

UN 2023 Water Conference

WMO's Activities and Ambitions

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER
TEMPS CLIMAT EAU



WMO OMM

World Meteorological Organization

Organisation météorologique mondiale

Stefan Uhlenbrook
Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere, WMO

WMO Resolution 25 (Cg-18) in 2019

Basis for a Plan of Action to fulfill the following **Long-term Ambitions** below:

1. No one is surprised by a **flood**
2. Everyone is prepared for **drought**
3. Hydro-climate and meteorological data support the **food security** agenda
4. **High-quality data** supports science
5. **Science** provides a sound basis for operational hydrology
6. We have a thorough **knowledge of the water resources** of our world
7. **Sustainable development** is supported by hydrological information
8. **Water quality** is known



1. No one is surprised by a **flood**



GENÈVE JUNE 6 2019

Assessment Guidelines for End-to-End
Flood Forecasting and Early Warning
Systems

2022 edition

WEATHER CLIMATE WATER



WORLD
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ORGANIZATION

WMO-No. 1236



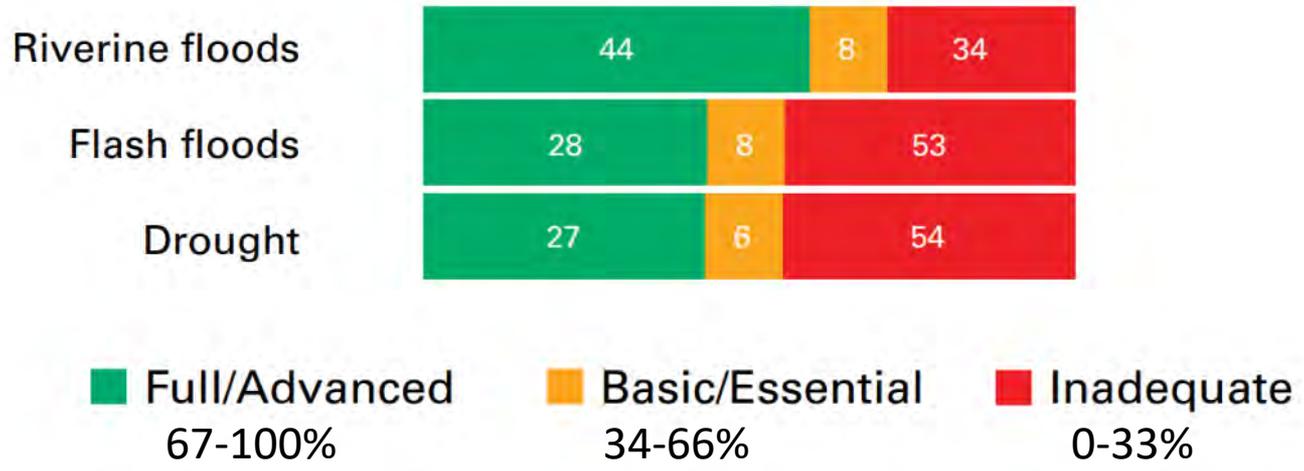
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Early Warning Systems (EWS) – where needed most?



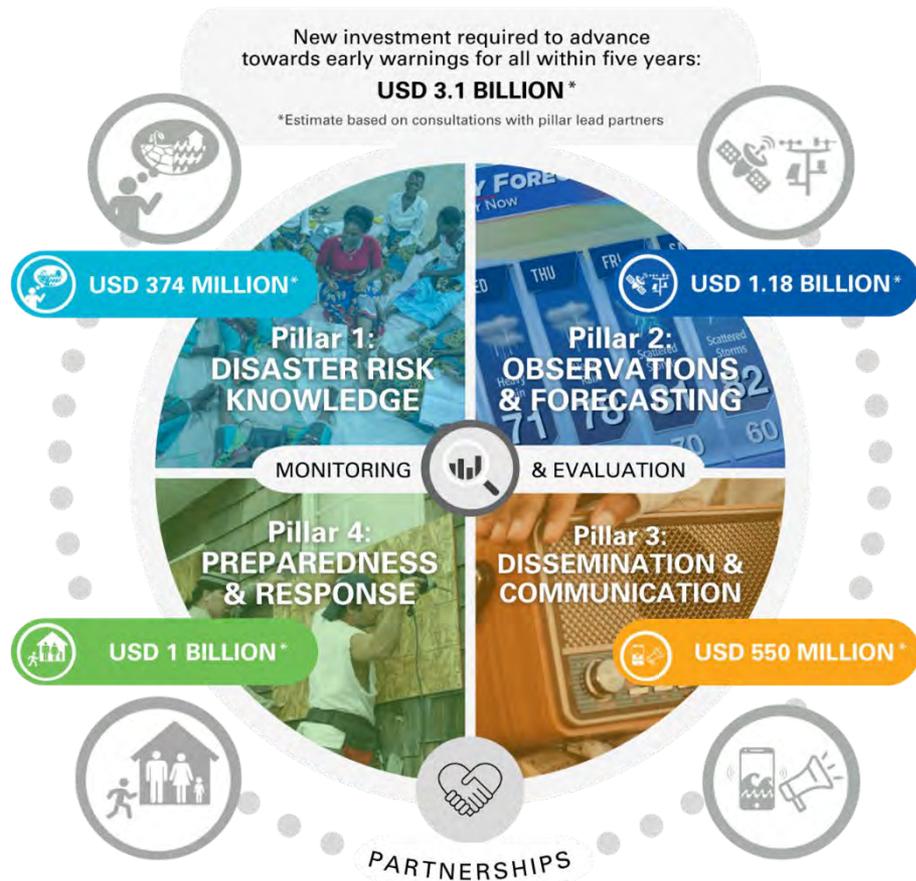
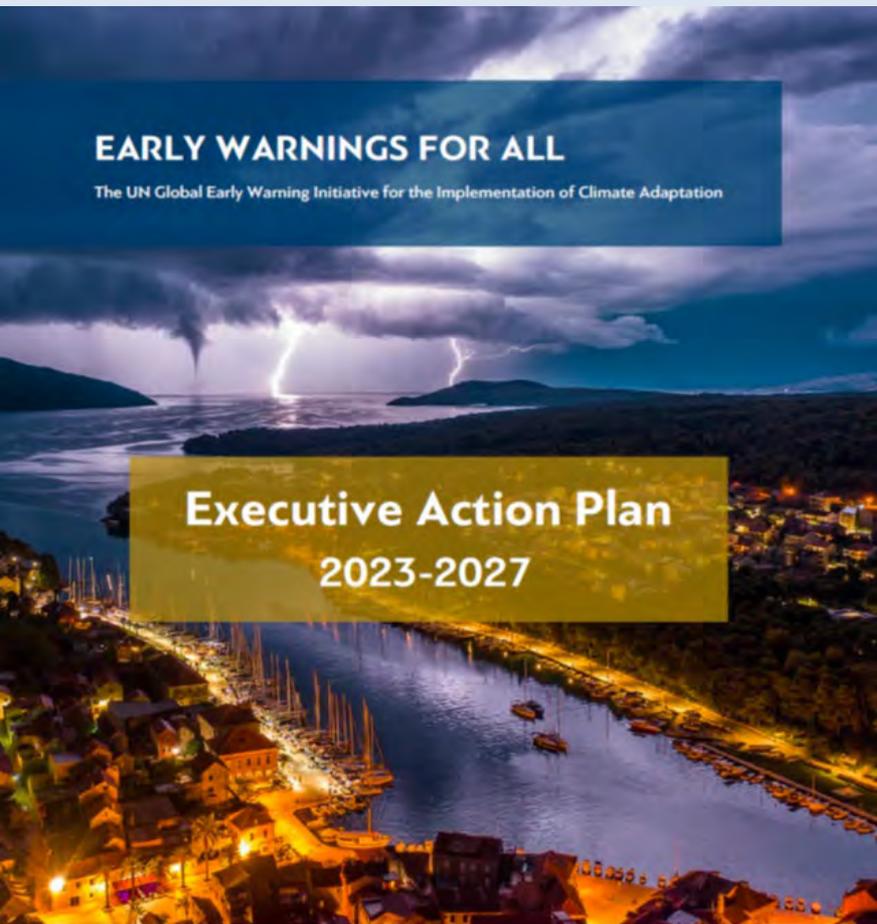
Sendai Framework Target G reported countries

- Reported having MHEWS
- Did not report having MHEWS/do not have MHEWS



Number of WMO Members with EWS; considering the % of population at risk that receive EW (WMO, 2022)

Game Changer: UN Early Warnings for All Initiative



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WEATHER CLIMATE WATER

Available at WMO [online library](#)



UN
2023 WATER
CONFERENCE

NEW YORK
22-24
MARCH
2023

WMO Objectives:

- Call for an **integrated global water and climate agenda**, i.e., **water data and information**
- Contributions to the **Water Action Agenda** as Conference outcome document
- Launch and presentation of key WMO activities, e.g., **EW4All, HydroSoS, Global State of the Water Resources Report**, etc.

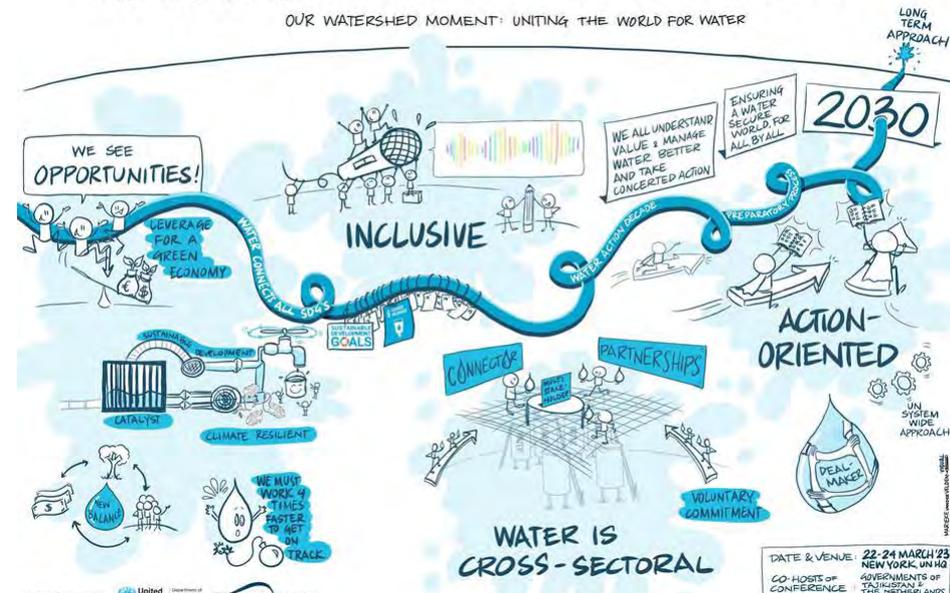
Key Activities @ UN 2023 Water Conference



- **WMO** is leading on **three side event proposals**
 - 1) Early Warning for All + launch of the Governing Board
 - 2) Water and Climate Coalition, WAA commitments
 - 3) Special Event by UN1FY
- We have partnered up with other organizations and member states on an additional **10 side-event proposals** including side events and other events around the conference
- The background document for Interactive Dialogue 3: **Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment** was jointly prepared by WMO, UNEP and UNDRR
- **Water and Climate Leaders** are planning for a meeting and press briefing, while actively represented in other events

VISION STATEMENT UN 2023 WATER CONFERENCE

OUR WATERSHED MOMENT: UNITING THE WORLD FOR WATER



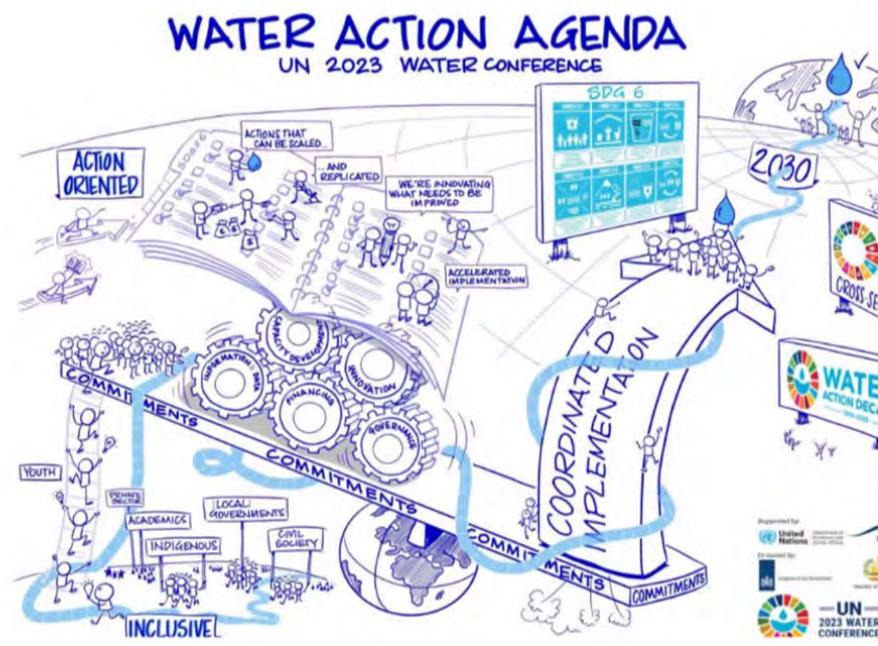
WMO Preliminary Commitments to the Water Action Agenda

Game Changer defined in Oct 2022:

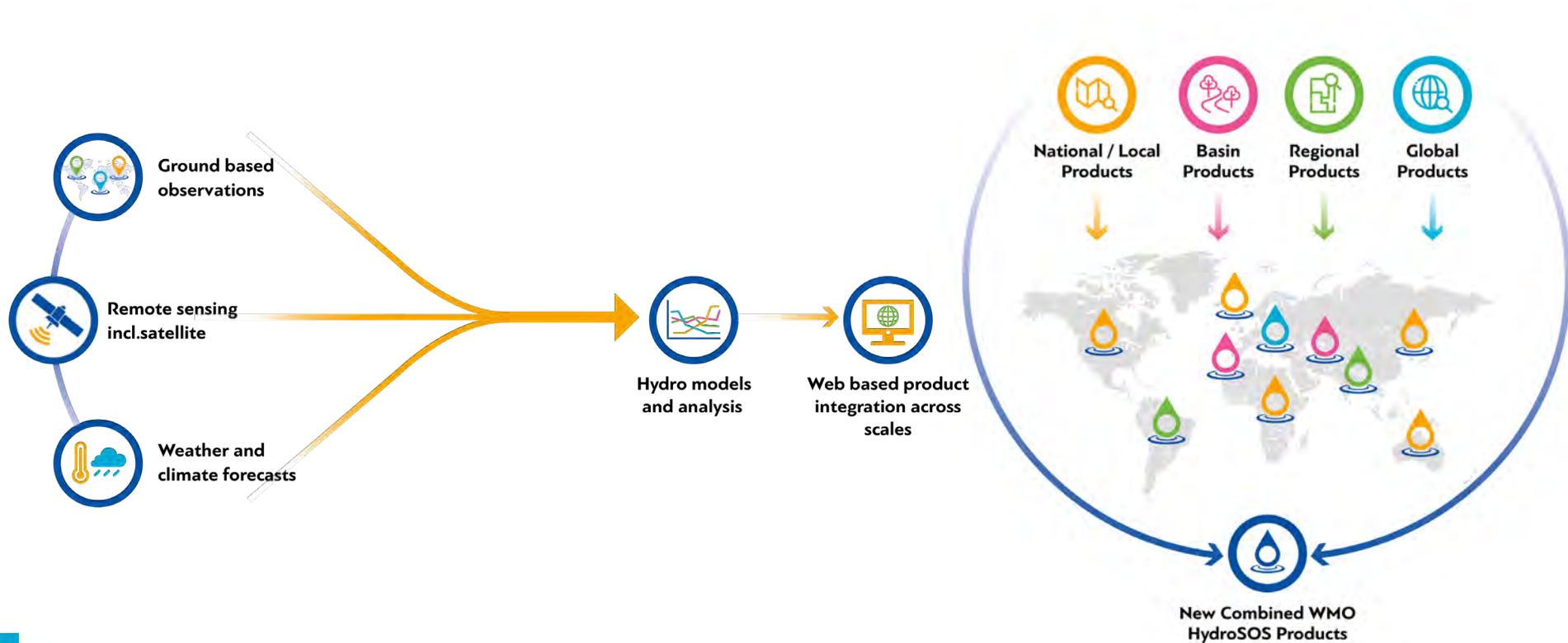
Better global water information systems/services to support decision and policy making

WMO's response:

- **HydroSOS** entered the implementation phase in Nov 2021 and is currently in various stages of development and implementation in several countries and basins (Lake Chad, Lake Victoria, Nigeria, Laos-Cambodia, Nepal-Bangladesh, Volta basin etc)
- The pilot **State of Global Water Resources** report was published in 2022



Vision: From Data to Information to Decision and Policy Support



Game Changer:

HydroSOS at global and national scales

➤ **Globally consistent and accessible water data and information**



WMO supports the youth through the Water and Climate Coalition's youth constituency – UN1FY, in developing an inclusive **Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda (YDPA)** for the 2023 UN Water Conference





- 15 youth interns from all SDG regions to support the youth activity of the Water and Climate Coalition

- Present in global conferences to promote youth inclusion of the Water and Climate Youth Development Plan and Agenda

- EarthX Global Youth Summit – Texas, USA
- Dushanbe Water Process - Tajikistan
- Regional Conference of Youth Asia and the Pacific – Philippines
- One Young World Summit 2022 – Manchester, UK
- COP27 & COY17 – Egypt
- Africa Youth Climate Hub Event – Morocco

- WMO organized the Hydrohub Youth Symposium



6500

Members

140+

Countries

77

National Focal Points

2

Publications
(IAHR & T20)

Products and Activities

- Mobile Application Launching Soon
- H2OH! Online Talk Show
- I Count Campaign for UN Water Conference
- Membership and Networking
- Partnership with YOUNGO of UNFCCC
- Co-organizing Special Event at UN Water Conference
- Side events for UN Water Conference
 - Youth in Water Action Agenda
 - Japan Water Forum - "Youth Dialogue: Planning collaborative actions"



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Finally, we need to change the narrative on water:

From Water is a Problem to Water is part of the Solution(s)

1. Water management to reduce GHG emissions
2. Hydrological monitoring and forecasting systems reduce climate and weather-induced disaster risks (early warning → early actions)
3. Water management can enhance climate change resilience and security

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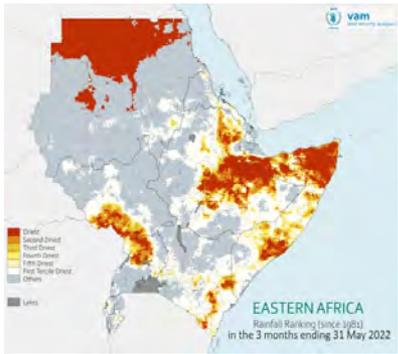
A generation lost...or found



J. CARL GANTER / CIRCLE OF BLUE

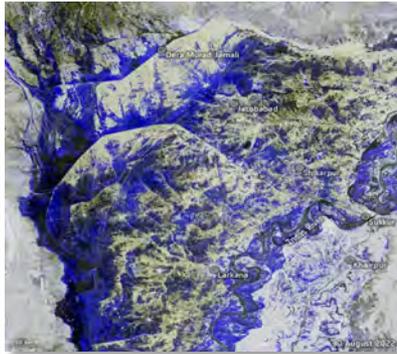
5 top high impact events in 2022

1



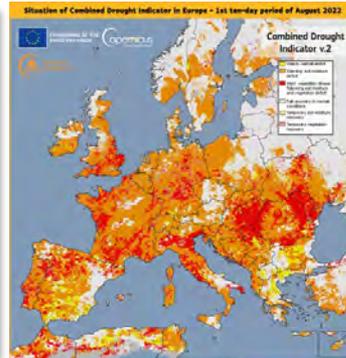
Drought in
Greater Horn
of Africa

2



Floods in
Pakistan

3



Heat, drought
and wildfire -
Europe

4



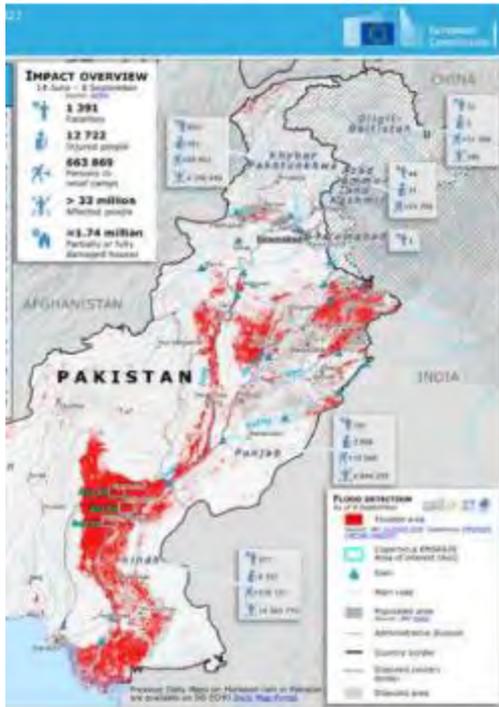
Heat and
drought -
China:

5



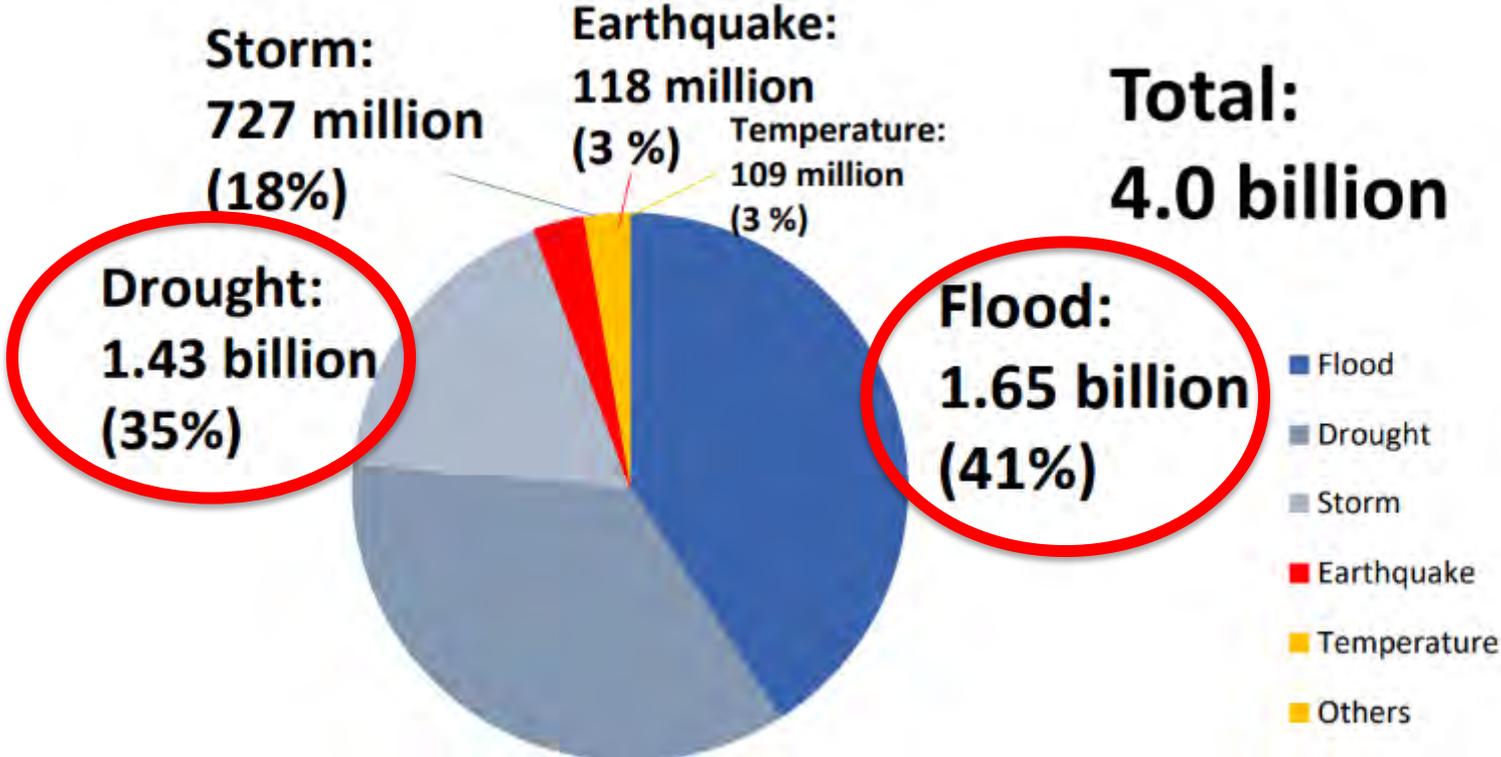
Hurricane Ian
USA, Cuba

Floods in Pakistan in July-August, 2022



Death toll > 1700 people
Estimate damage approx. USD 40 billion

Number of people affected by disasters (2000-2019)



Africa

Photo: Ilona Bud Zbon

On the importance of water-related hazards (examples)

Droughts are the top killer in Africa among weather-, water- and climate-related hazards, claiming more than 695 000 lives in the past 50 years.⁵⁵

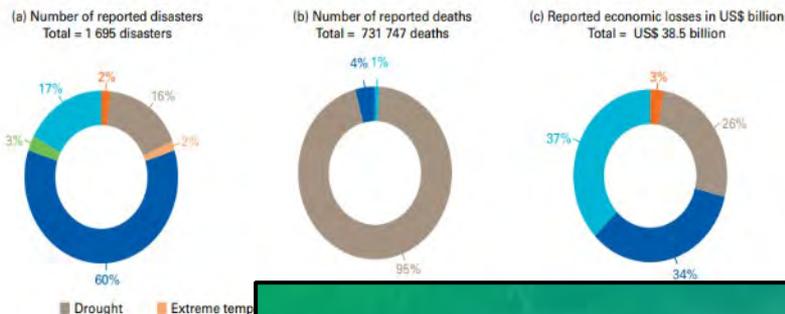


Figure 12: Overview of weather, water, and climate-related disasters, deaths and economic losses reported in Africa (1970-2019).

WMO, 2021

Asia

Photo: Constant Loubrier

Asia has continued to face extreme impacts from weather, water and climate compared to other regions, especially from floods.

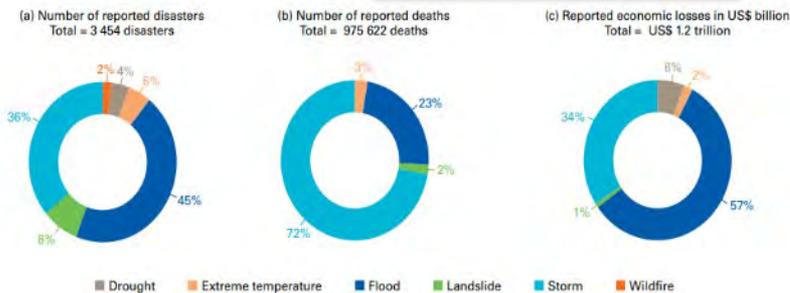


Figure 15: Overview of weather, water, and climate-related disasters, deaths and economic losses reported in Asia (1970-2019).



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- **WMO representation at key events (selected):**

- 6th UN Special Thematic Session on Water and Disasters on 21 March
- WCL meeting on 21 March
- Press briefing 21 March , Water and Climate Leaders (TBC)
- Interactive Dialogue 3 - Water for Climate, Resilience and Environment on 23 March at 10:00 a.m. , Conference Room 4, UNHQ – Co-chaired by Egypt and Japan, WMO SG Panellists

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- Contributions to the **Water Action Agenda** as Conference outcome document

Side Events (co-)hosted (TBC):

- EW4All - WMO Lead
- 2025 International year of glaciers' preservation - Tajikistan
- Water at the heart of climate action – IFRC and UNDRR
- Water and Climate Consultation @ UN 2023 Water Conference - UAE
- WCC on Commitments to the Water Action Agenda - WCC
- UNIFY - Youth Development Plan and Agenda



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