

SA-IO Disaster Preparedness: ECHO and Partners' workshop

Breakout group: Anticipatory Action / Conflict

The current situation:

- Limited experience of AA **for/ in** Conflict beside election preparedness/ civil unrest preparedness in Eswatini, election preparedness in Malawi, increased political polarisation in Zimbabwe and on going conflict in Northern Mozambique
- Diversity of conflict situations (over natural resources, tribal conflict, linked to elections and political unrest, conflict, etc.)
- AU - Continental Early Warning System for Conflict
- Limited evidences (only 2 concrete example on the Anticipation Hub website, Mali and DRC)
- Organisations have access to information related to conflict that they are currently using but not in a consolidated way and that could help them set up AA mechanisms (e.g. context analysis, monitoring of social media, and historic knowledge, etc.)
- Organisations have experience of AA in other settings that could be applied in conflict setting (Action Action)
- Concerns and limited expertise of conflict management

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Gaps to be filled / challenges to be addressed

- ✓ Conflict prediction – how accurate are conflict forecasts/ lead time?
... or is it about predicting the peak of the conflict?
- ✓ Understanding what trigger would make people leave
- ✓ Who is most likely to be impacted- the necessary understanding of vulnerability
... pre identification checklist
- ✓ Which actions are feasible? More evidence needed
- ✓ Empirical evidence – rigor of the forecast (avoid unnecessary panic)
- ✓ How do we ensure that early action doesn't fuel conflict? /Do no harm considerations
- ✓ New type of pre-agreement / arrangements to be made (e.g. health system access, dissemination of early warning, prepositioning, etc.)
- ✓ Access issues

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Role / added value for ECHO and its partners?

Partners:

- Presence – access? - Context analysis
- Understanding humanitarian principles and the criticality of remaining neutral
- Part of the agreed upon response framework that should include AA

EU/ ECHO

- Access negotiation/ human right (EU)
- Ability for intelligence and behind the scene diplomacy/ conflict resolution
- No regret approach also apply for conflict!
- Financing

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Recommendations

- Develop expertise/ You need a fully trained system (Conflict analysis, IHL/ protection/ civ-mil coordination, engagement with community)
- Strengthen localisation/ network of local/ community based organisations
- Expand partnership with right based organisations – faith based organisation
- Set up safe hotlines for key conflict related information
- Consider soft action: advocacy, training (first aid, protection, etc.)
- Combine and interlink EWS for conflict and natural hazard (still separate)
- Use satellite imagery to determine what could cause more conflict (troupes building up, smoke, etc.)
- Joint framework for different actors to come together and work on AA (humanitarian, development) as part of ERP
- Generate more evidence (systematic rigorous evaluation)
- Be innovative