

Climate risk and early warning systems

Every year, disasters caused by weather extremes lead to significant losses of life and socioeconomic impacts. From 1970 to 2012, close to 2 million deaths and US\$ 2.4 trillion of economic losses were reported globally because of droughts, floods, windstorms, tropical cyclones, storm surges and extreme temperatures alone. According to the intergovernmental panel on climate change's fifth assessment report, the frequency and severity of such hazards is increasing, exacerbating risks to lives and livelihoods around the world, particularly in developing and least developed countries. Improved multi-hazard early warning systems are the most effective way to increase resilience and to adapt to climate change. However, in poor and vulnerable countries, weather data is often unreliable or totally lacking. Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) is an international initiative which aims to significantly increase in the capacity for seamless multi-hazard early warning system to