

# Step 1: Understand why engaging stakeholders is important

A National Society is one of many actors in your country's disaster risk management landscape. Because they are auxiliary to government, it is important that National Societies not develop FbF in isolation or without connection to existing DRM systems. In addition to educating newcomers about anticipatory action, engaging stakeholders is critical to permitting stakeholders to learn from one another and to fostering broader institutionalization and longer-term sustainability. In countries where multiple actors (e.g. NGOs, UN, Red Cross Red Crescent) are designing and implementing anticipatory action systems, coordination can prevent duplication or the development of parallel structures and permit the government to assume an important coordinating role, should they desire one. Engaging key stakeholders from the beginning is also likely to help you with the following down the line:

- Securing the support of the Hydromet services for trigger development and monitoring
- Obtaining validation or sign-off from government on the EAP
- Integrating FbF/AA into government disaster risk management systems and plans (e.g. contingency plans)
- Obtaining relevant data or information from government institutions
- Scaling up AA in conjunction with other humanitarian actors in the country (see [Bangladesh case study](#), for example)