

Caribbean Early Warning System Workshop

Session 6: Integrating vulnerable persons/groups into DRR through EWS

April 15, 16:00-17:30 & April 16, 08:30-12:30

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 level. 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'.

Vulnerability is defined by the conditions determined by physical, social, economic and environmental factors or processes, which increase the susceptibility of a community to the impact of hazards (UNISDR 2004, quoted in the Sendai Framework). Vulnerable groups include displaced populations who leave their habitual residence in collectives, usually due to a sudden impact disaster with the intent to return; migrants who leave or flee their habitual residence to go to new places, usually abroad to seek better and safer perspectives; specific groups within the local population, such as marginalized, excluded or destitute people; young children, pregnant and nursing women, unaccompanied children, widows, elderly people without family support, disabled persons. Inclusion in a so-called vulnerable group however does not predetermine that a person or group is vulnerable. A preliminary analysis is required to determine the status, responsibilities and roles of the vulnerable².

The contribution of vulnerable persons to both the development and operationalisation of EWS cannot be underestimated. Equity and effectiveness are key principles that underscore their integration into EWS. Their capacities in relation to risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities must be identified and shared if the goal of reduced losses is to be achieved.

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.

²IFRC. What is vulnerability? 2016. Available from <http://www.ifrc.org/en/what-we-do/disaster-management/about-disasters/what-is-a-disaster/what-is-vulnerability/>

Objectives of the Session

The main objective of the session is to highlight good practices on how vulnerable groups have been integrated into the development and operationalization of EWS and to identify actual and potential roles of vulnerable groups in, and responsibilities to them particularly as it relates to risk knowledge, dissemination and communication of warnings and response capabilities. Good practices may be identified at different institutional scale levels noting the different roles being performed by agencies.

Expected Outcomes:

Noting the objectives of the session, the expected outcomes are:

- Good practices on the integration of vulnerable groups into the development and operationalization of Community-based EWS by both institutions and community-level organizations.
- Actual and potential roles of vulnerable groups with specific examples in risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities.
- Key responsibilities of respective authorities and organizations in catering the integration of vulnerable groups in EWS identified.
- Recommendations on key next steps for integrating vulnerable groups into national/local EWS.
- Recommendations to empower vulnerable groups to become integrated into EWS.

The session is closely linked to the sessions 2 to 4 that focus on the institutionalization and harmonization of EWS.

| Methodology | Description | Resources |
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| Session 6A: Institutional Practice - Vulnerable Groups Reflected in EWS Friday 15 April, 2016 (16:00 – 17:30) This sub-session seeks to identify the mechanisms through which institutions at regional, national and local levels have/can seek to cater to vulnerable groups in their development and operationalisation of EWS with emphasis on risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities. The methodology for this session will be a panel discussion. Institutions at regional, national and local levels will be provide 5-minute presentations on their work in relation to the session objective responding to three questions from the moderator of the session. The session will be followed by group work to identify specific examples of good practices by institutions. | | |
| 1. Panel discussion | Regional/national partners (partners involved in risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities) on their approaches to ensure inclusiveness of vulnerable groups in the development and operationalisation of EWS. Questions to panel: 1.What existing mechanisms can countries at national/local levels use to ensure that vulnerable groups are integrated into the Early Warning arrangements particularly in relation to the areas of | Duration: 1 hour Moderator: CDEMA Panellists: Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Haiti, Cuba Personnel Required Moderator Rapporteur Panellists |

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| | <p>risk knowledge, dissemination and communication and response capabilities?</p> <p>2. What are the key next steps towards institutionalizing the integration of vulnerable groups in existing Early Warning arrangements and who may be responsible for ensuring integration?</p> <p>3. How can vulnerable groups be empowered towards their integration into existing Early Warning arrangements at national/local levels?</p> | |
| <p>2. Plenary discussion</p> | <p>Engage organisations from the audience to ask questions in response to the responses from the panel and provide comments from the perspective of their own organisation.</p> | <p>Duration: 30 minutes Moderator: CDEMA</p> <p>Personnel Required Rapporteur Panellists</p> |
| <p>Session 6B: Vulnerable Group Perspectives on their engagement in DRR and EWS Saturday April 16, 2016 (08:30 – 12:30)</p> <p>This sub-section allows for sharing of experiences by vulnerable groups on their engagement in EWS and DRR broadly. It also allows for the identification of enabling and constraining factors to the engagement of vulnerable groups/persons in EWS using a SWOT³ analysis. In the group discussions elements from session 6a will also be discussed.</p> | | |
| <p>1. Panel Discussion</p> | <p>Presentations:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Early Warning for the Disabled, Portmore by Ms. Theresa Grant, Social Affairs Officer, Combined Disabilities Association, Jamaica 2) Early Warning for vulnerable groups in St. James Central by Mr. Selwyn Brooks, Chairman, St. James Central District Emergency Organisation, Barbados 3) Early Warning for vulnerable groups in Haiti by Mr. Celestin, UNDP Haiti 4) Children and EWS, UNICEF (tbc) 5) Vulnerable groups in EWS in the Pacific Region (tbc) <p>Queries/statements from the audience on 1) their experiences on integrating/engagement with vulnerable groups in EWS and 2) good practices on how they have been/could be involved in EWS to ensure that vulnerabilities are not neglected/increased?</p> | <p>Duration: 90 minutes Moderator: Mrs. Velda Joseph, National Disaster Coordinator, Saint Lucia</p> <p>Personnel Required Moderator Rapporteur Panellists</p> |

³ A SWOT analysis is a structured planning method used to evaluate Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats.

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| <p>2. Group work:</p> | <p>1. In relation to three of the four elements of the EWS, what are the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats to engaging vulnerable groups in EWS? (See matrix below)</p> <p>2. What are the key next steps towards institutionalizing the integration of vulnerable groups in existing Early Warning arrangements and who may be responsible for ensuring integration? How can your organization contribute?</p> <p>3. How can vulnerable groups be empowered towards their integration into existing Early Warning arrangements at national/local levels?</p> | <p>Groups represented in the panel above. (60 minutes)</p> <p>Personnel Required Group leader Group rapporteur</p> <p>Other Worksheets</p> |
| <p>3. Plenary</p> | <p>Presentation of results First group present all findings followed by any questions from the audience. Subsequent groups only add where there were additional points.</p> | <p>Duration 30 minutes (5 minutes each – 20 minutes)</p> <p>Personnel Required Rapporteur</p> <p>Other Collection of worksheets</p> |

| Worksheet 1 for Session 6b | | | |
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| EWS Elements | Risk Knowledge | Dissemination and Communication | Response Capabilities |
| Strengths (What can you do well that can benefit the development/revision of EWS that are sensitive to vulnerable groups) | | | |
| Weaknesses (What areas should you improve/perhaps not be involved in given your vulnerabilities) | | | |
| Opportunities (What are possible solutions given technologies available (eg. Text-to-talk) for example that can benefit vulnerable groups' integration into EWS) | | | |
| Threats (What obstacles do you/might you face in the development/revision of vulnerable group-sensitive EWS. | | | |

| Worksheet 2 for Session 6b | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|
| Name of the Organisation | Prioritised Steps for <u>Integrating Vulnerable Groups</u> into Existing National/Local EWS Arrangements | Prioritised Actions for <u>Empowering Vulnerable Groups'</u> Integration in EWS (specify vulnerable groups where necessary) |
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