

## Session Outcome Document

# EW4 All Initiative, where cooperation is the key of success

ABU and Eurovisioni

Wednesday 29 May 2024

<https://www.itu.int/net4/wsis/forum/2024/Agenda/Session/343>

### Key Issues discussed (5- 8 bullet points)

- EW4ALL initiative launched by UN in 2022 aims to provide all UN members countries of multi-hazards Early Warning systems by 2027. The implementation has been given to UNDRR, to WMO, to ITU and to IFRC.
- Data are the key to the success of any Early Warning policy.
  - Data about the exposure : where are located people and critical infrastructure
  - Data about vulnerability: poverty level, availability of electricity and of connectivity, degree of environmental risks (risk of landslide or of floods), etc.
  - These data have not only to be Big Data (at the regional, national level...) but also at the local level.
  - Today such kind of data needed for EWS are not always available or are not for free or are not standardized. This make the whole effort of EW4ALL complicate.  
*(Fanny Langella, Head content and channels at UNDRR)*
- Broadcasting unions started to focus on Early warning systems and on Disaster Risk reduction just after the Great Tsunami of 2004. They realized quite soon that the main problem was not only the timely and accurate availability of data for producing early warning. It is also needed to deliver timely ,reliable and usable alerts to the population that is going to be affected by an hazard (provoked by climate change or by other reason, it doesn't really matter). So coordination among the various actors and communication emerged quite soon as the real issue to be solved. *(Ahmed Nadeem, ABU's Secretary General)*

- Effective early warning services need to be co-designed with the communities and have feedback mechanisms to help ensure messages reach people through preferred and trusted communication channels, in actionable formats. The main channel to do so has been identified in mobile phones and cell broadcasting, because 4 people out of 5 in the world own today a mobile phone (*Amélie Grangeat, Disaster Preparedness Specialist at ITU*)
- The key point –once an alert is issued and bring to the attention of the concerned citizens– is to know exactly what has to be done and by who. All has to be set up in advance, solutions have to be identified beforehand and then the management of the crises will consist in adapting the available answers to the specific needs case by case. And this is the role of the Red Cross in the play. (*Nathan Cooper, Manager of Global Disasters preparedness at IFRC*)
- But there is another 20% of world population that cannot be reached by the mobile phones and that can be reached only through broadcasting (radio mainly). This is why it's important that also this traditionally neglected media like the radio will be fully included in the EW4ALL strategy, especially in Less developed countries. A just published study of EBU about “Radio in times of crisis”, shows this evidence, based on a series of recent cases all across Europe, North Africa and Middle East. (*Walid Sami, senior project manager at EBU*)

**Towards WSIS+20 and WSIS beyond 2025, please share your views on the emerging trends, challenges, achievements, and opportunities in the implementation of the WSIS Action Lines to date (5-8 bullets)**

- The recognition of Disaster Risk Reduction and of Climate change impact as two areas crucial for the WSIS is an important achievement. But in order to make this really an achievement, DTT and efforts of mitigation and adaptation to Climate change, need to be promoted to a separate action line of the WSIS +20. The next 30 years will see an increase of the number and of the magnitude of disasters. That's why WSIS will have to recognize the reflection and cooperation on these topic as one of its priorities.

**Tangible outcomes (such as key achievements, announcements, launches, agreements, commitments, figures, and success stories (3-5 bullet points))**

- More about cell broadcasting technology and perspectives in this study:  
<https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Emergency-Telecommunications/Pages/Publications/EW4All.aspx>

- EW4ALL UN website: <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/early-warnings-for-all>
- World premiere presentation of the study “Radio in times of crisis” published by the EBU, here available (the report is public, but you need first to register):  
[https://www.ebu.ch/files/live/sites/ebu/files/Publications/MIS/login\\_only/market\\_in\\_sights/EBU-MIS-Radio\\_in\\_times\\_of\\_Crisis.pdf](https://www.ebu.ch/files/live/sites/ebu/files/Publications/MIS/login_only/market_in_sights/EBU-MIS-Radio_in_times_of_Crisis.pdf). The research present a series of case studies of disasters occurred in the last years in the Euro Mediterranean region.

#### **Actionable plan and key recommendations (2-5 points)**

- IFRC: all concerned partners need to be patient: to establish a proper cooperation needs time
- ABU: work together within all concerned parties is the key, and broadcasting actors are ready to play their role
- ITU: knowledge sharing among all partners, at all level (global, regional, national and local) and across all boundaries (civil protection authorities, red cross, telecom operators, media, etc.)
- UNDRR: trust is the essential word. You need to provide trusted Early warnings. You need to provide it through reliable and trusted communication tools. You need to be trusted on the field in order to convince people to follow the instructions provided.

#### **Suggestions for thematic aspects that might be included in the WSIS Forum 2025 (one paragraph)**

- Structure a dedicate section on what technology could make for DRR and Climate change within the next WSIS would be not only a laudable thing, but also will represent a first concrete action following the resolutions that will be taken at the next Summit of the Future in New York.

#### **ADDITIONAL MATERIAL AVAILABLE:**

- ITU PRESENTATION
- IFRC PRESENTATION