



Save the Children International

Approach to Anticipatory Action and perspectives

October 2023





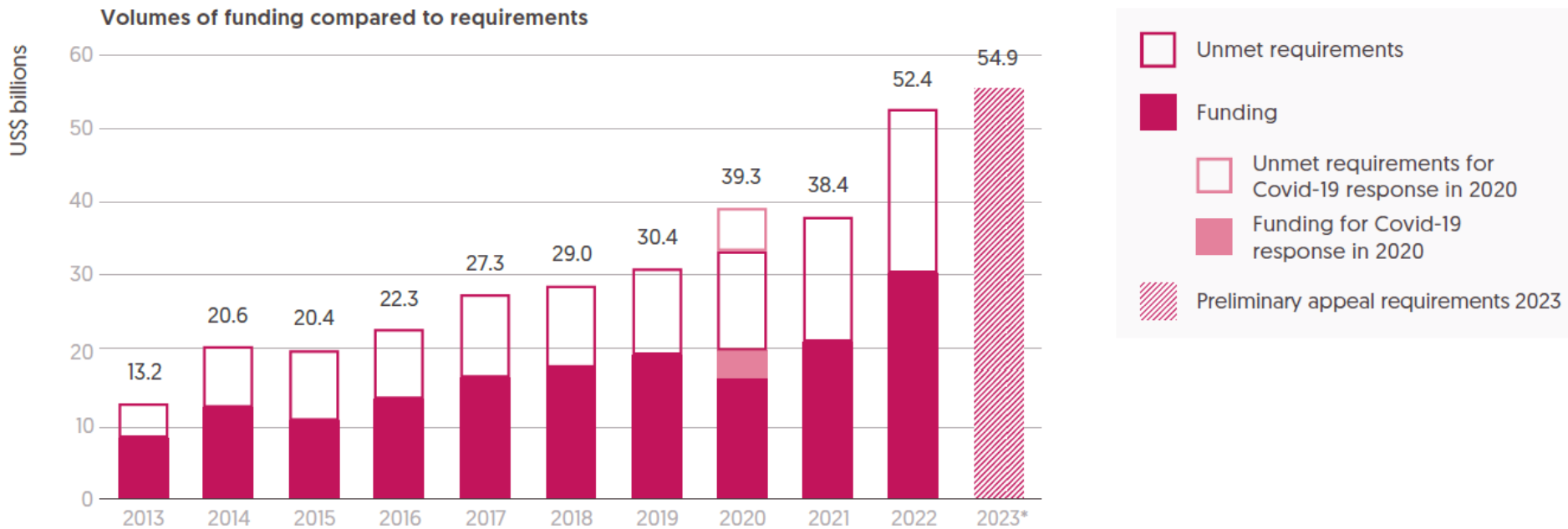
Anticipatory Action Vision

Save the Children aims to prevent and reduce the impact of predictable crises on children so they can survive, learn and be protected.

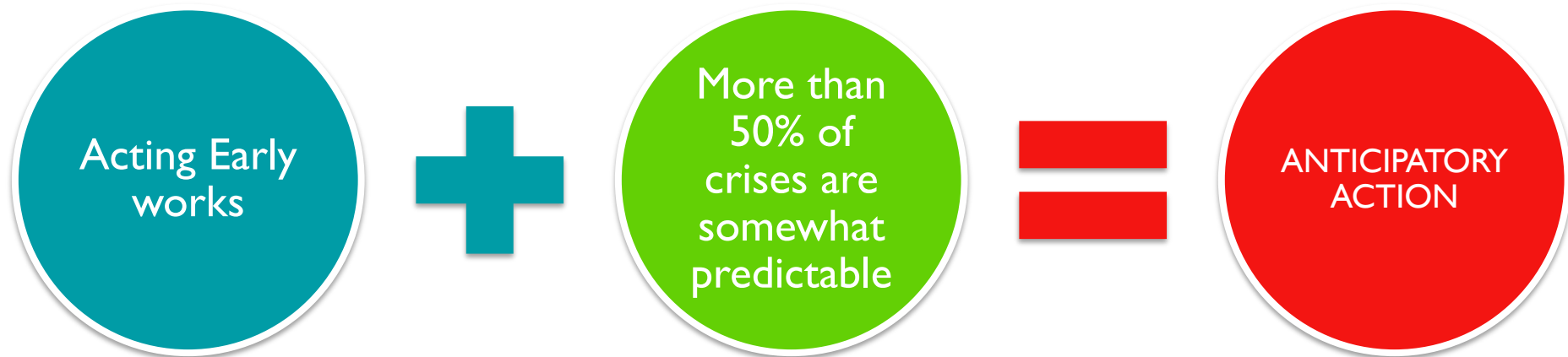
To do this, we will develop our **culture, practice and partnerships** to enable SC and the communities we work with to **proactively anticipate, plan for, and respond earlier** to protect children from predictable hazards, while also supporting governments, donors and the broader international community to adopt anticipatory action **best practice for children**.

A grim picture in the humanitarian sector...

We need new ways of working



The Case for Anticipatory Action



- **Save** lives and livelihoods, reduce suffering
- **Preserve** development gains and build resilience
- **Reduce** costs significantly
- **Increase agency** for children, communities and local actors

Yet...less than 2% of humanitarian funding is prearranged to enable early action

Save the Children's Approach to Anticipatory Action

Key Principles

Child Centered—focused on children and engaging children

Prioritize **localization** and **local approaches**, building on DRR work

Build and leverage partnerships
Climate service providers, etc.

Build bridges across hum, development & climate work, sectors, etc.

Contextualize and act according to where we can add most value

Emphasize **continuous learning**

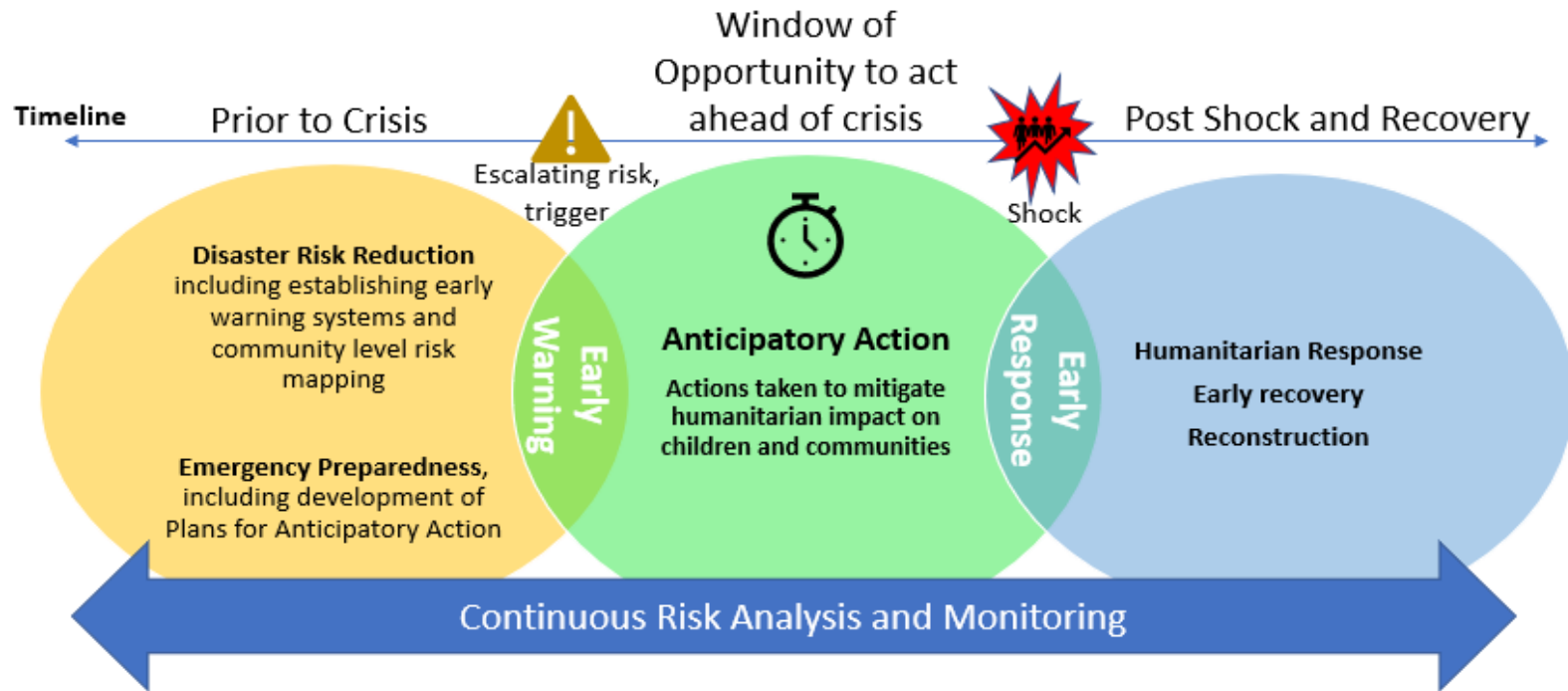


In January 2022 a tropical storm, causing Cyclone Ana, hit Malawi and surrounding countries. It was the second deadliest severe weather event in the area in 2022, took the lives of thousands and displaced thousands more. In the photo a young girl walks through the displacement camp she now lives in during one of the frequent sporadic rains that continue daily. Credit: Thoko Chikondi

SAVE THE CHILDREN'S FRAMEWORK
FOR ANTICIPATORY ACTION

December 2022

Flexible framework within a wider Disaster Risk Management continuum



Link to ongoing preparedness and disaster risk reduction and all-hazards approach

Role can vary: Direct implementation, partnership and also support to stronger systems at all levels

SC's Framework for Anticipatory Action: What is Anticipatory Action For Save the Children?

Anticipatory Action:
Acting ahead of a
predicted hazard to
prevent or reduce the
impacts on
communities before
they fully unfold.

Risk analysis: to help understand how different hazards will impact communities.

Risk monitoring and communication: Strong forecasting models and early warning systems

Plans: Who will do what and when to act in time to mitigate impact

Resources: Flexible funding, ideally secured beforehand

Partnerships and collaboration with communities, government, Forecasters, NGOs and beyond

Some examples—AA Building off of Longer-Term Programs

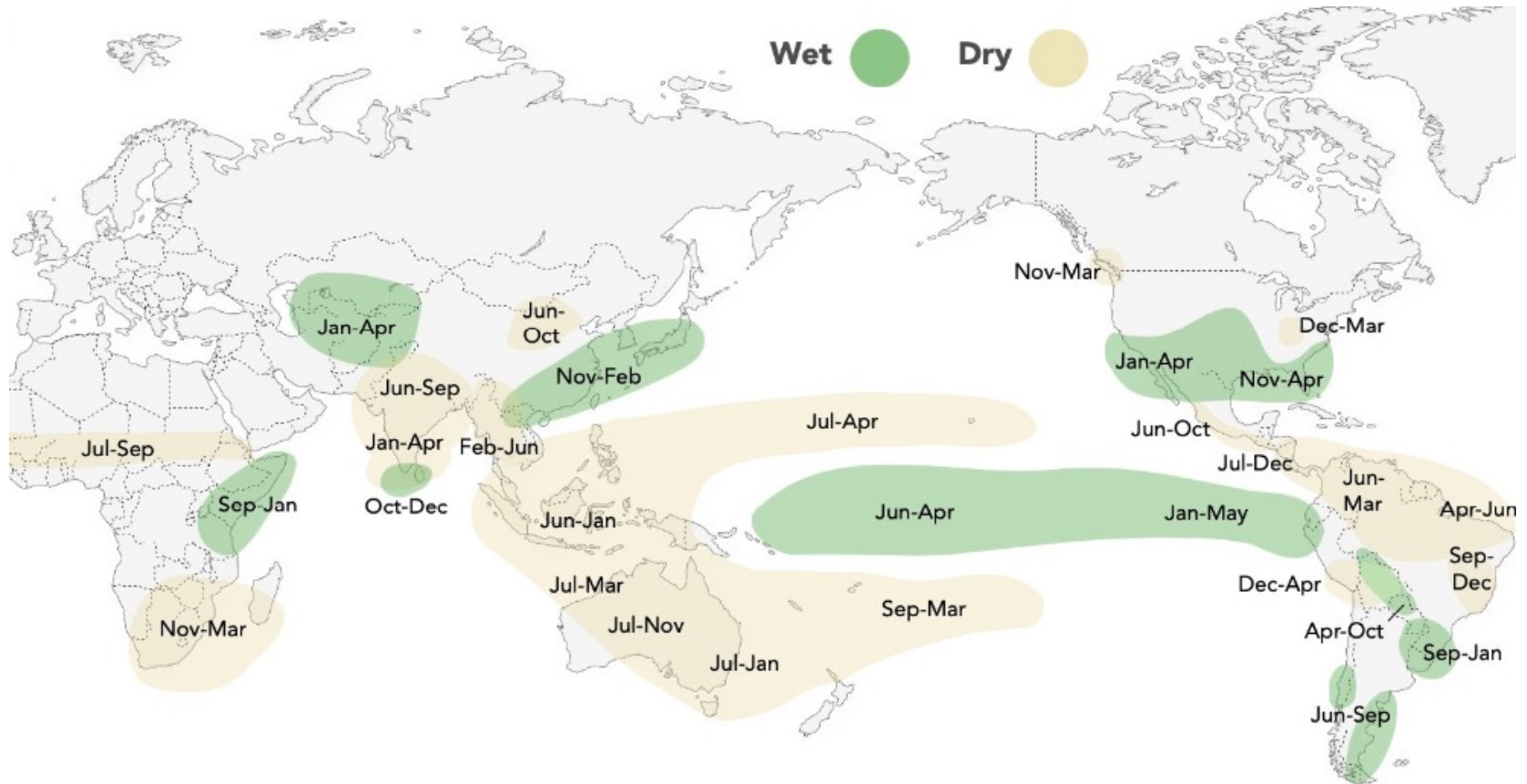
Severe Lean Season in Malawi 2022

- **Forecasts showed:** 20% of families would be food insecure from Oct 2022-March 2023
- **Impacts:** Loss of crops, income, poor nutrition, negative coping mechanisms
- **Interventions:**
 - Early cash transfer before prices of commodities spiked
 - VSLAs
 - Nutrition screening and support



El Nino & Anticipatory Action: Why are we thinking about this?

Historical association with El Nino



<http://iridl.ldeo.columbia.edu/expert/home/.lenssen/.ensoTeleconnections/>
for more information on El Niño and La Niña: <http://iri.columbia.edu/enso>

Chang, Goddard and Mason, 2020. Seasonal Forecast Skill of ENSO Teleconnection Maps. *Weather Forecasting*, 2387-2406
Chang and Goddard, 2001. Probabilistic precipitation anomalies associated with ENSO. *Bull. Am. Meteorol. Soc.* 82, 619-638

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El Nino: What does it mean for children?

What we know from 2015/16

- The El Niño event of 2015/2016 impacted 60 million people across 23 countries. Millions of families were forced to leave their homes in search of food, water or work after extreme weather devastated crops and livelihoods.
- Some 6 million children were pushed into undernourishment. This is three times as many children that became undernourished as a result of the global COVID-19 pandemic.
- At the same time, **outbreaks of diseases including cholera, malaria and dengue**, left undernourished children even more vulnerable to severe illness and even death.



Support for updating/establishing early action plans

Key elements to think about at country level



Risk monitoring

Identifying specific forecasts and developing risk monitoring plan

Understanding when to do what (triggers and thresholds)



Planning

Which actions will have greatest impact for children

Which may be no-regrets low-cost actions?

What do we need to prepare?



Financing

What resources can be leveraged to support early action (crisis modifiers, program flexibility)

What new resources could we ask for



Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

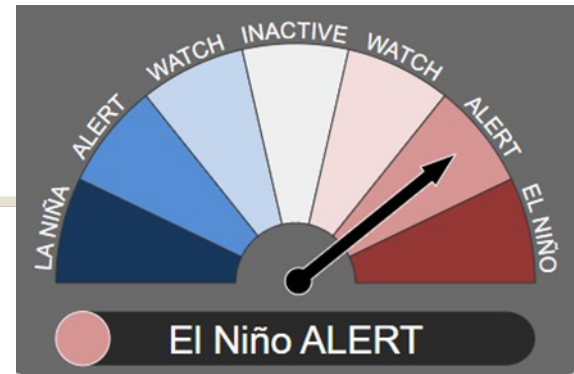
Deciding what will be monitored in terms of process and activation

Resourcing MEAL

El Nino: What are we doing?

Two key objectives and focus countries

1. Support 15+ high risk countries to monitor and plan for risks related to El Nino and improve preparedness for **anticipatory action, activation and learning**
2. What works? What do we need to fix? Inform longer term systems for Anticipatory Action and Risk Monitoring



East and Southern Africa

- Malawi
- Somalia
- Madagascar
- Ethiopia (SWAN)

West and Central Africa

- Burkina Faso
- Nigeria
- Mali
- Niger

Asia

- Indonesia
- Papua New Guinea/ Solomon Islands/ Vanuatu
- Pakistan
- Bangladesh

LAC

- Mexico
- Peru
- Guatemala

What's next

Big questions for Save the Children...

How can we improve our predictive capacity through risks analysis capacity?

- Context Analysis and Foresight Unit
- PREP 2.0

How can we strengthen local Anticipatory Action systems?

- How can we better institutionalize risk monitoring?
- How can we work with weather and climate information service providers?
- Which networking model between institutional and civil society actors?
- What models work best with communities

How do we finance Anticipatory action?

- Humanitarian Fund

How do we measure impact of anticipatory action?



THANK YOU



Save the Children