

Step 6: Assess existing capacities, strategies and plans

FbF builds upon the existing experience of the national society in disaster risk reduction, early warning systems and response. Understanding how and where FbF fits into and adds value to the existing preparedness, contingency and response strategies, is essential for sustainable FbF implementation. The capacities needed to respond effectively to a disaster are often the same capacities needed for the activation of EAPs.

Throughout the FbF and EAP development process you will work on strengthening capacities and institutional preparedness for FbF. Both EAP templates include a section on the capacity of the national society. For example, the full EAP asks you to do the following:

- *Describe how the National Society has operative and administrative capacity to implement the EAPs.*
- *Describe the National Society's experience in the implementation of the selected early actions (Livelihoods, including Cash and Voucher Assistance; WASH; Food Security; Shelter, etc.).*
- *If the NS does not have experience in these areas, indicate the steps taken to improve its capacity in the respective sector to implement the EAP effectively and efficiently.*

There are different ways to assess existing capacities, strategies and plans and it depends on the national society which of the options they would like to choose. It is recommended to build on a tool that your National Society already uses. An overview of the manifold assessment tools (OCAC, BOCA, SAF, CHS) the Movement offers may be found [here](#).

- *Scoping study:* Those national societies that have conducted a scoping study might already have an overview of operational and institutional capacities that enable FbF and EAP implementation.
- *Preparedness for effective response (PER process):* Using PER can also show where FbF can contribute to improving the overall capacity of your National Society and provide a baseline capacity assessment against which to measure capacity strengthening down the line even if you do not conduct a full PER assessment. More complete guidance on the various ways to integrate PER and FbF planning is available [here](#). PER processes (including all types of assessments: self-assessment, simulations, operational or post-operational) offer a step-by-step approach to identifying and prioritising areas that require attention and resources to ensure that the National Society is effective, efficient and timely. A number of National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies are at

various stages of the PER cycle. For an overview of the national societies and their status, visit the [GO Platform](#). For more information on building capacities from the beginning and throughout the process see [Chapter 11](#).

- *Internal review:* If you either have already a good overview of your capacities, you can also decide to use that or do a lighter internal review process through workshops and working sessions.