



Lessons Learnt on Early Warning Systems following the 2017 Caribbean Hurricane Season

Briefing to Permanent Missions
Geneva, Switzerland
24 September 2018

Re-Cap Lessons Learnt Following 2017 Caribbean Hurricane Season

- 8 month project (Dec 2017-July 2018)
- Total budget USD 316,000
- Evaluate the lessons learnt against proposed standards for an end-to-end people-centred EWS
 - Component 1: Assessing the performance of National and Regional EWS – Forecast Reliability - **Caribbean Institute of Meteorology & Hydrology (CIMH)**
 - Component 2: Review of dissemination and communication of warnings – **Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA)**
 - Component 3: Cross-cutting Gender – **Dr Asha Kambon**



Turks & Caicos

British
Virgin
Islands

Anguilla

Barbuda
Antigua

Dominica

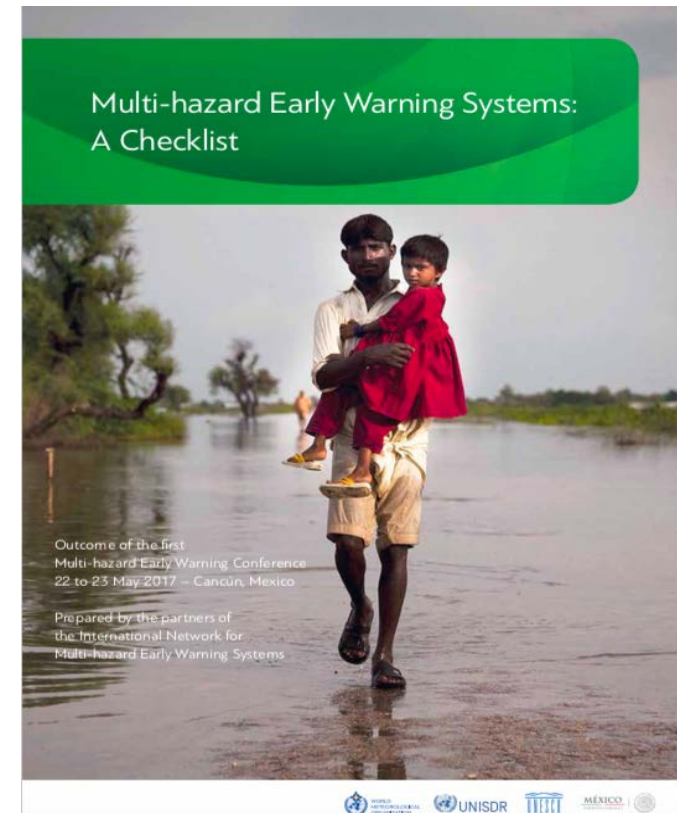


How to measure People-Centred end-to-end EWS

People Centred Focus



Guide on standards





Main Findings

- Need for increased coordination and harmonization of early warning initiatives in the region
- Need to increase capacities, and re-visit the current sub-regional hydro-met arrangements
- Need to ensure radar coverage, and compatibility of instrumentation, including maintenance plans
- Need for identification and inclusion of secondary hazards (i.e. storm surge, flash floods)

Main Findings



- Need for disaster-resilient infrastructure, and redundancy in emergency communication systems
- Need for capacity building to overcome gaps in emergency operations and response
- Need for increased integration of gender bureaus in preparedness and EWS initiatives



Key Recommendations

- Advocate for developing/strengthening strategy and legislation for NMHS and NDMOs
- Develop prediction capacities and early warning systems for secondary hazards (coastal flooding and flash floods) across the Caribbean
- Shift from generic forecasts to impact-based forecasts
- Increase human and financial resources for NMHSs
- Prioritize redundancy in emergency communication systems to address challenges in communication between critical stakeholders
- Develop joint programming between NMHS and NDMOs, including public outreach and media engagement
- Expand stakeholder base to incorporate Gender Bureaus to advance the inclusion of gender in Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS)

