

CREWS post-2020 Preliminary Findings

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CREWS Post-2020- Preliminary Findings

This paper summarizes convergence of views, new ideas and areas for discussion regarding the future vision and operational modalities for the CREWS initiative. Findings are drawn from the consultations carried out to date with the seven Contributing Members¹ to the CREWS Trust Fund and the three Implementing Partners².

Lead questions prepared to drive the consultations are found in Annex 1. Draft recommendations by the three Implementing Partners are found in Annex 2.

Main findings

1. Climate change remains the main threat to sustainable development

- The threat of climate change and the related needs in LDCs and SIDS will remain high with the ongoing COVID-19 crisis. CREWS initiative needs to maintain a focus on climate risk and related extreme events.
- COVID-19 adds vulnerability factors for countries managing the risk of hydrometeorological hazards, and will incentivize the development of multi-hazard, multi-threat risk management strategies and early warning systems. CREWS can contribute to efforts to learn from the impacts of the current crisis and target recovery to promote importance of climate and weather services.
- The COVID-19 crisis is affecting the delivery of results by the projects, due to resources and capacities being oriented towards COVID-19 response, requiring flexibility with regard to the duration of the ongoing and soon to be approved projects.

2. Quality rather than quantity

- Focus on countries with highest needs and where specialized, longer-term support is required. Scaling-up of CREWS operations should focus on quality of deliverable and sustainability of operations.
- Go deeper in some countries. Allow sufficient time for projects and remain flexible regarding the allocation of additional financing.
- Explore the development of flexible financing to promote transferability of expertise and advisory services to countries requiring specific support.

¹ Contributing Members to the CREWS Trust Fund, as of June 2020, are Australia, Germany, France, Luxembourg (Chair), The Netherlands, Switzerland and the United Kingdom, Environment Canada contribute to CREWS through WMO.

² The World Meteorological Organization (WMO), the World Bank Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR).

3. Scale of Ambition

- The CREWS vision 2025 will look at a range of scenarios linked to potential financing to the CREWS Trust Fund.
- Scenarios include the cost of covering the 34 remaining LDCs and SIDS in next 5 years, the cost of going deeper in some selected countries and modalities for flexible financing to provide technical advisory services, e.g. through advanced NMHSs, into the design and implementation of larger investments.
- Long term impact of CREWS relies on its ability to leverage additional financing and contribute to the effectiveness of other development partners. CREWS Vision 2025 will target a small number of strategic partnerships³, around specifically identified objectives.

4. Sustainability as the cornerstone

- Engagement in countries needs to build autonomy and ownership of products and services of national system and contribute to long-term staff capacity. Creativity and innovation need to drive the approach to sustainability.
- Maintain current efforts to draw on best expertise and twin more advance NMHSs and countries with lower capacity.
- Show progress, and broader socio-economic benefit of CREW interventions, against the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), climate change agreements and Sendai Framework targets.

5. Put people at the centre

- Focus on the whole value chain of an early warning system. Maintain a multi-stakeholder approach, from the inception phase of the projects.
- Strengthen the operational modalities to emphasis the capacity to communicate warnings and the preparedness to act. Identify and engage vulnerable groups, including elderly and people with disability. Draw on existing guidelines on co-production of early warning services to enhance their effectiveness.
- Iteratively transition early warning services towards impact-based forecasts and warnings. Strengthen cooperation with institutions working on early action and the users of warnings such as national Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

³ Key partnerships and institutions for the CREWS initiative are: the InsuResilience Global Partnership; the Green Climate Fund (GCF); the Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP); the Alliance for Hydromet Development; the Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA); and, the Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS).

6. **Champion coherence and harmonization**

- Capitalize on CREWS partnership and governance arrangements to position CREWS as a mechanism for harmonizing initiatives and portfolios across LDCs and SIDS.
- Focus on effectiveness of CREWS operation and drive effectiveness of financing by other development partners for early warning services by other multi-lateral actors. Specifically focus on development partners who have signed up to the Alliance for Hydromet Development.
- Further develop CREWS monitoring systems and proposed core programme indicators to harmonize how early warning system effectiveness are monitored by countries, development partners and globally.

7. **Better understanding of needs and gaps**

- Review and evaluate what has worked well and areas requiring more support. Learn and share what worked well and why through the compilation of country operation practices.
- Strengthen ongoing mapping of early warning gaps, needs, demand (ownership) and leveraging potential (map financing flows) to prioritize financing decisions. Provide information on countries showing levels of priority.

8. **Learn to work with the private sector**

- Promote innovation in CREWS projects focusing on public and private sector partnerships. Working with international weather and climate service companies, through the Implementing Partners, on a pro-bono basis and establishing favourable institutional frames to incentivize private sector engagement in countries.
- In cooperation with InsuResilience, bring in the insurance sector to align and support the objectives of CREWS in countries.

9. **Remain focused on what we do well**

- Capitalize on CREWS strengths; small number of highly relevant and specialized partners, low overheads, streamlined processes and quick decision making.
- Continue making gender-responsive early warnings a priority in all financing decisions and document the results.
- Regional and sub-regional approach works, providing economy of scale when working across group of countries facing similar hazards and predictions systems. Builds on the WMO cascading forecasting system from global to regional to national.
- Explore opportunities to enhance the effectiveness of CREWS operations. Opportunities include demonstrating CREWS operations' contribution to managing fragility and conflict situations and better linking CREWS country operation with UN country mechanisms for coherence and coordination.

Annex 1

Consolidating CREWS Operations Post-2020 and Principles for Prioritizing Financing Decisions

Guiding Questions for Consultations Leading to a Vision for CREWS Post-2020

1. Delivering to scale - bridging the capacity gap on early warnings for LDCs and SIDS – what to achieve by 2025 and by 2030?

- 1.1 **Expand the CREWS geographic coverage to all 78 LDCs and SIDS?** – currently 44 countries benefit directly or through regional investments. A typical CREWS country portfolio is USD 2.5 to 3 million over 3-4 years, leveraging between USD 8 to 20 million per country. A typical CREWS regional portfolio is USD 5 to 7 million over 3-4 years. What is the scale of financing required if all LDCs and SIDS will be covered by 2025? What could be possible scenarios in terms of a progressive approach to expand coverage to all LDCs and SIDS?
- 1.2 **Expand the services, in countries and regions currently benefiting from CREWS support, with additional financing?** – i.e. providing capacity and expert advice for forecasting and warning services for additional hazards; expanding the support to additional service in the early warning/early action value chain. Additional financing needs for countries would be determined on a case-by-case basis.
- 1.3 **Provide follow-up expert advisory services in countries where CREWS projects have closed and successfully initiated larger investments by development partners?** – it is the aim that all CREWS projects should have leveraged additional and longer term financing. Providing continued expert advisory support can contribute to the sustainability and effectiveness of these investments. Scale-up the efficient delivery of expert advisory services to CREWS countries?

2. Programmatic scope – systematizing effective country operations building on current practices

- 2.1 **Sharpen the programme implementation approach?** – building on the current approach of regional and national level capacity development and services; generating products through the WMO cascading forecast process; developing comprehensive country programs addressing the early warning value chain; promoting the communication of warnings through common alerting procedures; joint programming based on respective partners value-added; gender-responsive country operations; institutional strengthening and development of national and plans standard operating procedures; impact-based forecasts and warnings; country-led programme implementation.
- 2.2 **Further align CREWS financing with larger hydromet investments by development partners?** – there is a demand for expert advisory services throughout the programming cycle of countries hydromet investment starting with investment window preparation.

- 2.3 **Work with new operational partners?** – this could include partnering more closely with an institution involved in early action, such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) .

3. Coherence and innovation – aligning and contributing to relevant initiatives and partnership

- 3.1 **Enhance the coherence of operations and the monitoring of early warning access and capacity gaps?** – enhance the ongoing mapping of early warning in LDCs and SIDS (needs, demand, leveraging) to guide CREWS Steering Committee deliberation on prioritizing investment and promoting coherence? How to build capacity in LDCs and SIDS for measuring access and effectiveness of early warning systems (linked to global targets)? How to further promote coherence of operations among operational partners?
- 3.2 **Scale-up innovation?** – around effective operations and new ways of engaging with countries; engaging private sector organizations in country projects; agile development processes including continuous and iterative learning, compiling and sharing of practices.
- 3.3 **Contribute and adapt to a fast evolving environment with current and new initiatives and actors?** – position CREWS as an effective mechanism for accelerating the objectives and targets of key initiatives:
- The InsuResilience Global Partnership
 - Green Climate Fund (GCF)
 - Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)
 - Alliance for Hydromet Development
 - Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA)
 - Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS)
 - Others to be identified...

CREWS Post-2020 - Draft Recommendations from the Consultations with the Implementing Partners

1. Background

1. The demand for CREWS engagement, by 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.
2. Early warning services, and the broader hydromet and climate services, are increasingly 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.
3. Shortly after its launch in 2015, the CREWS Steering Committee adopted an Investment Plan 2020, which set out the programming scope, operational parameters and criteria for making financing decisions for the initial years of the initiative.
4. In November 2019, at its 10th Meeting, , the CREWS Steering Committee took note of the above points and invited the CREW Secretariat to initiate consultations, with the support of the three Implementing Partners, on how to consolidate CREWS operations post-2020.
5. The Secretariat prepared a set of *Guiding Questions for Consultations Leading to a Vision for CREWS Post-2020* and a timeline.
6. This paper summarizes points made by the three Implementing Partners, at a consultative workshop, held on-line, on 23 April 23. They are expected to feed into and guide further consultations with the CREWS Contributing Members.

2. Main Points

7. The current COVID-19 crisis has implications for the CREWS initiative. In the short-term, it will affect the delivery of results by the projects, due to resources and capacities being oriented towards COVID-19 response. COVID-19 is also expected to add vulnerability factors for countries managing the risk of hydrometeorological hazards.
8. In the medium-term, the COVID-19 crisis is also expected to accelerate the expansion of the type of hazards which countries will want to see covered by their multi-hazard early warning systems and broader disaster risk management strategies, to include biological health hazards.
9. The value of the CREWS mechanisms is its 'programmatic approach', bringing a number of actors around a common programme on early warning systems investments. One component is the ongoing mapping of gaps, needs and leveraging potential to prioritize financing decisions. CREWS also allows contextualisation of support to address heterogeneous local contexts and hazard types and minimizes transaction costs.

10. CREWS needs to maintain the focus in its projects on the whole value chain of an early warning system. It should also maintain a multi-stakeholder approach, from the inception phase of the projects. While the value of this approach is recognized, few projects have been able to effectively address all early warning components. The communication and the preparedness to act capacity have typically been the weakest link.
11. The scope and scale of future operations depends, in part, on the amount of financing made available through the CREWS Trust Fund. In this regard, there is strong convergence of views that one of the main value-add of CREWS has been to contribute to the effectiveness and generate bigger impact of other, less specialized, financing mechanisms.

3. Delivering to Scale

12. Maintain the objective of expanding CREWS services to all LDCs and SIDS.
13. Make the case to the CREWS Steering Committee for extending existing projects, where applicable, through additional financing. In particular, in countries with limited institutional capacity, with slow implementation and where the project require steep learning curve. This allows to build on institutional capacities established, adding services for additional hazards and/or focus on early action.
14. Continue and scale-up the development of projects in sub-regional clusters such as currently under implementation in West Africa and the Pacific.
15. Continue capitalizing on CREWS partnership and governance arrangements to position CREWS as a mechanism for harmonizing initiatives and portfolios across LDCs and SIDS.
16. Consolidate the assessment of LDCs and SIDS early warning needs, demand, gaps and leveraging potential and consolidate the principles for prioritizing financing decisions.
17. Bringing on board additional Implementing Partners , such as the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) requires an analysis of the opportunity cost. In particular, the comparative advantage that new Implementing Partners would bring to the effectiveness of the country projects, in comparison with the transaction costs related to joint programming.

4. Strengthening the Programmatic Approach

18. Increase the emphasis on linking CREWS projects to large-scale investments in enhanced hydro-met systems and associated risk information and early warning services. This requires increased, and earlier, access to planned investments, and increased capacity to engage with development partners.
19. Add emphasis on, and flexibility for, using CREWS resources to provide technical advisory services, e.g. through advanced NMHSs, into the design and implementation of large investments. This requires programming flexibility to fill gaps in existing and planned hydro-met investments (involves addressing additional complexity, both in analysis and design, as well as in implementation).
20. Systematize CREWS comparative advantage in integrating national and regional systems, to strengthen country access to regional and global data and products in support of country-level service delivery.

21. CREWS should develop operational guidelines to ensure inclusiveness approaches and address groups most at risk. In addition to gender aspects, CREWS projects should address the inclusion of and contributions by vulnerable groups at all stages of an early warning system – from the design to actual warning and response. Special consideration could be given to persons with disabilities.
22. All CREWS projects should include a component on enhancing the capacity to report on the Sendai Framework target G.
23. While the focus is currently on early warning systems for hydro-meteorological hazards, links should be explored to existing EWS for other relevant hazards in a given country or region.

5. Coherence and innovation

24. Continue the compilation and sharing of operational practices and lessons learnt, across the CREWS portfolio and in partnership with other broader initiatives. Use effective practices for new projects as much as possible, considering the context of each country and region.
25. Remain up-to-date and open for new ideas and innovative ways of working. Further efforts can be made to promote innovation in CREWS projects. Identified areas that would benefit from innovative approaches are: Impacts-based forecasting; public and private sector partnerships; and cascading forecasting from global to regional to national.
26. Capitalize on the CREWS monitoring systems and proposed core programme indicators harmonize how early warning system effectiveness are monitored by countries, development partners and globally. This should enhance how the impact of CREWS is captured and promote coherence with other initiative to measure hydromet gaps.
27. Align and contribute to relevant initiatives and partnership, building on previous efforts. CREWS members, secretariat and Implementing Partners need to promote its specific added-value, the synergies and contributions as appropriate and avoid duplication of work.