

Step 3: Have first discussions on how to integrate FbF in existing plans and mechanisms

The focal point should arrange meetings, workshops, or discussions on what approach to take with FbF. It is important to foster ownership of the FbF approach at the political and strategic level, starting with the national society president and secretary general and board members. The leadership should support the vision of integrating FbF into the national society's disaster risk management strategies, as the national society will be more successful in advocating for anticipatory action with the government if it is institutionalised within its own strategies and plans. In the [toolbox](#) below and the [library](#) you will find induction material. You can also revisit the guidance on how to build messages in [chapter 2](#) of the manual.

How to understand whether FbF is a good fit at this point in time

The list below provides some questions that can be discussed internally before you start an FbF or scoping study process. The development of an EAP and the set-up of an FbF system can of course shape strategies, build capacities and create buy-in on different levels; however, these questions can guide you to evaluate whether your national society is ready to commit to FbF now. You don't need to answer all the questions with "yes" to start FbF, but these questions will support you in clarifying what it means to start FbF.

Questions to help you decide whether to start working on FbF

- Commitment and motivation
 - Is your national society's senior management motivated and willing to commit to FbF? Are they willing to commit 1.5-years to development and to subsequent maintenance of the system?
 - EAP development is based on research and scientific analysis. Is your national society open to exploring this data driven approach to program design?
- Partnerships and resources
 - Are there other organizations working on anticipatory action in your country?
 - Is there an ongoing FbF Regional Program your national society could join?
 - Is a partner national society interested and available to support you in this process?
 - Are there countries within your region who have submitted EAPs, or

have already begun setting up FbF, that experience similar hazards?

- Strategies and mechanisms
 - How could FbF add value to your national society's existing strategies and programs?
 - What are potential institutional barriers to FbF? How would you overcome them?
- Existing capacities within the national society (Note: These are not a prerequisite as these could be worked on in the scope of the FbF process)
 - Does your national society have the capacity to dedicate at least one member of staff to manage FbF?
 - Does your national society have experience in developing contingency and emergency response plans? Are these plans tested?
 - Does your national society have a solid volunteer base that can be mobilised within a short time (e.g. 24 to 48 hours for fast-onset hazards)?
 - Do you have a (good) relationship with the government, hydro-meteorological services and other stakeholders that could support in accessing country-level risk data (e.g., historical disaster data, vulnerability, exposure, and data related to conflict, violence, inequality, etc. as relevant)?

If after your discussions you decide to start working on FbF, you can go on in the process of developing an FbF system. The next steps of this Manual will help you decide whether you want to do a scoping study or not. If you have funding for a study now (or other reasons why a study now would be good) but the timing is not ideal for the national society, you can carry out the scoping study and then start your FbF programme at a more suitable time; however, be aware that some of the analysis in the scoping study might change over time (e.g. available data, forecasts or staff capacity).

If you decide based on the internal discussions that the development of a full EAP is not the right step at this time, consider starting small with a simplified EAP that would need fewer resources and technical capacities during development. Check the [library](#) under Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) for more information, e.g. on the criteria.

If you decide to not start FbF (simplified or full EAP) at all at this moment, there are still a couple of options that you can explore with regards to anticipatory action:

- Reach out to IFRC to get more information on how to use the DREF for

imminent crises for anticipatory action.

- Consider low or no cost early actions that could be implemented at the community level. For example, consider integrating anticipatory action in community contingency plans.