

Step 0: Confirm commitment to FbF

The process of establishing an FbF mechanism within the National Society requires a high level of commitment. Based on National Society experiences thus far, the entire process, from committing to FbF, to Early Action Protocol validation, trainings and set-up of all systems and procedures for EAP implementation takes around 1.5 to 2 years. Ideally for this process, the National Society can draw on the support of Partner National Societies, Regional FbF focal points and IFRC.

Before you embark on your FbF journey and start the feasibility study process, the list below provides an indication of some questions that should be discussed internally, to see whether or not this is a suitable time for your National Society to commit to FbF.

Does your National Society...	Yes	No
Have a high level of motivation and will to commit to FbF?		
Operate in a country with high exposure and historical impact to extreme weather events?		
Have tested contingency plans in place?		
Have tested emergency response plans in place?		
Have the capacity to mobilize volunteers to take action within 24 hours?		
Have the potential to collaborate with global, regional or/and national hydrometeorological services (NHMS)?		
Have access to country-level data in regard to risk (historical disaster data, and vulnerability etc.)?		
Have the capacity to dedicate at least one member of staff to manage FbF?		

Further questions to be considered would be: Is there an ongoing FbF Regional Program your National Society could join? Is a Partner National Society interested and available to support you in this process? Are there countries within your region who have submitted EAPs, or have already begun setting up FbF, that experience similar hazards?

If you've answered yes to most of the questions above, proceed with an FbF Feasibility Study. Of course, it is also possible to already carry out the feasibility study (e.g. because funding is available) and then only start your FbF project at a more suitable time. But as some of the analysis might change (available data and forecasts, staff capacity etc.), it is recommended to be committed to starting FbF before beginning the feasibility study.

Ideally following these discussions, the initial request for a feasibility study comes from the National Society, thereby showing its interest in setting up an FbF system. As the study itself requires committed time of the National Society staff at all levels, even in cases where the FS did not originate with such a request, before beginning a FS, the National Society should:

- Confirm they have an interest in exploring FbF within their country and willingness to host the

individual(s) conducting the FS.

- Select a member of staff to be the FS focal point, to attend all in-country interviews completed for the FS, to provide ongoing support to complete the study (technical support but also logistics), and provide feedback on the final report.