

CONTENT

INTRODUCTION

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This anticipatory action manual has a focus on a step-by-step guidance for (simplified) Early Action Protocols (s/EAPs), however there are also other approaches through which National Societies can implement anticipatory action. One of them is by integrating anticipatory action into community-based disaster risk management (CBDRM).

While this interlinkage from community level to national level and vice versa is very important when developing an s/EAP, in this chapter, however, we want to focus on how you can implement anticipatory action on a community-level through CBDRM.

The Roadmap to Community Resilience (R2R) and its key tool, the enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA), are the main methods used within the Movement for CBDRM. They offer a structured methodology for communities to assess relevant risks, identify vulnerabilities, and strengthen their capacities. The central outcome of the R2R via the EVCA is the community resilience plan of action. It prioritizes activities that the community would like to take to reduce their risk. While the community resilience plan of action can encompass a range of risk reduction activities, community early warning systems (CEWS) and contingency plans often emerge as a priority.



Community resilience plan of action: Community resilience plans of action are the output of the Roadmap to Community Resilience (R2R) via the enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (EVCA). They prioritize activities the communities would like to take to reduce their risk. They are usually timebound and detail where the funding for each activity comes from (e.g. community funding, as part of Red Cross Red Crescent projects). Normally after one year, the community reviews the progress as well as any new risk developments and makes a new community resilience plan of action.

Contingency plan: A contingency plan is a management and operational tool that defines the scope, roles and responsibilities, resources, procedures, coordination and communication mechanisms, and specific operational activities that a community intends to implement in preparation for and during an emergency, based on the likelihood of a given scenario (adapted from IFRC 2025, Contingency Planning Guide; link in the toolbox).

Community early warning system (CEWS): Early warning systems are a set of capacities needed to generate and disseminate timely and meaningful warning information to enable individuals, communities and organizations threatened by a hazard to prepare and to act appropriately and in sufficient time to reduce the possibility of harm or loss (from IFRC 2012, Community early warning systems: guiding principles; link in the toolbox). A community early warning system (CEWS) is a warning system that the community owns and runs. It is a people-centred, locally rooted mechanism through which at-risk communities themselves generate, interpret and act on warnings.