

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

Johannesburg, 28 - 30 June 2022

WORLD CAFE

Questions for Breakout Groups

Topic: Early Warning | 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: Early Warning
Scenario: Cyclones

Facilitator's Name: Atupele Kapile

Question 1A: What EWS Digital platforms exist in your country for cyclones?

A wide range of digital platforms exists at global, regional, national and sub national levels. National platforms are said to tap into global platforms to inform national EWS sometimes. One very common experience was that global platforms were mostly accessible to government and its stakeholders however other modes(non-digital) means were used to communicate/ for access for rural communities

Question 1B: Do they also cover other hazards and risk factors?

EWS digital platforms specific to cyclones include messaging on potential impacts such as floods and other secondary effects such as disease epidemics. National EWS on the other hand tended to be multi-hazard in nature. This applies also to other EWS managed by stakeholders at national or sub national level. Most notable hazards covered included fires, floods, waterborne diseases

Question 2: What are the key elements, features and information which an EW Digital system should have?

Accessibility: simple language, inclusive, easy to use,
Utility: Real time information, must contain potential impact and instruction of what people should do, must contain information on services available to the people and service providers as well as safe areas, must have a feedback system, must specify time period.
Flexibility: can be contextualized to national, subnational level,
Coverage: should be wide ranging to ensure all geographic areas of concern are covered
Government Ownership: authorization should be there for its use when needed
Linkages: should be linked to existing EWS system,

Question 2A: What are the key elements, features and information which an EW Digital system should have?

Same as above

Question 2B: What are their gaps / limitations?

Input answers here

Sustainability: power, IT literacy, computers, internet, mobile coverage not readily available in rural areas in the region

Reach: current EWS digital platforms more incline for an upstream audience, too technical and scientific

Fragmented: multiple EWS not linked at all levels, lack of integration of the different elements of EWS, data collected also not linked. No linkages between the at risk populations and the EWS platforms. No standardization of information, protocols most processes are ad hoc.

Coordination: no systems to govern relationships between neighbouring countries or districts.

Question 2C: What technological solutions can be used to address these?

Input answers here

Costing: consider low cost solutions to the EWS platforms to enhance access for rural communities e.g Solar, integrated systems (link to existing initiatives in rural areas), Private sector engagement.

Adopt non digital EWS to be used along side the digital as is the case in most countries.

Question 3: What can ECHO and its partners do to improve the EWS Digital platforms?

Input answers here

Advocacy: advocate for engagement of government Disaster Mgmt. Agencies on the EWS, advocate for systematization of the current EWS

Capacity: training and materials in areas where there are gaps, including at community levels

Support: to governments and stakeholders to ensure the EWS digital platforms are linked to existing systems

Engage with regional bodies on the EWS use and common approaches.

Question 4A: How can “last-mile communication” be ensured between the early warning and the at-risk population?

- *Use of existing structures*
- *Repeat messaging*
- *Establish systems including local capacity mapping as part of preparedness measures*
- *Integrate local EW knowledge into the EWS*
- *Involvement of local communities in planning*
- *Incorporation of DRM in schools*

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

Input answers here

- *Observation of natural phenomenon such as height of bird nests within river banks,*
- *Ant activity as a sign of looming hunger (increased gathering of food)*
- *Amount of fruit in mango trees (too much – bad season)*

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

Indigenous knowledge should be documented and incorporated into the EWS.

Additional Input

Input answers here