

International Early Warning Programme Advisory Group

The role of the Advisory Group is to provide policy guidance to ensure that the IEWP's structure and programmes duly reflect the outcomes of the major global dialogues on early warning and the recommendations of the Global Survey of the Early Warning Systems. The Advisory Group identifies priorities, expected outputs, gaps and opportunities for the IEWP, and advises on the operational matters of the IEWP including planning and reporting of the programme and opportunities for mobilizing additional resources.



Asian Disaster Reduction Center (ADRC)
www.adrc.or.jp



German Committee for Disaster Reduction (DKKV)
www.dkkv.org



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
www.fao.org



Global Fire Monitoring Center (GFMC)
www.fire.uni-freiburg.de



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC)
www.ifrc.org



United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP)
www.unep.org



United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (UNESCO/IOC)
ioc.unesco.org/iocweb/index.php



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR)
www.unisdr.org



United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA)
www.unoosa.org



United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)
ochaonline.un.org



United Nations University, Institute for Environment and Human Security (UNU-EHS)
www.ehs.unu.edu



World Food Programme (WFP)
www.wfp.org



World Meteorological Organisation (WMO)
www.wmo.int

Background

The past lessons including the tragic Indian Ocean Tsunami of 2004 demonstrated that although the occurrence of natural hazards cannot be prevented, the impact of these hazards could be decreased when resilience of the nations and communities is strengthened. After the ten-year review of the progress made in the area of disaster risk reduction, the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (WCDR) adopted its outcome document, the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters in Kobe, Japan in January 2005.



The Hyogo Framework highlights early warning as one of the major elements of disaster risk reduction which could both save lives and help protect livelihoods and national development gains. Early warning has been recognized as an effective tool to reduce vulnerabilities and to improve preparedness and response to natural hazards.

The importance of early warning has been stated in various resolutions of the General Assembly as a critical element of disaster reduction. When the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR) was established in 2000 as the successor to the International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction (IDNDR, 1990-1999), promotion of early warning was clearly underlined and included in its mandate.

People Centred Early Warning

Every year, natural disasters affect more than 200 million people around the world leading to loss of human life, destruction of social and economic infrastructure and degradation of fragile ecosystems. These disasters have caused a massive loss of life and negative long-term social, economic and environmental consequences. Vulnerable societies have been deeply affected by these disasters throughout the world, in particular in developing countries with less coping capacity other than traditional means. The threats of disaster triggered by natural hazards to these states pose a serious obstacle to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals.

The International Early Warning Programme (IEWP) advocates that the four key elements of people-centred early warning should be duly reflected in the international agenda and dialogue on early warning.

Getting prepared

The four elements are:

- ✓ Risk knowledge, that is, prior knowledge of the risks faced by communities;
- ✓ Monitoring and warning service;
- ✓ Communications and dissemination of understandable warnings to those at risk; and
- ✓ Response capability and preparedness to act by those threatened.

These elements are of cross-cutting nature, and will be reflected in all of the activities of the IEWP.

Early Warning



Global Early Warning System

In 2005, at the request of the United Nations Secretary-General, a global survey of early warning systems was undertaken with a view to advancing the development of a global early warning system for all natural hazards.

The survey report concluded that while some warning systems are well advanced, there are numerous gaps and shortcomings, especially in developing countries and in terms of effectively reaching and serving the needs of those at risk.

Building foresight



The survey report recommended establishment of a globally comprehensive early warning system, rooted in existing early warning systems and capacities. It also recommended a set of specific actions toward building national people-centred early warning systems, filling in the main gaps in global early warning capacities, strengthening the scientific and data foundations for early warning, and developing the institutional foundations for the global early warning system.



A global early warning system will require long-term sustained action by diverse players and a strong political commitment to engender public action and to make early warning a core task of national policy and disaster risk reduction strategy.

Strong international support and coordination with clear roles and responsibilities, and wide participation of non-governmental organisations, private sector and regional organizations are required to achieve a global system.



International Early Warning Programme (IEWP)

The International Early Warning Programme (IEWP), with the secretariat support of the Platform for the Promotion of Early Warning, is set within the ISDR system.

The IEWP is dedicated to reducing the impact of disasters through effective people-centred early warning systems. The importance of people-centred and technically sound early warning systems was reiterated by recent UN General Assembly resolutions, the recommendations of the Global Survey and the outcome of the EWC III.

The IEWP aims to improve resilience of people to all types of natural hazards including droughts, wildfires, floods, tropical cyclones, landslides, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis and epidemics, and to reduce their negative impact on human lives and livelihoods.

IEWP and its areas of work was suggested at the Second International Conference on Early Warning (EWC II), 2003 and was formally launched at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction in 2005 in Kobe, Japan.

Beneficiaries of the IEWP include governments and national disaster reduction platforms, the UN system, inter-governmental and regional organizations, scientific and academic institutions and civil society (NGOs, CBOs, private sectors).

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