

Step 2: Familiarize yourself with Forecast-based Action by the DREF criteria

Video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FcuKUBihHVI>

The FbA by the DREF was launched in 2018 as a separate fund under the DREF, making use of specific FbA procedures and templates. This means that normal DREF procedures and eligibility does not apply to applications for FbA allocations submitted through an EAP. The templates and formats for EAPs and copy of the procedures can be found [here](#).

The FbA by the DREF will provide funding to National Societies whose Early Action Protocols comply with the [quality criteria](#) set up by the IFRC. One of the main conditions to consider is that the Forecast-based Action by the DREF is not meant to be used for recurrent events, but for extreme events of a magnitude that has caused disastrous humanitarian impacts in the past, i.e. where international humanitarian assistance was needed.

The FbA by the DREF focusses on funding Early Action Protocol activation and maintenance only. It will not provide funding for the development of Early Action Protocols or for the set-up of the FbF system (National Societies should look for different sources of funding for these costs).

Each Early Action Protocol refers to one hazard, but a National Society may develop multiple EAPs for different hazards. At this time, the FbA by the DREF is only accepting EAPs related to hydro-meteorological events.

Examples of the FbA by the DREF quality criteria

- Data must be provided that shows that an event of the magnitude/strength of the event that the trigger is based on has caused disastrous humanitarian impact in the region in the past.
- Selected early actions aim to reduce the expected humanitarian impact on the population.
- The EAP shows that the implementation of the early actions is possible within the lead time available.
- Historical impact information shows the targeted magnitude/strength of the event occurs every 5 years or less (return period of 1-in-5 years).
- Early actions target at least a 1000 households per activation.
- The maximum budget of 250,000 CHF adheres to this distribution:
 - Maximum 25 % of the budget for readiness activities: any ongoing costs and services (human resources and logistics) that are deemed indispensable for the National Society to remain ready for subsequent trigger-based activation of an Early Action Protocol. These costs could be spread out over the lifespan of an EAP.
 - Maximum 40 % for pre-positioning of stock: available, if the implementation of the

- early actions requires items that cannot be procured within the lead time once a trigger has been hit. To be used for relief items which can be stored over the lifespan of the EAP, ensuring adequate storage facilities, suitable transport links and appropriate insurance. Relief items with a shelf life shorter than the EAP lifespan (certain nutrition, medical items) are not eligible for pre-positioning funding.
- Funding for activation once trigger has been hit: Funds for early action activities which will reduce the impact of an extreme weather event. This funding will only become available, once a trigger has been reached.

How does FbA by DREF work in practice?

In the onset of a disaster, when a trigger is reached, the National Society initiates the early actions and notifies the IFRC using the notification template. The IFRC will release the pre-agreed funding for the early actions as stated in the approved budget. As all the administrative processes have been taken care of in the EAP approval phase, the release of funds occurs immediately.



What is the difference between the FbA by the DREF and a DREF allocation for imminent crisis?

- **Timing of planning:**
 - When requesting a DREF allocation for imminent crisis, the planning of the actions takes place only once a forecast has been issued, i.e. an extreme event is already approaching, hence limiting the time for planning and implementation of the actions to a few days at most. With the FbA by the DREF, early actions are planned well in advance of the forecast. The approved EAP and allocated funding gives the National Society additional time to include actions that require more long-term preparatory work and pre-positioning of assistance.
- **Improved overview of vulnerability:**
 - Additionally, the Forecast-based Financing process that results in an EAP includes a much more rigorous analysis of the historical impacts and vulnerability of the population leading to a more targeted and potentially effective intervention.
- **Activations:**
 - With an imminent DREF, the NS must wait until an Emergency Plan of Action has been developed and approved. Although this can occur within 24 hours, the drafting process might take longer and there is no guarantee the appeal will comply with all

the requirements for approval. With the FbA by the DREF the National Society can initiate the early actions stated in the EAP as soon as the forecast shows that the pre-defined trigger has been 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.