CONTENT

STEP 4.2: INTEGRATE THE CEWS AND AA INTO NEW OR UPDATED COMMUNITY CONTINGENCY PLANS

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If one of the activities included in the community resilience plan of action is to develop or update a contingency plan, use it to include clearly identified early actions within it.

Community contingency planning focuses on priority hazards that the community identified in the assessment. It includes the development of scenarios (best, likely, worst case) and describes the hazard and its characterization, potential impacts and risks to people, properties, systems etc. Contingency plans also include decision making points when they will be activated, describing actions before, during and after the arrival of a specific hazard. Contingency plans are therefore perfect to include early actions. For example, a community contingency plan could specify early actions for one or several specific hazards, aligning immediate early actions based on a forecast/early warning with procedures, roles and responsibilities that are already described in the contingency plan, therefore creating a more comprehensive risk reduction tool.

The contingency plan can basically include a small and simpler version of a s/EAP, ensuring that integral elements are agreed upon and written down in one place. These elements include:

Definition of the trigger, e.g. based on community early warning systems or local early warning signs

To trigger early actions as part of a contingency plan, local early warning or national early warnings can be used, for example as part of a CEWS. The EVCA helps you to assess with the community, if national or local early warning systems are in place that can be used, or if the community wants to develop its own indicators to monitor locally (e.g. river gauges, traditional knowledge signs, urban heat islands etc) and set local specific triggers on when to act through a CEWS planning process. It can also help you to understand, how much lead time each early warning system would provide and if this lead time would be sufficient to conduct early actions.

Assess if national anticipatory action and trigger systems (e.g. s/EAPs of the national society, government frameworks) exist and could potentially be linked to or complement the community system. Always check if the government or other humanitarian actors have already developed a trigger for a specific hazard to implement early actions and if the community could have access to this trigger.

In case you decide with the community to use national forecast information as a trigger, please consult chapter'06. Determine activation trigger' in this manual.

Identification of early actions

Early actions should be identified together with the community, building on the EVCA wherever possible. The aim is to move from identifying risk and impact to agreeing on practical actions that can be taken in the lead time before the hazard occurs. These early actions should be tailored to the local context, feasible within the available lead time and capacities and aligned with community priorities and existing risk reduction measures and plans. In practice, this may include simple, low-cost or no-cost measures such as community cleaning campaigns, protecting household assets, securing livelihoods, or mobilizing community volunteers to guide evacuations to safer grounds. Once identified, the early actions should be clearly documented, so that when an early warning is issued, it can trigger timely and concrete early actions in the community.

For more details on how to choose early actions, please refer also to chapter'07. Select Early Actions' in this manual

Definition of roles and responsibilities

The R2R guidance recommends creating community resilience teams with clear roles and responsibilities. Assigning somebody to be the focal point for anticipatory action will help ensure that ownership and responsibility remain within the community set-up.

The contingency plan is a natural home in writing the different roles and responsibilities down, as it already sets out roles, resources and actions before, during and after a hazard. Together with the community therefore also incorporate the different roles and responsibilities of the early actions in the contingency plan and the community resilience committee. Assess, if your local National Society branches and volunteers can support the community by also having agreed roles and responsibilities in activating the plan and implementing early actions.

Assessment of resources requierements

To ensure sustainability, it is essential to explore any available local funding mechanisms that can support the implementation of early actions. Explore together with the community, if there are any existing government risk reduction funds that could be leveraged for funding early actions or if it is possible to establish new funding channels through local authorities. Another option could be to explore the mobilization of funding through existing or new community funding schemes or non-government stakeholders.

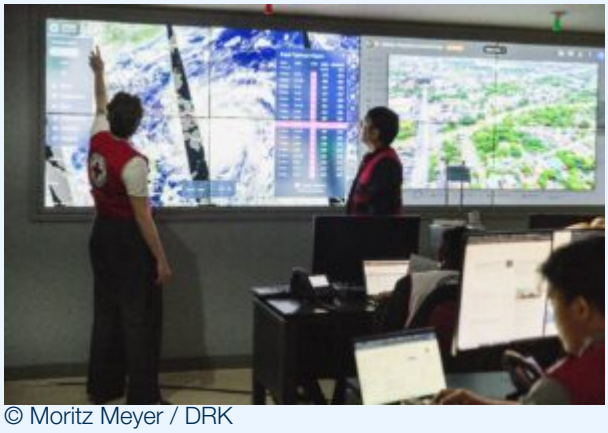
Whichever way is chosen, if funding is secured, or the community decides to opt for no-cost early actions, it should always be ensured that the solution is sustainable and creates a system that fits the community best.

Ideally, the integrated community contingency plans also align with existing national, regional and municipal disaster management and anticipatory action systems and policies.

The case of the imminent disaster law in the Philippines

In September 2025, the Philippines signed the 'Declaration of State of Imminent Disaster Act' into law. It allows the national government of the Philippines to declare a state of an imminent disaster. This imminent disaster can be declared already when a hazard, likely to develop into a disaster, is approaching, instead of declaring a disaster only after the event. The bill institutionalized anticipatory action and allows local government units to use funds from their local disaster risk reduction and management fund for early actions.

When speaking about the integration of anticipatory action into CBDRR, this law gives communities the possibility to include early actions into their contingency or disaster risk reduction plans, with the choice of how they want to use the local DRR funds once the state of imminent disaster is declared. The declaration of the imminent disaster would act in such a case as a final trigger which releases the funds.



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As with s/EAPS and CEWS, it is also important to test the community contingency plan through simulation exercises and drills If possible and if the National Societies s/EAP covers the same hazard, you can also link it with a simulation of the s/EAPs where the local branch is involved.

A simulation does not only test the plan's effectiveness but also helps increase visibility within the community and highlights capacities and gaps to institutional stakeholders, which can be the basis for community advocacy on funding and budgetary requirements.