

Step 2: Design the study

FS studies typically involve (A) a period of desk review to prepare for the mission to the potential FbF country, (B) a mission to the country where interviews are conducted, access to data is requested and preliminary design ideas are identified with the NS and presented to get initial feedback, and (C) a report-writing phase whereby the information collected is consolidated, and a clear set of programmatic recommendations are made.

Decisions will need to be made on the scope of the study, the length of work in-country, whether information will be collected only from national-level key informants, whether the study team will visit lower levels of government and/or visit the general population in key disaster exposed areas). Ideally, each feasibility study should encompass all of the above. The following sections provide additional guidance on the length of in- country work, on the merits of conducting research at the sub-national level and on how and when to narrow down the focus of the study.

Guidance on the length of in-country work

In-country, feasibility studies typically involve conducting key stakeholder interviews and the presentation of the FbF concept over the course of 2-5 weeks. Generally, a study that predominantly involves actors within the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, and can build on strong availability of historical data, vulnerability and capacity information (such as completed PER tools to assess institutional capacity), a base level understanding of the FbF concept within the National Society, and an established relationship between the government technical services (NHMS, DRR etc) and the National Society, can be completed in 2-3 weeks. In contrast, if many hazards are being considered, if there are limited resources to review remotely, if the concept of FbF is not well understood by the National Society, and if the relationship between government technical services (hydro and met) and the National Society needs to be developed, then more time must be allocated for in-country work (3-5 weeks).