

NE Nigeria Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) Webinar Summary Report

Dates: 10th September 2025

Organisers: CCCM/Shelter-NFI Sector, UNDRR, Global Shelter Cluster

Location: Online Webinar

1. Introduction and context

I suggest that it should be change to this "The humanitarian situation in North-East Nigeria remains fragile. Communities in the BAY states (Borno, Adamawa, Yobe) face recurring floods, fires, heatwaves and destructive windstorms. These hazards compounded by insecurity, poor infrastructure and climate stress continue to deepen humanitarian needs.

Recognising the urgency of addressing these risks, a three-day workshop in Maiduguri (June 2025) brought together government agencies, humanitarian organisations, and local actors to co-develop Preliminary Hazard Risk Management Plans. These plans aimed to provide concrete, actionable steps that could be implemented immediately by humanitarian and development actors.

The September 2025 webinar built on this foundation. It was designed to present the draft plans to a broader group of stakeholders, validate their contents, and gather further inputs. Importantly, it also provided a space to reflect on the challenges that hinder the advancement of DRR in the region, and to discuss how partners could sustain and scale up this work going forward .

The event was organised jointly by UNDRR and the Global Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with the North-East Nigeria CCCM/Shelter/Non- NFI Sector.

Facilitators included Charles Kelly (Green Team, GSC) and Alicia Gimeno (independent consultant, UNDRR).

2. Webinar objectives

The webinar pursued four central objectives:

- (1) To present and validate the preliminary plans that were co-created in Maiduguri;
- (2) To refine and prioritise the wide range of actions proposed, ensuring that the most relevant and feasible measures were emphasized;
- (3) To strengthen collective understanding of DRR principles and their practical integration into humanitarian operations;
- (4) To identify constraints to DRR implementation and to collect recommendations on how such constraints could be overcome.

By combining technical review with strategic reflection, the event aimed both to validate practical action and to surface systemic barriers.

3. Participation and Representation

The webinar was attended by 66 participants, reflecting a wide spectrum of institutions and perspectives:

- Government authorities: NEMA, SEMA, NIMET, Fire Service, Ministry of Environment.
- UN agencies: UNDRR, UNHCR, IOM, among others.
- International and National NGOs: active in shelter, NFI, and CCCM.

4. Overview of Presentations and Discussions

The webinar was structured around three main presentations, each building on the other and supported by interactive tools.

Please refer to Annex 1 for the full webinar agenda and to Annex 6 for the presentation slides that accompanied the sessions.

1. Refresher on DRR Concepts

The first presentation revisited the basics of disaster risk reduction (DRR). The speaker stressed that DRR must be built into every stage of humanitarian action: preparedness, response, recovery, and development. A key idea was the concept of “two-for” actions: activities that meet immediate humanitarian needs while also reducing risks in the future.

2. Presentation of the Preliminary Risk Management Plans

The second presentation introduced the risk management plans developed in June 2025. These were explained not as new strategies, but as practical tools that can be directly used by agencies and communities.

A key point was that these plans are intended as living documents. They are designed to evolve as new information emerges and as communities and agencies test different approaches. Ownership is meant to rest with local actors and institutions, who can use and adapt/update the plans to reflect their realities.

3. Discussion on Challenges and Next Steps

The third presentation turned the focus into implementation. Participants were asked to reflect on the practical obstacles to DRR in the BAY states and to suggest solutions for the future.

The last two sessions of the webinar were designed to be interactive, giving participants the opportunity to actively shape the outcomes rather than just listen to presentations. A combination of tools was used to gather both quantitative data and qualitative insights:

- **A short quiz** to test participants’ understanding of the risk management plans and core DRR concepts.
- **Live surveys** that allowed participants to vote on:
 - Priority actions for preparedness and response across the four hazards.
 - The main constraints limiting the integration of DRR into humanitarian operations.
- **An online whiteboard** where participants could openly share and discuss the practical challenges they face, and propose solutions.

5. Survey and Quiz Analysis

The surveys and quiz were central to the webinar, helping to show how well participants understood the plans, what actions they considered most important, and what barriers they saw to DRR.

1. Quiz: Understanding of the Plans and DRR

During the second session, a short quiz confirmed that participants had a strong grasp of the plans’ purpose and structure. A word cloud highlighted the most common terms participants associated with the plans: *mitigation, preparedness, early warning, risk reduction, collaboration, anticipatory action, resilience*. This showed a clear understanding of both the technical and social sides of DRR.

Please refer to Annex 2 for the full quiz results.

2. Survey: Action Prioritisation by Hazard

Also in the second session, participants completed the main survey, which asked them to prioritise preparedness and response actions for each hazard. The survey was structured into eight questions, with actions grouped into thematic blocks.

Key results, outlining the prioritised measures for each of the main hazards are listed below :

- Floods:
 - Preparedness: structural measures like drainage and rainwater harvesting (15 votes).
 - Response: relief assistance and protection (shelter kits, NFIs, cash, relocation) (15 votes).
- Fires:
 - Preparedness: structural fire control (firebreaks, buffer zones) (16 votes).
 - Response: immediate assistance and support (emergency kits, psychosocial services) (17 votes).
- Strong Winds:
 - Preparedness: wind-resistant construction and anchoring (18 votes).
 - Response: safer shelter solutions for multiple risks (14 votes).
- Extreme Heat:
 - Preparedness: early warning and monitoring (12 votes), with structural measures and site planning close behind (11 votes each).
 - Response: relief and protection (water supply, cooling centres) (14 votes).

Overall pattern:

- In preparedness, participants prioritised structural solutions (drainage, firebreaks, wind-resistant shelters).
- In response, the focus was on immediate relief and protection.
- Across all hazards, early warning systems, planning, and community engagement were seen as essential supporting measures.

Please refer to Annex 3 for the full survey results.

3. Survey: Constraints to Integrating DRR

In the third session, a second survey asked participants to identify the most significant constraints to integrating DRR into humanitarian operations. The constraints poll identified:

- **Funding:** Insufficient and inflexible humanitarian financing.
- **Government policies/approaches:** Limited or delayed enforcement/coordination.
- **Insecurity:** Restricting access and limiting community engagement.
- **Community engagement gaps:** Behaviour change requires consistent outreach, not enforcement.
- **Technical capacity:** Need for training, safer shelter design expertise, and dissemination of early warning information.

Additional comments stressed:

- The need for stronger policy enforcement and community engagement.
- The problem of protracted displacement and strained relations with government/military actors.
- The importance of proactive community behaviour in risk reduction.

Conclusion: Without more flexible funding and stronger government leadership, DRR will remain difficult to mainstream in humanitarian operations.

Please refer to Annex 4 for the full survey results.

6. Whiteboard Results: Challenges Identified by Partners

During the group discussion and whiteboard exercise, participants highlighted practical challenges that must be addressed for effective disaster risk reduction and preparedness in the BAY states:

- **Community security and engagement:** Partners noted that preparedness requires communities to feel safe enough to participate. They proposed creating *Community Resilience Committees (CRCs)* to strengthen trust and collaboration.
- **Early warning and technical capacity:** Agencies like NIMET provide forecasts, but these are not translated into clear, actionable information for communities. Multi-agency partnerships and more training in safer construction were suggested.
- **Capacity building:** Participants emphasised the need for ongoing training, regular drills, and *Training-of-Trainers (ToT)* approaches so knowledge can reach the community level.
- **Policy and enforcement:** While DRR policies exist, they are often not put into practice. Some called for stricter government enforcement, while others argued behaviour change through engagement is more effective.
- **Monitoring, evaluation, and data:** Reliable local data is needed to guide future planning. Stronger data collection and monitoring systems were seen as critical.
- **Institutional coordination:** Greater leadership from state agencies like SEMA is essential to ensure a coherent response across actors.
- **Practical community-level solutions:** Suggestions included tree planting to reduce wind and heat risks, and promoting safer cooking methods to reduce fire hazards.

Together, the surveys and whiteboard exercises provided a **comprehensive picture**: participants understand the value of DRR, know what actions are most effective, and are clear about the barriers — particularly funding, policy enforcement, and community engagement — that stand in the way.

Please refer to Annex 5 for the whiteboard results.

7. Conclusions

The September 2025 webinar achieved its core aims. It presented and validated the Preliminary Hazard Risk Management Plans, confirmed a strong collective understanding of DRR concepts, and prioritised the actions that partners see as most effective. The interactive surveys and whiteboard exercise provided both quantitative and qualitative insights, showing clear patterns: structural solutions dominate as a suggested priority within preparedness, relief and protection dominate within response, and community resilience is viewed as the cornerstone of effective risk reduction.

At the same time, the discussions revealed significant constraints, particularly the lack of sufficient and flexible funding, policy implementation gaps, and the challenges of insecurity. Despite these obstacles, the event demonstrated strong commitment from partners, clear ownership of the plans, and a willingness to embrace practical, community-driven measures.

The task ahead will be to translate these validated plans into tangible action, through implementation of priority activities, ensuring that preparedness and response are strengthened across the BAY states, and that disaster risk reduction becomes an integral part of humanitarian operations. Doing so will not only save lives when hazards strike, but also contribute to the longer-term resilience of communities in Northeast Nigeria.

Annex 1. Webinar agenda

NE Nigeria DRR Webinar – Draft Agenda

10 September 2025

2:00 – 3:30 PM (WAT / UTC +1)

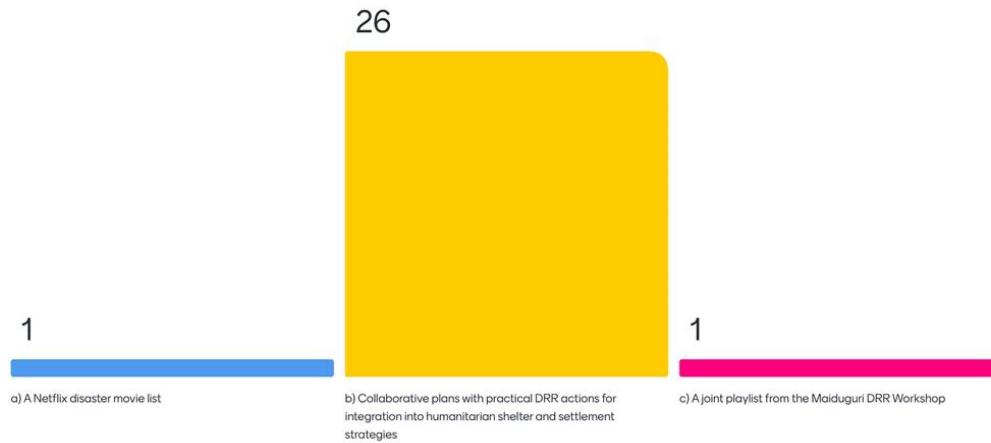
Online

Webinar Objective; To present and discuss preliminary flood, fire, extreme heat, and severe weather risk management plans in North-East Nigeria, identify priority actions, and agree on next steps.

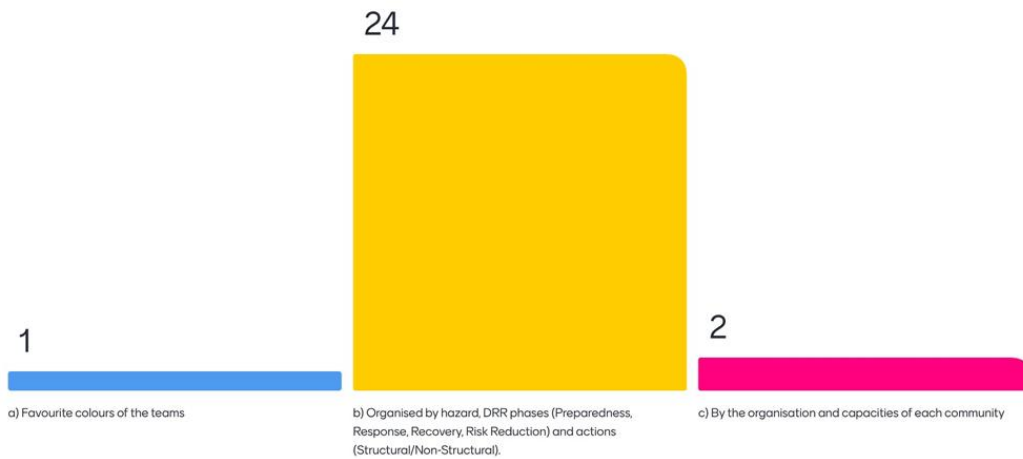
Session #	Timing	Session Title	Content / Comments	Facilitation
1.1	2:00 – 2:10	Administration	-Welcome - Review of agenda and objectives	Ibrahim/Kaigama Alicia
1.2	2:10 – 2:30	Risk Management Concepts (Refresher)	- Brief recap of Disaster Risk Reduction phases: Preparedness, Response, Recovery, Development.	Kelly
1.3	2:30 – 3:10	Presentation and Open Discussion of Preliminary Plans	- Presentation of the Flood, Fire, Extreme Heat, and Severe Weather Plans. - Plenary discussion: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are the most urgent and feasible actions? • Do the proposed actions reflect key priorities? • Are there critical gaps to address? - Collective identification of main priority actions.	Alicia
1.4	3:10 – 3:30	Moving Forward	- Discussion of next steps for refining and implementing the plans. - Allocation of follow-up responsibilities and timeline. - Closing reflections and thanks.	Kelly

Annex 2. Hazard Risk Management Plans QUIZ Results

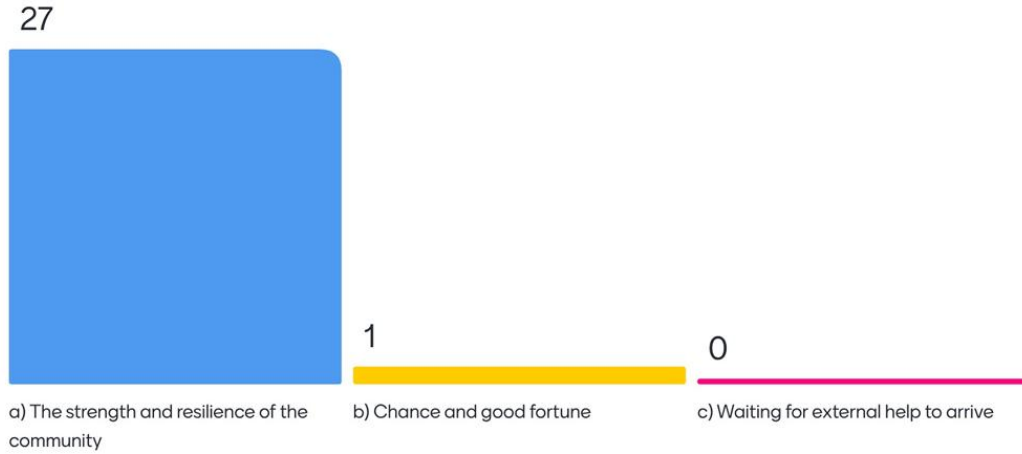
The Risk Management Plans are...



The plans are structured by...



What is one of the most powerful factors in reducing disaster risks?



In one word, what comes to mind when you think of the Preliminary Risk Management Plans?

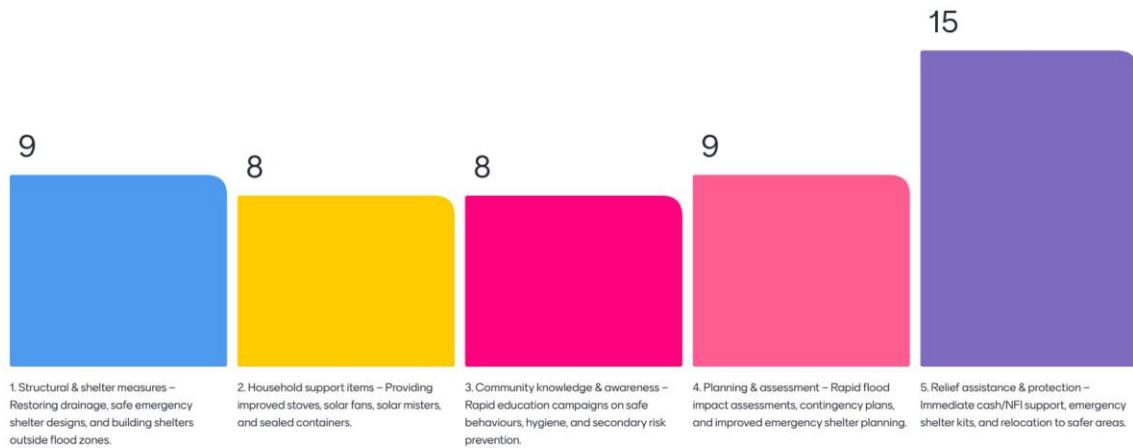


Annex 3. Action Prioritisation Survey

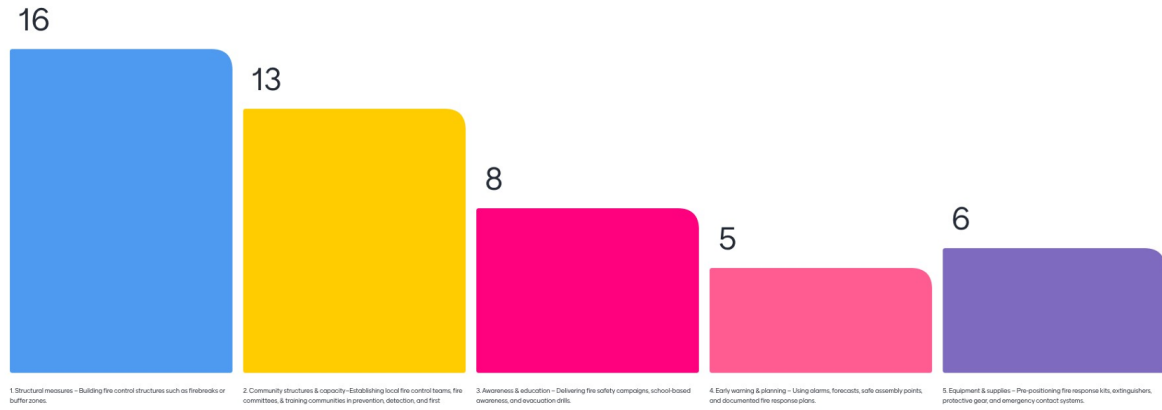
Q1. Before floods, which block of actions would be the most effective for Preparedness? Up to 2



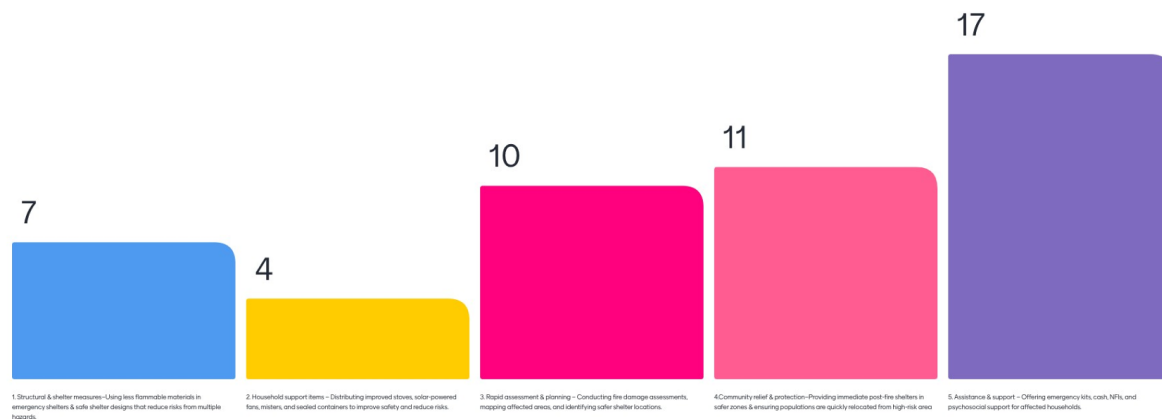
Q2. During or after floods, which block of actions would be the most effective for Response? Up to 2



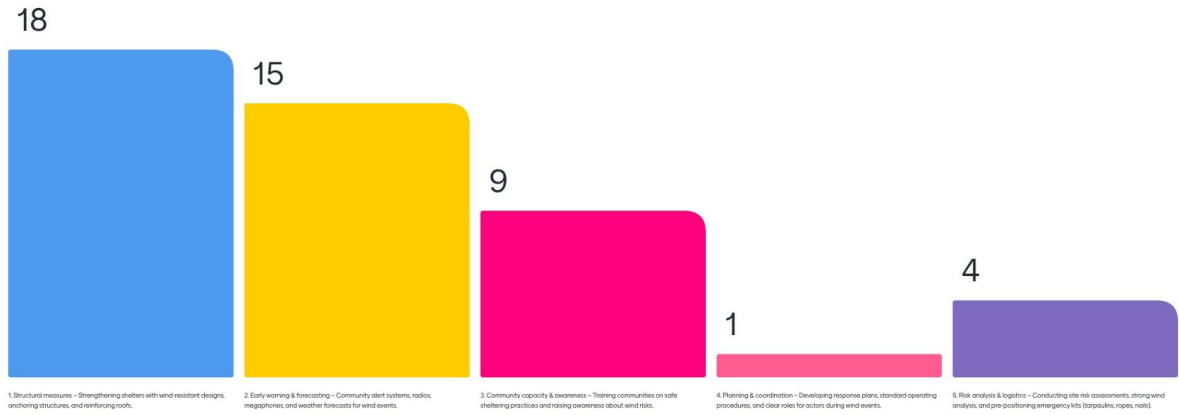
Q3. Before a fire, which block of actions would be the most effective for Preparedness? Up to 2



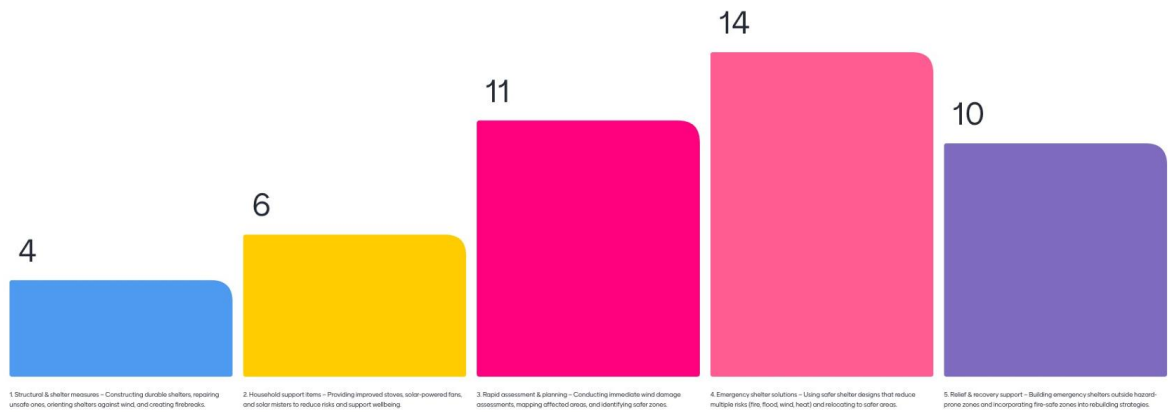
Q4. After a fire, which block of actions would be the most effective for Response? Up to 2



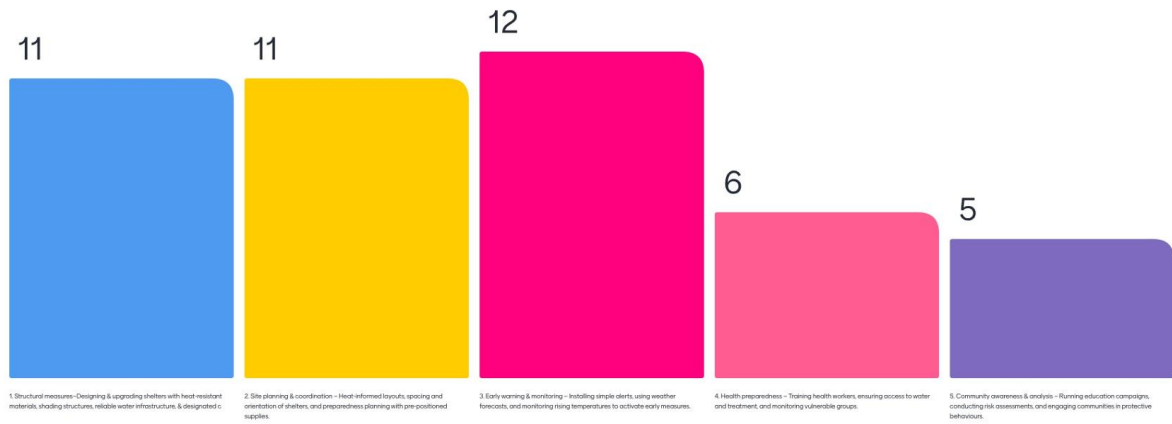
Q5. Before strong winds, which block of actions would be the most effective for Preparedness? Up to 2



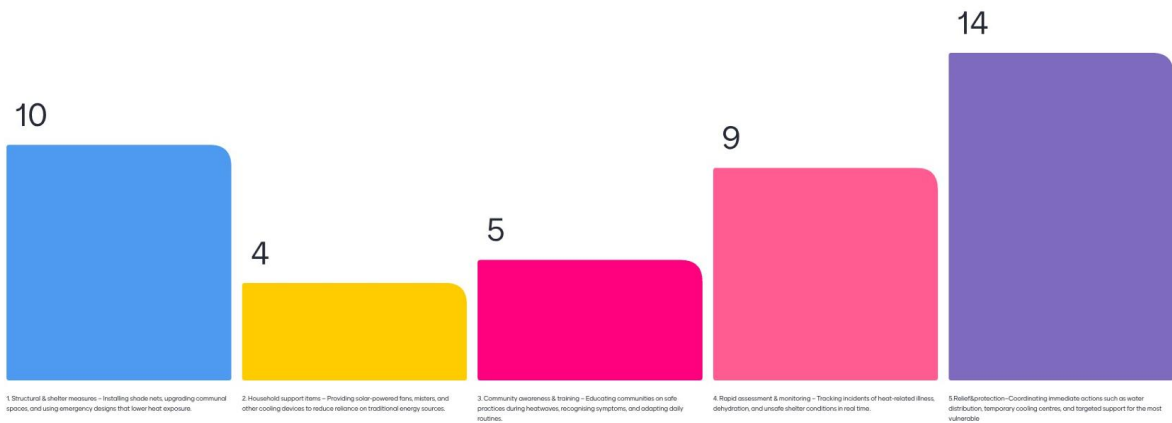
Q6. After strong winds, which block of actions would be the most effective for Response? Up to 2



Q7. Before extreme heat, which block of actions would be the most effective for Preparedness? Up to 2

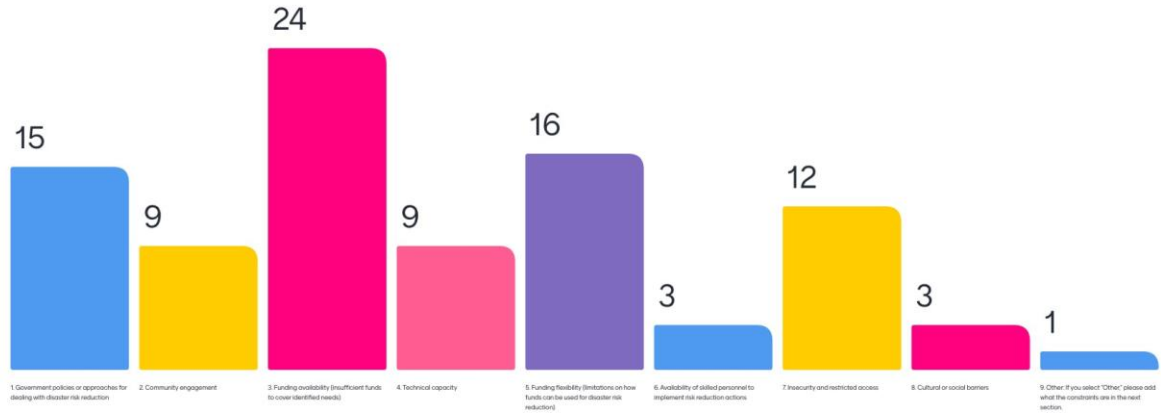


Q8. After strong winds, which block of actions would be the most effective for Response? Up to 2



Annex 4. Key Constraints to integrating DRR into Humanitarian Operation Survey Results

Please select from the list below the four of the most significant constraints you face in integrating DRR into your humanitarian operations. Up to 4



If you have chosen "Other," please specify the constraint below.

No	Funding	Proactiveness from community	protracted displacement and emergency solution as camps are last resort
Sometimes were having problem with government and also the community and lastly the military	Government strengthen it's policies on DRR, Engegining Communities based in DRR is very significantly in tackling it's affect. Sufficient funds need to be available for reducing and planning of DRR inNE		

Annex 5. Challenges Whiteboard

What to do about the Challenges?

What are your ideas?



- Ensure security in the communities via **strong community engagement**
 - E.g. via CRCs (community resilience committee) who support community access and security
- **Technical capacity and downscaling early warning info** to community level
 - Via partnership of multiple agencies and orgs – e.g. given of floods info not provided
- **Technical and capacity building solutions**
 - E.g. NEMA led multi sectoral simulation to practice for flood response and coordination – helped to test contingency plan and define roles and responsibilities etc before hazard
 - Integrating hazard monitoring and incident report
 - Provide partners with ToT models to cascade info
- **Continuous capacity building** of partners and the communities (e.g. via simulation)
- **Use existing policies that are in place** (currently the many policies that are in place are not used, need to be operationalized)
 - Strong law enforcement/authorities participation
- **Address community attitudes and perceptions** – work on behaviour change thru CEA
 - E.g. of community drainage + flooding – need to take action and not wait for govt support
 - Engagement better than enforcement
- **Strong M&E**
 - Sound data will inform better designed responses
- **Strengthening institutional coordination**
 - E.g. SEMA led flood response
- **Strengthen community engagement** – need for constant engagement

Specific actions:

- Tree planting / encouraging communities to plant trees as a NBS
- Prevent fire hazards – not cooking indoors / improved stoves

Annex 6. Webinar Presentation