



A 2025 Webinar Series on Climate Action in Afghanistan

Session 1: Early Warning, Disaster Risk Reduction, Anticipatory Action - 4 November 2025

Five Key Takeaways

1. The humanitarian consequences of climate change in Afghanistan are profound and already unfolding, through the impacts of drought, floods, and extreme weather events on food security, malnutrition, WASH, migration, and beyond.
2. Prevention, early warning, and early action saves lives and reduces costs of recovery. Effective models of community based disaster risk management exist - with communities as the agents of resilience, but they require scaling.
3. Hydro-met services form the foundation for early warning systems; both face critical gaps, however, active work such as the World Bank's hydro-met roadmap and the UN's Early Warnings for All initiative can guide joint action.
4. Active work by both the international community (ex: FAO's Anticipatory Action for drought) and the de facto authorities (ex: df ANDMA's response and DRR efforts) are ongoing, but face critical gaps and resourcing does not match the overwhelming need.
5. Coordinated effort amongst all relevant stakeholders - UN, NGOs, ministries, communities, and donors - is required, and can reduce the widespread costs of climate change unfolding in Afghanistan.

Opening Remarks

Kate Carey, Deputy Head of Office, OCHA Afghanistan opened with context on the humanitarian implications of climate change, highlighting Afghanistan is at the forefront of climate change impacts globally, ranked as the world's 6th most climate vulnerable and least prepared state. Ms. Carey highlighted how rising temperatures, declining rainfall, and the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters including drought, heavy floods, heatwaves and sand storms are increasing food insecurity, fuelling malnutrition, creating suboptimal water and sanitation conditions, and coupling with existing vulnerabilities to increase displacement and migration.

"The consequences have been profound: in 2023, for the first time, drought took over conflict as the primary driver of humanitarian needs and no corner of the country has been untouched." - Kate Carey



Lightning Presentations: Key Insights

1. Thamindri De Silva, Country Director, World Vision International showcased lessons learned on community based disaster risk management (CBDRM) in Afghanistan, considering the well known global lessons that investment in prevention and risk reduction significantly reduce the costs of future recovery. Ms. De Silva outlined World Vision's 6+ step circular approach of CBDRM and the centrality of communities' participatory roles, including women.

"Communities need to be the agents of resilience - the needs are so vast in Afghanistan that if we don't focus on communities, it won't be sustainable." - Thamindri De Silva





2. **Yunziyi (Lisa) Lang, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, World Bank** presented the centrality of hydro-met services for early warning systems (EWS) and early action to help save life and livelihoods. Ms. Lang defined hydro-met services, showcasing its value chain from weather/climate information to risk-informed decision making across various end-users' groups and sectors. She highlighted the World Bank's analytical work on a hydro-met value chain assessment and roadmap for Afghanistan finalized in 2025, which showcased major gaps and opportunities in Afghanistan's EWS. For example, despite flash flood early information produced, less than 1/3 of Afghan communities affected by the disaster report receiving any early warning, the majority of which through community mechanisms. Only 4% reported receiving information from official channels.



"Early warning for all is a human right, not a luxury. Building an end-to-end early warning system in Afghanistan requires a technology-driven and community-based approach to ensure the protection of lives and assets." - Lisa Lang

3. **Sylvie Montembault Jamal, Senior Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, FAO** presented on [FAO's work on Anticipatory Action](#) (AA) in Afghanistan. Ms. Montembault Jamal gave an overview of AA, highlighting its three pillars: i) triggering events based on science; ii) anticipatory actions through programming activities; and iii) prepositioned financing mechanisms as well as FAO's established AA framework for drought in Afghanistan, first established in 2020 and a pilot triggered for the first time in 2021. She noted that a revised and strengthened AA framework, developed collectively under OCHA leadership, was again activated in April 2025. Ms. Montembault Jamal noted that even though the pilot demonstrated only a 1.42 USD return per 1 USD invested, evidence from other contexts shows higher returns are feasible, and stakeholders in Afghanistan are [working on how they can do better](#) and at scale next time.



"By activating our framework in April, we could move straight to action, drawing on a set of activities that were agreed and already discussed, with a lot of consultations with communities." - Sylvia Montembault Jamal

Panel Discussion: Key Messages

1. **Qiamudin Qiam, Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Specialist, de facto Afghanistan National Disaster Management Authority (ANDMA)** discussed the role of ANDMA as the central coordination and technical institution for disaster management in Afghanistan, noting that ANDMA has designed a total of 470 DRR projects of which 110 have been implemented by ANDMA since August 2021. He overviewed ANDMA's role post-disaster, including coordinating action, deploying search and rescue teams, rapid assessments, and coordinating with international partners to ensure relief and response efforts reach the affected population on time.



"During the first 48-72 hours, we focus on providing essential and lifesaving support to those who are most in need." - Qiamudin Qiam



2. **Dr. Ghuncha Gul Arman, Former Director for UN Affairs and International Organizations, de facto Ministry of Foreign Affairs** discussed the current capacity of Afghan institutions, noting seven specific gaps: i) poor early warning dissemination and methods not tailored to end user needs; ii) capacity gaps of government institutions; iii) insufficient and old technologies and systems across the hydromet network and related IT infrastructure; iv) insufficient governmental processes and strategies; v) insufficient coordination and communication, with siloed efforts; vi) lack of technical representation in international conferences and discussions; and vii) national and international resource and financing shortfalls. Dr. Arman closed with several recommendations to the de facto authorities and international community, stressing a focus on building national capacities, systems, and ownership to ensure long term efficacy and sustainability, while integrating Afghanistan into regional and global networks.



“Shift from the current humanitarian response modality to long term preparedness modality, with meaningful coordination.” - Dr. Ghuncha Gul Arman

3. **Fatih Kaya, Programme Manager, World Meteorological Organization** discussed the status of Afghanistan related to the UN Secretary General’s [Early Warnings for All](#) initiative, aimed at ensuring EWS for every individual by 2027. Referring the EW4All global staging framework as a technical diagnostic reference, Mr. Fatih described Afghanistan’s status as “stage 1 - foundational,” reflecting an early stage of system development, noting that despite critical efforts by relevant agencies, there are serious gaps in data collection, modelling, coordination, and dissemination, including at the last mile. He noted that under a realistic and coordinated scenario what could realistically be achieved by 2027 is “stage 2 - operational,” characterized by the modernization of observation networks, improved data sharing and coordination, and improved user centric warnings, with scope to leverage emerging technologies, including AI to accelerate progress where feasible



“Coordinated action is the most important. By aligning around the World Bank hydromet roadmap, pooled financing mechanisms, and interoperable data systems, we can ensure that no one is left behind.” - Fatih Kaya

This summary overviews the shared insights from a [webinar convened by Samuel Hall and UNAMA as part of the 2025 Climate Action in Afghanistan Series](#). It brings together humanitarian, development, and technical perspectives to clarify what earlier, more coordinated, and more community-driven climate action must look like in practice. The session brought together:

The [United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan](#) (UNAMA) is a UN Special Political Mission supporting the Afghan people. Its vision is a peaceful, stable, and prosperous Afghanistan where everyone’s rights are respected without discrimination.

[Samuel Hall](#) is a social enterprise that conducts research, evaluates programmes, and analyses data in and on contexts of migration and displacement. Our research connects the voices of communities to changemakers for more inclusive societies.