Step 5: Build in capacities for EAP development

EAP design at times requires expertise which falls outside of in-house NS human, technical or financial capacities. Therefor, identifying which staff skills/capacities are necessary, and fortifying these through the key strategic, technical and operational staff, as well as training volunteers, and acquiring needed resources, can successfully contribute to the design of the elements and execution of the EAP.

Human

Who	What	When
FbF Coordinator	Oversees the FbF programme	Entire FbF process. This will be intensive at the start of the project and through EAP development and validation. Following, FbF Focal Points monitor and coordinate EAP during activations, as well as maintain capacity to activate at all levels necessary for NS to carry out EAP.
Researcher/thematic expert	Feasibility study	2 months beginning of the project, and 2 months if examining new modes of assistance (e.g. cash preparedness and CVA early actions)
QGIS expert	Impact-based mapping and activation map generation	6-12 months + time needed between trigger and disaster (hazard and trigger dependent)
MEAL/PMER consultant	Development of M&E plan, Decision Tree for Early Actions Impact study post activation	1- 2 months and 1-2 months post activation
Hydro-meteorological expert	Trigger + EAP development, monitoring and FbF activation	6- 12 months for trigger development/Monitoring throughout
Thematic Early Action advisors/consultants/experts/ organizations	Cash, Community Engagement and Accountability, Shelter	Dependent on existing capacities and program requirements

Monetary

Capacity within your NS is not only human, but also financial. While Forecast-based Action by

DREF funding is available to validated EAPs, funding will be needed for EAP Development. Assess project budget and scope potential funding opportunities via Partnership National Societies. Scope whether your NS is engaged in ongoing projects to connect activities to funding streams, as well as private sector partnerships and institutional donors.

Technical

In some cases, there might be technical investments your National Society will choose to undertake. For example, GIS software, or even in cases in which your country lacks hydro-meteorological equipment for monitoring specific hazards, your NS can consider whether these investments are viable.

Mozambique Red Cross: FbF Capacity strengthening and preparedness for Early Warning Early Action



Mozambique Red Cross (CVM) engaging in early actions during Cyclone Idai
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At the start of the FbF project in 2015, CVM established the core FbF team to address capacity strengthening and EAP development. Key positions included among others: FbP project manager, EAP Manager and Climate Change Advisor. In addition, Focal Point Technicians within the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC), the Mozambique National Meteorology Institute (INAM) and the National Water Authorities (DNGRH) were identified.

Given the central structure of government, the dissemination and capacity strengthening plan targets CVM HQ, Provincial, District staff and volunteers, as well as government authorities at province and district levels with a pronounced focus on historically disaster prone high-risk areas.

As of 2020, CVM currently has one approved EAP for cyclones, and two EAPs in development for floods (in phase of validation) and drought. Therefore CVM FbF team maintains capacity strengthening via regular meetings at HQ level, as well as “FbF readiness” at the provincial level for their Cyclone and Flood EAPs.

Regular trainings at province level engage NS chapter staff, local disaster management committees at the community level, capacitated by the local disaster management authority, INGC, and volunteers on early actions including early warnings, shelter strengthening, the distribution of non-food-items (NFI) like water purification tablets, soaps, jerry cans and mosquito nets in targeted districts. The trainings are organized in different modules and targeted to the specific audience at each level, involving practical components of EAP simulation.

In 2019, with the forecasting of Cyclone Idai, CVM volunteers were well equipped to unlock early actions, disseminating warnings and reaching out to vulnerable populations even in remote areas. The Red Cross had already equipped volunteers with bicycles, rubber boots, rain coats, megaphones, as well as first aid kits a year prior. The FbF-project in Mozambique helped to strengthen shelters and transport goods for humanitarian assistance in projected high-risk areas prior to the cyclone’s landfall. Goods included water purification tablets to keep drinkable water available after the cyclone passed.

CVM strengthens and maintains capacity for new and approved EAPs within one common plan and concept.

To follow CVM’s Idai activities, click here.