

## WORLD METEOROLOGICAL DAY – 2025

### *Closing the Early Warning Gap Together*



This year, World Meteorological Organization (WMO) celebrates 75 years from its foundation and the contribution of the organization and its members to the benefit of the society, by saving lives and protecting the planet. In this respect, as well as for the hard effort to implement *The Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative*, which will provide protection for everyone by life-saving early warning systems by 2027, this year's theme was set to be: *Closing the Early Warning Gap Together*.

The role of the WMO and the staff of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services has become more important in the past 75 year, generated by the developing of the society and the changing climate. Social and economic development required meteorological/hydrological data, information and service, provided by the WMO community, leading to a wide range of utilities, from daily activities to long term investments. More than that, an impressive amount of money was saved from economic loses generated by the climate and water-related hazards, as well as hundreds of thousands of lives. On the other hand, in a changing climate, the task of meteorologists and hydrologists become more difficult as the weather goes to extreme: the past 10 years had the highest temperatures of records; 2024 exceeded the pre-industrial period temperature by 1.5°C; weather and climate risk phenomena (heatwaves, storms, floods, tropical cyclones) become more frequent and intense, generating the death of over 2 million people and economic loses of over 4.3 trillion US\$ (for the 1970-2021 period).

**Closing the Early Warning Gap Together.** As the weather events are going to extreme, with a clear negative impact over the environment and social communities, the early warning systems for disasters prevention and mitigation represents a solution that must be implemented as it proved to be very efficient in saving lives by helping people anticipate different natural hazards.

The *EW4All initiative*, set to be implemented in the 2022-2027 period, encountered major steps of development. Of crucial importance is the collaboration with donors, climate funds and development banks that can sustain the extend of specialized centers, but none of the less the national ownership represented by the *National Meteorological and Hydrological Services* must lead the efforts for sustainable early warning systems.

At the end of 2024, representing the halfway of *EW4All initiative*, important progress in saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and strengthening resilience across countries and communities were reported: 108 countries have some capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems; the most important improvements were made by the least developed countries, as well as by the landlock and small island

developing states; the multi-hazard early warning systems global average score has reached 0.49.

**Governments must lead the way.** Government agencies, as *National Meteorological and Hydrological Services* has to be the source of authoritative warnings, but of a high importance should be the collaboration with the private sectors, represented by corporations or local companies. Cooperation with the private sector can help stimulate innovation, strengthen dissemination and improve knowledge about risks, based on their expertise and resources. As a result of this collaboration, early warning systems can be more developed and capable to protect not only communities, but also business resilience.

**Scaling up Early Warnings for All.** The next phase of the Early Warnings for All initiative should include fast actions that will amplify its impact by:

- ***Building on lessons learned*** and tools developed to accelerate and improve implementation.
- ***Expanding support*** to additional countries beyond the initial 30 focus countries.
- ***Strengthening partnerships*** with donors, development banks, and climate funds to boost resources and collaboration.
- ***Enhancing regional capacity*** through cooperation with specialized centers and regional partners to ensure lasting impact.
- ***Promoting national ownership*** by placing countries at the forefront of implementation and ensuring long-term sustainability.

Working together, the financing gap of the *Early Warning for All initiative* can be overcome so that every country can protect communities from the impact of extreme weather and climate.

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