Lesotho Presentation

SWFDP & SARFFG SYSTEM LINKAGE

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1. Status

- Operating 13 hours (05:00-15:00)
- There are 11 AWSs and 93 stations of which 13 of them are major stations
- Access model products from RSMC Pretoria
- Warnings send to Disaster Management Authority who have structures at District level (DDMTs) and village level (VDMTs) then Media and the Public mainly through internet and via a phone. Also issue press releases of severe wx disseminated to the media and the Public.
- Phoning in programmes hosted by some radio stations do help where a forecaster and a Disaster Management Authority (DMA) personnel will be hosted and interviewed live and people get to phone and ask questions prior to occurrence of severe wx.
- Recently acquired with assistance from WFP tablets which are yet to be distributed to the 13 major stations to assist in doing crop monitoring for improving Early Warning for Food Security and again for disseminating climate and weather information near real time.

2. Future realistic state

- Currently there is no convincing link and good cooperation, no formal communication or even an MoU between the Lesotho Meteorological Services (LMS) and Department of Water Affaris (DWA) therefore the first major step is to foster, formalize and strengthen the working relationship between the two services and also DMA.
- Draft and sign an MoU between the 3 services

- The intention is to produce joint user oriented quality and impact based warnings for most vulnerable people/communities.
- Good communication and dissemination mechanisms at all levels of the warning process. It seems to be a major challenge.
- Have adequate and capacitated staff.

3. Gaps (weak or broken links in an E2E EWS)

- Unable to monitor extreme weather events due to short working hours.
- Weak working relations with hydrological services (Department of Water Affairs)
- Low HR (very understaffed) and financial resources
- Observational network not quite dense enough given the rugged terrain
- Communicating warnings to the most vulnerable communities still a challenge due to terrain as in some remote locations there is hardly any radio signals.
- Not all relevant stakeholders involved therefore there is always a gap for example in construction of new business arenas and shopping complexes.
- Lack of adequate and capacitated staff

4. Major Steps (to fill the gaps)

- To see LMS-DWA working jointly and producing user oriented and impact based warnings of flash floods which will improve the quality of lives of the nation and increase prosperity.
- Increase Meteorological stations network.
- Run COSMO at much higher resolution.
- Increasing staff.
- Working more hours for continuous monitoring of severe wx.
- Improving communication and dissemination mechanisms.
- Improve nowcasting

5. Financial Resources and Costs requirements

- To work towards ISO certification which will position the service to be able to sell some of the climate and weather information to generate own revenue and not depend on Government budget
- To complete a National Early Warning System (NEWS) in collaboration with the DMA
- To engage in public awareness campaigns country wide before harsh (winter) and planting (summer) seasons commence.
- To recruit and capacitate more professional staff for efficient Met service.