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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: Urban| 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: Urban



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Scenario: Cyclones

Facilitator's Name: Jaspell

Question 1: How do cyclones aggravate risk in urban contexts in your country?

- The urban poor and informal settlements are predominantly settled on wetlands, which are particularly prone to flooding.
- Illicit and inadequate constructions typify these areas and are prone to collapse and there is limited infrastructure to mitigate impacts. Infrastructure that does exist is easily destroyed and infrequently replaced.
- WASH facilities are non-existent and there is an increased risk of water borne disease (Typhoid/ cholera)
- Lack of community support structures due to migrant populations
- Poor government recognition and support of these areas- Informality is the primary driver of vulnerability as they are invisible to the government support systems.

- David Meissner
Madagascar
- Mozambique, aggravate vulnerability, access to water for ppl living out city Centre, distribution points could be destroyed
- Housing, esp. in informal settlements
- Loss of livelihoods high,
- Looting, crime,
- Networks gone, phone, power,
- All ppl affected, even rich,
- GBV increase
- High impact in terms of numbers,
- Disease spread

Giampaolo:

- People trained to respond to disaster run away due to cyclone
- Destroyed infrastructures made hard the access to services and goods
- GBV, sexual abused in the communal shelters
- Hygiene compromised
- Decreased access to health care facilities
- More Criminality
- Shelters where the people are moved to, are often unsafe



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Moz:

- High vulnerability of houses. Non electricity
- Health outbreak should also be considered and included
- Food security is also an issue

Group 5

-underlying factors that aggravate situation, cyclone, flood – pandemic, health the population in the urban areas, it depends on the category of the household.

It increases vulnerability due to damage on house, infrastructure – food insecurity Madagascar Landslides rise

Low and maintained infrastructure the impact will be high, issue of poverty also worsens Education centres it leads to interruption

Group 6

In Malawi people are building houses without plans, so no drainage resulting in floods. No planning on where people can live.

In Mozambique the biggest risk is shelter, all shelters damaged resulting in people being left without and also in need of survival kits. Markets also damaged and no chance for materials to be provided. Need for response by shelter humanitarian partners. Access in terms of infrastructure and communication is negatively impacted so assistance arrives late.

Mauritius does not have rural areas, previously people had to pay tax in urban areas, this is no longer. During working hours hit with heavy rainfall, there is a system in place to flag cyclones, level 1/2/3 so guidance on what to do if cyclone. Damage focused on capital city, so many unsafe structures.

In Madagascar cyclone plus floods in capital, hosting site and evacuation site problem.

Vulnerability impacts as the poor are more impacted as have no place to go.

Question 2: What would be the specific role of DP in building urban resilience to cyclones?

- Pre-negotiate response plans and advocate for access and support to these areas- there is resistance to supporting these areas as it may be considered a pull factor.
- Anticipation of hazards and pre-agreed alerts within these areas with the agreement of government and within the agreed limits of government control.
- Contingency plans- evacuation centres- evacuation routes- embedded within formal areas of the urban areas that could cover and provide support to the informal areas
- Its complicated!

David Meissner:

- Building resilient housing, esp. in informal settlements,



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- Critical infrastructure resilience,
- Including local communities, set up evacuation routes and sites
- Include soft and hard infrastructure
- National and local govt. linkages key in terms of DP, update contingency plans at municipality level
- Capacity building at local level,
- Depending on settings access could be easier or harder compared to rural
- Urban planning policies should be adhered to given high rates of urbanization

Giampaolo:

- Guarantee security especially in communal shelter to avoid GBV and other crimes
- Preposition of wash kits
- SoP for cyclone setting which should become a routine and respected by citizens
- Enforcement of policy and educating people to face cyclone scenario

- Building code, resilient material and houses, high wind resistance
- Buffer zone for floods
- Measure for reducing the speed of cyclone (i.e. artificial island, Plant tree to protect urban area
- Land use planning
- Capacity building for SoP
- Planting tree for slowing down water flow
- Early warning system, AA, planning for informing government and citizens

Group 5:

To prevent losses

Build multi-purpose evacuation centres.

Seychelles – High level committee where P.Secretaries with the respons

Different levels of organization structure – in government – plantiumum

Availability of contingency fund, access Ministry of Finance – contingency

We working with scouts –

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Group 6

Well structured; national crisis committee chaired by Vice Prime Minister.National disaster centre and they agree in advance what needs to be done, districts will be given support, community structures in place and communication structure in place by metrological services through radio, television, website. National disaster risk reduction and management centre – 1 to gather information, 2 information through sms, facebook, twitter and through Ministries of health/education and digital display.

In Malawi the clusters perform the role, the private sectors, service providers, those who supply electricity and discuss how best they can work. Clusters assign roles and who does what. Responsibility of Department of Disaster Management involving GIZ, UNDP. What



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structures need to be build, standards are provided as to where to construct and guidelines of where they should be built.

In Madagascar there are four structures for disaster management, regional risk management committee. Role of committee to prepare for preparedness, cluster approach is in place.

Disaster responders are equipped by both State and non State/humanitarian organizations

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

- Sustainability is an issue and there needs to be an exit strategy to prevent the prolonged continuance of the intervention beyond the life of the funding
- Link between humanitarian support and ongoing Social Protection systems (SRSP)
- Advocacy at National level for flexibility and adaptability of the Disaster focused Social protection- There needs to be devolution of the responsibilities of social protection so that rapid decisions can be taken by municipalities without waiting for National level declaration of disasters.
- Shock responsive Social Protection (SRSP)

David Meissner:

- Establish cash working group to inform the urban setting,
- Calculate cash amounts

Giampaolo:

- In sharing messages and good practice



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- Specific AA should be planned for more vulnerable people and this should be done in coordination with SPS
- System of referral for affected people to be included in SPS
- Explore Public-Private solution for SPS (insurance)

Group 5:

1. Relocate to them shelter – SP agency to relocate provided for food and shelter
2. Pshyco-social system

Group 6

In Mauritius have Ministry of Social integration, have incorporated disaster risk reduction in their own budget. Have social centres to accommodate evacuees, all inclusive. National command once issued to open shelters, once they go to the shelter they are provided cash and support.

In Malawi have national social support program, urban setup, so provided evacuation. National resilience strategy, feeding social protection, monthly allowance to affected households for three months. Room for improving national strategy, just started for urban cyclones.

In Mozambique there was a social protection programmes, now assessments now being done by NGOs to assist in terms of shelter and wash. Protection cluster which is regional and ensure support is available.

In Mozambique there was a social support system that attempted to support the most vulnerable but due to the scale of the issue it was suspended. The Government indicated there needed to consider how to support through agreed criteria.

Question 4: What is the potential role of ECHO and partners in this?



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- Rethink and recalibrate and advocate more- needs to consider the Nexus- humanitarian development nexus
- Risk informed approaches as opposed to needs which are informed by chronic needs which will be addressed by other actions.
- Advocate for the addressing of chronic needs.
- Closer link between the EU delegation and ECHO and inclusion of partners and Govt

David Meissner:

- Provide funding, (ECHO)
- knowledge sharing, (ECHO)
- build guidance and strategies with governments, (ECHO)
- improve communication with partners, esp. on other projects in country or region (ECHO)
- support lessons learning from different projects, i.e. lessons learnt (ECHO)
- improve ownership of govt. on drm strategies
- ECHO to request and share satellite data on behalf of partners
- Capacity building by echo on how to access and analyze data

Giampaolo:

- Support institutions (from national to local level), actors involved in response to develop contingency plans
- Capacity building and refreshing session every year
- Play a role advocating to government for its active participation to DP. Often GOV is dormant and not facilitating the activities of ECHO's partners
- Linking preparedness to recovery
- Give value to lesson learnt from previous experiences
- Make available to partners the best and valuable know-how, capacities, technologies

4thGroup

- Improve capacity for DP in urban area, share good practice
- Facilitate lesson learning from past experience
- Fund More analysis of what has been done in order to improve the quality of intervention of EHO
- Develop policies and guidelines for Cyclone risk management in Urban area
- EWS in Urban Area and AA
- Develop training and capacity building mechanism multi-level

Group 5 –

- Supporting capacity building in the different sectors
- Zimbabwe – capacity building and provision of funding especially to government
- Also to involve the government let the government lead in the process to ensure



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ownership and have issues integrated in the government systems

- Best practice sharing –
- Workshop is hearing – government is part of the discussions.
- ECHO should work more in reinforce in the availability of in the urban centers
- More visibility in urban areas
- Materials, equipment, call centres, concrete shelters as Mauritius
- In the plan, the means we don't have no resources
- Anticipatory action planning in urban centres
- More studies, research and assessment

Question 5A: What examples do you have of local / grassroots / indigenous knowledge and experience being used in this context in your country?

- Indigenous knowledge seasons exist- (Mangos in the west and north lead to a flood)
- Decentralized information sharing through mobile tech and social media etc- it is a form of early warning.
- Business networks- Question for the next group

David Meissner:

- In Moz. Houses where extra protected to floods due to local knowledge
- Bricks on top of roofs from winds

Giampaolo:

- Madagascar-Bird move its nest higher in the tree is a sign of imminent flood
- Mauritius: mango fruit fall on the ground is a sign of the arrival of cyclone

4th group

- In urban area people lose local knowledge
- Sugar plums: if there are many sugar plums in town this is a sign that a drought will come

Group 5

- Fisherman – fish change – seasons have saved
- Crops that can be grown



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- Old ladies the observe
- In urban areas people have lost this capacity in rural areas you can find – us urban not paying attention
-

Question 5B: How can the use of such knowledge and experience be optimised?

Input answers here

- Linking and supporting the DP activities promoted by ECHO/Partner: using traditional knowledge will facilitate to build trust with the community. Often scientific approaches are not understood
- No much indigenous knowledge available in urban area
- Improve the exchange with local scientific knowledge,
- example of Met service in Zimbabwe working for integrating indigenous knowledge
- learn from the experience in rural area on the exchange of indigenous knowledge and DP

Group 5

It can be helpful and to study it more and do more knowledge, not taking seriously.

It should be documented they are moving and going

Consultations – documentation

Lecture of University – ecosystem placed DRR – rocks along the beach and plant with hard engineer with modern technology and inform the early warning system and monitor the way beach eroded.



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Additional Input

Input answers here