JUST IN TIME: Advancing Anticipatory Cash in Pakistan

GLOW Consultants and Humanitarian Advisory Group
Anticipatory action

Pre-determined cash provision (anticipatory cash)

Early warning

Impact

Disaster risk reduction

Anticipatory action

Response

Recovery

Analyse and reduce exposure to hazards, by lessening vulnerability of people and assets, and through smart management.

Prevent, mitigate and/or protect against an impactful forecasted event and prepare for effective response.

Save lives, meet basic needs and avoid further losses. Respond to ongoing and cascading hazards and impacts.

Support people’s efforts to cope, recover and rebuild by restoring services and assets in a resilient manner.

Reduce impact

Respond to impact

Ongoing preparedness

Enable capacity to efficiently anticipate and manage emergencies to achieve orderly transitions from early anticipatory action to response and recovery.
Anticipatory cash: Setting the scene

The case for anticipatory cash
Increasingly being considered by humanitarian actors due to a range of emerging benefits:

• Protects lives
• Safeguards assets
• Protects livelihoods
• Supports meeting basic needs
• Mitigates longer-term negative impacts and negative coping behaviours
• Increases agency and adaption capacity
• Strengthens the humanitarian-development-peace nexus
About the research

*Research questions:*

- What forms of assistance were provided as part of anticipatory action for the 2022 floods, to whom, and on what basis/trigger?

- To what extent was cash assistance provided as part of this anticipatory action? If cash assistance was not provided, why not? What barriers existed to providing anticipatory cash to at-risk communities and what lessons can be drawn from this?

- For research questions 1 & 2, to what extent did women benefit from this anticipatory action, including from cash assistance? What barriers existed to providing anticipatory cash to women, and what lessons can be drawn from this?
Study approach

UNDERPINNED BY ETHICAL RESEARCH PRINCIPLES

- 20 documents reviewed
- 2 national/international research partners
- 19 key informant interviews
- 3 sense-making workshops to test emerging findings
“Unfortunately, a missed opportunity transpired last year when many of the organisations failed to provide cash assistance to communities... There existed a 4 to 5-day window [prior to the onset of severe flooding] during which more strategic planning could have provided substantial support to the affected populations.”31 (National non-government actor)
Challenges and Opportunities

Creating the enabling environment: local leadership, systems and processes

Develop a guiding framework that outlines key roles and responsibilities, targeting approach, triggers for different types of disasters and relevant conditions.
Challenges and Opportunities

Building on momentum: testing, piloting and scaling up anticipatory cash initiatives

Strengthen the awareness and evidence of anticipatory cash approaches and modalities; pilot and scale-up initiatives; invest in research and MEL processes to support decision-making, program design and testing.
Challenges and Opportunities

3. Leveraging and adapting learning from cash assistance in response

Work collaboratively to address specific access and modality issues including pre-agreed arrangements, with financial providers and methods to address inclusion issues.
Challenges and Opportunities

4 Investing in the future: shifting behaviours and practices

Develop forecast-based financing mechanisms to support anticipatory cash through pre-agreed arrangements between donors and operational humanitarian actors.
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