

Step 2: Develop a data collection plan to do the following

Although the steps below are presented sequentially, you will save time and resources by selecting your methods and developing a data collection plan and tools that gather information on all four simultaneously (identifying impacts, prioritizing impacts, identifying and brainstorming early actions, narrowing early actions) or iteratively. Each step below lists and links to methods from [chapter 5](#) that will help you to identify impacts, to understand how stakeholders experience and perceive the severity of these impacts, and to elicit potential early actions. Use the methods in [chapter 5](#) and steps 3-7 below to define a plan for collecting relevant data and testing your results. To help you with writing your EAP, make sure that you document the process of selecting the early actions: who was consulted and how and what other assessments were considered?

See the [toolbox of this chapter](#) or the [toolbox of chapter 5](#) for examples of research plans and templates.



Practical guidance: Sampling a range of communities

EAPs funded by the DREF do not pre-define communities. National societies decide which communities will receive assistance at the time of activation based on risk and forecast data. Despite this national-level, flexible approach it is important to gather community-level data to ensure that the impacts being addressed, the risk factors, and the support provided are relevant across the area of potential intervention. As you will not be able to consult all exposed or vulnerable communities in your country, you should develop a plan to strategically collect data from the broadest range of communities possible given the resources available. This means paying attention to factors such as geographic location and exposure, the type of housing, differences in agricultural or other livelihood patterns, road access, and other factors relevant to the early actions you are planning. You may not be able to gather all types of data from each community, but by using different tools or data sources (e.g. FGDs, KII, Community visits) in different locations,

you will be able to better compare across contexts and assure the relevance of your early actions no matter where activation eventually occurs.