

ACCELERATING ACTIONS ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS TOWARDS CLIMATE RESILIENCE

CONTRIBUTION BY THE CLIMATE RISK AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS (CREWS) INITIATIVE

The United Nations Secretary-General's Climate Summit 2019 aims to mobilize political and economic will at the highest levels to advance climate action. Consultations leading to the Summit are advocating for climate services and early warning systems^{1,2}. This paper is a contribution by the CREWS Initiative to those consultations.

WHY EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE

- › The risk of losing life and livelihoods due to extreme climate events is higher in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).
- › Mortality, loss of livelihoods and assets is directly linked to the capacity of countries to observe, monitor and predict these events and to issue early warnings that the population understand and take action on.

CREWS' ACHIEVEMENTS FOLLOWING COP21

At COP21, the Government of France with support from the World Bank, the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) led a coalition to significantly increase the capacity to generate and communicate early warning systems in LDCs and SIDS by 2020.

- › 7 countries, Australia, Canada³, France, Germany, Luxembourg, Netherlands and Switzerland contribute to the CREWS Initiative.
- › Investments in 8 LDCs and SIDS, covering over 200 million people and 3 regional projects covering an additional 33 countries, contribute to strengthened early warning capacity.
- › USD 42 million has been disbursed from the CREWS Trust Fund mobilizing an additional USD 118 from public funds of other development partners.

OPPORTUNITY FOR ACCELERATED ACTION

Main goal: Increase the number of LDCs and SIDS benefiting from increased and effective cooperation and capacity building to ensure risk informed, people centered, multiple hazards early warning systems.

Sub-goals:

- › By 2025, 30 LDCs and SIDS⁴, covering a population of 220 million, and 3 additional regions⁵ have significantly increased their capacity to monitor and predict extreme events, communicate the alerts and people are aware, informed and prepared to take action.
- › By 2020, to target USD 100 million commitments, to the CREWS Trust Fund. Nine LDCs and SIDS have been identified with levels of eligibility, ownership and readiness to initiate preparation for investment decisions⁶.
- › By 2020, to build coalitions with Red Cross and Red Crescent societies, institutions working with local authorities and grassroots organization, to reach the "last mile".
- › Increase the number of development partners committed to increase coherence of development efforts to strengthen hydromet capacity. **The Alliance for Hydromet Development** will create a shared commitment between World Meteorological Organization and major development partners.
- › Provision of technical advice to strengthen developing countries' capacities in an integrated, systematic and structured manner through the **Country Support Initiative (CSI)** of WMO.

¹ Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit, track #6 Resilience and adaptation, coalition co-lead by Egypt and United Kingdom.

² Global Commission on Adaptation (GCA), Action Track on Preventing Disasters, Making the last mile the first mile: preventing extreme weather events from becoming disasters in communities most at risk.

³ Canada contributes funds to the WMO that are programmed with funds from the CREWS Trust Fund.

⁴ Target based on ongoing mapping of LDCs and SIDS with regard to their capacity to provide hydrometeorological services.

⁵ CREWS currently supports investment in three regions (Caribbean, Pacific and West Africa) and the proposal is to extend to an additional three (Indian Ocean, Eastern and Southern Africa).

⁶ CREWS pipeline countries, as approved by the Steering Committee, in May 2019, based on: (i) exposure to risk and institutional capacity for early warning; (ii) level of priority given to early warning systems by countries; and (iii) potential for leveraging additional resources and aligning programmes.

CRITICAL ELEMENTS FOR ACCELERATE ACTION ON EARLY WARNING

- › People at the center - significantly increase financial and institutional commitments towards people-centered and gender-sensitive early warning systems that lead to early action.
- › Focus on sustainability – emphasize actions to strengthen national institutional capacities, robust and sustained observing systems and a focus on service provision and early action to complement current predominant support to the capital costs of observation infrastructure.
- › Improve effectiveness - USD 2 billion can potentially be invested on hydrological and meteorological development by development partners through mechanisms such as the Green Climate Fund. CREWS prepares countries in a programmatic and coherent manner to manage increasing sources of finance on early warning systems.

GLOBAL GOALS AND TARGETS – NEED FOR ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY ON EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS

- › Sustainable Developing Goal (SDG) on Ending Poverty
 - › By 2030, build the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations and reduce their exposure and vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters.
- › Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
 - › By 2030, substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to the people.
- › Paris Agreement on Climate Change
 - › Identifies early warning as an area of cooperation, calls for strengthened cooperation on early warning systems and financing of LDCs and SIDS.
- › WMO
 - › Strengthen national multi-hazard early warning/alert systems and extend reach to better enable effective response to the associated risks.
 - › By 2030, closing the capacity gap among WMO Members.
- › World Bank
 - › By 2025, expand access to high-quality hydrometeorological data and early warning systems for an additional 250 million people in at least 30 developing countries, and support 100 agencies with improved meteorological, hydrological and/or flood forecasting systems.”

For more information visit www.crews-initiative.org or contact us at crewsinfo@wmo.int

CREWS gratefully acknowledges the contributions of its Members.

CREWS Members



Australia



France



Germany



Luxembourg
(Chair)



Netherlands



Switzerland

CREWS Observers



Canada



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ACP

CREWS Implementing Partners



WORLD BANK GROUP



GFDRR
Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction