

CONTENT

STEP 4: DEFINE HAZARD VARIABLES TO MONITOR BASED ON IMPACTS AND
EARLY ACTIONS

Step 4: Define hazard variables to monitor based on impacts and early actions

In order to understand which forecast(s) would be most suitable for your trigger, you need to understand the impact it should forecast. For example, when talking about impacts of cyclones you need to understand what has caused the impact: the winds, the rains or the storm surge? Hence, here you need to review the work that you have done on impact analysis and potential early actions. Please refer to the guidance in [chapter 5: Collect risk, early action and impact data](#) and [chapter 7: Select early actions](#) regarding the prioritization of impacts and early actions.

Hazard	Cascading hazard	Potential primary and secondary impacts	Variable and drivers
Heavy rains	Riverine Flood - Landslides	Damaged houses - Damaged crops - Livestock dead - Cholera outbreak	Water level - Flood extent
Cyclone		Damaged houses - Damaged crops	Wind speed - Strong rains - Cyclone-induced floods - Storm surge
Drought	Agricultural droughts - epidemics	Death of livestock due to insufficient pasture - Crop failure	Vegetation condition - Rainfall - ENSO

Guiding questions to define hazard variable

- Which impacts were prioritised?
- What has caused the impact?
- What variable can be used to best forecast the prioritised impact?
- How much lead time is needed to implement the early actions? What early actions would be feasible in a given lead time?
- Can this variable be forecasted with the needed lead time?

Note that a trigger system does not necessarily need to rest on a single variable as described more extensively under step 10 in this chapter. The trigger for the [cholera EAP in Cameroon](#), for example, rests on a combination of climatic indicators that are known to impact WASH infrastructure and thus make transmission more likely on the one hand, and an indicator for suspected or confirmed cholera cases in relevant districts on the other that is based on surveillance data. Keep this in mind when selecting relevant variable(s), especially for non-weather-related hazards.