

Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS) Facilitator Training 2026

Concept Note



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LEAD BY

CaDRiM

PURPOSE

Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS) is a practical system that empowers communities to take ownership of their own safety. It involves community members tracking, analysing, and sharing information about local risk to make timely, actionable alerts. These alerts allow residents to take decisive steps to reduce loss and damage from hazards.

This in-person facilitator training set to take place in Barbados, aims to provide a practical understanding of key competencies in Community-Based Early Warning Systems, enabling participants to apply their knowledge in practice.

TRAINING DATES & LOCATION

The training will be in **English** and will be delivered over the course of 5 days in Barbados. The schedule is as follows:

Session type	Day	Time (UTC-4)
Security Briefing Session	7 th - 11 th September 2026	11:00 AM- 12:00 PM
In- person Sessions	14 th - 18 th September 2026	9:00 AM- 5:30 PM

LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of this facilitator training, participants will be able to:

- **Have a clear understanding** of the concepts, terminology, and tools related to Community Early Warning Systems.
- **Propose plans to strengthen** Community Early Warning Systems within their National Societies.
- **Explore the practical application** of early warnings through case studies, exercises, and examples.
- **Develop Community Early Warning System Action Plans**, where participants understand their role in the joint design of the plan.
- **Identify barriers** that different community members, particularly women, men, marginalized, and vulnerable groups, face in accessing early warnings, and integrate these insights into warning design and dissemination strategies.
- **Map key stakeholders**, local decision-making structures, and community partners to build strong governance frameworks that keep the CEWS Action Plan updated, sustainable, and connected to local authorities.
- **Recognize the importance** of linking community EWS to the national early warning system and identify key actors in the broader system (e.g., hydrometeorological services)
- **Strengthen facilitation skills** to effectively train community members on Community Early Warning Systems and support local-level application.

LEARNING APPROACH

The Community Early Warning Systems (CEWS) Facilitator Training is a **5 day**, interactive course structured around the **four core pillars** of Early Warning Systems:

- 1) Risk Knowledge
- 2) Monitoring
- 3) Dissemination and Communication
- 4) Preparedness and Response

Rather than relying on traditional lectures, the training uses short presentations, group discussions, and hands-on exercises. Technical topics such as Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) tools, indicator monitoring, and inclusive communication are integrated into the training. Throughout the week, participants will work individually and in teams to step-by-step build a Community EWS Action Plan. This process culminates on the final day, where participants present their draft plan.

KEY TOPICS TO BE COVERED

- **Foundations of Early Warning Systems:** This introductory session introduces the core EWS concepts, terms, and guiding principles, using discussion and interactive simulations to establish foundational understanding.
- **Pillar 1: Risk Knowledge & Community Assessment:** This session focuses on identifying multi-hazard risks and mapping vulnerabilities across timescales, leveraging past EVCA findings and applying a gender and inclusion lens.
- **Pillar 2: Monitoring and Warning Services:** Pillar 2 covers hazard tracking principles, sources of forecast data, and the creation of short, medium, and long-term indicators and triggers for early action.
- **Pillar 3: Dissemination and Communication of Warnings:** Pillar 3 explores protocols for drafting clear, actionable warning messages, leveraging PAPE (Public Awareness and Public Education) guidelines, and identifying trusted, multi-channel communication methods to reach at-risk groups.
- **Pillar 4: Preparedness and Response Capabilities:** Pillar 4 examines community-led response capacities, resource mapping, and gap analyses to determine exact logistical and operational needs prior to hazard impacts.

- **Governance, Partnership, and Sustainability:** This session guides participants in mapping key institutional stakeholders (e.g., Met Offices, Disaster Management Agencies), defining local governance structures, and building advocacy plans.
- **Practical Application & Plan Consolidation:** This final session combines information, consolidating all modules into a comprehensive Community EWS Action Plan, alongside venue planning, administrative arrangements, and methodology practice.

COSTS

For this training, IFRC will cover all expenses including air travel, ground transportation to and from the hotel, travel insurance, hotel accommodation and per diem.

PARTICIPANT CRITERIA

Each participant should meet the following criteria:

- Experience implementing community-based disaster risk reduction or climate projects.
- Experience facilitating group discussions and using participatory methods with diverse community groups.
- A basic understanding of Early Warning Systems and community assessment tools.
- Strong teamwork skills, adaptability, and a positive attitude.
- Must commit to leading a Community Early Warning System process in their home country after the training.
- Must have support from their National Society leadership to rollout community activities.
- Must be fluent in written and spoken English and fully available for all 5 training days.

COMMITMENT

To successfully pass the course and receive official certification, participants must attend the complete training session (**100% attendance**) and final evaluations to receive their certificate.

Final evaluations are determined by consensus among the facilitation team based on the following breakdown:

- Active participation throughout the training: **30%**
- Individual work and performance: **20%**
- Teamwork and collaboration: **50%**

PARTICIPANT SELECTION

Interested candidates must register using this link: [Community Early Warning System \(CEWS\) Training - Registration Form – Fill out form](#)

PREREQUISITE COURSES

Before attending the CEWS Facilitator Training, participants must complete the below online courses and submit via email to kearell.neils@ifrc.org.

The courses are as follows:

1. [**Stay Safe: Level 1 – Fundamentals**](#)
2. [**Stay Safe: Level 2 – Personal and Volunteer Security in Emergencies**](#)
3. [**Code of Conduct**](#)

NOTE

This training initiative is funded under the UNDRR CREWS 2.0 initiative and supported by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) through the Caribbean Disaster Risk Management (CaDRiM) Reference Centre. The CaDRiM Learning and Training Team will lead the Technical Advisory Group (TAG) sessions, working collaboratively with all members to ensure the effective preparation, delivery, and long-term sustainability of the community early warning system frameworks across the region.