

Dengue Anticipatory Actions Coordination Meeting with WHH-HQ & SEEP



Introduction

As part of the ongoing monitoring, technical support and coordination under the “Anticipatory Action for Cyclone and Dengue Resilience in Bangladesh” project, a Welthungerhilfe (WHH) Headquarters Team visited the Social and Economic Enhancement Programme (SEEP) Dengue Project Office in Mirpur. The visit provided an opportunity to review project progress, observe field-level implementation, interact with community members and discuss the ongoing development of the dengue anticipatory trigger.

Participation

The WHH Headquarters delegation included Margherita Putrone, Anticipatory Action Advisor; Fawwad Muhammad, Hazard Risk & Forecasting Expert; Malte Schümmelfeder, Head of Programme; and Octavian Saikat Sarker, Area Manager. The delegation was welcomed by Md. Fazlul Haque Choudhury, Executive Director, SEEP; Tohomina Jesmin Mita, Deputy Executive Director; and A K M Anowar Hossain Mollah, Director of Programme and Aboyob Siddiqui Project Manager of the Anticipatory Action for Cyclone and Dengue Resilience in Bangladesh project. The visit was also attended by the project team and relevant technical staff.

Project Progress Presentation

During the visit, Aboyob Siddiqui, Project Manager, delivered a comprehensive presentation on the project's progress. The presentation covered major project activities, achievements, implementation experiences, key challenges and future priorities. The discussion provided the WHH team with an overview of the progress made towards strengthening dengue preparedness and developing an anticipatory approach for timely action. The team also discussed the lessons learned from project implementation and areas requiring further attention.



Field Visit to Project Intervention Areas

Following the office session, the WHH Headquarters Team visited the project intervention areas in Ward 3 and Ward 5 of Mirpur. During the field visit, the delegation interacted with project field staff and community members to gain firsthand understanding of project implementation. The visit provided an opportunity to observe community-level activities, understand local experiences and challenges, and hear directly from community members regarding the project's interventions and dengue-related risks.



Technical Meeting on Dengue Trigger Development

The visit concluded with a technical meeting between the WHH Headquarters Team and the EIMS Consultancy Team, which is leading the development of the dengue anticipatory trigger.

The discussion focused on:

- Progress of the dengue trigger development process.
- Proposed dengue anticipatory trigger models.
- Hazard, forecasting and risk indicators.
- Data requirements and monitoring mechanisms.
- Potential lead time and trigger thresholds.
- Coordination between SEEP, WHH and EIMS.
- Future steps for testing, validation and operationalization of the trigger.



The meeting provided an important platform for technical exchange and clarification of key issues related to the trigger development process.

Key Outcomes

The visit resulted in several important outcomes:

- Improved understanding of the project's overall progress and field-level implementation.
- Direct observation of project activities in Wards 3 and 5.
- Valuable interaction between WHH representatives, project staff and community members.
- Technical discussion on the ongoing dengue trigger development process.
- Identification of areas requiring further coordination and technical refinement.
- Strengthened collaboration among **WHH, SEEP and EIMS** towards operationalizing Anticipatory Action for dengue.



Conclusion

The visit by the WHH Headquarters Team provided a valuable opportunity to review project progress, observe field implementation and strengthen technical collaboration. The interaction with communities and field staff helped provide a practical understanding of the project's implementation context, while the technical meeting with EIMS contributed to further discussion on the development of the dengue anticipatory trigger. The visit reinforced the shared commitment of WHH and SEEP to strengthening Anticipatory Action and developing a practical, timely and context-specific approach to reducing dengue risks and building resilient communities in Bangladesh.

Glimpses of the Event



Stakeholder Consultation Meetings on Dengue Trigger Development



Introduction

As part of the ongoing development of the Dengue Early Warning Trigger and Anticipatory Action Model, consultation meetings were held with DNCC and IEDCR on 9 August 2026 to understand existing surveillance systems, available data sources, forecasting capacity and potential indicators for trigger activation. Representatives from WHH, SEEP, EIMS Consultancy Team, and the Anticipatory Action Expert from WHH Headquarters participated in both meetings. The consultations focused on gathering technical inputs and identifying practical opportunities and challenges to make the proposed dengue trigger model evidence-based, feasible and suitable for community-level application.

Consultation with DNCC

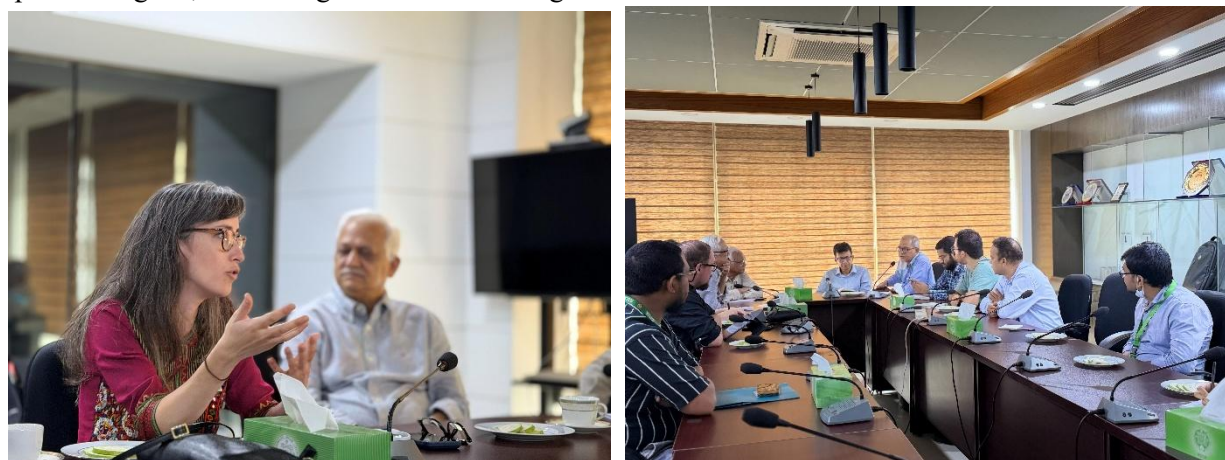
A consultation meeting was held with Mr. Imnul Kayes, Health Officer, DNCC, on 9 August 2026. Discussions focused on the DNCC dengue dashboard, daily data updates, patient and death reporting, mosquito surveillance and available health information.



The importance of entomological indicators such as adult mosquito density, Breteau Index and mosquito counts was discussed. Participants also explored opportunities to improve community access to dengue information through online platforms and digital communication. Innovative approaches such as mosquito traps, school-based interventions, awareness videos and community engagement were also discussed as potential early actions.

Consultation with IEDCR

A separate consultation was held with IEDCR, involving Dr. Shauket Alam, Dengue Monitor, and Zubair, Microbiologist, on 9 August 2026. The discussion focused on dengue surveillance, forecasting and potential epidemiological, entomological and meteorological indicators.

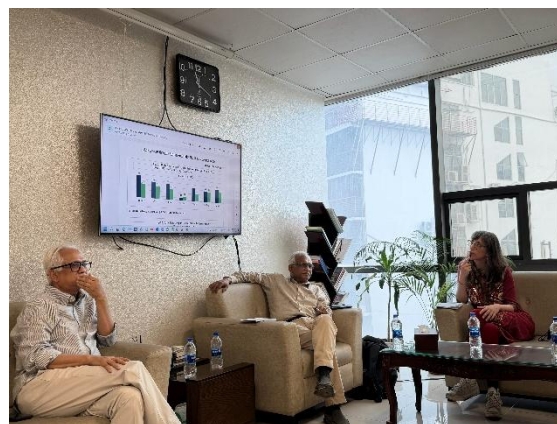


A key concern was that ward level dengue surveillance data are not currently readily available, which may create challenges for developing a highly localized trigger. Participants discussed the potential use of larval counts, adult mosquito density, temperature, weather conditions, epidemiological trends and laboratory information to strengthen the forecasting model.

Key Technical Issues Discussed

The consultations identified several important considerations for the trigger model:

- Availability, reliability and timely access to data.
- Appropriate trigger indicators and thresholds.
- Adequate lead time for implementing early actions.
- Monitoring and updating of trigger indicators.
- Forecasting based on probability and available evidence.
- A clear decision-making and stop mechanism to manage uncertainty.
- Feasibility of proposed early actions in terms of budget and operational capacity.



The possibility of allowing approximately two weeks of lead time for selected Anticipatory Action activities was also discussed, depending on the activity and forecast reliability.

Potential Early Actions

Potential early actions discussed during the consultations included:

- Environmental cleaning and removal of mosquito breeding sites.
- Targeted mosquito-control activities and mosquito traps.
- School-based dengue awareness activities.
- Community awareness and risk communication.
- Digital dissemination of dengue risk information.
- Strengthened coordination with health facilities and local authorities.



Key Challenges and Recommendations

The main challenges identified were limited ward-level surveillance data, data-sharing and integration gaps, limited localized forecasting capacity, and the need to establish evidence-based trigger thresholds.

It was recommended to further explore ward-level data availability, entomological and meteorological indicators, appropriate trigger thresholds, lead times and feasible early actions. Continued consultation with DNCC, IEDCR and other technical stakeholders was also recommended to validate and refine the trigger model.



Conclusion

The consultations with DNCC and IEDCR provided valuable technical input for the development of the Dengue Early Warning Trigger and Anticipatory Action Model. The discussions highlighted the importance of combining epidemiological, entomological, meteorological and contextual information while ensuring that the trigger is supported by clear thresholds, adequate lead time and practical early actions. These consultations will contribute to developing a more locally relevant, feasible and action-oriented dengue trigger mechanism for Bangladesh.

Glimpses of the Event



Discussion and Simulation Event on Anticipatory Action for Dengue Risk



Introduction

Dengue remains a significant public health risk in Bangladesh, requiring timely preparedness and coordinated action. To strengthen a proactive approach, representatives from WHH, SEEP, DNCC, IEDCR, Start Network, EIMS Consultancy Team and partner organizations participated in a two-day learning, discussion and simulation event on 11–12 August 2026. The event focused on Anticipatory Action, forecasting, dengue trigger development, early actions, risk communication and coordination, with the aim of strengthening preparedness to act before dengue risk escalates.

Background

Dengue outbreaks can escalate rapidly, making timely preparedness and early intervention essential to reducing risks to communities. Rather than waiting for dengue transmission to increase and responding after an outbreak has already developed, Anticipatory Action (AA) provides an approach to identify potential risks in advance and take appropriate actions before the situation becomes critical. With this objective, a two-day learning, discussion and simulation event on Anticipatory Action was organized by Deutsche Welthungerhilfe (WHH) on 11–12 August 2026 at Hotel Nascent Gardenia, Baridhara Diplomatic Zone Dhaka - 1212. The event brought together representatives from, Social and Economic Enhancement Program (SEEP), Dhaka North City Corporation (DNCC), Institute of Epidemiology, Disease Control and Research (IEDCR), Start Network, EIMS Consultancy Team, and partner organizations including GUK, FIVDB, UTTARAN and DSK. The event provided a platform for participants to strengthen their understanding of Anticipatory Action, exchange technical knowledge and practical experiences, and collectively explore how forecasting, triggers, early actions and coordination can contribute to more timely dengue preparedness and response in Bangladesh.



Objectives

The main objectives of the event were to:

- Strengthen participants' understanding of the fundamentals and application of Anticipatory Action.
- Explore the relationship between forecasting, risk monitoring, triggers and early actions.
- Discuss the proposed dengue trigger development models and gather technical feedback from relevant stakeholders.
- Strengthen coordination and collaboration among government, humanitarian, technical and implementing organizations.
- Provide participants with practical experience through a simulation of an evolving dengue-risk scenario.
- Identify gaps, challenges and areas requiring further preparedness for effective trigger activation and early action.



Participation

The event was attended by representatives from government institutions, humanitarian organizations, technical agencies, implementing partners and consultancy teams. From WHH Bangladesh, the event was joined by Mr. Jonas Wiahl, Country Director, along with Margherita Putrone, Anticipatory Action Advisor; Fawwad Muhammad, Hazard Risk & Forecasting Expert; Malte Schümmelfeder, Head of Programme; Octavian Saikat Sarker, Area Manager, and other WHH colleagues. From SEEP, A K M Anwar Hossain Mollah, Director of Programme, and Aboyob Siddiqui, Project Manager, participated along with members of the dengue project team. Representatives from DNCC, IEDCR, Start Network, EIMS Consultancy Team, GUK, FIVDB, UTTARAN and DSK also participated and contributed to the discussions and simulation exercise.



At the beginning of the event, Mr. Jonas Wiahl, Country Director, WHH Bangladesh, delivered a warm welcome speech to the participants. He highlighted the importance of developing an Anticipatory Action and dengue trigger model for Bangladesh, explaining why such a mechanism is needed, how it can support timely decision-making, and how communities can benefit from early and preventive action. He also provided a brief overview of the objectives and structure of the two-day workshop. Following the welcome speech, the facilitators introduced the key concepts of Anticipatory Action, including risk forecasting, triggers, early actions and coordinated response. Participants actively engaged throughout the session by raising questions, clarifying technical issues and sharing their feedback and experiences. Mr. Salauddin Ahmed, Representative of Start Network, raised important concerns with the EIMS Consultancy Team regarding the proposed hazard index, particularly how it would function in practice and how the model could effectively translate into community-level action. Representatives from IEDCR, DNCC, FIVDB and other participating organizations also raised queries and provided suggestions aimed at strengthening the design, practicality and effective implementation of the proposed dengue trigger model.

Day One: Learning and Technical Discussion

The first day focused on learning, knowledge sharing and technical discussions around the core components of Anticipatory Action. Participants discussed the fundamental concepts of AA and how early action can be linked to forecasting and risk information. Key areas covered included:

- Anticipatory Action principles and operational approaches.
- Forecasting and the use of available risk information.
- Development and application of triggers.
- Trigger thresholds and decision-making processes.
- Identification and prioritization of early actions.
- Risk communication and community-level preparedness.
- Coordination among relevant stakeholders before and during a potential emergency.



- Challenges associated with uncertainty, forecasting and false alarms.

Particular attention was given to the proposed dengue trigger development models. Participants reviewed the different technical perspectives and experiences related to dengue risk monitoring and discussed how available epidemiological, environmental, meteorological and contextual information could contribute to the development of a practical and context-specific trigger mechanism. The discussion also emphasized the importance of ensuring that a trigger is not developed as a standalone technical product. Instead, it needs to be connected with clearly defined decision-making responsibilities, agreed early actions, communication mechanisms and coordination arrangements so that action can be taken quickly once the trigger threshold is reached.

Day Two: Simulation Exercise

The second day focused on a practical simulation exercise designed to replicate the decision-making process during an escalating dengue-risk situation. Participants were presented with a developing scenario and worked through different stages of the Anticipatory Action process. The simulation covered:

1. **Situation Monitoring:** Participants reviewed information indicating changes in the dengue-risk situation.
2. **Risk Escalation:** The scenario progressed as additional information suggested increasing risk.
3. **Trigger Monitoring:** Participants assessed available information against proposed trigger conditions and thresholds.
4. **Decision-Making:** Participants discussed whether the available evidence was sufficient to move towards trigger activation.
5. **Trigger Activation:** The simulation required participants to consider the institutional and coordination processes necessary for activation.
6. **Early Action:** Participants identified and discussed appropriate actions that could be implemented before the risk developed into a larger outbreak.



7. **Coordination and Communication:** Participants considered how information and decisions should be communicated among stakeholders and to communities.

The simulation helped participants understand that effective Anticipatory Action depends not only on having a technically sound trigger, but also on having clearly defined roles, timely information sharing, decision-making procedures and operational readiness.

Reflection and Key Learning

A key learning was that timeliness is central to Anticipatory Action. Even when risk information and triggers are available, delays in interpretation, decision-making, coordination or communication can reduce the effectiveness of early actions.

The exercise also highlighted the importance of:

- Clear roles and responsibilities among stakeholders.
- Regular monitoring of dengue-related risk indicators.
- Reliable and timely data for trigger assessment.
- Clearly defined trigger thresholds and activation procedures.
- Pre-agreed early actions that can be implemented rapidly.
- Strong coordination between government, humanitarian, technical and community-level actors.
- Effective risk communication before and during periods of increasing risk.
- Continued testing and refinement of the trigger mechanism through simulations and field experience.



Key Outcomes

The two-day event resulted in several important outcomes:

- Improved understanding of Anticipatory Action among participating organizations.
- Increased awareness of the importance of forecasting and trigger-based decision-making for dengue preparedness.
- Technical exchange on the proposed dengue trigger development models.
- Identification of practical considerations for trigger activation and early action.
- Strengthened collaboration and communication among participating organizations.
- Greater understanding of potential operational challenges through the simulation exercise.
- Identification of areas where additional preparedness, coordination and technical refinement are required.



Conclusion

The two-day learning, discussion and simulation event provided an important opportunity for organizations working on disaster preparedness, public health and Anticipatory Action to bring together their experiences and technical perspectives. The event demonstrated that effective dengue Anticipatory Action requires more than forecasting or trigger development alone. It requires a coordinated system in which risk information leads to timely decisions, trigger activation leads to pre-agreed early actions, and clear communication enables stakeholders and communities to respond before the risk becomes a crisis. The discussions and simulation provided valuable lessons for further development and operationalization of the dengue trigger mechanism. Continued technical consultation, testing, simulation and coordination among relevant stakeholders will be important to ensure that the proposed approach is practical, context-specific and capable of supporting faster and more effective action against dengue risk in Bangladesh. Overall, the event represented an important step towards strengthening a more proactive, coordinated and timely Anticipatory Action approach for dengue preparedness and response.

Glimpses of the Event

