CORRIGENDA ISSUED AT THE END OF A ONE-DAY CAPACITY BUILDING FOR
“RESPONSE NETWORKS” ON EARLY WARNING AND EARLY RESPONSE,
ORGANISED BY CIVIL SOCIETY LEGISLATIVE ADVOCACY CENTRE
(CISLAC)/TRANSPARENCY INTERNATIONAL IN NIGERIA (TI-NIGERIA) WITH
SUPPORT FROM OPEN SOCIETY FOUNDATION AFRICA (OSF-AFRICA) HELD AT
VISA KARENA HOTEL, RIVERS STATE ON 6TH SEPTEMBER, 2023.

PREAMBLE:

CISLAC/TI-Nigeria with support from Open Society Foundation Africa (OSF-
Africa) organised a one-day Capacity Building for “Response Networks” on Early
Warning and Early Response. The Workshop aimed at building the capacity of
the response institutions within the state for more collaboration,
communication, coordination and collective support for early warning and
conflict prediction mechanisms. There was an Opening Remark from the
Executive Director of CISLAC/TI-Nigeria, Auwal Ibrahim Musa (Rafsanjani). The
Workshop had a technical session with presentation titled: Guidance and Good
Practices towards Effective Response to Early Warning Signals by Dr. Sunday
Adejoh. It was attended by over 20 participants including Security Agencies,
Traditional Rulers, representative of Persons With Disabilities and Community
Observers. After brainstorming exhaustively on various thematic issues, the
following observations and recommendations were made:

OBERVATIONS:

1. Intrinsic logistics challenges and poor remuneration with resultant low
morale among response personnel constitute major impediment to
efficiency by response institutions.

2. As conflict fragility spreads rapidly across Nigeria, Niger Delta is bedevilled
with complex challenges that cut across communal crisis, resource
struggles, cultism, air/water pollution, illicit drugs abuse, pipeline
vandalisation.

3. Lack of institutionalised strategy to protect information secrecy of
reported signals coupled with inadequate modern technology to
efficiently facilitate accurate information gathering within response
institutions manifests in reprisal attacks, while discouraging reporting
efforts by individual/community.
4. Delay in integrating the peculiar needs of Persons With Disabilities and other vulnerable groups across response institutions hampers all-inclusive participation and reporting of Early Warning signals.

5. Over-sensationalised media reportage with profit-oriented tendency and deliberate information misrepresentation contribute to conflict escalation and social instability at all levels.

6. Lack of synergy and inter-agency rivalry among response institutions competing for scarce resources hamper adequate coordination and response to warning signals.

7. Early Warning is targeted primarily at prevention, mitigation and preparedness effort against conflict to support response structure and mechanisms for timely intervention.

8. Rising drugs and substance abuse among the youths within and outside Secondary/tertiary institutions is a potential conflict signal.

9. Inadequate distribution of Security Posts and personnel across Local Government Areas in Rivers state to proactively response to the contending threat signals.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. Integrating the needs of Persons With Disabilities and other vulnerable groups in relevant planning, structure and system on Early Warning to facilitate all-inclusive reporting process and response.

2. Institutionalising adequate data protection system backed by modern technology on information gathering to ensure information secrecy on Early Warning signals.

3. Adequate resource allocation to response institutions and well-remunerated personnel to facilitate coordination and efficiency in response process.
4. Normalising multi-dimensional response to conflict signals giving cognisance to the criticality of proper communication and coordination among communities and response agencies on accurate information gathering and analysis.

5. Institutionalising a comprehensive Early Warning and Early Response mechanism through adequate data collection and analysis, data assessment, action formulation, recommendation transmission.

6. Embracing best practices in response process to Early Warning signals through risk assessment, situation/trend monitoring, information sharing/dissemination to appropriate agencies, adequate response capability test.

7. Integrating gender sensitivity in Early Warning and Early Response system and process to promote all-inclusive response that acknowledges the peculiar needs of women in conflict.

8. Massive sensitisation and awareness by relevant agencies (in collaboration with families and communities) across Secondary and tertiary institutions on drug abuse as a proactive/reactive measure to prevent manifestation of major conflict.

9. Building a proactive leadership structure with adequate synergy among traditional rulers and community leaders to prioritise the needs and expectations of their communities in communal demands to prevent potential conflict.

10. Formation of a formidable group among the response institutions led by CISLAC, fortified with training and retraining programmes to engage massive sensitisation and awareness at grassroot levels on conflict signals.

11. Revisiting hereditary process of power grabbing at traditional institutions’ levels to prioritise competence and capacity in community leadership appointments across Niger Delta region.
NEXT STEP:

- NSCDC to disseminate report and information to CISLAC on security threats leveraging on Community Observers
- Goi in Gokana representing the Host Community will enhance collaboration with youth leaders (stakeholders of the community) to cascade learning on early warning signals
- Talent Group Foundation from Obelle Community in Emohua Local Government Area will sustain monitoring of Early signals to prevent conflict.
- Obelle town to organise Workshop comprising the youths, Chiefs, women and Elders within the community on Early Warning signal.
- Kwawa community leaders (Chiefs, Elders, Women and Youth) in Khana Local Government Area to cascade learning from the meeting among community members.
- Persons with Disabilities representative to amplify the need for full implementation of the existing policies and laws to complement Early Warning system, while enhancing public awareness on the importance of Early Warning reporting.
- Rumuekpe community in Emohua Local Government Area to cascade learning from the meeting to high level authority at community level.
- OSPAC will sustain regular reporting to response institutions for proactive and timely actions
- Vigilante group in Mile 3 Diobu to ensure prompt response to Early Warning signals and maintain collaboration with conventional response institutions.
- Nigerian Police will enhance collaboration with CISLAC.

Signed:

1. **Prince Wiro Junior**  
   Diobu Community, PortHacourt Local Government

2. **Bassey Okoma O.**  
   Nigerian Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC)
To see if responder can share challenges militating against efficient response

Intelligent gathering is tasking. Provision of mobility is a major challenge to the response. This include low morale and poor motivation of personnel

What are the causes of conflict and who are the actors?

To have a platform to coordinate reporting

To be able to differentiate between early warning and early response including the modern technology

Information secrecy in Response to Early Warning signals is a major challenge. Also, there is factor in the need of Persons with Disability and other vulnerable groups.

When criminals are apprehended security agencies release them and community become victims reprisal

Lack of Disability Desk Officer in Rivers State Police Command. In the