

Group Presentations

Send Warning Notification to Countries at Risk

Weaknesses/Gaps

1. No MOUs/SOPs or established protocol between countries upstream and downstream.
2. Lack of monitoring stations to enable the notifying process to be effective.
3. Poor means of communication between countries.

Warning to Communities

1. Inadequate facilities - Inadequate facilities especially to reach rural and vulnerable communities where complex terrain often hampers easy access to these communities.
2. Indigenous Language - In most cases forecasts and warnings are disseminated in a foreign (English) language which is not understood by the public especially for countries with many dialects (e.g Namibia has 11 languages). The recommendation is to transmit forecasts and warnings in indigenous language for effective response.
3. Interpretation and packaging of warnings - In most cases the forecasts and warnings are disseminated in a meteorological language which makes it difficult for communities to assimilate. Warnings and forecasts need to be interpreted and packaged in a more understandable language to users.
4. Unreliable communication mechanisms - In most cases communication mechanisms are unreliable and therefore hampers adequate response

Strengths

1. Mechanisms are in place to communicate forecasts and warnings for most NMHSs.
2. Internet is available and reliable in most NMHSs
3. Other NMHSs (e.g Lesotho) have through the help of DMAs established some reliable mode of dissemination to a certain extend through e.g. District Disaster Management Teams (DDMTs) at national level and then

Village Disaster Management Teams (VDMTs) at local level to ensure that rural communities do get warnings ahead of time.

4. Crop assessment Missions at the end of the cropping season do assist in getting information across most communities.