

## Consolidating CREWS Operations Post-2020

1. This document provides the background for an exchange between members and partners with a view to set the basis and identify possible parameters for strengthening the CREWS business model moving forward.

### Context

2. The demand for CREWS engagement, by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in LDCs and SIDS remains high. Additional countries are expressing their interest in benefiting from the support provided by the three Implementing Partners, World Bank, WMO and UNDRR, through the initiative.
3. The number and geographic coverage of CREWS projects is growing with further progression expected in the coming two years.
4. In 2019, two new potential Contributing Partners have indicated their interest in joining CREWS with additional countries expecting to join in the future.
5. Early warning services and the broader hydromet and climate services are recognized as effective measures to adapt to climate change and build climate resilience. This has resulted in new initiatives being launched, development partners scaling-up their investments, in some cases by an order of magnitude, and new actors getting involved.

### CREWS business model

6. In setting-up the CREWS initiative, the Steering Committee put the promotion of coherence as one of the core element of its value proposition. CREWS programming needs to consider existing projects and other international partner initiatives to ensure value-added to the national context.
7. There is also an expectation that country and regional portfolios, managed by the three Implementing Partners, provide a multiplier effect by promoting a favorable environment for, and leveraging of, effective additional financing for the countries related to early warning systems and broader efforts towards climate resilience.
8. The following papers have guided Steering Committee discussions and positioning of CREWS:
  - *Paper on Cooperation between the Climate Risk Early Warning System (CREWS), the Green Climate Fund (GCF) and other Climate Financing Mechanisms* (CREWS/SC.6/infdoc.6)
  - *Weather and Climate Data Requirements and Capacity for Disaster Risk Financing and Insurance Solutions - Joint InsuResilience and CREWS Secretariat's Discussion Note* (CREWS/SC.6/infdoc.7)
  - *CREWS Alignment with Relevant International Initiatives* (CREWS/SC.8/infdoc.5) addressing Alliance for Hydromet Development, WMO's Country Support Initiative (CSI), Global Framework for Climate Service (GFCS) and the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA).
  - A presentation was made by WMO at the 9<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee regarding a proposed Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) (CREWS/SC.9/infdoc.2)
9. It is the need for effectiveness that drives CREWS country projects. Countries benefit from a concerted support by the three CREWS partners, specifically drawing on the operational capacity of the World Bank, the knowledge and expertise of WMO and its institutional network and the broader disaster risk management framework of UNDRR.
10. CREWS provides flexible funding to countries that address priority needs of the national early warning

system; as seed funding for larger projects, to strengthen institutional capacity and to provide services from WMO members with relevant expertise and knowledge.

11. The CREWS programming frame supports a whole value-chain approach to early warning services for countries, through impact-based forecast and warnings. This is achieved by:
  - (i) Generating data and information to support the physical monitoring of extreme events/hazards and the socio-economic vulnerability of populations at risk;
  - (ii) Developing and facilitating the access to global and regional centers forecast products for extreme events. These efforts build on and will further scale-up WMO demonstration project related cascading weather prediction, coastal inundations and flash floods;
  - (iii) Promoting the communication of warnings through common alerting procedures;
  - (iv) Strengthening institutional cooperation around standard operating procedures to generate, communicate, prepare for and act on warnings.
12. CREWS programme indicators are expected to become the metrics against which progress will be measured for the CREWS overall portfolio and, more broadly, early warning capacity of LDCs and SIDS. These are further expected to contribute to the efforts by LDCs and SIDS to monitor relevant SDGs, Sendai Targets and progress on early warning under the UNFCCC Paris Agreements.
13. The Alliance for Hydromet Development is promoting commitments, to which at least 12 development partners are signing up, and includes a commitment “to promote coherent and science-based multi-hazard national early warning systems [...] taking advantage of the CREWS Initiative” (Declaration, Alliance for Hydromet Development, December 2019).
14. The opportunity for collaboration between InsuResilience and CREWS would potentially improve weather and climate data for disaster risk finance and insurance penetration in the countries where CREWS has investments, as well as to strengthen early warning systems. This includes potential collaboration in the context of the African Risk Capacity (ARC) and similar initiatives in other regions.
15. A further opportunity is the recent launch of the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) convening the humanitarian, development and climate communities to expand early action financing and improve early warning systems.
16. The GCF Secretariat is developing sector guidance across its eight results areas, including one on early warning systems and climate information, which seeks to guide and inform the development of high-quality funding proposals that meet GCF’s investment criteria.

## Looking ahead

17. What are the opportunities for CREWS to consolidate its country operations and to contribute further to promoting a programmatic frame for early warning systems in countries and regions?
18. This includes:
  - How can CREWS funding further accelerate and scale-up efforts to bridge the capacity gap on early warnings for LDCs and SIDS;
  - How can CREWS strengthen the ‘early action’ element of its country programmes?
  - How can CREWS contribute to measuring the early warning capacity gap and the proposed Gap Report of the Alliance for Hydromet Development, the Global Commission for Adaptation (GCA) process, the Sendai monitor and efforts to monitor the Paris Agreement.

The objective of the CREWS initiative is to significantly increase the capacity to generate and communicate effective impact-based, multi-hazard, gender-informed, early warnings and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and small island developing States (SIDS).

### CREWS Members



Australia



France



Germany



Luxembourg  
(Chair)



Netherlands



Switzerland

### CREWS Observers



Canada



Finland



Japan



Mexico



New Zealand



Norway



United Kingdom



European  
Commission



ACP  
Secretariat



USAID



UNDP

### CREWS Implementing Partners

