EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

PARTNERSHIP FOR CHANGE

STRATEGIC VISION



REAP

Risk-informed
Early Action
Partnership



In Timor Leste, people must deal with multiple weather-related risks, including floods, storms and droughts.
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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Launched at the UN Climate Action Summit (UNCAS) in September 2019, the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) brings together an unprecedented range of stakeholders across the climate, development and humanitarian communities with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disaster by 2025.

The Partnership was launched with four ambitious targets which will drive a systemic shift towards acting earlier to reduce the impacts of disasters. The targets highlight the importance of national planning, financing and delivery mechanisms to support early action, as well as investment in warning systems that focus on reaching the most vulnerable, turning the 'last mile' into the 'first mile'. These targets are achievable only through partnership and a shared commitment to joined-up, risk-informed early action, and potential commitments contributing to the achievement of the targets are suggested in this document. While the Partnership and its targets focus on climate-related hazards, ongoing responses to COVID-19 highlight the interconnectedness of risks and how the need for early action and the benefits of the partnership are wider in scope.

Early action saves lives and livelihoods, protects development and resilience gains and has repeatedly been shown to be cost effective. Evidence shows that acting ahead of a disaster enables humanitarian assistance that is faster, cheaper, and more dignified. Now is the moment to realise the potential of early action by building on successful pilots and aligning diverse actors and their areas of expertise across the climate, development and humanitarian communities. REAP's ambitious agenda is rooted in a commitment to solutions and approaches that are people-centred; led and managed by those who are most at risk of climate-related crises. The Partnership recognizes that efforts that do not consider chronic inequalities, including gender inequality, will deepen existing vulnerabilities and encourage new forms of exclusion.

REAP creates a space in which partners and aligned organizations will use the ambitious targets to mobilise commitments and inspire action. REAP will not create a new funding mechanism or directly implement ground-level projects. REAP will, however, seek to enable coherence, alignment and complementarity of existing initiatives, while learning together what new initiatives are needed to make 1 Billion People Safer. REAP partners agree that only by working together across sectoral silos and involving those at risk, can global ability to act ahead of climate extremes and disasters be strengthened. There is an opportunity to make greater use of the capacities and tools of private actors in the delivery and financing of early action and to empower local governments and community actors in its effective implementation.

Reflecting on and learning from the different perspectives, language and approaches of partners can enable early action at scale. Given the importance of a unifying strategic framing, the document outlines key, high-level concepts for the Partnership. This includes the work and perspectives of partners without needing them to conform to one way of working. For example, REAP will often use 'early' and 'anticipatory' action as synonyms, due to the range of organisations within the partnership and the different modalities they use to 'act early'.

THREE BROAD CHARACTERISTICS FOR EARLY ACTION

1 Early action based on a forecast and/ or risk analysis

2 Early action happens before disaster

3 Early action reduces impact of disaster



THREE DRIVERS OF CHANGE

1 Global commitment

2 Local level involvement

3 Meeting supply with demand



Three broad characteristics for early action are identified. First, early or anticipatory action is predicated on a forecast or credible, collaborative risk analysis. Second, early action occurs prior to the impact of a hazard. Third, early action is intended to prevent or mitigate the impact of a hazard.

The Strategic Vision identifies three drivers of change for the Partnership in making 1 billion people safer from disasters. First, global commitment on policy and practice is required to scale up risk-informed early action. This will include the REAP Framework for Action, outlining how the Partnership will achieve its targets, as well as ambitious partner commitments against the plan in the run up to COP26. Second, under the leadership of partner countries, REAP will work to enable country and local level ownership of early action programmes. It will promote interventions by partners that are designed to work within and in support of national systems and local capacities, with a fundamental focus on the needs of the most vulnerable. Third, REAP's Marketplace will aim to connect and scale-up existing efforts on early warning-early action by diverse actors, while offering a space to match needs with offers for support from REAP partners. This may include linking resources with gaps in capacity, or convening key stakeholders on a thematic or geographic basis.

The governance of REAP is structured around three bodies. A governing board will provide strategic guidance and oversight to the development and implementation of the Partnership. Working Groups support the delivery of REAP's targets and advance specific thematic areas of work. The REAP Secretariat, hosted by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, supports the Partnership, its Board, and the working groups.

REAP is open to all countries, organizations and initiatives that share its ambition for making 1 billion people safer from disasters. While it continues to grow a diverse partnership, REAP partners currently include developed and developing countries, international organisations, civil society and private sector representatives.

To turn ambition into action at unprecedented scale, REAP's Framework for Action will outline the roadmap to meeting our ambitious targets. The Framework describes the role of all REAP stakeholders, including partners, Board and Secretariat in achieving the targets. It forms the basis for monitoring and measuring progress and success of the Partnership between now and 2025. Most crucially, the Framework for Action is intended to be a catalyst for further commitment, investment and progress in the early action agenda.



A community in Sri Lanka prepares an evacuation route following their experiences of a tsunami.
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Risk-informed Early Action Partnership

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