“The Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF) of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) remains the IFRC’s fastest and most efficient way of providing immediate assistance to communities affected by floods, disease epidemics, social unrest, forced migration and other disasters and crises. Through its more than 100 allocations directly transferred to more than 75 National Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies each year, the Fund enables locally led response by National Societies, even in situations that do not always attract the attention and interest of media or the international community.

In 2019, the Fund allocated almost 32 million Swiss francs to 78 National Societies to support these actions. For the first time ever, a total of 2 million Swiss francs was allocated through the Forecast-based Action to enable early and preventive action immediately when a credible forecast predicts a humanitarian impact before a disaster strikes. This saves lives, reduces suffering and cost of post-disaster response.

Despite the worrying increase of humanitarian needs all over the world, we are pleased that we manage to channel more and more funds through the DREF each year to continue to support and provide life-saving assistance to the most vulnerable. On behalf of our 192 National Societies, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all of our partners and donors allowing this to happen.”

— Jagan Chapagain, IFRC Secretary General
In 2019 the DREF, including the Forecast-based Action, allocated its highest amount to date - a total of **almost CHF 32 million** to support Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies to anticipate and respond to small and medium scale disasters, silent emergencies, assisting **7.6 million people** affected by different types of disasters. The allocations have been distributed to over **78 countries** in all five IFRC geographical regions. The main types of disasters addressed through the supported operations were floods, epidemics, cyclones, civil unrest and population movement.

**OVERVIEW**

The DREF is an integral part of the International Federation’s emergency response system designed to meet the needs of vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises.

The DREF is a flexible emergency funding source which can provide financial support rapidly and in appropriate amounts whether for small-, or large-scale operations. It provides funding to National Societies for pre-agreed early actions through the approval of Early Action Protocols, or as start-up funding loans to allow immediate response to major disasters, or as grants to cover the costs of mobilization of resources and preparation for response in the case of imminent crisis, and to cover the costs of smaller-scale relief operations.

The **DREF releases humanitarian funding for pre-agreed early actions (summarized in Early Action Protocols)** based on forecast and risk data to reduce the impact of severe weather events; and also finances the provision of short-term relief which aims to preserve life and to substitute for the loss of means of basic subsistence of people affected. All DREF allocations are based on requests from, and in support of, National Societies.

The DREF is recognized in the Grand Bargain localization work-stream as a funding ‘as direct as possible’ to local and national actors.
SUMMARY

During 2019, the trends from past years continued in terms of most common type of disasters supported through the DREF. The main types of disasters to which the DREF has responded include 44 operations for floods, 17 for epidemics, 15 for cyclones, 11 for civil unrest and 7 for population movement.

The main hazards being addressed by the Early Action Protocols (EAPs) funded in 2019 are cyclone, cold wave, dzud, floods and volcanic ash. Many National Societies are developing and submitting several EAPs to address multiple hazards.

“Every extreme winter brings misery, hunger and hardship for thousands of families and forces them to move to squatter settlements outside Ulaanbaatar, our capital. This finance (the FbA by the DREF) allows the Red Cross to help some of the most at-risk people before winter sets in for good.” - Bolormaa Nordov, Mongolian Red Cross Society Secretary General

From the total allocations provided, 60% have been allocated as grants, 34% as loans to Emergency Appeals, and 6% for Early Action Protocols. The increase in amount for loans compared to previous years is in line with the overall strategy to provide a higher amount in loan to Emergency Appeals with good donor response prospects to kick start operations or to support the relaunch of operations scaling up the response to escalating or protracted crises. The return rate on Emergency Appeal loans was 80% in 2019, which meets the planned target.

The allocations have been distributed over 78 countries in all five IFRC regions. The regions receiving the highest amount of allocations were Africa (CHF 12M through 46 operations), Asia Pacific (CHF 9.7M through 33 operations) followed by Americas (CHF 5.4M through 21 operations), Middle East and Northern Africa (CHF 2.7M through 9 operations) and Europe and Central Asia (CHF 1.7M through 10 operations).

Please click here to see the detailed online report.
## 2019 Financial Overview

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (MDR00001)</th>
<th>Forecast-based Action Fund (MDR00004)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Opening Balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Opening Balance</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15,794,356</td>
<td>1,944,316</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total Income</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16,733,883</td>
<td>1,771,947</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total allocations</strong></td>
<td><strong>Total allocations</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-29,808,899</td>
<td>-735,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Loan recovery &amp; unspent balances</strong></td>
<td><strong>Early Action commitments</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9,449,112</td>
<td>-1,150,348</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Coordination Costs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Coordination Costs</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-626,387</td>
<td>-139,373</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Closing balance</strong></td>
<td><strong>Closing balance (available)</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11,542,065</td>
<td>1,690,986</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Disaster Relief Emergency Fund - Financial Report 2019 is available [here](#)
Forecast based Action by the DREF 2019 - Financial Report is available [here](#)
Since 2017, the IFRC has worked to increase assistance to disaster affected communities by making the DREF more accessible to National Societies. In 2019, these efforts continued through initiatives such as capacity strengthening of National Societies in high-risk countries to increase their ability to apply to DREF funds, through promotion of DREF operations, as opposed to smaller, underfunded emergency appeals with low visibility or silent emergencies, and improved procedures for accessing the Fund.

Overall Goal: National Societies provide rapid and effective assistance to vulnerable people affected by disasters and crises with the provision of timely and adequate financial support from the DREF.
Engagement continues with partners through the DREF Advisory Group through teleconferences and face to face meetings. The fundraising target for 2019 stands at CHF 18 millions, out of which 88% has been reached during the period through the continuous support of IFRC members, Institutional and private donors.

The DREF support to National Societies continues to be showcased through the DREF website and the different news stories on each operation. For the reporting period of January to December 2019, there was a 12% increase in page views to the website compared to the same period in 2018.

Please find list below of past donors from 2015 to 2019

111 emergency operations have been supported through the DREF in 2019 including: 87 new DREF operations in 2019, 24 loans to Emergency Appeals in 2019, 1 loan to an Emergency Appeal launched in 2018 (MDRCD026 - EVD Outbreak) and six second allocations provided to DREF operations launched in 2018. Overall support was targeting 7.5 million people across 77 countries, through a total allocation of almost CHF 30 million.

Objective 2: NS access to and use of the fund

In 2019, the DREF capacity strengthening initiative was built around three main components:

1. Making the DREF more accessible for National Societies,
2. Enhancing the culture of learning from small and medium scale operations and
3. Promoting the use of operational learning to feed into longer term approaches

The main achievements were:

The development and use of the DREF training package. As experienced during the roll out, the training package has been well received in general, and has proved to be flexible for the different capacity strengthening needs of National Societies as well as IFRC structures.

The development of the DREF Lessons Learnt Workshop discussion points document in coordination with the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) team. In 2019, this guide was tested with five National Societies in three regions. It has been noticed that after the exercise there is a stronger link of the learnings to specific aspects of the National Societies response mechanism (e.g. need for the development of SoPs, Contingency planning), which is the main objective of the initiative.

The development of a system to capture and systematise learning from DREF operations, reviews and lessons learnt workshops. This initiative was started late 2019 and the plan is to further develop it and systematise learnings from the last two years of DREF operations in the first quarter of 2020. This involves the development of a system to capture the information as well as a system for the visualisation of the collected data.

Please click here for the online dashboard.

Objective 3: Capacity Strengthening of National Societies

In 2019, the DREF capacity strengthening initiative was built around three main components:

1. Making the DREF more accessible for National Societies,
2. Enhancing the culture of learning from small and medium scale operations and
3. Promoting the use of operational learning to feed into longer term approaches

The main achievements were:

The development and use of the DREF training package. As experienced during the roll out, the training package has been well received in general, and has proved to be flexible for the different capacity strengthening needs of National Societies as well as IFRC structures.

The development of the DREF Lessons Learnt Workshop discussion points document in coordination with the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) team. In 2019, this guide was tested with five National Societies in three regions. It has been noticed that after the exercise there is a stronger link of the learnings to specific aspects of the National Societies response mechanism (e.g. need for the development of SoPs, Contingency planning), which is the main objective of the initiative.

The development of a system to capture and systematise learning from DREF operations, reviews and lessons learnt workshops. This initiative was started late 2019 and the plan is to further develop it and systematise learnings from the last two years of DREF operations in the first quarter of 2020. This involves the development of a system to capture the information as well as a system for the visualisation of the collected data.

Please click here for the online dashboard.
Practical feedback collected during the DREF capacity strengthening work

Tanzania Red Cross Society (TRCS), MDRTZ023 Cyclone Kenneth Imminent request: TRCS is a frequent user of the DREF, the National Society received training in March 2019; afterwards they requested an imminent DREF to conduct early action for Cyclone Kenneth. The request took less than 24 hours to be fully processed, with feedback from the East Africa CCST that the NS request was complete; thus, little input was needed.

Lebanon Red Cross Society (LRCS): In the past few years LRCS had not been an active user of DREF, with the last request registered since 2016. In 2019, the LRCS requested support for 4 operations therefore a DREF training was organized in September 2019, as part of the Population Movement operation, which gave the space to the National Society to refresh their knowledge of the DREF criteria and its eligibility. Requests following the training show a good level of understanding of the eligible cost for DREF operations.

Yemen Red Crescent Society (YRCS): Before 2019, the YRCS last DREF request was in 2016. The NS requested in June 2019 a DREF to respond to floods, as part of the operation, they were supported with an lessons learnt workshop (LLW) and a DREF training. The training gave the opportunity to the National Society to clarify information requirements for a DREF request as well as criteria and eligibility. The LLW gave the NS the opportunity to discuss the main challenges faced during the floods operation and those learnings were considered for the following operation.
DREF Reviews provide the organisation with the opportunity to learn and understand the roles of the RCRC during response operations, and can be a great source for the development and dissemination of best practices, but also they help to identify and address specific challenges.

The following reviews have been conducted during 2019

**Objective 4: Knowledge management and accountability**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objective</th>
<th>Indicator</th>
<th>Indicator Planned</th>
<th>Indicator Actual</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Income vs Targeted Amount</td>
<td>At least 80%</td>
<td>90%</td>
<td>Funding requirement for 2019 was CHF 18.5m, as of the first half of 2019, 94% of the target had been reached. By the end of 2019 90% has been reached. See financial report.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Level of DREF balance</td>
<td>Min. CHF 5.5 Million</td>
<td>CHF 10m</td>
<td>DREF balance remained healthy during the year, it did not go down to the critical level.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>Interaction with DREF AG</td>
<td>min. 4 times a year</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>A teleconference was held in Spring and a meeting was held in June in Kuala Lumpur with DAG members. In the second half of 2019 in September a coordination call was held with the DREF AG members and in November a DREF donor meeting has been organised, followed with a DREF AG meeting.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>Number of web stories published on ifrc.org monitoring DREF</td>
<td>100% increase compared to the end of 2018</td>
<td>112%</td>
<td>Reports in the form of infographics have been created and shared with DREF AG for meetings in person and teleconferences, as well as upon request by other partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Visits on DREF website</td>
<td>at least two per year</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>56 web stories tagged with DREF</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>DREF promotion materials updated and published</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>In the 2019 annual plan the forecasted amount of allocations was around CHF 28 million, by the end of 2019 CHF 29.8 million has been allocated.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Amount of allocations made vs forecast</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>106%</td>
<td>The DREF 2018 Annual Report was issued on the public site, and theglobal 2019 Operational Plan was also issued and printed as a promotional material for events. (Nov 2018). DREF promotion direction has also been published and shared with partners.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Number of allocations for different type of disasters</td>
<td>See Comments</td>
<td></td>
<td>Floods = 42; Population movement = 7; Epidemic = 17; Cyclone = 12; Civil unrest = 11; Landslide; volcano eruption, tornado = 1; Cold Wave = 3; Earthquake = 4; Drought=5; Storm surge, Fire and Others=2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.1</td>
<td>New modalities are used</td>
<td>At least 2 allocations made for surge deployments per request in orange or red level disasters</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>During 2019, no allocations have been made specifically for surge deployments.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.2</td>
<td>Average time of approval from the onset of disasters</td>
<td>Sudden: 10-14 days, Slow: 14 days</td>
<td>Sudden: 10 days, Slow: 27[1]</td>
<td>In 2019, 24 allocations were made as loans to Emergency Appeals. 17 to EAs launched in 2019 and 7 allocations for EAs launched in 2018 (CHF 1.9m). 79% of the loans were reimbursed if we consider the overall amount reimbursed in 2019, including loans that were allocated in 2018. For slow onset disasters, further analysis of the data will be conducted to address issues in delays in the request process. At the same time considering the IFRC key performance indicator the average time from request to approval has been 7 days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Number of NSs receiving DREF allocations</td>
<td>80% NSs</td>
<td>40.8% of NS</td>
<td>77 National Societies have received DREF allocations in 2019. This indicator will be revised as the current target is not feasible.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3.1</td>
<td>Number of requests received from NSs according to DREF criteria</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>95% requests received according to criteria.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One training package developed</td>
<td>1 package available</td>
<td>1 package completed and piloted</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NS guide for DREF procedures developed</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Standard templates translated to IFRC standard languages</td>
<td></td>
<td>In Process</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 3.2</td>
<td>Number of trainings on DREF procedures</td>
<td>at least 1 per region</td>
<td>10 trainings</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of direct support missions from DREF team to regions and NSs</td>
<td>at least 3 missions depending on request</td>
<td>6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Objective 4</td>
<td>Increased number of reviews and evaluations conducted</td>
<td>3 initiated from the global level in coordination with regions</td>
<td>3 completed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard data for DREF eligibility is available and analysed</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td>100%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thematic data is collected, system developed and analysed</td>
<td>50%</td>
<td>0%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Output 4.1</td>
<td>Number of reviews and evaluations conducted</td>
<td>at least 1 per region</td>
<td>3 regions</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of actions taken that were committed in management response</td>
<td>80%</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Number of final reports reflecting results of the lessons learnt workshops</td>
<td>65%</td>
<td>97%</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>90 official requests for grant allocations were received in 2019, of which 4 were not considered eligible under DREF criteria</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>A DREF introductory DREF package has been developed. The package consists of a 3 days training for members of National Societies and helps them to develop specific competencies to effectively request and be accountable for DREF funds.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The DREF Application Guidelines have been drafted and shared with the Regions for inputs</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>The EPPA package is available in 3 of the IFRC standard languages: English, Spanish and French. Training package materials are available in English, and Russian. In the 2nd half of the year, the training package will be translated into Russian.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7 in Africa, 1 in Americas, 2 in MENA</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6 lessons learnt exercises were supported trough the Initiative with the use of the DREF LLW discussed points (Pharos, Berambay, Yemen, Lebanon, Dar Es Salaam and Bekaa). Support was provided to the planning of the DREF-related activities within the ABADAG plan, specially to the development of UNMID ITF training in West Africa.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Tunisia, Argentina, South Sudan, Tanzania, Georgia, Ukraine and Lebanon. Work is ongoing to publish the review’s reports with their management comments on the IFRC Evaluations database.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Standard data continues to be maintained for analysis with support from the DREF data intern</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Reviews have taken place in Africa, Americas and MENA. For the 2nd half of the year, further reviews are planned in Europe, MENA and Africa regions.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Management responses for 3 reviews conducted in 2019 are being developed, and the final report for 1 of the reviews is being finalized.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>97% of all DREF operation final reports issued between Jan-Dec 2019 included the main findings of the lessons learnt workshops.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
List of DREF Allocations for 2019

- Lebanon - Extreme Weather Conditions
- Philippines - Low pressure area 01W
- Nigeria - Election Preparedness
- Republic of Congo - Population Movement
- Venezuela - Health Emergency
- Argentina - Floods 2019
- Mongolia - Air Pollution and Influenza A
- Algeria - Cold Wave
- DR Congo - Yumba, Pop. Movement
- Moldova - Extreme Winter Conditions
- Malawi - Floods
- Philippines - Re-emergence of vaccine preventable
- Haiti - Civil Unrest
- Cuba - Tornado
- Pakistan - Drought
- Kenya - Drought
- Ukraine - Measles Outbreak
- Somalia - Drought
- Afghanistan - Drought and Flash Floods
- Mozambique - Tropical Cyclone Idai
- Madagascar - Measles Outbreak
- Iran - Floods
- Zimbabwe - Tropical Cyclone Idai
- Syria - Floods
- Bolivia - Floods
- Ethiopia - Population Movement
- Tanzania - Tropical Cyclone Kenneth
- Comoros - Tropical Cyclone Kenneth
- India - Cyclone Fani
- Sri Lanka - Easter Sunday Attack
- DPR Korea - Drought & Food Insecurity
- Paraguay - Floods
- Cameroon - Population Movement
- Georgia - Floods
- Tanzania - Floods Dar Es Salaam
- Serbia - Floods
- Tajikistan - Floods
- Yemen - Floods
- Uganda - Floods and Landslides
- South Sudan - Floods
- Niger - Population Movement
- Lebanon - Ansal Population Movement
- Gambia - Windstorm Surge
- Honduras - Dengue Outbreak
- Georgia - Demonstration
- Papua New Guinea - Volcanoes
- Hungary - Storm
- Armenia - Hailstorm
- Ethiopia - Epidemics
- Bangladesh - Monsoon Floods
- Philippines - Dengue
- India - Monsoon Floods
- Philippines - Batanes Earthquakes
- Guatemala - Dengue Outbreak
- Sierra Leone - Floods
- Nicaragua - Dengue Outbreak
- Vietnam - Floods
- Myanmar - Floods & Landslides
- India - Monsoon Rains and Floods
- Central African Republic - Floods
- Bahamas - Hurricane Dorian
- DPR Korea - Typhoon Lingling
- Mali - Floods
- Bolivia - Forest Fires
- Colombia - Dengue Outbreak
- Dominican Republic - Dengue Outbreak
- Laos - Podul Floods
- Mauritania - Floods
- Central America - Dengue Outbreak
- Nigeria - Yellow Fever
- South Africa - Civil Unrest
- Philippines - Polio Outbreak
- Pakistan - Earthquake
- Sudan - Cholera Outbreak
- Senegal - Floods
- Maldives - Fire
- Nigeria - Floods
- Iraq - Civil Unrest
- Ecuador - Civil Unrest
- Pakistan - Dengue Outbreak
- Haiti - Civil Unrest
- Cyprus - Population Movement
- Cote d'Ivoire - Floods
- Cameroon - Floods
- Chile - Civil Unrest
- Zambia - Drought (Food Insecurity)
- Ghana - Floods
• El Salvador - Floods
• Kenya - Floods
• Philippines - Mindanao Earthquakes
• Lebanon - Civil Unrest
• Bangladesh - Cyclone Bulbul
• Tanzania - Floods in Mara
• DR Congo - Measles Outbreak
• Bolivia - Civil Unrest
• South Sudan - Floods
• Albania - Earthquake
• Philippines - Typhoon Kammuri
• Samoa - Measles Outbreak
• Djibouti - Flash Floods
• Malaysia - Floods
• Madagascar - Tropical Cyclone Belna Preparedness
• Comoros - Tropical Cyclone Belna
• DR Congo - Floods
• Southern Africa - Drought (Food Insecurity Crisis)
• Uganda - Landslides
• Somalia - TC Pawan
• Burundi - Floods and Landslides
• Rwanda - Floods
• Yemen - Dengue Fever
• Sri Lanka - Floods
• Philippines - Typhoon Phanfone
• Fiji - Tropical Cyclone Sarai
Anticipation instead of reaction: **Forecast-based Financing (FbF)** is an Early Warning Early Action (EWEA) approach, pioneered by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, that releases humanitarian funding for pre-agreed early actions based on forecast and risk data to reduce the impact of severe weather events. The goal of FbF is to anticipate disasters, prevent their impact, and reduce human suffering and losses. To support the implementation of the approved Early Action Protocols the IFRC has established the Forecast-based Action by the DREF (FbA by the DREF), where the allocation of financial resources is agreed in advance and tied to forecasts of humanitarian impact which will release those resources automatically. Allocations for the FbA by the DREF are made from a separate financial component of the DREF (MDR00004) and do not affect the reserves of the DREF (MDR00001). Unearmarked contributions to the FbA by the DREF are encouraged to guarantee enough funding is available for the Early Action Protocols being developed.
Forecast based Financing continues to gain momentum, in 2019 27 National Societies were developing Early Action Protocols around the world in some cases with support from Partner National Societies (PNS). The PNS actively supporting the approach are the American Red Cross, the Australia Red Cross, the Belgian Red Cross, the British Red Cross, the Danish Red Cross, the Finish Red Cross, the French Red Cross, the German Red Cross and the Netherlands Red Cross.

The main hazards being addressed at the moment by the EAPs in development are cyclone, cold wave, drought, dzud, flood, heat wave, typhons and volcanic ash. It is key to mention that many National Societies are working on more than one hazard.

**National Societies working on FbF - 2019**
During 2019 1,900,000 CHF were allocated from the FbA by the DREF to 8 Early Action Protocols out of which 735,000 CHF have been released (readiness and pre-positioning costs), the remaining amount is committed for the early action phase.

15,375 HH are being targeted by these eight Early Action Protocols

Click below on each EAP for more information.

1) Peru Cold Wave
2) Bangladesh Cyclone
3) Mozambique Cyclone
4) Ecuador Volcanic Ashes
5) Mongolia Dzud
6) Peru Floods
7) Philippines Typhoon
8) Bangladesh Floods

Overall Goal: Continuous financial support is available to National Societies using Forecast-based Financing to conduct early actions and reduce the impact of Centre and the IFRC Secretariat.

Objective 1: Fund allocations are approved and implemented according to the Early Action Protocols.
There were no activations of the early action phase in any of the protocols approved by the fund until the end of 2019.

The Validation Committee, whose role is to assess the new EAPs that are submitted to the fund against the quality, programmatic and scientific criteria met systematically during the year to review the 8 protocols received. The Validation Committee was comprised for 2019 by members from the British Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and the IFRC Secretariat.

A [dashboard](#) was created to keep track of the status of the Early Action Protocols. This dashboard provides the most current figures related to the fund.
Since the fund only became operational at the end of 2018 when the procedures were signed, 2019 saw the development of many of the templates needed for the fund. During the first two months of the year the Project Funding Agreement, the reporting template and the EAP summary template were developed and rolled out. All documents related to FbA by the DREF available on Fednet: https://fednet.ifrc.org/FbA

A communication document for NS on the FbA by the DREF was developed, translated into Spanish, French and Portuguese and published on the IFRC website. This document, aimed at National Societies, explains the basic requirements of the fund, how it works and how it connects to the Forecast based Financing system.

Seeking to help implementers and decision makers in National Societies understand the connections that exist between the Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) approach and the Forecast-Based Financing mechanism (FbF) a guidance note was developed. This has been a joint effort between the German Red Cross and the IFRC but has also received input from several people involved in PER and FbF from National Societies, PNSs and the IFRC.
The donor base continues to diversify having received contributions from the German Government, the German Red Cross, the Netherlands Red Cross, the Canadian Red Cross the Ball Foundation and the Aviva Foundation. Additionally, British, Belgian, Norwegian and Swedish Red Cross and ECHO have made their DREF contributions flexible to be used for the FbA by the DREF if needed.

The Scientific Advisory Committee, whose role is to enhance the credibility of FbA by the DREF through scientific advice and peer-review met as planned during 2019 to look at learnings from the approval process. The Committee was comprised for 2019 by members from the Belgian Red Cross, the German Red Cross, the Overseas Development Institute, the World Meteorological Organization and the IFRC. The Committee finalized Terms of Reference for the evaluation of trigger-based activations of the EAPs. These terms of reference look a to responds questions around feasibility of the actions, effectiveness and the overall performance of the fund.

During 2019 IFRC continued to engage in the Early Action Focus Task Force (EA FTF) alongside FAO, IFRC, OCHA, the Start Network and WFP looking to promote collaboration and advocate for risk informed anticipatory action. This group is one of the key forums to build coherence and identify common challenges facing the Anticipatory Action (AA) and FbF communities.
Until the end of 2019 there had been no activation of the protocols yet but the IFRC participated in 3 simulations to test its internal system and be ready to disburse the funds to the National Societies in a timely manner. All of the FbA by the DREF templates were reviewed based on feedback received throughout the first year and based on the experience from the 3 simulations.

As an increased demand has been identified for technical support on FbF and FbA by the DREF for National Societies and IFRC offices a position for FbF capacity strengthening will be put in place in 2020. The position is based in the IFRC Global Service Centre in Budapest where the DREF Capacity strengthening position has already been in place since 2018.

Contact details

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Forecast-based Financing: Early Action Protocol in place to protect Peru’s alpaca herders

Prioritized Impacts: Acute respiratory infections, mortality and morbidity of livestock.

Target: 625 HH.

Lead time: 5 days.

Early actions: 1) Distribution of veterinary kits, materials to install a temporary shelter for alpacas, protection kit for alpaca herders, warm clothing for children under five years, material for house insulation. 2) Disease prevention and health promotion awareness raising.

Budget: CHF 249.800
Cyclone: Bangladesh Red Crescent

Bangladesh: How Forecast-based Financing supported objective decision-making in advance of Cyclone Fani

Prioritized impacts: Loss of livelihoods, Mortality of livestock and Injuries due to non-evacuation.

Target: 4000 HH.

Lead time: 2 days.

Early actions: 1) Provision of tractors to transport people with their livestock and movable assets at the community level. 2) Distribution of food and water at the cyclone shelter level. 3) Provision of first aid service for injuries at the cyclone shelter level.

Budget: 183,200 CHF
Cyclone: Mozambique Red Cross

Prioritized impacts: Damage to individual houses. Disruption of infrastructures such as schools, health centres. Increased endemic diseases.

Target: 1500 HH

Lead time: 3 days.

Early actions: 1) Awareness messages (radio, TV, megaphone). 2) Rapid training in housing and school reinforcement. 3) Housing and school reinforcement. 4) Distribution of chlorine (Certeza) and buckets.

Budget: 249,000 CHF
Mongolia Dzud Early Action Protocol

Dzud: Mongolia Red Cross

**Prioritized impacts:** Mortality of livestock.

**Target:** 1000 HH.

**Lead time:** 2 months.

**Early actions:** 1) Cash grant to allow herders to stock hay and fodder. 2) Distribution of veterinary kit.

**Budget:** 250,000 CHF
Ecuador Volcanic Ash Early Action Protocol

**Volcanic Ash: Ecuador Red Cross**

**Forecasting volcanoes**

**Prioritized impacts:** Protection of livelihoods (crops, livestock). Health problems.

**Target:** 1000 HH.

**Lead time:** 7-3 days.

**Early actions:** 1) Awareness-raising. 2) Distribution of health protection kits. 3) Livelihood protection kits. 4) Cash grants.

**Budget:** 245.000 CHF
**Floods: Peru Red Cross**

**Prioritized impacts:** Access to safe water. Health risk, especially acute diarrhea, arboviruses, cholera. Personal hygiene conditions. Damage to household infrastructure, assets and livelihoods.

**Target:** 1000 HH.

**Lead time:** 10 days.

**Early actions:** 1) Participatory Hygiene and Sanitation Transformation (PHAST), focused on hygiene promotion, disease prevention and water use. 2) Distribution of water filters and installation of bladders. 3) Cash grants.

**Budget:** 247.000 CHF
Philippines Typhoon Early Action Protocol

Typhoon: Philippines Red Cross

Prioritized impacts: Loss of income of farmers and fishermen. House damage due to the wind.

Target: 2500 HH.

Lead time: 3 days.

Early actions: 1) Protection of livelihoods through early harvesting of crops. 3) Protection of livelihoods through evacuation of livestock & assets. 4) Distribution of House Strengthening kits.

Budget: 249.000 CHF
Floods: Bangladesh Red Crescent

Prioritized impacts: Human causality (deaths due to drowning and others). Loss of livelihood linked to livestock. Loss of movable assets and food grains.

Target: 3300 HH.

Lead time: 5-10 days.

Early actions: 1) Unconditional cash grant. 2) Evacuation by boat.

Budget: 249,000 CHF