Empowering Women in Early Warning and Early Action to Reduce Disaster Risk

World Meteorological Day 2022
Secretary-General Professor Petteri Taalas

WMO OMM
World Meteorological Organization
Organisation météorologique mondiale
Our Vision

“By 2030, we see a world where all nations, especially the most vulnerable, are more resilient to the socioeconomic consequences of extreme weather, climate, water and other environmental events; and underpin their sustainable development through the best possible services, whether over land, at sea or in the air.”
Climate Mitigation could be strengthened with better data

Projected global fossil CO$_2$ emissions for 2021:

WMO plans to strengthen global coordination of observations and data-processing infrastructure and science to monitor global greenhouse gas budgets.
Climate adaptation efforts are not built on a solid foundation

Lack of climate literacy at all levels and limited availability of information and data pose further constraints to adaptation planning and implementation (medium confidence)

Figure 2: This map shows the horizontal resolution of surface observations in different countries based on stations actively reporting in January 2020. Source: WMO Secretariat.
Climate adaptation efforts are not built on a solid foundation

Currently water information is fragmented, has large gaps, and is partially inaccessible

We need a global water information system to inform water adaptation

Will we have enough water or too much?

How will changes in water availability affect hydro power and agriculture?

Do we need to more water storage to compensate for changes in rainfall and ice melt?
Early Warning Systems are a powerful adaptation tool

Early Warning Systems “have broad applicability across sectors and provide greater benefits to other adaptation options when combined (high confidence)”

And yet...

Less than half of WMO Members report having early warning systems in place

WMO will convene key actors to kick-start this work immediately

IPCC Sixth Assessment Report Working Group 2 Summary for Policy Makers. SPM.C.2.13
We know that weather and climate disasters are not gender neutral – women often disproportionately affected

• WMO publication on Gendered Impacts of Weather and Climate: Evidence from Asia, Pacific and Africa provides practical advice for NMHSs to address data asymmetries, and develop gender responsive services – through content, dissemination channels and feedback processes.

• The 18th World Meteorological Congress approved an accelerated Gender Action Plan, setting Gender Equity as a key deliverable for the organization. The plan commits to gender mainstreaming across all plans, programmes and projects.
We know that weather and climate disasters are not gender neutral

• Historically, meteorology, climate science and related technology sectors have been male-dominated. Only 35% of National Meteorological and Hydrological Service staff are women. The WMO Gender Action plan aims to rapidly improve representation of women on expert groups and technical commissions and elevate female role models.

• On 21 and 22 May 2022, the Third Multi-Hazard Early Warning Conference in Bali, Indonesia, in conjunction with the Global Platform for DRR, will further address how gender can be mainstreamed into early warning efforts. Please join this event, in person or virtually.
Thank you

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