

CONTENT

STEP 6: TEST YOUR PLAN THROUGH A SIMULATION

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A simulation exercise, also known as a tabletop exercise or a drill, is a great way to test the effectiveness of developed plans, procedures, protocols, guidelines and capacities (please see [chapter 8](#)), whether your early actions are feasible within the given lead time, and whether roles and responsibilities are clear to everyone involved. A simulation allows the s/EAP to move from theory to practice, to evaluate, and eventually to refine its procedures.



The s/EAP is often developed heavily at the headquarter-level, but the implementation of the s/EAP is often the responsibility of branches and local governments. Ensure that you include branches and other relevant partners (e.g. local authorities and hydro-meteorological service) in the simulation.



Alejandro Terán talks about the importance of drills and simulations and his experiences with volcanic ash exercises in Ecuador: