

Step 2: Familiarize yourself with EAP templates and criteria (simplified and full)

Since 2018, the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF has provided funding for developed EAPs. In 2022, the IFRC launched a new funding mechanism for a simplified Early Action Protocol (sEAP).



The sEAP is an additional ex-ante funding mechanism for National Societies and seeks to complement the existing funding mechanisms including the 'longer term' EAPs (i.e., five years) and 'shorter term' DREF for imminent events (i.e., 1 to 4 months). It articulates a National Society's plan to trigger early actions in advance of a weather or non-weather-related hazard, but does not replace the full EAP; instead, it is a 'medium term' (i.e., two years) funding alternative. It is simpler document than a full EAP with a lower budget and a shorter lifespan. The sEAP fulfils a dual purpose: it serves as a plan for the early action (when action will take place, what actions will be undertaken and how much funding will be needed) and it allows a National Society to access pre-agreed funding from the DREF.

The EAP and the sEAP have separate templates and eligibility criteria which can be found at the end of this chapter or on FedNet (see in [toolbox](#)). Technical review and approval of the EAP and a sEAP is based on the respective quality criteria. It is important to consider each of the quality criteria when developing the FbF system and the EAP.

Each EAP should focus on one hazard, but a National Society may develop multiple EAPs for different hazards. At this time, a National Society can have an unlimited number of full EAPs in place; however, IFRC only allows approval of up to three sEAPs at one time, each of which should also focus on one hazard. The simplified EAP was launched in 2022 with a three year pilot phase, after which IFRC DREF will review the funding mechanism.

The EAP and sEAP budget is made up of three types of activities:

prepositioning activities, readiness activities and early action activities.

- The **prepositioning activities** are allocated once per EAP, in the first year following approval. Stocks should have a shelf life of five years (2 years for the sEAP). The national society should pre-position the materials needed to undertake the early action, especially those that may require a longer procurement process such as shelter or hygiene kits.
- The **readiness activities** may be done yearly to ensure that the national society is ready to act early. These may include refresher training, coordination meetings, and simulations. Readiness may also include any ongoing costs and services (human resources and logistics) that are deemed indispensable for subsequent trigger-based activation of an EAP.
- The balance of the budget is earmarked for **early action activities** which are done in the lead time, between when a trigger is reached and the impact of the hazard. The early actions will be unique to each hazard and context and will reduce or mitigate the impact on at risk communities and may include for example, evacuation of at-risk communities and/or livestock in advance of a cyclone, early harvest of crops in advance of cyclone or floods, and/or the provision of water treatment, hygiene kits or mosquito nets in advance of floods.

Key conditions of the simplified and full EAP

Simplified EAP	Full EAP
Early action should target at least 2000 people for a budget allocation of CHF 200,000	Early action should target at least 10,000 people for a budget allocation of CHF 500,000
Duration: 2 years	Duration: 5 years
Separate quality criteria	Separate quality criteria

Show that an event of the magnitude/strength being proposed as a trigger has caused demonstrable humanitarian impact in the country in the past. - Demonstrate that the proposed early action activities are possible within the lead time available - Allocate a maximum 65 percent of the budget for readiness activities and prepositioned stock combined. If readiness costs exceed 30% this needs to be justified. In case this Manual is out of date, you can cross check the latest information on FedNet (see toolbox).

What is the difference between the funding mechanisms under the Anticipatory Pillar of the DREF? Specifically, what is the difference between an EAP, a simplified EAP and a DREF allocation for imminent crisis?

	EAP and sEAP	DREF allocation for imminent crisis
Timing	early actions are planned well in advance of the forecast. The approved EAP and allocated funding give the national society additional time (and funding) to include actions that may require more long-term preparatory work and pre-positioning of stock required for the early action.	Can only be requested when the hazard is on the horizon, that is once a forecast has been issued, which limits the time for planning, approval and implementation of the early actions.
Vulnerability assessment	more rigorous analysis of the historical impacts and vulnerability of the population leading to a more targeted and potentially effective intervention	
Capacity	The Forecast-based Financing process takes a holistic approach, often starting (but doesn't have to!) with a Performance for Effective Response (PER) assessment with the aim of develop the best possible EAP for the hazard and the context and takes time to systematically addressing organisational gaps and capacity development needs. While the sEAP is developed using the national society's own resources and is planned based on the existing capacity, however annual readiness activities means that the national society can maintain a good level of readiness.	DREF for imminent event needs to be planned based on the existing capacity and experience of the national society, due to the limited timeline – however, if a national society doesn't have a pre-approved protocol, DREF for imminent event enables any national society to act in advance of a hazard.

	EAP and sEAP	DREF allocation for imminent crisis
Activation	the national society can initiate the pre-agreed early actions as soon as the pre-defined trigger threshold is reached. There is no need to go through any additional approval processes, thereby gaining valuable time to reduce the impact of a disaster. The financial support is automatically released.	The national society must develop an Emergency Plan of Action and budget for anticipatory action, which needs to be reviewed and approved, with a signed project agreement in place before the funds are released. There is no guarantee the DREF request will comply with all the requirements for approval.

To learn more about the linkages between IFRC funding mechanisms, please look at the IFRC brochure Practical Information for National Societies on FbF and funding from the DREF (see toolbox)