

SA-IO Disaster Preparedness: ECHO and Partners' workshop

Breakout group 1: Early Warning / Cyclones

The current situation

- About 30 global, regional and national EWS Digital platforms are currently in use by different countries (VENTINSKY, ENGAGESPARK, IBT_ACS, ENMETSAT, WINDY, DATAWINNER, Bulk SMS/SIM), Zoom/ Earth (regional) FEWSNET)
- EWS are integrated and multi-hazard
- Multiple EWS

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Gaps to be filled / challenges to be addressed

- Sustainability (power, cost, network, IT literacy..)
- Government buy in of the global platforms
- Contextualization of EW messages: Decentralization of EW information,
- Accessibility interms of ease of use and understanding
- Data fragmentation between the different systems
- Linkages between EWS and populations at risk

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Role / added value for ECHO and its partners?

- Support targeted capacity building at all levels in the use of the existing EWS : should include enhancing communities participation in EWS at the community level
- Support investments at national level to ensure that EWS at country level are linked: incl: provision of software and hardware to strengthen EWS
- Facilitate engagement of government authorities in systematization of the EWS and transmission of EW messages to communities at risk.
- Continued support on increased coordination among governments and regional bodies on EWS

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Recommendations

- Mapping and harmonization of existing EW digital platforms and other related tools
- Investment in the capacity strengthening
- Encourage partnership between different platform providers (avoid competition)
- Advocate and establish partnerships with actors who assist national governments in developing and/or strengthening national EWSs
- Documenting, integrating and formalizing the existing local/grassroots/indigenous knowledge and experience
- Gap based-investment (funding)