

FAST FACTS



On Early Warnings for All

1. Climate change is causing more frequent and intense extreme weather events, resulting in widespread adverse impacts and related losses and damages to nature and people. Early warning systems to predict floods, droughts, and storms, for instance, are a proven, efficient, and cost-effective way to save lives and jobs, land and infrastructure, and support long-term sustainability.
2. One-third of the world's people, mainly in least developed countries and small island developing states, are still not covered by early warning systems. In Africa, it is even worse: 60 per cent of people lack coverage.
3. Between 1970 and 2021, weather, climate, and water-related disaster caused 2,087,229 deaths, with 90 per cent in developing countries. People in Africa, South Asia, South and Central America, and small island developing states are 15 times more likely to die from climate-related disasters.
4. To ensure that everyone on the planet is protected by early warnings by 2027, the UN Secretary-General in 2022 launched Early Warnings for All, calling for investments of US\$ 3.1 billion over five years – just 50 cents per person per year – to strengthen disaster risk knowledge and management, observation and forecasting, dissemination and communication of warnings, and preparedness and response capabilities.
5. Advancing and accelerating early warning systems, along with coordinated disaster management on the ground, is key to saving lives. Countries with robust coverage of multi-hazard early warning systems experience mortality rates that are 8 times lower than those with limited or no early warnings.
6. Cyclone Mocha, which hit Myanmar in 2023, caused a death toll of 145 – a drastically lower number than similar disasters in the past. Through early warnings and improved disaster management, Myanmar was able to significantly reduce its mortality rates and save tens or even hundreds of thousands of lives.
7. In central Vietnam, in October 2020, heavy rains caused severe flooding, affecting over 7 million people. The government's early warning systems for floods and landslides helped to evacuate over 1.3 million people to safer areas before the floods hit.





8. In the Pacific Island state of Tonga, the government is using smartphone technology to provide warnings without requiring internet data. It also facilitates two-way communication, allowing communities to trigger responses from meteorological and emergency services.

9. Today 95 per cent of the world's population has access to mobile broadband networks and 75 per cent owns a mobile phone, creating new opportunities for early warnings by leveraging mobile networks.

10. Giving just 24 hours' notice of an impending hazardous event can reduce economic damages by 30 per cent. Investing just US\$ 800 million in early warning systems in developing nations would prevent losses of US\$ 3 to 16 billion annually.

11. Between 1970 and 2021, extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused estimated economic losses of US\$ 4.3 trillion, or US\$ 84.3 billion annually, with several losses equivalent to up to nearly 30 per cent of least developed countries' GDP, and some losses equivalent to over 100 per cent of small island developing states' GDP.

