



22nd Meeting of the Steering Committee

CREWS/SC.22/workdoc.4

Sunbird Mt. Soche Hotel
Blantyre, Malawi
09:00 – 17:30 South Africa Standard
Time (UTC+2)
13 February 2026

Agenda Item 3.6

Decision on Financing the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)

Summary

A document outlining the narrative, the projected budget and a proposed Decision regarding the financing of the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) is presented for review and approval by the Members under Agenda Item 3.6.

CREWS and REAP: Concept Note for a Stronger Alliance

Background

1. At the 9th Intersessional Meeting of the Steering Committee, the UK introduced a proposal for The Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) to become a funded programme within the CREWS pipeline.
2. The Steering Committee acknowledged the strategic value of a future proposal for funding the REAP Secretariat through CREWS and approved a revision of the CREWS pipeline to include a REAP funding proposal from IFRC. IFRC was invited to engage with the CREWS Secretariat to develop a proposal, subject to completion of the IFRC accreditation process, while ensuring the proposal is fully aligned with CREWS' objectives and principles.
3. Bilateral discussions followed between the CREWS Secretariat, IFRC, the REAP Secretariats and with the CREWS Chair and the UK to further discuss the modalities for potential financing of REAP through the CREWS FIF.
4. It was further suggested that the IFRC request for support for REAP would preferably not be as a regular CREWS project. The emphasis should be placed on demonstrating the value of the strategic CREWS-REAP partnership in support of their respective 2030 strategies. Accordingly, this note outlines the proposed value-add of the alliance, an estimated budget for running the REAP Secretariat and a proposed Decision for consideration by the CREWS Steering Committee at its 22nd Meeting.

Introduction

5. CREWS has achieved extraordinary results, demonstrating that through catalytic, timely and targeted investments in the early warning space, the risks from the climate crisis can be reduced in LDCs and SIDS. This opportunity to build symbiosis with REAP is another timely investment opportunity that can amplify CREWS' objectives. REAP will bring to CREWS an upwards and outwards function. It will add to CREWS the best of what a global partnership brings: collective agreement on critical EWEA issues, knowledge exchange to and from CREWS projects, and increased visibility for CREWS donors. The next five years will be critical for the multilateral space: with trends towards bilateralism and protectionism, with climate impacts hitting developed and developing countries. Never has it been more important for CREWS to make its case on the global scale, and for global partners to learn from CREWS.

6. This concept note presents the case for a strengthened and mutually reinforcing CREWS–REAP alliance to accelerate global progress on EWEA, outlining the policy, programmatic, and operational drivers for the alliance.

Strategic alignment: CREWS and REAP 2030

7. CREWS' and REAP's 2030 strategies both centre the need to build climate resilience through scaled and effective EWEA. They recognize the current and future impacts of climate change and extreme weather events, and the urgent role that EWEA plays in reducing risks, saving lives and livelihoods, and accelerating long-term resilience for the most vulnerable populations and countries, particularly in LDCs and SIDS.
8. Both initiatives share a vision of prioritizing effective EWEA in contexts with the highest needs and risks, aligned with the UN Secretary-General's ambition of leaving no one behind and the Early Warnings for All initiative (EW4All). Both strategies converge around strengthening national and regional EWEA frameworks, promoting context-specific, nationally-led, people-centred and multi-hazard approaches, and addressing persistent fragmentation across financing, programming, and strategy.
9. Together, CREWS, with its donors and implementing partners, and REAP, the broadest global network of EWEA actors with over 100 partners, can ensure greater coherence and impact than if they operate separately. The formal alliance between CREWS and REAP will help turn high-level ambitions into practical, resourced, and lasting capacities for EWEA, ensuring that success is measured by warnings issued and by early actions taken and lives and livelihoods protected.
10. This alliance is anchored in the objectives of the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the Sustainable Development Goals, and in current international policy priorities and processes such as the Pact for the Future, the Antigua and Barbuda Agenda for SIDS (ABAS), and the Windhoek Declaration of the African Union. This alliance will also provide a critical mechanism to design the future goals setting of the post 2030 policy agendas and the critical role of EWEA in achieving those goals.

Responding to the demand signal from the EWEA community

11. Extensive consultations undertaken during the development of the CREWS and REAP 2030 strategies highlighted persistent barriers in ensuring that early warnings consistently translate into early action, particularly in LDCs and SIDS. Stakeholders across governments, donors, regional bodies, implementing partners, and non-state actors identified several priority needs:

Stakeholders need	CREWS-REAP alliance
<p>The need to make more effective use of resources by reducing fragmentation, starting with a shared understanding of gaps and opportunities across the EWEA value chain, across geographies and sectors (e.g. meteorology, risk understanding, climate, development, humanitarian).</p>	<p>Fragmentation</p> <p>→ The alliance strengthens shared sensemaking and coordination across the EWEA ecosystem, complementing and reinforcing existing initiatives such as EW4All and the Anticipation Hub, among others, and ensuring investments are informed by a system-wide understanding of gaps and opportunities.</p>
<p>The need to ensure investments and initiatives are better aligned at country and regional levels, so that newly funded projects address critical gaps from the outset.</p>	<p>Coherence</p> <p>→ REAP provides a collective platform for partners to surface operational and policy bottlenecks, enabling CREWS to draw on this shared intelligence to inform project design and prioritization, and to drive greater coherence, efficiency, and impact at country and regional levels.</p>
<p>The need to strengthen learning and learning uptake across EWEA practice, policy, and research, informed by current and past successes and failures.</p>	<p>Learning</p> <p>→ By linking a dedicated EWEA financing mechanism with the broadest global EWEA partnership, the alliance ensures that learning from CREWS investments and REAP partners is synthesized, shared, and applied to support governments in strengthening DRM policies and financing systems for EWEA.</p>
<p>The need to evolve EWEA in a context of rapid technological change, including AI, influencing forecasting, risk analysis, and early action delivery systems such as social protection.</p>	<p>Evolution</p> <p>→ Innovation is a shared strategic priority for both CREWS and REAP. Together, the alliance creates a space to identify, interpret, and promote relevant technological and process innovations, ensuring they are visible, understood, and applied where they add value to EWEA delivery.</p>

The added value of a CREWS-REAP strategic alliance

- REAP is a mechanism that drives collective agreement and sensemaking across the EWEA space. Through closer collaboration, REAP can help ensure that catalytic investments made through CREWS achieve greater reach, coherence, and value for money for donors, while reinforcing CREWS' role as a demand-driven financing mechanism anchored in country priorities.

Investment in REAP represents approximately 0.33% of the total annual EWEA budget¹. This relatively small investment delivers multiple dividends through the improved use and optimization of wider EWEA investments.

13. CREWS will directly benefit from this alliance through:

- **Reaching different stakeholders:** The alliance will provide CREWS with access to a structured mechanism to strengthen programmatic collaboration with new stakeholders, particularly across disaster risk financing actors, tapping into REAP's diverse membership. For example, the REAP Secretariat will act as a strategic connector during project design and implementation, deliberately brokering new programmatic ideas and alliances that enhance coherence, leverage complementary expertise, and increase the impact of CREWS projects.
- **Connecting related EWEA investments:** CREWS will directly benefit from REAP's sensemaking work, leveraging it to inform ongoing investment prioritization and programming. The REAP Secretariat and partners will provide a sounding board for CREWS project pipeline decision making, helping to inform Steering Committee decision with clearer and more fulsome landscape analysis. For example, the REAP Secretariat, as a neutral expert, will be involved in screening CREWS project proposals, avoiding duplicative efforts and fragmentation, identify gaps and needs (both at programmatic and strategic levels), and generate opportunities for partnerships to increase and amplify the impacts of investments.
- **Generating economies of scale:** The REAP Secretariat resources can be leveraged in a tactical manner to support the achievement of CREWS strategic priorities. For example, expertise on areas such as policy, knowledge management and resource mobilization can be shared and benefit one and another, by systematically pooling human resources to address mutual needs. Through closer collaboration, REAP and CREWS can further enhance the impacts of their reach, allowing their respective communities to come together. Additionally, the REAP's Secretariat, can play a strategic advisory role to the CREWS Secretariat and implementing partners to help advance its own objective through intelligence and shared strategy.
- **Elevating and showcasing impact at scale:** REAP's knowledge management and communications functions will help to synthesize and elevate evidence from CREWS investments, producing robust meta-analyses that clearly demonstrate CREWS' significant contribution to the evolution of EWEA for the most vulnerable populations. For example, REAP will position itself to conduct meta-analyses of thematic areas that CREWS funds across multiple projects to showcase the impact and learnings in specific parts of the EWEA value chain. This can help to further position CREWS as a financing mechanism across the entire EWEA value chain and to showcase the results it achieves – for donors, partners and recipients.
- **Deepening knowledge exchange:** Building on previous success collaboration with CREWS and drawing on REAP's learning and knowledge exchange functions, REAP will support CREWS to strengthen its project design and delivery across the EWEA value chain. For example, REAP's ability to convene EWEA actors working on enhancing financing mechanisms for early action will enable the

¹ According to the [Global Observatory for Early Warning System Investments](#), approved financing in 2024 reached about USD 480 million.

identification of gaps and opportunities that could be prioritized and addressed within CREWS investments.

- **Contributing to policy change:** Through the alliance, CREWS and REAP will work in a coordinated and deliberate manner to translate CREWS investments into sustained policy and institutional enablers of early action for the most vulnerable populations. Working closely together, CREWS and REAP can better guide policy discussions in relevant policy processes, such as COP, G20, G7, GPDRR, Sendai Framework, etc. REAP will, for example, establish an EWEA Policy Academy to strengthen the policy leadership and influence of CREWS country champions, supporting tangible policy change at national and regional levels. The REAP convening power will also amplify CREWS' ability to position itself strategically as part of political agendas and broader ambition.
- **Accessing a wider pool of learning and evidence specialists.** REAP will support CREWS to be at the cutting edge of knowledge by leveraging and connecting with the knowledge generation and trends identification of the wider EWEA community. For instance, by flagging new trends or persistent challenges on the ground, REAP partners can work with CREWS to help develop additional CREWS Operational Procedures.

14. REAP will benefit from the alliance through:

- **Strengthened linkages to global EWEA stakeholders:** By accessing CREWS funding, the REAP Secretariat will be better positioned to connect the work of the Partnership to CREWS Steering Committee members, Implementing Partners and other stakeholders, while providing longer term sustainability for the delivery of its Strategy 2030. This collaboration will also open avenues for building bridges between CREWS capacity building and learning and REAP's research, working groups and advocacy efforts.
- **Streamlined advocacy efforts:** Enhanced governance-level alignment through CREWS representation on the REAP Governing Board.
- **Formalized mechanisms for collaboration:** Both the CREWS and REAP Secretariats will work jointly to ensure strategic and tactical collaboration between REAP partners and CREWS Implementing Partners in the delivery of EWEA.

15. Several REAP partners are also CREWS supported countries and donors, which creates an opportunity for both initiatives to achieve greater synergies and for donors to harmonize and leverage their investments.

Complementarity of priorities

16. CREWS' catalytic financing role complements REAP's focus on strengthening financing for early action, particularly at the implementation level. Together, CREWS and REAP will work with national and regional bodies, disaster risk financing institutions, and other finance providers to ensure early warning investments are matched with the capacity to act.
17. CREWS' emphasis on knowledge and innovation aligns with REAP's sensemaking, convening, and learning functions, enabling partners to navigate the complexity of the EWEA landscape and foster coherence and complementarity across sectors and communities of practice.

18. CREWS' policy influence lever aligns with REAP's policy integration pillar, supporting the mainstreaming of EWEA into global, regional, and national priorities, policies, and legal frameworks. Both initiatives ultimately aim to ensure that the most vulnerable countries have functional EWS and sustainable financing mechanisms for early action, underpinned by enabling laws and policies.

Budget

19. To achieve REAP's new strategy goals and mission, the REAP Secretariat's core functions (staff) and activities will be sustained consistently across the full five-year duration of the Strategy. The budget is therefore structured to support predictable delivery, strategic continuity, and the ability to respond to emerging opportunities.

20. Budget allocations are organized across the following core areas: 1) REAP partner convenings; 2) policy-focused special retreats and high-level events; 3) strategic communications; 4) knowledge products and evidence generation; 5) targeted strategic initiatives, including the EWEA Policy Academy and "networks of networks" labs; 6) regional secondees; 7) monitoring, evaluation and learning (MEL); 8) information management systems; 9) capacity strengthening; 10) staff costs; and 11) IFRC overheads. This structure ensures that resources are aligned with REAP's 2030 strategic objectives, enable coherent delivery across policy, finance, and practice, and provide the Secretariat with the operational stability required to act as a credible, long-term partner across the EWEA ecosystem. The total budget for the 5 years strategy is: CHF 5,947,658².

Cost type	Budget 2026 (from July)	Budget 2027	Budget 2028	Budget 2029	Budget 2030
REAP partner convenings/travel	10,000	30,000	30,300	30,603	30,909
Policy-focused special retreats and high-level events	30,000	90,000	90,900	91,809	92,727
Strategic communications	5,000	10,000	10,100	10,201	10,303
Knowledge products and evidence generation	10,000	20,000	20,200	20,402	20,606
Targeted initiatives (including the EWEA Policy Academy and "networks of networks" labs)	20,000	40,000	40,400	40,804	21,212
Regional secondees (5 positions at 20% FTE)	24,000	48,000	48,480	48,965	49,454
Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL)	7,000		14,139		14,423
Information management systems	20,000	10,000			
Capacity strengthening	2,500	6,000	6,060	6,121	6,182
Staff costs 5 staff 100% FTE	472,448	945,896	964,81	984,110	1,003,792
IFRC Overheads	47,071	95,042	96,943	98,882	100,860
Total	648,019	1,294,938	1,322,336	1,331,89	1,350,468

² A draft operational plan has been developed, and the overall draft budget envelop for the 2030 strategy has been approved by the REAP Board members.

Measuring success

21. The impact of the alliance and the funding provided to REAP will be measured in line with REAP's 2030 Strategy Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Framework and its Operational Plan. The REAP and CREWS Secretariats will work jointly to ensure that activity tracking and impact reporting are fully aligned with CREWS' monitoring and reporting standards.

Summary

- The CREWS-REAP alliance represents a clear win-win for both initiatives and for the wider EWEA community.
- It responds directly to calls from stakeholders to reduce fragmentation, enhance coherence, strengthen learning, and support the evolution of EWEA systems.
- By moving from ad-hoc collaboration to a strategic, sustained partnership, the alliance strengthens the impact, efficiency, and long-term sustainability of investments in early warning and early action.

Proposed Financing Decision

Decision 3.3/Item 3/22nd Meeting: The Steering Committee approves the financing of the Risk Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP) through a contribution to the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) subject to its accreditation to CREWS. The Steering Committee approves the funding for 2026 and 2027, amounting to USD 1,942,957 as per budget table, with a view to financing REAP for remaining 3 years, depending on additional financial contributions and the availability of funds in the CREWS FIF.

The CREWS Initiative gratefully acknowledges the support of:

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