

# Handout for Community-based Disaster Risk Management Planning

## **Practical tips:**

- All activities should be inclusive of men and women.
- The community might have low literacy levels: if so, work with pictures rather than words. Use pictures that are large enough and make sure groups understand each picture.
- Cards to represent impacts, vulnerabilities, and capacities make association of them more visual and dynamic.
- Choose a suitable location.
- Try to link community-level risk management plan to government contingency plan and services.
- A risk management plan is not static. It needs to be reviewed and updated regularly. Key questions to include:
  - o Have all the activities in the plan been implemented?
  - o Do any activities need to be rescheduled?
  - o Are new activities needed?
- A contingency plan should be created no matter what, as well as raising awareness of what to do in a disaster.
- The risk management planning is part of the wider CCCD community action plan

## **Early Warning System**

### **Characteristics of an EWS**

- EWS contains local detail of hazard and take local conditions into account
- Link to government and relief organizations
- How to keep it sustainable, running, and trusted?
- Community knows what to do if EWS gives warning
- Different stages of warning possible?

### **Essential components**

- **Risk knowledge:** risk assessment and analysis.
- **Monitoring of hazards and impact forecasting:** Know the state and characteristics of the given hazard. Use e.g., weather forecasting, meteorological data
- **Preparedness for response at all levels:** Getting ready and preparing for the occurrence of a hazard and the response to it
- **Triggers for action** as per an agreed plan: what input, information, or situation puts an agreed action plan into motion? What action are to be undertaken if trigger is pulled? Data from government, research station, radios, community upriver, river crucial water threshold, precipitation threshold, can be part of this trigger.
- **Warning Signal:** Communication of warning. How to ensure everyone is reached?
  - o Siren, volunteers dispersing the warning, radio etc.
  - o Build in redundancy: everyone hears the signal from at least two sources
- **Message:** simple, appropriate, precise: needs to be understood by everyone.

## **Essential components of a Community Contingency plan**

- **Leadership:** Provided by an existing committee or a new entity e.g., a disaster management committee. Either way should be made up of people chosen by community. Define relationship with other leadership structures to avoid tensions and conflict.
- **Volunteer teams:** It is helpful to have a group of people trained to help others in time of crises. E.g., spread warning messages, assist the sick and elderly, boat crew. Different teams for different functions?
- **Warning system:** Depending on the hazard. More on Warning systems below.
- **Evacuation centre:** Temporary safe residence. Safe structures and location.
  - o Camp, church, school, or other. Needs to be safe and well equipped.
  - o Whole community needs have access to it.
- **Evacuation plan:** Everybody knows the location and route to evacuation centre. The community should know evacuation signal and have essential items ready.
- **Drills and rehearsals:** Community practices an evacuation in safe conditions, so everyone knows what to do if a hazard approaches.
- **Care for the most vulnerable:** Give the sick, elderly, and other vulnerable group priority. Where do they live?
- **Communication system:** Effective communication system with government, to inform them of needs in the affected community. E.g., mobile phones (only works if networks are still functioning). Correct numbers ready, phone charged? Have backup options.
- **Linkages with government plans:** Relationship with relevant government bodies/officials that may have plans and resources available to help the community during a disaster. Community leaders/leader of contingency plan should establish this relationship.
- **Education and awareness:** Contingency plan only successful if whole community is aware of it and knows what to do in case of an emergency. Also applied to children, elderly, disabled, those working in remote areas.