

Step 4: Prioritize impacts

Once you have developed a comprehensive list of impacts, you must decide which you can and should focus on. The choice of how to prioritize will depend upon your context and needs. While FbF systems can contribute to mitigating some disaster risks that have not been otherwise reduced or managed via long-term disaster risk reduction, it cannot address all potential disaster impacts. To develop realistic and effective EAPs, you will need to prioritize the impacts and select your area of focus. This is an important step, as the selection of impacts will influence the early actions that you design to reduce those impacts as well as the variables for the trigger. For example, if your selected impact is destruction of houses due to strong winds you will need to design early actions that prevent or reduce such destruction. Windspeeds would then be an important variable to monitor for your trigger.

In the EAP, you should be able to clearly state the impacts that you are going to address and explain why. For example, you may prioritize an impact based upon suffering caused to vulnerable populations, overall economic impact, stakeholder priorities (disaster management priorities, national society priorities, community priorities, etc.), organizational capacity and expertise, and/or after considering the selection criteria for early actions presented in [Step 6.1 below](#). As each of these methods yield opportunities, trade-offs, and challenges, a combination is likely most appropriate. The following previously explained methods can support your team's disaster impact prioritization:

- Impact and risk databases
- Literature review
- Semi-structured, key informant interviews
- Focus group discussions
- (Post disaster) Community visits
- (Participatory) Stakeholder workshops
- Surveys