

Terms of Reference for FbF thematic groups

Context/Background

Most countries are prone to weather and climate related hazards such as flooding, landslides, tropical storms and drought. Funding for emergency response is usually available when such disasters occur and suffering is almost guaranteed. However, it is possible to prepare for such disasters and minimize their impact based on the fact that most of the hydro-meteorological hazards can be forecasted in advance. Humanitarian actions could be implemented in the window between the forecast and occurrence of the event under the innovation of Forecast based Financing. The Forecast Based Financing (FbF) approach seeks to allocate funds for implementation of pre-defined early actions based on a scientific weather forecast and knowledge of risks. By releasing funds in anticipation of a crisis, it is expected that the impact of the crisis will be reduced and that funding for emergency response will be saved.

The Red Cross Movement and other partners such as WFP have been piloting FbF projects in Africa, Asia and South America since 2013. There have been lessons learned including the need to actively stakeholders from national to local level. The FbF approach will be implemented at national scale and hence the need for a multi stakeholder engagement. As such, stakeholders will be categorized into three thematic groups viz: Triggers, Early Actions and Finance. This document therefore provides guidelines for the establishment and functionality of the thematic groups for the implementation of FbF.

Objective of the thematic groups

The overall aim of the thematic groups is to participate in the development of the Early Action Protocol and provide technical advisory support in the development of the FbF trigger methodology.

Composition

Members of the Trigger thematic group will include the following;

- Representatives from forecasting agencies including Meteorology and hydrology agencies, at national level and when possible and necessary regional or international representatives (e.g GLOFAS, ECMWF, IRI, UKMO, WMO, Climate Centre)
- Disaster Risk Management stakeholders, including DRRM agencies, risk modelers from insurance companies, NGOs, UN agencies
- Information management stakeholders, experts on exposure and vulnerability analysis.

The Early Actions group will include;

- Disaster Risk Management stakeholders, including DRRM agencies, National Society NGOs, UN agencies, leads of thematic sectors such as health, WASH, Food security, shelter etc.
- Representatives of disaster response and recovery specialized agencies.
- Social Protection agencies

The Finance group will include;

- Representatives of Ministry of Finance
- Representative of donor community in country

- Disaster Risk Management stakeholders, including DRRM agencies, National Society NGOs, UN agencies
- World Bank representative

The Chairpersons of the groups shall be agreed upon by stakeholders in country. The Red Cross shall be represented in all the thematic groups.

Roles and functions

a) Red Cross

In strong collaboration with Disaster Risk Management/Civil Protection agencies, the Red Cross shall;

- Convene the meetings for the thematic groups on dates and time determined in advance by majority members
- Facilitate and provide technical support for the organization of the meetings
- Document meetings and disseminate notes with members
- Propose agenda for meetings

b) Trigger thematic group

The Climate Centre will engage a resource person to;

- Assess the available forecasts in country and develop a menu of forecast
- Conduct risk analysis – identify priority disaster impacts and analyze exposure and vulnerability data
- Define extreme events
- Identify the impact of the extreme events on various vulnerable groups
- Develop a trigger model – Impact-based Forecasting model

The Trigger group shall advise, provide input and validate the results/outputs produced by the resource person in addition to the following;

- Identify opportunities for synergies with other related programs in country
- Advocate for FbF implementation at national level
- Provide information/data where possible to relevant to the assignment of the resource person
- Broker knowledge among the relevant stakeholders

c) Early Action thematic group

In coordination with the Triggers thematic group, the Early Actions thematic group will perform the following roles;

- Identify priority disaster impacts that will be tackled by early action
- Use the FbF manual – prioritization of actions section.
- Review the proposed criteria for identification of early actions (based on the FbF Manual) and adapt it based on country context
- Prioritize early actions based on the given criteria and the Theory of Change
- ensure that early actions are aligned to the trigger model (impact-based forecasting model)
- Ensure that capacity of implementation is considered in the selection of actions. Propose plans for capacity building, in the case that a given Government agency and/or

implementing agency (NS, NGO, UN etc) do not have all the capacity to implement forecast-based action but still is willing to do it.

b) Finance group

- Identify existing funding mechanism and produce proposals on how they could be used to enable FbF
- Advocate for a shift of humanitarian and development funding towards early action, within the Government and the donor community in country.
- Develop criteria for activating funds for FbF

Secretariat

The secretariat for these groups shall be the Disaster Risk Management/ Civil Protection agencies or the National Societies. The National Societies will support their respective government DRM offices to facilitate the functions of the thematic groups. Each group shall identify a focal point person.

It is recommended to review existing government structures such as national DRR platforms, where relevant, to play any of the roles of the Technical Working Groups.

Membership and membership specification

Members shall include representatives from the government, development partners, national and international nongovernmental organizations, academic institutions, donor community and the private sector. Membership shall be based on institutional representation with a designated focal person who is expected to participate in the execution of the functions of the thematic groups. Additional members can be coopted for specific activities/meetings as required.

Frequency of meetings

The National Societies in consultation with government Disaster Risk Management/Civil Protection agencies will identify the meeting venues and facilitate the meetings. The frequency of the meetings will be determined by the membership.

Timeframe of the groups

The groups will function and exist for an initial period of one year and a review will be held based on progress made in the implementation of FbF in country.

Reporting

The National Societies will assign a focal person to facilitate and support the thematic groups in consolidating and reporting on progress and outputs achieved.