Our ability to do propensity score matching properly rests on having enough demographic information about the households. The demographic information (age, # of household members, income, assets, gender of household head, level of education etc.) is used to match households in the intervention group with counterparts in the comparison group that are the same in each of the demographic points but differ in that one has received the intervention and the other has not.

The following steps are recommended to identify comparison villages.

1. Consult a map to identify the neighbouring communities that appear to have similar flood risk (altitude, proximity to rivers etc.).
2. Using experiential knowledge of the region or consulting others who have worked extensively in the region (e.g. government extension workers), write down your impressions of each of these neighbouring villages. The following questions may be helpful, as compared to each intervention community.
   a. What is the size/population of the neighbouring villages?
   b. Has there been substantial migration in or out of the neighbouring villages?
   c. Do residents of the neighbouring villages appear to have more or less income, farm productivity, land, animals, educational attainment or employment?
   d. Do residents of the neighbouring communities appear to be of the same ethnic group and religion?
   e. Do residents of the neighbouring communities appear to have the same balance of livelihoods options? (farming, herding, fishing, trade, etc.).
   f. Are there any major NGO projects or private sector enterprises in the neighbouring villages that make them different?
   g. Have neighbouring communities experience more or less flood events or flood losses?
3. If historical information on flooding exists, check to see if the flooding levels have differed between the communities in the last 15 years.
4. During a community meeting with the intervention group, ask them to think about each of their neighbouring villages. Ask them what is different and the same about each of these neighbouring villages. Using scenario/narrative prompts may be helpful. Example question: "*If I went to village x, what would I see that was <u>different</u> from this community when I'm walking outside and spending time in homes?*" Then ask the same about what would be seen that is <u>similar</u>. Alternatively you could ask "*Are there any communities near here which are poorer or richer than this community?*" If feeling adventurous you could ask "*If I [a female] was thinking of getting married near here and was considering settling in the neighbouring villages, what should I take into consideration to decide which village to settle in?*" These types of questions at community level should begin to bring out some of the small micro differences between the neighbouring communities. These micro differences are used to exclude potential comparison group communities.

   <u>The comparison villages selected should be the neighbouring villages that (1) have the most similar flood risk to each intervention community and (2) have the least amount of known socio/cultural/economic differences as compared to each intervention community.</u> If possible,

try to pair the communities (1 intervention village with 1 comparison village) as demonstrated in the diagram on page 1.

Once the comparison villages have been identified it is time to produce a household list of all households within the comparison villages. From this household list, a randomized sample of households should be generated to be surveyed. Their responses will produce the counterfactual of our impact assessment – what would have happened in the absence of our interventions.

Reminder: although the questions are asked at a household level, it is still important to get a gender balance of respondents. This is because male and female adults within the household may have a difference of opinion about the losses experienced during the flood. To create a gender balance, the enumerator should first ask for a male adult of the household if the assigned household number (used to sample) is an odd number. An adult woman should be asked first to respond of the household number is an even number. You may substitute genders if there is no adult of that gender within the household or if they are not available to respond.