

Step 4: Select early actions

The aim of FbF is to reduce suffering and losses by assisting vulnerable populations to protect themselves and their livelihoods before an extreme event occurs. To achieve this objective, it is crucial to select early actions that have the highest potential to reduce the identified impacts. The identification of good early actions is one of the most challenging aspects of EAP development. Not only should they be very likely to significantly reduce the negative impacts of the extreme event, they also must be feasible to implement in the short lead time the forecast provides and with the capacities and resources available to the National Society. Given that FbF acts where the forecasts indicate the most severe impact, the actions must also be appropriate for different regions and communities.

Chapter [4.2 Select Early Actions](#) provides you with guidance to identify, prioritize and select appropriate early actions.

The use of cash and voucher assistance (CVA) as an early action should be considered where possible. It has many advantages; cash provides families with more flexibility as to how to best protect themselves and their livelihoods and can significantly simplify the logistics of early action implementation (e.g. by reducing the need to preposition and transport items). See [chapter 4.2.1 Cash-based early actions](#) for more information.

In countries with good existing social protections systems, integrating CVA early actions using those can be an ideal way to assist the population at risk before the event occurs. See [chapter 4.2.2 Link early actions to social protection](#) for guidance on how this could be done.