

National Society Institutional preparedness

Institutional preparedness enables effective response

Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies play a vital role within their communities in reducing risk, preparing and anticipating for, responding to and recovering from disasters and crises across the globe. As trusted local actors, they have a deep understanding of their local context and can leverage the relationships they have formed with various stakeholders in-country and externally to prepare for and respond to emergencies. But despite having decades of experience in emergency management, they need to continuously prepare for the increasing frequency and severity of various types of hazards.

Strong preparedness for the response mechanism is crucial and will continue to become even more important as we face the global consequences of climate change, the continued impacts of COVID-19 and future global health threats.

NSs are encouraged to assess the risk of epidemics in their country and the overall capacity of the government and other partners to manage this type of risk. They are also invited to review their role and mandate in health – and in public health in particular – learning lessons from past outbreaks including COVID-19. They can then analyse their institutional preparedness for epidemic risk, including for example their coordination with key local actors, involvement in epidemic response plans, the number of staff and volunteers trained and regularly involved in epidemic risk management, community engagement strategies or safety procedures.

- [National Society Preparedness page](#)
- [Epidemic and Pandemic Preparedness page](#)

Preparedness for Effective Response (PER) Approach

- [PER Approach](#): A structured way to approach preparedness to respond, based on the NS response Mechanism. Provides a structured and standardized way of interacting with NS's systems and processes with the purpose of contributing to and increasing NS's preparedness and response capacity in the immediate to long term.
- [PER Mechanism](#): Outlines the common organizational structure for any NS in response. The structural representation includes systems & processes that enable the NS to function in times of crisis, and more specifically to respond to emergencies.
- [PER and NS's Role in Epidemic Risk Management](#): This document provides an overview of all the components included in the PER Mechanism, including considerations highlighting specific aspects to pay attention to when a NS is preparing to respond to epidemics.

National Society Preparedness videos

- [National Societies Preparedness video series](#): This series of short videos introduces some of the key actions Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies can take to strengthen their institutional preparedness including what Red Cross Red Crescent-National Societies can do to prepare to respond effectively to epidemics. The videos are available in English, Spanish, French, Arabic, Russian and Bahasa.
- Introduction to epidemic preparedness and response ([English](#), [French](#))

- National Society epidemic preparedness ([English](#))


Information on NS response capacity on IFRC Go

- [Catalogue of Resources](#): Contains NS Preparedness Reference materials, PER Mechanism's component Resources and NS Preparedness Communication and advocacy materials.
- [Operational Learning](#): Contains learning and challenges coming from National Societies response operations (Including Epidemics) supported by DREF and can be instrumental to improve future operations and related institutional preparedness.
- [PER Global Summary](#): Contains summary of National Societies around the world engaged in the PER Approach.
- [PER Global Performance](#): Contains summary of the overall preparedness and response capacity among National Societies engaged in the PER Approach.

Funding resources:

- DREFs and Emergency Appeal funding mechanisms <https://www.ifrc.org/happening-now/emergency-appeals/disaster-response-emergency-fund-dref>
- Early Action Protocol (EAP) or Simplified Early Action Protocol (EAPs) for selected hazards or diseases (e.g. Flood EAP, Cholera EAP): These are formal plans produced by the National Societies and outline the early actions that will be taken when a specific hazard is forecasted to impact communities. Any National Society can develop an Early Action Protocol or a Simplified Early Action Protocol for a specific hazard and apply for funding from the DREF's Anticipatory Pillar. For more information, please refer to <https://www.ifrc.org/happening-now/emergencies/anticipatory-pillar-dref>

Auxiliary role of NS in health

- The auxiliary role of Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies in health as provided in law and policy: A stock take in selected African and South Asian countries <https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/media/4334> (in English)
- Supporting Healthy Communities: Understanding the Auxiliary Role of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies in Health: <https://disasterlaw.ifrc.org/media/4328> (in English and French)
-  [Model MoU with the MoH](#)
- [IFRC Disaster Law Public health emergencies page](#)
- [Guidance on Law and Public Health Emergency Preparedness and Response](#). A fact sheet about the guidance is available [here](#).

Other useful resources:

- Consider developing NS multi-hazard response or contingency plan (including diseases/ health risks) relevant to the context. Please find relevant templates in [Catalogue of Resources](#).
- Ensure relevant emergency Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and protocols are in place and known by staff and volunteers (e.g., outlining the roles of the first aid teams and ambulances dispatch procedures, or SOPs related to NS operational capacity for information

management, Emergency Operations Centre, etc.). Templates are available in the [Catalogue of Resources](#).