

FAST FACTS



On Early Warnings for All

1. Climate change is causing more frequent and intense extreme weather events, resulting in widespread losses and damages to nature and people. Early warning systems to predict floods, droughts, and storms are a proven, efficient, and cost-effective way to save lives and jobs, land and infrastructure, and support long-term sustainability.
2. While 119 countries are now covered by at least one early warning system, only 52 per cent of least developed countries and 43 per cent of small island developing States have coverage. Only around 50 per cent of countries in Africa and in the Americas and Caribbean regions have early warning systems in place.
3. Between 2015 and 2024, over 40,000 people on average were reported killed or missing each year due to weather, climate, and water-related disasters, which affected a further 121 million people. 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 launched Early Warnings for All, calling for investments of \$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 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.
8. Today, 95 per cent of the world's population has access to mobile broadband networks and 80 per cent owns a mobile phone, creating new opportunities for early warnings by leveraging mobile networks.



9. Giving just 24 hours' notice of an impending hazardous event can reduce economic damages by 30 per cent. Investing just \$800 million in early warning systems in developing nations would prevent losses of \$3 to \$16 billion annually.
10. Since 2015, extreme weather, climate and water-related events caused estimated economic losses of \$1 trillion. Tropical cyclones alone cost the world \$135 billion in 2024.

Sources: [WMO](#) (1), [WMO & UNDRR](#) (2, 3, 8, 10), [WMO](#) (4), [WMO](#) (5), [WMO](#) (6), [WMO](#) (7), [WMO](#) (8), [GCA](#) (9), [WMO](#) (10)

