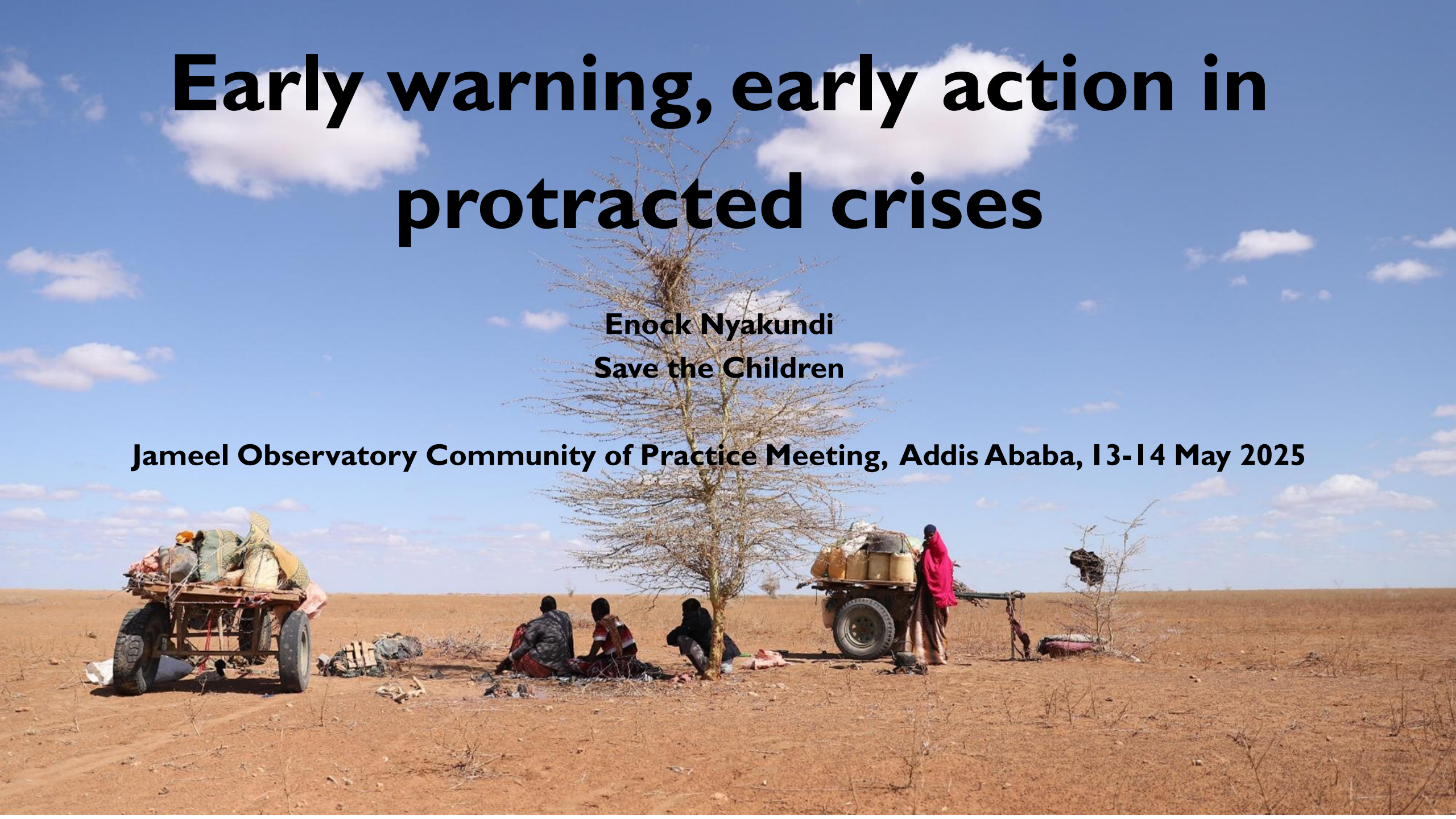


Early warning, early action in protracted crises

Enock Nyakundi
Save the Children

Jameel Observatory Community of Practice Meeting, Addis Ababa, 13-14 May 2025



Overarching Question

How can anticipatory action help mitigate impact of disasters that harm lives, livelihoods, and children's futures?

Tracking early action in Kenya

- Local actors first to act.
- AA not well integrated into early warning, decision- making and resource allocation.
- Early warning can largely predict but didn't lead to effective AA.
- AA still often project based and not system-based.
- Limited funding for AA.



Research Timeline

- Late 2020: first failed rains in Kenya .
- 2023: research on the role of AA in protracted crisis to inform operational research.
- 2023: following “normal” rains in early 2023, flooding predicted due to El Nino.
- 2023: Operational research to look at role of AA to flooding.

The role of Anticipatory Action in a protracted drought

- Drought EW information is not accessible.
- Trust in early warnings is low.
- Lack of localised AA structures- DRM.

‘With regards to drought, we wait for God’s decree...
...but we are Muslims who have faith in God. We just see the drought as it happens to us. We don’t know anything about the knowledge of the unseen...’

Anticipatory Action to flooding

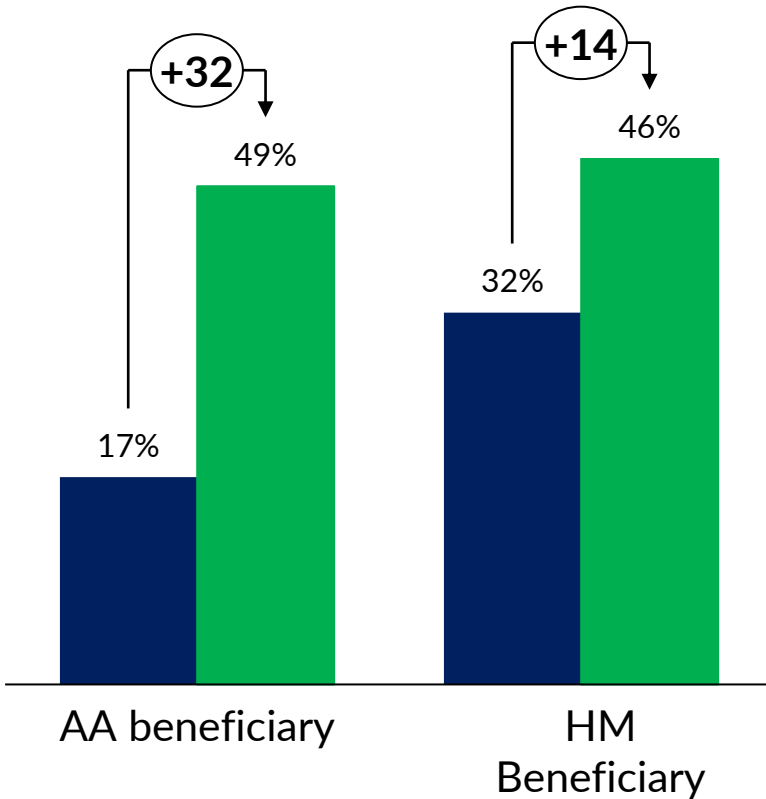
- The flood early warning is not impact based. (lack of integrating demographic data).
- Learning around the direct actions-flood shelters are not provided/limited coordination.
- High belief in traditional early warning information, though some gender difference.
- Potentially protected food security but for limited duration.
- Projecting resource transfer to targeted HH was not enough-food prices went higher during the floods period



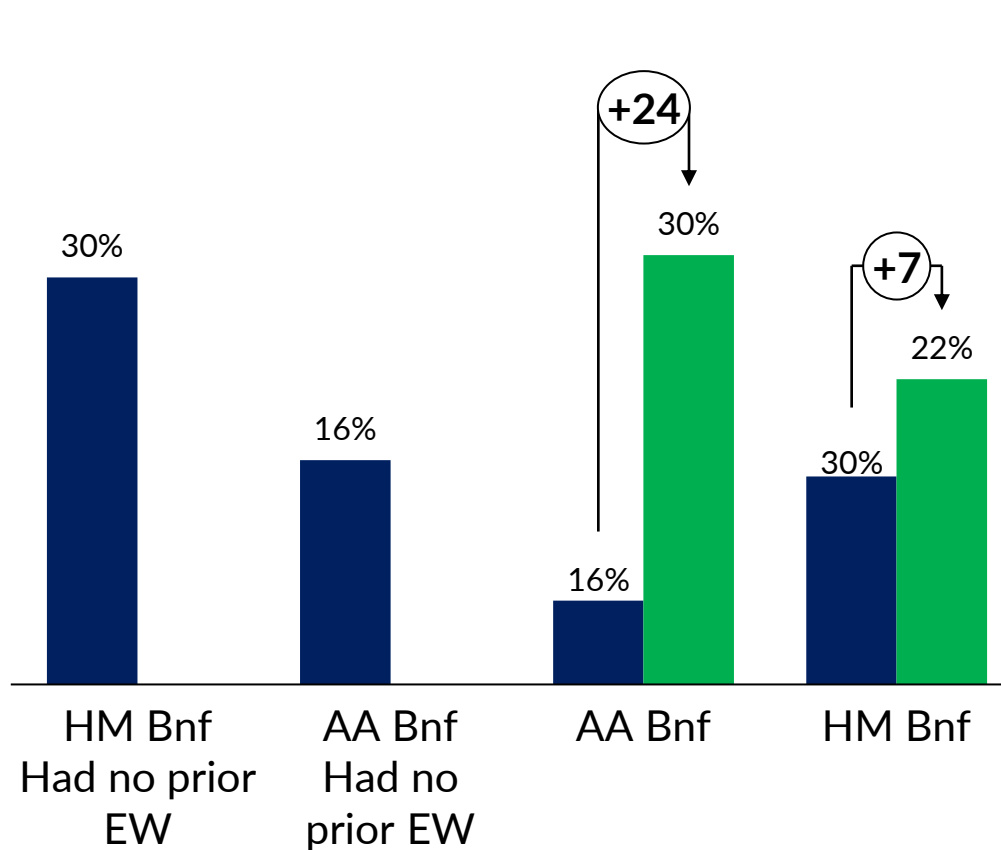
“I was able to access local market to buy enough food for my household before the roads become impassable and food prices increase”.

Effectiveness of AA - response to drought in Turkana County, Kenya, 100HHs 2024/2025

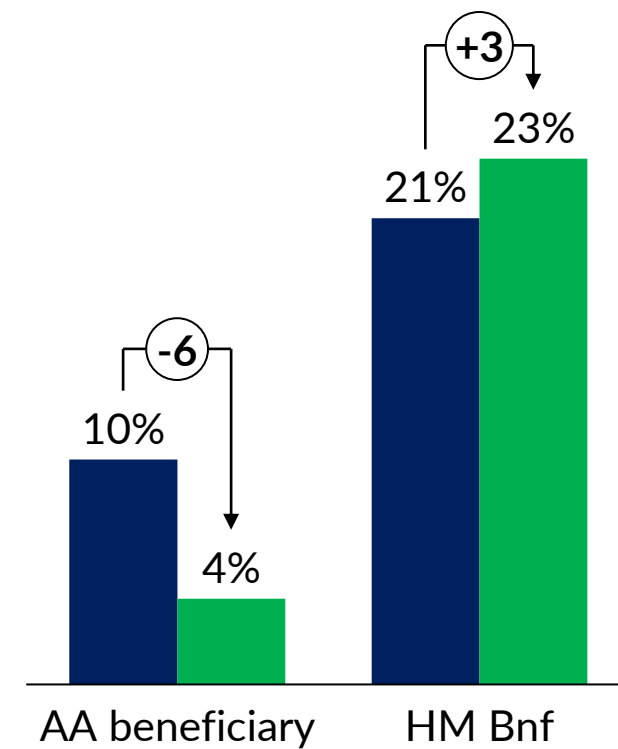
HH Food Consumption



Early Warning Early Action

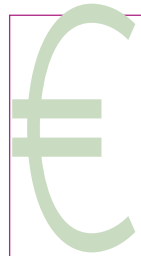


% reporting lower Impact

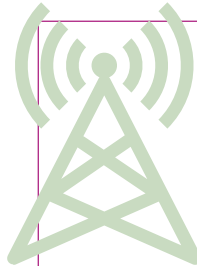


■ Baseline ■ Endline

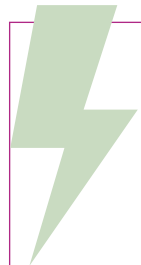
Persisting Gaps



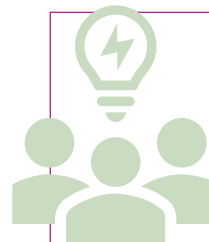
Low investment into Climate information services



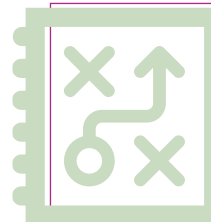
Investment in early warning and preparedness capacities, especially at local levels



Limited applying of AA to a wider variety of hazards i.e. locusts



Collaborative learning, coordination and partnerships



Limited adoption of AA into national/county disaster management plans

Conclusion

- Improve access, communication and trust in localised early warning information.
- Support local actors for anticipatory action.
- AA needs to be child sensitive and further research for child outcomes.
- AA does have an important role to play in preserving life and livelihoods.
- However, needs embedding into wider systems to prepare, mitigate, respond to, and recover from crises.
- Need flexible and coordinated finance streams.



THANK YOU