ANTICIPATORY ACTION
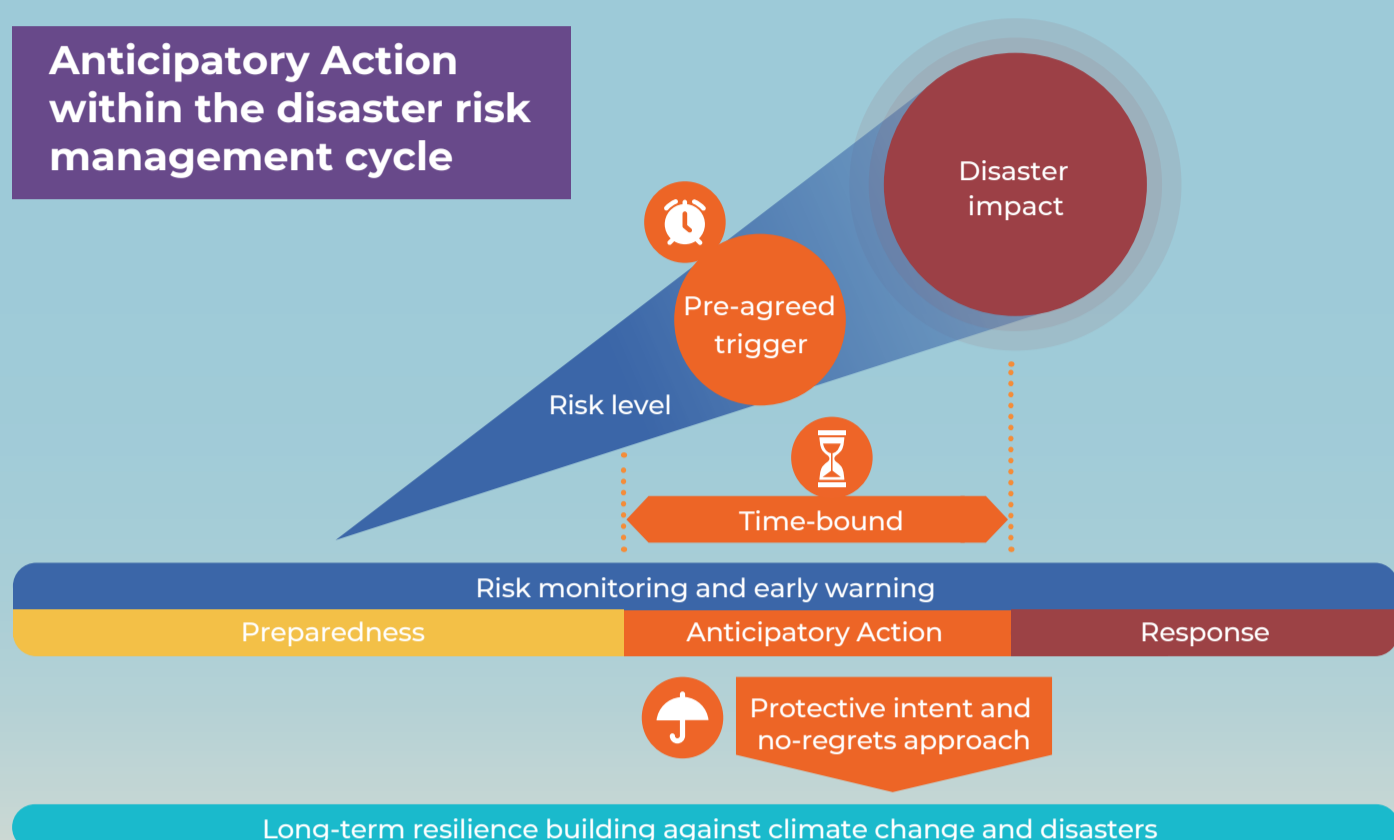
> Anticipatory Action is an approach which systematically links early warnings to actions and finance designed to protect the lives, livelihoods and food security ahead of a hazard.

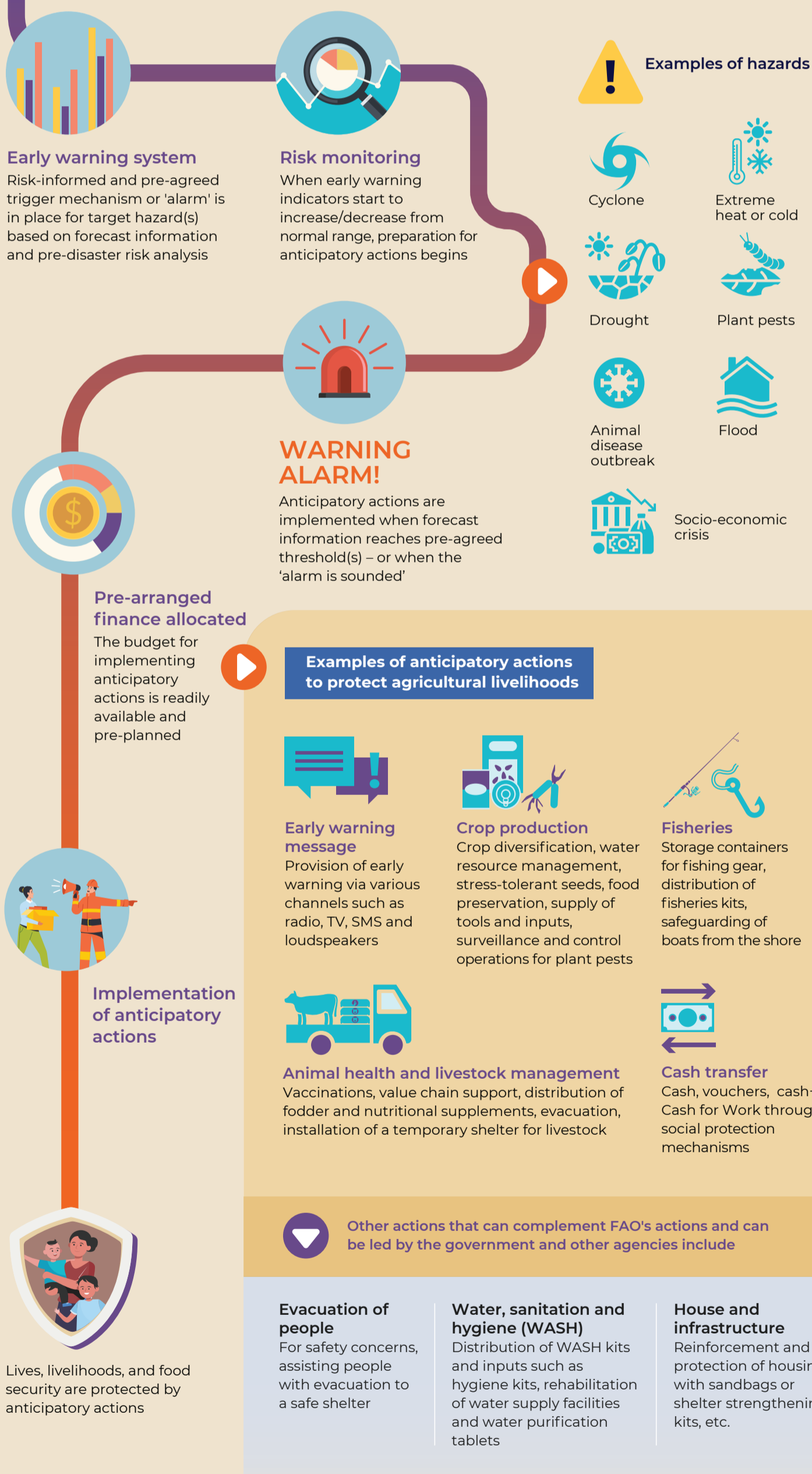## Anticipatory Action within the disaster risk management cycle

Disaster impact

Pre-agreed trigger

Risk level

Time-bound

Risk monitoring and early warning

| Preparedness | Anticipatory Action | Response |

Protective intent and no-regrets approach

Long-term resilience building against climate change and disasters

Source: Adapted from the ASEAN Framework on Anticipatory Action in Disaster Management (2022)

What does an Anticipatory Action system look like?

Early warning system
Risk-informed and pre-agreed trigger mechanism or 'alarm' is in place for target hazard(s) based on forecast information and pre-disaster risk analysis

Risk monitoring
When early warning indicators start to increase/decrease from normal range, preparation for anticipatory actions begins

Examples of hazards

Cyclone

Extreme heat or cold

Drought

Plant pests

Animal disease outbreak

Flood

Socio-economic crisis

WARNING ALARM!
Anticipatory actions are implemented when forecast information reaches pre-agreed threshold(s) – or when the 'alarm is sounded'

Pre-arranged finance allocated
The budget for implementing anticipatory actions is readily available and pre-planned

Implementation of anticipatory actions

Examples of anticipatory actions to protect agricultural livelihoods

Early warning message
Provision of early warning via various channels such as radio, TV, SMS and loudspeakers

Crop production
Crop diversification, water resource management, stress-tolerant seeds, food preservation, supply of tools and inputs, surveillance and control operations for plant pests

Fisheries
Storage containers for fishing gear, distribution of fisheries kits, safeguarding of boats from the shore

Animal health and livestock management
Vaccinations, value chain support, distribution of fodder and nutritional supplements, evacuation, installation of a temporary shelter for livestock

Cash transfer
Cash, vouchers, cash+, Cash for Work through social protection mechanisms

Lives, livelihoods, and food security are protected by anticipatory actions

Other actions that can complement FAO's actions and can be led by the government and other agencies include

Evacuation of people
For safety concerns, assisting people with evacuation to a safe shelter

Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)
Distribution of WASH kits and inputs such as hygiene kits, rehabilitation of water supply facilities and water purification tablets

House and infrastructure
Reinforcement and protection of housing with sandbags or shelter strengthening kits, etc.

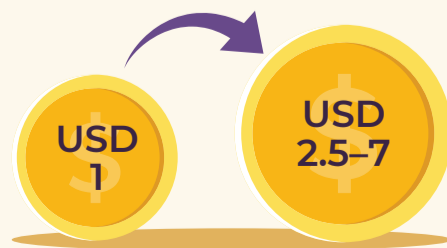## Evidence and learning

Value added:

Alleviates human suffering and losses

Reduces the cost of humanitarian response

Protects long-term development gains

USD 1

USD 2.5–7

Every USD 1 invested by FAO has generated a return ranging from USD 2.5 to USD 7 in **avoided disaster damages and losses**

Developing an Anticipatory Action system

Objective
To enable governments and partners to act based on early warnings and risk information to protect lives and livelihoods through pre-arranged finance

Cross-cutting themes

Ensuring inclusive and gender-responsive anticipatory actions
Anticipatory actions should be prioritized and tailored to local needs in a non-discriminatory and equitable manner.

- ☑ Understand different needs, risks and capacities
- ☑ Ensure physical and social access to assistance for beneficiaries
- ☑ Meaningfully involve and engage the vulnerable and marginalized groups in the process
- ☑ Keep people safe from any violence, notably gender-based violence (GBV)

Community engagement
Communities are engaged throughout the process of developing an Anticipatory Action system from early warning to identifying and designing actions, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation.

Historical disaster impact analysis and crisis timeline
Identify likely impacts of target hazard(s) at different times of the year and in different locations, looking back at the main historical events. Based on this, the window of opportunity to implement Anticipatory Action before a hazard's impact can be identified.

Hazard prioritization and feasibility assessment
Identify and prioritize the main Identify and prioritize the main hazards where Anticipatory Action can be applied.

Trigger development "Knowing when to act"
Establish when an alarm should be sounded based on existing early warning systems to warn of the impending hazard and encourage action to be taken using risk information and forecasts. Here traditional knowledge can also be harnessed to verify the climate and weather information in hand.

Identification of anticipatory actions
Through consultations with government stakeholders, communities and key partners. Actions should have the following distinguishing design characteristics:

1. Have a protective and mitigate effect
2. Action must be planned well in advance of a disaster
3. Must be appropriate for the timescale
4. Should be taken with a 'no regrets' and 'do no harm' approach

How to select beneficiaries?
Anticipatory Action aims to target the most vulnerable to likely impacts of a given hazard. The targeting is based on the analysis of current vulnerabilities combined with the analysis of the expected impact of the forecast hazard.

Design of the delivery plan and budget
Plans of how and by whom the actions can be implemented and resourced when triggered. Funding needs to be flexible and agile to meet the timeframes identified in the trigger development stages.

Simulation exercise
Tests the delivery plan, the feasibility of selected action(s), communication, and trigger methodology. Encourage collaboration with other agencies or via National Technical Working Groups to learn from this experience and grow the approach together.

Anticipatory Action system

Collaboration and mainstreaming
The system, when possible, should be a collaboration tool which is further aligned with the existing disaster risk management plans, as gains made through this process could further support preparedness and early response efforts.

Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning (MEAL)
MEAL components are important and essential to Anticipatory Action programming. They give an opportunity to gather evidence, learn about the effectiveness and barriers of an intervention, and adapt the learnings to future actions.