

RAPID RISK REDUCTION COMMUNICATIONS IN CAMPS

A HANDBOOK FOR BASIC HURRICANE SEASON SENSITIZATION IN IDP SITES

THIS IS VERSION 0 (THE FIELD TEST VERSION) OF
THIS DOCUMENT.

Produced by IOM, the Haitian Red Cross, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, American Red Cross, UNOPS and the *Direction de la Protection Civile* of the Government of Haiti.

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INTRODUCTION AND CONTEXT

Tropical cyclones are a fact of life in the Caribbean Basin. Every year between June and November, each state in the region prepares itself for the possibility of flooding, storm surge, landslides and high winds, each of which have the potential to cause serious property damage and loss of life. In preparing for tropical cyclones, each state must take account of its particular vulnerabilities.

In normal years, Haiti's geography, environment and economic conditions made it among the most vulnerable states in the region to the effects of tropical cyclones. However, the devastating earthquake of 12 January 2010 exacerbated even further those vulnerabilities and at the same time presented several new ones. Among them, the internal displacement situation in the country is by far the most serious and potentially catastrophic. As of 1 June 2010, there remain over 1.2 million internally displaced persons (IDP) living in tents, tarpaulin structures or transitional shelters, spread across more than 1,300 camps in 13 communes.

This set of challenges is unprecedented in the region, and will test the resilience of the international community, national and local governments and the IDPs themselves. For this reason, it is incumbent upon international and national actors to maximize, to the greatest extent possible, the ability of the affected population to reduce and prepare themselves for these risks. Among the many challenges faced by IDPs during this hurricane season are:

1. Before the 12 January earthquake, many Haitians would have been able to endure a storm in their houses; now, however, over one million people have lost that refuge and now live in far weaker temporary or makeshift structures, which offer substantially less protection from severe weather.
2. Even minor storms or flooding can have severe effects on the lives of those living in camps.
3. Temporary and makeshift shelters can become hazards in and of themselves, as high winds could cause injury to camp residents and damage to surrounding shelters.
4. Camps are very densely populated, making orderly movement away from hazards difficult and exacerbating the effects of flooding, fires, diseases and other hazards.
5. Camp residents are living in new sites, where they are less likely to be familiar with the physical risks.
6. Camp residents are living in new communities, with new social networks and relations. Also, some IDPs are living very far from their former homes and established social networks.
7. Almost all camp residents have had their assets damaged in some way by the earthquake, and therefore have fewer assets to use in preparation for or in recovery from a hurricane.
8. Considering the material loss caused by the 12 January earthquake, many IDPs may be more reluctant than normal to leave their current shelters for fear of losing what little they have left.
9. Many camps are situated in high-risk areas, such as areas prone to landslides and flooding.
10. The 12 January earthquake caused extensive damage to physical infrastructure and buildings in Port-au-Prince, Leogane and other affected areas, including buildings which may have been used as evacuation shelters in case of tropical cyclone. There is a very large gap in the amount of available shelter space and the number of people who may require it.

Exacerbating the risks further still are the meteorological predictions for the 2010 hurricane season. According to a variety of sources, the 2010 season is predicted to be a particularly intense season, as the convergence of factors including the higher-than-normal temperature of the Atlantic and the development of La Niña conditions. As a result, the United States National Hurricane Center has predicted:

14-23 NAMED TROPICAL STORMS, 8-14 HURRICANES, 3-7 MAJOR HURRICANES (THOSE WITH AN INTENSITY HIGHER THAN 3 ON THE SAFFIR-SIMPSON SCALE)

GENERAL CONTEXT – HOW TO USE THIS GUIDE:

This guide was created as a support to organizations serious about engaging—honestly and practically—with residents of camps about the relative risks during hurricane season and what steps can be taken to reduce those risks.

This guide is a result of the work of IOM's Communications Department, which has assembled in one document the most crucial, context-specific disaster risk reduction messages. The messages were compiled in close consultation with the leading authorities in the field in Haiti, including the Government of Haiti's *Direction de la Protection Civile* and multiple components of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement who provided core content and training. Each thematic section contains five of the most practical messages for camp residents. The messages are designed for some of the most vulnerable populations (those living in camps with little or no state, international or nongovernmental support), but is nevertheless useful for all camp residents.

The guide is structured as follows: first, it is divided temporally in terms of the time remaining until the expected arrival of a serious meteorological event. The temporal sections are divided as follows: **PREVENTION, ORANGE ALERT, RED ALERT, DURING AN EVENT, AND AFTER AN EVENT.**

Each temporal section is then sub-divided into the following technical subject areas: **RISK MAPPING, FAMILY SAFETY, SHELTER MANAGEMENT, EARLY WARNING AND ALERTS, HEALTH AND SANITATION.**

In the first half you will find the **MESSAGES**, which are designed to give an overview for those overseeing the sensitization exercises of the five most important messages per subject during each period of time. Each technical area has no more than five messages that include strategies and advice that camp residents can carry out themselves with little to no external resources. In doing so, IOM hopes not just to facilitate the efficient spread of information, but the spread of *consistent* information.

In the second half you will find **METHODOLOGIES**, which are designed as a more practical guide for those implementing the sensitization exercises, divided by subject. For each subject you will see a set of recommended methodologies and activities; these are suggestions for getting started.

The handbook is designed as a guide for conducting half-day train-the-trainer sessions on how to sensitize camp populations on these key messages. It is not designed to be a comprehensive training on disaster risk reduction; it is meant to go hand in hand with mitigation activities, camp-level contingency planning, and more comprehensive training into the specific subjects this handbook touches upon (i.e. emergency first aid, shelter reinforcement, etc).

This guide is the “core module” in a broader initiative to help collect, define, and refine hurricane season information for IDPs: IOM will continue to work with our partners to develop supplementary modules on communicating to vulnerable groups (children, elderly and disabled) and on other technical subjects.

RECOMMENDED IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY:

For Camp Management Agencies, or agencies with strong teams of camp residents serving as staff or volunteers:

1. Select a team of 12-18 to be divided among the following technical responsibilities on the ground:
 - i. Risk mapping, risk identification, and contingency planning
 - ii. Household and family safety
 - iii. Shelter management
 - iv. Early warning, alerts, and information management
 - v. First aid, health, and hygiene promotion team
 - vi. Camp committee liaisons
2. Appoint 2-3 staff/volunteers to each team, nominate 1 camp disaster preparedness coordinator/team leader
3. Send an e-mail to scarlson@iom.int to request a training session on the DRR modules
4. Divide the camp into sections to ensure you have complete coverage and create a schedule for sensitization activities
5. Deploy your teams to implement their respective modules with the recommended methodology, and continue to debrief with your team to alter and tailor the modules to fit your camp
6. Please continue to report in progress, activities, and suggestions to scarlson@iom.int
7. If you are interested in further in-depth training on one of the modules, we will try to identify a partner to conduct further trainings

For agencies going directly into camps or deploying community mobilizers:

1. Request a trained team from IOM/UNOPS or a training for your community mobilizers by emailing scarlson@iom.int
2. When mobilizers arrive at a camp, sit down with the camp committee and explain context
3. Work with the camp committee to identify 12-18 volunteers (*who represent different sections of the camp*) who will be divided among the following technical responsibilities on the ground:
 - i. Risk mapping, risk identification, and contingency planning
 - ii. Household and family safety
 - iii. Shelter management
 - iv. Early warning, alerts, and information management
 - v. First aid, health, and hygiene promotion team
 - vi. Camp committee liaisons
8. Appoint 2-3 volunteers to each team, nominate 1 camp disaster preparedness coordinator/team leader
4. Have trained mobilizers train their corresponding camp volunteer (i.e. mobilizers specializing in shelter management trains the 2-3 shelter management volunteers)
5. Work with the camp committee to create a schedule for sensitization activities to ensure the whole of the camp is reached
6. Establish a mechanism wherein camp committee or volunteers can request further training in a technical subject

MESSAGES

PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS, AND MITIGATION

Context: these are messages and actions that can be taken at any time to reduce the general risk that the displaced population faces throughout the whole hurricane season, what can be called “0 regret” messages. These are actions that, if taken, will help reduce vulnerability for a range of potential weather events throughout the season.

RISK IDENTIFICATION, RISK MAPPING, AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

Context: most of the 1.5 million people living in camps will not have access to an evacuation shelter, and most camps do not currently have official evacuation routes. It is vital that we give people living in camps and the camp committees the tools necessary to carry out contingency planning of their own.

- 1 “Ask your camp committee, camp management agency, and other local authorities if there is a contingency plan for your camp”
- 2 “Take the time to walk around your camp and identify places that could be safe and places that could be dangerous if a hurricane arrives”
- 3 “Identify a safe place away from danger, a safe route to get there, and a safe place to reunite with your family if you get separated – then share this plan with your family”

EARLY WARNING, ALERTS, AND INFORMATION

Context: the DPC is responsible for issuing any and all emergency alerts based on meteorological predictions from the Centre Nationale de Meteorology (CNM). However, those alerts must be translated into actions that camp residents understand and must be diffused as many ways as possible to ensure complete coverage.

- 1 “Know the official alert stages from the DPC: a red alert means we are in immediate danger and should begin to evacuate, orange alert means there is a high risk of danger and we should prepare for evacuation, and yellow alert means there is a moderate risk of danger and we should be paying close attention in case the situation worsens”
- 2 “Always stay alert to official announcements on local and national radio channels and from community leaders”
- 3 “Take time to make a family plan about what you will do at each stage of alerts, and talk about it together”
- 4 “Take particular care to ensure that the elderly, children, and disabled people in your family and community are also informed as they might not have access to these channels of communication, and ensure that your plan considers their special needs”
- 5 “Be aware that you may receive alerts by SMS about hurricanes from the DPC and IOM”

SHELTER MANAGEMENT

Context: mitigation works are ongoing in many camps, but major mitigation works require substantial commitment from organizations with the resources and expertise to carry them out. However there are actions that households can take with little to no resources that can help reduce the risk they face.

- 1 “Reinforce ropes, secure loose tarpaulins, and seal gaps or areas exposed to wind and rain”
- 2 “Fill sacs with dirt and sand. If you place them around the outside perimeter of your shelter, it can direct water away from your shelter. If you place them along in the inside perimeter of your shelter, it will help weigh it down to the wind will not blow it away so easily”
- 3 “Dig channels around your shelter to help direct water away from your shelter”
- 4 “Avoid placing heavy items in high places that may fall and hurt you, and secure down any objects that may become dangerous to your family and others”
- 5 “Keep exit routes clear and free of rubbish so you and your family can leave quickly if needed”

CAMP MITIGATION

Context: mitigation works are ongoing in many camps, but major mitigation works require substantial commitment from organizations with the resources and expertise to carry them out. However there are actions that can be taken at the camp level can take with little resources that can help reduce the risk they face.

- 1 “Try and keep the camp clean. Rubbish can block drainage channels and cause floods”
- 2 “Participate in the cleaning of rivers and drainage channels to reduce the probability of flooding”
- 3 “Support the development of proper drainage channels to reduce the probability of flooding”
- 4 “Support the planting of trees and good land use which can help prevent landslides”
- 5 “Work with your community to identify other potential dangers (unstable structures, low-hanging electricity lines) and develop strategies to mitigate the danger”

ORANGE ALERT

Context: when an orange alert is issued, families should begin to prepare to evacuate, even if they do not have a designated evacuation shelter or route. By evacuate, here what is most important is that families need to leave their camp shelters, because it is not safe to stay inside a tent, under a tarp or drape, or even inside most t-shelters during a hurricane or tropical storm. The following messages should be communicated to the population in the context of “if you hear an orange alert, this is what you should do” – DO NOT just read them as is, as it could cause a panic if camp residents think you are telling them to begin to pack up their bags.

FAMILY, HOUSEHOLD PREPARATION:

- 1 **Safeguard your important documents in waterproof covering (ID cards, land titles, vaccination cards for children, etc)**
- 2 **Prepare a small bag with a few essential personal items in case you need to move quickly, including food (particularly babyfood), potable water, medications, soap for handwashing, your documents.**
- 3 **A spare set of clean, dry clothes including long-sleeves can help provide some protection from mosquitos after the storm and keep children warm if they get wet**
- 4 **If you have radio and torches, bring them as they are essential, and ensure you have spare batteries.**
- 5 **Remember to charge your cell phone and try to have some credit available for emergency phone calls**

Note: note --- although the lack of distributions may cause frustration, it is worth pointing out that many of the items are in fact items that households may already have access to (food, water), or be able to share amongst neighbours (radios)

SHELTER MANAGEMENT

For tents, follow the following 3 steps:

- 1 **Remove guyropes**
- 2 **Drop the frame to the ground and fold your tent**
- 3 **Place 3-4 heavy stones upon the packed tent**

For t-shelters, follow the following 3 steps:

- 1 **Strengthen closed doors and windows by nailing 2 planks of wood in a crosshair on the side that the window or door opens on**
- 2 **Put hurricane straps in a cross along the roof**
- 3 **For plastic t-shelters, remove plastic wall-sheeting**

For all residents:

- 1 **Disconnect electricity and gas lines if you have access to them.**

EARLY WARNING, ALERTS, AND INFORMATION:

- 1 Continue to listen to the advice of the authorities and the radio
- 2 Inform your families, your neighbors, and vulnerable groups
- 3 Go over your contingency plan with your family
- 4 Check to see if an orange flag has been raised in your camp
- 5 If you receive an SMS from DPC or IOM, inform your neighbors who do not have cellphone or who are not literate

RED ALERT

Context: when a red alert is issued, families should evacuate, even if they do not have a designated evacuation shelter or route. By evacuate, here what is most important is that families need to leave their camp shelters, because it is not safe to stay inside a tent, under a tarp or drape, or even inside most t-shelters during a hurricane or tropical storm. The following messages should be communicated to the population in the context of “if you hear a red alert, this is what you should do” – DO NOT just read them as is, as it could cause a panic if camp residents think you are telling them to begin to pack up their bags.

OFFICIAL DPC RED ALERT MESSAGES:

- 1 Go to the house of a friend or family which is safe, or in a shelter which was prepared for evacuations
- 2 Don't forget: medications, babyfood, and your important papers
- 3 Help the most vulnerable, such as elderly, handicapped, children, and pregnant women
- 4 Continue to listen to the radio and advice of the authorities
- 5 Stay calm
- 6 Don't forget to tell each other: share this information with your neighbors and those close to you.

DURING THE HURRICANE

Context: many camp residents will be sheltering in place, but many will be able to find shelter by staying with family or friends, and some may even find an official hurricane shelter. No matter what type of shelter is being taken, most of the basic principles of safety apply. An item of note in this section is first aid, which is important because any injuries that happen during the evacuation or the beginning of the storm will have to be dealt with by neighbors and family members as there will be no movement of any actors while the storm is active.

FAMILY SAFETY

- 1 During a hurricane, it is safer to stay inside if you can and to try not to see what is going on while the storm is passing
- 2 Try to stay in a safe place away from items that may become unstable due to wind or rain
- 3 Disconnect power sources such as gas and electricity if you have access to these
- 4 Try not to use candles or lamps with open flames which can cause fires, a battery-operated torch is safer
- 5 Try not to make a lot of calls on your phone, this can block the telephone networks and you may need the power and credit for emergency calls

CHILD SAFETY:

- 1 Take special care to reassure children who may be frightened and not understand what is happening
- 2 Games, songs, and toys are particularly good for comforting children during this time

WATER AND SANITATION:

- 1 Try to have a receptacle handy for your family to use as a temporary toilet if needed, as while the hurricane is passing you should not go outside
- 2 Take extra care to ensure that this waste is disposed of carefully as it can carry germs that will make you and your family sick
- 3 Do not drink the floodwater as it has germs in it that will make you sick

RISK IDENTIFICATION, RISK MAPPING, AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING

- 1 Be aware of new dangers. Hurricanes usually bring heavy rains which can easily cause floods and landslides
- 2 If there is a flood that is slow to develop, secure your belongings and seek higher ground with your friends and family
- 3 If there is a sudden or flash flood, leave immediately and seek higher ground

4 If there is a landslide or mudslide, evacuate the area immediately and do not stop to collect any personal items

5 Rumbling noises may alert you to falling rocks or possible landslides

EARLY WARNING, ALERTS, AND INFORMATION:

1 Keep up to date with information from local radios and community leaders

2 Be aware you may also receive information from the DPC, IOM, or Red Cross via SMS

3 Listen out for any changes and instructions that may come as the situation changes

4 Be aware that radio signals and telephone lines may be down during the hurricane

5 The following are numbers for you to call during and after an emergency:

- ⇒ Police
- ⇒ Fire
- ⇒ MINUSTAH
- ⇒ Red Cross
- ⇒ NOULA

EMERGENCY FIRST AID/HEALTH AND HYGIENE :

1 If anyone stops breathing, lift their chin and tilt their head back to help them breathe - get help immediately

2 If someone has been cut, apply direct pressure with a clean cloth. If it becomes saturated, do not remove the first cloth. Put new dressings on top and continue to apply direct pressure. Elevate the wound above the heart which will slow the flow of blood. As the blood slows, it becomes easier to stop it with direct pressure.

3 If someone has a broken bone, brace it with 2 pieces of wood and try to keep them immobilized while you search for help

4 If someone is in shock, do not give them water. You can tell someone is in shock by:

- An extremely low blood pressure
- Fast but weak pulse
- ✓ Dizziness, faintness or light-headedness
- ✓ Feeling weak or nauseous
- ✓ Moist, clammy skin, sweating
- ✓ Rapid, shallow breathing
- ✓ Chest pain, blue lips and fingernails
- ✓ Confusion, anxiousness

5 Children and the elderly are at high risk of hypothermia and skin infections if they remain in flooded areas, make sure they stay dry and have shelter from the wind.

[see annex for more info]

IMMEDIATE DANGERS

- 1 If someone is being carried away by a flood, search for something like a rope or branch to reach out to them – do not enter the water to save them as you could put yourself at risk too

AFTER THE HURRICANE:

Context: After the hurricane passes, given what will likely be the state of the roads on top of existing damage and the sheer number of vulnerable sites, we have to assume that camp residents may be on their own for the first several days after an event. Therefore, we need to provide them with the information they need to make the best decisions possible in negotiating the post-hurricane environment.

EARLY WARNING, ALERTS, AND INFORMATION:

- 1 Keep informed by radio and listen out for important messages from your community leaders
- 2 Be aware you may receive SMS messages from the DPC, IOM, or the Red Cross
- 3 Do not venture outside unless you know it is safe to do so
- 4 Call into 177 to report your needs and locations
- 5 Call the following numbers if necessary:

RISK IDENTIFICATION, RISK MAPPING, AND INFORMATION:

- 1 Check carefully before you try to cross water. You may not be able to tell how fast-flowing or deep water is by looking at it
- 2 Be aware of fallen debris and sharp objects, as well as objects that may be invisible under water
- 3 Do not touch fallen power lines and cables and avoid stepping into pools of standing water to avoid electric shock
- 4 Take care with nearby shelters and structures that may have become unstable following the storm
- 5 Take special care when crossing bridges, as well as other structures that may be unstable following the storm. It might not be 'easy' to see these dangers so take extra care

FAMILY SAFETY:

- 1 Once you know that it is safe to go outside, avoid areas of obvious damage and be aware of new dangers

- 2 Take particular care to watch your children who may not easy be able to assess new dangers
- 3 If you have access to power sources such as gas or electricity, do not use them unless you have been advised that it is safe to do so
- 4 Try to dry all wet clothes and personal items as they may become moldy and rot
- 5 Check for damaged or missing personal items

HEALTH AND HYGIENE:

- 1 Flooding can spread many waterborne illnesses, and sewage lines that may have been broken during the storm can contaminate food and water
- 2 Flood water is dirty and carries germs that will make you sick. Only drink water that you know is safe.
- 3 Dispose of all human waste into camp latrines, taking special care to handle children's waste properly as they may have disease causing organisms
- 4 If you have access to it, washing your hands with soap and water will help reduce diseases, especially before preparing food, eating, and after using the toilet
- 5 Mosquitoes like to breed near stagnant water. Clean rubbish and cover water storage containers to prevent mosquitoes breeding in and around your shelter.

COMMUNITY RECOVERY:

- 1 Look out for neighbors and friends that maybe particularly vulnerable and unable to seek help, especially the elderly, disabled or children who may be alone.
- 2 Support the census of affected families and persons.
- 3 Collaborate in the clean up of your home and community.
- 4 Support improvements to reduce the risk of future emergencies.
- 5 Continue to be on alert for future tropical storms and hurricanes

METHODOLOGIES

RISK MAPPING, RISK IDENTIFICATION, AND CONTINGENCY PLANNING:

General strategy: first carry out these activities with the camp committee. After that, organize groups of about 10-20 heads of households and set aside at least 3 hours for this subject. Bring printed maps if OSM has already created them (check with IOM Communications Department first), pens/pencils, and sheets of paper (larger is preferable).

PREVENTION:

1 **“Ask your camp committee, camp management agency, and other local authorities if there is a contingency plan for your camp”**

IN PRACTICE:

First always ask if residents of the camp have been informed of any existing contingency plan, and if a plan is already in place, you can carry out the following risk mapping activities but do not go into evacuation planning.

2 **“Take the time to walk around your camp and identify places that could be safe and places that could be dangerous if a hurricane arrives”**

IN PRACTICE: PARTICIPATORY RISK MAPPING.

- ⇒ If the OpenStreetMap team has visited your camp, use the OSM map as a base, and if not, try to draw a simple map of the camp and surrounding community.
- ⇒ Print copies or bring extra paper and pens for the community members to copy the map/draw their own
- ⇒ Ask the participants to identify the following potential physical dangers in the camp:
 - ✓ **Places that typically flood after rains**
 - ✓ **Canals, rivers, ravines, streams, drains that could flood**
 - ✓ **Rocky hilly/mountainous areas that could be prone to landslides**
 - ✓ **Cliffs or ravines**
 - ✓ **Bridges that could be flooded or broken**
 - ✓ **Roads that could become blocked/inaccessible**
 - ✓ **Power lines that could break**
 - ✓ **Unstable buildings that could collapse**
 - ✓ **Congested areas that could become fire risks**
 - ✓ **Areas very exposed to wind**
 - ✓ **Areas with a lot of rubbish/ stagnant water**
- ⇒ Ask the participants to identify potential safe places in the camp and community:
 - ✓ **Good, wide roads that generally do not flood**
 - ✓ **Places in the camp that generally do not flood**
 - ✓ **Solid, stable buildings**
 - ✓ **Open spaces away from dangerous places (football fields, clearings, etc)**

- ✓ **Friendly community structures (churches, schools, government buildings)**
- ✓ **Houses of family and friends (these may be off the community map)**
- ⇒ Ask the participants to identify community resources
 - ✓ *Nearby health facilities*
 - ✓ *Water sources*
 - ✓ *Warehouses/storage facilities*
 - ✓ *Community structures/committee*
- ⇒ *Important note: map literacy is not something to be taken for granted. Some work may have to be done to help people understand how maps relate to the physical reality around them. If you are having problems with map literacy in your camp, contact the IOM Communications Department Mapping team (OSM).*

3 **“Identify a safe place away from danger, a safe route to get there, and a safe place to reunite with your family if you get separated – then share this plan with your family”**

IN PRACTICE: CONTINUE WITH PARTICIPATORY CONTINGENCY PLANNING:

- ⇒ Using the maps you have already developed, have participants draw an exit route from their current residence to a place they have identified as safe.
- ⇒ Also have the participants identify and mark down a safe place where they can reunite with their family if they get separated.
- ⇒ *Important note: not all IDPs will be able to identify “safe places” to go to.*

IN PRACTICE: RED ALERT PLANNING DRILLS

Practice Red Alert drills with camp residents, identifying camp members that may have difficulty with mobility and ensuring that provisions are made to ensure their safety

DURING:

- 1 **Be aware of new dangers. Hurricanes usually bring heavy rains which can easily cause floods and landslides**
- 2 **If there is a flood that is slow to develop, secure your belongings and seek higher ground with your friends and family**
- 3 **If there is a sudden or flash flood, leave immediately and seek higher ground**
- 4 **If there is a landslide or mudslide, evacuate the area immediately and do not stop to collect any personal items**
- 5 **Rumbling noises may alert you to falling rocks or possible landslides**

IN PRACTICE:

In small groups of 10-20, you may also want to have a discussion on, after people’s own experiences, what other hazards they have experienced or associated with severe weather.

Then go through these risks, and explain certain terms like the difference between a slow flood (water rising slowly in the area) and a flash flood (a fast moving and/or fast rising body of water)

Then quiz participants afterwards to see how well they remember the association between the risk and the action. "What do you do when you when there is an a) Slow flood? b) flash flood? c) landslide? d) when you hear rumbling?"

AFTER:

- 1 **Check carefully before you try to cross water. You may not be able to tell how fast-flowing or deep water is by looking at it**
- 2 **Be aware of fallen debris and sharp objects, as well as objects that may be invisible under water**
- 3 **Do not touch fallen power lines and cables and avoid stepping into pools of standing water to avoid electric shock**
- 4 **Take care with nearby shelters and structures that may have become unstable following the storm**
- 5 **Take special care when crossing bridges, as well as other structures that may be unstable following the storm. It might not be 'easy' to see these dangers to take extra care**

IN PRACTICE

In small groups of 10-20, try to brainstorm a list of the potential dangers that people could imagine being present after a hurricane in their camps.

Then go through the risks identified above and the recommended actions. You may want to create sample scenarios and present to people the option of what to do, such as:

"The hurricane is over but you see your neighbors across the way. You want to go visit them to ask how they are doing, but in front of you is running water. It doesn't look too deep and you really want to see your neighbors. What should you do?"

[Correct answer] "You should be careful before crossing water because you cannot see with your eyes how deep it is or how fast it is moving"

Another activity you can try is to go to a body of water and have participants try to guess how deep it is by looking at it by taking sticks and marking where they think the water would rise up to. Then put the stick in the water and see how many people guessed wrongly.

SHELTER MANAGEMENT

The general strategy for shelter management should be demonstrations: going into different parts of camps and doing demonstrations for larger groups of camp residents while explaining what you are doing.

BEFORE:

- 1 “Reinforce ropes, secure loose tarpaulins, and seal gaps or areas exposed to wind and rain”
- 2 “Fill sacs with dirt and sand. If you place them around the outside perimeter of your shelter, it can direct water away from your shelter. If you place them along in the inside perimeter of your shelter, it will help weigh it down so the wind will not blow it away so easily”
- 3 “Dig channels around your shelter to help direct water away from your shelter”
- 4 “Avoid placing heavy items in high places that may fall and hurt you, and secure down any objects that may become dangerous to your family and others”
- 5 “Keep exit routes clear and free of rubbish so you and your family can leave quickly if needed”

IN PRACTICE

Demonstrations of the different strategies

ORANGE ALERT:

For tents, follow the following 3 steps:

- 1 Remove guyropes
- 2 Drop the frame to the ground and fold your tent
- 3 Place 3-4 heavy stones upon the packed tent

IN PRACTICE

Demonstrations of the different strategies – perhaps bring extra tents and have races about who can break them down fastest

For t-shelters, follow the following 3 steps:

- 1 Strengthen closed doors and windows by nailing 2 planks of wood in a crosshair on the side that the window or door opens on
- 2 Put hurricane straps in a cross along the roof
- 3 For plastic t-shelters, remove plastic wall-sheeting

IN PRACTICE

Demonstrations of the different strategies

For all residents:

1 Disconnect electricity and gas lines if you have access to them.

INFORMATION, EARLY WARNING, AND ALERTS

General methodology: For early warning, this is a conversation it could be best to start with the camp committee, and once strategies for the camps have been decided, begin to bring the strategies around to groups of neighbors so they can plan based on who has phones, who has radios, who is literate, vulnerable groups, etc. For the Red Alert and Orange Alert messages, these include official DPC messages that need to be disseminated as quickly and as broadly as possible. Camps should also identify additional resources they may have (megaphones, whistles, loudspeaker systems) that could be useful.

BEFORE

1 “Know the official alert stages from the DPC: a Red Alert means we are in immediate danger and should begin to evacuate, orange alert means there is a high risk of danger and we should prepare for evacuation, and yellow alert means there is a moderate risk of danger and we should be paying close attention in case the situation worsens”

IN PRACTICE: ALERT TREES

Encourage neighbours ahead of time to assign points of contact to spread messages along an “alert tree”, where everyone is responsible for telling 2-3 other people, or with each family responsible for ensuring that their immediate neighbours are informed and aware of developing situation, change in alert status, and what they have to do. Try practicing and see how far a *non-emergency message* such as “this is just a test” or “my name is Claudine” gets passed through a small neighborhood.

IN PRACTICE: THE FLAG SYSTEM

- ⇒ Fix a tall pole somewhere very visible in the camp (for instance, on top of a kiosk)
- ⇒ Find one piece of red cloth, one orange, one yellow (it can be old t-shirts)
- ⇒ Identify someone who is responsible for listening to the meteorological bulletins on the radio every day, and if s/he hears that there is a yellow alert, s/he will raise the yellow “flag”, the same with the other colors
- ⇒ Ensure someone goes around the community to sensitize people about what the colors mean
- ⇒ Install other poles in places where the first pole is not visible.

2 “Always stay alert to official announcements on local and national radio channels and from community leaders”

IN PRACTICE: RADIO LISTENING GROUPS

- ⇒ As not everyone has a radio, see if camp residents can create radio listening groups, where several families can sit and listen to the meteorological bulletins together every day.

3 “Take time to make a family plan about what you will do at each stage of alerts, and talk about it together”

IN PRACTICE: FAMILY ALERT PLANS

- ⇒ Encourage families to write out (/discuss in depth if illiterate) a plan for every alert stage, for instance:
- ✓ *At stage yellow, everyone comes back to the tent and we will go to our radio listening group, and one person will go to the camp committee to ask about what is happening.*
 - ✓ *At the orange stage, we will do a headcount to make sure everyone is together and we will begin to pack up our belongings and call our relatives who live further in town*
 - ✓ *At the red stage, we will follow the evacuation route that we planned*

4 “Take particular care to ensure that the elderly, children, and disabled people in your family and community are also informed as they might not have access to these channels of communication, and ensure that your plan considers their special needs”

IN PRACTICE: PLANNING WITH VULNERABLE GROUPS:

- ⇒ Encourage participants to sit down with elderly, handicapped, and young members of their family and carefully talk through the plan with them.
- ⇒ Encourage camp committee to come up with a strategy for helping the elderly and handicapped in case of a red alert, i.e. creating a buddy system where a strong individual is paired up with an elderly or handicapped person and they understand if there is a red alert it is their responsibility to help them physically move.

5 “Be aware that you may receive alerts by SMS about evacuation from the DPC and IOM”

Anyone who has been registered has had his/her phone number put into a database with IOM to facilitate being able to contact people camp by camp in the event of an emergency. People should not be surprised to receive an SMS from the DPC and/or IOM.

PRE-EVAC

1 Continue to listen to the advice of the authorities and the radio

2 Inform your families, your neighbors, and vulnerable groups

3 Go over your contingency plan with your family

4 Check to see if an orange flag has been raised in your camp

5 If you receive an SMS from DPC or IOM, inform your neighbors who do not have cellphone or who are not literate

DURING

- 1 Keep up to date with information from local radios and community leaders
- 2 Be aware you may also receive information from the DPC, IOM, or Red Cross via SMS
- 3 Listen out for any changes and instructions that may come as the situation changes
- 4 Be aware that radio signals and telephone lines may be down during the hurricane
- 5 The following are numbers for you to call during and after an emergency:

- ⇒ Police
- ⇒ Fire
- ⇒ MINUSTAH
- ⇒ Red Cross

AFTER:

- 1 Keep informed by radio and listen out for important messages from your community leaders
- 2 Be aware you may receive SMS messages from the DPC, IOM, or the Red Cross
- 3 Do not venture outside unless you know it is safe to do so

FAMILY SAFETY

General methodology: these are generally best to do with small groups of 10-20 with representatives of different households in an area, and to do as many groups in as many parts of the camps as possible

ORANGE ALERT:

- 1 Safeguard your important documents in waterproof covering (ID cards, land titles, vaccination cards for children, etc)
- 2 Prepare a small bag with a few essential personal items in case you need to move quickly, including food (particularly babyfood), potable water, medications, soap for handwashing, your documents.
- 3 A spare set of clean, dry clothes including long-sleeves can help provide some protection from mosquitos after the storm and keep children warm if they get wet
- 4 If you have radio and torches, bring them as they are essential, and ensure you have spare batteries.
- 5 Remember to charge your cell phone and try to have some credit available for emergency phone calls

Note: many camp residents will not have access to all these supplies, and it could cause frustration. Camp residents may ask if/when these supplies will be distributed

IN PRACTICE; CHECKLISTS

- ⇒ Encourage camp residents to come up with checklists, either written or visual, and share them with their families or post them somewhere public, such as a kiosk

RED ALERT:

- 1 Go to the house of a friend or family which is safe, or in a shelter which was prepared for evacuation
- 2 Don't forget: medications, babyfood, and your important papers
- 3 Help the most vulnerable, such as elderly, handicapped, children, and pregnant women
- 4 Continue to listen to the radio and advice of the authorities
- 5 Stay calm
- 6 Don't forget to tell each other: share this information with your neighbors and those close to you.

IN PRACTICE; CHECKLISTS

- ⇒ Encourage camp residents to come up with checklists, either written or visual, and share them with their families or post them somewhere public, such as a kiosk

DURING:

- 1 During a hurricane, it is safer to stay inside if you can and to try not to see what is going on while the storm is passing
- 2 Try to stay in a safe place away from items that may become unstable due to wind or rain
- 3 Disconnect power sources such as gas and electricity if you have access to these
- 4 Try not to use candles or lamps with open flames which can cause fires, a battery-operated torch is safer
- 5 Try not to make a lot of calls on your phone, this can block the telephone networks and you may need the power and credit for emergency calls

CHILD SAFETY:

- 1 Take special care to reassure children who may be frightened and not understand what is happening
- 2 Games, songs, and toys are particularly good for comforting children during this time

IN PRACTICE:

Work with groups of mothers to think about games and activities to help keep the children occupied during the passage of the storm.

AFTER:

FAMILY SAFETY:

- 1 Once you know that it is safe to go outside, avoid areas of obvious damage and be aware of new dangers
- 2 Take particular care to watch your children who may not easy be able to assess new dangers
- 3 If you have access to power sources such as gas or electricity, do not use them unless you have been advised that it is safe to do so
- 4 Try to try all wet clothes and personal items as they may become moldy and rot
- 5 Check for damaged or missing personal items

IN PRACTICE

Having conversations with mothers or heads of households and just discussing what the reality after a hurricane may be, and try to focus on what questions they may have.

HEALTH, HYGIENE, AND SANITATION:

General methodology: doing demonstrations in public parts of the camp for first aid, and promotion of general health and sanitation messages elsewhere.

DURING:

WATER AND SANITATION:

- 1 Try to have a receptacle handle for your family to use as a temporary toilet if needed, as while the hurricane is passing you should not go outside
- 2 Take extra care to ensure that this waste is disposed of carefully as it can carry germs that will make you and your family sick
- 3 Do not drink the floodwater as it has germs in it that will make you sick

IN PRACTICE

You may want to pass this messages in smaller groups or family by family as waste management can be a sensitize issue for some families.

EMERGENCY FIRST AID/HEALTH :

- 1 If anyone stops breathing, tilt their head back to help them breathe and get help immediately
- 2 if someone has been cut, apply direct pressure with a clean cloth. If it becomes saturated, do not remove the first cloth. Put new dressings on top and continue to apply direct pressure

3 If someone has a broken bone, brace it with 2 pieces of wood and try to keep them immobilized while you search for help

4 If someone is in shock, do not give them water. You can tell someone is in shock by:

5 Children and the elderly are at high risk of hypothermia and skin infections if they remain in flooded areas, make sure they stay dry and have shelter from the wind.

IN PRACTICE

Demonstrations with small groups of 10-15 people about these primary, basic first aid practices in public spaces, creating posters or plays that demonstrate the techniques

AFTER;

1 Flooding can spread many waterborne illnesses, and sewage lines that may have been broken during the storm can contaminate food and water

2 Flood water is dirty and carries germs that will make you sick. Only drink water that you know is safe.

3 Dispose of all human waste into camp latrines, taking special care to handle children's waste properly as they may have disease causing organisms

4 If you have access to it, washing your hands with soap and water will help reduce diseases, especially before preparing food, eating, and after using the toilet

5 Mosquitos like to breed near stagnant water. Clean rubbish and cover water storage containers to prevent mosquitos breeding in and around your shelter.

IN PRACTICE

General promotion of these messages throughout the camp – posters, talks, megaphones, plays – communicating the danger of floodwater is critical