

Step 2: Select hazard and assess past impacts

The hazards to be tackled by the FbF system have usually already been decided during the feasibility study based on historical impacts and a preliminary forecast analysis; however, if not covered by the feasibility study, the following questions should be answered before developing the EAP for a given hazard:

- Is this hazard forecastable?
- Are the disaster impacts caused by this hazard, severe enough to justify the development of an EAP for this hazard?
- Is avoiding and/or reducing disaster impacts due to this hazard a priority for the Government and the National Society?
- How is the nature and impact of the hazard expected to change in the future due to climate change, climate variability, and other external drivers?

The FbA by the DREF allocates funding for EAPs to reduce the impacts of extreme events of a strength or magnitude that in the past have required humanitarian assistance. In order to demonstrate that the selected hazard has caused extreme humanitarian impacts in the past, information on the previous impacts of the selected hazard in the country should be provided.

While it may be challenging to find quality information on historical impact for some hazard types in certain areas, aim for the highest level of detail possible. Key information includes the date of the past event, its severity, and impacts on sectors like health, infrastructure, agriculture, food security, and water. Ultimately this will help you prioritize the impact your EAP will address, i.e. to understand, “what are the key disaster impacts that can be tackled by the FbF system?” and “what are those impacts that can be avoided or reduced with early action?”. (see also Step 2 Prioritize Impact in chapter [“4.2. Select Early Actions”](#)).

Gathering historical disaster impact data to conduct the risk analysis can be done using sources at the local, regional, national, and sometimes even the international level. To an extent international databases such as Desinventar, EMDat, HDX can be used. Post-disaster Needs Assessments (PDNAs) are a crucial source of information, as well as sectoral disaster impact databases (Ministries of Agriculture, Public Works, Interior etc). Often data is managed by national statistical departments and/or the disaster risk management agencies. Some countries are advancing their risk information management capabilities, so you might find out that there is already an existing risk information management system that captures all the historical disaster impact data across different sectors. Nevertheless, there are countries that do not have appropriate system to gather and record such data. In such cases, other strategies (e.g. interviews) should be identified to get the best possible picture about who and what has been impacted by the selected hazard, how, when and why. Once all this data is gathered, it will be possible for the National Society and partners to decide [which are the priority disaster impacts](#) that should be managed by the FbF systems. Defining specific impacts is the basis for deciding which risk indicators could be used in the trigger models (as well as for the selection of early actions).

For example, after an analysis of cyclones impact in Mozambique with data from 1990, it was decided

that the impact to be considered in the trigger model is the destruction of houses.

Key questions for data collection on past impacts:

- What are the historical disaster impact databases available for the selected hazard? How confident are we in the quality of the historical records?
- What is the time and geographic distribution of impact for particular events? When did they happen?
- Where were the impacts observed?
- What was the magnitude of the hazard?
- What were the humanitarian impacts?
- When the event happened, what vulnerabilities contributed to impact? In which ways did people suffer most from the disaster?
- What did people find most difficult to deal with in their daily lives?
- Were their livelihoods jeopardized?
- Which sectors were affected the most? For example, a typhoon can cause impacts on health, shelter, agriculture, infrastructure etc.



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