



Overview

Cash and voucher assistance in humanitarian response has grown significantly in recent years and the use of cash as a form of anticipatory action is also gaining traction globally. The provision of anticipatory cash involves early decision-making based on forecast-based indicators, which trigger the disbursement of cash or vouchers to communities at risk of being affected by a specific risk or hazard.

The 2022 floods in Pakistan inundated more than one-third of the country and affected 33 million people. Momentum and action are increasing for greater anticipatory action in Pakistan with the emergence of initiatives, frameworks, and potential approaches. This practice paper explores opportunities to strengthen the role of anticipatory cash in Pakistan in future disasters as part of broader anticipatory action efforts.

Methods



What we found

Through the literature reviewed for this paper, a number of benefits of anticipatory cash emerged, which are outlined below.

-  Protects lives by providing resources to support evacuation, spending of cash on transportation or shelter.
-  Safeguards assets from damage through acquiring resources or support to protect including houses, vehicles and personal goods.
-  Protects livelihoods through resources for evacuation of livestock or protection of stocks and other business assets, and supports markets.
-  Supports meeting basic needs such as food, water, medicine and clothing for the duration of and aftermath of the disaster.
-  Mitigates longer-term negative impacts and negative coping behaviours, such as borrowing money, taking on debt or reduce number or portion sizes of meals.
-  Increases agency and adaption capacity, empowering communities in advance of a disaster hitting.
-  Strengthens the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, through the provision of a bridge between development programmes and response activities.

Opportunities

This practice paper identifies key opportunities that exist for humanitarian actors in Pakistan to advance the use of anticipatory cash, and the pathways that can lead to realising these opportunities.

-  **1. 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.
-  **2. 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.
-  **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.
-  **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.

Read the full paper [here](#). If you'd like to learn more about our work, please contact: info@humanitarianadvisorygroup.org