

CONTENT

STEP 2: DEVELOP A PLAN TO PREPARE YOUR NATIONAL SOCIETY TO ENGAGE
IN ANTICIPATORY ACTION

Step 2: Develop a plan to prepare your National Society to engage in anticipatory action

While the scoping study can guide on what hazards would be viable for anticipatory action in the given context and what relevant capacities the National Society already has, the National Society needs to decide how to internally prepare your National Society to work in ways that enable early action ahead of predictable shocks. This involves clarifying priorities and roles, or planning how anticipatory action can best be integrated into existing strategies, programmes, or partnerships.

In many cases, this process will lay the institutional foundation for the development of one or more EAPs or simplified EAPs; in other contexts, however, anticipatory action may initially be implemented through community-based disaster reduction initiatives, through the activation of an imminent DREF, or by supporting governments in their work on anticipatory action. Chapters 1 and 2 provide guidance on how to familiarize yourself with different approaches and how to identify suitable entry points. Regardless of the chosen approach, when developing a plan to prepare your National Society to engage in AA, it is important to determine timelines for the chosen approach, which concrete operational entry points exist, what capacities are needed to leverage these entry points, and who within the National Society should be involved in working on the chosen approach.

When implementing anticipatory action through community-based disaster risk reduction initiatives has been identified as a suitable entry point, for example, the planning process might involve mapping relevant projects, tools and structures, such as enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments (eVCAs), community contingency plans, branch activities, and volunteer networks, and determining which teams should be involved in exploring these opportunities further. When the National Society seeks to explore the imminent DREF more closely as an entry point to anticipatory action, the focus may be on identifying how existing preparedness and response mechanisms could support earlier action in the future, e.g. by reviewing past operations to understand where early action could potentially complement existing response practices. Finally, planning for supporting governments in their work on anticipatory action might involve mapping relevant government counterparts and reviewing existing coordination mechanisms. In any case, the plan should outline which teams, staff, and external stakeholders would need to be involved and how they can be familiarized with the relevant concepts and mechanisms of anticipatory action.

If the National Society opts for a more formalized approach, i.e. an Early Action Protocol, a few extra considerations arise, for example, how many EAPs or simplified EAPs do they want to develop in what timeframe, which type of EAP to go for (simplified or full EAP) and whether a dedicated project is available to support the process. In many cases, such a dedicated anticipatory action project, including a proposal and logframe, can help to plan the process and to fund the process of s/EAP development. This is particularly relevant for s/EAP development as experiences from the past years have shown that it can take between 18 and 24 months for a National Society to develop a full EAP and be activation ready. However, Kazakhstan Red Crescent and Ghana Red Cross are good examples of how to develop a simplified EAP in a short time and without a full-fledged project.

Review scoping study and select hazard

In case you have done a scoping study (see [chapter 1](#)),

you should review the roadmap and the recommendations. This should already give you indications of:

- Priority hazards
- Operational and institutional capacity building needs
- Strategic collaboration with stakeholders
- Potential early actions
- Data availability and gaps

These insights can help the National Society identify where anticipatory action could realistically be pursued and what preparatory steps may be required. In some cases, particularly when developing an EAP or sEAP, it may be useful to initially focus on one or two hazards. Experience shows that once the first s/EAP is developed, the development of additional s/EAPs is faster. In other approaches, such as supporting communities or governments in anticipatory action, the emphasis may instead be on identifying relevant programmes, partnerships, or coordination mechanisms through which anticipatory action could be explored.

Develop a plan of action and a budget (if required)

Depending on how anticipatory action preparation is funded, you may need to develop a logframe and budgets. Even when a dedicated project is not established, it is useful to develop a plan of action that outlines milestones, responsibilities and timelines for preparing your National Society to engage in anticipatory action. Depending on the chosen approach, the workplan may be organized around different work packages:

- *Development of an s/EAP*
If the National Society plans to develop a simplified or full Early Action Protocol, one key work package will be drafting the protocol itself. A detailed outline of the required components can be found in the s/EAP template and quality criteria (see [chapter 4](#)). For example, it includes the definition of the trigger, the selection of actions, but also a budget. Templates and milestone examples for s/EAP development can be found in the [toolbox](#) below.
- *Integration and testing of anticipatory action processes*
Regardless of the specific approach, anticipatory action needs to be integrated into existing National Society structures and procedures. This may include testing (adjusted) procedures through simulations or drills, clarifying internal roles and decision-

making process, and ensuring that relevant operational mechanisms, such as logistics and volunteer mobilization, can support early action when needed. When developing an s/EAP, it is important that all agreements – with IFRC but also with other partners that play an active role in the process – are signed.

- *Capacity and process strengthening of National Society staff and partners for anticipatory action planning and implementation*
Preparing the National Society to engage in anticipatory action often requires strengthening staff and partner capacities. This may include familiarizing staff with anticipatory action concepts, reviewing operational procedures, and identifying where existing capacities, such as logistics, volunteer management or coordination with authorities, may need to be strengthened. Staff from branches to national headquarters, as well as relevant external partners, may require orientation or training depending on their role in future initiatives.
- *Policy and advocacy around anticipatory action*
It is important that regional and national organizations and government institutions understand the key elements of anticipatory action so that an enabling policy environment can be established. Hence, raising awareness through meetings, advocacy material, and invitations to regional or the global dialogue platform can be considered. See [chapter 2](#) for additional ideas on how to engage stakeholders.

Design different work packages according to your available resources, timeline and institutional priorities. Examples of logframes for anticipatory action projects can be found below (kindly note that some of these documents still use the term “Forecast-based Financing”, which, in this context, refers to a specific and formalized approach below the umbrella of anticipatory action).

- [Model log frame for anticipatory action project log frame for National Societies with a partner](#)
- [Anticipatory action log frame \(empty\)](#)
- [Anticipatory action log frame example \(filled\)](#)

Who should be involved in the planning and implementation?

- All relevant departments from the National Society that will set up and develop and implement anticipatory action including technical sectors such as health, WASH, logistics and support services such as finances.
- Experience shows that it is useful to have an anticipatory action coordinator within the National Society, who is responsible for all work related to anticipatory action in general as well as set-up and s/EAP development and implementation in particular, if applicable.
- In case the anticipation project is implemented in collaboration with a Partner National Society, the partners should also be involved in the planning, as they can often share examples and experiences from other countries.