



22nd Meeting of the Steering Committee

Sunbird Mt. Soche Hotel

Blantyre, Malawi

09:00 – 17:30 South Africa Standard Time (UTC+2)

13 February 2026

CREWS/SC.22/workdoc.2

Agenda item 2

Operational Plan 2026 – 2030

Summary

The elements for a CREWS Operational Plan 2026-2030 are presented for views, comments and decisions on its finalization under Agenda Item 2.

Objective

The Operational Plan is a management tool to translate the three priorities of the CREWS 2030 Strategy into actionable deliverables, operational modalities, strategic partnerships, baselines and targets

- Inform Steering Committee decisions on prioritization, sequencing, and resourcing of country and regional investments
- The Plan further shifts CREWS from project-by-project delivery to a systematic, programmatic, and transformational initiative



2026–2030 (aligned with 2030 Strategy, Sendai Framework, the 2030 Agenda...)



Mid-term 2028 (aligned with Resource Mobilization Plan)

Context

Changing climate-related hazards and disaster risk brings demand for early warning services for emerging hazards (heat waves, forest fires, sand and dust storms) and shifting at-risk populations

Persistent disparities in capacities across countries with significant gaps in early warning coverage and last-mile delivery

Rapid technological change (monitoring, forecasting, and digital communications) – creating opportunities but unevenly accessible

Demand and expectations are rising faster than institutional and human capacity

Services developed need to support nationally owned anticipatory action and forecast-based financing

Evolving dynamics that demand more agile, streamlined and impact-driven operational modalities and partnerships

Institutional and cultural barriers for active private sector role

**CREWS Strategy 2030
and its Operational
Plan convert global
contexts into
actionable planning
assumptions and
deliverables**

Operational implications

What to preserve and enhance

- Country driven, people-centered and gender-responsive programmatic approach across LDCs and SIDS (pipeline, mapping and alignment/coherence with other financing mechanisms)
- Three financing pathways leading to leveraging, scaling-up/access, and bridging between programmes
- Joint programming, operations and reporting amongst Implementing Partners based on respective expertise
- M&E system demonstrating impacts against Sendai Framework and SDGs

What to adjust and improve

- Align technical assistance and financing with standardized essential early warning services (expanding WMO Early Warning Technical Regulations)
- Enhance service delivery options regarding digital communication (ITU) and people-centered early/anticipatory action (IFRC), strengthen the role of regional organizations and member-to-member technical assistance
- Adjust M&E indicators to align with the Global Goal on Adaptation
- New work stream on the application of new technologies and innovation

Strengthening the Foundations of Early Warning Systems (Priority 1)



Institutional Strengthening

National, regional, and local institutions delivering early warning and climate services



Capacity Development

Skills assessments, training, and mentoring mentoring programs



Fragility Integration

Ensuring service continuity in fragile, conflict and violence-affected contexts



Norms, Standards & Good Practices

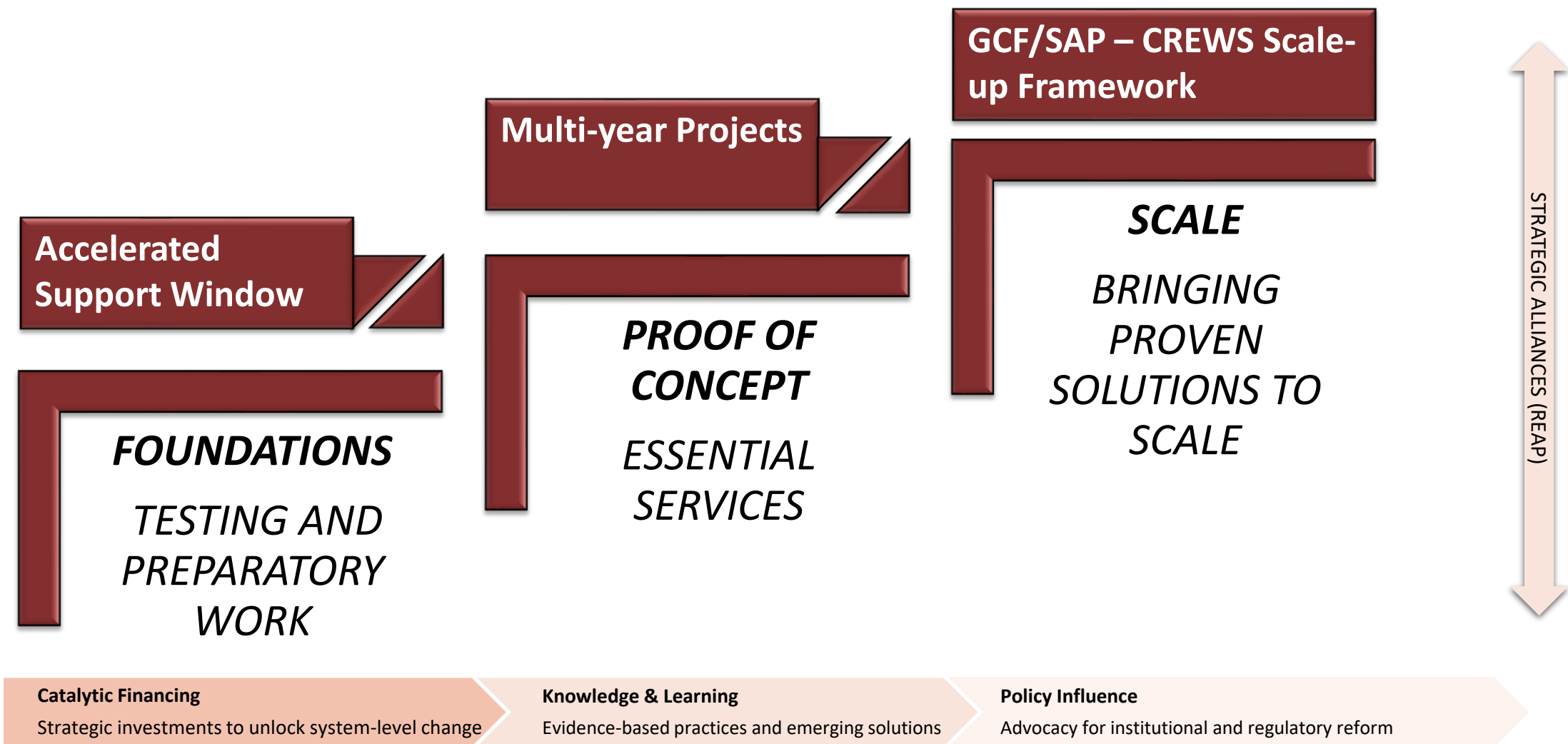
Consolidation of evidence-based norms norms and good practices



Policy Reform

Legal and institutional reforms to reforms to reinforce coordination and public service service delivery

Operationalizing Priority 1 – Funding Pathways



Measuring Performance and Results (Priority 1)

Solutions

✓ Evidence base on norms, standards and good practices strengthened

✓ Core competencies for national institutions to deliver established

✓ Institutional and legal frameworks enhanced

✓ Conflict sensitive programming approaches applied

✓ Climate and weather information products are co-produced with end-users

Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Mid-term (2028)	End Target (2030)
# of people living in LDCs and SIDS with access to/and receiving forecasts and early warning services developed or improved with CREWS support	397.6 M women and men have access to EWS	Additional 100M women and men have access to EWS	Additional 200M Women and men have access to EWS
# of national plans, strategies and legislations on early warnings approved and/or implemented	81	90 (cumulative)	All LDCs and SIDS supported by CREWS
# of hazards which pose a risk of life and economic loss for which forecasting and warning services are in place in LDCs and SIDS through CREWS support	56	TBD	Forecasting and early warning services are established and functional for ALL of identified hazards in countries supported by CREWS
# of functioning monitoring and observation systems established or strengthened per hazard	111	TBD	Functional monitoring and observation systems are established or strengthened in countries supported by CREWS for all identified priority hazards
# of forecasting and prediction products developed and/ or accessed from WMO Global Prediction Centers (GPCs), Regional Specialized Meteorological Centers (RSMCs) and NMHSs	105	TBD	A defined set of operational forecasting and prediction products are developed and/or accessed from WMO Global Prediction Centres, Regional Centers and National Meteorological Services and integrated into national forecasting and early warning services
# of risk data tools developed or strengthened to generate early warning products and/or support impact-based warnings.	241	TBD	Risk data tools are developed or strengthened for all priority hazards In countries supported by CREWS
# of warnings issued in CAP format	350	TBD	All official hazard warnings issue by the responsible national authority in countries supported by CREWS are produced and disseminated in Common Alerting Protocol (CAP) formats
# of communication channels through which warnings are disseminated in the area covered by a prediction service for a given hazard(s)	49	TBD	Warnings for each priority hazard are disseminated through reliable and accessible communication channels
# of preparedness and anticipatory action plans or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are operational and linked to prediction and warning services	98	TBD	Preparedness and anticipatory action plans are in place and actively implemented
# of risk maps, advisory and other warning products that are available and adapted to the user group/development sector needs	147	TBD	ALL risk maps and warning products are available and used for priority hazards

Strategic Partnerships (Priority 1)

- Increase expertise, outreach and technical services **through the accreditation of IFRC and ITU**. Maintain joint programming aligned with country demand, with one Implementing Partner in the lead.
- **Strengthen engagement with regional institutions** and initiatives i.e. Weather Ready Pacific, SPREP, CDEMA/CMO, AU/ACMAD, ICPAC, SADC. Increase ownership and leadership by regional institutions of CREWS regional financing decisions and programmatically align these with regional initiatives.
- Leverage further **met. service to met. service cooperation** for technical assistance in projects, Accelerated Support Window decisions and scaled-up financing. Build on successful partnerships with UKMet, Australia Bureau of Meteorology, Norway Met and Meteo France and expand cooperation agreements with others.



Signing of the MOU between Weather Ready Pacific and CREWS at UNFCCC COP30, Belem, Brazil

Catalyzing Transformation through Scaled and Sustained Investments (Priority 2)



National Integration

Integration of early warning systems into national budgets and public investment frameworks through engagement with Ministries of Finance and disaster management authorities.



Investment Mobilization

Unlocking and de-risking large-scale investments with MDBs, MDBs, climate funds, and the private sector to achieve transformational scale.



Policy Alignment

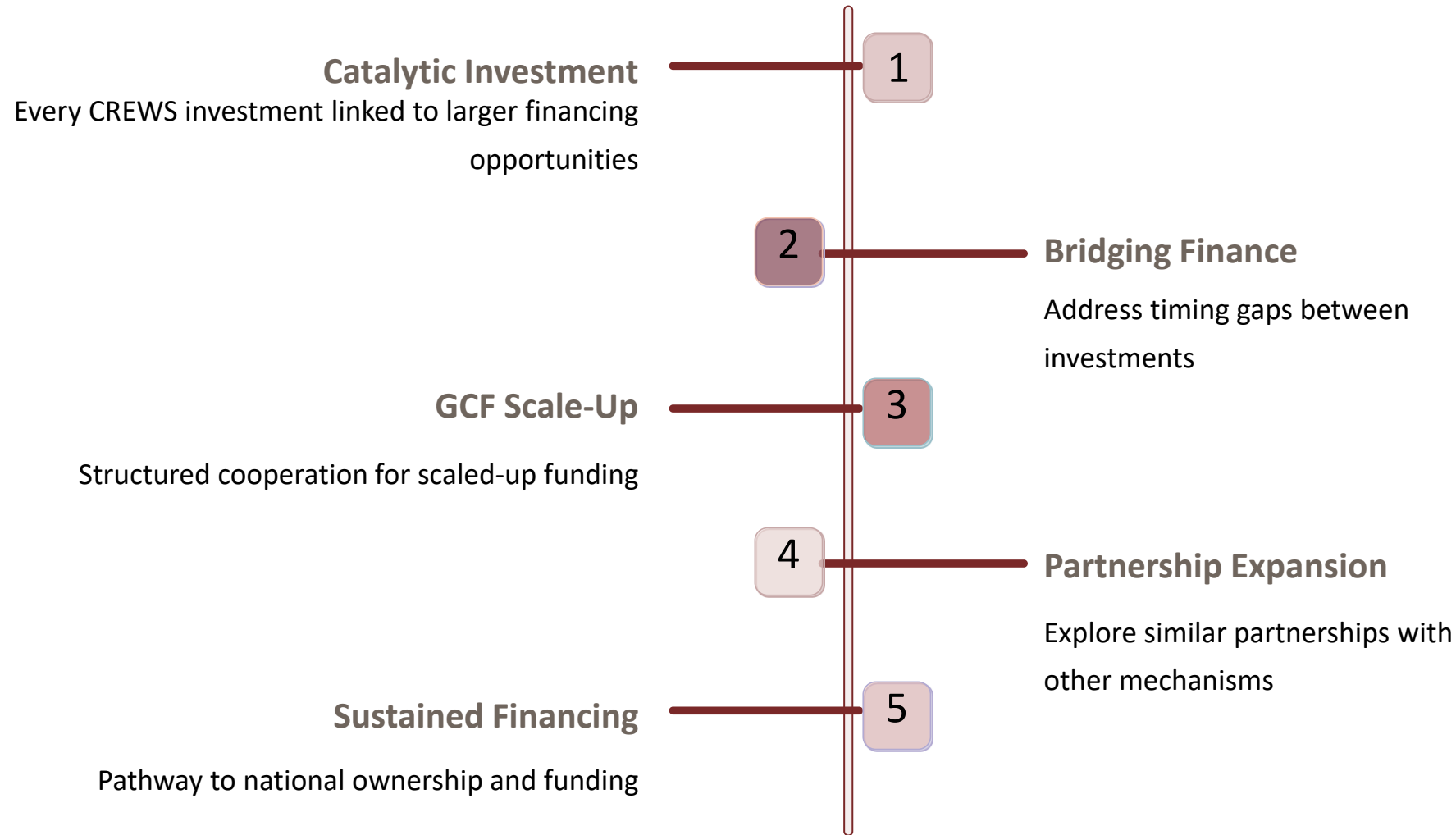
Alignment with national and regional frameworks including NAPs, NDCs, and DRM plans to ensure coherent climate action and to international financing mechanisms such as SOFF.



Climate Finance Support

Support for strong proposals to international climate funds, climate funds, strengthening work with GCF and expanding expanding to other climate funds.

Operational Plan (Priority 2)



Measuring Performance and Results (Priority 2)

Solutions

✓ Alignment of CREWS investments with national development plans and regional frameworks ensured

✓ Financing that are programmatically aligned with CREWS leveraged

✓ Investment strategies that mobilize diverse and innovative financing

✓ Empower national institutions to contribute to a more coherent approach in programming, financing and investing at country level

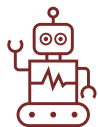
Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Mid-term (2028)	End Target (2030)
Total volume of funds leveraged by national institutions and development partners (in USD) through CREWS investments	USD 900M leveraged	Additional USD 500M leverage	Additional USD 1 B leveraged
# of LDCs and SIDS with national investment plans and budgets prioritizing multi-hazard early warning programmes	22	28 (cumulative)	32 (cumulative)
# of LDCs and SIDS benefitting from GCF resources through the GCF-CREWS scale up framework	3	+10	At least 20

Strategic Partnerships (Priority 2)

- Strengthen engagement with **the World Bank, through GFDRR and Regional Development Banks**, to learn from effective leveraging practices and expand to cover additional sectors and disaster recovery/transition financing.
- Build on the GCF/SAP – CREWS Scaling-up Framework to **expand the scope of collaboration with the GCF** to programming/pipelines, measuring success, building cadre of programming expertise and thematic areas linked to principled early warning services.
- **Establish cooperation agreement, replicating the GHCF experience, with targeted climate finance institutions** such as the GEF, Adaptation Fund and FRLD, drawing on the GCF experience and adapting to contexts.



Driving the Next Generation of Early Warning Systems (Priority 3)



Piloting and scaling emerging technologies such as AI-based forecasting, satellites, and mobile alert platforms



Ensuring innovations are scalable and context appropriate



Integration of scientific forecasting with indigenous, local, and traditional knowledge




Embedding early warning within anticipatory action frameworks and early action protocols



Strengthening coherence across climate, meteorology, and hydrology services

Operational Plan (Priority 3)

- 
- Initiate a new dedicated workstream on application of emerging technologies

- Convene leading technical, financial, philanthropic institutions, compile good practices in the application of emerging technologies and work with leading meteorological services to build the capital and expertise needed to scale them

- Drive the application of emerging technologies through the Accelerated Support Window, multi-year projects and scale-up through multi-year projects and the GCF/SAP – CREWS Scaling-up Framework

- Structured engagement with the private sector
- Strong focus on risk identification, early and anticipatory action
- Systematic integration of local and traditional knowledge into warning services

Measuring Performance and Results (Priority 3)

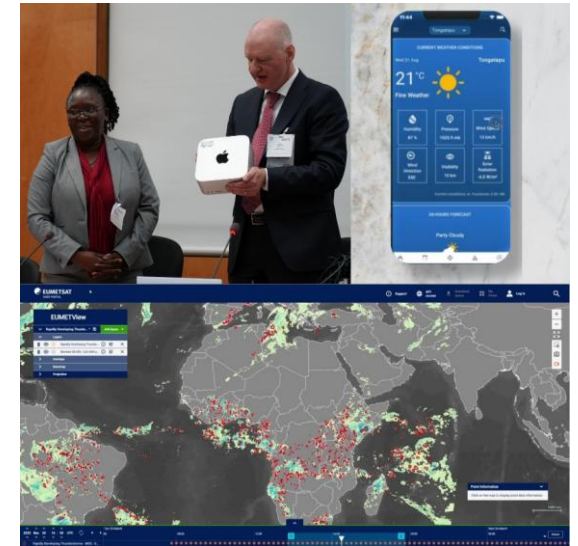
Solutions

- ✓ Emerging technologies to enhance forecasting, detection and communication and anticipatory action supported
- ✓ Private sector's capacities and networks accessed
- ✓ Integration of science, local, indigenous and traditional knowledge (LITK) strengthened
- ✓ Early warning services are better aligned with anticipatory action frameworks and early action protocols

Indicator	Baseline (2024)	Mid-term (2028)	End Target (2030)
# of agreements with private sector to co-finance or co-implement Early Warning System initiatives	3 projects on innovation	Additional 8 projects on innovation	Additional 15 projects on innovation
% of CREWS investments that demonstrate innovation	12%	30%	60%
Level of integration of people centered and gender responsive approaches in CREWS projects	Medium	High	High

Strategic Partnerships (Priority 3)

- Pair with **leading technical, financial, philanthropic institutions through a new work stream** on the application of emerging technologies through mentorship and technical support, while unlocking additional financing to scale solutions that work.
- Increase **private sector engagement** including technology, digital services, information and data driven companies.
- Mobilize the **REAP partnership with, humanitarian actors and local organizations** and work through and support existing mechanisms such as the AI for Early Warnings for All Group, Data Insights for Social & Humanitarian Action (DISHA), the UN Secretary-General's Innovation Lab and others.
- **Collaborate with ECMWF** in the context of its transition to an open data policy and implication for early warning services in LDCs and SIDS.



(Image: AI-based weather forecasting tool, weather alerts application and satellite imagery from EUMETSAT.)

Rolling-Out the CREWS Operational Procedures

- The CREWS Operational Procedures provide structured instructions designed to guide the development and execution of CREWS projects. Their aim is to ensure consistency, efficiency and effectiveness across all CREWS operations.
- These procedures cover various processes, principles and responsibilities of each CREWS entity, providing a comprehensive framework for implementation.

01

Programming and Project Development

02

Monitoring and Evaluation

03

Gender Responsive Programming

04

Accelerated Support Window

05

People-Centered Risk Informed Approaches

06

Private Sector Engagement

07

Programming in Fragile, Conflict and Violence-Affected Contexts

Gender Responsiveness in All Operations

Objective

Ensure that early warning systems financed by CREWS, regardless of scope and scale, are deliberately grounded in and responsive to the needs of the people, women and men, they are designed to protect.

- Continuous oversight by the Steering Committee, valuing and promoting good practices, and increasing the recognition by all the actors of the importance of gender-responsive programmes
- Systematically listen to and engage local organizations and communities so that every investment is co-developed. Evolve from "gender-informed" to "gender-sensitive" to being "gender-responsive"
- Include budget lines to promote and celebrate women leadership through country and regional project and the wider engagements of CREWS

Gender responsiveness

- ❑ Level of users' engagement satisfaction in the people centered and gender-responsive activities
- ❑ # of climate and weather information products co-designed to users' needs by group representing vulnerable segments of exposed populations

People Centered Approaches

Objective

The Operational Plan ensures that early warning systems that are supported, regardless of scope and scale, are deliberately grounded in and responsive to the needs of the people they are designed to protect.

User engagement to be practiced at all stages of co-production of early warning systems.

- Identifying and engaging actors
- Co-creating a collaborative design process
- Co-exploring, co-developing and co-delivering solutions
- Capacity building and learning
- Monitoring and evaluation

People-centered

- ❑ # of preparedness and anticipatory plans or Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) that are operational and linked to prediction and warning services
- ❑ # of risk maps, advisory services and other warning products that are available and adapted to the user group/ development sector needs
- ❑ Level of users' engagement satisfaction in the people centered and gender-responsive activities
- ❑ # of climate and weather information products co-designed to users' needs by group representing vulnerable segments of exposed populations

Engage the Private Sector

Objective

The Operational Pan will leverage private sector engagement in early warning systems for innovation, resources and operational capacity to enhance the effectiveness, reach, sustainability and last-mile delivery of early warning services

- Compile modalities, based on current practices for expanded, efficient and effective engagement with the private sector in the implementation of CREWS projects
- Leveraging existing partnerships, platforms, and experience with the private sector in supporting efficiency, quality, sustainable and innovation solutions (all CREWS Implementing Partners have private sector partnerships)
- Implementing Partners will analyse the option and provide reasons for including or not including the private sector in all CREWS projects, or to create an environment conducive to private sector engagement aimed to meet CREWS objectives.

Private sector

- ❑ # of agreements with private sector to co-finance or co-implement Early Warning System initiatives

Delivering in Fragile and Conflict Settings

Objective

The Operational Procedures will ensure the delivery of CREWS investments and activities in FCV-affected countries

- Promote the integration of an understanding of conflict risks into early warning system design and implementation, safeguarding neutrality, equity and community trust
- Maximize the protective impact of early warning services in fragile, conflict and violence-affected settings
- Align investments with other designated financing mechanisms operating in FCV settings
- Recognize that not all FCV settings are equal and tailor and adapt interventions to each context

Programming in FCV (recommended)

- ❑ # of people living in areas covered by hazard forecasts and warnings for a given hazard
- ❑ # of at risk people accessing early warning systems and services through their preferred channels

Financing Status*

Financial status as of January 2026 (baseline)

Contributions and pledges to the CREWS Trust Fund USD 142.4 million (USD 141.2 million has been received)

USD 6.99 million earned in investment income

Approved funding from the Trust Fund USD 128.58 million

Transferred funding by the Trustee USD 119.13 million

This includes USD 4 million expended for ASW decisions

And USD 1.1 million, per year, for Secretariat and Trustee admin fees

USD 22.4 million held in the Trust Fund of which USD 18.5 million is committed to projects under preparation (Dominican Republic USD 4.5 million; West Africa phase 3 USD 3.5 million; Benin USD 2 million; and Caribbean ECTEL USD 5.5 million) and USD 3 million for ASW financing decisions (backlog)

*Information drawn from CREWS Trustee reports

Three Financing Pathway Targets

USD 124 million to address immediate early warning financing requirements
(see CREWS/22nd Meeting/February 2026/workdoc.3)

- For LDCs and SIDS that demonstrate a level of eligibility, ownership and readiness for the preparation of project proposals in the next three years- as identified in the CREWS Pipeline list
- Reflect need, demand and leveraging potential of ODA-eligible Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS)
- 14 countries are in fragile, conflict and violent-affected (FCV) countries
- 2 countries are due to graduate from their LDC status in 2026, 3 countries in 2027 and 1 in 2029

USD 2 million, per year, for rapid response to demands by countries

- Baseline: 16 ASW actions approved as of September 2025
- Mid-term target: 40 ASW actions approved
- 2030 target: 80 ASW approved
- Piloting innovation: 3 ASW action per year
- Readiness for scale: 12 ASW actions support scale-up and move to multi-year programmes/projects

USD 375 million to be leveraged through the GCF/SAP scale-up framework

- Baseline: two projects approved (USD 50 million)
- Mid-term target: 6-8 projects approved by GCF Board (USD 250 million)
- 2030 target: at least 15 projects approved by GCF Board (USD 375 million)

Monitoring and Evaluation

To achieve a system-level approach to measuring early warning effectiveness, showing impact and moving beyond project outputs to sustained impact

- Stronger focus on early action and last-mile impact and the number of people accessing early warning and climate services
- Annual operational reviews to assess progress, inform adaptive management, and guide course correction and resource reallocation
- Better alignment with the recently approved indicators on early warning of the Global Goal on Adaptation
- Develop an online results system to enhance transparency, learning, and accountability to beneficiaries and donors
- Independent reviews, including an external assessment of the Accelerated Support Window and a mid-term review of the CREWS Strategy in 2028 to inform strategic adjustments toward 2030

Next Steps

22nd SC Meeting

22nd SC Meeting

February 2026

Agree on scope of the operational plan

Drafting Period

Drafting Period

One month

- Send draft Operational Plan to Members for review and feedback

Feedback Window

Feedback Window

Three Weeks

- Turnaround time for SC Members feedback and input

Final Approval

Final Approval

End of March 2026

- Intersessional meeting to approve Operational Plan

Steering Committee Considerations

- The Steering Committee is invited to review the objective, plan and financial targets for a CREWS Operational Plan 2026-2030.
- Further consider inviting the Secretariat, in the context of Priority 2 of the Strategy 2030, *Catalyzing Transformation through Scaled and Sustained Investments*, to refine the definitions of leveraging additional funds (scaling-up, co-financing, programmatic alignment and bridge financing) and the metrics for measuring these as part of the CREWS Operational Plan 2026 to 2030.
- To accelerate results in relation to Priority 3 of the Strategy 2030 *Driving the Next Generation of Early Warning Systems*, the Steering Committee could consider inviting the Secretariat to initiate a new work stream on the application of new technologies and innovations in early warning systems, based on consultations with relevant partners, and to develop and circulate a concept note to the Steering Committee for review and approval within three months of the meeting.
- The Steering Committee could invite the Secretariat to review the CREWS Monitoring, Evaluation, Accountability and Learning framework, considering the Global Goal on Adaptation indicators adopted at COP30 and to make recommendations to ensure that CREWS reporting is aligned with the GGA.
- And finally, consider a decision outlining the next steps and timing for the finalization of the Operational Plan 2026 to 2030.

Thank You

CREWS Members



Australia



Austria



Canada
(Chair)



Finland



France



Germany



Luxembourg



Monaco



Netherlands



Norway



Switzerland



United Kingdom



AOSIS



UNFCCC LDC Group

CREWS Observers



Czech Republic



European
Commission



Ireland



Japan



Mexico



New Zealand



Spain

Visit www.crews-initiative.org

Engage with us: @CREWS Initiative

