
2022

INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

#EarlyAction
#EarlyWarning
#DRRDay



The International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) 2022

Early warning and early action for all.

Introduction to the Campaign:

The United Nations General Assembly has designated 13 October as the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction (IDDRR) to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction. The 2022 edition takes place during the Mid-term Review of the Sendai Framework, which will conclude at a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly in May 2023 with a political declaration.

It is an opportunity to acknowledge the progress being made toward preventing and reducing disaster risk and losses in lives, livelihoods, economies and basic infrastructure in line with the international agreement for reducing global disaster risk and losses, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, adopted in March 2015.

The Sendai Framework has seven global targets and 38 indicators for measuring progress on reducing disaster risk and losses. These indicators align the implementation of the Sendai Framework with the Paris Agreement on

climate change towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

In 2022, the International Day will focus on Target G of the Sendai Framework: "Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030."



Building resilience to climate change and reducing disaster risk and losses is vital to save lives and livelihoods, eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

António Guterres
UN Secretary-General



Background on Early Warning:

The primary goal of the Sendai Framework is to avoid creating new and reduce existing risk. But when that is not possible, people-centered early warning systems and preparedness can enable early action to minimize the harm to people, assets and livelihoods. It is not enough for an early warning system to correctly identify an incoming hazard. It must also ensure that the populations and sectors that are at risk can receive the alert, understand it, and most importantly, act on it. Hence, an early warning must trigger early action that is well prepared and tested. In the case of fast-moving hazards, this sometimes means evacuating and seeking appropriate shelter. Early action could also include prepositioning relief items and other measures that can help reduce and avert a

disaster.

To accomplish this, early warning systems must be:

1. Multi-Hazard: they are designed to detect different hazards that may occur alone, simultaneously, or cascade.
2. End-to-end: the system covers the entire range, from hazard detection to action, which includes providing understandable and actionable warning messages.
3. People-centered: this means designing the systems with people in mind, to empower them to act on time and in an appropriate manner to reduce potential harm.

Ideally, early warning systems should be tied to different sectors and programmes and pre-arranged financing mechanisms to activate other actions that can build resilience and soften the impacts. Forecast-based financing mechanisms can trigger resilience building measures such as social protection, reinforcing homes, distributing health protection kits, and setting up clinics.

That said, many early warning systems fall short of meeting these requirements. There are challenges in understanding vulnerabilities and susceptibility to harm, hazard identification and impact prediction, availability of resources, technical know-how and proper equipment to allow early action, coordination between relevant agencies, access to warning information, emergency preparedness and disaster response plans and alert dissemination.

On the receiving end, the most common challenge is around closing what is known as the 'last mile' in that certain groups of people, due

to unique vulnerabilities, are unable to receive or act on warnings. As a result, groups such as persons with a disability, women, children, older persons, the poor, speakers of other languages, and those in remote areas end up suffering disproportionately when disasters occur.

Another challenge is communities' own perceptions of risk, cultural beliefs, and preparedness. Communities may be unaware of the risks they face, they may ignore the existence of an early warning system or are unprepared to act upon its warnings. Hence, it is critical to invest in raising community awareness and preparedness.

As of April 2022, only 95 countries have reported on the existence of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) through the Sendai Framework Monitoring system. Less than half of the Least Developed Countries, and only one-third of Small Island Developing States have reported the existence of MHEWS.



Call to Action:

In 2015, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction set improving multi-hazard early warning systems as one of its seven global targets (Target G):

“Substantially increase the availability of and access to multi-hazard early warning systems and disaster risk information and assessments to people by 2030.”

The urgency to achieve this target was strengthened in March 2022 by the announcement made by the UN Secretary-General António Guterres that “the United Nations will spearhead new action to ensure every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within five years.”

Deliberations at the 2022 Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction built on this, and its outcome document, the Bali Agenda for Resilience, made concrete recommendations on the end-to-end people-centered early warning

value chains, ensuring that early warning systems are multi-hazard, are strengthened by better availability and quality of data, financial resources, and effective governance and coordination arrangements.

To raise awareness and mobilize action around these calls, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) is using the 2022 IDDRR, to call for greater investment in expanding early warning and early action for all.

- IDDRR tagline: early warning and early action for all.
- Social media hashtags:
 - #EarlyAction
 - #EarlyWarning
 - #DRRDay



Key messages:

Value of early warning:

- Early warning saves lives.
- Early warning by 24 hours can cut the ensuing damage by 30 per cent.
- Climate change is causing more frequent, extreme, and unpredictable climate-related hazards, making investment in early warning more urgent than ever.
- Early warning systems must cover multiple hazards. Cyclones, storms, floods and tsunamis, but also to warn against heatwaves, wildfires, droughts, sandstorms, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, disease outbreaks, technological accidents, pest infestations and many other hazards.

Investment:

- Early warning systems must be multi-hazard, end-to-end and people-centered
- One-third of the world's people, mainly in the least developed countries and small island developing states, are still not covered by early warning systems. In Africa, 60% of people lack coverage. This is unacceptable.
- We must enhance international support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) so that they can build and expand their early warning systems.
- Investing US\$ 800 million in early warning systems in developing countries would avoid losses of \$3-16 billion per year.

Leaving no one behind:

- If we are sincere about 'leaving no one behind' then we must close the 'last mile' in early warning systems
- At-risk communities must be made aware of the true risks they face, how their early warning system functions, and be ready to act on its warnings.
- We must customize early warning systems for different groups to meet their specific needs.
- To reduce harm and speed up recovery, early warning systems should trigger anticipatory actions, such as the expansion of social safety nets.
- Countries must engage, listen to and empower groups with special needs. Countries must ensure that all vulnerable people including older persons and persons with disabilities are not left behind when warnings are issued.



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