

Engaging Communities from Project Design

Guidance for building community engagement into a CSID study's methodology, timeline, and budget from the outset.

Placeholder content notice: *this document is a structural placeholder prepared for the initial toolkit launch. It will be replaced with the CE4CSID Working Group's final content once supplied by BSHD.*

Purpose

This guide helps research teams treat community engagement as a core part of project design, rather than an activity added once fieldwork has already been planned.

Key design questions to answer early

- What decision could community input realistically change at this stage of the project.
- Which communities are directly affected by the CSID issue under study.
- What budget and time will be set aside specifically for engagement activities.
- Who on the research team is responsible for engagement, and what authority do they have to act on what is heard.

Suggested timeline placement

Engagement planning should begin alongside protocol development, not after ethical approval has been secured. This allows community input to influence the final study design where appropriate.

Budgeting for engagement

- Venue and transport costs for community meetings.
- Translation and plain language material production.
- Time allocated for field staff training on engagement protocol.
- A contingency allowance for follow up engagement activity.

Related resources

Use the Community Engagement Checklist on the toolkit website to track these actions stage by stage.