

Climate Services For Risk Reduction in Africa CS4RRA, 2023

WEBINAR 1 Improvement of early warning systems and adaptation measures for disaster risk reduction

Parallel Session 2

Topics

- The "value chain" of early warning systems.
- Identify needs, what science can bring and migrate from science to policy advice.

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Abstract:

In the context of the Sahel and West Africa, the chronic and seasonal nature of most of the hazards which hit the agricultural sector and increase food insecurity underlines the primordial importance of strengthening early warning systems at regional, national and local level in order to better anticipate, prepare for and respond to future crises. This is even more important if we take into account the fact that most countries in the region benefit from a single rainy season, also corresponding to the agricultural lean period and peak needs for humanitarian response and risk of disaster generated by drought or floods.

Consequently, this seasonal characteristic of several hazards as well as humanitarian needs at the regional level offers a broader horizon of predictability and implementation of early warning and early action systems, which can mitigate their impacts on vulnerable populations.

Since 2019, FAO has been scaling up its support to local, regional and national actors through its anticipatory action (or also called Early Warning-Early Action EWEA/AA) initiative in West Africa, which has managed to trigger early action funding for a variety of hazards and establish anticipatory action systems in various countries. The main themes at the core of this presentation are:

- Brief overview of the EWEA/AA initiative and review of concrete examples of collaboration between scientists and practitioners for the development of AA/EWEA systems;
- How is FAO positioned along the EW value chain and what are the services provided;
- Key gaps, needs and opportunities for improving the EW and early action services in West Africa for food security.