



# BENEFITS OF AN INTEGRATED EARLY WARNING SYSTEM :

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## THE JAMAICAN EXPERIENCE

EWC 3 Bonn 2006

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# Jamaica's Vulnerability

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Jamaica 18N 77W vulnerable to:

Floods, Rainstorms

Earthquakes

Droughts

Landslides

Hurricanes & other Weather/Climate hazards  
among others



# EWS Integrated into National Programme

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EWS are part of the national Risk Management Programme for which ODPEM has responsibility through its legal mandate



# Some aspects multi-jurisdictional

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EWS by nature multi-jurisdictional/multi-disciplinary:-

- Monitoring different hazards

- Forecasting

- Alerting/Warning



# Potential for Confusing Public

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Floods - Water Resources Authority

Earthquakes – Earthquake Unit

Climate/Weather – Meteorological  
Services

Landslides – Mines and Geology Division

Droughts – NMS & WRA



# One Public Interface

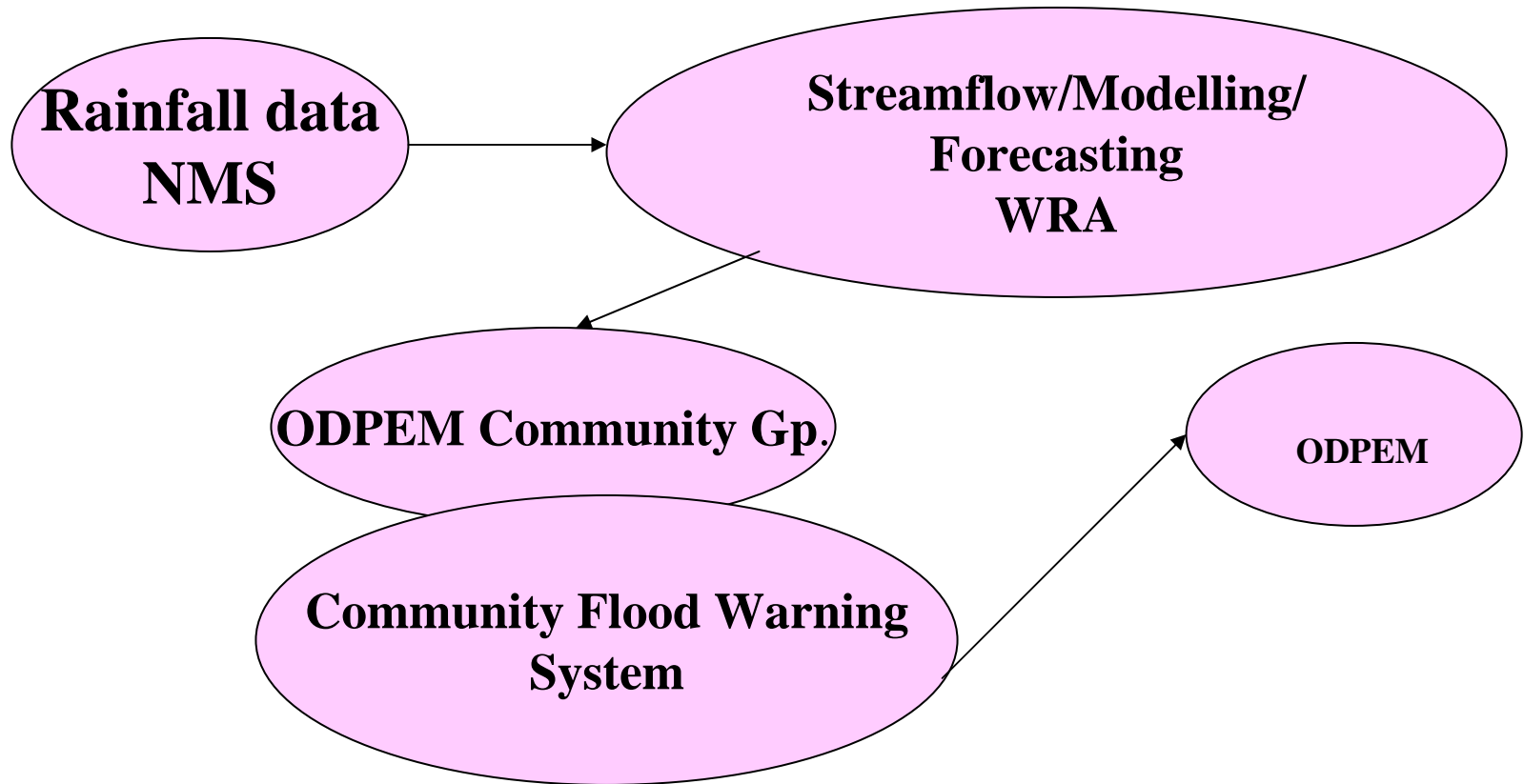
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## Horizontal Integration

Agreed that one agency – ODPEM will interface with Public in sending out Alerts and Precautionary Information

(NMS issues Severe Weather Bulletins)

# Vertical Integration: Community Flood Warning Systems

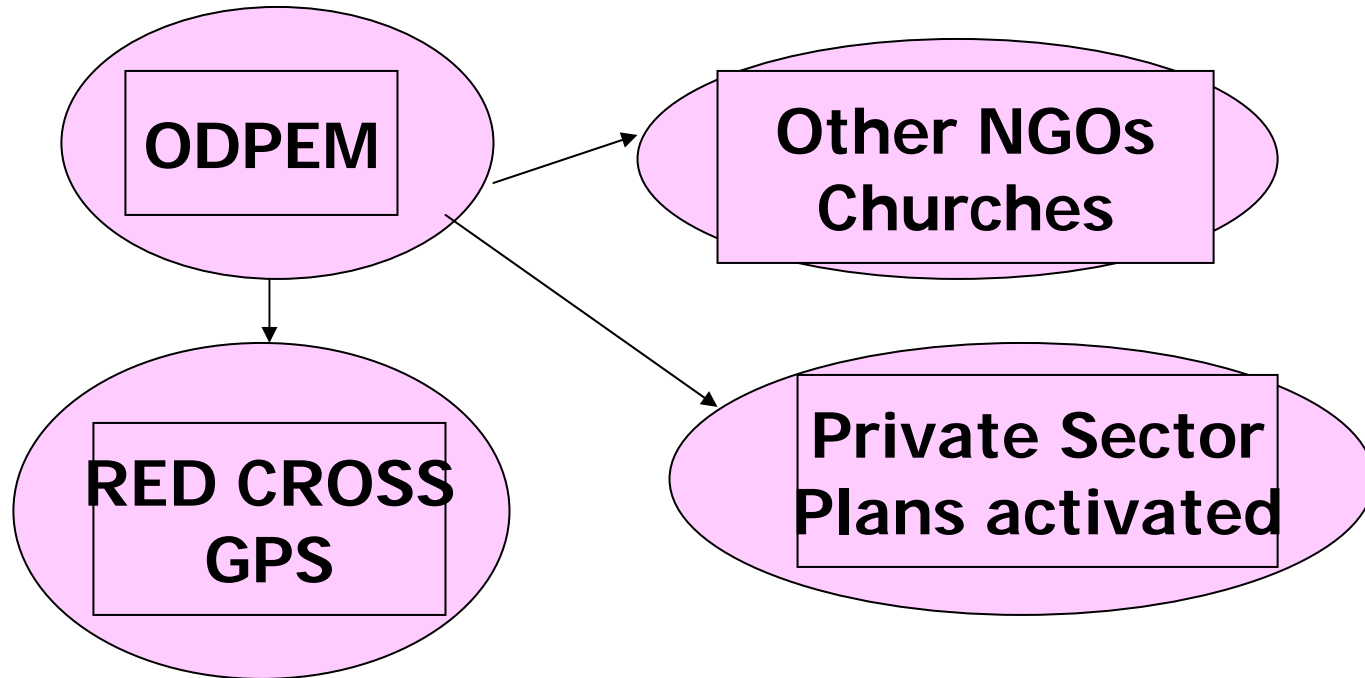




# CROSS-SECTORAL INTEGRATION

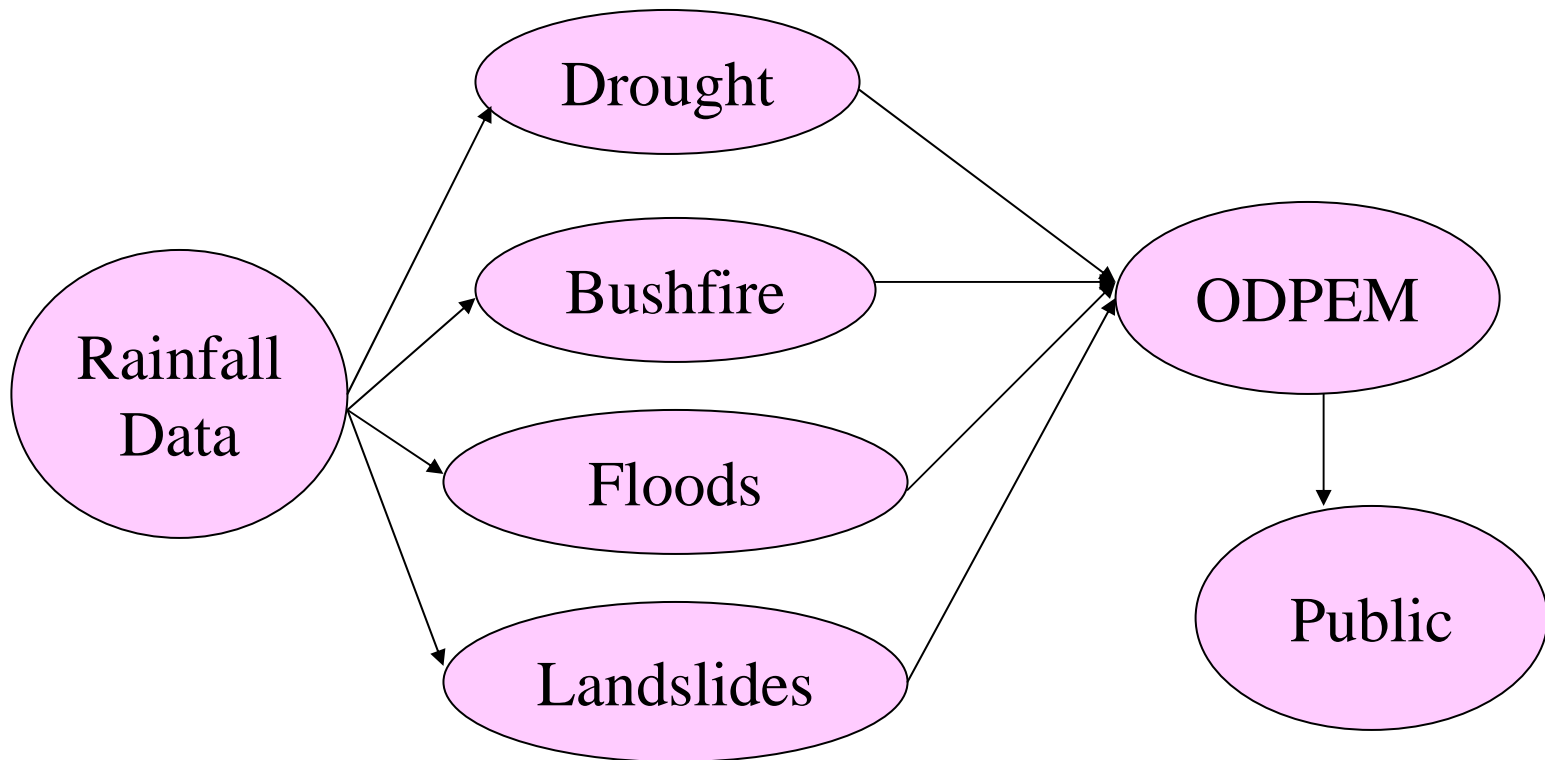
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- Warnings transmitted thru networks



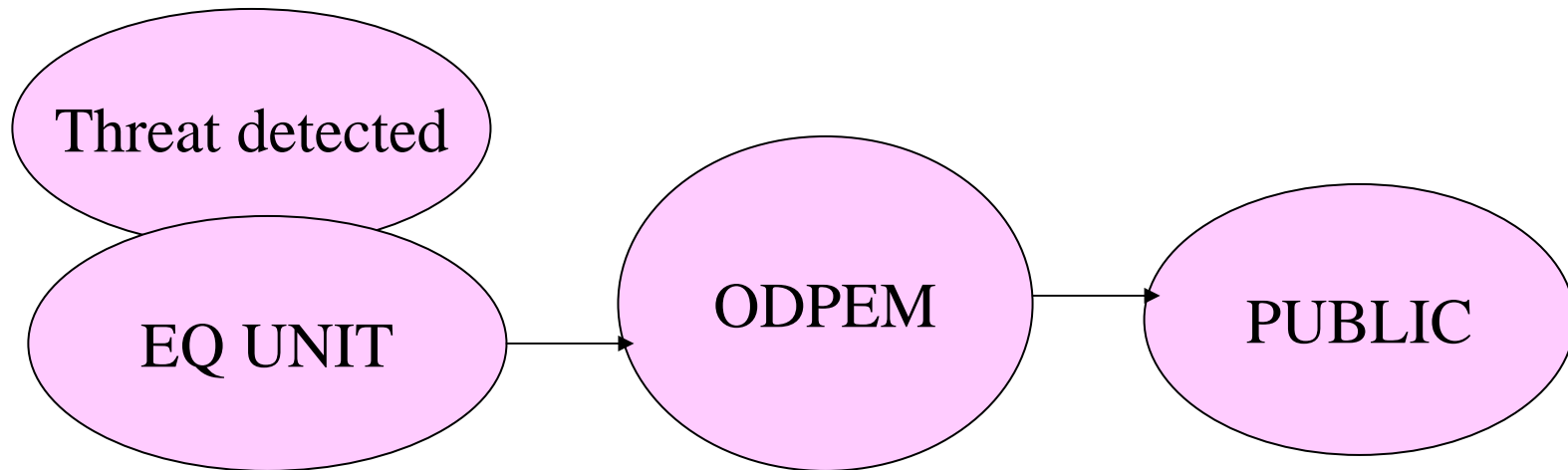


# Other Aspects of Integration: Data Sharing Efficiencies/Economies



# Acceptance of Established Framework Allows Ease of Adaptation

## Proposed Caribbean Tsunami Warning System



# Acceptance of Established Framework Allows Ease of Adaptation



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- NATIONAL THREAT  
FROM AVIAN INFLUENZA

Ministries of Agriculture and Health alert  
ODPEM



# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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Comprehensive mandate of ODPEM has resulted in ( unintended ) benefits for  
Early Warning :-



# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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- Sensitisation to hazards and precautionary information can be continually re-inforced
- Agency able to sensitise public to idea of forecasting error – important in how public perceived “wrong” warnings



# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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To Summarise:

- Single Focal Point for Risk Management important in success of Jamaican system
- Allows building of trust over time



# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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## To Summarise:

- **Trust developed through ongoing work programmes translates to trust for warnings**
- **Public calls one source, and knows where that source is**
- **Framework easily adapted to new situations**



# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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Economies generated through  
Sharing of data/information

Cascade effect through networks





# Integrated Early Warning Systems - Benefits

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So....its all a bed of roses ???

No Way....

The Challenge is to get there over a  
very bumpy road !!!