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Key findings: what you shared with us

In April 2025, CLEAR Global and Practical Action worked with the Tacana community in Tumupasa to understand how to make early warning systems more effective and trustworthy. Here's what you told us and what we learned together.

Community recommendations

Organizations and government authorities responsible for early warnings should:

- **Build early warning alerts with your input, consultation and by respecting natural indicators** and other important **traditional knowledge**
- Share messages through **channels you use**, including through WhatsApp groups, through local leaders (corregidores, corregidoras, CIPTA, CIMTA) and community radio
- Speak in **your languages**, and use terms that people understand
- Make warnings **understandable, practical, actionable** and **locally relevant**
- Match alerts with real support for after disasters – **not just words**

What we found out by talking with you

You feel left out of disaster planning. Many of you said the government only listens after disaster strikes. **You want to be part of the planning** – not just recipients of aid.

Alerts don't reflect your realities. Warnings often come too late or don't match local risks. Early warning messages are vague: "be careful" is not enough.

You want us to learn from you. You hold a wealth of traditional knowledge on how to predict disasters that we can learn from. Natural indicators work, but need to be validated, especially in the current context of climate change.

You need clear, practical messages including actions to take. Alerts should explain what to do, when, and how in simple language. Words should reflect how you think about risk (e.g., by including risks to the community, to the animals, and nature and not just individual risks.) You want us to avoid technical terms and use plain speech so everyone can understand.

Use your trusted channels and the right language. You prefer alerts via WhatsApp, community radio, word-of-mouth, and assemblies. Many elders and families living in



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remote communities often rely on radios and traditional channels like church bells, horns – not phones. Some elders don't speak Spanish – they should receive alerts in the right language. Those who don't read or write should receive information in audio.

You want to learn and adapt. Most of you support combining modern alerts with traditional knowledge. You asked for training in disaster terms and preparedness.

What will we do with this information?

We wrote a detailed report of 20 pages where we summarize what we have learned from you and explain to the readers of the report how to best adapt their early warning systems to your requests and recommendations. We have also produced a [glossary of key disaster risk terms in Tacana](#), also in a short [printable version](#), and a [language map of Bolivia](#).

This information will inform the programming of Practical Action in your communities, and will be shared with relevant government agencies and stakeholders working on disaster risk reduction in Bolivia and in other countries. We hope it will inform their work and their advocacy efforts for indigenous community-led early warning systems.