

Step 7: Strengthen external stakeholders' understanding of FbF

It is critical that the scope of what FbF can do is well-understood. FbF should be presented as one of the solutions designed to complement and strengthen gaps in the DRM system. Many FbF enthusiasts present FbF as 'the solution' to all challenges, or 'the new innovation', which must be taken up by government. The way FbF is packaged and marketed can undermine its value, and ultimately reflect poorly on National Societies, create false expectations. FbF doesn't inherently have a higher chance of "going wrong" than much of our other work.

But because it is new, people might not realize potential pitfalls. It is also imperative to be open to challenges associated with FbF. Open dialogue about learnings from other countries, the realistic potential of early action, potential benefits and risks helps build confidence in the systems, as well as inform the design of strategies to address them.

Project visits

Organizing exploratory missions to ongoing FbF projects in other countries, or potential FbF sites (e.g. highly disaster-prone communities) with government partners is an excellent way to initiate dialogue and scope how FbF interventions could support.

Sharing good practices and resources (e.g. for shared hazards) serves as a helpful means to apply FbF approaches to your context. There are currently a number of countries implementing FbF for a range of hazards and contexts. Exchange with practitioners within and/or across regions can aid your National Society throughout all stages of FbF implementation. Tune into FbF videos and Fact Sheets for inspiration.



Practical Example: Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan **Peer-to-Peer Learning – Remote FbF introductions from the field**

When it came to introducing FbF in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, practitioners and experts joined the stakeholder workshop remotely from Peru, Mozambique, Bangladesh and the IFRC headquarters in Geneva, to share their experiences and answer questions related to FbF implementation.



© GRC – This photo is the result of the 5th National Dialogue Platform on FbF in the Philippines in 2019.

One successful element not only in creating interest of key government actors, increasing technical understanding but also in bringing all of them to the table to discuss how an FbF system could look, has been the organization of National Dialogue Platforms. Similar to the Global and Regional Dialogue Platforms, they bring together different government agencies, scientists and UN agencies, NGOs and RC active or interested in FbF and EWEA to exchange ideas, lessons learned, concrete examples and next steps.

Inviting key government stakeholders to Regional Dialogue Platforms should also be considered. Seeing how other governments in their region already engage in FbF and how they approach it can provide inspirations, increase interest and confidence in the feasibility. Exchange with counterparts from neighboring countries can also foster regional solutions and problem-solving. FbF has been hosting Global, Regional and Local Dialogue Platforms since 2014.