

## Module 2a: Early warning early action

### What is in this module?

May 2019



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## Introduction

In this module you will see how effective early warning early action is enabled by the use of forecast and risk information by the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (“the Movement”) in disaster risk management. As in the first module in *What can we do?*, it exemplifies how the concept can be turned into reality in our work.

We consider this concept to be relevant for all sub-modules and suggest integrating at least elements of this module in all training on climate change, especially interactive games and films.

This module is designed to help facilitators discuss early warning early action and the role of the Movement at community, national and global levels, convey how to make use of climate information on timescales from days to months, explain effective early action, and present the forecast-based financing (FbF) approach and the IFRC’s anticipatory funding mechanism within its Disaster Relief Emergency Fund (DREF).

It is inspired by and aligned with the IFRC’s own [guidelines](#) in the area. See also the dedicated [FbF manual](#) and [website](#).

(The IFRC and the Climate Centre recognize and are grateful for the important support of the German and Netherlands Red Cross in championing FbF.)

## Objective

This module offers:

1. The concepts of early warning early action and FbF, ways of achieving them, and the role of the Red Cross Red Crescent.
2. The use of forecast information at short, medium and seasonal timescales for taking early action.

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## Products 1. PowerPoint presentation with explanatory notes

This module offers five presentations to help facilitators explain the role of the Movement in early warning early action, and key concepts and issues.

There is a dedicated presentation on FbF and for more experienced audiences three in-depth presentations on early warning early action, FbF, and forecast science.

In principle we believe the games and the short films are the most convincing way to help people understand the relevance of forecast information. The slides can support both training and actual dialogue on policy.

(All presentations will need tailoring to local context and audience.)

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## 2. Games

The games in this module are highly recommended for use on every type of occasion from high-level meetings to community gatherings. They are much more effective than PowerPoints and can help audiences actually *experience* what it means to work with short-term weather or seasonal information.

A couple of examples of games you can find in this module are:

- [Paying for predictions](#) is a real blast; it stimulates debate and helps people realize that forecast information can really make a difference. It's our No.1 game! (60 minutes including debrief).
  - [Decisions for the Decade](#) is an interactive game designed to support dialogues about key aspects of long-term investments amidst climate uncertainty (50 minutes including debrief).
  - [FbF Quiz](#) is a fun way to test knowledge on FbF (45 minutes including debrief)
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## 3. Films

This section contains links to short videos on various EWEA initiatives, here a couple of highlights:

- [IFRC, Early Warning Early Action](#) introduces participants to the role of the IFRC in enabling effective early warning early action.
  - [FbA by DREF](#) clarifies the new IFRC early action fund in the DREF system.
  - [Beneficiary communication for effective Early Warning Early Action](#) presents the benefits of investing in beneficiary communication strategies.
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## 4. Experience from the Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies

In this section are examples of how the Movement is engaging in early warning early action at different levels.

- IFRC [case studies](#) on Red Cross Red Crescent disaster risk reduction at local level
  - Examples of Red Cross Red Crescent FbF.
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## 5. Frequently asked questions

This FAQ clarifies misconceptions and myths, including forecast uncertainty, effectiveness of early actions and FbF.

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## 6. Relevant Reading

This folder contains a wide range of reading materials to support the facilitator, some of which can be used as handouts.

Among the reading materials you will find:

- [Early warning early action handbook – IFRC](#)
  - [Collaborating with your HydroMet services](#)
  - [Community based early warning system - IFRC](#)
  - [City Heatwave Guide for Red Cross Red Crescent Branches](#)
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