

Step 3: Collect and analyse data to assess early action impact

When developing the M&E plan, the indicators, approach, and steps to gather and analyse data on the impact of the extreme event and the early actions were defined and it was decided who would carry out the data collection (consultant, university, volunteers etc.). See also chapter Design your M&E Plan. Following the activation, in line with your M&E plan carry out the impact evaluation. Ensure that those collecting the data (through survey, discussions, interviews etc.) have received sufficient training to carry out these tasks. It needs to be communicated clearly to communities for what purpose this data is collected, to avoid raising wrong expectations. This is especially the case, if the data collection is done by volunteers of the National Society, as assessments by Red Cross and Red Crescent carried out following a disaster are often a needs assessment for later humanitarian assistance.



Some actions will show impact at different times, so depending on the prioritized impact to be reduced by each action and when the outcome would be visible, data might need to be collected at different times. For example, depending on the action, it might take half a year to see if impact on livelihoods was really reduced (e.g. by protecting crops), while the impact on health might be easiest to assess a few days or weeks following the event.