

Road map for a National Early Warning System (NEWS) for Uganda

Area	Elapsed time (months)	Activities	Progress	Indicators	Stakeholders	
					National	Potential donors and international organisations
Mandate and policy	12	Establish memorandum of understanding for NEWS with all relevant actors	Memorandum of understanding drafted by NECOC	Memorandum of understanding signed by all relevant stakeholders	NECOC	UNDP
	12	Develop Standard Operating Procedures	Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) drafted	Standard Operating Procedures agreed with all key stakeholders	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP, DFID, FAO, World Bank
	12	Clarify decision making structures with all stakeholders providing warnings and information to NECOC	In parallel with the development of SOPs, clarify the decision making structures within relevant stakeholder organisations with respect to the warning information provided	A report on decision making structures completed and agreed	NECOC	UNDP
	12	Establish a clear vision for the District Disaster Management Committees (DDMCs) including integrating the Drought Early Warning System (DEWS) and the relationship with NECOC focusing on contingency planning	Vision for the DDMCs drafted by NECOC and DDMCs	DDMC vision established including integration of the DEWS and relationship with NECOC focusing on contingency planning	DDMCs, NECOC	UNDP, DFID, ACTED, FAO
	12	Establish how the NEWS will be linked to response mechanisms	Disaster response strategy linked to NEWS	Independent evaluation of responses following a major disaster	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP, World Bank
	16	Establish the economic benefits of the NEWS	Study commenced to assess benefits	Study completed and agreed with all relevant stakeholders	NECOC	UNDP, DFID
	24	Integrate and develop agreements with the private sector	Initiate regular meetings with the private sector where they are involved in early warning systems (e.g. AirTel 3-2-1 system)	Formal agreements between NECOC and the private sector agreed	NECOC, private sector organisations	UNDP

	36	Establish the warning chain between different ministries within government policy and legislation	Warning chain established by NECOC in partnership with key stakeholders	Warning chain between NECOC and other key ministries established in national policy and where necessary legislation	NECOC, all relevant ministries	DFID, UNDP, World Bank
	36	Capacity assessment of responsible actors at the national, district and sub-county level in charge of issuing warnings and delivering response	Capacity assessment conducted, gaps identified in terms of human and physical resources to NEWS	Capacity constraints addressed	NECOC, DDMCs	UNDP, DFID
	36	Integrate the NEWS into economic planning at a national level	Discussions with key budget holders undertaken	Budgets agreed with Ugandan treasury	NECOC, all relevant ministries, Ugandan treasury	UNDP
Data systems	12	Data from SMS-based Disaster Monitoring System analysed	Method established to analyse data	Analysis of data completed and reported on	NECOC	UNICEF, UNDP, DFID, World Bank
	12	Disaster Risk Financing system operational	Disaster Risk Financing system used regularly (i.e. at least once a week)	Result of the Disaster Risk Financing system disseminated to relevant stakeholders	NECOC	UNDP, World Bank
	24	Multi-hazard risk assessment completed where risk = probability of hazard occurring x consequence	Information on different hazards, exposure and vulnerability collected and produced. Risks based on economic damage, impact on livelihoods and loss of life established	Risk assessment completed	NECOC	UNDP
	24	Seasonal forecasting products (e.g. rainfall, temperature) included into the Disaster Risk Financing system	Build capacity within the Uganda National Meteorological Agency (UNMA) and NECOC so that seasonal forecasts of rain and temperature at a daily time step start to be used predict the probability that thresholds in the Disaster Risk Financing system will be exceeded	Forecasting products are in use and forecasts are disseminated to key stakeholders	NECOC, UNMA	World bank, UNDP, DFID
	24	Increase the spatial scale of the Disaster Risk Financing system so it operates across the whole of Uganda	Establish the feasibility of increasing the spatial coverage of the Disaster Risk Financing system and commence pilots in other regions of Uganda	Pilot testing of the Disaster Risk Financing system in other regions of Uganda completed	NECOC	World bank, UNDP
Communication	12	Monthly bulletin produced by NECOC summarising all the major hazards	Utilise readily available information available from relevant stakeholders to produce a two sided PDF news bulletin	Disseminate two page PDF bulletin to all relevant stakeholders and make it available via the NECOC web site	NECOC	UNDP
	12	NECOC web site updated at least monthly	Updates occur regularly	NECOC website traffic monitored to assess usage	NECOC	UNDP

	24	Establish agreements between different actors to ensure that the warnings are delivered in a coherent manner	Agreements drafted	Agreements completed and in place		
	24	Public awareness campaigns to improve awareness and the role of NECOC, as well as other actors in the case of a disaster	Awareness campaign commenced	Survey of stakeholders from communities to a national level carried out to assess the effectiveness of the campaign	NECOC	UNDP
	24	DEWS/District Disaster Management Committee (DDMC) monthly bulletin produced	Format and layout of DDMC monthly bulletin agreed with key stakeholders	Monthly bulletin agreed at district level in partnership with NECOC's agreement and Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) for the DDMC	DDMCs, NECOC	UNDP
	24	Establish the roles and responsibilities of all the organisations involved in the warning process for each hazard and how they interact with NECOC	In partnership with the relevant stakeholder establish the roles and responsibilities for the relevant hazard	Roles and responsibilities established for each major hazard (e.g. droughts, floods, livestock and crops diseases, human epidemics)	NECOC, all relevant ministries, DDMCs	UNDP
	24	Establish a coherent set of warning messages in conjunction with the relevant ministry for each major hazard (i.e. floods, droughts, health-related and agriculture-related)	Development of consistent warning messages and symbology commenced	Warning messages for each major hazard produced and agreed with a wide range of stakeholder groups including District Disaster Management Committees and communities	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP, World Bank, DFID, UNICEF
	36	Establish a warning message improvement cycle	Method via which warnings can be improved commenced	Warnings for different hazards improved with input from various levels of stakeholders	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP, World Bank, DFID, UNICEF
Coordination	12	Establish the roles and responsibilities of each organisation involved in the warning process for each major hazard and designate a coordinating body at the national, district and sub-county level	NECOC to work with key stakeholders to establish their responsibilities	Roles and responsibilities established for each organisation responsible for warnings	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP
	36	Develop low and no regret responses for a range of hazards and identify key actors in charge of delivering response (from the national to the sub-county level)	Study to develop low and no regret responses commenced and funding identified	Low and no regrets responses for different hazards initiated and funding secured for timely response	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP
	36	Simulation exercise of a major event led by NECOC and involving all key actors held	Design of simulation exercise undertaken by NECOC and agreed with key actors	Simulation exercise held annually	NECOC, all relevant ministries	UNDP, World Bank, DFID

Monitoring and evaluation	24	Evaluate whether or not the early warning systems already established are being operated effectively as per the prescribed frameworks and procedures and contributing to achievement of expected outcomes	Survey of stakeholders including those at district and national level within different ministries to establish if prescribed frameworks are being used	An agreed percentage of the stakeholders questioned (e.g. 70%) deem the frameworks and procedures are being followed	NECOC	UNDP
	24	Evaluate whether or not early warning messages were disseminated among the agencies and communities concerned in time by early warning systems with the result that these agencies and communities benefit from the messages	Survey of stakeholders including those at community, district and national level to establish if prescribed frameworks are being used	An agreed percentage of the stakeholders questioned (e.g. 70%) deem the warnings to be understandable and effective	NECOC	UNDP

national, district and sub-county level in charge of issuing warnings and delivering response	[Green shaded area]																											
Integrate the NEWS into economic planning at a national level	[Green shaded area]																											
Data systems Data from SMS-based Disaster Monitoring System analysed Disaster Risk Financing system operational Multi-hazard risk assessment Seasonal forecasting products included in the Disaster Risk Financing system Increase the spatial scale of the Disaster Risk Financing system so it operates across the whole of Uganda	[Blue shaded areas representing data system activities across 28 columns]																											
Communication Monthly bulletin produced by NECOC summarising all the major hazards NECOC web site updated at least monthly	[Olive shaded areas representing communication activities across 28 columns]																											

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