

A photograph of two IFRC staff members standing in floodwaters. The woman on the left is wearing a white IFRC polo shirt with red sleeves and a blue surgical mask, carrying a large orange lifebuoy. The woman on the right is wearing a white IFRC polo shirt with a red cross emblem, a red surgical mask, a white cap with a red cross, and a high-visibility vest. They are both looking towards the camera. In the background, there are boats and a building.

SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

In order to fulfil commitments made under the DREF's Strategic Ambition and the scale up outlined in the Operational Framework, the IFRC intends to support our network to mainstream anticipatory action across their work in disaster risk management and climate change adaptation.

To effectively enable this, the IFRC introduces the **Simplified Early Action Protocol**, an additional funding option for all National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies through the **Forecast-based Action by the DREF** to act early for a range of hazards (including weather and non weather-related hazards) with a range of magnitudes.

INTRODUCING THE SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL

In 2018, the IFRC launched **Forecast-based Action by the DREF**, a dedicated funding mechanism for forecast-based actions. To date, only National Societies with a **completed Early Action Protocol (EAP) can access preagreed funding** from the FbA by the DREF. Since the Fund was launched, 24 EAPs have been approved covering 15 National Societies.

In 2021, the review of the FbA by the DREF pilot phase (2018-2020) recommended that there should be a **more flexible, and lighter approach**, so that National Societies can start with relatively simple plans and use these as stepping stone to reach the full EAP model (if they want), as outlined in the FbF methodology.

Based on the pilot phase review recommendation, coupled with the drive to scale up anticipatory action, the IFRC and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre (RCCC), developed a concept to pioneer a complementary funding stream for National Red Cross Red Crescent Societies to access pre-agreed funding from the FbA by the DREF using a **simplified Early Action Protocol**.



WHAT IS A SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL?

The **simplified Early Action Protocol (EAP)** articulates a National Society's plan to trigger early actions in advance of a weather or non-weather-related hazard. It is a **simpler document** with a **lower budget** and a **shorter lifespan** than a full EAP. The simplified EAP fulfills a dual purpose, it will serve as a **plan for the early action** (when action will take place, what actions will be undertaken and how much funding will be needed) and it will be the basis by which a National Society **can access preagreed funding** from FbA by the DREF.

The simplified EAP is an additional ex-ante funding mechanism for National Societies and seeks to complement the existing funding mechanisms including the **'longer term' EAPs** (i.e., five years) and **'shorter term' DREF for imminent events** (i.e., 1 to 4 months). The simplified EAP does not aim to replace the full EAP but would rather become a **complementary 'medium term'** (i.e., two years) funding alternative.

Forecast based Financing (FbF) remains the most complete methodology to conduct anticipatory action planning and capacity strengthening. In fact, it is the robust methodology developed through FbF, that has created evidence in the concept that allows DREF to innovate and introduce more flexible approaches to early action.

The simplified EAP will be introduced as a three year pilot (2022-2025) after which the IFRC and its partners will assess its effects on the desired objectives.



[Simplified EAP application material](#)





THE SIMPLIFIED EARLY ACTION PROTOCOL IN DETAIL

- ✓ **CHF 200,000 for readiness, prepositioning and early action**
 - ✓ **Minimum target of 2,000 people (CHF 100 per person)**
 - ✓ **National Societies can have up to three simplified EAPs at any time, focused on different hazards**
- Simplified EAPs can focus on any type of hazard as long as there is a **methodology** that allows the National Society **to take action in advance of the hazard's impact** using predefined thresholds of trigger/s. The simplified EAP does not have to cover the whole of the country but can be for specific region or area.
 - Once approved, the **simplified EAP is valid for two years**. This timeframe is based on the average time it takes a National Society to develop a full EAP. If the EAP is not triggered in the initial two years, the National Society can resubmit the EAP and have it revalidated for another two years. National Societies can submit a revised version of a simplified EAP, at any point, if the initial assumptions change.

- With a simplified EAP a National Societies to **access up to CHF 200,000 for readiness, preposition stock, and early action activities**. For the simplified EAP readiness and pre-positioning costs combined will be capped at 65% of the budget but National Societies can use discretion regarding the split between the two types of expenses.
- Since FbA by the DREF is designed to fund early actions for **events with a higher than average impact**, if a simplified EAP is triggered for consecutive years for the same areas, the IFRC may require a more robust analysis of the trigger/s and the frequency before revalidating their EAP.
- National Societies can have up to **three simplified EAPs at any time**, focused on different hazards as long as they are able to manage and implement the different early action operations in an efficient and accountable manner.

FUNDING CRITERIA FOR A SIMPLIFIED EAP:



Any National Society can prepare a simplified EAP. The National Society must have the **capacity to implement** the early actions in advance of the event materializes or before the impact peaks.



To be eligible, a National Society **cannot have pending reports or unreturned balances** from previous operations (out of timeframe) funded by either the FbA by the DREF or the DREF.



National Societies that have a **Forecast-based Financing project** can have **a simplified EAP**, to act early in advance of a hazard while they **develop the full EAP**.



A National Society that has triggered its EAP can be covered by a simplified EAP for the **period between the activation of its full EAP and its revalidation**.



OVERVIEW OF THE SIMPLIFIED EAP ADMINISTRATIVE PROCESS

- **The simplified EAP** is governed by the **Forecast-based Action by the DREF procedures**, including eligible activities. The simplified EAP follows the same administrative process as a full EAP post-approval, including EAP sign-off, allocation of funds and project agreement, etc. The FbA by the DREF team can provide additional support to IFRC Delegations to ensure these processes are managed on time.
- Funds for readiness and preposition stock will be allocated to the IFRC Delegation closest to the National Society. **Disbursement of funding to the National Society** for preposition stock will be done once when the simplified EAP is approved, while funds for readiness activities will be allocated annually. Funds for the early action activities will be disbursed when the trigger is met.
- **The financial and narrative reporting requirements remain the same as in the full EAP.** This includes an annual narrative and financial report for prepositioning and readiness costs, and a one-off final narrative and financial report covering the activation and the early action activities.
- Because IFRC Delegations are expected to support National Societies with the simplified EAP development and management the FbA by the DREF will provide **financial support to IFRC Delegations up to 10% of the simplified EAP budget** in line with current FbA by the DREF costs eligibility.

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS, QUESTIONS, AND FURTHER DISCUSSIONS TO:

- **Nazira Lacayo, Senior Officer FbA by the DREF**
Nazira.Lacayo@ifrc.org
- **Melanie Ogle, Senior Officer FbF Capacity Strengthening**
Melanie.Ogle@ifrc.org

