Anticipatory action that works for dryland and pastoralist communities - insights and lessons from the ground



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Jameel Observatory stocktaking webinar on making early and anticipatory action work for pastoralists in the Horn of Africa, 18 March 2026

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Overarching Question

- How can anticipatory action help prevent extreme weather events from turning into disasters that harm lives, livelihoods and children's futures in pastoral and agro-pastoral settings?

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KEY FINDINGS

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Early Warning

- Early warning largely correct but didn't lead to action at scale.
- Drought EW information is not easily accessible.
- Trust in early warnings is mixed, with some gendered differences.
- Communities have limited contribution to formalized monitoring of drought.
- Greater acceptance of flood warnings (compared to drought).

'With regards to drought, we wait for God's decree…

…but we are Muslims who have faith in God. We just see the drought as it happens to us. We don't know anything about the knowledge of the unseen…'

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Limited anticipatory coping options

- Coping strategies: extended usual strategies
- Some use of strategies harmful for children
- Most promising anticipatory actions for external actors:
  - ✓ Livestock feed and water
  - ✓ Cash transfer
  - ✓ Food assistance
  - ✓ Veterinary medicines and vaccination
  - ✓ School feeding
- External support that was provided was appropriate but insufficient



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Conclusion: There is a role for AA in protracted crises! But…



- Difficult to pinpoint exact window for AA (in protracted crises), but more opportunity ahead of first or second failed season
- Have realistic expectations
- Systems need strengthening

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Key Emerging Priorities for AA in Pastoral Settings

- Improve access to, communication of, and trust in early warning information.
- Support local actors for early action.
- AA needs to be child sensitive and further research for child outcomes.
- AA does have an important a role to play in preserving life and livelihoods.
- However, needs to be embedded into wider systems to prepare, mitigate, respond to, and recover from crises.
- Need flexible and integrated finance.



Content Hub: CH1575085