Concept note Session 3

Early Warning Systems
Wednesday, September 23, 09:00-12:30

Introduction

Early warning is a major element of disaster risk reduction. It prevents loss of life and reduces economic and material impact to disasters. To be effective, early warning systems need to actively involve the communities at risk, facilitate public education and awareness of risks, timely disseminated warnings and information and ensure that there is constant state of preparedness.

An effective and people-centred early warning system should address the following four elements:
- Risk Knowledge;
- Monitoring and Warning Service;
- Dissemination and Communication;
- Response Capability.

The development, maintenance, sustainability and strengthening of early warning systems is part of the 2014-2024 CDM strategy. The third result under Outcome 4 refers to integrated, improved and enhanced community early warning systems. Furthermore, one of the seven global goal of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction is calling for multi-hazard early warning systems.

The WMO report\(^1\) analyzing risk assessment and multi-hazard early warnings systems capacities in the Caribbean region highlights the need for a more coordinated approach to strengthen institutional capacities at national and regional levels to support risk assessment and multi-hazard early warnings systems for meteorological, hydrological and climate-related hazards in the Caribbean. This requires stronger cooperation with a multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-level approach within the context of the priorities in DRR, and adaptation planning in the countries/territories in the region.

The need for early warning systems at national and community level was emphasized by many National Disaster Management Agencies during the Caribbean DIPECHO workshop 2014 and additionally, identified as a priority in disaster risk reduction country documents.

The session on Early Warning System will facilitate the exchange of good practices, lessons learned and innovative ideas. The idea is to build on existing experiences and achievements in order to identify

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\(^1\) [http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1082.pdf](http://library.wmo.int/pmb_ged/wmo_1082.pdf)
priorities for early warning systems at the local, national and regional level. The key question is: What needs to be done in order to enhance early warning systems at the different levels and for the different hazards?

This session is jointly being organized by the “Early Warning System” Petit Comité partners such as UNDP/ACPP/UNESCO (Dominican Republic), UNDP (Cuba and Barbados), IFRC/CADRIM, French Red Cross and UNISDR. These partners will work together throughout the DIPECHO Action Plan ensuring that the identified priorities will be followed through; expected results will be achieved and promoted in order to optimize the impact and to allow scaling up.

**Session objectives**

In addition to the overall workshop objectives which include the development of a joint action plan for each of the thematic areas and the enhancement of coordination and communication, the session is aiming at:

- Increasing the knowledge of EWS at regional, national and local level with special focus on innovations and lessons learned.
- Identify priorities to enhance early warning systems at the different levels (local, national and regional).

**Expected Session Outcomes**

- Approved the joint work plan for the thematic areas
- Shared good practices and tools
- Priorities identified to improve early warning system at different levels
## Session Agenda and methodology

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Session point</th>
<th>Goal</th>
<th>Expected outcome</th>
<th>Methodology</th>
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| 09:00-10:15| **Early Warning Systems - State of the Art in the Caribbean**  
Moderator: Ronald Jackson, CDEMA  
- Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean  
  Marlon Clarke, UNDP Barbados / Reynette Royer, CADRIM  
- El Niño implications for the Caribbean and EWS  
  Eduardo Zambrano, Oceanographer, CIIFEN  
- Good practices and lessons learned - EWS in the Caribbean:  
  (1) Tsunami and Other Coastal Hazards: Warning System for the Caribbean and Adjacent Regions  
    Bernardo Aliaga, UNESCO IOC  
  (2) Early Warning System in the British Virgin Islands  
    Jasen Penn, Department of Disaster Management  
  (3) Early Warning System in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines  
    Houlda Peters, NEMO  
  (4) Early Warning System in Cuba  
    Raul Costa Gravalosa, Civil Defense Cuba | - Identifying priorities at local, national and regional level to enhance EWS  
- Increase knowledge on existing initiatives | Priorities identified to enhance early warning systems at the different levels (local, national and regional). | Panel discussion: Moderator-led Panel with 6 presenters  
5 min: Introduction moderator  
10 min: Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean (max. 5 slides)  
10 min: El Niño - How prepared is the region? (max. 5 slides)  
  - Based on information provided about the current El Niño, how are countries and the region preparing themselves?  
30 min (4x7 min): presentation on indicted theme (max. 3 slides each)  
  1) What is the good practice and innovative element of the EWS?  
  2) What would you indicate as the main challenge/lessons learnt with implementing EWS?  
  3) What are the priorities to enhance the existing EWS at the relevant level (local, national or regional)?  
15 min: Moderator will provoke discussion by asking questions to the panelists.  
  - What are in your opinion the key next steps related to multi-hazard early warning systems to be implemented at the local, country and regional level?  
5 min: Summary by Moderator |
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<tr>
<th>10:15-10:30</th>
<th><strong>Tools presentation</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td><em>National Alert State Policy, Stephen Ramroop, ODPM</em></td>
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<td><em>CEWS Training Toolkit, Reynette Royer, IFRC</em></td>
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<td><em>Risk Reduction Management Centres: A Tool for Local Governments in Cuba as part of the local EWS, Rosendo Mesias, UNDP Cuba</em></td>
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| 10:30-11:00 | Coffee Break |

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<tr>
<th>11:00-12:30</th>
<th><strong>Group discussions</strong> on (1) Standard Operation Procedures (SOP) – communication to communities; (2) Integrating gender aspects and considering vulnerable groups in the design of Early Warning Systems; (3) Identification of joint work plan for the area of EWS</th>
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<td>- Define joint work plan related to EWS;</td>
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<td>- Exchange of experiences related to SOPs addressing the last mile in EWS;</td>
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<td>- Sharing of good practices that integrate gender aspects and vulnerable groups in EWS</td>
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<td>- Identification of, needs and Joint work plan on EWS; Compilation of good practices that integrate gender aspects and vulnerable groups</td>
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<tr>
<th>11:00-12:30</th>
<th><strong>Joint work plan on EWS</strong></th>
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<td>Participants will be divided in three groups. Within these groups, three themes will be discussed. A themes facilitator will guide the discussion. The three theme facilitators will change tables after 25 min discussion. At the end the three facilitators will present main findings to all participants (15 min).</td>
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<td>Theme facilitators will guide discussions along the following questions:</td>
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<td><strong>Question for theme (1):</strong></td>
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<td>What are the priorities in order to enhance SOPs with special focus on communicating to communities?</td>
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<td><strong>Question for theme (2):</strong></td>
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<td>How can considerations to gender aspects and vulnerable groups integrated in early warning systems?</td>
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<td><strong>Guidance for “theme” (3):</strong></td>
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<td>Identification of joint work plan for the area of EWS</td>
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1) Please revise the draft matrix of common activities, add missing elements and indicate how you could support this activity.
2) Identify the main areas of collaboration that shall be reflected in the joint action plan for EWS.

The matrix on common activities (see annex) will need to be filled in and guide the group discussion.
### Thematic Area Early Warning Systems: Matrix of common activities, results and outcomes to be presented at the Regional DRR Planning workshop for the Caribbean: DIPECHO Action Plan 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area of collaboration</th>
<th>Main activities</th>
<th>Indicate if this activity is regional (R), national (N) or both (B)</th>
<th>Indicators</th>
<th>Tentative dates and country</th>
<th>Organizations involved</th>
<th>Leading organization</th>
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| Initial DIPECHO Workshop              | - Prepare communication session;  
- Draft work plan on thematic area;  
- Providing support during and after the workshop session (e.g. taking notes, facilitating group discussions, compilation of achieved outcomes and results, revising and providing inputs for the meeting reports, etc.) |                                                                     |            | 23 September                | Petit Comité on EWS                                         | (current UNISDR Chair – chair will change after workshop) |
| Final DIPECHO Workshop                 | - Prepare communication session;  
- Collection of main achievements related to the thematic area  
- Providing support during and after the workshop session (e.g. taking notes, facilitating group discussions, compilation of achieved outcomes and results, revising and providing inputs for the meeting reports, etc.) |                                                                     |            | Sept/Oct 2016               | UNDP Barbados / IFRC                                      |                                                         |
| Network of EWS expert in the Caribbean | - Support the development of a network of EWS expert in the Caribbean  
- Prepare ToR for this group  
- Invite to meetings and define action plan |                                                                     |            |                            |                                                        |                                                         |
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Start Date</th>
<th>End Date</th>
<th>Responsible Entities</th>
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| Regional Workshop on Early Warning Systems and Gender integration       | - Collect good practices and gender integration in EWS  
- Support the preparation of the workshop agenda;  
- Support the discussion during the workshop  
- Follow up on workshop outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |                             |                | IFRC, IFRC, UNDP Barbados and the OECS                                                |
| Promote DIPECHO Action Plan activities and achievements                 | - Provide relevant information in order to be published on DIPECHO LAC and other regional platforms;  
- Promote relevant information at national and local level                                                                                                                                                                                                               |                             |                | IFRC, UNDP Barbados and the OECS                                                      |
| Regional Harmonisation and Knowledge Sharing Workshop                   | - Capturing experiences  
- Development of ToR to allow achievement of objectives  
- Support the preparation of the workshop agenda;  
- Support the discussion during the workshop  
- Follow up on workshop outcome                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (R)                         |                | IFRC, UNDP Barbados and the OECS                                                      |
| VCA/3CA and Knowledge Attitude and Perception (KAP) study              | - Capacity Building training in VCA/3CA methodology in two communities  
- Sensitization workshops on the VCA/3CA and KAP analysis  
- VCA/3CA and KAP surveys undertaken                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | (R)                         | September/Oc   | IFRC, UNDP Barbados and the OECS                                                      |
| Development of a Model EWS Framework for the Caribbean                 | - Engagement with EWS Petit Comité and other regional workshop modalities to inform the development of this Framework  
- Community EWS notices/messages adapted to regional or national context and adapting the mobile phone Apps (existing Multi-Hazard EWS)                                                                                                                                       |                             |                | IFRC, UNDP Barbados and the OECS                                                      |
| **Knowledge products developed on EWS in the Caribbean** | - Comprehensive desk review conducted on the investment of EWS in the Caribbean at the community and national levels as well as good practices and lessons learned  
- Technical intern proposed to support this review | - (R) | - | - UNDP Barbados and the OECS, IFRC; UNISDR, CDEMA, NSs, NDOs |  
**Regional ToT in CEWS** | - Regional ToTs conducted in 2 communities where either a VCA or 3CA have been conducted | - (B) | - | - St. Vincent and the Grenadines proposed (2nd community in 2nd country not yet identified) | - IFRC CADRIM  
**Tripartite agreement with telecommunications service provider** | - Amend existing IFRC-DIGICEL MOU to a CDEMA-IFRC-DIGICEL MOU | - (R) | - | - IFRC Caribbean Office, CDEMA, DIGICEL |  
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