

World Vision Iraq

ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Fact Sheet

Anticipatory action (AA) is [defined](#) as acting ahead of predicted [hazardous events](#) to prevent or reduce expected acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold. AA is a key component of World Vision's Disaster and Risk Reduction (DRR) Roadmap. We collaborate closely with governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and local civil society to implement Iraq AA projects.

In 2023, with funding from [Aktion Deutschland Hilft](#) (ADH), [World Vision Middle East and Eastern Europe](#) (WV MEER) launched a pilot in the MEER region - specifically in Lebanon, Iraq, and Syria - with the aim of minimising the impact of disasters on vulnerable groups, particularly children, women, and marginalised communities.



WV MEER is leveraging the AA approach through projects that focus on strengthening institutional and community capacity to respond to humanitarian crises, thereby enhancing local actors' ability to be pre-emptive in their response.

CONTEXT OVERVIEW

Iraq is among the top most vulnerable countries to climate change. The country is grappling with rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, severe droughts, water shortages, and frequent sand and dust storms. Disaster preparedness is limited by resource constraints, institutional weaknesses, and infrastructure issues, worsened by recent conflicts. Efforts to improve disaster response are hindered by gaps in coordination and early warning systems. [World Vision Iraq's](#) AA project and feasibility study focused mainly on the Ninewa Governorate, which has been severely impacted by climate shocks such as drought and wildfires.

WV Iraq's AA intervention is a proactive initiative aimed at preparing and protecting vulnerable communities, specifically in [Hatra, Ninewa](#), from [climate-induced challenges](#) such as drought. With support from various stakeholders and local government departments, WV Iraq focuses on enhancing the resilience of rural communities by establishing an anticipatory framework that addresses predictable risks, engages local populations, and strengthens community and stakeholder collaboration.



Various types of activities were activated according to the indicators and risks identified following feasibility assessments and risk forecasting in coordination with local communities and key stakeholders. They included:



Awareness raising
in villages and schools



AA trainings
conducted with key stakeholders



Activation of **early warning systems**



Distribution of cash
amounts to purchase seeds and fodder in preparation for drought and rain scarcity seasons

RECOMMENDATIONS

FOR DONORS, GOVERNMENT STAKEHOLDERS, HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCIES

- 1

CLIMATE ADAPTATION MEASURES

Implement water conservation techniques and promote well usage for water sourcing while raising awareness in the community about these methods.
- 2

GESI IMPACT ANALYSIS

Conduct a thorough impact analysis with a focus on Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) components.
- 3

GOVERNMENT SUPPORT

Engage government stakeholders to establish a local AA plan and develop policies addressing drought-related anticipatory actions and increase awareness of government support.
- 4

STRENGTHEN EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

Invest in and enhance early warning systems. Ensure alerts are disseminated through multiple reliable and accessible channels.
- 5

CAPACITY BUILDING

Provide training for government staff and local stakeholders to improve skills and readiness.
- 6

COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

Promote active involvement of community members in anticipatory action activities.
- 7

COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS

Foster partnerships among government agencies, humanitarian organisations, local communities, and other stakeholders to leverage resources and expertise for effective drought mitigation.
- 8

INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE

Invest in critical infrastructure like water storage, irrigation systems, and drought-resistant crops. Adopt efficient water use technologies and promote climate-smart agriculture.

