



Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems Initiative (CREWS)



Country/Region

Global

CREWS strengthens the capacity of provider and user agencies for the development and delivery of weather, water and climate-related early warning services. ©CREWS Secretariat

Adaptation to weather and climate hazards urgently requires early warning as well as preparedness and response plans, but National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Disaster Risk Management Agencies in many developing countries remain unable to meet this demand. The Climate Risks and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative was launched at COP21 in 2015 as an innovative pooled financing mechanism to address this gap by supporting Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the provision of early-warning systems that lead to early action to efficiently reduce impacts and adapt to increasing weather and climate-related risk.

Weather, climate and water-related disasters take a high toll on human lives and the global economy. Between 1970 and 2019, there were more than 11 000 such disasters, which accounted for over 2 million deaths and USD 3.64 trillion in losses, according to the World Meteorological Organization. Multi-hazard early warning systems, however, can save lives and are therefore recognized in the key global agreements on disasters and climate change, namely the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction as well as the Paris Agreement. Early warning systems are also extremely cost-effective, saving lives and assets worth at least ten times their cost.



Phase Duration

2018 – 2022 (Phase 1)

Financial contribution of SDC

CHF 9'000'000

Target groups

Direct: National Meteorological and Hydrological Services in LDCs and SIDS
Indirect: National and sub-national decision makers such as sector ministries, city mayors and planners, small and medium enterprises, farmers, regional inter-governmental organizations, implementing partners, individuals.

Achievements so far

Since its creation, CREWS and its partners have improved the state of early warning systems and capabilities in LDCs and SIDS:

- 57 vulnerable countries have benefitted from CREWS country and regional project support.
- USD 51.5 million in CREWS funding has been deployed across nine CREWS country projects and four regional projects.
- More than USD 330 million has been leveraged from public funds of other development partners.
- 114 million additional people will be better protected from drought, sand and dust storm, by community-based early warning and response mechanisms that were developed, established or piloted in Afghanistan, Palau and 6 West African countries through CREWS work in 2020.

Project Objectives

CREWS aims to significantly increase the capacity of LDCs and SIDS to generate and communicate effective, impact-based, multi-hazard early warnings and risk information to protect lives, livelihoods, and assets.

Expected results

At the country level:

- Hydrometeorological service delivery is improved
- Risk information is generated for impact-based forecasts and early warnings
- Information and communication technology strengthened
- Preparedness and response plans are strengthened and accessible
- Awareness on early warning is improved
- Gender-responsive capacity-building programmes initiated

At the regional level:

- Regional capacities for early warning are strengthened

At the global level:

- Investments are increased and better coordinated to address early warning service delivery gaps

How this will be achieved

The CREWS Initiative's implementing partners (WMO, World Bank/GFDRR and UNDRR) jointly provide analytical and advisory services, technical assistance, capacity building, and operational support to countries, through regional and national projects.

Key principles driving CREWS operations include:

Putting People at the Centre by engaging with and encouraging collaboration between local level actors
Having sustainability as the cornerstone of its operations

Strengthening cooperation with relevant initiatives and other financiers and implementers to allow CREWS to frame and deploy its resources in the most strategic manner possible

Enhancing collaborative partnerships between the public and private sectors to foster innovative, sustainable, and cost-effective approaches to various elements of early warning systems.

In addition to longer-term CREWS projects, an

Accelerated Support Window provides shorter duration, targeted actions aimed at strengthening elements of early warning systems and the associated enabling conditions required for their sustainability and effectiveness.

Additional information

CREWS website www.crews-initiative.org

Particularities of this Project

- The project is jointly managed by the DRR Team of the Multilateral Humanitarian Affairs Division and GPCCE
- A Swiss expert from the Swiss Humanitarian Aid Unit is seconded to the World Meteorological Organisation to support the CREWS Initiative

Partners

World Meteorological Organization,
World Bank / Global Facility for Disaster
Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), United
Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduc-
tion (UNDRR)

Contact

gpcce@eda.admin.ch

31.03.2022



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC