

# Q&A

## CoP webinar on Anticipatory Action and CVA: understanding and exploring key concepts, issues, approaches, and perspectives.

Based on your experience, which is better suited for anticipatory actions: conditional cash or multipurpose cash?

It depends on the objectives and what people want when you consult with them. So MPC is of course easier to set up, more flexible, especially if you have a project that runs over several years and the needs evolve and change over time. I think the best thing to do is to plan with the communities what they need, how they need it, if they do ask for CFW (conditional cash for labour) then plan for it but perhaps have space in your planning and design agreed with your donors, to be flexible and change if this need changes too?

Is it possible to clarify when AA is likely to be possible or better suited in terms of the types of disasters/hazards? For example, cyclones are predictable, with a clear lead time for activating AA; but less so for hazards such as earthquakes, flash flooding, etc.

Right now, some hazards are easier to forecast than others. Cyclone/typhoon are particularly tricky because of the problem that they can rapidly intensify and change the track / direction at the last moment which makes forecasting tricky - and these areas have to be evacuated 48 hours before forecasted impact so cash might not be suitable in many areas. There are currently studies looking into forecasting for flash floods, earthquake, landslides, but right now there are no reliable forecasts. Having said that, when a short range forecast is given, shorter range are the most accurate, there are still actions that can be done, priority is evacuation and preparation in the evacuation sites i.e. prevent disease outbreak.

Keep an eye on the Anticipation Hub's Trigger database: <https://www.anticipation-hub.org/experience/triggers/trigger-database/trigger-list> .

There are also plenty of relevant articles on the Anticipation Hub e.g. on forecasting flash floods: [https://www.anticipation-hub.org/search?tx\\_solr%5Bq%5D=flash+flood](https://www.anticipation-hub.org/search?tx_solr%5Bq%5D=flash+flood)

## Which cash delivery mechanism is most utilised for AA Cash?

According to current data, it is mobile money transfer.

*(Some reflections from panelists and audience members on selecting delivery mechanisms)* Selection of delivery mechanism depends to some extent on the type of hazard that you are responding to/that is forecasted. If you have a 3-5 days lead time ahead of flood or cyclone, you virtually have no choice but mobile money. If you have 2 months+ of lead time ahead of a drought, then you can also do cash in hand. In many of these contexts, there is not enough penetration of banks for bank transfers, and most vulnerable populations rarely have access to formal bank systems.

The problem with mobile money in a tropical cyclone scenario is that the cyclone typically destroys network infrastructure. In countries where this is possible, the use of Starlink is used to mitigate this issue. Using SMS-based transfers rather than mobile banking may also be easier in those scenarios.

Ideally, the cash is delivered before the cyclone, "whilst the skies are blue" and networks are functioning. That said, communities select the preferred modality and often we do not have a choice...The issue is can they encash fast enough to take protective measures?

## Is there any evidence on how people use cash if it is distributed in advance of an expected shock and the shock does not then take place?

There isn't currently evidence that panelists are aware of. A key reflection here though is that this is probably why anticipatory MPC is so popular, because if the forecast changes, it is still useful. That's a real strength of cash in AA. But it would be great to find an example of its impact in this situation (and maybe help make the case to donors!)

In their experience of community consultations when communities are asked what actions they would take, the majority of them are "low risk" if the forecast changes i.e. strengthening shelter, planting drought tolerant seeds.