From Cascading Risk to financing climate-resilient returns: Early Action and Anticipatory Action in Africa and Beyond

Organizers:

- Intergovernmental Authority on Development (IGAD)
- Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)
- Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)
- Inter-American Institute for Cooperation on Agriculture (IICA)
- University of East Anglia (UEA), Tyndall Centres & Thread on Evidencing Climate-resilient Development across Climate Adaptation & Resilience (CLARE)
- Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

***Date: 11** November 2026*

***Time:** 16:45-18:15*

***Room:** Side Event Room 4 - AŞIK VEYSEL*

1. Background

Climate change is increasingly escalating the scale, complexity and cost of risks being experienced by communities on the frontline. More frequent and severe shocks – from floods to droughts, to storms, heatwaves and epidemics – are destroying assets, disrupting livelihoods and reversing years of hard-won development gains. Investing in the resilience of communities, their livelihoods and ecosystems has therefore never been more critical. Yet as the climate crises continues to worsen, we are faced with a parallel crisis of drastically shrinking finances for resilience building and climate action. While investing in resilience helps reduce loss and damage, the accelerated pace of climate change effectively puts us in a race to reach our resilience goals before the next extreme event occurs.

2. Rationale

Despite the climate crisis only worsening with each passing year with cascading impacts on human and natural systems, contributing to food and water insecurity and displacement, access to financing at the local level for those on the frontlines of climate risks remain limited and, in many instances, inaccessible. As a result, climate actions and disaster response continue to remain reactive while finances remain centralized, unpredictable, discretionary and slow. Adequate funding does not reach communities in time to support early actions or enable long term resilience.[1]

Effective climate adaptation generates the highest-return public investments available. By shifting from reactive to transformative strategies that include early actions, communities are better able to manage risks, reduce losses, and build resilience in the face of a rapidly changing climate. With the increasing severity and frequency of climate risks, investing with exposed communities will be essential for safeguarding lives, livelihoods and ecosystems.[2]

Another key aspect of successfully executing locally financed early actions for long term resilience is establishing partnerships. In addition to working at the global level, these partnerships need to be at the local level between diverse stakeholders who execute actions i.e. communities, local governments, technical institutions and civil society; but also at the national and regional level to mobilise adequate resources and capacities for local actors i.e. national governments, inter-governmental organisations, development banks, donors, private sector, academia and civil society working across the climate-humanitarian-development paradigms.

The proposed joint session brings together technically diverse institutions working across different scales to explore how investing in early actions at the local level can ultimately save

[1] GNDR & CDP (2026) Localising Disaster Risk Financing : Voices of the Frontline
[2] Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP, 2026)Early Warning Systems and Anticipatory Action : The Fiscal Case for Pre-Disaster Financing

the lives and livelihoods of the most exposed communities while incrementally building their resilience and reducing loss and damage.

Objective

The session aims to demonstrate how investing in comprehensive resilience results in the biggest gains for climate exposed communities. The session will:

1. Showcase and demonstrate innovative investments with exposed communities that improve resilience
2. Examine how predictable, pre-arranged and scalable financing mechanisms for resilience can yield increased returns and help reduce loss and damage
3. Generate practical recommendations for governments, donors, development banks and other financial actors on the key elements for scaling-up resilience by integrating early actions, especially for livelihood systems and economic transformation

Expected Outcomes

- A stronger investment case: Increased commitment among donors, DFIs, governments and private-sector actors to invest in resilience rather than costs of disaster response.
- Policy recommendations: A set of practical recommendations for governments, donors and financial institutions for long term resilience in national climate and development financing frameworks.
- Partnership and investment opportunities: Widened networks and partnerships for possible potential areas for collaboration among governments, development banks, donors, research institutions, civil society, private investors and insurance actors.

6. Run of Show

Opening: Welcome Remarks (00:00 – 00:05) • **Moderator 1: George Otieno, IGAD** The session will commence with brief opening remarks by the moderator who will provide an overview of the session objectives, the esteemed contributors (read short bios), and a brief overview of the agenda for the session (Presentations, Input Rounds, and then Q&A). The moderator will introduce a scene-setting presentation to frame discussions of first input rounds.
Keynote Address and scene setting: IGAD representatives, 00:05 – 00:15 1. ***Dr Gebeyehu Workneh, Executive Secretary, IGAD*** 2. ***Hon. George Ale, Minister for Living Standards, Transport and Sustainable Development, Benin***

1st Panel Discussion: Country focused experiences and solutions (00:15 – 00:35) • *Uganda Minister level Representative* • *Dr Joshua Banak, DG, Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs and Disaster Management, South Sudan* • *Ms Ruth Spencer, UN Women's Civil Society Group for the Caribbean* • *Mr. Nawa Raj Dhakal, Program Coordinator, NSET, Nepal* *Note:* *This section will present:* 1. *implementation of resilience investments for and resilience-building mechanism* 2. *relevant data and evidence available from current established systems; through real-world examples and case studies that demonstrate how these approaches strengthen the resilience of livelihood systems from the impacts of climate change.*
Closing Remarks: *The Moderator will facilitate a 10-minute audience engagement session, allowing participants to interact with the panelists. Approximately 3-5 questions will be fielded from the audience and directed to the relevant panel members. Once all responses have been shared, the speakers will deliver their closing statements, summarizing key insights from the discussion to make way for the panel discussion session.*

2nd Panel Discussion: Global and regional experiences, practice, investments and Policy alignment for resilience instead of Loss and Damage (00:55 - 00:75)

Moderator: *Ms* *Ipsita Sircar, GNDR*

The session will commence with the moderator introducing the topic of the session and speakers of the second panel. The moderator will introduce a scene-setting presentation to frame discussions of the second input round. Keynote speaker makes their presentations.

- *Issa Faye, DG, Global Practices and Partnerships, Islamic Development Bank*
- *Bapon Fakhruddin, Green Climate Fund*
- *Jahan Chowdhury, Chief of Climate Change and Environment Unit, IFAD*
- *Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency,*
- *DG ECHO*
- *International Federation of Red Cross & Red Crescent Societies*
- *United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*

Notes:

The panel discussion will be run with two input rounds.
Each panel member will be asked a tailored question based on their unique experience and expertise in each input round and will be given 2 minutes (if 5 panelists) or 1.5 minutes (if 6 panelists) to share their inputs.

The focus of the discussion will be to understand:

1. *The financial mechanisms and architecture that is available to finance early action and resilience at the community level*
2. *The role of different stakeholders in accelerating finances reaching the local level*
3. *Opportunities for partnership and collaboration at the regional and global level*
4. *Enabling policies (or policy gaps?) for early action and resilience building*

The session will end with 3 - 4 actionable recommendations on partnerships, policy review and mechanisms for countries and regional partners to improve its EWEA systems, climate change information as well access to finance.

Question and Answer (00:75–00:85) *The Moderator will facilitate a 10-minute audience engagement session, allowing participants to interact with the panelists. Approximately 3-5 questions will be fielded from the audience and directed to the relevant panel members.* *Once all responses have been shared, the speakers will deliver their closing statements, summarizing key insights from the discussion.*
Closing Remarks and Group Photograph (00:85 - 00:90) *The moderator will wrap up the event by summarizing key insights from both panels and delivering the closing remarks. All panelists and moderators come together for a group photograph.*