

Approval questions for early action alerts (EA#3)

Locally Led Anticipatory Action Toolkit

Purpose

The purpose of this tool is to set out approval questions for early action alerts for those who are disbursing funds for microgrants.

Guidance

Based on learning from the 'Local leadership for global impact' project, the considerations and critical questions to be applied by decision makers are listed below. They are based on the 'Small Emergency Fund for Early Action' set up by Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (DKH) and designed to enable proactive timely early action for a range of small crisis types and contexts. Whilst the questions can be changed based on organisational set-up, they should be linked to the Early Action Protocol alert note template also in place for that organisation. The EAP alert note should be considered a 'live' document, and updated according to ongoing learning.

The questions enable decision makers to decide whether an activation of funding is appropriate, both from an operational and strategic perspective.

Questions to consider

1. Disbursement pot

- What is the current status of funds availability for the DKH Small Emergency Fund?

2. Does the alert meet one or more of the crisis profiles for which the Small Emergency Fund has been designed? Overall, does the alert note (& early action protocol if available) provide a clear and justified case?

- Forecasts of impending crises
- Spikes in chronic humanitarian crises

3. Timing of alert

- The duration from the beginning of the crisis to the alert being raised - what impact does the timing of the alert have on the ability of microgrants to make a positive impact?

4. Potential future responses or funding

- Are other funding sources likely to become available quickly? If so, how will a Microgrants response fit into wider funding becoming available?
- Has the crisis been reported in the international or regional media?

5. Clear need

- What is the source of the information? E.g. primary data collection by alerting agencies
- Is the national government likely to act on the basis of the forecast?

6. Coverage rate

- What coverage rate might be achieved with the Fund allocation? (Can a relatively small injection of funds have an impact on the crisis at community level?)

7. Does the alert meet one or more of the anticipation crisis profiles?

- Anticipated small to medium scale crises
- Anticipated spikes in chronic humanitarian crises
- A cyclical hazard which presents an unusually high risk to communities due to contextual factors (i.e. forecast of an abnormal or extreme level of the hazard, heightened vulnerability due to the impact of prior crises, a change in the nature of the risk etc).

8. Timing of alert

- Is the timing of the alert appropriate to enable Small Emergency Fund / Microgrants to make a positive impact? Is there enough lead time until the predicted peak of a hazard to implement crisis anticipation activities?

9. Quality of the forecast

- Are we close enough to the peak of the hazard to have a robust forecast?
- Is the forecast source credible? Can it be triangulated?
- Is there any rating of the skill of the forecast that should be considered?

10. Level of preparedness

- What is the level of preparedness for this hazard at community level?
- What community structures are likely, or have potential, to engage in crisis anticipation activities?
- How would the Fund response complement other ongoing preparedness activities on the ground?

11. Potential future funding

- Is the Partner NGO requesting/advocating towards the (local) government and donors to allocate funds in view of the imminent crisis?

12. Project timeline

- Is the timeline appropriate for a positive impact on the anticipated crisis?

Acknowledgement

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