

CONTENT

STEP 4 (OPTIONAL): PLAN TO GO BEYOND THE MINIMUM MEAL REQUIREMENTS

Step 4 (optional): Plan to go beyond the minimum MEAL requirements

MEAL activities play a vital role in any programme cycle, but they are particularly important for anticipatory action, as it is still an evolving approach to humanitarian assistance. Despite increasing evidence of the effectiveness of anticipatory action, evaluation is critical to learning from and sharing experience, improving the effectiveness of early actions, and demonstrating the value and impact of anticipatory approaches. RCRC evaluations and reports are available IFRC's Evaluations and Research repository, linked in the toolbox.

In addition to the post-distribution monitoring and lessons learned workshop required under an s/EAP, your National Society may wish to conduct more in-depth evaluation of the activation process or outcomes of your anticipatory action initiative. As indicated in Table 2, these could include an evaluation of the process, the outcomes or impacts of your protocol, and/or the trigger(s). If you decide to conduct trigger, process, or outcome/impact evaluations, steps 5.1-5.3 of this chapter introduce potential methodologies and link to resources on how to implement these elements of an evaluation should you decide to include them in your plan.

What is being monitored or evaluated	Objective
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Set-up of an anticipatory action system	To ensure that project timelines and goals are being met and to document lessons for other actors or other contexts/hazards when establishing anticipatory action mechanisms.
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Evaluation of capacity building or enabling environment	To determine how, if at all, the setup and/or implementation of anticipatory action initiatives or programmes contribute to broader disaster risk management capacity within your organization or within your country's disaster risk management system. While not covered in this chapter, additional guidance can be found in WFP's guidance on planning and monitoring country capacity strengthening for anticipatory action (in the toolkit). Some National Societies have also used IFRC's Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) as a baseline for National Society capacity and to identify areas for further development to effectively implement AA. A high-level explanation of the relationship of anticipatory action to PER and guidance and examples of how to use PER to inform or monitor anticipatory action capacity building can be found in the toolkit.
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Process evaluation of activation	To determine whether activities were implemented as planned, what went well, what could be improved, and how.
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Outcome and / or impact evaluation	To determine whether early actions achieved their goals (often as compared to aid delivered (or not) at other times or in different combinations).
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Evaluation of trigger thresholds	To assess whether the forecast threshold and timing were appropriate so that it may be adjusted as needed (and feasible).
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