



Concept Note

Thematic Session 3.2: Early Warning for Early Action to Reduce Loss and Damage

Type of Event	<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Thematic Session <input type="checkbox"/> Working Session <input type="checkbox"/> Learning Lab
Title of the Event	Early Warning for Early Action to Reduce Loss & Damage
Date, Time, and Venue	23 October – 15:30 – 17:00 hrs Omatako 1
Relevant Conference Plenary	<input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 1: <input type="checkbox"/> Plenary 2: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Plenary 3: Reducing Loss and Damage: Saving Lives and Protecting Investments <input type="checkbox"/> Cross-Cutting Issue
Background and Rationale	<p>Africa is impacted by both slow and sudden onset disasters triggered by multiple and compounding hazards, including drought, floods, extreme heat, epidemics, pandemics and pests. The impacts of these disasters continue to increase at a rapid rate, fuelled by the climate emergency and exacerbated by recurrent instabilities in fragile and conflicted states. These are amplifying humanitarian needs and undermining the development progress for the region. From 2013 to 2022, more than 100,000 persons died or were missing because of disasters, and an additional 131 million people affected by the frequently occurring events (SFM 2023).</p> <p>Early Warning (EW) and Early Action (EA) can help to minimize the impacts of climate hazards by supporting well planned locally led early actions that take place before a hazard hits or impacts are felt. It can potentially even prevent a hazard from leading to a humanitarian disaster by preventing losses of lives and livelihoods. Additionally, it can help break the vicious cycle between repeated response to and recovery from often-predictable shocks (UNDRR,2022).</p> <p>The political declaration of the high-level meeting on the Mid-Term Review called for further development of and investment in effective, local, national and regional multi-hazard early warning mechanisms that lead to early action. A Multi-Hazard Early Warning for All Action Plan for Africa (2023 -2027) has been developed to support existing MHEWS with the primary objective of increasing availability and access to Multi Hazard early warning and disaster risk information.</p> <p>According to the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) 2023 Reportⁱ, 45% of the countries in Africa reported having MHEWS by 2022 compared with only 9 countries having MHEWS IN 2015. According to the Anticipatory Action in 2023: A Global Overviewⁱⁱ, over 26 African countries have anticipatory action frameworks under development. While this is a great progress, we still have a long way to go in ensuring that everyone is covered by Early warning systems by 2027 as per the call by the United Nations Secretary-General.</p>



	<p>This session will look at how EW and EA systems can be scaled up in the Africa Region to play a big part in reducing loss and damage caused by disasters when pre-disaster risk reduction resilience building has not been sufficient. It will seek to exchange on the lessons learnt from the various Early warning and early action initiatives ongoing in the continent on key issues of coordination, policy, practice and finance. Key challenges affecting the effective implementation of EW and EA will be discussed and practicable solutions proposed to address the challenges around coordination between various actors across levels, financing for EW and Anticipatory Action (AA), policy considerations and scale up of practice at the community level and support for institutions relevant to EW and EA which are crucial for effective MHEWS.</p>
<p>Session Objectives</p>	<p>This thematic session will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a platform for stakeholders to exchange experiences and learning on linking early warning for early action to reduce loss and damage; • Discuss challenges and bottlenecks as well as promising innovations and inclusive solutions that can be delivered at different time scales; • Propose priorities for coordination, policy, practice and finance to scale up and fast track the implementation of Early warning and early action in Africa to reduce loss and damage; and • Recommend clear steps to stakeholders to move forward, operationalize and deliver EW and EA systems that play a role in reducing loss and damage caused by disaster when pre-disaster risk reduction resilience building has not been sufficient.
<p>Expected Outcomes</p>	<p>Session participants will be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify clear and actionable solutions to address the challenges on coordination, practice and finance to move forward, deliver and operationalize EW and EA systems to reduce loss and damage; • Engage in peer to peer learning and exchanges on the risk informed EW/EA initiatives in Africa; • End the session by catalyzing a network of partners coordinating and collaborating for the scale up of EW and EA in the region; and • Generate recommendations that will feed to the AfRP 2024 declaration.
<p>Structure</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Moderator opens the session providing the background, rationale and objective session (5 Mins) • Scene Setting (IDRC) • 4 Presentation (Coordination & Policy; Practice - Community and Institutional Support and Finance) - <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What initiative are you undertaking in EWEA? ○ Where are you doing it – Geographical location and coverage, level of operation, total population Beneficiary of initiative? ○ Why the initiative in that location (risk context and Historic & projected Loss and Damage) ○ Who are you involved with in the initiative? ○ When have you used Early Warning to activate Early action ○ How has your initiative averted loss and damage (Qualitative and Quantitative results)? How are we tailoring interventions to include vulnerable groups (Women/children/PWD)? ○ What challenges and lessons learnt (according to your thematic focus) have you experienced? • Interactive activity (Futuristic discussions)



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What are some of the key steps we can take to address the highlighted challenges ○ How can such EWEA initiatives be enhanced to support the aversion of damage and losses among the most at risk? ● Conclusion and closing
Moderator of the Session	TBC
List of Panellists	<p>Panellists:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mr. Michele Leone, Senior Program Specialist, IDRC (Scene Setting) ● Coordination and Policy – Madagascar ● Ms. Martha Chiwaya, Malawi Red Cross Society (Practice – Community) ● Mr. Abnet Mulugeta, Institutional Support, WFP (Practice) ● Mr. John Harding, Head, CREWS (Financing) ● Dr. Ahmed Ibrahim Abdi, ASAL Humanitarian Network (AHN) Convenor
Reference Documents	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Early warnings for all: Executive action plan 2023-2027 ● Early Warning for All Africa Strategy ● Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems 2023 ● Africa Road Map for Improving the Availability, Access and Use of Disaster Risk Information for Early Warning and Early Action, including in the Context of Transboundary Risk Management ● Institutional and Operational Framework for Multi-hazard Early Warning and Early Action System in Africa
Public narrative [For the website]	<p>Early Warning (EW) and Early Action (EA) systems play a crucial role in reducing loss and damage caused by disasters, especially when pre-disaster risk reduction efforts fall short. However, these systems alone are not enough. To be effective, stakeholders and systems must collaborate toward a shared goal of risk reduction through early actions. For EW and EA to truly make an impact, they must be people-centered, well-governed, and institutionalized to ensure inclusive and sustainable coverage. Additionally, they require a diverse funding strategy, with pre-arranged finance linked to forecasts and action plans, to ensure timely and effective response.</p>
Interpretation	English

ⁱ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and World Meteorological Organization (2023). Global Status of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems. Geneva, Switzerland: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/global-status-multi-hazard-early-warning-systems-2023>

ⁱⁱ Anticipation Hub. Anticipatory Action in 2023: A Global Overview. Berlin: Anticipation Hub, 2024 - https://www.anticipation-hub.org/Documents/Reports/overview-report-2023/Global_Overview_Report_2023_WEB_VERSION.pdf