



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction
Secretariat, Geneva

Global Platform for
Disaster Risk Reduction (GP/DRR)
Side Event Report

Side event title:	Multi-Agency Early Warning and Contingency Planning
Organiser(s):	IASC Sub Working Group
Speakers and presenters (name, title, organisation):	Ms. Amy Horton, Deputy Chief, ODAP, WFP Mr. Everett Ressler, Co-Chair of IASC-SWG/ Chief, Early Warning and Preparedness, UNICEF Mr. Jakob Wernerman, Analyst, Early Warning, WFP
Outline of content:	<p>Objectives of the session were two-fold: a) to share lessons learnt and create discussion on contingency planning and early warning; and b) to increase awareness of HEWSweb, what it has to offer and the next phase of its development. Specific content included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More attention in planning is required for different levels of crisis response; better readiness for larger emergencies; and more even levels of preparedness at all levels. • Early Warning is best conceived as a “call to action,” not just a forecast; specialised EW systems remain essential but should be brought together in a multi-risk platform; EW needs to focus on the impacts of risk on people rather than on the natural hazard itself. • Central to effective early action is: broad participation in planning, effective decision-making, agreed “levels of readiness” and coordination of multiple responders. • HEWSweb constitutes a useful tool, a “one-stop shop” for humanitarian information & forecasts.
Recommendations for the ISDR system (list 2 or 3 items):	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More attention needs to be given to what makes early warnings more effective in generating action, e.g., decision-making, coordination, etc. • In general, EW systems need to integrate on-the-ground, bottom-up information with scientific expertise and top-down data. • ISDR should work with other partners including the IASC and the International Early Warning Platform (IEWP) to develop a matrix on responsibility for EW at all levels, from global to community.
Additional Info and links:	www.hewsweb.org
Contact persons:	Mr. Everett Ressler, Co-Chair of IASC-SWG/ Chief, EWP, UNICEF Ms. Amy Horton, Deputy Chief, ODAP, WFP
Address:	UNICEF, 5-7 Avenue de la Paix, CH-1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland WFP, Via Cesare Giulio Viola, 68/70 – Parco de’ Medici, 00148 Roma, Italy
E-mail:	eressler@unicef.org amy.horton@wfp.org
Telephone:	+41 22 909 5610 +39 06 6513 3637

Please return this form to: ponserre@un.org and landelle@un.org