RESILIENT COMMUNITIES

SELA SPECIAL SERIES | MINI-GUIDE

EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

TIMELY INFORMATION TO PROTECT LIVES AND COMMUNITIES

Practical recommendations to strengthen risk knowledge, anticipate hazards, communicate warnings, and promote timely actions that protect people and their communities.



LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN ECONOMIC SYSTEM

RISK KNOWLEDGE

MONITORING AND FORECASTING

WARNING COMMUNICATION

PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

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1

RISK KNOWLEDGE

IDENTIFY HAZARDS AND UNDERSTAND YOUR ENVIRONMENT

Understanding risks helps anticipate potential impacts, identify exposed people and communities, and guide actions to protect lives and livelihoods.

IDENTIFY HAZARDS.
Recognize the hazards that may affect your community, such as floods, earthquakes, droughts, or landslides.

KNOW YOUR TERRITORY.
Identify exposed areas, environmental conditions, and safe locations.

RECOGNIZE VULNERABILITIES.
Pay attention to people, homes, services, and infrastructure that require greater protection.

CONSULT RISK INFORMATION.
Use maps, studies, historical records, and official sources to understand hazards.

PARTICIPATE IN RISK IDENTIFICATION.
Share local knowledge and work together with authorities and community organizations.



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MONITORING AND FORECASTING

MONITOR, ANTICIPATE AND ASSESS POTENTIAL IMPACTS

Continuous monitoring and timely forecasting help detect hazards, assess their evolution, and support the issuance of early warnings.

MONITOR HAZARDS.
Use information from weather stations, radar, satellites, and observation networks to track natural hazards.

ANALYZE INFORMATION.
Interpret data to assess the intensity, trajectory, and potential impacts of hazards.

ANTICIPATE SCENARIOS.
Stay informed about forecasts and potential risk scenarios in your area, such as heavy rainfall, storms, or sea level rise.

TAKE TIMELY ACTION.
Stay alert to warnings and bulletins issued by official sources.

STRENGTHEN COORDINATION.
Share information with authorities, emergency response teams, and the community to support an early and effective response.



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WARNING COMMUNICATION

RECEIVE, SHARE AND UNDERSTAND WARNINGS

An early warning can only fulfill its purpose when it reaches people at risk in a timely manner, through clear, accessible, and reliable messages that enable them to make informed decisions.

USE OFFICIAL CHANNELS.

Consult warnings and updates issued by the relevant authorities and organizations.

UNDERSTAND THE MESSAGES.

Identify the hazard being reported, the areas that may be affected, and the recommended protective measures.

SHARE RELIABLE INFORMATION.

Share warnings through official channels and avoid spreading rumors or unverified information.

ENSURE NO ONE IS LEFT BEHIND.

Promote accessible messages tailored to the needs of children, older persons, and persons with disabilities.

TAKE ACTION WHEN WARNINGS ARE ISSUED.

Follow instructions from the authorities and share information with those who may need it.



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PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

BE PREPARED AND ACT IN TIME TO PROTECT LIVES

Preparedness helps turn warnings into timely action. Having plans, capacities, and coordination mechanisms in place helps reduce impacts and protect communities.

DEVELOP EMERGENCY PLANS.

Identify evacuation routes, assembly points, and procedures based on the hazards facing your community.

KNOW HOW TO RESPOND.

Identify the actions to take for each type of warning and follow official instructions.

PREPARE YOUR SUPPLIES.

Keep essential supplies, important documents, and communication devices readily available.

CONDUCT DRILLS.

Practice evacuation and response procedures with your family, community, and local institutions.

COORDINATE AND SUPPORT THE RESPONSE.

Work with authorities, emergency response teams, and community organizations to protect affected people.



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REGIONAL COOPERATION

TOGETHER TO ANTICIPATE AND PROTECT LIVES

Cooperation among countries, institutions, and communities strengthens early warning systems, improves emergency response, and enhances resilience across Latin America and the Caribbean.

COORDINATE EFFORTS.

Coordinate actions among countries, regional organizations, and local stakeholders.

SHARE INFORMATION.

Exchange data, warnings, and experiences to improve preparedness and anticipation.

STRENGTHEN CAPACITIES.

Promote training, technical assistance, and the use of appropriate technologies.

MOBILIZE RESOURCES.

Promote financing mechanisms and technical support for disaster risk reduction and recovery.

BUILD REGIONAL RESILIENCE.

Pool capacities to protect people, livelihoods, and sustainable development.



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More and Better Integration