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STEP 5: SENSITIZE OTHER KEY STAFF OF THE NATIONAL SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT FOCAL POINTS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS INVOLVED

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Step 5: Sensitize other key staff of the National Society, government focal points and other stakeholders involved

Preparing a National Society to engage in anticipatory action requires that key staff and partners understand the basic concepts, objectives and potential implications of this approach. As highlighted in previous steps, anticipatory action can take different forms (see Chapters 1 and 2), and the specific roles of staff and partners will depend on the pathway chosen. Nevertheless, building a shared understanding early on is essential to ensure institutional ownership, coordination across departments and alignment with external partners.

National Society staff

Again, it is critical to ensure National Society ownership of anticipatory action. Leadership plays a particularly important role, as senior management and governance bodies will ultimately need to endorse strategic decision (such as signing and validating any s/EAP before it is submitted to the IFRC-DREF; see [chapter 12](#)), authorize activities for activation, allocate staff and financial resources, and support the integration of anticipatory action into existing disaster risk management or resilience efforts. They therefore need a clear understanding of what anticipatory action as well as the chosen approach entails and how it may affect the National Society's operations and partnerships.

Beyond leadership, several departments might be involved in preparing and implementing anticipatory action activities. While the exact configuration will depend on the chosen approach, relevant units may include:

- Disaster risk management
- PMER
- Operational units, such as surge, communications and logistics
- Administrative and finance units
- Information Management / Knowledge Management
- MEAL
- Thematic units, such as health / WASH, shelter, or cash

Ensuring that key personnel within these departments understand the basic concepts and potential operational implications of anticipatory action will facilitate coordination and integration into existing structures.

Staff and volunteers in the National Society and other actors at local level

Red Cross Red Crescent branches (or chapters) and volunteers, sub-national DRM authorities and civil society often play an important role in implementing anticipatory action, particularly when working through community-based disaster risk reduction. Sensitizing staff and volunteers at branch level is therefore essential to ensure that anticipatory action concepts are understood beyond headquarters and that local actors are aware of potential roles in risk monitoring, early action implementation or coordination with communities.

One way to sensitize National Society staff and partners is through induction workshops in which you introduce key concepts, present project plans, and confirm next steps in a participatory format. The box below proposes some possible agendas for induction workshops.



Induction workshop

- **Participants:** National Society leadership, thematic and administrative units of the National Society (see above), disaster management authorities, meteorological service, DRM committees, perhaps staff from National Societies branches, other stakeholders such as UN agencies or NGOs
- **Content:** Overview of anticipatory action concepts, discussion of possible entry points (see Chapters 1 and 2), presentation of scoping findings if available, and discussion of potential next steps
- **Format:** 3 days, in-person
- **Material:** Induction material (see [chapter 1](#)), AA Manual, s/EAP criteria and templates (see [chapter 5](#)), if applicable



Induction workshop with the Malagasy Red Cross

Examples of induction workshop agendas

- [Lebanon](#)
- [Somalia](#)
- [Madagascar](#)

Read more: [Philippine anticipatory action brochure](#) [the global map on the anticipation hub](#)



Train as many people as possible! Experience shows that there can be high staff turnover within National Societies, so it is always best to spread the knowledge as widely as possible.

Government authorities & external stakeholders

As the National Society is an auxiliary to the government, it is important that its activities in anticipatory action align with national and sub-national level DRM strategies and plans. Government focal points and other external stakeholders should therefore be sensitized about anticipatory action and involved in the process from the beginning to foster alliances. See [chapter 2](#) for information on how and when to engage these stakeholders.

This is particularly important when the National Society aims to support anticipatory action systems that are coordinated by national governments or integrate anticipatory action into national disaster risk management frameworks. In such cases, government counterparts may play a central role in shaping priorities, providing data coordinating actions or facilitating integration with existing systems.