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Southern Africa-Indian Ocean Disaster Preparedness EU Humanitarian Aid and Partners Workshop

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UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Acronyms

AA	Anticipatory Action/Forecast-Based Action
AAWG	Anticipatory Action Working Group
ADP	African Dialogue Group
AICS	Italian Agency for Development Cooperation
ARC	African Risk Capacity
AUC	African Union Commission
Cap4Dev	European Union Capacity 4 Development Programme
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund
CSO	Civil Society Organization
DIPECHO	The European Commission Humanitarian Aid department's Disaster Risk Preparedness Programme
DP	Disaster Preparedness
DRM	Disaster Risk Management
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
ECHO	European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations
EU	European Union
EU JRC	European Union Joint Research Centre
EU MS	European Union Member State
EWDP	Early Warning Digital Platform
EWS	Early Warning System
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
GDACS	Global Disaster Alert Coordination and System
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
HIP	Humanitarian Implementation Plan
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
IFRC	International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
INSO	International NGO Safety Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NDMA	National Disaster Management Authority
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
RAAWG	Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group
RCM	Red Cross Movement
SADC	Southern Africa Development Community
SA-IO	Southern Africa-Indian Ocean
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
UNDRR	United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction
UNDSS	United Nations Department of Safety and Security
UNSG	United Nations Secretary-General
USAID BHA	United States Agency for International Development--Bureau for Humanitarian Assistance
VSLA	Village Savings and Loan Associates
WFP	World Food Programme
WMO	World Meteorological Organization

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EU Humanitarian Aid

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Executive Summary

The 2022 Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (SA-IO) Disaster Preparedness EU Humanitarian Aid (ECHO) and Partners Workshop took place in Johannesburg, South Africa on 28-30 June 2022 and was co-organized and co-chaired by the Directorate-General for European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first such workshop since 2019 and it took place in a hybrid format (in-person and virtual). The objectives of the workshop were to discuss and review experiences and lessons learned from across the region; to highlight achievements and innovative practices and address challenges; and to provide recommendations and identify priorities for ECHO and its implementing partners to be taken into consideration and implemented under ECHO's 2023 SA-IO Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

From across the SA-IO region, 105 participants attended in person and a further 71 participated virtually. Participants included representatives of governmental national disaster management authorities (NDMAs), intergovernmental organizations (the African Union Commission and the Southern African Development Community), ECHO and the wider European Union, other donors, UNDRR and other UN Agencies, the Red Cross Movement, international organizations and NGOs, academia and the private sector.

The workshop programme was built around three main emerging and interconnected themes: Anticipatory Action, Early Warning Systems and Digital Platforms and Disaster Preparedness (DP) in Urban Settings, which are all part of ECHO's global priorities under the DP budget line. The programme was preceded by a marketplace and interspersed with a series of "lightning talks," which together showcased DP projects and initiatives of different organizations from across the SA-IO region.

Key Points, Challenges and Recommendations

- The three main themes (Anticipatory Action, Early Warning Digital Platforms and DP in Urban Settings) are highly interconnected, and together provide fertile ground for fresh thinking and innovation. During the breakout sessions, these topics were discussed in more detail through the lens of two scenarios: cyclones and conflict. While most participants were in general comfortable with DP for natural hazards, there was much less experience working with DP in conflict contexts, which involves additional complexities and sensitivities, and highlights the need for more dedicated expertise in this field across the region.
- Workshop participants recognized Anticipatory / Forecast-based Action (AA) as a new way of working, even a paradigm shift, which addresses the critical gap between early warning of a predicted hazard/disaster (local, national or regional) and early response. However, despite progress in some countries, AA is not yet systematically integrated into government protocol at the national or local level, and challenges remain in generating substantial donor funding to address a disaster before it strikes on a “no-regrets” basis, including for pre-positioning. Building the evidence base for AA in different settings is a current priority, and will also help generate additional funding from development donors.
- Identifying and targeting the most vulnerable populations is complex for AA – particularly in the context of conflicts – since AA needs to be risk-informed, context-specific, and implemented under a principled and “do-no-harm” approach to avoid contributing to the conflict. Partners should work with the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group (RAAWG) to develop common approaches, protocols, pre-agreed plans and triggers.
- ECHO’s implementing partners should maximise the use of cash transfers as a rapid, flexible and predictable modality for AA. Efforts should be made to embed AA into established shock-responsive safety nets, in both urban and rural areas, with specific attention to conflict scenarios. At the same time, emergency stock prepositioning should be enhanced and increased in multiple geographical locations in order to ensure rapid response even where markets may be disrupted.
- There is a multiplicity of Early Warning Digital Platforms (EWDP) covering the different countries of the region, operating at global, regional or national level; these existing EWDPs are mostly multi-hazard, but with a focus on natural disasters. This multiplicity can be overwhelming for partners, as well as for local authorities and affected populations. A key challenge is to make the multiple EWDPs interoperable, accessible, understandable and therefore utilised at the national, sub-national and local level, down to the last mile. EWDPs for conflict remain a relatively new area of focus for most international organizations and aid agencies, and introduce specific sensitivities around political manipulation, confidentiality and data protection. Coordination and collaboration with stakeholders who have expertise in EWS for conflict and displacement should be further encouraged.

- ECHO and its implementing partners should support the AUC, SADC and national governments in further strengthening regional and national early warning systems, and in ensuring their interoperability as well as the full integration of existing international EWDPs where appropriate. Opportunities exist to channel the enhanced capabilities of the EU's Copernicus Emergency Management Service, the WMO's services and other existing services using open-source platforms such as myDEWETRA, to bring them together into a single platform. There should be focus on the incorporation of epidemic outbreaks in EWDPs, and on ensuring the credibility, impartiality and acceptance of EWDPs in conflict situations. Attention needs to be paid to the availability of digital infrastructure and "last-mile" connectivity and contextualisation, to ensure that information, alerts and recommended actions reach end users. Particular attention should be given to impact-based forecasting and warning services - "not what the weather will be but what the weather will do" – and linking EWDPs to AA, through agreed triggers. It appears that this integration is easier for natural hazards, with uncertainty and added complexity to achieve it in conflict-related contexts.
- A focus on DP and disaster response in urban areas represents a new field for many humanitarian and development actors, who have traditionally focused on rural areas. Recent crises, including the COVID-19 pandemic and the increased impact of climate-related disasters on urban settlements, have underscored the need for better preparedness at this level. The budgetary implications of addressing this urban challenge are enormous and should not be met at the expense of needs in rural areas. The coverage provided by social protection and safety nets is inadequate in urban areas, particularly in highly vulnerable informal settlements where a large proportion of the population may be excluded from them. DP for conflict in urban settings is even less developed – though conflict tends to affect the very populations who are already identified as the most vulnerable.
- ECHO's implementing partners should involve government NDMA's at different levels (national and local), facilitating collaboration, ownership and sustainability, as well as information exchange among different government stakeholders. This applies to AA, EWDPs and DP in Urban Settings, for both natural and human-induced disasters, including conflicts.
- Continued investment is required in capacity-building and expertise for AA, EWDPs, and addressing DP in Urban Settings, particularly in conflict scenarios. Increased attention needs to be paid to risk and vulnerability assessments, and conflict-sensitivity approaches. Innovative risk analysis methodologies jointly designed with key stakeholders are encouraged to hasten reliability and predictability. There should be focus on ensuring that AA and EWDPs are extended to the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations, in both rural and urban areas, and in the context of both cyclones and conflict.
- Increased attention should be paid to engaging the private sector for preparedness activities: banks, mobile network providers and others represent a critical component in the communication and cash transfer delivery infrastructure, while other private sector suppliers of relief items for AA should be identified in advance. The role of the private sector in disaster risk financing should also be explored, more likely by development actors.
- The participation and involvement of academia and research institutions during the workshop and in recent programmes was highly appreciated. ECHO and its implementing partners

should continue and expand support to academia and research institutions for knowledge management, to document best practices and lessons learned, and build the evidence for the scale-up of AA and for undertaking DP in conflict scenarios. ECHO should also support further research by local universities into the key drivers of conflict in urban settings in SA-IO, and into the specificities of DP programming in urban areas.

- ECHO should support regular community participation in the establishment and management of EWS at the local level, in consequent AA and in DP in urban settings. Enhanced efforts should be made to document and integrate existing local knowledge and experience into EWS, wherever applicable.
- ECHO and its implementing partners should advocate to development actors for the financing of AA and preparedness in urban settings under a harmonised nexus approach. This should include support to disaster risk finance, support to government safety nets, diplomacy for conflict resolution, humanitarian access, the defence of human rights and the adherence to international humanitarian law. Development actors should also be encouraged to invest more in resilient housing and other infrastructure, as well as in sustainable and climate-smart livelihoods in urban areas, and to coordinate closely with municipal authorities on urban planning.

Background and Objective

The European Union's Directorate-General for Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations, or ECHO, has been supporting disaster preparedness (DP) interventions in the Southern Africa – Indian Ocean (SA-IO) region since 2008, with more than €75 million allocated to DP activities across nine countries, as well as at the regional level. Over time, ECHO's approach has evolved from community-based disaster preparedness towards one of preparedness for response. In 2016, the European Commission published an action plan to translate the priorities of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 into EU policies and funding instruments, proposing concrete activities on risk knowledge, risk investments, disaster preparedness, and resilience. ECHO specifically addresses the Sendai Framework's Priority 4 ("enhancing disaster preparedness for effective response, and to "Build Back Better" in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction"), through a dedicated DP Budget Line (approximately €75 million per year from 2021, globally), and by ensuring that disaster preparedness is systematically mainstreamed into all humanitarian aid programmes and projects. At the global level, ECHO's priorities for 2021-2024 are:

i) Risk- and anticipatory-based action; ii) Preparedness in conflict and fragile contexts; iii) Climate and environmental resilience; and iv) Urban preparedness. These interlinked priorities also represent the overall DP strategy of ECHO in the SA-IO region.

A 2017 external evaluation of ECHO's programmes in the SA-IO region recommended the revival of annual regional DP workshops, which restarted in 2019. The COVID-19 pandemic prevented the running of similar workshops in the next two years, but the practice was reinstated in 2022 in a hybrid format (part in-person, part virtual), co-organized and co-chaired by ECHO and UNDRR. The objectives of the workshop were to discuss and review experiences and lessons learned from across the region; to highlight achievements and innovative practices and address challenges; and to provide recommendations and identify priorities for ECHO and its implementing partners, to be taken into consideration and implemented under ECHO's 2023 SA-IO Humanitarian Implementation Plan (HIP).

Format, Participation and Agenda

Given the ongoing restrictions imposed by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as valuable experience gained through the organization of virtual events, the workshop was designed as a hybrid event, running for three days, with a maximum of 150 key stakeholders anticipated in person and others virtually. 105 participants were present in person, with a further 71 participating virtually.

Participants came from a range of different stakeholder organizations and from the different countries of the SA-IO region. There were representatives of governments (NDMAs or civil protection agencies of Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe), regional organizations (AUC, SADC), ECHO, the wider European Union through its delegations (Angola, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius/Seychelles, South Africa), other donors (Italy/AICS, Germany/GIZ, Switzerland/SDC, UK/FCDO, USAID/BHA), UNDRR and other UN agencies, the Red

Cross movement (national Red Cross societies, as well as the IFRC and ICRC), NGOs (national and international), academia, research institutions and the private sector.



In addition, Day 1 of the workshop saw the participation of some 20 colleagues who took time out of the 5th Africa Dialogue Platform (ADP - a platform to facilitate knowledge exchange, learning, guidance, and advocacy around anticipatory action, hosted by the German Red Cross in cooperation with the IFRC), which was running in parallel in Johannesburg and Nairobi. This led to cross-fertilisation between the two events and to a feedback session from the ECHO workshop to the ADP event, provided by ECHO and the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group. The outcomes of this workshop will also feed into the ADP Roadmap for Anticipatory Action in Africa.

A complete list of participants, in person and virtually, is found at annex 2. A complete list of participants, in person and virtually, is found at annex 2.



The workshop programme was built around three main emerging and interconnected topics, each of which requires fresh thinking and provides fertile ground for innovation: Anticipatory Action, Early Warning Digital Platforms and DP in Urban Settings. Specific technical sessions were dedicated to the three main topics, with two half-day sessions allowing for further in-depth discussion and feedback under a “World Café” format with a series of breakout working groups. In these breakout groups, each workshop participant had the opportunity to further explore the three topics, with specific attention on two “risk scenarios”, cyclones and conflict, both of which require increased attention from DP and emergency response practitioners across the SA-IO region. Key points, challenges and recommendations to ECHO and its implementing partners from the presentations and discussions are presented in the relevant sections below. Notes from each working group and summaries of the different topic/scenario feedback presentations can be found on the EU’s Capacity 4 Development (Cap4Dev) Platform, under [“Disaster Risk Reduction \(DRR\) in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean funded by ECHO”](#).

The Marketplace



The first morning of the workshop was dedicated to a “marketplace”, which provided an opportunity for some 16 key stakeholder organizations to showcase their initiatives and innovations in DP, thus illustrating the dynamic nature of DP in the SA-IO region. Time was allocated for each workshop participant to visit between 10 and 15 stalls; interviews with each of the stallholders were streamed live to virtual participants.

EU Humanitarian Aid Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note

Marlies Lensink, ECHO’s Regional Thematic Expert for DRR and Food Security, provided an overview of ECHO’s DP Guidance Note, updated in 2021 to replace ECHO’s former policy guidance note on DRR. The Note highlights a shift away from DIPECHO’s community-based disaster preparedness strategies towards a focus on preparedness for response, with an emphasis on risk-based strategies, anticipatory and early action, especially regarding first responders (including local communities and local government). The Note also highlights the importance of broadening partnerships beyond ECHO’s traditional implementing partners (the UN, the Red Cross, NGOs), to the private sector, academia and scientific/research centres, as well as to climate- and environment-focused agencies, several of which were represented at the workshop.



The Note identifies four global priorities for targeted preparedness actions, to be financed under ECHO's DP budget plan over the period 2021-2024:

- Risk-based and anticipatory actions
- Preparedness in conflict and fragile settings
- Climate and urban resilience
- Urban preparedness

These priorities closely match the three main topics of the workshop, namely: Anticipatory Action, Early Warning Digital Platforms and DP in Urban settings, as well as the scenario of working in conflicts.

The presentation can be found on Cap4Dev.

In the Q&A session that followed, two broad issues were clarified:

1. The DP Guidance Note emphasises a multi-hazard approach, but the workshop had a clear and specific focus on cyclones and conflict. While this may appear contradictory, it is not the case that future ECHO proposals or projects should focus exclusively on cyclones and conflict; projects should indeed be developed using a multi-hazard approach (risk assessment and analysis). However, given the increased frequency and

the increased frequency and intensity of cyclones over the past three years, DP for cyclones has been identified as needing additional attention. Meanwhile, the recent availability of specific funding for DP in conflict, notably in Mozambique, has so far not been matched by quality proposals; hence, conflict was also identified as a priority scenario for this workshop.

2. While ECHO cannot directly finance regional organizations such as the SADC or AUC, it is ECHO's expectation that all regional projects must be discussed, coordinated and aligned in advance with the SADC. Similarly, at the national level, it is expected that implementing partners discuss and coordinate project proposals with the relevant NDMA. In the case of early warning systems, efforts should also be made to forge links with local communities and civil society organizations to facilitate awareness, knowledge, and communication among end users (also refer to the session on early warning digital platforms).

Anticipatory Action



Three distinct technical presentations were delivered, followed by breakout discussions exploring anticipatory action in the context of cyclones and conflict. The presentations included:

- “Setting the Scene” by Sylvie Montebault, ECHO Technical Advisor for SA-IO, and Jurg Wilbrink, Forecast-based Action Project Manager, IFRC, and colleagues on behalf of the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group (RAAWG).
- “Taking AA at Scale”, by Luis Joao Artur, Academic Alliance for Anticipatory Action, Eduardo Mondlane University, Mozambique, and Antonio Beleza, Instituto Nacional De Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres, Mozambique.
- “The Biggest Challenge? Accessing Finance” by Daniela Cuellar Vargas, OCHA (virtually, from New York); Nelly Maonde, Start Network (virtually, from Harare); Sharon Murinda, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, Harare.

The presentations can be found at [Cap4Dev](#).

Key achievements and challenges

- The RAAWG performs a critical function in gathering evidence and promoting AA as a new way of working, a risk-based approach addressing a gap in the traditional DRM sequence of activities, namely the gap between the early warning for an impending disaster (local, national or regional) and early response. In this, it represents something of a paradigm shift. The RAAWG has developed a roadmap for anticipatory action in SA-IO; it was agreed that this would be made available to all workshop participants.
- Examples of AA success stories from across the region included the FAO and the START Network in Madagascar (drought), the Red Cross in Mozambique (floods), the WFP in Eswatini (cyclone), and a CERF-funded multi-agency intervention in Malawi (drought).
- There was less experience available on AA in conflict settings, beyond the ongoing conflict in northern Mozambique (which also provides preliminary lessons on the specificities of AA for cyclones in conflict areas), plus election / civil unrest preparedness in Eswatini, Malawi, Zambia and Zimbabwe. Only two concrete examples appear on the Anticipation Hub website (Mali and DRC, neither of which are in SA-IO), though experience can be drawn from other countries in Africa (Kenya, South Sudan). This is due to a multiplicity of factors: the SA-IO region is perceived as being less affected by conflict than by disasters; it is difficult to identify a clear or a single causation for conflicts (competition for natural resources, tribal conflict, elections and political unrest, banditry (“dahalo”) in Madagascar); restrictions imposed and/or politicisation of assistance by government authorities or armed groups; the sensitivity and potential risks (including do-no-harm) of providing AA in a conflict scenario, as well as access issues.
- Forecasts, forecast interpretation skills, and risk communication messaging, for example concerning cyclone trajectories and anticipatory actions, have improved over time. The identification of stakeholders and their roles has been well defined in several countries of the region (e.g., Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar, Mauritius). AA plans often include the necessary triggers and actions to respond to alerts. However, it is more difficult to accurately monitor and predict conflict, with the added complexity of having to sift out deliberate disinformation.
- AA for disasters in a conflict setting is highly complex, with its own specific dynamics and considerations .
- Funds dedicated to AA protect livelihoods and other resilience and development gains, even if the anticipated disaster does not materialise. However, some donors still need to be convinced to act on a “no regrets” basis. Challenges remain in generating substantial forecast-based financing – i.e. funding to address a disaster before it strikes, including for the distribution of pre-positioned relief items.

- Mozambique and Mauritius were highlighted as having progressed in institutionalising AA through government legislation. However, across the region AA is not yet systematically integrated into government protocols, at national or local level, with weak chains of command between the two and with local communities. While there are examples of governments pre-positioning relief items (e.g., Malawi, Mozambique, Madagascar), there has been little attention on the potential use of cash transfers or the scale-up of safety nets in AA. Anticipatory actions are mostly implemented by non-state actors: UN Agencies, the Red Cross Movement and international / national NGOs.
- Like for other humanitarian operations (preparedness and response), poor infrastructure (telecommunications, roads) precludes AA from reaching remote areas and robust collaborative efforts are required to cover the most remote areas.
- Identifying and targeting the most vulnerable populations is complex for AA – particularly in the context of conflicts, where AA should always start with a ‘do-no-harm’ approach to avoid the risk of contributing to the conflict. More evidence is needed to develop strategies for AA in conflict, and ECHO partners have a role to play here.
- While there has been an increase in the frequency and intensity of cyclones in the SA-IO region (this year, five cyclones made landfall in Madagascar alone, with two following the same trajectory), they have not always been prioritised, compared to the hazards, such as droughts or floods. Malawi is a case in point.
- The role of disaster risk financing was highlighted through insurance initiatives such as the African Risk Capacity and the Old Mutual Insurance Company.

Recommendations for EU Humanitarian Aid and its partners

- ECHO’s implementing partners, as well as the RAAWG, should continue to build evidence and advocate to humanitarian donors about the benefits of AA. It will be important to highlight that not all benefits can be quantified (e.g., timeliness, dignity), and that the anticipated disaster may not actually materialise: financing should be provided on a “no regrets basis”, including for conflict scenarios. G7 countries should be held to their 2022 commitment to strengthen AA in humanitarian assistance, “making the humanitarian system as anticipatory as possible”.
- While there is an increasing compendium of evidence related to AA for cyclones and other natural hazards, specific focus needs to be directed to structured and coordinated AA in conflict settings (where possible, in collaboration with academic stakeholders), having received less attention in SA-IO. Investment in capacities and expertise is required (conflict analysis, international humanitarian law, data and beneficiary protection, civil-military coordination, community engagement). Planning for AA in conflict settings needs to be risk-informed, context-specific, and implemented under a principled and “do-no-harm” approach, to protect the identity of civilians, aid workers and assets, and avoid further fueling a (potential) conflict. Attention must be paid to the risk of assistance becoming politicised in the context of elections, social unrest or other types of conflict. Specific attention also needs to be given to AA in conflict-induced displacement settings.

- Direct linkages between early warning systems - notably the EU's Copernicus, national and regional meteorological and hydrological services - and AA should be enhanced.
- Continued attention should be paid to the institutionalisation of AA through strengthening the capacities of key stakeholders (governmental and non-governmental), the development and adoption of pre-defined governmental protocols and triggers for AA based on forecasts, hazard and conflict inventories and scenarios (combined with vulnerability and exposure information), simulation exercises and impact-based forecasting.
- There should be efforts to guarantee that AA extends to those most at-risk (including the most vulnerable and hard-to-reach populations). This implies the involvement of local stakeholders, including Red Cross volunteers, faith-based organizations, local NGOs and civil society in AA. It also requires an understanding of the cascading or secondary effects of disasters – both in the context of cyclones and conflicts.
- ECHO's implementing partners should maximise the use of cash transfers as a rapid, flexible and predictable modality for AA, whenever possible.
- Prepositioning of emergency stock – It is recommended to have large emergency stocks strategically prepositioned in country, near the most at risk area. This applies both for areas affected by cyclones and conflict. Donors should continue and expand emergency stock prepositioning and the necessary logistic management capacity. Governments should increase their own contribution to ensure regular replenishment of stocks when used ensuring DMAs have a dedicated budget for it. Prepositioning must be adapted to type of events, as guided by contingency plans fed by forecasted needs assessments.
- ECHO's implementing partners should extend the use of the Crisis Modifier to AA, as per ECHO's DP Guidance Note.
- ECHO and its implementing partners should advocate for AA to be embedded into established government programmes, through the scale-up of shock-responsive (productive) safety nets.
- The proposals and actions in AA of ECHO implementing partners' should involve governments at different levels (national and local), including the national DRR/DRM coordination platforms/mechanisms, facilitating collaboration, ownership and sustainability, as well as information exchange among different government stakeholders.
- ECHO and its implementing partners should advocate to the wider EU and other development actors (international financial Institutions, other donors, and implementing agencies) on engaging with and financing AA, under a harmonised nexus approach. This should include support for disaster risk finance providers such as the African Risk Capacity (ARC), through its insurance risk pooling and risk transfer services, which require continued buy-in from development partners and national governments. The EU and its Member States should also be encouraged to engage in diplomacy for conflict resolution, humanitarian access, and the defence of human rights / IHL.

- ECHO's implementing partners should engage with the RAAWG (and, eventually, with national AAWGs) to promote complementarity between organizations, common approaches and protocols, and harmonisation in the use of existing tools and platforms. AAWGs should also be established at national level, paying attention to cyclones and conflicts – and also to the interaction of natural disasters and conflicts.
- ECHO should explore the possibility of financing a regional pooled fund for AA.
- ECHO's implementing partners should establish pre-disaster contracts with the private sector, to ensure the timely availability of relief items.
- Some participants recommended that ECHO provide research grants to universities to assess and build evidence on the effectiveness of AA, with specific attention on the incorporation of local knowledge and practices.

Early Warning Digital Platforms



Following an introduction by Perpetua Musanhu, ECHO Programme Assistant for SA-IO, four technical presentations were delivered, followed by breakout discussions exploring Early Warning Digital Platforms in the context of cyclones and conflicts. The presentations included:

- “State of the Art Early Warning Platforms: Worldwide and Africa”, by Luca Rossi, UNDRR Africa and Gatkuoth Kai, African Union Commission.
- “Global Early Warning Platforms for Natural Hazards”, by Peter Salamon, EC Joint Research Centre (virtually, from Italy).
- “Tropical cyclone and severe weather forecasting in Southern Africa and Indian Ocean supporting anticipatory action”, by Cyrille Honore, WMO, Geneva.
- “Presentation on myDEWETRA”, by Marco Massabo, CIMA Foundation, Italy.

The presentations can be found at [Cap4Dev](#).

Key achievements and challenges

- The significance of early warning digital platforms (EWDPs) is illustrated by the United Nations Secretary-General tasking the WMO to lead the development of an action plan to ensure that every person on Earth will be protected by early warning systems within five years.
- There is a multiplicity of EWDPs covering the different countries of the region, operating at global, regional or national levels – though some countries (Eswatini, Comoros, Madagascar) do not have a national system. These existing EWDPs are mostly multi-hazard, but with a focus on natural disasters. They may also include messaging on secondary effects, e.g., floods and disease outbreaks following a cyclone.
- The primary responsibility for issuing early warnings and alerts rests with national authorities. The different international EWDPs should therefore be fully integrated with the corresponding national and regional systems, regularly updated, reliable and properly verified or triangulated – particularly in conflict scenarios.
- Reference was made to the Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action and the Africa Framework for Multi-Hazard Early Warning and Early Action, which foresees the establishment of interoperable MHEWS situation rooms at continental (AUC), regional and national levels. Eventually, these should be fully integrated, incorporating monitoring and early warning regarding the climate, conflicts, health and food and water security.
- The AUC has also established a Continental Early Warning System for conflicts, which needs to be linked to the existing Continental Multi-hazard Early Warning System and the situation rooms. However, EWDPs for conflict remains a relatively new area of focus for most international organizations and aid agencies, and involves a set of specific complexities around political manipulation (and the risk of a digital shutdown), confidentiality and data protection in accordance with international standards.

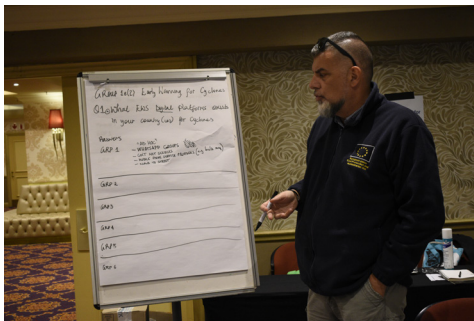
- The multiplicity of EWDPs can be overwhelming for partners, as well as for local authorities and affected populations. A key challenge is to make the multiple EWDPs interoperable, accessible, understandable and therefore utilised at the national, sub-national and local level. At the local level, reference was made to a “digital divide”: the lack of digital infrastructure and illiteracy inhibit the reach and uptake of EWDPs. While global EWDPs are largely accessible to governments and other national stakeholders, other (non-digital) community-based surveillance modes are more widely used in rural communities.
- Workshop participants also identified numerous other early warning digital platforms, including Ventusky, engageSPARK, IBT_ACS, Wind-A, Datawinners, ZoomEarth (regional), IHP-Wins and FEWSNET. EWDPs for conflict included the IOM’s Displacement Tracking Matrix, UNDSS (access maps, alerts, reports), dedicated security services (INSO, G4S), ACLED and ALDEBARAN. However, several participants were not aware of any EWDPs for conflict in their country / region of operation.

Recommendations for EU Humanitarian Aid and its partners

- ECHO should support its implementing partners to assist the AUC, SADC and national governments to further develop and strengthen regional and national EWSs, and to ensure their interoperability with each other and full integration with existing international EWDPs. The functions, roles and responsibilities of each actor in the warning dissemination process should be specified by the legislation or any other government policy.
- Given the multiplicity of EWDPs, ECHO should encourage further harmonisation and streamlining of existing platforms, protocols and SOPs, and invest in capacity-strengthening for its implementing partners to encourage their use and application, while promoting the open-source and free systems already developed, especially those supported by previous and ongoing EU and EU MS funds. Opportunities exist to channel the enhanced capabilities of the EU’s Copernicus Emergency Management Service, the WMO’s services and other existing services, using open-source platforms such as myDEWETRA, to bring them together on one single platform.
- Attention should be paid to ensure the credibility, impartiality and acceptance of EWDPs in conflict situations; many humanitarian agencies would prefer to rely on the services of an impartial external agency (e.g. INSO). There should also be greater focus on the incorporation of epidemic outbreaks in EWDPs.
- Attention should be given to impact-based forecasting and warning services so that people at risk and emergency managers have a better understanding of the likely impact (area, timeline, loss and damage), available services, and appropriate early or anticipatory action, including potential evacuation – i.e., “not what the weather will be but what the weather will do”. Attention must be given to linking digital (and traditional) EWS to anticipatory or early action through agreed triggers. Impressive digital maps must lead to action on the ground, at the local level.

- Specific attention needs to be given to the availability of digital infrastructure and “last-mile” connectivity and contextualisation, to ensure that information, alerts and recommended actions reach end users. Messages should be produced in a consistent and clearly recognisable format, specific to the nature of the threat and its impacts, and in local vernacular (e.g., Datawinner) – and allow two-way (upstream) communication. Technical solutions to poor digital connectivity include drones deployed at the local level or community radio.
- Particular attention and financial support need to be provided for the development of EWDPs for conflict, taking into account conflict sensitivity, the nuances of different types of conflict (armed insurrection, civil disobedience, election violence, etc.), and the need for data and user confidentiality (including encryption). Efforts should be made towards the integration of EWDPs for natural disasters, epidemics and conflict, which are currently fragmented. This is of particular relevance when natural disasters take place in a conflict scenario, or when a drought is a driver of conflict or a cyclone leads to a disease outbreak.
- Governmental authorisation may be required to establish EWDPs for conflict situations. ECHO should develop guidelines regarding the specificity of developing EWDPs for conflict situations, including to clarify who can access the data.
- ECHO should support regular community participation in the establishment and management of EWS at the local level. Volunteer networks, community-based organizations and VSLAs should be trained and empowered to receive and disseminate hazard warnings to remote households and communities. Enhanced efforts should be made to document and integrate existing local knowledge and experience into EWS.

DP in Urban Settings



Following an introduction by Marlies Lensink, ECHO Regional Thematic Expert for DRR and Food Security, three technical presentations were delivered, followed by breakout discussions exploring disaster preparedness in urban settings. The presentations included:

- “Fostering Community Resilience in Southern Africa through Preparedness Activities”, Kai Roehm, WFP, Johannesburg.
- “Urban Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus”, Michael Samson, EPRI (virtually, from South Africa).
- “UN HABITAT / DIMSUR (Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience)”, Fruzsina Straus and Nuno Remane, UN HABITAT (virtually).

The presentation can be found at Cap4Dev.

Key achievements and challenges

- Urban populations are increasing in SA-IO, in actual numbers and in proportion to the rural population. In 2000, approximately 50 per cent of the population lived in urban areas; this figure currently stands at 60 per cent and is expected to rise above 75 per cent by 2050. At the same time, natural disasters (notably cyclones), epidemic outbreaks (COVID-19) and conflicts are increasingly impacting urban areas and aggravating pre-existing vulnerabilities and needs.
- Despite these trends, DP in urban settings is a relatively new field for many humanitarian organizations that have tended to focus on rural areas for both DP and disaster response. A new focus on DP and disaster response in urban areas represents a whole new sphere for many humanitarian and development actors.
- Humanitarian (and development) donors have also tended to focus their financing on rural areas. The budgetary implications of addressing the urban challenge are enormous and should not be met at the expense of meeting the needs in rural areas (which are actually often exacerbated by disasters in urban areas); that said, better DP in urban areas can reduce the costs of large-scale humanitarian responses to urban disasters.
- Workshop participants highlighted gaps in DP planning in urban areas in terms of risk and vulnerability assessments and registries, planning for anticipatory action and early response (including cash transfers and prepositioning of relief items) and simulations.
- COVID-19 highlighted gaps in preparedness for epidemic outbreaks in urban areas, highlighting the need for broader DP initiatives. Conversely, where governments had invested in updating urban safety net programmes (e.g., Zambia), this facilitated the rapid scale-up of the COVID-19 response.
- Examples of DP initiatives in urban areas include those led by the WFP (focused on preparedness for response) and UN HABITAT / DiMSUR (a network of regional, national and local stakeholders engaged in urban resilience and DRR in SA-IO, with an established repository of research and data).
- Government preparedness for cyclones in urban areas was highlighted in Mauritius, the Seychelles and Malawi, but there were few other examples, either for cyclones or other natural disasters.
- DP for conflict in urban settings is even less developed – though conflict tends to affect the very populations who are already the most vulnerable. There is a lack of clarity regarding the responsibility for conflict preparedness in urban areas, insufficient coordination between disaster management agencies and military/police units, and a lack of awareness when it comes to risk assessment tools, the use of conflict-sensitive approaches in DP programming and AA planning with agreed triggers.
- The high proportion of urban populations living in informal settlements is insufficiently included in government registries and programmes. The coverage provided by social protection and safety nets in urban areas is inadequate, particularly in highly vulnerable informal settlements where a large proportion of the population may be excluded based on the fact that they are migrants (from rural areas or neighbouring countries) or are from marginalised ethnic, religious or other minority groups.
- High levels of mobility in the most vulnerable populations in urban areas present a further challenge for anticipatory action or early action at times of shock.

Recommendations for EU Humanitarian Aid and its partners

- ECHO should support capacity-building and training for its implementing partners in DP in urban settings – notably in conflict scenarios. This should include coordination with and support to municipal level disaster management agencies and civil defence structures, as well as community leaders.
- ECHO's implementing partners should design and undertake risk and vulnerability assessments, tailored to the specificities of urban areas and informal settlements in particular, to identify and map vulnerability hotspots, collect data, and establish single digital registries of the most vulnerable households.
- Specific attention should be given to the expansion and strengthening of EWS for natural disasters and conflicts in urban areas, and the development of preparedness plans, incorporating the identification of safe spaces, evacuation routes and other anticipatory or early actions.
- Preparedness in urban areas should foresee cash transfers as a key modality for AA or rapid response, aligned to and reinforcing governmental shock-responsive safety nets. This would also help address the challenge represented by the high degree of mobility in the most vulnerable urban population, especially at times of shock. Affected populations who have been displaced or have moved back to rural areas can thus be supported wherever they are. Cash working groups should address the specificities of urban contexts.
- Increased attention should be paid to engaging the private sector and pre-negotiate preparedness activities: banks, mobile network providers and others represent a critical component of the cash transfer delivery infrastructure, while other private sector suppliers of relief items should be identified in advance.
- Workshop participants identified education, youth engagement and support to alternative livelihoods as potential preparedness activities in the context of urban conflict.
- ECHO should support further research into the key drivers of conflict in urban settings in SA-IO and into the specificities of DP programming in urban areas, in order to facilitate the compilation of evidence and best practices and lead to the development of guidelines.
- Attention to DP in urban areas should not result in the neglect of humanitarian needs in rural areas. In accordance with commitments to work under a nexus approach and given the budgetary implications, continued attention should be given to engaging development actors in preparedness activities in urban areas, particularly in the expansion of social protection programmes.
- Development actors should also be encouraged to invest more in resilient housing, other urban infrastructure, social safety nets (to address chronic needs and vulnerabilities) in urban areas, and coordinate closely with municipal authorities on urban planning, and the enforcement of building codes and by-laws. As noted in the section on AA, ECHO should also advocate to the wider EU and its Member States to engage in diplomacy for conflict resolution, dialogue, and the promotion of IHL in urban contexts.

ANNEX I – Agenda

Southern Africa-Indian Ocean (SA-IO) Disaster Preparedness ECHO and Partners Workshop
Johannesburg, 28 - 30 June 2022

27 June 2022			
Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
1900-	Registration and Reception (Senate room)		
Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
8:00=8:30	30 min	Registration Marketplace	Registration and greeting coffee Opening remarks
8:30-12:00	210 min	Market Place	Tour of Marketplace Stalls (online participants will be able to watch live presentations from different marketplace stalls)
10:00-10:30	30 min	Coffee Break	During the marketplace
12:00-13:00	60 min	Lunch	
13:00-13:40	40 min	Opening Remarks (Fabia 1 &2)	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Workshop Facilitator 2. DG-ECHO 3. European Union 4. UNDRR – Regional Office for Africa 5. SADC 6. National Disaster Management Authority, South Africa 7. African Union

Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
13:40-14:00	20 min	Lighting Talk (Fabia 1&2)	<p>Anticipatory Action and Protecting Resilience Gains in Zimbabwe, FAO (Zimbabwe)</p> <p>Simplified Drought Monitoring: Drawing Lessons from the Installation of Groundwater Early Warning System in the South of Madagascar, UNICEF (Madagascar)</p> <p>New Approaches for Historical Validation and Trigger Design for Enhanced AI Flood Early Warning Systems, Cloud to Street (USA)</p>
14:00-15:30	90 min	Session 1 (Fabia 1&2)	<p>Anticipatory Action</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DG-ECHO • Secretariat of the Regional Anticipatory Action Working Group • Faculdade de Agronomia y Engenharia Florestal, Maputo, Mozambique • Instituto Nacional De Gestão e Redução do Risco de Desastres • OCHA • Start Network • Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
15:30-15:45	15 min	Coffee break	
15:45-16:45	60 min`	Presentation by ECHO (Fabia 1&2)	<p>Presentation of the DG-ECHO Disaster Preparedness Guidance Note</p> <p>DG-ECHO Q&A</p>

Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
16:45-17:00	15 min	Reporting Back	1. ECHO 2. IFRC
17:00-17:05	5 min	Lightning Talk (Fabia 1&2)	The Two-Stage Trigger: Anticipatory Action Pilot for Malawi Dry Spells UNRCO (Malawi)
17:05-19:00	115 min	Rest / Free Time	
19:00-	120 min	Social Event (Convention Centre fl. 1)	Welcome drinks and dinner

Day 2: 29 June 2022			
Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
8:30-8:45	15 min	Lightning Talks (Fabia 1&2)	Opening of Day 2 by Peter Burgess Integrating Decision Support System Tools (DSS) with Disaster Preparedness, Terres des Hommes Italy (Zimbabwe) Risk-Informed Development in the SADC, GIZ- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), (Botswana)
8:45-10:15	90 min	Session 2 (Fabia 1&2)	Early Warning Digital Platforms 1. ECHO 2. UNDRR - Regional Office for Africa 3. African Union 4. WMO 5. CIMA Research Foundation

Day 2: 29 June 2022			
Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
10:15-10:30	15 min	Coffee Break	
10:30-12:00	90 min	Session 3 (Fabia 1&2)	DP in Urban Settings 1. DG-ECHO 2. WFP 3. EPRI 4. UN-Habitat
12:00-13:00	60 min	Lunch	
13:00-13:15	15 min	Lightning Talk and Intro to the breakout groups (Fabia 1&2)	The Operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre, SADC (Botswana) Lead Facilitators, Intro to breakout groups
13:15-14:45	90 min	Breakout Group 1 (Fabia 1& 2)	
14:45-15:00	15 min	Lightning Talks (Fabia 1&2)	Use of Drones for Search And Rescue (SAR) / The WFP Drone Hub, WFP
15:00-16:30	90 min	Breakout Group 2	
16:30-16:45	15 min	Lightning Talks or Coffee Break	The Copernicus Emergency Management Service, DG-ECHO
16:45-18:15	90 min	Breakout Group 3	
18:15-		Drafting of the Executive Summary	

Day 3: 30 June 2022			
Joburg Time	Duration	Section	Description
8:30-9:00	30 min	Lightning Talks (Fabia 1&2)	<p>Opening of Day 3 by Peter Burgess</p> <p>Lessons from Pilot Anticipatory Actions in Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi, Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (Mozambique)</p> <p>Leave No One Behind in Disaster Preparedness and Response, WFP (Lesotho)</p> <p>Capacity 4 Development Platform for DP in the Southern Africa and Indian Ocean funded by ECHO, DG-ECHO</p>
9:00-11:30	150 min	Presentation and Debate/discussions (Fabia 1& 2)	<p>Presentations from the rapporteurs of the World Café exercise</p> <p>Online Presentation on AA/EW/Urban (20 min)</p> <p>Presentation 1&2: AA cyclones/conflict + Q&A (25 min)</p> <p>Presentation 3&4: EW cyclones/conflict + Q&A (25 min)</p> <p>Presentation 5&6: DP in Urban Settings cyclones/conflict + Q&A (25 min)</p> <p>Conclusion outcomes of the debates presented and agreed (55 min)</p>
11:30-11:45	15 min	Closing Remarks	UNDRR, Regional Office for Africa DG-ECHO
11:45-11:50	5 min	Evaluation	
11:50-12:00	10 min	Group Picture	
12:00-13:00	60 min	Lunch	
13:00-13:30	30 min	Presentation: Communication and Visibility	DG-ECHO Team
13:30-16:00	150 min	Only for ECHO Partners: Consultation for HIP 2023 for regional interventions	Presentation by ECHO Comms & Visibility team

Annex 2:

List of Participants

Action Against Hunger (Madagascar)
African Union (Ethiopia)
AVSI Foundation (Mozambique)
Baphalali Eswatini Red Cross Society (Eswatini)
Bureau National de Gestion des Risques et des Catastrophes (Madagascar)
CARE International (Zimbabwe)
Cellule de Prévention et d'appui à la Gestion des Urgence (CPGU)/Primature (Madagascar)
Christian Aid (Zimbabwe)
CIMA Research Foundation (Italy)
Cloud to Street (United States)
COISACA / Oxfam (Mozambique)
COOPI - Cooperazione Internazionale (Italy)
DanChurchAid (Zimbabwe)
Danish Red Cross (Zimbabwe)
Department of Disaster Management Affairs (Malawi)
Deutsche Welthungerhilfe e.V. (Madagascar)
DG ECHO (Belgium)
DG ECHO (Kenya)
DG ECHO (South Africa)
Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe (Mozambique)
Disaster Management and Mitigation Unit (Zambia)
Disaster Management Authority (Lesotho)
Disaster Risk Management Division (Seychelles)
EPRI (South Africa)
EU Delegation (Eswatini)
EU Delegation (Lesotho)
EU Delegation (Mauritius)
EU Delegation (Madagascar)
EU Delegation (Mozambique)
European Commission (Belgium)
European Commission (Italy)
FAO (South Africa)
FAO (Zimbabwe)
Finnish Red Cross (Zimbabwe)
GIZ - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (Botswana)
Harvard University (United States)
Help-Hilfe zur Selbsthilfe (Zimbabwe)
Helpcode (Mozambique)
Humanity & Inclusion (Madagascar)
Humanity & Inclusion (Mozambique)

Annex 2:

List of Participants

ICRC (South Africa)
IFRC (South Africa)
IOM (Mozambique)
IOM (South Africa)
IOM (Zimbabwe)
Italian Agency for Development Cooperation (Kenya)
Medair (Madagascar)
Médecins du Monde (Madagascar)
Ministry of Local Government & Public Works (Zimbabwe)
mirex (angola)
National Disaster Management Agency (Eswatini)
National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Centre (Mauritius)
National Institute Disaster Risk Management and reduction (INGD), National Emergency
Operating Center (CENOE) (Mozambique)
National Office of Risk and disaster management (Madagascar)
NDMC (South Africa)
OCHA (United States)
Office of the Prime Minister (Namibia)
Oxfam (South Africa)
Oxfam (Zimbabwe)
Oxfam GB (Malawi)
PERIPERI U Secretariat, Stellenbosch University (South Africa)
PIROI / French Red Cross (France)
Plan International (Kenya)
Plan International (Mozambique)
Prime Minister's Office - Disaster Management Department (United Republic of Tanzania)
Red Cross Society (Malawi)
Root tree (South Africa)
SADC (Botswana)
Save the Children International (Madagascar)
Save the Children International (Malawi)
Save the Children International (Mozambique)
Save the Children International (South Africa)
Save the Children International (Zimbabwe)
Spanish Red Cross (Mozambique)
Start Network (Madagascar)
Start Network (United Kingdom)
Start Network (Zimbabwe)
Terre Des Hommes Italy (Zimbabwe)
Tufts University Feinstein International Center (United States)

Annex 2:

List of Participants

UN-Habitat (Kenya)
UN-OHCHR (South Africa)
UNDP (Kenya)
UNDP (Malawi)
UNDRR (Kenya)
UNHCR (South Africa)
UNICEF (Angola)
UNICEF (Comoros)
UNICEF (Madagascar)
UNICEF (Namibia)
United Purpose (Malawi)
UNRCO (Madagascar)
UNRCO (Malawi)
USAID BHA (Malawi/South Africa)
Welthungerhilfe (Madagascar)
Welthungerhilfe (Zimbabwe)
WeWorld - GVC (Italy)
WeWorld - GVC (Mozambique)
WFP (Eswatini)
WFP (Italy)
WFP (Lesotho)
WFP (Madagascar)
WFP (Malawi)
WFP (Mozambique)
WFP (South Africa)
WFP (Spain)
WFP (Zambia)
WFP (Zimbabwe)
WHO (Mozambique)
WMO (Ethiopia)
WMO (Switzerland)
World Vision International (Lesotho)
World Vision International (Malawi)
World Vision International (Mozambique)
World Vision International (Southern Africa Region)
World Vision International (Zimbabwe)

Annex 3: Lightning Talks

Anticipatory Action and Protecting Resilience Gains in Zimbabwe FAO, Zimbabwe
Capacity 4 Development Platform for DP in Southern Africa and the Indian Ocean funded by ECHO DG-ECHO, South Africa
Risk-Informed Development in the SADC Global Initiative on Disaster Risk Management (GIDRM) GIZ- Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), Botswana
The Copernicus Emergency Management Service ECHO, Kenya
New Approaches for Historical Validation and Trigger Design for Enhanced AI Flood Early Warning Systems Cloud to Street, USA
Leave No One Behind in Disaster Preparedness and Response WFP, Lesotho
Lessons from Pilot Anticipatory Actions in Mozambique, Madagascar and Malawi Diakonie Katastrophenhilfe, Mozambique
Simplified Drought Monitoring: Drawing Lessons from the Installation of Groundwater Early Warning System in the South of Madagascar UNICEF, Madagascar
Use of Drones for Search And Rescue (SAR) / The WFP Drone Hub (2), (3), (4) WFP, South Africa
The Operationalisation of the SADC Humanitarian and Emergency Operations Centre SADC, Botswana
The Two-Stage Trigger: Anticipatory Action Pilot for Malawi Dry Spells UNRCO, Malawi
Cash / Food Assistance for Resilient Assets Creation World Vision, Malawi

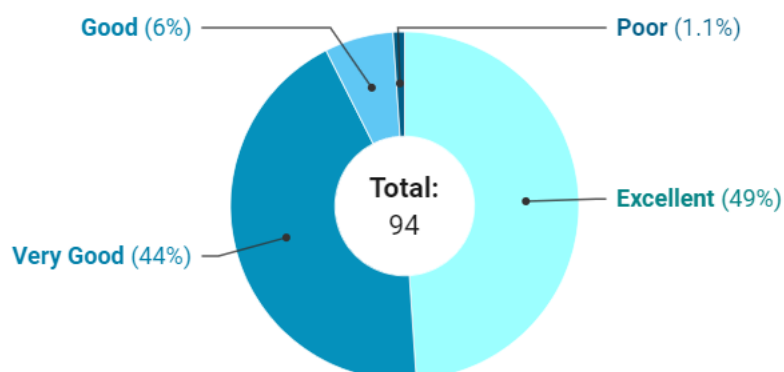
Annex 4: Marketplace

Opening of the Marketplace
Early Warning System 930 - Medair, Madagascar
Role of School Hubs in Disaster Preparedness - World Vision, Mozambique
The Union Civil Protection Mechanism (UCPM) - DG-ECHO, South Africa and Kenya
IFRC – closing the DM cycle in SAIO - IFRC, South Africa
Use of UAV-Drones for Disaster Preparedness and Response WFP & INGD, Mozambique
Technology And Education Activities to Face Rapid-Onset Disasters in Mozambique WW-GVC and CIMA Research Foundation, Mozambique
Disaster Risk Reduction in School Save the Children, Madagascar
Empowering Communities to Prepare and Respond to Disasters in Lesotho World Vision, Lesotho
Mydewetra, a Collaborative Platform for Early Warning and Early Action - CIMA Research Foundation, Italy
Policy Environment for Disaster Risk Management in Malawi Department of Disaster Risk Management Affairs & UNDP, Malawi
Madagascar's Preparedness to Cyclones and Floods - Progress and Challenges -BNGRC, Madagascar
Urban Preparedness in Zimbabwe - WFP, Zimbabwe
FAO Resilience and Emergencies - FAO, Southern Africa
Enhancing Community Resilience to Hydro-meteorological Hazards in Malawi -Oxfam, Malawi
Building a More Resilient Zimbabwe - Terre Des Hommes Italy, Zimbabwe
Mozambique's Experience in Disaster Risk Management and Reduction (National Institute Disaster Risk Management And Reduction) INGD, Mozambique

Annex 5: Workshop Evaluation

At the end of the workshop, 94 participants completed an evaluation form. Ninety-two per cent of respondents assessed the workshop as Excellent or Very Good. Sessions addressing Anticipatory Action, Early Warning Digital Platforms, and DP in Urban Settings were considered more informative/useful for cyclone scenarios than for conflict. Eighty-five per cent of respondents said the workshop had provided useful recommendations, and that they had gained new ideas from experiences and approaches in other countries of the region. The marketplace and lightning talks were highly appreciated (94 per cent of respondents rated the marketplace as Excellent / Very Good; 88 per cent rated the lightning talks as Excellent / Very Good).

2- HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SA-IO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ECHO AND PARTNERS WORKSHOP OVERALL?



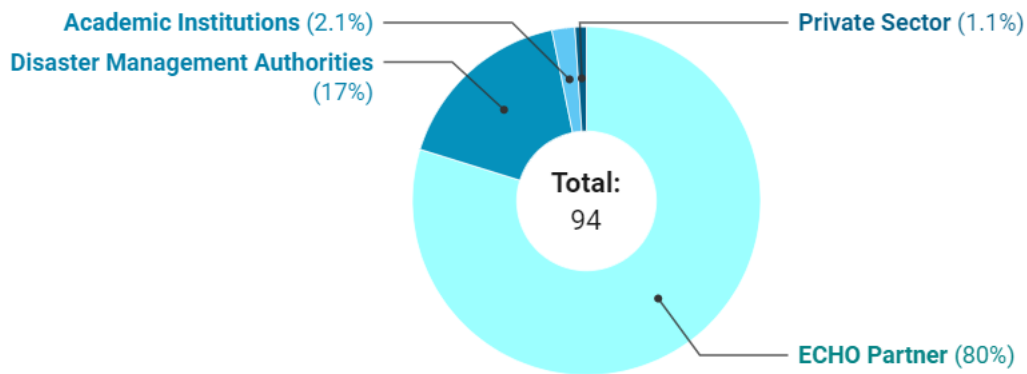
Specific feedback and recommendations included:

- The presence of technical experts on EWDPs, meteorology and climate was highly appreciated. In the future, drought should receive equal attention to cyclones, while technical expertise could be broadened to address other types of natural disasters as well as conflicts and epidemic outbreaks.
- There should be provisions for the participation of more local actors, members of vulnerable groups, and representatives of the private sector and academia.
- There was insufficient engagement with virtual participants; attention should be given to this in future hybrid events. By the end of the workshop, fewer than 10 of the initial 58 virtual participants remained online.

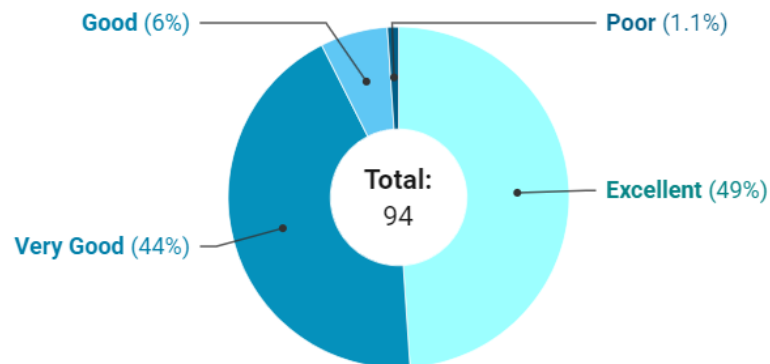
Annex 5: Workshop Evaluation

- Given the density of the agenda, it was recommended to spread the workshop over more than 2.5 days. There was an over-emphasis on PowerPoint presentations; there should be more time for interactive activities, for the marketplace, for lightning talks, for lesson learning and best practices, and for presentations of case studies from the region. More time should have been dedicated to discuss the way forward with ECHO.
- The World Café breakout sessions were too intense: six sessions is too many in a single afternoon, with too many questions to address in each session. Facilitators of breakout groups should have experience in the topic under discussion.
- Better use could have been made of synergies between ECHO partners. For example, by having partners from the same country deliver presentations together.
- Interpretation (into French) should be considered.
- A different venue should be considered for future workshops. Some participants questioned the appropriateness of holding a humanitarian workshop in the opulent Emperors Palace / casino complex. The conference rooms themselves were sub-optimal, with no natural light. It was difficult to read the PPTs on the screens – in the future, participants should be able to follow the presentations via an online link; documents could be uploaded onto a common drive, available to all participants, ahead of the workshop; most participants were in any case connected to laptops or smartphones throughout the different sessions.

1- WHAT STAKEHOLDER GROUP, IF ANY, ARE YOU PRIMARILY AFFILIATED WITH?

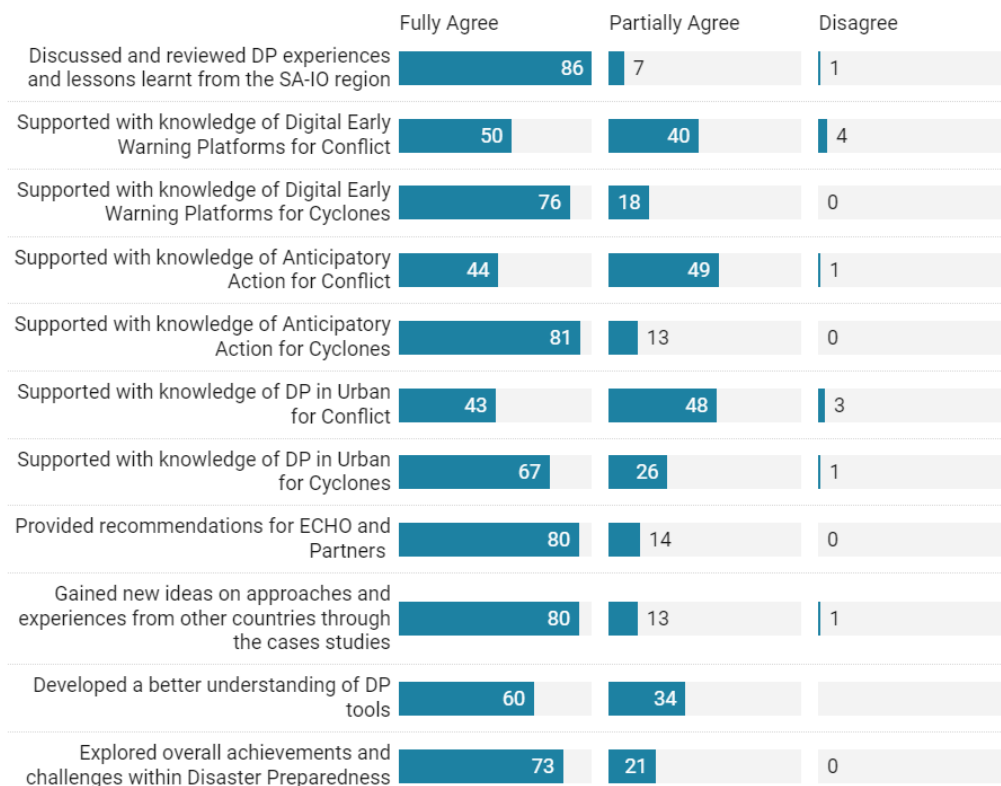


2- HOW WOULD YOU RATE THE SA-IO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ECHO AND PARTNERS WORKSHOP OVERALL?

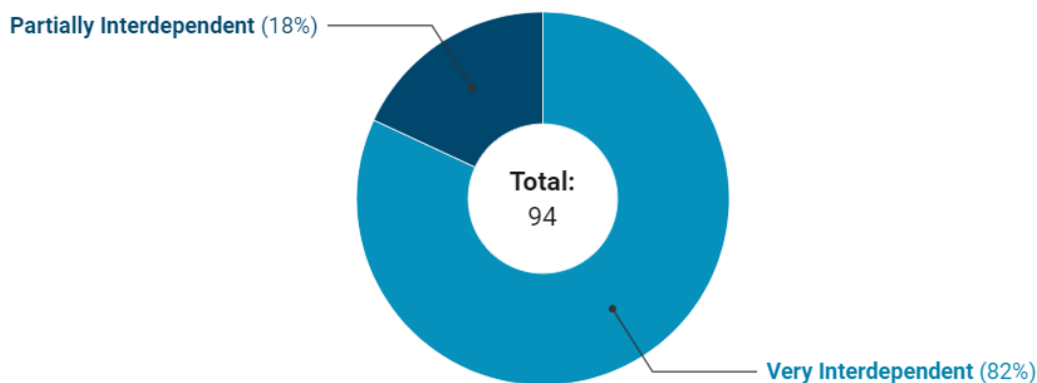


Annex 6: Survey Results

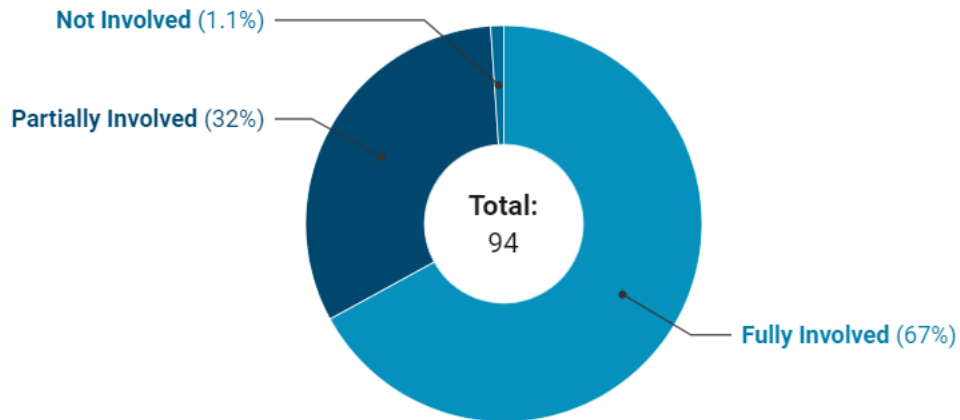
3- THE SA-IO DISASTER PREPAREDNESS ECHO AND PARTNERS WORKSHOP HAS:



4- HOW INTERDEPENDENT WERE THE DISCUSSED TOPICS?

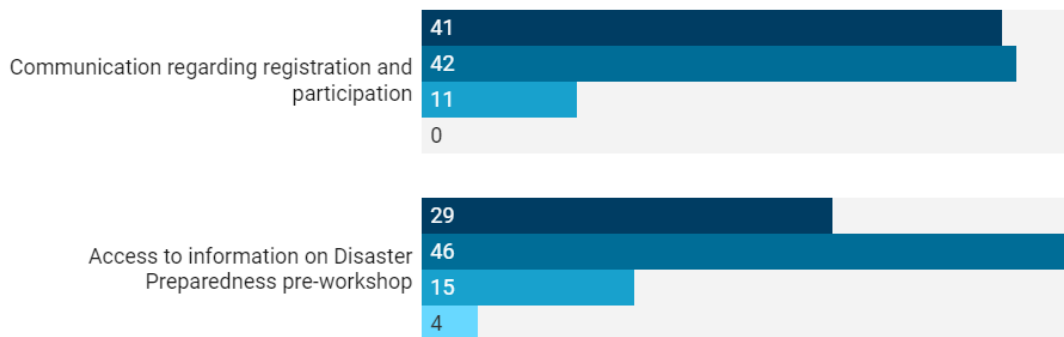


5- HOW DID YOU SEE YOUR ROLE IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL TOPICS AND SCENARIOS DISCUSSED?

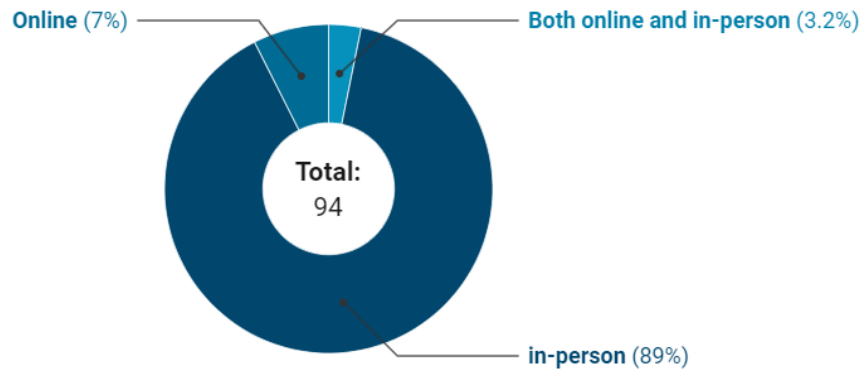


6- RATING OF THE PRE_WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

■ Excellent ■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Poor

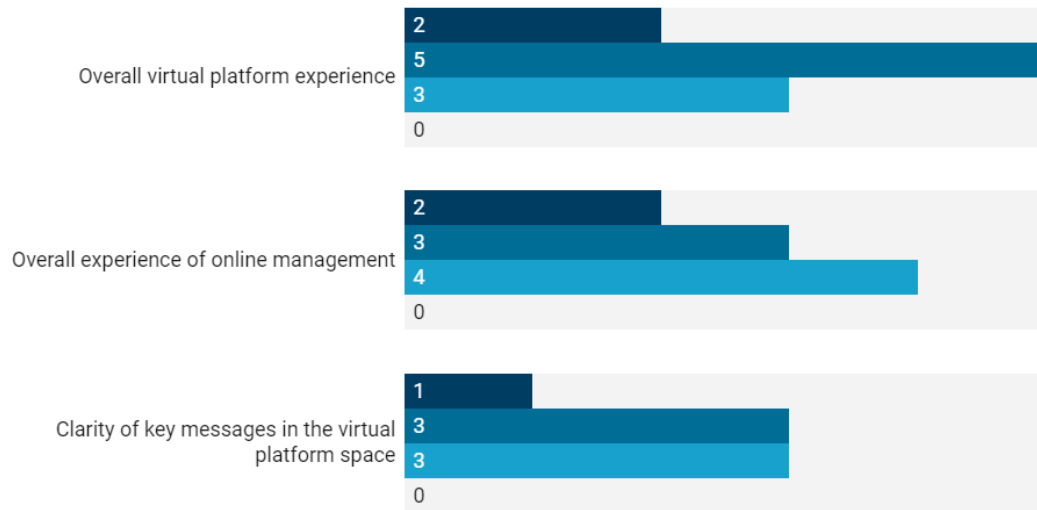


7- HOW DID YOU PARTICIPATE IN THIS WORKSHOP?



8- (IF ONLINE). RATING OF THE VIRTUAL WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

■ Excellent ■ Very Good ■ Good ■ Poor



9- (IN PERSON) RATING OF THE IN-PERSON WORKSHOP EXPERIENCE

	Excellent	Very Good	Good	Poor
Concept of Market Place	55	25	5	0
Audio	48	30	6	0
Concept of Lighting Talks	48	26	9	1
Schedule Clarity: When to be where	41	30	12	1
Video	39	32	10	2
Location	31	20	23	8
Hygiene	30	32	19	1
Hotel Transportation	27	32	14	2
Meals	22	29	31	1
Coffee Breaks	21	35	26	2

10- WILL YOU, IF OCCURRING, BE WILLING TO ATTEND SUCH WORKSHOP AGAIN?

