

## Step 6: Activate the Early Action Protocol relying on automatically released funds

If, during the EAP lifespan (5 years maximum), the FbF system is triggered, then the National Society and its implementing partner can rely on the automatic release of the guaranteed funding for activation and should immediately initiate the implementation of early actions specified in the EAP.

### What form do cash disbursements come in?

Despite the automatic allocation of funds as soon as a trigger is reached, with standard transfers it can take a few days until money is available in-country. Given that many EAPs operate with very short lead times, it is important to make arrangements that cash is available as soon as it is needed. The actual modality for the cash disbursement will vary depending on different factors, such as the IFRC presence in-country, the National Society's own financial resources, the financial capacity and available support from Partner National Society. The modality will have already been established during the signing of the project funding agreement to ensure clarity for all parties on roles and responsibilities and to ensure the timely disbursement of funds as soon as there is a triggering forecast.

### If an EAP is activated but there is no disaster does the NS have to return funds to IFRC?

In the event that the EAP is activated, early actions have been implemented and the disaster event does not materialize, the National Society will not have to return the funds to IFRC. Within the FbF system, it is recognized that there may be times when the trigger is reached and the early actions are implemented, but the disaster does not occur. The Forecast-based Action by the DREF acts under a “no regret” principle.

However, EAPs with a lead time of more than three days should include a “stop mechanism” to avoid taking further action, once a more recent forecast shows that the hazard is reduced in strength or has changed direction and an extreme event is no longer expected. In this case funds, which have not been spent by the time the stop mechanism is applied, need to be reimbursed to IFRC. The use of relief items that have not been distributed yet, needs to be discussed with IFRC.



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