

Scoping the Cash and Climate Landscape in East Africa and Kenya

Focusing on Cash and Anticipatory Action



Mitigation

Preventing/reducing GHG emissions and environmental degradation

Preparedness

Forecasting climate events, mitigating their potential impacts and getting cash-ready to respond

Anticipatory Action

Acting ahead of predicted hazardous events to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold

Post-Shock Response

Responding to the impacts of climate-induced shocks/crises

Recovery

Adapting to future impacts of climate change

Resilience

Forecasting climate events, mitigating their potential impacts and getting cash-ready to respond

Authorship:

This report outlines the main findings and recommendations from the NORCAP joint Cash and Climate Scoping mission to Kenya/East Africa, that took place from Monday 05 to Friday 09 of February 2024.

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We are deeply grateful for their collaboration in advancing our understanding of cash and climate initiatives in the region, with an especial focus on the Anticipatory Action space, without being limited to it.

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About NORCAP

NORCAP works to improve aid to better protect and empower people affected by crisis and climate change. We do this by providing expertise and solutions to humanitarian, development and peacebuilding partners.

NORCAP works in two complementary ways to improve aid:

- We provide targeted expertise to strengthen our partners' response.
- We collaborate with partners to develop solutions to un-met gaps and challenges.

NORCAP is a part of the Norwegian Refugee Council.

I. Scoping Mission Main Objective and Outcomes

The main objective of this scoping exercise was to: **Analyze the needs, capacity and adequacy for NORCAP's CashCap project and Climate Action portfolios to provide quality support to the stakeholders supporting preparedness and anticipatory action, in response to climate related crises, at East Africa Regional and/or National level in Kenya, and in alignment with NORCAP's strategy 2022-2024.** The mission also aimed at identifying capacity gaps and needs in the implementation and coordination of Anticipatory Action (AA) in the region, and potential partnerships and entry points for NORCAP support.

Methodology

The methodology for this scoping mission considered the following:

- Relevant bibliographic review.
- Remote key informants' interview (pre and post mission to Nairobi) with relevant stakeholders, including global and regional scope.
- Face-to-face key informant interviews with relevant regional and country-based stakeholders. This includes UN Agencies, INGOs, Local organisations, Government, and others (Academia, Climate services related agencies, etc.).
- Roundtable / focus group discussion engaging main cash and climate stakeholders in the East Africa region.

Main Outcomes

Outcomes expected (as per ToRs)

- **Clear overview of the overall needs** in Preparedness and Anticipatory Action, from the Climate Action and Cash perspective, at Regional East Africa and National level in Kenya.
- **Mapping of stakeholders** working in Preparedness and Anticipatory Action, based in Kenya.
- **Key opportunities** for CashCap/Climate Action to support systemic and/or operational humanitarian response in Preparedness and Anticipatory Action to climate related crisis at the regional and/or Kenya country level.
- **Potential scope** of CashCap/Climate AA interagency role (regional and/or national), identifying challenges and main activities.
- **Opportunities** for NORCAP support to Preparedness and Anticipatory Action at a regional/country level (Kenya).
- **Recommendations** from scoping mission findings to NORCAP and to stakeholders.

Key findings and recommendations



Climate prediction as a pivotal aspect to be strengthened, especially the impact-based forecast that informs trigger and thresholds development for both regional and country based hazards.



Anticipatory Action and Early Action is a priority at both regional and national level in many countries in the East Africa region, including, but not limited to, Kenya. This demands a comprehensive multi-stakeholder (humanitarian agencies, climate services actors, disaster and social protection national actors, donors, other development partners etc.) and multisectoral approach at a regional, national and sub-national /community levels.



NORCAP, with its technical, neutral, operational expertise, could play a key broker role in the East Africa region Cash and AA/Early Action space at both systemic and operational level bringing to the table its Climate Action and Cash and markets expertise, as well as its unique interagency mandate.



Combined effort from cash assistance and climate services lens is required for effective anticipatory action and early action in the region, including better communication and coordination between both the IGAD East Africa Anticipatory Action Working Group and the East Africa Regional Cash Working group, but also through existing national coordination platforms and/or mechanisms. Synergies include both systemic and operational aspects.

II. Cash and Humanitarian Response to Climate Shocks in East Africa

East Africa stands out as one of the world's regions most vulnerable to climate-induced disasters, a susceptibility that has been significantly intensified by climate change, but it is also linked to conflict and epidemics affecting different areas of the region. The consequences of these disasters are affecting around 46.8 million people, resulting in widespread food insecurity (FSNWG, 2024¹). This increased vulnerability is pushing communities further into poverty, leading to substantial losses and damages, and, in some instances, forcing displacement.

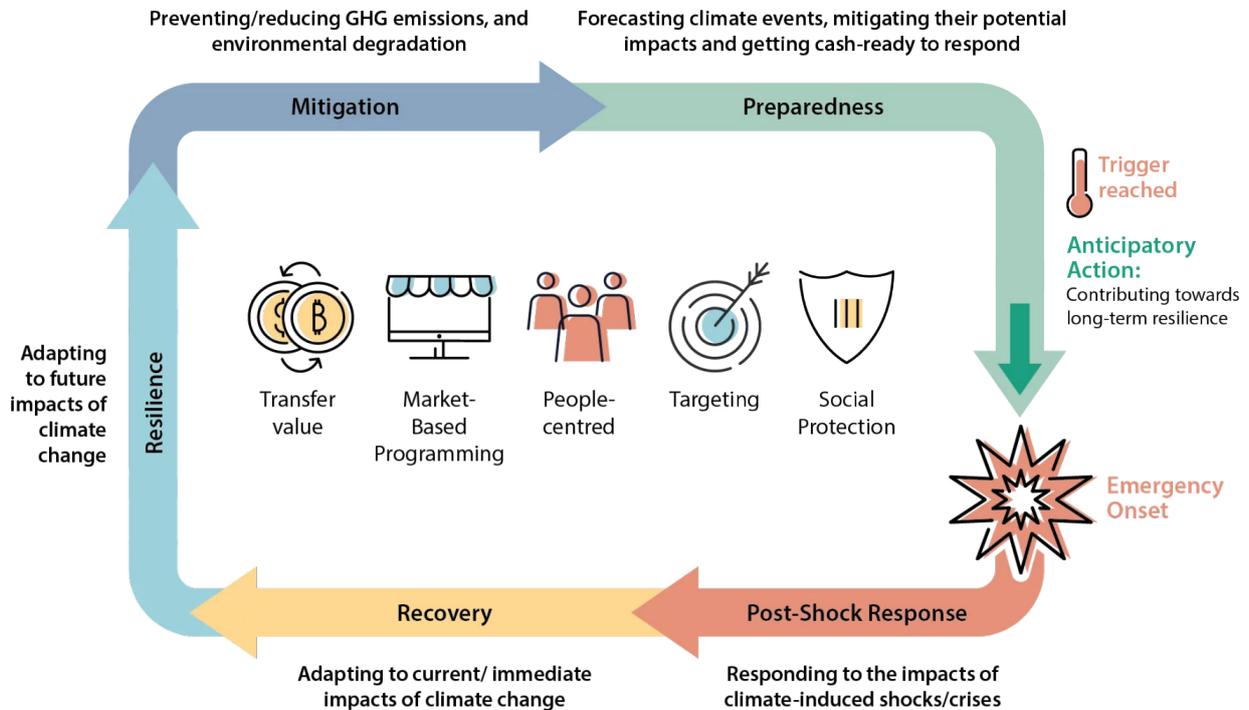
While combating climate change through mitigation measures is crucial, providing an adaptive response to disasters reduces vulnerability and impacts, and creates potential growth opportunities. Humanitarian and development schemes bear a substantial responsibility in both preventing and responding to climate shocks. This involves building resilience at both the community and household levels, as well as delivering life-saving support when needed. The strengthening of early warning systems and response

mechanisms at different levels—regional, national, and sub-national/community—is critical but inherently complex. It involves aspects such as information access and management, funding mechanisms, operational capacity, and coordination, among others.

Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA), as a stand-alone modality or in combination with other measures, is a pivotal component of the response, featured prominently in both humanitarian assistance and

1 FSNWG Snapshot for February 2024

Figure 1: Cash and Climate Overview



Source: Cash and climate overview (The CALP Network, SOWC 2023)

social protection schemes. Recent studies indicate that CVA responses to climate shocks, whether in anticipatory or early action, ensure effective and timely assistance to the affected population and mitigate irreparable losses in terms of lives and livelihoods².

This scoping mission analyses the humanitarian response that encompasses the entire disaster risk management cycle, as depicted in Figure 1, with a primary focus on preparedness, anticipatory action,

and early/post-shock measures. Elements such as transfer value, market-based programming, targeting, a people-centred approach, and the establishment of linkages between humanitarian assistance and established social protection/DRM schemes are key considerations in every case.

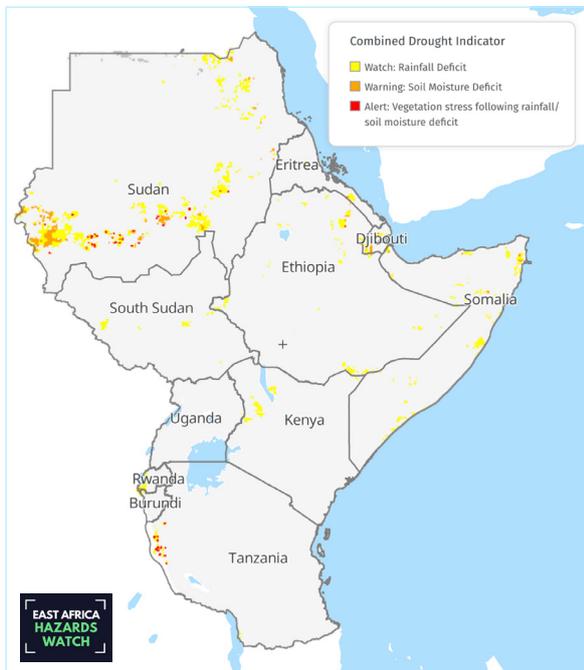
NORCAP, through this scoping mission, sought to understand if and how it may be able to work with its long-standing partners to address this complex issue.

III. Summary of Findings

Climate Prediction as a Pivotal Aspect

Climate service products at the global, regional, and country level need to be readily accessible and, whenever possible, enhanced to provide better and more accurate information, facilitating improved decision-making.

Figure 2: Combined Drought Indicator February 2024



- [ICPAC](#) (The IGAD Climate Prediction and Applications Center), particularly through the [East Africa Hazards Watch](#) (developed with the support of NORCAP and other partners) plays a crucial role in delivering climate forecast information to 11 countries or member states³. Information is gathered by national meteorological offices (rainfall and temperature), along with other global satellite data. ICPAC products primarily cover aspects such as drought stress, the risk of heavy rainfall and flood, crop and vegetation conditions and more. NORCAP in partnership with World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is supporting the development of National Hazard Watch systems in 11 pilot countries in Africa including Ethiopia, Sudan and South Sudan in the IGAD region under the Digital Transformation of the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) initiative.
- The World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) is supporting African countries, by enhancing their capacity to generate their own weather forecast products and standardizing their alerting protocols. However, it worth noting that for weather forecast to be truly useful in the East Africa region it is needed tighter collaboration between different technical services at a regional and country level.
- In addition, there is the Africa Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System (AMHEWAS) Programme, also supported by NORCAP. This is an African Union (AU) response to growing disaster risks capacities and diminishing losses on the continent. The programme aims to deliver:
 - i. a robust multi-hazard risk knowledge;
 - ii. capacity for detection, monitoring, analysis, and forecasting;
 - iii. available and accessible disaster risk information to the African public; and
 - iv. a disaster prepared Africa.

3 IGAD ICPAC Member States: Sudan, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Djibouti, Rwanda, Eritrea, Somalia, Burundi, Kenya, South Sudan, and Uganda

- Primary climate related data is originated from the National Meteorological Offices and is partially shared with both ICPAC and the WMO. The overall quality of data is influenced by the resources available at the country level for collecting, managing and delivering information, varying with each country's capacity.
- Weather and seasonal forecasts can extend up to 3 months ahead for droughts and approximately between 5-3 days for heavy rainfall/floods. Other hazards are related mainly to landslides, wildfire, and others. These forecasts directly impact the protocols of actions in each case.
- Additionally, the [IGAD Centre of Excellence for Climate Adaptation and Protection \(CAEP\)](#), operating under a distinct mandate from ICPAC plays a more prominent role in shaping responses to climate hazards. The [IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy \(2023-2030\)](#) goals is "to provide a framework for the coordinated implementation of actions, informed by the latest and evidence" that will enhance IGAD Member States resilience and adaptive capacities". This role will also potentially provide added value to the processes of Anticipation, Early Action and Rapid response, but still requires clearer definition. Considering CAEP is a young institution, established in 2021, with limited capacities, the inclusion of cash assistance within the IGAD climate adaptation strategy could further enhance the quality of assistance for climate adaptation in the East Africa region.
- Information from ICPAC/WMO primarily serves advocacy and awareness-raising purposes, engaging mainly with national meteorological offices. Even within these offices, their power of influence is constrained, particularly concerning Disaster Risk Reduction Ministries/Agencies/Platforms, depending on the country.
- When operating at the national level, targeting relevant Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)/ Disaster Risk Management (DRM) Ministries becomes essential, establishing links between humanitarian assistance and national social protection schemes.
- **In Kenya** there is national ownership and capacity for developing Anticipatory action and early actions response schemes. National agencies, like the National Drought Management Authority (NDMA), considers this a priority as stated in their policies (e.g. [Kenya National Adaptation Plan 2015-2030](#)) and national programs (e.g. Government Hunger Safety Net Programme, which has been in existence since 2007). Coordination and decision-making are centralized at the Kenya National Disaster Operation Center (NDOC), that is the leading focal point for Disaster Management and Response in Kenya under the Ministry of Interior⁴. Despite the presence of this platform and social protection schemes, including cash assistance developed by NDMA, there's a detected lack of coordination **when it comes to information sharing and decision making** between weather forecast agencies (mainly the Met Office⁵) and other national agencies involved in the response, such as the Ministry in charge of Social Protection⁶. Despite NDMA having already locally-led warning mechanisms used to provide weather forecast information to local communities during drought periods, this could end in diminishing weather forecast information overall and not responding in both anticipation or early action after the shock involving a potential increase of losses for people affected by the disaster.

Declaration of Crisis as a Nationally Owned Process

The decision-making process regarding the declaration of a state of crisis is managed at the country level, minimizing the influence of global/regional organizations. This decision is grounded in the triangulation of information and internal considerations, encompassing socio-economic and political factors.

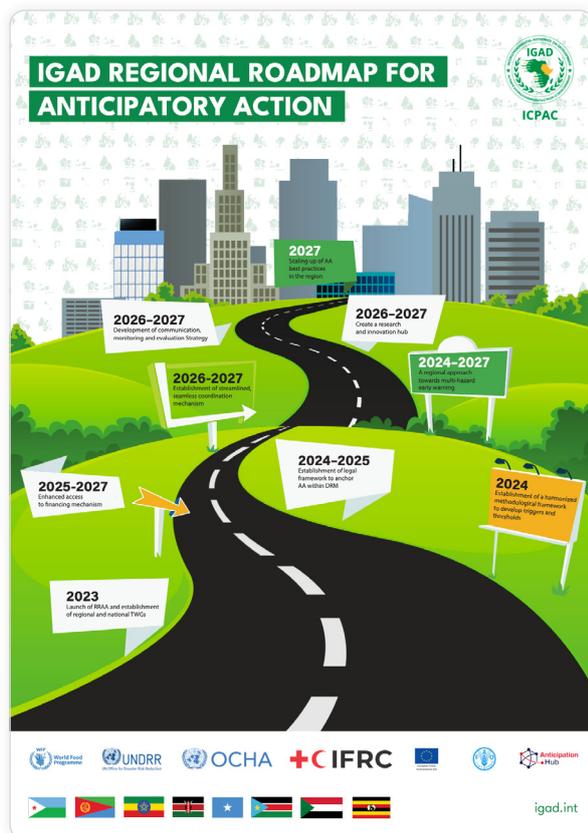
⁴ The DRM architecture in Kenya is bifurcated. NDMA is mandated by law to lead on decision-making and coordination of response to drought emergencies. NDOC, under the Ministry of Interior, is often more involved in coordinating government efforts for rapid onset events/emergencies including building collapse, urban fire incidents, flooding etc. NDOC is not involved in CVA/SP programming whilst NDMA is.

⁵ The Kenya Meteorological Office organizes national climate outlook forum (NCOF), held twice a year (during short rains and long rains seasons), which brings together various stakeholders or end users of weather forecast/climate service information. Similarly, it provides downscaled local weather forecast information up to the county/sub-county levels with weekly and monthly weather forecast information provided to end users.

⁶ There is a single registry used for social protection programmes beneficiaries, which is a long-term and targets vulnerable groups, including orphans, widows, elderly, etc., to cushion them against poverty. This doesn't require weather forecast information with exception of beneficiaries in the arid and semi-arid lands (ASAL) counties where NDMA operates thus uses weather forecast information to top up normal payouts whenever there is an anticipated drought.

Anticipatory Action and Early Action as a Priority at both Regional and National Level

Interest in leveraging both anticipatory and early action is high among various stakeholders, including donors, UN agencies, national agencies, INGOs, and the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement. This interest is particularly pronounced at both the East Africa regional level and in specific countries, notably Ethiopia, South Sudan, and Somalia, though not limited to them (e.g. Uganda and Rwanda also see substantial government and stakeholder interest in AA).



IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action

- Anticipatory action and early action are interpreted differently by various organizations, even being treated as synonyms. In this report, **anticipatory action**, following the Glossary of Early Action Terms (REAP, 2022) refers “to acting ahead of predicted hazardous events to prevent or reduce acute humanitarian impacts before they fully unfold”, meaning responses implemented between a forecast and occurrence of extreme weather or climate event, while **early action** pertains to responses initiated just after the shock (similar to **rapid response**).
- ICPAC is actively involved in defining triggers and thresholds for anticipatory and early action within national context as well as transboundary risk. There is a focus on enhancing capacity to generate “Impact-based forecast” products, which includes not only weather information but also socio-economic and demographic aspects. The ambition is to progress from “what the weather will be” to “what the weather will do”, including access to basic products and services in the area, forecasting population displacement, among many other socio-economic aspects.
- ICPAC is leading the IGAD Regional Technical Working Group on AA (RTWGAA) for the Eastern Africa region. The IGAD RTWGAA launched the IGAD Regional Roadmap for Anticipatory Action (IRRAA) at the COP28 in December 2023. The main objective of the IRRAA is “to support the development of harmonised, operational and scaled up AA across the IGAD region”, encompassing 6 pillars of action.
- The RTWGAA is supported by leadership from IGAD and other partners⁷. This working group has demonstrated a commitment to harmonizing action protocols. Their priorities include strengthening the capacity of the NMHSs to develop impact-based forecast (as opposed to weather forecast), establishing clear triggers and thresholds for different hazards, and generating regional evidence for anticipatory action (AA) that enhances communication and awareness with national governments and other stakeholders. According to the IRRAA they are now working on the more specific Action Plan in line with ToR for RTWGAA and Roadmap.

7 The current leadership of the RTWGAA is Chair, co-chairs and thematic sub-working groups aligned to 6 pillars of roadmap.

- Donors and funding mechanisms (such as ECHO, GFFO, OCHA-CERF, IFRC-DREF, etc.) are increasingly prioritizing anticipatory action in their funding agendas. Discussions are ongoing regarding the division between humanitarian and development funds and the role of AA and early action within their specific regulations and frameworks.
 - Individual agencies (WFP, IFRC/RC, among others.) are developing their AA/early action protocols. While harmonization might be challenging due to differences in mandates, capacity, and resources, finding common ground for action remains a main goal for the IGAD Regional TWGAA and its members. In this sense OCHA is keen to strengthen their AA coordination role especially in funding and appeals and try to integrate AA in the usual space that OCHA occupies (mainly humanitarian financing and coordination, but not limited to). OCHA considers AA as part of their usual work in bridging preparedness and response (on country and regional level).
 - Regional forums like the IGAD Regional TWGAA need to extend their reach to the country/sub-national level through communities of practice and national dialogue platforms. Government ownership, especially from social protection and disaster reduction/management agencies, is crucial at this level.
 - The dichotomy between Anticipatory Action and Early Action/Rapid Response brings substantial advantages in preventing significant losses for vulnerable populations. However, it presents operational challenges, including the declaration of alarms, protocol agreement, funding mechanisms, pre-positioning of stocks (or pre-agreements for cash), and targeting. These challenges are particularly complex for floods, heavy rainfall, and landslides, where the lead-time is short, and forecasts may be less accurate.
- The effectiveness of AA/early action is directly tied to preparedness and contingency plans development- including AA plans and protocols. Despite the need to context specificity, cash must be a modality to be considered in most of the cases. This shows that not having enough investment in cash/"cash +" preparedness plans (at both system and operational level) is highlighted as one key element that is limiting the proper implementation of AA and early action in practice. There is still weak development and integration of AA protocols at both single and interagency preparedness processes, as well as at governmental AA/early actions response schemes. In this sense, it is noted that stronger organisational cash preparedness might be a critical enabler to respond within the strict time window that AA often requires.
 - **In Kenya**, a formal structure for Anticipatory Action/Early Action was not identified beyond the National Disaster Operations Center (NDOC). Platforms for Disaster Risk Reduction/Disaster Risk Management at the county level involve regional authorities and the Kenyan Red Cross Society (KRCS)⁸. National agencies like NDMA and the national Met Office advocate for these initiatives, but capacity constraints exist. KRCS, that is currently leading the Kenya Forecast based Financing Working Group, has developed two national protocols for AA/early action (floods and droughts), including cash assistance. The KRCS initiated the process of development of national roadmap on AA, a process that is still at very initial stages. Challenges highlighted, that are common to other agencies, include securing funds promptly for timely responses (DREF slow process vs. forecast time lead).

⁸ The DRM platforms at a country level, in the arid and semi-arid counties, known as county steering groups (CSGs) are multi-agency- Government line ministries and country authorities and humanitarian and developmental actors are also involved, including KRC.

Combined Effort through Cash Assistance and Climate Action Lens in Anticipatory Action and Early Action

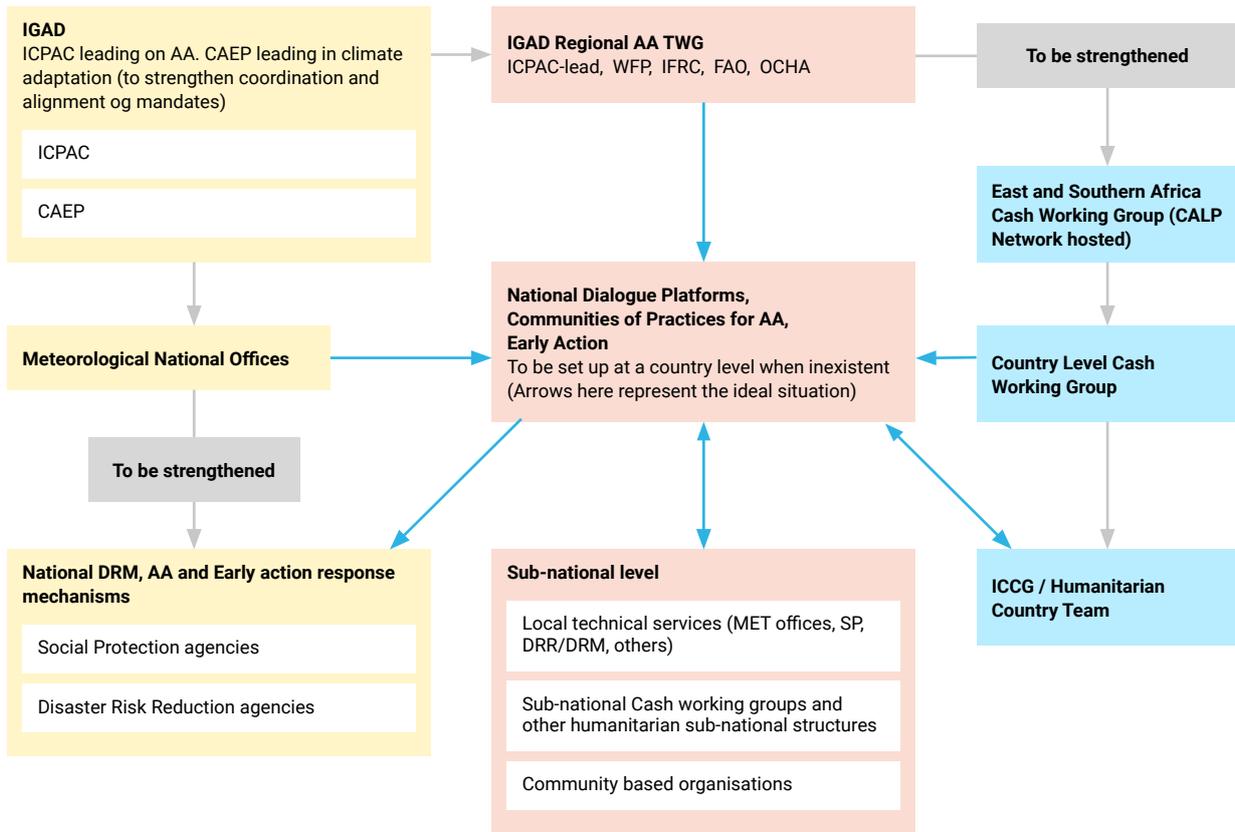
There is a unanimous agreement on the vital role of incorporating cash assistance, either as a standalone modality or in combination with other response methods, for an effective and dignified response in anticipation and early aftermath of climate-related shocks. The absence of cash

preparedness and the routine integration of cash assistance in anticipation and early response protocols would limit their positive impact.

In Figure 3 we can see the Cash and Anticipatory/ Early Action landscape in the East Africa Region, representing the current situation as well as how the situation might be improved to work better, especially with the creation and/or support to the national led Communities of Practices /Dialogue Platforms for Anticipatory and Early Action- also connected with the sub-national level.

Figure 3: The East Africa Cash and AA landscape.

Based on the scoping mission information.



- Despite efforts being made for joint collaboration, a significant gap exists between climate-related actors (such as ICPAC, Meteorological Offices) and humanitarian responders, including major players in cash assistance. Even when organizations participate in both forums, different individuals are involved, limiting opportunities for collaboration. A limitation is also highlighted in terms of how there might be different interpretation of the climate information that is not always user friendly for humanitarian respondents not familiar with climate services.
- The IGAD RTWGAA had not been in touch with the regional Southern and East Africa Cash Working Group until the roundtable organized by NORCAP, with CALP support, for this scoping mission.
- There is a shared perception that Anticipatory Action/Early Action primarily constitutes an interagency and intersectoral approach, similarly to cash assistance, which is not confined to a specific sector. Interagency coordination is seen as having a clear added value.
- Cash assistance, though not systematically included, is part of existing anticipatory action and early response protocols by organizations like IFRC/RCRC, FAO, OCHA, WFP⁹, etc. Many advantages of cash assistance over other modalities were highlighted, such as flexibility, rapid response, efficiency, coverage, and overall impact. While there is some reluctance about providing only multipurpose cash in AA/Early action and how this will adapt -or not- to people's needs, there is a unanimous agreement on systematically finding the most appropriate Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) modality for each case.
- AA/Early Action guidelines developed at a regional level offer broad guidelines, but specific protocols must continue to be developed at the country/sub-national level to be relevant and context specific. Current efforts at a country level already exists but are fragmented, making their application challenging, especially at border/cross-border areas.
- There are discussions related to the targeting in AA responses: whether it should focus on the most vulnerable people (who are already under some social protection program) or those who might become vulnerable if affected by climate shocks. There is concern about exclusively targeting the most vulnerable and not protecting those who, while not currently among the most vulnerable, could become so when impacted by climate shocks¹⁰.
- There is a lack of harmonization in transfer values for Anticipatory Action/Early Action measures. Transfer values are established based on single agency capacities, available funding, perceptions of needs (including those of national governmental agencies), but the absence of coordination, including with regional and/or respective national cash working groups, hinders transfer value harmonization. Another issue highlighted is that the objective of the intended response is not always clear (e.g. is the AA willing to cover basic needs or allow people to undertake specific preparedness or evacuation measures?). It is also noted that even if transfer value is defined through the regular MEB design, it may be less appropriate for certain specific shocks or related needs. (e.g. considering a specific population affected by a flood, shelter needs may not be adequately addressed using a current shelter needs included in a regular MEB for the specific country/region).
- Despite cash assistance being considered to be more efficient and timely for AA/Early Action response, there is a need for systematic cash preparedness for stakeholders to respond promptly and at scale. This includes staff capacity, prepositioning of funding, agreements with financial service providers, rapid targeting capacity, and clear action protocols.

⁹ For example, in WFP, the regional Cash Based Transfers (CBT) team plays a significant role in reviewing the anticipatory action plans before their approval.

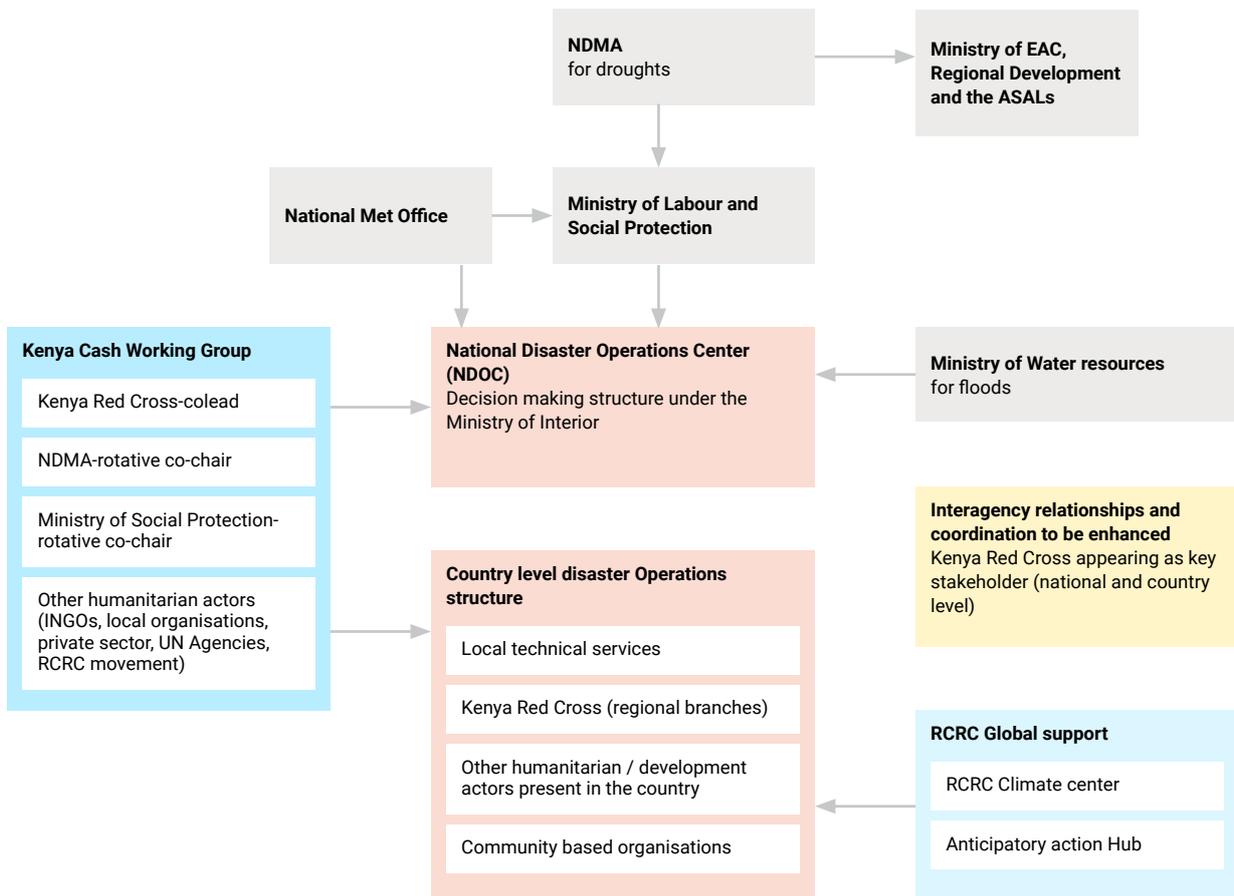
¹⁰ As an example provided by partners, from the Food Security perspective, and especially in protracted crisis, the focus on AA should perhaps rather be on affected populations in IPC 3, who risk dropping to IPC 3+, instead of supporting people in IPC 4 or 5, that should be already targeted by emergency assistance.

- In Kenya**, there is a call for enhanced coordination between climate-related agencies and national/humanitarian responders. As we can see in the figure 4 below, the NDMA, the Ministry in charge of Social Protection is both part of the NDOC, as well as co-leading the Kenya Cash Working Group, with KRC playing a pivotal role in responding to

natural disasters, coordinating with state actors, and bridging the national and county levels. Additionally, with the support of the International Center for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA) of the Red Cross, KRC has already developed capacities in both cash assistance and disaster risk reduction.

Figure 4: Cash and AA/Early Action in Kenya.

Based on the scoping mission information



IV. Summary of Recommendations

This section about recommendations is based on both data analysis and partners' feedback, highlighting both general aspects to be considered by organisations/agencies, as well as added value and potential role of NORCAP to strengthen the cash and climate space in the East Africa & Kenya context.

NORCAP Recommendations Legend

	Climate Action
	CashCap
	Climate Action & CashCap

- Strengthen capacity and development of impact-based forecasts, led by national meteorological offices, to obtain better field data for improving weather forecast products. Also, leverage their role in collaboration with national disaster risk reduction and social protection agencies. This also comprises reinforcing the multi-hazard forecasting.



1.1. Partners have voiced that **it is important that NORCAP Climate Action team continues to support climate services expertise to Meteorological Offices in the East Africa region**, and also explore potential to expand its support to strengthen impact-based forecasting to the Kenya Met Office.

- Anticipatory Action and Early Action demand a comprehensive approach from humanitarian donors, including support for preparedness

processes. It is crucial to involve both humanitarian and development donors, in a coordinated manner, especially concerning social protection schemes, disaster risk reduction/management, direct cooperation with national state actors, and other development actors. This also includes the systematic inclusion of AA /early action in Country Humanitarian Response Plans (e.g. Somalia), as well as inclusion of AA measures in national disaster risk management plans.

- The IGAD Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group should continue its involvement and engagement with the East Africa Regional Cash Working Group, and vice versa and other working groups like Asia Pacific AA, etc. This could be promoted by having representatives from both groups participating in each other's meetings and organizing specific events throughout the year. The East Africa Regional Cash Working Group can play a relevant role in improving and harmonizing response protocols, sharing evidence and learnings, promoting advocacy with country-level Cash Working Groups, etc.



2.1. It has been strongly highlighted the importance of **NORCAP CashCap including, within the ToRs of the East Africa Regional Interagency Advisor role, the follow-up and the strengthening of the linkages between Cash and Voucher Assistance (CVA) and Anticipatory Action/Early Action processes at a Regional Level**¹¹. This might include NORCAP CashCap interagency expert joining the IGAD Regional AA Working Group (as well as the East Africa Regional Cash Working Group). Based in the NORCAP CashCap expertise, being interagency and neutral by nature, would be unique opportunity to facilitate the integration of both humanitarian respondents, with focus in cash assistance, and climate services actors. This will contribute to the integration of Cash into AA and/or Early Action responses at both regional and country level in East Africa when relevant and possible. This includes providing technical expertise as well as wider coordination/brokering know how between the regional and the national level.

- IGAD, through ICPAC but also in coordination with CAEP, needs to continue leading Anticipatory and Early Action work at an East Africa regional level. This includes: i) clarifying better the roles of both IGAD institutions (and better coordinating between them) concerning Anticipatory action and early action processes, ii) continuing to lead the East Africa Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group -and its roadmap, iii) improving its role in providing key technical inputs related to Anticipatory action response protocols, clear definition of triggers and thresholds per hazards and context, capacity support to National Meteorological and Hydrological services (NMHS) to develop reliable impact-based forecasts, consolidating existing Anticipatory Action protocols, increasing knowledge and evidence generation on Anticipatory action impacts, and finally, increasing the capacity to liaise and provide awareness and advocacy on adoption of AA tools by state decision-making actors of the member states and integration into risk management and financing systems.



3.1. IGAD is playing an important role in leading AA and Early Action work at East Africa Regional level and needs to be continued and strengthened. The findings of this scoping points to **NORCAP supporting the Anticipatory Action Regional Working Group - and its main partners - in increasing their capacity in evidence generation, product development, harmonization of protocols, systematic integration of Cash and Voucher Assistance, and linking with selected country-level Humanitarian Country teams/ Cash Working Groups**. Some of this would require know-how and additional capacity at technical and brokering levels, which **NORCAP, with its unique interagency mandate, as well as Climate action and Cash and Markets expertise, is well placed to provide. It might be relevant to develop a specific Interagency Cash and AA/ Early Action regional role with country-level piloting, especially in South Sudan, Ethiopia, and/or Somalia** (prioritizing countries where there is already country-specific NORCAP support¹²).



3.2. Considering the current scoping exercise limitations in gathering country specific information, **NORCAP, jointly Cash and Climate Action, could further scope Cash and Climate synergies in AA /Early action at a country level in the East Africa region** if relevant according to further discussions with partners and their priorities.

11 NORCAP/CashCap is starting from April 2024 supporting the Southern and Eastern Regional Working Group with a full time Regional Interagency Advisor” focusing in the Sudan Crisis (from the regional cross border perspective and other Cash related aspects in the East Africa region.

12 NORCAP CashCap is currently supporting both Ethiopia, South Sudan and -potentially in the early future – Somalia with country based Interagency Senior CashCap Advisor that could facilitate the linkages between the country and regional level.



3.3. As per IGAD Climate Adaptation Strategy 2023-2030, **NORCAP/CashCap could provide expert support in mainstreaming CVA as a modality of response** according to their priorities and strategic objectives, especially in strengthening the adaptative capacity and resilience of vulnerable populations and to manage climate change related risks, including knowledge management and capacity development of relevant institutions and partners allowing replication and scale-up of locally led adaptation solutions and best practices.

- It was clearly highlighted the **further need for capitalising on technology opportunities to enhance digitalization for coordination and harmonization purposes and at the same time strengthening accountability at different levels.** To address the ineffectiveness and the siloed approach of the aid system, there is the need to furtherly invest on digitalization and the interoperability of the various mechanisms from the early warning systems, triggers, beneficiary targeting and management of the beneficiary data bases to promote referrals across partners and sectors in a more people-centred way. **This includes also looking into climate related displacements within the county or across borders and how this movements could be better analysed, tracked and linked to AA responses.**



4.1. Considering this point **NORCAP/CashCap could improve interoperability of systems and cash assistance effectiveness through capitalizing on technology opportunities to enhance digitalization for coordination and harmonization as well as accountability.**



4.2. Similarly, **NORCAP/CashCap, following its newly gained expertise in Cash assistance and route programming with displaced populations, could capitalize on climate related displacement and Anticipatory Action responses** including Cash and Voucher Assistance as a preferred response modality at both single country and/or across borders.

- **In Kenya**, despite improved capacity and national ownership in Anticipatory Action and Early Action, more support is needed in developing better forecast-based financing mechanisms (KRCs is leading the existing Forecast based Financing Working Group, with limited capacity), increasing weather and impact-based forecast products at the national level, and improving interagency coordination on declaration of alert mechanisms. NDMA, Social Protection Ministry, and Kenya Red Cross are all key stakeholders in this, and the fact that they are also co-leading the Kenya country-level working group should facilitate the linkages between humanitarian responders, including Cash and Voucher Assistance, and key national capacity. The Kenya Red Cross role is relevant as auxiliary to the Kenyan state actors in improving national technical capacity and coordination, including providing national-subnational coordination between the state, the county, and community level.



5.1. This scoping mission is recommending that **NORCAP Climate Action and CashCap through regional coordination mechanism (i.e RTWGAA) supports the Kenya national Anticipatory Action/Early Action response capacity and ownership**, in terms of technical assistance development, improved interagency coordination (including both humanitarian and social protection/DRR schemes), as well as improving coordination between the East Africa regional, the national, the sub-national and the community levels. It has been identified that establishing a partnership with KRC/ICHA could be a good opportunity for this.



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