



INTERPILLAR TECHNICAL COORDINATION GROUP UPDATES



Special Edition: EW4All's Key Milestones in 2023 and 2024 Outlook

Launched in 2023, the EW4All initiative undertook an ambitious mission: to protect every person on Earth with advanced Early Warning Systems (EWS) by 2027. 2023 marked a crucial transition from conceptualization to action, with substantial headway made. Nations such as Maldives, Laos, and Ethiopia implemented comprehensive national action plans and coordination structures, considerably bolstering their EWS capabilities. Benin expanded its initiatives to reach vulnerable communities, and Fiji improved its flash flood alert systems, safeguarding its citizens. A key achievement was the completion of 17 multi-stakeholder national consultations, securing political endorsement and smoothing the path for effective, inclusive national EWS deployment. As 2024 dawns, EW4All gains momentum, drawing in more countries committed to fortifying their national EWS.

Taking stock of 2023

Since the launch of the EW4All Executive Action Plan at COP27, significant progress has been made in the technical implementation of the initiative at the country, regional and global levels. Key accomplishments include:

- **Implementation Milestones:** Implementation of the EW4All initiative's Executive Action Plan accompanied by regional plans, such as the Action Plan for Africa.
- **Financial Achievements:** New Joint EW4All investments have summed up to 78 million USD.
- **Tools and guidance:** Introduction of global Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) implementation guidance, tools and a dedicated AI subgroup.
- **Programmatic Advancement:** Noteworthy technical progress at various levels, encompassing programmatic strategies, national workshops, and comprehensive gap assessments.
- **Private Sector Collaborations:** Growth in private sector partnerships, including collaborations with Microsoft, GSMA, IDF, and satellite industry leaders.

- **Multilateral Endorsements:** The Multilateral Development Banks, including the African Development Bank (AfDB), Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB), Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), European Investment Bank (EIB), Inter-American Development Bank (IaDB), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), and the World Bank, have endorsed the EW4All Initiative.
- **National Consultations:** Successful convening of multi-stakeholder national consultations in 17 countries, identifying gaps and framing strategies for EWS enhancement.
- **Country-Specific Assessments:** Pillar 2 rapid assessments completed in the priority 30 countries.
- **Monitoring and Evaluation Framework:** M&E framework and dashboard established for EW4All.

The 17 national consultation workshops brought together government agencies, local authorities, United Nations organizations, the IFRC network, NGOs, civil society, academia, and the private sector to discuss gaps and opportunities in the national MHEWS value chain, forge partnerships, and collaboratively strategize the way forward for universal national MHEWS coverage. Through these consultations, countries identified gaps and specific priority areas requiring action to achieve effective EWS implementation. Additionally, the workshops facilitated the delineation of roles and responsibilities for various stakeholders involved. Common gaps and actions identified across the workshops include:

- **Enhance the Use of Risk Knowledge:** Scaling up access and use of risk knowledge to enhance impact-based forecasts.
- **Improving national loss and damage accounting.**
- **Develop and Implement User-Friendly Standard Operating Procedures:** Streamline procedures across the EWS value chain, reinforcing data sharing policies, and establishing protocols for weather and climate data.
- **Inclusive Sector Engagement:** Include all sectors in the implementation process of national EWS.
- **Ensure Open Access to Risk Data:** Facilitate open access to risk data and analytics for EWS and impact-based forecasting.
- **Strengthen National Capacities for MHEWS Implementation:** Build and sustain capacities for implementing and maintaining MHEWS.
- **Strengthen Governance Modalities:** Enhance governance structures for EWS, aligning regulatory frameworks to support implementation and maintenance.
- **Incorporate Local Experiences and Knowledge:** Promote the inclusion of local experiences and knowledge to ensure greater ownership of EWS.
- **Focus on Community-Level Action:** Strengthen the emphasis on community-level actions, reaching the last mile.

- **Define Triggers and Thresholds:** Establish triggers and thresholds, and develop methodologies, tools, and Decision Support Systems (DSS) for activating anticipatory actions.

Each national workshop was tailored to suit the unique context and requirements of the country with existing initiatives and challenges taken into account, promoting national ownership. Moving forward, the objective is for all countries to finalize their national roadmaps, to outline and guide the specific steps and actions required to address the identified priority areas through engagement of a broad range of national and local stakeholders.

Establishing effective monitoring and evaluation

Effective monitoring and evaluation (M&E) are essential for tracking the progress of the initiative and Target G of the Sendai Framework (EWS). The M&E will also ensure the appreciation of outcome and impact of the Initiative while contributing, through good practices sharing, to strengthen Initiative community. A Working Group on Monitoring and Evaluation is ensuring a coordinated, methodologically sound and uniform approach to monitoring the initiative, using a framework structured around the four pillars of EWS, the enabling environment and the guiding principles. The EW4All dashboard is now online ([link](#)) and will provide up-to-date information on the progress of the initiative based on an agreed set of indicators.

Strengthened donor support

To drive forward the initiative, the interpillar group has worked together to mobilise funding through the Green Climate Fund (GCF), Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) and bilateral donors, including Sweden, the Netherlands and Denmark. The combined funding will allow for pillar specific and interpillar activities to commence in multiple countries, based on respective needs and demands.

Increased visibility and political support

2023 has seen a remarkable increase in the initiative's visibility and partner engagement, notably the recognition by the G20 and during COP-28 in Dubai. At COP28, EW4All ensured a clear visibility and presence by featuring in 35 influential events, including a dedicated COP28 Presidency event. During the COP28 Presidency event, the [2023 Global Status of MHEWS](#) report was launched alongside the EW4All dashboard. During the event, the UN Secretary-General António Guterres highlighted the crucial importance of continued political endorsement for the initiative. The 2023 Global Status of MHEWS report was included in various COP 28 decisions, such as the Global Stocktake, the Global Goal on Adaptation, Loss and Damage, among others. The increased visibility and engagement not only demonstrated unwavering support but also catalysed increased commitments from key stakeholders, reinforcing their dedication to advancing the goals of the initiative.

Update by Pillar

Pillar 1 - Disaster risk knowledge: On the 12th of December, Pillar 1 technical work began in Ethiopia. For three days more than 60 technical experts from across 25 organizations and 12 Ethiopian regions convened to begin work on strengthening the risk knowledge foundation of the EWS. The aim was to support the establishment of a situation room within the National Disaster Management Agency to generate data and produce material designed to underpin early warning systems. The workshop reviewed the current methodologies for risk profiles, including at the woreda level; the enhancement of national disaster loss accounting systems, the use of artificial intelligence to enhance risk analysis and the engagement with Microsoft to support exposure mapping efforts in Ethiopia and across the continent.

To guide national Pillar 1 work, the CIMA Foundation has developed a Handbook on Strengthening the Use of Risk Knowledge. This handbook provides actionable and practical guidance for countries to assess, enhance, and effectively utilize risk knowledge in the context of their EWS. During the Ethiopian workshop the handbook was ground-truthed, receiving feedback from workshop participant to further elaborate the handbook's substance. The handbook comprises an essential tool in the Pillar 1 toolkit. Moving ahead in 2024, UNDRR together with ROs and partners are putting together a pillar 1 workplan. This workplan will include the tools and modules needed for Pillar 1 roll-out.

Pillar 2 - Detection, Observation, Monitoring, Analysis and Forecasting: Minimum core capability checklist for pillar 2 was developed to help countries assess their pillar 2 capabilities, serving as a baseline assessment for the roll out of the EW4All initiative. WMO worked with each of the 30 initial focus countries to complete the pillar 2 assessment. The findings of the assessment are available in a summary report. The assessment was a useful input to the national roll out process and gave way to the provision of technical support to countries.

WMO has 35 projects contributing to pillar 2 of EW4All across the 30 focus countries. Working with pillar partners including UNDP, UNEP, and UNESCO, WMO will continue to work towards the implementation of the pillar 2 plan to ensure a minimum core capacity across countries, covering the following areas:

- Increased availability of quality observation data to assess and monitor priority hazards.
- Enhanced data exchange and access for forecasting and warning systems.
- Increased capabilities to forecast all priority hydrometeorological hazards.
- Impact-based forecasts and warnings are produced for all priority hazards.
- Strengthened relevant policy, institutional mechanisms, and stakeholder engagement processes in place to support MHEWSs.

SOFF

- SOFF started its operations in April 2023 and throughout the year, all 30 EW4All initial focus countries have been programmed for SOFF support, of which 28 countries are already receiving SOFF Readiness technical and financial support amounting for a total of USD 4 M.
- Four EW4All initial focus countries' funding requests to move to the SOFF Investment Phase were approved at the 6th SOFF Steering Committee meeting at the end of 2023. Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique and South Sudan funding requests were approved for a total investment of USD 26 M

Furthermore, the 193-Member Congress, which is the WMO's top decision-making body, has accorded that EW4All is the top overriding priority of the organization, as enshrined in the WMO Strategic Plan 2024–2027. Accordingly, key WMO activities are coordinated and consolidated under the EW4All umbrella including the work of the technical commissions and regional activities aligned to achieve the goal.

Pillar 3 - Warning dissemination and communication: A background paper on [Digital transformation and early warning systems for saving lives](#) has been published by ITU. The publication highlights the new opportunities provided by the growing availability of communication channels, in particular mobile (cellular) networks and services, to reach communities at risk, warn about an imminent disaster and provide people with actionable advice. It also recommends a regulatory approach to speed up the adoption process of mobile EWS, as seen in the example of the new regulation mandated by the European Union. An ITU-IFRC joint [video](#) is released to present real-life case of using mobile early warning systems. A review on [Cell Broadcast for Early Warning Systems](#) was published by GSMA. In addition, a technical guidance on Cell Broadcast is being developed to further support the countries in adopting mobile early warning system. In Georgia and Moldova, technical support has been provided on implementing Cell Broadcast.

In parallel, new partnerships have been built with the private sector, in particular, with the mobile and satellite industry, to support the multi-channel dissemination of alerts under the EW4All initiative. A COP28 session was organized to highlight the potential of established and upcoming technologies such as cell broadcast and Direct-to-Handset satellite communications for alert dissemination and to reach people at risk more effectively. Furthermore, collaborations have been formed with private sector and community-level providers of innovative last-mile connectivity solutions to serve individuals with special needs and those residing in rural and remote areas. These efforts also involve working closely with broadcasting associations to enhance alert dissemination capabilities vis broadcast.

Pillar 4 - Preparedness to respond to warnings: The 11th Global Dialogue Platform on Anticipatory Action took place in October in Berlin, Germany. For two days, 51 sessions on scaling up anticipatory action through increasing reach, improving quality and synergies along the Early Warning Early Action value chain were held, including a specific session on the EW4All initiative. EW4All sessions were also held during the Regional Dialogue Platforms on Anticipatory Action in

Asia Pacific and Africa. Several National Dialogue Platforms on Anticipatory Action were held in 2023, including in Bangladesh and Nepal, which are forming the basis of draft guidance material for future deep dives on Pillar 4 at country level to advance the EW4All gap analysis and roadmap development process. The development of an anticipatory action learning module targeting governments, especially national disaster management organizations and national meteorological and hydrological services, has started. To guide Pillar 4 work, a paper on the scope of [Pillar 4](#) was finalized jointly with implementing partners. In 2023, EW4All partners activated anticipatory actions in several of the priority countries, including in Bangladesh, Djibouti, Guatemala, Haiti, Madagascar, Mozambique, Somalia, and Uganda. IFRC Guidelines on Disaster Risk Governance are being finalized to support States to strengthen disaster risk governance (including around EWEA) and become legally prepared for disasters. These will be put forward to States for endorsement in 2024.

IFRC has initiated the revision of its Community Early Warning Systems guidance and training package.

Looking Ahead: EW4All in 2024

2024 promises to be a pivotal year for the implementation of the EW4All Initiative:

1. Accelerating Implementation

In 2024, the EW4All initiative gears up for accelerated implementation through exploring innovative solutions, strategic partnerships, and the incorporation of cutting-edge technologies. Following up on the country rollout process, EW4All will emphasise the delivery of targeted support and technical assistance, thus ensuring that the identified gaps and needs are adequately addressed.

2. Emphasis on Learning

Knowledge consolidation takes centre stage in 2024, with an emphasis on improving the learning process and documenting valuable lessons from the field. With a strengthened emphasis on learning, EW4All seeks to build a comprehensive repository of insights through case studies, events, reports, and interactive platforms in 2024.

3. Widening Stakeholder Engagement

In its mission to ensure every person on earth is protected by early warning systems, the EW4All initiative will continue bringing together a wide array of stakeholders at every level. Through actively engaging Implementing Partners, private sector, academia and beyond, the initiative aims to scale up collaboration, align efforts and maximise collective impact. This is to ensure that early warning systems remain a truly a collective effort, involving government, civil society, communities, and those most at risk.

4. Strengthening Analytics

Data assumes a pivotal role in EW4All. In 2024 the Initiative is committed to enhancing data access and availability, utilizing advanced analytics to scale up monitoring and evaluation. This would provide real-time insights into EW4All's progress and enable informed decision-making.

5. Closing the Resource Gap

Addressing the resource gap is imperative for sustaining the Initiative's success. Active efforts in fundraising, forging partnerships, and optimizing existing resources are underway to solidify a foundation for long-term sustainability of universal early warnings systems.

6. Strengthening the Governance Framework

Address the lack of MHEWS Policy and legislation is critical for the success of this initiative. While there have been several efforts to support countries in developing these framework documents, there is a need for advocacy for endorsement by the national governments. This would enable a more robust coordinating mechanism within countries.

Stay tuned for updates on these crucial developments.

This monthly update is provided by the EW4All ITCG (Inter-Pillar Technical Coordination Group)