

Step 5: Identify and brainstorm potential early actions

As you begin to understand and prioritize the impacts of most concern and relevance to communities and your national society, you can dig deeper into early actions that might reduce those specific impacts. Be sure to involve experts from relevant sectors, such as shelter, agriculture, WASH, health, or disaster management. The following methods can be used to identify or brainstorm potential early actions:

- Literature review
- Semi-structured, key informant interviews
- Focus group discussions
- (Post disaster) Community visits
- (Participatory) Stakeholder workshops
- Policy and practice reviews
- Early action database
- Community (or stakeholder) ranking activities



Practical guidance: Brainstorming early actions

In our experience, when brainstorming early actions, stakeholders tend to default to traditional response actions, as that is what they are most familiar with. During workshops, focus group discussions, interviews or other consultations, push participants to think outside the box. This could include proposing new actions or shifting the content and timing of existing actions to make them suitable for anticipatory action.

Try asking: are there things you do not currently do, but that you could do (between the forecast and hazard onset/peak) to mitigate impacts if you had additional resources or support? Is this action more effective as an early action or as a response?

