

Effective early warning

*A people-centred approach
to make communities safer*

“...Warning systems by themselves are of little value unless communities understand how they work and how warnings should be transmitted...”

Dr. Raymond Forde
President of the Barbados Red Cross Society



- **Local people save lives**
They are the first to respond when disaster strikes.
- **Well-informed communities save more lives**
They are trained in early warning and know what danger signs to monitor and who to notify.
- **Understanding the risks**
Communities, local authorities and the Red Cross Red Crescent together develop hazard maps to identify risk of natural hazards, their possible effects and consequences for the community.
- **Coping with dangers**
Having identified the hazards that communities are exposed to, Red Cross Red Crescent works with communities to reduce their vulnerability.
- **Linking knowledge**
Traditional knowledge can be of use to science and vice versa; the Red Cross Red Crescent helps ensure a constant flow of information.
- **Be prepared**
Communities are trained in disaster preparedness and evacuation related activities to reduce their vulnerability to hazards.
- **Team work**
Community disaster response teams organize early warning drills and link their actions to Red Cross Red Crescent and local government disaster plans.
- **Working together**
The Red Cross Red Crescent works with research institutes and local, national, regional, and international organizations as well as governments and the United Nations to help people make their communities safer.



International Federation
of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies