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# **Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (SA-IO) Disaster Preparedness ECHO and Partners Workshop**

Johannesburg, 28 - 30 June 2022

**WORLD CAFE**

**Questions for Breakout Groups**

**Topic: Anticipatory Action| Scenario: Conflict**

**Guidelines**



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- 3 sessions of 12 breakout groups are scheduled to be held on the afternoon of June 29, 2022. Each group will discuss 3 different topics (Early Warning Systems Digital Platforms, Anticipatory Action, and DP in Urban contexts) under two different scenarios (Cyclones, and Conflict) – ie each group will undertake 6 discussions.
- Given the large number of participants, every topic / scenario group is to be duplicated, so as to allow a meaningful group size. It is foreseen that there will be approximately 10-12 participants per discussion group.
- Each topic/scenario discussion will last 45 minutes. Participants are going to migrate every 45 minutes throughout the 3 sessions until they have covered all six topics and scenarios,
- There will be 15-minute breaks every 90 minutes (ie after two discussion sessions), for separate lightning talks.
- Participants will be assigned to their first group, and to the groups they subsequently migrate to. These groups will observe the following criteria: (1) No individual organization is represented twice in each group, (2) Gender equality, (3) rotation between the group is based on individual migration, meaning the groups do not remain the same when moving from one topic to the other,
- Facilitators will remain in their initially assigned topic/scenario, and thus discuss the same topic/scenario with six visiting groups
- Facilitators will be guiding the same discussion with the different groups, based on a set of pre-defined questions,
- Facilitators may wish to pre-identify a note taker before the start of the workshop, or assign him/her from each group,
- Facilitators are expected to bring their own laptops,
- Flip chart will be provided,
- Time keeping is extremely important to ensure that all questions are covered under each topic/scenario
- Facilitators and notetakers are expected to capture answers for all the questions,
- Facilitators and notetakers of duplicated groups are expected to combine their collected answers into one file on the evening of June 29th,
- Facilitators of duplicated groups are expected to summarize the key findings and put them in a PPT (template provided) on the evening of June 29th,
- Facilitators of duplicated groups will have to agree who is presenting on the 30<sup>th</sup> the key findings with the PPT.

## **Topic: Anticipatory Action**

### **Scenario: Conflict**



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## Facilitator's Name:

### Question 1: Are you aware of any AA for conflict settings, and if so could you outline them?

We discuss about Anticipatory Action FOR conflict and AA (for natural hazard) IN conflict and conclude that experience and evidence are still missing in both situation.

**Eswatini** – civil unrest expected that may imply prices increased – need to ensure cash availability - Removal of all logos/ visibility– household food stock...

Warning: using the government and community intelligence + social media (2 weeks lead time)

**Zimbabwe:** civil unrest expected pre-election/ violence

Trigger// election date – The dissemination of information to communities maybe challenges where radio may be controlled, information may be censored, or internet shutdown.

Mozambique:

**Malawi, Zambia** : Election preparedness

Use historic data to identify potential hotspot, map the red cross volunteers, training communities in “hot spots” on first aid and peace, mapping of service providers (health, etc.)

Most organization will step back a bit. It is not a period where people are very active on the ground.

**Northern Mozambique:** population movements/ difficult to predict.... prepositioned food and items in cities where people are likely to move? Some districts safer.

Difficult to predict although communities know... communities will wait last minute to leave their land and belongings. prepositioning of items to anticipate future peoples movements.

Potential ‘safe places’ where IDPs might gather can be anticipated (not coast, but inland.)

Government led response but not prepared to re-locate people... could be better prepared for...

We have also experience from **other countries in Africa** from tribal conflict, conflict over natural resource management (e.g. Mendera triangle/ decreased water resources, etc.) where AA for drought (Kenya) or floods (South Sudan) are on going.

CivMil coordination

Communication issues – who has the control of the communication system

Access issues

Coordination maybe challenged – head of district taken by conflict not available for the cyclones preparedness/

Flexible scenario planning / risk analysis for different scenarios – likelihood/

Step by step approach



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Reaching out to people when the communication system in time the communication is down

Scope for action is limited/ compromise between the risks/ the evacuation

**Question 2: What other specific DP activities are relevant and feasible in contexts of potential conflict, including civil unrest?**

prepositioned stocks  
flexible programming  
medical equipment to assist people who may be injured

**Question 3: What aspects of Protection, IHL and Safety could be integrated in AA / Conflict DP activities, and how?**



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*Input* A joint framework to bring all actors together... a number of tools are already there, cooperation framework...

Youth economic empowerment

Issues of idps coming from the coast / fishermen communities

Access to land can be a source of conflict (idps/ host communities)

How do we do this?

Child protection / mining

IHL: these people need a voice/ answers here

**Question 4: How can ECHO support its partners' preparedness for conflict scenarios, in terms of capacity and safety / security?**

*Input answers here*



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### **Question 5: What specific areas of work are required to scale-up AA in conflict settings?**

Do no harm, deep context analysis and understanding that AA could fuel the conflict  
Strengthen Partners capacities (humanitarian principles, conflict analysis, protection, IHL, diplomacy, etc.)

Set up new local partnerships with “neutral actors”, local organization including faith based organization, human right organizations, etc.

Finance

For successful AA there is a need for better understanding of people’s vulnerabilities

AA pre-agreed with authorities in Zimbabwe. How will they apply in post-election settings? Currently preparedness for that is missing. Add another layer of emergency preparedness (by lack of capability to do the AA agreements)

Higher risk of politicization of assistance to natural events during election/social unrest or other type of conflict

Make sure not to become part of the conflict: do no harm.

Review AA for cyclones/floods as part of election preparedness process

Joint framework for different actors to come together and work on AA (humanitarian, development): part of ERP process?

### **Question 6: Is there a role for ECHO and its partners in this?**



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Expand the experience/ generate evidence  
More evidence needed on AA for conflict. What works, what doesn't work.  
How can we build linkages between 'regular' EWS and displacement tracking?  
Anticipation of conflict: importance of 'do no harm' when launching alerts  
Stronger role for community based organizations in preparedness/AA for conflict  
Better conflict sensitive/conflict mapping by ECHO partners  
Step by step, ensure every humanitarian stakeholders understand the role they should play in preparedness for conflict (like for natural hazards)  
EWS for natural hazards should trigger EWS for conflict.  
ECHO to support capacity building around conflict preparedness, including community based organizations.  
Need for better understanding of humanitarian principles by all actors working on conflict preparedness  
EU has a role to play in talking about human rights  
EU to work on access negotiations

#### Question 7: How can we best ensure a systematic linkage between EWS and AA?

**Eswatini:** government intelligence/ community intelligence/ Social media

**Zimbabwe:** protests announcement

Attention to be paid to mobility, e.g. DTM –Zimbabwe human right watch or lawyer associations... their reports is a signal for humanitarian agencies

But also:

- Organization monitoring the situation and identifying hot spots
- Historic data
- Media
- Hotspots

Certain types of conflict can be predicted by monitoring livelihoods situation/resources of people and levels of environmental degradation

Monitoring of social media is a way of predicting conflict. This type of info can be collected more systematically and disseminated to relevant stakeholders as early warning. Partnering with human rights organizations?

Also economy related indicators, food prices fluctuations, inflation etc

Conflict during elections, Red Cross Malawi trains people in potential hot spot areas, does prepositioning.

For successful AA there is a need for better understanding of people's vulnerabilities



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Continental early warning system for conflict – African Union – using different media/ using the situation room ... de-linked from the natural hazard early warning system, not listened to by government/ AU Ambassadors... should trigger (EU role?) silent diplomacy and efforts of peace building

Sensitivity of the information/ risk of panicking ...

- ⇒ Strong expertise on conflict analysis
- ⇒ Strong protection/ IHL/ civmil coordination expertise
- ⇒ Strong localization – working through local partnerships

**Question 8A: What examples do you have of local / grassroots / indigenous knowledge and experience being used in this context in your country?**

Systematic approach collecting info to make anticipating of conflict/social tensions etc is missing.

Local/indigenous information can play a role. Need to find ways to systematically integrate it

Importance of 'do no harm' approach

Information channels/system in conflict areas are controlled by parties in the conflict.

Information dissemination during this type of situations is very challenging

Preparedness for conflict often hampered by government restrictions. Or government part of conflict





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### **Question 8B: How can the use of such knowledge and experience be optimised?**

*Input answers here*

### **Additional Input**

*Input answers here*