

**10th Meeting of the
Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems
(CREWS) Steering Committee**

FINAL MEETING REPORT

05 December 2019, Madrid, Spain

Summary of Proceedings and Decisions

1. The 10th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee was held on 05 December 2019 in Madrid, Spain.
2. Representatives from CREWS Contributing Partners: France, Germany, Luxembourg (Chair), The Netherlands, Switzerland and the newest member the United Kingdom; invited Observers: African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States (ACP) Secretariat, Canada, European Commission's Director-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO), International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (IFRC), InsuResilience Secretariat and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); CREWS Implementing Partners: the World Bank, Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) as well as the CREWS Trustee (World Bank) and the CREWS Secretariat, connected remotely, or attended in person, the meeting (Annex 1 – List of Participants).

Agenda Item 1 – Opening

3. The Chair of the CREWS Steering Committee, Mr. Georges Gehl, 1st Secretary, Ministry for the Environment, Climate Change and Sustainable Development, Luxembourg, outlined the main objectives of the meeting, which were: (i) to discuss the initial proposal on CREWS programme indicators that will demonstrate quantifiable progress and results across the CREWS portfolio; (ii) to review progress of the portfolio of CREWS projects during the last six months (from June to November 2019); (iii) to hear of the status of the projects under development and the current list of countries pipelined for future projects; and (iv) an open initial exchange on the parameters to consolidate CREWS operations post-2020 by drawing on lessons learned from current practices and opportunities linked to new initiatives (see Annex 1 – Agenda of the Meeting).

Agenda Item 2 – CREWS Portfolio Status

4. The Secretariat referred to CREWS/SC.10/infdoc.1 on the status of progress on decisions taken at the 9th Meeting of the Steering Committee on 7 November 2019. Main activities are the preparation for the 10th CREWS Steering Committee Meeting and the CREWS events at the COP 25, including: (i) compiling reports from the Implementing Partners on the progress of CREWS projects – each project reports every six months and reports are uploaded in the CREWS website; (ii) the Secretariat participated in a UNDRR workshop in Bonn on measuring Target G on access to early warning; tapped on the experts network of the Implementing Partners and convened discussions with the Implementing Partners to define an initial proposal of CREWS programme indicators that would be presented to the Steering Committee; and (iii) progress on the CREWS practice compilation to capture the good practices in the country projects, including participation in a workshop in the United Kingdom on Impact-based Forecasting to showcase experiences and learn from partners.
5. The representative from France inquired on what is the link between the efforts by CREWS to collect good practice and the future work of the Alliance for Hydromet Development. The Secretariat mentioned that in order to ensure a sustained and systematic approach to the collection and sharing of good practices this effort would benefit from being part of broader efforts, for example, the Alliance for Hydromet Development and the Risk-informed Early Action Partnerships (REAP). It is the intention of the Secretariat to suggest a more systematic way to document the practices and share these knowledge and information to contribute to thinking on early warning systems operations in the countries and globally.

Decision 1: The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to provide, by the end of 2019, a written update on the status of the practice compilation with recommendations for sustaining such knowledge management and knowledge exchange on early warning systems operations.

6. The Trustee (World Bank) reported on changes to the financial status of the Trust Fund since the last meeting. Developments include: (i) signing of the Contribution Agreement with the United Kingdom for 2 million pounds and awaiting receipt of the funds; and (ii) an upcoming Agreement with Germany for a contribution of Euro 10 million of which Euro 4 million will be transferred during the 1st quarter of 2020.
7. The Chair referred to the recent exchange of emails between the Trustee and the Contributing Members regarding the pending issue of how the financial set-up for CREWS addresses any potential misappropriation of funds. Specifically, he referred to the proposed invitation to the Implementing Partners to share their current modalities and controls they have in place regarding their financial management responsibilities, as these are the mechanisms that apply in the context of the CREWS set-up.
8. The representative of Netherlands welcomed being informed in a timely manner on further discussions on this issue. The representative of Switzerland further suggested an update at the 11th Meeting, with the Contributing Members.

Decision 2: The Steering Committee invites the three CREWS Implementing Partners to provide, in writing, through the CREWS Secretariat, information regarding the frameworks and controls they have in place regarding their financial management responsibilities related to the CREWS Initiative for discussions at the 11th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee.

9. The Secretariat updated on the proposed CREWS programme indicators. The Secretariat made reference to CREWS/SC.10/Infdoc.2 which provides the rationale, principles and proposed ways forward to finalizing the indicators. The document also outlines in the Annex the proposed indicators that would be used as metrics for showing progress across the portfolio of projects.
10. The Secretariat emphasized that defining CREWS programme indicators is a complex exercise. The indicators need to be specific yet should have the right mix to be able to measure the impact of CREWS projects and be aligned with efforts by countries to measure the effectiveness of their early warning systems (Sendai Target G).
11. The indicators need to align to other processes, large hydromet programmes of the World Bank and the WMO's normative guidelines.
12. The Secretariat proposed to test the metrics and establish baselines for the proposed indicators in its upcoming 2019 Annual Report. The indicators will then require expert consultation and inputs to validate and finalize.
13. Representatives welcomed the indicators to measure the progress across the CREWS portfolio and further stressed the need to develop the programme indicators with the actors in the countries. An indicator is required to measure how gender has been mainstreamed into projects and a reference could be made to the Gender Action Plan that would be adopted at COP 25. It was also suggested to consider measures beyond early warning (for instance use of climate risk insurance). It was suggested to include one metric on measuring the increased prioritization on early warning system in terms of financial investments. It was suggested to explore the use of household level data to reflect the impact of early warning systems.
14. Members offered assistance from their respective technical experts and institutions to collaborate in

the validation process and indicated they are prepared to provide in writing their feedback on the proposed metrics and indicators.

15. The representative from UNDRR welcomed the fact that the CREWS indicators would build on existing mechanisms. It was suggested to explore opportunities, through CREWS, to build capacity in LDCs and SIDS to measure the Sendai Targets and Target G in particular.
16. WMO presented its current assessment and certified the status of its global operational hydromet system and associated services, including early warning and climate information as part of the monitoring framework of its 2020 – 2023 Strategic and Operating Plan. WMO offered to contribute these data to the set of CREWS programme indicators of early warning capacity across LDCs and SIDS.

Decision 3: The Steering Committee invites the CREWS Secretariat to further consolidate the proposed programme indicators. Members are encouraged to provide an initial expert review by end of January 2020. The Steering Committee agrees to apply them to upcoming reporting on CREWS projects, including the 2019 Annual Report, and to initiate an expert validation process through their application in the context of relevant reports such as the report on the State of Climate Services (GFCS) and hydromet capacity gaps.

17. The World Bank, on behalf of the Implementing Partners, presented the Status Report of the CREWS Projects Portfolio for the period June – November 2019 on behalf of the Implementing Partners and referred to CREWS/SC.10/Infdoc.3.
18. In Africa, six country projects (Burkina Faso, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Niger and Togo) and one regional project (West Africa) are being implemented with CREWS funding totaling approximately USD 19 million. The implementing partners in the African region are World Bank and WMO. All projects are aligned to the objectives set. Progress in terms of expenditure and delivery of outputs varies. Four out of the seven projects are rated as on-track on both criteria while 3 out of the 7 projects show moderate progress.
19. Some of the key outputs highlighted in projects in Africa were: (i) strategic plan on enhanced agricultural services in Burkina Faso developed; (ii) flood risk model for the N'Djili watershed completed in DRC; (iii) agreements in discussion between national partners and cellphone operators in Chad for rainfall monitoring; (iv) the Niger decree on national alert code adopted; (v) mid-term evaluation report for Burkina Faso available; and (vi) 90 women leaders in Mali trained on disaster management and early warning. Further, initial joint WB-WMO technical mission was carried out in Chad to initiate implementation while a similar mission is planned in Togo for the coming year. Risks for most of the projects in Africa are rated as moderate/medium, mostly related to increased insecurity and operational difficulties. These are mitigated through relocation of training activities and conducting remote M&E.
20. It was further noted that in the implementation of the Africa projects, both World Bank and WMO have learned to optimize their comparative advantages and collaboration between the two agencies has improved through learning by doing.
21. Moreover, the CREWS West Africa project has just completed its Project Steering Committee in November and it is useful to note that the Meteorological Services of the CREWS Contributing Members were involved in the coordination meeting and provide expert support and services to the regional partners of the project.
22. In Caribbean, the regional project is being implemented jointly by the 3 Implementing Partners, World Bank, WMO and UNDRR. The project has a total CREWS financing of USD 5,500,000 and a CAD 2,000,000 co-financing from Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC). The project remains

aligned to its objectives and on track in terms of rate of expenditure. While delivery rate is on track in most aspects, the development of the regional diagnostic and strategy are experiencing some delays.

23. Some of the key outputs of the regional project during the reporting period were: (1) ongoing drafting and consultation process for the Caribbean regional strategy; (2) review of the Letter of Agreement to develop National Strategic Plans and meteorological bills; (3) conduct of a Regional sub-management team meeting on Severe Weather Forecasting Demonstration Project - Eastern Caribbean and (4) completion of 4 national workshops for gender and early warning system. The risk rating of the project is moderate/medium and is mostly concentrated around coordination between multiple stakeholders and regional set-ups. To mitigate, the Implementing Partners reached out to other regional consortia for joint consultations, regional consortia leaders were included in the CREWS Caribbean Project Steering Committee and World Bank representative is integrated into the Regional Early Warning System (REWS) Consortium as an observer for better coordination.
24. The Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) in Fiji was successfully implemented wherein the National Disaster Management Offices (NDMOs) have been included in the activities from the onset and community based early warning workshops incorporated traditional knowledge. Further, impact-based forecasting for coastal inundation in Kiribati and Tuvalu have been completed.
25. There are two projects being implemented in the Pacific - a regional project and a country project in Papua New Guinea. Both projects have a total of USD 4.15 million of CREWS funding.
26. For the regional Pacific project, all the aspects of performance assessment are on track and risk rating is low. Some of the key outputs are the following: (1) Tuvalu Strategic Plan developed; (2) training for experts and met office staff on FFGS provided; (3) online training module on Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) completed; (4) regional workshop on Impact-Based Forecasting provided to staff from NMHS and NDMOs; (5) women's Leadership training given to 35 women from 13 Pacific Islands.
27. In Papua New Guinea, all aspects of performance assessment are now on track and fully satisfactory. The risk, however, is rated as medium/moderate. This is mitigated by hiring a full-time project manager and with the support from the Australian Bureau of Meteorology (BoM) and the Government of Australia through their Capacity Development Project.
28. The CREWS Afghanistan project was approved in July 2019 by the CREWS Steering Committee for a total of USD 3.665 million investment. No activities have started yet. In December 2019, an assessment for one of the priority activities on drought early warning system is planned as well as a joint World Bank-WMO mission.
29. The status of pipeline countries was presented for information of the Steering Committee by the Secretariat referring to CREWS/SC.10/Infdoc.4. It highlighted the three main criteria for prioritizing pipelining of countries: (1) Need – exposure to risk and institutional capacity for early warning; (2) Demand – level of priority given to early warning systems; and (3) potential for leveraging additional resources.
30. With regard to the status of projects being developed, the Secretariat referred to the email sent out in advance of the Meeting summarizing the status of each project proposal; (1) Haiti proposal to be submitted for a no-objection approval on 16 December 2019; (2) timeline for the Pacific regional proposal development sent out by email with an invitation to Contributing Members to nominate experts who can support the proposal preparation; (3) proposal for additional financing for West Africa circulated three weeks in advance for review.
31. The representative from Netherlands noted that the budget request for additional financing for West Africa is acceptable and requested additional information from the Implementing Partners on the

rationale for the request for additional funds.

32. The WMO representative, as a response to the query posed, provided a brief on the context of the additional financing request for West Africa. The regional project started implementation in September 2018 with the intention to provide 2-year support (up to September 2020) to the regional meteorological, hydrological and climate centers, namely ANACIM and AGRHYMET. At the time of approval and start-up of implementation, ANACIM was not accredited yet as a regional center for severe weather forecasting and AGRHYMET has not yet started the formal process for accreditation as a regional climate center. The context has changed and the two regional institutions are in a different position now compared to when the project started. The needs from their Member States, including 5 CREWS beneficiaries such as Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, Togo, and 14 other countries from the PRESASS regional climatic zone, have now expanded, the current period of implementation and amount of resources are no longer enough to implement the technical support needed. Further, the World Bank resumed the preparation of its West Africa Regional Hydro-Meteorological Services Modernization Program Phase I in the region, and are also addressing climate resilience under its Freetown Integrated and Resilient Urban Mobility Project, and is therefore in a better position to join as an Implementing Partner.
33. The representative from Switzerland emphasized that indeed it is important to know about the guidelines for making strategic decisions in terms of prioritizing investments. It would provide comments on the proposals and would nominate experts as requested to support project proposal preparation for the Pacific.
34. The representative from the United Kingdom would review the proposal submitted for West Africa additional financing and would like to explore and have a specific meeting on how this project could complement UK's investments in the region such as WISER.
35. The representative from France is in favor of extending the West Africa regional project to 19 countries. Also, it expressed the need to have a regional project in the Indian Ocean and would like to propose that it be included in the agenda for the next Steering Committee meeting.
36. The representative from Germany also expressed support to the proposal for additional financing for the West Africa project and offered to link the regional partners with the institutions that Germany is working with in the region. An inquiry was made on the timeline for moving from pipeline to project proposal.
37. The Secretariat noted the feedback provided and emphasized that the needs would always be higher than what could be available, hence, it is important to have continuous discussions on the changing context and changing needs in each of the CREWS financing decisions. As regards to the question on timeline for pipeline stage to project proposal stage, this depends on the availability funds. Resources are made available based on commitments made by the Contributing Partners. The number of projects pipelined is based on a rough estimate of projected contributions in the next two years.

Agenda Item 3 – CREWS Post-2020

38. The Chair made reference to the document prepared by the Secretariat to support this agenda item (CREWS/SC.10/Infdoc.5). The objective of this agenda item is to get initial perspectives from the participants on the parameters through which CREWS operations could be consolidated in the future.
39. In terms of context, CREWS is growing in size and in the number of projects. The demand from LDCs and SIDS is also growing. The CREWS business model is appreciated by the countries, in particular its

flexible financing and ability to align best expertise with the early warning needs. The iterative learning, through documenting of its practices is also proving to be useful. The questions being asked are: (1) how to move from incremental action to a scaled-up transformative approach; and (2) what are the opportunities to bridge the capacity gap on early warning systems for LDCs and SIDS in a sustained manner?

40. The representative from Switzerland referred to CREWS as being in a strong good position with its 3 Implementing Partners and there are several related initiatives – for instance the Country Support Initiative (CSI), Alliance for Hydromet Development, InsuResilience and the newly established Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP). It would be good for the Secretariat to discuss jointly with the Implementing Partners on how they see CREWS post-2020, strengthen the CREWS *modus operandi* and find entry points on how CREWS can collaborate with these initiatives and with climate financing institutions such as the Green Climate Fund (GCF). Switzerland is supporting a seconded expert and this support can be maximized to ensure internal coordination of all existing initiatives.
41. The representative from France suggested that a few principles can be put forward to guide the reflection. The context is changing, the needs are increasing and more resources are needed to meet the higher demand. It is crucial to find ways on how to use the available resources more efficiently through ensuring that projects under the initiative are coherent, better coordinated, provide the best support and complementary with each other. CREWS needs to also articulate what it can bring to other existing initiatives to cover the full array of climate services.
42. The representative of Netherlands emphasized that CREWS should not function in isolation as a separate initiative but rather complementing all the other programmes in support of early warning. Other partners should be invited to join.
43. The representative of Luxembourg reiterated that CREWS should continue and try to make the other actors give support to its objectives through a collaborative approach. It is useful to build on what CREWS has now, keep other initiatives informed in order to avoid duplication.
44. The representative from the United Kingdom invited CREWS to be part of the REAP to ensure alignment and benefit from coordination.
45. The representative from DPO/WMO presented an overview of the Alliance for Hydromet Development. The Alliance brings together all the players behind a common declaration. Two of the Implementing Partners of CREWS are part of the founding members of the Alliance – the World Bank and WMO. In addition, the other founding members are development banks, climate and environment funds, United Nations agencies and bilateral partners, which represent 80% of hydromet financing. The Alliance has 10 basic commitments, the 3rd commitment is related to CREWS and its value propositions –promote better coherence, knowledge and monitoring and programmatic approach that goes beyond projects. Hence, the challenge is on how CREWS can take advantage of the resources provided by climate and environment funds and how CREWS can contribute to their work. A suggested entry point could be for CREWS to engage closely with the GCF on its ongoing work on sectoral guidance notes, one of which is on early warning system.
46. The Secretariat took note and would support the best way it can to participate in the sectoral guidance notes exercise of the GCF. It also mentioned that the Contributing Partners who sit on the Boards of the Climate Funds, could ensure that the CREWS be included in the discussions of these climate financing bodies.
47. The representative from Switzerland highlighted the issue of leveraging, noting that it is a political issue and that this should be reported with the political perspective in mind. CREWS has a role in the

climate finance architecture, therefore, it has to be cautious on how it communicates its leveraging role from the political perspective.

48. The World Bank representative indicated there are numerous leveraging opportunities working at different levels. For instance, in West Africa, in addition to the regional level, there are national level opportunities for leveraging that can also be taken advantage of. There are numerous investments on the ground from the different development partners. Synergies with CREWS will always be very beneficial.

Decision 4: The Steering Committee invites the Secretariat to capture, in the meeting report, the points raised in the discussion on CREWS post-2020. The Chair will consult with the Members and the Secretariat on modalities for bringing further these consultations, in advance of the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee, with a view to defining recommendations to consolidate the CREWS business model, including a common set of principles for prioritizing financing decisions.

Agenda Item 4 – AOB and wrap-up

49. The Chair reminded the Meeting that the position of Steering Committee Chair is still open for 2020. The Chair strongly invited members to express an interest to serve as Chair of the Steering Committee for 2020.

50. The Chair also noted that the 11th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will take place in the second quarter of 2020 for Contributing Members and the 12th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will take place in the margins of COP 26 open to Observers.

Decision 5: The 11th Meeting of the CREWS Steering Committee will take place in the second quarter of 2020 for Contributing Members. It will, *inter-alia*, identify the next round of countries and regions for which to initiate projects, review the CREWS Operational Note No. 1 on Programing and Project Development and hear of the status of progress of the CREWS portfolio of projects.

Decision 6: The 12th Meeting will take place in the margins of COP 26 and be open to Observers.

51. The Decisions of the 10th Steering Committee meeting were approved.

Annex 1 – List of Participants

MEMBERS	NAMES	STATUS
France	Brigitte Collet	In person
	Vincent Szeleper	Online
	Arnaut Rayar	Online
Germany	Martin Kipping	In person
Luxembourg (Chair)	Georges Gehl	In person
	André Weidenhaupt	In person
	Jerome Fae	In person
The Netherlands	Piet de Wildt	In person
Switzerland	Antonia Sutter	In person
	Sergio Perez	Online
	Michelle Stalder	In person
OBSERVERS	NAMES	STATUS
ACP	Olusola Ojo	In person
Canada	Shannon deGraaf	Online
EC DEVCO	Jose-Carlos Edo Monfort	Online
IFRC	Donna Lagdameo	In person
InsuResilience Secretariat	Tuga Alaskary	In person
UK DFID	Rosalind West	In person
	Saskia Goldman	In person
	Jonathan Hassall	Online
UNDP	Patrick Gremillet	Online
IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS	NAMES	STATUS
UNDRR	Paola Albrito	Online
	Sandra Amlang	Online
	David Stevens	In person
World Bank	Julie Dana	Online

	Robert Reid	Online
	Lorenzo Carerra	Online
	Henriette Mampuya	Online
	Koffi Hounkpe	Online
	Muliro Mashauri	Online
	Hugo Thomas Wesley	Online
WMO	Maxx Dilley	In person
	Markus Repnik	In person
	Josephine Wilson	Online
	Jean Baptiste Migraine	Online
	Lorena Santamaria	In person
	Jason Thomas Watkins	Online
	Jennifer Ferguson Mitchell	Online
TRUSTEE	NAMES	STATUS
	Larissa Vovk	Online
SECRETARIAT	NAMES	STATUS
	John Harding	In person
	Maria Lourdes Kathleen Macasil	Online
	Catherine Thompson	In person
	Srivedant Kar	Online

Annex 2 - Provisional Agenda | 05 December 2019

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| 12.30 – 12.50 | Item 1 - Opening <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Welcome by the Chair and objectives of the Meeting- Review of progress on decisions taken at the 9th Meeting- Adoption of the Agenda |
| 12.50 – 2.00 | Item 2 – CREWS Portfolio Status <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Short briefs by the Secretariat and Trustee on developments since 9th Meeting including status of generic indicators<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Overview by the Implementing Partners of the status of the portfolio of projects- Update on the status of project preparations (Haiti, Pacific and West Africa)- List of pipeline countries |
| 2.00 – 2.45 | Item 3 – CREWS Post 2020 |
| 2.45 – 3.00 | Item 4 – Wrap-up <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Objectives and dates for the 11th Meeting of the Steering Committee- Steering Committee Chair for 2020- Any other business |

