



Watering livestock in Lotome-Napak. Credit: KDF Pictures 2018

Establishing Integrated Early Warning System for multi-hazard monitoring

Introduction

Effective early warning systems (EWS) play an important role in reducing risks posed by hazards. The provision of timely information allows households and individuals exposed to hazards to take action to avoid or reduce their risk and prepare for effective response. There are several EWS operating independently. They issue own warnings and are not coordinated with government agencies responsible for disaster preparedness and response.

For effective coordination, Uganda has established the National Integrated Early Warning System (NIEWS), based in the Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). This ensures only one authority issues warnings. The OPM has been issuing monthly NIEWS warnings since November 2016. The messages are disseminated as a newsletter and bulletin by email and print to media houses and districts through Chief Administrative Officers (CAO). District technical officers and sub-county chiefs

receive the bulletins from the CAO then relay the warnings to the communities.



INTERVENTION AREA

Disaster risk management, preparedness and effective response

LOCATION

National

STAKEHOLDERS AND PARTNERS

- Communities
- District Local Governments
- Office of the Prime Minister
- Government ministries, agencies and departments
- Non-governmental Organisations



Methodological approach

- Establish the policy framework and institutional mandate for a national focal point agency for early warnings, dissemination of warnings and response coordination.
- Assess the EWS available; these will route their information through the focal point agency.
- Provide the focal point agency with the capacity to do some analysis related to multiple hazards, manage databases of risks and issue warnings.
- Establish a dissemination strategy that will ensure that vulnerable communities receive the warnings.

Validation

The NIEWS issued a drought warning in 2016 which triggered the implementation of the Disaster Risk Fund (DRF).

The DRF is a shock response strategy designed to scale up labour intensive public works to support poor and vulnerable households immediately after a drought. This shows that the NIEWS is working well and appreciated.

Results

- Functional NIEWS
- Decision makers have been informed and are able to take early action to reduce the impact of hazards. A case in point is in the implementation of DRF.

Innovation and success factors

- Linking all hazard-based systems into a single EWS.
- Policy environment that emphasises disaster preparedness and risk management.

Constraints

Reaching the last mile in rural areas is still a challenge as they rely on district staff who are few. The mode of relaying the messages does not reach the communities at risk effectively.

Sustainability and replicability

Sustainability will depend on national commitment to funding the NIEWS

Additional information

OPM, <http://necoc-opm.go.ug/about.html>

CONTACTS

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Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
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Food and Agriculture
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