

“Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” project
UNDP, OCHA, IFRC and CDEMA

Best Practices Contest

Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean

CONCEPT NOTE

Background

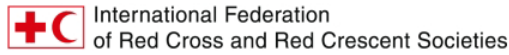
The Caribbean is a region exposed to a range of natural hazards including floods, hurricanes, landslides, earthquakes, volcanoes and tsunamis. The susceptibility of the region’s population and economies to natural phenomena has increased over the past century, impacting their development. As part of the efforts on preparedness, Early Warning Systems (EWS) play a key role. EWS are live saving instruments that are expected to enhance the prevention, mitigation and response capacities at both the institutional and community level, based on mutual learning and collaboration between countries and regional institutions working in disaster risk reduction.

The project “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” supports concrete actions for an effective early warning system, as well as aims to improve information management and operational capacity for an improved preparedness mechanism for the Caribbean Regional Response. Working with Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Cuba at a national and community level, and with regional early warning and response actors at the Caribbean level, United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), and the International Federation of the Red Cross and the Red Crescent (IFRC) are partnering with the General Directorate of Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid of the European Union (ECHO) to reduce the risk of disasters in the region.

Call for EWS good practices

As part of the project activities and with the aim of encouraging best practices and knowledge sharing about response and preparedness among the islands of the Caribbean, UNDP jointly with its partners opens the current call for Early Warning Systems good practices. The Call for EWS good practices responds to the need of strengthening south-south cooperation and disseminate the good practices undertaken on EWS by the countries in the region.

Furthermore, the call is an opportunity to offer additional visibility to the progress done by countries and its National Disaster Management Offices, to learn from their peers in the region and to develop new ideas for additional improvement of the national capacities. Finally, this activity is part of the project contributions within the path of the 2030 Agenda, specially Target G of the Sendai Framework for Disaster



Risk Reduction: “Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030”.

Among the presented EWS good practices, the best 4 will be selected to participate as presenters in a series of Webinars. Among those, participants will be encouraged to choose the best practice in the Region on EWS. The winner will be invited to broadcast his/her good practice in a Video. All costs for the video production will be borne by UNDP.

Criteria

All Caribbean countries are encouraged to share a concise document on their presentation in the series of webinars. EWS good practices contribute to the CDM strategy and comprise one or more of the 4 pillars for an effective early warning system: 1) risk knowledge, 2) monitoring & warning service, 3) dissemination & communication, and 4) response capability. EWS good practices are innovative, efficient/effective, sustainable, transferable, and involve the community.

For further details, please see the Contest Terms of Reference.

Webinars

Two webinars will be organized during October 2019. During each webinar, 2 best practices will be presented. Each webinar will have a duration of 1 hour. During the webinar, each speaker will have 20 minutes to present its EWS good practice, that will follow up of a Q&A session of 20 minutes.

The webinars will be open to the public. Invitations and dissemination of the webinars will be promoted by the implementing partners; national counterparts involved are encouraged to support the dissemination through email, social media and other means.

Once all webinars have been produced, the winner will be selected among the 4 presented good practices. UNDP will open a public voting which will be jointly considered with the evaluation from the REWS Consortium, UNDRR and CREWS; the evaluation will be done based on the established criteria (see TOR) to select the best “good practice”. The winner will win the production of a video to showcase its good practice.

Best Practices Contest

Early Warning Systems in the Caribbean

TERMS OF REFERENCE

As part of the activities of the project “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean” and with the aim of encouraging best practices and knowledge sharing about response and preparedness among the islands of the Caribbean, UNDP jointly with its partners opens the current **Call for Early Warning Systems good practices**. The Call responds to the primary need of strengthening south-south cooperation. Furthermore, the call is an opportunity to offer additional visibility to the progress done by countries and its National Disaster Management Offices, to learn from their peers in the region and to develop new ideas for additional improvement of the national capacities.

Targeted Countries

All countries in the Caribbean are invited to participate in the Call for EWS good practices

Criteria¹

EWS good practices contribute to the CDM strategy and develop one or more of the 4 pillars for an effective early warning system: 1) risk knowledge, 2) monitoring & warning service, 3) dissemination & communication, and 4) response capability.

An EWS good practice is an experience endowed with a series of original actions on preparedness and early warning systems that serve as references for future actions; they are transferable, sustainable and innovative and homologated to certain territories. An EWS Good Practice can be defined as:

- Preparedness and EWS Actions that have been recognized both for their excellence and for their ability to become transferable to other contexts.
- Valuable preparedness and EWS contributions characterized by having an impact on the improvement of the quality of life of people and communities.
- Social, cultural, economic and environmentally oriented towards preparedness and EWS sustainability.
- They have reflection, intentionality in their design, development and evaluation, as well as flexibility to adapt to reality depending on the changes that occur.

Following the definition an EWS Good Practice will be valued according to the following criteria:

Innovation – It should be understood as the ability to improve the service provided introducing creative aspects to give solutions to the problems raised.

Efficiency / Efficacy - a “Practice” will be effective when, preferably after using or evaluating it, it has obtained the desired results, concluding with a positive impact in the context in which it has been developed, e.g. proven preparedness of a community. In the same way, we can talk about an efficient

¹ Gradaille Pernas, R., & Caballo Villar, M. (2015). Las buenas prácticas como recurso para la acción comunitaria: criterios de identificación y búsqueda. Contextos Educativos. Revista de Educación, 0(19), 75-88. doi: <http://dx.doi.org/10.18172/con.2773>

practice when these results have been achieved making the best possible use of the available resources, whether economic, material or human.

Sustainability - The sustainability of an EWS best practice refers to the appropriation and ability to maintain its results for the future or a desired/reasonable period of time.

Replicability or transferability – The EWS good practice could be applicable in a different context for which it was designed and obtaining similar results by adapting it to the new contexts but following the guidelines set by the initial practice.

Involvement of community – There is involvement of the local community; such involvement of citizens (varying from presence to active participation) presume the enrichment of the EWS good practice by promoting teamwork, and cohesive practice. The communitarian engagement can represent a significant behavioral change and a tangible improvement of disaster preparedness and risk reduction practices.

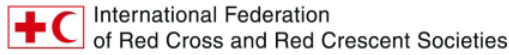
Inclusiveness – The EWS practice has participation or consideration of groups that are in special situations of vulnerability (elderly, people with disabilities, LGTBI, women, children and the environment).

All countries in the Caribbean are encouraged to share a small concept note (maximum 3 pages), indicating the following information:

1. Name of the Good Practice
2. Type of hazard to which the practice responds to
3. Type of EWS used (Multi Hazard?)
4. Country and/or Territorial Level where the good practice took/takes place
5. Stakeholders involved in the EWS development
6. Does it respond to one or more of the EWS Pillars? Which?
7. Why you believe it is a good practice on EWS (take into consideration the criteria)
 - a. How/Why was it innovative?
 - b. How/Why was it efficient/effective? What were the human, financial and material needed for the EWS implementation?
 - c. How/Why was/is it sustainable?
 - d. Has/Can it been/be transferred?
 - e. How were the community/national institutions involved?
 - f. How does it address inclusiveness?
8. How the EWS good practice can be further improved

Selection of EWS Good Practices

Implementing partners of the project “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean”, the Regional Early Warning System Consortium (REWSC) and additional interested stakeholders will be invited to be part of the selection committee for the selection of the EWS Good Practices.



The selection committee will value all the EWS good practices received based on the mentioned criteria, each element (innovative, efficient, effective, sustainable, transferable, and community involvement) on a value from 1 to 5 points, for a total of 25 points. The 4 good practices with the highest score will be invited to present their experience in the series of webinars.

Webinars

Two webinars will be organized during October 2019. The selected 4 good practices will be presented in a series of the 2 webinars through Skype for business. Each webinar will have a duration of 1 hour (60 minutes). During the webinar, each speaker will have 20 minutes to present its EWS good practice, that will follow up of a Q&A session of 20 minutes.

The webinars will be sessions open to the public. Invitations and dissemination of the webinars will be promoted by the implementing partners; national counterparts involved are encouraged to support the dissemination through email and social media.

Once all webinars have been produced, the winner will be selected among the 4 presented good practices. UNDP will open a public voting which will be jointly considered with the evaluation of representatives of the REWS Consortium, UNDRR and CREWS and implementing partners based on the established criteria to select the best “good practice”. The percentage of votes would be distributed as follows:

- Public Voting -----40%
- Jury-----60%

The winner will win the production of a video to showcase its good practice.

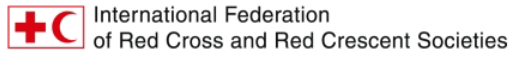
Selection Committee

The selection committee will be integrated by one representative of each of the implementing partners of the project “Strengthen integrated and cohesive preparedness capacity at a regional, national and community level in the Caribbean”, and representatives of the Regional Early Warning System Consortium (REWSC), UNDRDD and CREWS.

The selection committee will evaluate all received EWS good practices based on the mentioned criteria. Following the webinars, the jury will evaluate the good practices based on the presentation on the webinars giving a score corresponding to the 60% of the final score. The remaining 40% corresponds to the evaluation given by the participants to the webinars in the public poll.

Submission of EWS good practices

EWS good practices proposals will be received until **23 September 2019, 23:59 Panama time**. The proposal should be submitted to Almudena Montoliu almudena.montoliu@undp.org and Karold Guzman karold.guzman@undp.org



Contest Timeframe

Work Plan	Sept			Oct			Nov			Dec			
Call of Good Practices	█	█	█										
Selection of 4 good practices			█	█									
2 Webinars					█	█							
Poll								█					
Winner announcement									█				