks for which early warning systems are designed to warn against, are sometimes only considered as a participant in the design, implementation and effectiveness of these systems as an afterthought.
16 2020 State of Climate Services Report

In the Sahel region of Africa, the rainy season starts towards the end of the summer. Often the ground is so dry that it cannot absorb the water and local flooding occurs. © Suomen Punainen Risti / Finnish Red Cross

HOW

Although investment to strengthen climate services at the local level has increased, funding needs remain unmet. Closing the funding gap requires building on existing investments, leveraging additional funds and improving effectiveness[17].

Tracking of investments for improving risk information and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems is insufficiently detailed for accurate assessment of the level of financing needed and the specific components of such systems that require attention. Nonetheless, important information on financing levels and directions is beginning to emerge. Examples of current financing for risk information and early warning systems include, CREWS as mentioned above, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR)[18], the UK's Weather and Climate Information for Africa (WISER)[19] and Asia Regional Resilience to a Change Climate (ARCC)[20] programs and the Hydromet Alliance, comprised of 12 organizations many of whom are REAP members.

All the above-mentioned organizations, and many not mentioned, are committed to collectively scaling up action that strengthens the capacity of developing countries to deliver high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems, water, hydrological and climate services. They provide much guidance on the kinds of infrastructure investments that are required to meet the last mile challenge.

EXISTING COMMITMENTS FROM REAP PARTNERS

To date, REAP partners have made a wide variety of commitments including increased investment in early warning systems, adaptation of existing investments to better facilitate early action, strengthening coordination and coherence between early warning initiatives and an increased focus on ensuring last mile delivery. Full details of partner commitments to date can be found in in the Commitment Tracker (Annex 1).

KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN MEASURING SUCCESS

Perhaps more so than any of the other Targets, integrating a strong focus on measuring effectiveness of investment and impact for affected communities is critical for this target. Large scale investments in early warning infrastructure can be made with relative ease, but ensuring that these investments result in impactful early action for the most affected communities is critical. The partnership will work closely with technical partners to identify suitable metrics for measuring progress in addition to identifying what further work is needed in terms of guidance and principles for designing and financing people-centred early warning systems. These measures will not only contribute to the monitoring of efforts under this Target, but will make an important contribution to the overall evidence base to promote people-centred early action approaches in development and management of early warning systems.

17 *Ref: CREWS*
18 *https://www.gfdrr.org/en*
19 *https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/about-us/what/working-with-other-organisations/international/projects/wiser*
20 *https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/international-development/arrcc*

TARGET 4

1 billion more people are covered by new or improved early warning systems, including heatwave early warning, connected to longer-term risk management systems, and supported by effective risk communication and public stakeholder dialogue to prompt informed action.

In 2019, with the lean season in full swing, southern Africa was in the grip of unprecedented climate-driven disaster. Temperatures in the region rose at more than twice the average global rate. © WFP / Matteo Cosorich

WHY

Target 4 speaks to the emerging risks posed by climate change and underlines, complementing Target 2, the need to drive early warning information to the people and places most affected by these risks in a way that is reliable, understandable and actionable.

Preparedness efforts and early warning systems are only effective if they enable early action by at-risk communities ahead of impact, to ensure the safety of both the people and their livelihoods.

Without explicit investments in decision-making systems, coordinated multisectoral preparedness and response, contextualised alerts and communication strategies – and the capacity of communities to act on the warning – other early warning system components will be ineffective. There is a need to invest in enhancing countries' capacities when it comes to multisectoral coordination, communication and dissemination of early warnings as well as in impact-based forecasting.

Enhanced attention in Target 4 is on heatwaves; a costly hidden killer that threatens lives and livelihoods of people all over the world, particularly in urban areas. In 2019, convening partners of REAP agreed that Target 4 should contain a specific reference to extreme heat in recognition of its emergence as an increasingly prevalent and severe climate hazard. While progress has been made in prioritizing extreme heat as a scientific research and policy priority, more work is needed to strengthen collaboration and create the coherence necessary for early action to extreme heat at scale. Extreme heat accounts for some of the mostly deadly disasters on record. For example, the 2003 European heatwave is estimated to have caused 70,000 excess deaths, while the 2010 Russia heatwave is estimated to have killed over 55,000 people. Yet many regions do not yet have heatwave plans or even early warning systems for heat. In many developing countries, heat mortality is not recorded, but where assessments are carried out, the cost is huge. Despite their significant impact, the rising trend, and the strong predictability, heat risks have often been left behind in disaster risk management interventions: most countries do not have impact-based heat health warning systems.

Early warning systems that incorporate heat could reduce health risks and discomfort of five billion people globally. Actions to prevent heat wave deaths include increasing coverage of early warning systems and heat action plans, through close coordination between city officials, meteorological agencies, health specialists and humanitarians; building heat reduction strategies into urban growth; raising public awareness and ensuring the necessary legislative frameworks are in place to facilitate action.

HOW

As noted above, a key component of EWS improvement and increasing coverage is for providers to move increasingly towards Impact Based Forecasting. IFRC state that

The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) actively encourages impact-based forecasting as a mechanism to deliver aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Sustainable Development Agenda, and the aims of the Risk informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) and the Anticipation Hub. However, in 2020 only 75 WMO Members (39%) indicated that they provide Impact Based Forecasting services.

As such, the promotion and enabling of impact-based forecasting is a core deliverable for REAP under this Target. Amongst the REAP membership, there are several of the world's innovators of multi-stakeholder impact-based forecasting approaches. To achieve this Target, we aim to see sustained and increasing investment in all aspects of designing and implementing impact-based forecasting, increased commitment from governments to invest and engage in developing multi-hazard impact-based forecasting and strong commitments to ensure people-centred approaches centre indigenous and local knowledge.

In addition, there is a need for substantial investment and engagement in risk communication with a focus on ensuring that the early warnings people receive, - whether they are a government or household decision-maker - are clear and actionable in terms of content, delivery and timing. This requires improvement of communication infrastructure and approaches. Organizations working on this agenda must embed community consultations in all parts of the process, particularly at an early design stage for both early warning systems and risk communication strategies. This is essential to ensure that stakeholders' priority information needs are considered, and that

Roshida walks through Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. She uses an umbrella to protect her from the harsh sun. The camp is built on an area that was previously covered by forest. Now the ground is exposed and there is little respite from the sweltering heat. © Farzana Hossen / British Red Cross

essential early warning system content and delivery can be contextualized. Early warning systems and the related risk communication strategies must also be flexible and adaptable to feedback of end users. Access to and understanding of vital EWS information is just as important as the production of the information itself.

Finally, in relation to heatwaves, much work is needed in preparing for people and places for this burgeoning threat. Fortunately, amongst REAP partners and stakeholders are global leaders on heatwave scientific research and policy advocacy including the Global Heat Health Information Network, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance.

The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN), an initiative of the WMO and member of REAP, has called for an integrated approach to heat health risk management incorporating Early Warning into multisectoral policy and coordination mechanisms, focused simultaneously on long term climate adaptation and emergency risk management. Promoting and enabling this approach will be a key tenet of REAP's strategic approach on the heat aspect of this target.

Increased attention is needed in relation to extreme heat to secure global political acknowledgement of this hazard as a core facet of climate change; one that is already present rather than on a distant horizon.

EXISTING COMMITMENTS BY REAP PARTNERS

To date, partners have made significant commitments including improving information sharing and dissemination, strengthening monitoring of systems with a focus on last mile delivery, developing specific policies and guidance on heat and, crucially, significantly increased focus on people centred Impact Based Forecasting. Full details can be found in in the Commitment Tracker (Annex 1).

KEY ISSUES TO CONSIDER IN MEASURING SUCCESS

As noted above in relation to Target 3, quality and impact measurement are critical to measuring success for this multi-faceted target Existing and potential commitments towards the Heat and Impact-Based Forecasting aspects of the Target have an element of "SMART" monitoring inherent in them, but careful attention will also need to be paid to their impact. In short, how will we ensure that new policies, guidelines, principles and frameworks actually result in more consistent, effective and efficient early action? The REAP MEL Framework will also need to pay specific attention to the risk communication aspect of this target. As with Target 3, REAP will be looking to the considerable expertise of its members to identify programme implementation and MEL approaches that will capture the effectiveness and impact of the partnership's risk communication efforts.

"Impact-based forecasting provides the information needed to act before disasters to minimise the socio-economic costs of weather and climate hazards. Organisations and individuals can make critical decisions to ensure that resources and supplies are in place to take early action and to respond as soon as it is safe to do so."

Madagascar and Mozambique launched advanced drone training in the first inter-state collaboration of its kind, pairing facilitators and participants from governmental disaster management offices. © WFP / Katarzyna Chojnacka

MONITORING PROGRESS AND RESULTS

Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework

In order to measure progress against REAP's four ambitious targets, as well as determine which actions are likely to drive the systemic change the partnership is aiming to achieve, a robust monitoring, evaluation and learning framework is required that will seek to aggregate data and provide evidence to inform strategic decisions made by the partnership.

Design Principles

The following design principles are agreed by partners to ensure efforts to scale-up early action is aligned behind some key tenets. REAP's MEL framework aims to:

1. Promote **people-centred** early action and therefore MEL approaches employed will need to monitor this accordingly.
2. Promote **country-focused** approaches that build on **national** and **local** structures, capacities and mechanisms.
3. Focus on **outcomes** – measuring systemic change at the macro level.
4. Ensure the partnership takes **evidence-based** decisions and approaches.
5. Measure changes in **knowledge**, **attitudes** and **behaviours** that contribute to the scale-up of anticipatory action.
6. Recognise the **complex nature** of this endeavour and that many components are beyond the partnership's sphere of influence. Therefore, the MEL framework needs to remain **flexible** and **adapt** accordingly.

Adaptive Management

Given the 5-year timeframe, the complex nature of the partnership and task-at-hand, as well as the many factors that will remain outside the partnership's sphere of influence, incorporating elements of adaptive management[21] is recommended.

This means that, whilst REAP's Framework for Action will not be under continual review for the 5-year period, how the partnership seeks to achieve its targets may evolve in order to remain relevant in the ever-changing external environment. Assumptions and hypotheses will also need to be tested and activities adapted accordingly to ensure the partnership's objectives remain on track.

21 Making adaptive rigour work: Principles and practices for strengthening monitoring, evaluation and learning for adaptive management. Ben Ramalingam, Leni Wild and Anne L. Buffardi April 2019

Tools and Approaches

Since REAP aims to measure change at the macro level as opposed to ground level projects or programmes, a suite of tools and approaches that focus on outcomes and measuring systemic change are proposed:

- **Maturity Assessment Model:** as per the approach used to measure progress against Grand Bargain commitments in the 2018 Humanitarian Accountability Report, a maturity assessment model could help to establish a baseline of the existing level of understanding, investment in and institutionalisation of early action approaches. The methodology would need to be developed and agreed with partners, but could potentially focus on momentum, direction and environment.
- **Outcome harvesting:** This approach is particularly appropriate for complex scenarios and in innovation or development work. Therefore, outcome harvesting will be explored as another tool to help determine what effects REAP is having and what can be attributed to the actions of the partnership.
- **Outcome Mapping:** Outcome mapping (OM) is a methodology for planning, monitoring and evaluating development initiatives in order to bring about sustainable social change. As the name suggests, its niche is understanding outcomes; the so-called 'missing-middle' or 'black box' of results that emerge downstream from the initiative's activities but upstream from longer-term economic, environmental, political or demographic changes. Therefore, this approach will be explored as a complementary M&E tool alongside others mentioned.
- **Most Significant Change:** To support measurement of progress with qualitative data, the Most Significant Change (MSC) method will be considered, which could potentially help to generate evidence from key stakeholder groups that can then inform strategic decisions, as well as the overall direction of the partnership.

As part of the process to develop REAP's MEL Framework, partners will be consulted on the options available for measuring progress and results and to identify what contributions can be provided by partners. Approaches and tools will be piloted in 2021 to inform the framework.

Building up and contributing to the evidence base for early action will be a cross-cutting focus across all aspects of REAP's MEL efforts. It is critical that the existing evidence base is built upon to ensure that a robust and convincing case can be made to a broad range of stakeholders on all aspects of early action, from the "why" and "how" to measuring success and avoiding failure.

ROLE OF THE REAP PARTNERS

As a partnership, REAP convenes partners from across a wide range of communities and stakeholder groups and it is through these partners that scale will be achieved on this important agenda. REAP's partners have been the ones leading and effecting change to date, and it is the partners who will collaborate and coordinate to deliver effective early action at scale in the years to come.

REAP creates a space in which partners and aligned organizations will use the ambitious targets to mobilise commitments and inspire action. REAP will not create a new funding mechanism or directly implement ground-level projects. REAP will, however, seek to enable coherence, alignment, and complementarity of existing initiatives, while learning together what new initiatives are needed to make 1 Billion People Safer or what ongoing initiatives need to be scaled up and replicated. REAP partners agree that only by working together across sectoral silos and involving those at risk, can global ability to act ahead of climate extremes and disasters be strengthened. As well as making commitments towards the Framework for Action, partners will need to support monitoring, evaluation and learning activities to ensure the partnership is on track, as well as encouraging others to play their role in scaling-up action.

Hodan Mohamed lives in the village of Hara Adan, Somaliland. She's on her way back home from the water reserve pool with her donkey. © Aapo Huhta / Finnish Red Cross

ROLE OF THE REAP BOARD

The REAP Board is expected to play a key role in supporting the delivery of the Framework for Action. Board members are expected to contribute as:

1

Agents of change

The Board is intended to model and exemplify the systemic change that REAP aims to achieve through bridging silos and strengthening understanding across different communities. Therefore, board members will hopefully become a network of high-level advocates within the partnership; able to effect change both within their own institutions but also with other key actors and stakeholders as required.

2

Providers of strategic guidance

Board members provide direction and guidance on issues of strategic importance; therefore, whilst not engaged in the finer details, the outline and overarching content of the Framework for Action will be presented to the Board for comments and contributions.

3

Recruiters

Board members are expected to identify critical gaps in the partnership and support the Secretariat to recruit new members, thereby broadening the partnership with a view to achieving our overarching targets.

4

Resource mobilisers

Whilst REAP will not manage a fund or have any responsibility for financial allocations, there is a desire to marry the ambition to scale-up early action with the necessary resources. Therefore, Board members are expected to support the Secretariat with identifying opportunities to match resources with the capacity to deliver people-centred early action.

ROLE OF THE REAP SECRETARIAT

The REAP Secretariat will facilitate the development and implementation of the Framework for Action. In collaboration with partners, the Secretariat will collate inputs, coordinate activities, and set timelines and milestones for delivering on the Framework for Action by 2025. It will also lead efforts to track progress towards REAP targets.

The Secretariat will engage partners to define the processes, plans and investments that are needed to deliver on the Framework. In particular, the Secretariat will support the partnership in securing the commitments needed for achieving REAP's ambitious targets. In addition to engaging existing and prospective members, the Secretariat seeks to enable REAP partners to lead advocacy on risk-informed early action. This includes providing partners with the appropriate fora, tools, and materials to influence stakeholders and inspire action.

By actively bringing together partners across the climate, development, humanitarian and meteorological communities, the Secretariat will support partners in co-creating approaches for more joined-up, risk-informed early action. The REAP Marketplace, under development by a dedicated Working Group, provides a potential platform for identifying opportunities to link partners, resources and capacities in specific contexts, with the overall aim of scaling-up and connecting efforts on risk-informed early action. Furthermore, the 3W Working Group, mapping existing early action initiatives, and the Early Warning Initiatives Working Group, focusing on coherence between initiatives, are of particular relevance for co-producing greater action by REAP partners and stakeholders.

In collaboration with Working Groups and partners, the Secretariat will also contribute to sharing good practice and evidence for risk-informed early action across REAP stakeholders. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge, learning and practices from relevant communities, the Secretariat can support translating know-how into early action at scale. partners have noted the potential value to informing future funding decisions and identifying successful approaches to be tested elsewhere.

The REAP Secretariat will lead collaboration and coordination with other relevant partnerships and initiatives on behalf of the partnership. Ensuring alignment and complementarity of inter-linked efforts is crucial to delivering on the Framework for Action. Regular collaborative arrangements have already been set up between the Secretariat and the Anticipation Hub, CREWS and the InsuResilience Global Partnership, with specific consideration of the Framework for Action. Further opportunities for joined-up delivery with other relevant initiatives are being explored.

The Secretariat will work with partners on a stakeholder mapping exercise to support these activities, with a particular focus on engagement with stakeholders in the climate and development spheres to ensure that the evidence base, good practice and cross sectoral working relationships built in recent years in the area of humanitarian anticipatory action can be expanded and inspire new areas of collaboration.

Key opportunitites in 2021

January 25th, 2021
Launch of the Framework for Action at the Climate Adaptation Summit anchoring event on early warning-early action co-hosted by REAP and CREWS/WMO

April 2021
Second REAP Board meeting

April-June 2021
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework developed

May 2021
High-Level Dialogue: 'Turning Commitments into Action' organised in collaboration with Wilton Park

June 2021
G7 Meetings

Ad hoc events

Other opportunities, including exploration of links to mid-term review of the Sendai Framework

July 2021
UN High Level Political Forum

September 2021
UN General Assembly:
UN Secretary General's Common Agenda
UN Food Systems Summit

November 2021
UNFCCC COP26 Global Launch and announcement of partner commitments at high-level side event

By December 2021
Agreement on hosting and funding arrangements for the REAP Secretariat from March 2022 onwards by REAP partners and Board

Post COP 26 activities up to 2025

December 2022
Progress update

December 2023
Midterm Review

December 2024
Progress update

Q1 2026
Impact Assessment

NEXT STEPS, MILESTONES AND TIMELINES

To turn the ambition of the Framework for Action into reality, next steps, milestones and timelines are presented on the page opposite. In close collaboration with REAP partners and Board members, the Secretariat is taking stock of existing and emerging opportunities to build support for the implementation of the Framework for Action. Deepening collaboration with existing partners, as well as mobilising new partners, will be key to these efforts.

Key milestones in the short term include a virtual dialogue organized with Wilton Park, focused on co-development of the Framework with partners and the launch of the Framework for Action at the Climate Adaptation Summit in January 2021. Following the launch, a closed-door pledging conference will provide a forum for REAP's partners and stakeholders to raise the ambition on commitments in the run-up to UNFCCC COP26. Bringing together partners at an in-person event if possible, the conference will provide a forum to take stock of the commitments to date and encourage more ambitious action. With strong links to the UK's COP26 Presidency, the 26th Conference of Parties to the UNFCCC will provide a high-level global stage for announcing and profiling partners' ambitious commitments and achievements to date.

While all the milestones up to 2025 cannot be defined at this stage, activities following COP26 will include an annual review of progress towards the targets as well as the continuous development and expansion of the partnership.

cover photo: © WFP / Evelyn Fey