

# SA-IO Disaster Preparedness: ECHO and Partners' workshop

Breakout group: DP in Urban contexts / Cyclones (Perpetua Musanhu/Jaspal Gill)

## Current situation

- Structure for preparedness urban cyclones remains weak, except in some instances where it is more advanced (Mauritius, Seychelles)
- The urban poor and informal settlements are predominantly settled on wetlands, which are particularly prone to flooding (Lack of rule of law)
- High vulnerability in urban context, particularly among informal settlements, loss of livelihoods.
- Stretched services WASH, health, access to education etc.
- In some countries there is no functioning social protection system to expand DP
- Lack of coordination and/or consortium approach
- Lack of government support to urban areas vis-à-vis rural
- Limited local/indigenous knowledge in urban context
- Issues surrounding protection and GBV

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## Gaps to be filled / challenges to be addressed

- Capacity building on early warning systems for stakeholders, in technical areas to improve infrastructure
- Mapping of vulnerable areas and hot spots through vulnerability analysis, assessment, UAS
- Strengthening of government institutions, policy development and associated triggers and funds.
- Need to ensure there is education and information sharing in schools
- Gaps in contingency plans, simulations, adequate infrastructure and emergency kits
- Investment in more innovative ways and technology to disseminate early warning information
- Issues related to protection and GBV needs to be integrated in planning
- Investment in more resilient infrastructure
- Need for integrated planning between central, district and local governments

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## Role / added value for ECHO and its partners?

- Sharing best practises and lessons learnt
- Providing technical expertise, supporting the development of guidance and strategies
- Consortia approach to improve communication, impact and avoid duplication
- Facilitating government ownership of drm strategies
- Enabling access to data and capacity building in analysis
- Providing financial support towards scaling DP efforts in urban set ups( eg community based civil protection structures).
- Advocate among governments and stakeholders
- Support institutions (from national to local level), actors involved in response to develop contingency plans
- Support research, assessments and DP planning in urban context
- Develop policies and guidelines for Cyclone risk management in Urban areas

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## Recommendations

- Support urban vulnerability analysis/early warning to inform anticipatory action, preparedness and planning
- Whole-of-society- approach to strengthen coordination mechanisms
- Enhance local ownership by integrating local knowledge, inviting consultations and support information sharing
- Prioritizing urban preparedness versus the attention on rural areas
- Linking preparedness to recovery (nexus – moving away from silos)
- Strengthening of governance structures to reduce vulnerability in advance
- Support capacity building of institutions, policy development, staff and training
- Sharing best practices and lessons learned
- Advocacy amongst government and stakeholders
- Closer review of the use of social protection systems in DP – lesson learning