

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 Actions | Scenario: Cyclones

Guidelines

- 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 30th the key findings with the PPT.

Topic: Anticipatory Action

Scenario: Cyclones

Facilitator's Name: Roberto Schiano Lomoriello

Group 1: 13:14 -14:00

Question 1A: What is the state of play of AA for cyclones in your country?

The Identification of stakeholders and their roles has been well defined in several countries (Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar not so much in Tanzania). Overall, the forecasts have improved over time and skills to interpret them have increased in many countries. Risk communication messaging on cyclone trajectory and anticipated preparatory actions has also improved.

There have been developments in terms of contingency plans, which often include the actions to respond to alerts. however, contingency plans often lack funding and resources for prepositioning.

AAs are mostly implemented by non-state actors and less frequently from government (in particular, cash transfers). Anticipatory action not systematically integrated into governmental structures from national to local level. This is because often the national system lacks an enabling environment such as public goods like roads, infrastructures etc.

Question 1B: Is Cash considered as AA in existing protocols in your country?

Cash transfers are mainly AAs implemented by partners and not integrated in government protocols in most countries.

Question 2: Is Prepositioning considered as AA in existing protocols in your country?

Prepositioning is well integrated into government protocols For example, it is well integrated in Malawi, Madagascar and Mozambique though resources are not always enough.

Question 2A: What are the specific challenges faced to scale-up AA in your country?

First, the funding modality for AA is challenging when it comes to prepositioning and cash transfer, and targeting the most vulnerable beneficiaries is complex.

Often cyclones are not prioritized as a hazard (recent phenomenon in Malawi).

There are little capacity and lack of understanding of impact-based forecasting and the cascading effects of cyclones. More SIMEX could be used for development of triggers. Further, lack of coordination for transforming scientific data into information, standard operating procedure for data and information exchange among national stakeholders.

Coordination across government, including weak chain of command from the national to the local government is often lacking as well as collaboration with local communities for reaching also remote areas.

Finally, risk perception to build credibility of existing EWS to trigger the necessary AA. The Government enforcement on linking EW and EA needs to be done through triggers and associated plans

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Question 2B: What specific activities could ECHO and its partners implement to scale-up AA for Cyclones in your country?

ECHO should adapt existing projects/programmes to respond to the needs of governments and the changing context and should support governmental systems that facilitate AA, facilitating collaboration among different stakeholders.

ECHO should provide more flexible funding, by expand the scope and amount of the crisis modifier also for anticipatory actions (bearing the risk). Further, ECHO can advocate to include this tool on all EU funded project or EU member state development agencies and explore the possibility of financing a regional pooled fund for AA.

ECHO and its partners should create awareness among governments, and both the development and humanitarian community, for example by investing in capacity strengthening, equipment and the development of triggers based on IBF.

ECHO and its partners should also conduct M&E of ongoing projects and inform ECHO partners of complementarity amongst organization, avoiding working in silos and building synergies.

Finally, ECHO and partners should harmonize the use of existing tools and platforms and avoid duplication.

Question 2C: How can we best ensure a systematic linkage between EWS and AA?

Harmonization of funding streams between Humanitarian and Development. Coordination for transforming scientific data into information, standard operation procedure for data and information exchange among national stakeholders. National institution need to transform available data into information. Coordination also needs to be faster so that its effective and on time. Ensuring triggers existing for implementation of AA and developing plans which can be implemented.

Increase risk perception to build credibility of existing EWS to trigger the necessary AA. Further, there is a need to create government enforcement on linking EW and EA, for example done through pre-defined triggers and associated action plans.

Question 3: How can strategic adaptations and expansions of social protection systems contribute to improving DP for cyclones?

Current social protection systems in place could be scaled up (Electronic vouchers Zimbabwe), embedding AA into current programmes. For example, productive safety nets programme could embed an AA component if coordination between Min of Finance and NDMA could be envisaged.

Question 4A: What examples do you have of local / grassroots / indigenous knowledge and experience being used in this context in your country?

We have good examples for indigenous knowledge when it comes to EWS (for example birds, ants and vegetables watching). However, we lack information on indigenous knowledge for AA. One of this could be placing the sandbags on top of roofs.

Question 4B: How can the use of such knowledge and experience be optimised?

Provide research grants for local universities to assess the effectiveness of local knowledge AAs. For example, provide research grants to conduct a stock taking on the experiences and generate the evidence needed to understand what works and what doesn't.

Additional Input
<i>Input answers here</i>