

Session 5 Concept Note

Session Title	Co-Hosts
<p>Early Warning, Early Action to Leave No One Behind</p>	<p>Lead organisations: WFP, Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, IFRC</p> <p>Co-hosting organisations: DFID, FAO, GCRF, GNDR, Google, GRAID at SRC, Huairou Commission, ICCCAD/LUCCC, ISO, Mercy Corps, NASA, ODI, SDI, UNCTAD, UNDRR, Zurich Insurance</p>
Date and Time	Venue
<p>22 September 2019 14.00-16.00 (120 minutes)</p>	<p>L1.04</p>
<p>Brief Session Description</p> <p>There is increased recognition that early warning, early action systems can reduce humanitarian needs after extreme weather events. However, financing remains fragmented, agency-specific and small-scale, and the poorest, most vulnerable people are at risk of being left behind. Join us for a debate over ways to improve financing, scalability, and efficacy of early warning, early action systems.</p>	
<p>I. The Challenge and Opportunity</p>	
<p>The poorest, most vulnerable people are disproportionately affected by extreme weather events, and more extreme weather is expected in a changing climate. The poorest, most vulnerable people have limited capacity to anticipate extreme weather events and cope with them, and therefore they risk being left behind in national efforts to adapt. Mortality and negative impacts to livelihoods are higher among these populations, but evidence suggests that lives can be saved and livelihoods can be strengthened in areas where people have access to effective early warning systems, especially when they are embedded in inclusive governance frameworks that enable anticipatory actions.</p> <p>Advances in science, technology and inter-institutional coordination mean that it is often possible to anticipate extreme weather events and take action before they occur. In this session, we will encourage a critical yet solutions-oriented dialogue on early warning systems and anticipatory action. The session will allow for a constructive and interactive discussion on scaling-up early warning, early action systems.</p> <p>We will also explore the current challenges that arise with investment in early warning systems. A predominant challenge is that much of the investment goes to technology to predict hazards at the national level, while there is more limited investment in communities themselves and institutions at</p>	

Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

the local level. To bridge this disconnect, it is vital to ensure any new and existing initiatives in early warning, early action reach the most vulnerable communities who are on the frontlines of climate change. Further, there are financing challenges, especially as many early warning, early action systems require rapid and flexible financing mechanisms. There is also a need to overcome gaps in data collection, knowledge sharing and support for diverse demographic groups, such as women, the landless and homeless. The session will explore how to overcome these challenges and carry out practical next steps.

The session will focus on climate hazards that impact communities' well-being and livelihoods and are associated with humanitarian costs. These include floods, droughts, heatwaves and other extreme weather events that threaten lives and livelihoods.

Latest available knowledge/practice

Investment in anticipatory actions has grown exponentially in recent years. More than 30 countries have developed early warning, early action systems, which have enabled governments and humanitarian actors to act before a disaster occurs, based on reliable forecasts and risk data. Over the last few years, investment in anticipatory risk management have provided benefits across the wider disaster risk reduction spectrum. There is growing evidence that this investment helps to save lives, protect assets, and lower the costs of responding to humanitarian consequences of shocks. A diverse group of stakeholders including scientists, government and humanitarian actors, policy-makers and donors have come together to strengthen early warning, early action systems.

II. Objectives

- Showcase effective approaches for early warning, early action for extreme weather events;
- Explore the challenges associated with early warning, early action systems and how to overcome them;
- Illustrate how organizations are ensuring that early warning, early action systems strengthen resilience at the local level; and
- Explore institutionalization of early warning, early action approaches, particularly at government and local levels and also in the humanitarian sector.

III. Key messages

- The level of investment in early warning infrastructure and institutions should be matched with investment in early action to support local communities and institutions.
- Financing for effective early warning, early action systems should be scaled up, and systems that incorporate national, regional and community level actors should be prioritized. It is also pivotal to invest in incentives to institutionalize early warning, early action approaches at all government levels to ensure long-term resilience building.
- Investments are required to explore early action in new contexts to keep pace with the intensifying dynamics of climate risk and vulnerability. In particular, more investment is

Building a Resilient Future – 22 September 2019 – New York City

needed to study early actions regarding urban contexts, vulnerable demographic groups, health losses, and collective assets.

- Recognizing that resource overuse and population growth are likely to increase vulnerabilities in a changing climate, it is crucial not only to invest in imminent measures of early warning, early action but also in long-term climate adaptation measures to strengthen the resilience of communities.

IV. Session Format and Agenda

Time	Agenda Item	Who
5 min	Welcome remarks	
30 min	Ignite Talks (3-5 mins each)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bisola Akinmuyiwa (Speaker, SDI) ● Francis Bouchard (Speaker, Zurich Insurance) ● Jack Kaye TBC (Speaker, NASA) ● Mark Pelling (Speaker, GCRF) ● Ruha Devanesan (Speaker, Google)
1 hour 20 min	Debate <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. opening remarks 2. rebuttals 3. audience participation/intervention 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Bijay Kumar (Speaker, GNDR) ● Dinee Tamang (Speaker, Mercy Corps) ● Emily Wilkinson (Speaker, ODI) ● Erin Coughlan de Perez (Moderator, IFRC RC Climate Centre) ● Gernot Laganda (Speaker, WFP) ● Jack Kaye TBC (Speaker, NASA) ● Josephine Castillo (Speaker, DAMPA) ● Stephanie Speck (Speaker, UNDRR) ● Sylvie Wabbes Candotti (Speaker, FAO)
5 min	Closing remarks	