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STEP 3: INITIAL DISCUSSIONS ON HOW TO INTEGRATE ANTICIPATORY ACTION
IN EXISTING PLANS AND MECHANISMS

Step 3: Initial discussions on how to integrate anticipatory action in existing plans and mechanisms

The focal point should arrange meetings, workshops, or discussions on what approach to take with anticipatory action. It is important to foster ownership of the anticipatory action approach at the political and strategic level, starting with the National Society president and secretary general and board members. The leadership should support the vision of integrating anticipatory action into the National Society's disaster risk management strategies, as the National Society will be more successful in advocating for anticipatory action with the government if it is institutionalized within its own strategies and plans. In the [toolbox](#) below and the [library](#) you will find induction material. You can also revisit the guidance on how to build messages in [chapter 2](#) of the manual.

How to understand whether anticipatory action is a good fit at this point in time

The list below provides some questions that can be discussed internally before you start working on anticipatory action or a scoping study process. The engagement in anticipatory action, such as developing a full or simplified EAP (sEAP), can shape strategies, build capacities and create buy-in across the organization. However, these questions help clarify whether anticipatory action is relevant, realistic, and provides added value in your specific question. You don't need to answer all the questions with "yes" in order to move forward. Rather, these reflections support a strategic discussion on whether to pursue anticipatory action at this stage.

Questions to help you decide whether to start working on anticipatory action

- Commitment and motivation
 - Is your National Society's senior management motivated and willing to commit to anticipatory action? Are they willing to commit 1.5 years to development and to subsequent maintenance of the system?
 - EAP development is based on research and scientific analysis. Is your National Society open to exploring this data driven approach to program design?
- Partnerships and resources
 - Are there other organizations working on anticipatory action in your country?
 - Is there an ongoing anticipatory action regional programme your National Society could join?
 - Is a Partner National Society interested and available to support you in this process?
 - Are there countries within your region who have submitted s/EAPs, or have already begun setting up anticipatory action systems, that experience similar hazards?
 - Do communities see the value of acting in the window between a hazard forecast and impact?
- Strategies and mechanisms
 - How could anticipatory action add value to your National Society's existing strategies and programmes?
 - What are potential institutional barriers to anticipatory action? How would you overcome them?
- Existing capacities within the National Society (Note: These are not a prerequisite as these could be worked on in the scope of the anticipatory action process)
 - Does your National Society have the capacity to dedicate at least one member of staff to manage anticipatory action efforts?
 - Does your National Society have experience in developing contingency and emergency response plans? Are these plans tested?
 - Does your National Society have a solid volunteer base that can be mobilized within a short time (e.g. 24 to 48 hours for fast-onset hazards)?
 - Do you have a (good) relationship with the government, hydro-meteorological services and other stakeholders that could support in accessing country-level risk data (e.g., historical disaster data, vulnerability, exposure, and data related to conflict, violence, inequality, etc. as relevant)?

If you are considering the implementation of anticipatory action focused on an area that is experiencing conflict or other types of fragility, there can be additional concerns regarding institutional capacity and operational feasibility. Refer to the "Anticipatory action in fragile, conflict-affected and violent settings" toolkit's Module 1 on feasibility studies, included in the [toolbox](#) below, for additional guiding questions in such settings.