CONTENT

STEP 4: PRIORITIZE IMPACTS

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 anticipatory action 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. Prioritizing impacts is therefore essential in order to focus available capacities and resources on those impacts where acting early can make a meaningful difference.

To develop realistic and effective anticipatory action initiatives, particularly when developing an s/EAP, 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 indicators or decision-making rules used to determine when early action should be taken. 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. In the case of an s/EAP, windspeed might therefore become an important variable for your trigger mechanism.

If you are developing an s/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 yields opportunities, trade-offs, and challenges, a combination is likely most appropriate. The following previously explained methods can support your team's impact prioritization:

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