

ITU-D Study Groups Question 5/2 Session on Conducting National Level Emergency Communications Drills and Exercises: Guidelines for Small Island Developing States (SIDs) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

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(Room K, ITU)

Vanuatu's Experiences in Exercises and Drills

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Content of Presentation

- Introduction
- Our Experience of Exercises and Drills
- Disaster Key Messages
 - Cyclone
 - Earthquake
 - Flooding
 - Landslides
 - Tsunami
 - Volcano

Vanuatu - world's most 'at-risk' country for natural hazards



VOLCANO



CYCLONE



EARTHQUAKE



TSUNAMI



FLOODS



LANDSLIDE



Exercises and Drills

- Tabletop Exercise – NETC Members
- Pango Community Tsunami Drill
- Siren Drill – November
- Disability advocacy for Cyclone Session
- Community Based Drill - 2015



Disaster Key Messages -



- National Alerts
 - Blue within potential 24 hours
 - Yellow within 12 hours
 - Red cyclone is imminent
- Listen to National Radio and follow the path of the cyclone on the cyclone tracking map
- Have Emergency Kit ready – torch, batteries, battery radio, water, matches, firewood, food, blankets, charged mobile phone, medical supplies and prescriptions, kitchen utensils, water container, warm clothing, plastic bag to store important documents and cyclone tracking map

Disaster Key Messages -



- STOP, DROP, HOLD & COVER
- Not all earthquakes cause tsunami but strong earthquake or a long one you should move to higher ground



Disaster Key Messages -



- Know the history of the area before building house and gardens
- Build steal or floor house in low lying areas
- Look into drainage system in the design phase of your house or garden
- Look into water catchment systems in your design phase
- Always survey sites and make proper judgement to build your house on higher ground
- Avoid crossing rivers when are higher than normal
- Ensure no children is close to areas exposed to flood waters



Disaster Key Messages -



- Know the history of the area before building house and gardens
- Don't cut down too much trees in sloppy areas or hill
- Plant some trees in landslide prone areas
- Don't build houses at the bottom of the hill or cliff
- Identify safe place and ensure clearance of area to identified safe place if you are living in a landslide prone area



Disaster Key Messages -



- Tsunami is a series of waves and the 1st one may not be the biggest
- Natural signs that might bring a tsunami:
 - Strong earthquake
 - Long earthquake (> 60 seconds)
 - Loud noise coming from the ocean
 - Draw back of the ocean
- Wave may come within minutes – don't wait for official warning
- Immediate move to identified higher ground – Remember to take emergency kits



Disaster Key Messages -



- Monitor changes to the volcano and the environment:
 - Increased smell
 - Ash fall or increase ash fall
 - Acid rain or increased acid rain
- Store water and food in closed or shelters containers and must be wash before cooking
- Beware that mudslides can occur during heavy rain
- Know your volcano hazard maps and danger zones
- Know where to get volcano bulletins and alert levels



Tools used for Exercises & Drills

- Partnership between NDMO, VMGD and Vanuatu Humanitarian Team
- Awareness Raising through Panel Discussions in Community Halls
- Targeted Group Tabletop Exercises - NETC
- Community Engagement

Challenges conducting Exercises & Drills

- Language
- Logistics to organise Drills and Exercises
- Availability of Technologies
- Remoteness of communities – islands separated by ocean

Thank you.