

Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop

Session 1: EWS in the Caribbean (2000 – 2015): highlights, gaps, lessons learnt and key points

Thursday, April 14, 10:00-11:30

Session Background

Early warning systems (EWS) are prioritized as life-saving measures within the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction at the global level and within the CARICOM regional framework and the CDM Strategy 2014-2014 at the regional and national levels. It is recognized that EWS need to be people-centred comprising four key elements: knowledge of the risks; monitoring, analysis and forecasting of the hazards; communication or dissemination of alerts and warnings and local capabilities to respond to the warnings received¹. While the global and regional perspectives provide the necessary governance architecture for reducing losses, implementation at national and community level is also critical as highlighted in the CDM Strategy at outcome 4.3 Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS), integrated, improved and expanded that contributes to 'Strengthened and sustained community resilience through CDM'.

The 2015-2016 DIPECHO Action Plan for the Caribbean aims to establish greater collaboration and coordination between partners, allowing programming of common outcomes and the harmonization of practices. In order to facilitate this, UNISDR along with partners of the Petite Comité for EWS including UNDP Barbados and the OECS, and IFRC/CADRIM have collaborating to ensure follow-up on identified priorities; achievement of expected results and their promotion to optimize impact and allow scaling-up. Both the IFRC and the UNDP received funding through ECHO, to implement activities aimed respectively at a stronger enabling environment for community resilience in the Caribbean and to mitigate the risks faced by communities in small islands exposed to multiple natural hazards through the effective implementation of integrated Early Warning Systems (EWS). These activities include:

- Development and application of an EWS training toolkit
- Development of a Caribbean EWS Case Studies Best Practices Guide
- Regional Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS) Training
- Framework for CAP-compliant all-hazard early warning systems integrated at national and community levels

These interventions target disaster risk management stakeholders and community level operatives and are envisaged to respond to concerns about the adequacy and robustness of "communication about disasters at the national level and in particular, between national disaster management authorities and communities". They also seek to address *inter alia*, a perceived gap in the comprehensiveness of the existing EWS. IFRC and UNDP recognize the prior invaluable work in EWS in the Caribbean since 2000 and wish that existing and future initiatives be informed accordingly. It is against this background that a Desk Review of the EWS in the Caribbean was undertaken.

This session is comprised of a feature presentation delivered by the EWS Desk Review consultant, Mr. Jeremy Collymore showcasing findings and recommendations of the study, followed by UNDP Cuba and the Organization of American States facilitating the exchange of good practices, lessons learned and innovative ideas.

¹ UNISDR (2009). "Early Warning System." Terminology. from <http://www.preventionweb.net/english/professional/terminology/v.php?id=478>. United Nations (2015). Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030. Sendai, Japan: 37.

Objectives of the Session

1. To provide an overview on achievements, gaps, lessons learnt and good practices in EWS.
2. To discuss proposed criteria to inform a model EWS framework for the Caribbean

Expected Outcomes:

1. Shared understanding of the status of EWS in the Caribbean and requirements of key partners to successfully implement EWS in the Caribbean.
2. Increased awareness among regional and national partners for the successful implementation of EWS.

Methodology	Description	Resources
Session 1: EWS in the Caribbean (2000 – 2015): highlights, gaps, lessons learnt and key points 10:00 - 11:30 This session seeks to set the context, share experiences and propose actions linked to the evolution and integration of EWS in the Caribbean. Special focus will be given to charting the way forward and connecting EWS in the Caribbean from local through to global levels. The methodology for this session will be a 25 minute presentation by the EWS Desk Review consultant on results and recommendations on the study, followed by an interactive question and answer session. This segment will be followed by presentations delivered by an Asia Pacific Delegation, UNDP Cuba and the OAS focused on good practices and experiences on EWS across regions. Presenters will have an opportunity to invite feedback and respond to any queries posed by workshop participants.		
1. Feature: A Review of EWS in the Caribbean (2000-2015): Taking Stock and Charting the Way Forward	A presentation examining the principles and elements of EWS in the Caribbean, its evolution and integration into national and regional work programmes as well as recommendations for enhancing and advancing EWS across the region. It will also identify characteristics and criteria to inform a Model Multi-Hazard EWS Framework for the Caribbean.	25 minute presentation Session Chair: Kerry Hinds, Department of Emergency Management Presenter: Jeremy Collymore (EWS Desk Review Consultant)
2. Discussion	Meeting participants will ask questions based on the featured presentation	20 minutes Session Chair: Kerry Hinds, Department of Emergency Management
3. Presentation 2 – Best Practices	This presentation will present a case study of experiences and good practices on EWS in Vanuatu and the Asia Pacific region highlighting the successes, gaps identified and opportunities for enhancement.	10 minutes Personnel Required: Finau Tahaffe, Regional Humanitarian Diplomacy and Disaster Law Delegate, IFRC/Asia Pacific
4. Presentation 3 – Best Practices	This presentation will present a case study of experiences and good practices on EWS highlighting the successes, gaps identified and opportunities for enhancement.	10 minutes Pablo de Varona, Director of the Department of Instruments and Methods of Observation, Meteorological Institute of Cuba
5. Presentation 4 – Best Practices	This presentation will present a case study of experiences and good practices on EWS	10 minutes

	highlighting the successes, gaps identified and opportunities for enhancement.	Pablo Gonzales, Principal Specialist and Chief, Risk Management and Adaptation to Climate Change, OAS
6. Discussion	Meeting participants will ask questions based on the presentations	10 minutes Session Chair Kerry Hinds, Department of Emergency Management