TECHNICAL BRIEF

Integrated System for Disaster Information Management (SIGIC)

Challenges

In Mozambique, one of the main challenges of disaster management is the systematic collection of data and timely transmission of information before, during and after the occurrence of a disaster or emergency situation. This makes it difficult to coordinate preparedness activities and prioritization of inter response interventions to reduce the vulnerability of people and property

Key interventions

In May 2015, the USAID Program for Adaptation of Coastal Cities (CCAP), in coordination with the National Institute of Disaster Management (INGC) and its regional and provincial offices and the Municipalities of Pemba and Quelimane discussed and agreed on a action plan for integrating SIGIC into INGC information management system to facilitate the flow of information and timely decision-making.

In October 2015, CCAP and INGC marked the launch of expanding the Integrated Disaster Information Management System (SIGIC). The public SIGIC launch event was led by the Minister of Transport and Communication, Carlos Mesquita, and INGC Deputy General Director Casimiro Abreu. The Minister's remarks highlighted the advantages of using mobile technology to quickly collect data during and immediately following emergencies, which will improve INGC's ability to respond to disaster quickly.

"With this tool we are creating conditions to rapidly collect information from distant areas. It will help us make decision in time and also minimize the impacts of natural disaster" said Minister of Transport and Communications, Carlos Mesquita during SIGIC launch.

For the sustainability of SIGIC, USAID-CCAP program in collaboration with INGC trained technicians from central, regional and provincial offices on the use of the tool and drafting of action driven operational reports before, during and after disasters.

INGC and CCAP technical personnel at the national meeting on the expansion of early warning and data collection system post disaster held in Beira, Sofala

Now, INGC is investing with funds and human resources to expand SIGIC to the district level around the country.

"We trained technicians from all provincial delegation and the technicians trained community members in selected districts on data sending and information analysis. Additionally, we expanded the tool to the Infrastructure Services and the District Technical Council for Disaster Management to be able to validate information sent by the local committees. We are also using SIGIC as data base that contains information on partners that support us on disaster management in the country. SIGIC facilitate the communication process, including the linkage between INGC, district government and the communities. From this experience we learnt that it is important to envolve the community. For exemple, local committees helped us to improve the tool for data colection by incorporating their concerns and perspectives in the questionaires. Even without a disaster occurrence, during the rain season of 2015/16, SIGIC was positively used by communities, sending informations through the tool to the central level. In Cabo de Delgado, for exemple, we trained 4 districts and they all used the tool so we can say that SIGIC is 80 percent accepeted at the community level. At the INGC level, the tool helps us to anticipate expected challenges after an extreme event within 24 hours but before the SIGIC the information was available after 7 days. SIGIC helps us to make decision in time fashion". Elidio João, INGC technician.

Additionally, INGC ensured the National Emergency Operational Centers (CENOE), of Vilanculos, Caia and Nacala were equipped properly to:

- Effectively manage the system;
- Improve verification and reliability of data;
- Consolidate connectivity between the provincial, regional and central levels.

INGC expanded SIGIC to Zambezia (Maganja da Costa, Namacurra, Mocuba and Quelimane City), Cabo Delgado (Macomia, Balama, Pemba city, Muidumbe), Maputo (Namaancha, Magude, Marracuene, and Matuitine) and Gaza (INGC trained all Provincial Directorates on SIGIC and now the province is prepared to expand the tool to the districts).

"SIGIC is a valuable instrument. Efforts are being made by the Government of Mozambique to reverse the situation where by the Government is unable to quickly access post disaster information and provide rapid response by using modern mobile technologies partnership with the US Government" INGC Deputy General Director, Casimiro Abreu.

Expected results

- Data collection mechanisms set and maintained before, during and after the event;
- Population with timely access to information on disasters (prior warning);
- Disaster managers (Government and partners) provided with reliable information for prioritization of their interventions and decision-making.
- Saving lives and protecting the livelihoods of the populations.

Training of Local Committees for Disaster Management as SIGIC data transmitters in Maganja da Costa, in Zambézia

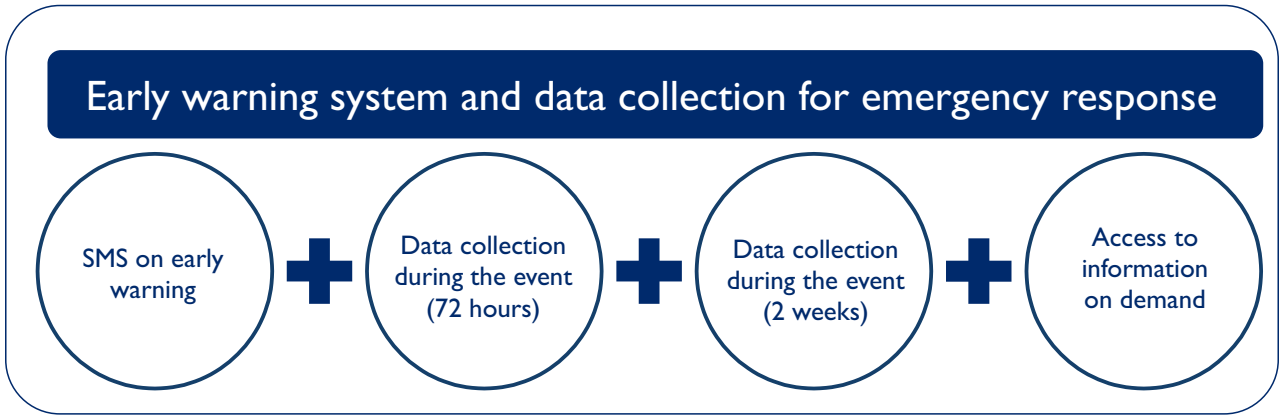

Illustration of the stages of early warning and data collection system for response to emergencies in order to save lives and minimize property loss of population

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