Early Warning Early Action: The Four Pillars of Wisdom - Presentation

Submitted by: United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Early Warning Early Action:
The Four Pillars of Wisdom

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EW/EA: The four pillars of wisdom

1. Systematic collection of data & disaster risk assessment

2. Detection, monitoring, analysis & forecasting of hazards & their possible consequences

3. Timely dissemination & communication of understandable, accurate and actionable warnings from a trusted source

4. Preparedness to respond appropriately
Pillar 1: Data & risk assessment

**Question:** How was the 2017-8 dzud in Mongolia predicted enabling prompt action to vulnerable herders?
A scientific collaboration produced a dzud risk map based on ground & satellite observations & weather forecasting over past three winters. This was used by the government and its partners to trigger cash and fodder distribution and veterinary support.
Pillar 2: Detection, monitoring & forecasting

**Question:** Why did Cyclone Paradip kill 10,000 people or more when it struck the coast of Odisha, India, in 1999, while 14 years later a storm of similar magnitude – Cyclone Phailin – killed ‘only’ 36 people on the same stretch of coast?
Because Odisha has made ‘zero casualties’ a political priority and has reinforced this policy goal through better use of risk information which itself informs better preparedness.

‘I thank the meteorological department for its accurate prediction of the storm that played a major role in our preparedness.’ - Chief Minister Naveen Patnaik
Question: In November 2013 Typhoon Haiyan devastated the tiny island of Tulang Diyot, in the Philippines. How come nobody died?
Pillar 3: Good info that’s useful, used & trusted

Answer: Because the community trusted this man who for years had worked to ensure that the residents of the municipality of San Francisco:

1. Received good disaster risk information on time
2. Understood such information and knew how to appropriately prepare & respond
Question: Why do elderly people living in one of the poorest and most hazard-prone districts of Manila sleep more soundly at night these days?
Pillar 4: Preparedness to respond

Answer: Because this man and his team have extensively mapped the local hazards and took consequent action based on that information. All houses in Rizal which are home to infirm elderly people are badged with a colour-coded sign outside signifying a resident who is in need of help in the event of evacuation.

Rizal council member Arnel Alvarez
Thank you

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