

EXTREME HEAT SOLUTION PACKAGE CONSULTATION WORKSHOP REPORT

6 SEPTEMBER 2023



CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE
CLIMATE AND DISASTER RESILIENCE



GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH
INFORMATION NETWORK

Early
Warnings
for All



WMO



UNDRR

AGENDA

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| 14:00 Opening and welcome Tour-de-Table Introductions | 15:00 Discussion and break out groups: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Who are the key audiences to engage and support?• What do key deliverables look like?• What are the key themes to explore? | 16:00 Report back and reflection |
| 14:15 Overview | | 16:45 Wrap up and next steps |
| 14:30 Scene Setting Implementation examples | | 17:00 Workshop closure |

BACKGROUND

In 2022, the United Nations Secretary General called for everyone on the planet to be covered by an Early Warning System (EWS) by the end of 2027. This resulted in the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative, which is coordinated by UNDRR and WMO, with support from IFRC and ITU.

The UNDRR-WMO Centre of Excellence (COE) on Climate and Disaster Resilience with its membership of 15 international organizations was established to support thought leadership in addressing complex challenges related to working together on diverse issues, such as early warning and early action.

Action across all sectors and scales is needed to achieve the objectives of EW4All. Half of countries globally are not protected by multi-hazard early warning systems (MHEWS). Where MHEWS exists, capacity gaps may still be present to deliver EWS across all diverse natural hazard types (e.g., storms and cyclones, flooding, drought, heatwaves). There are particularly large and complex gaps to address extreme heat.

The Global Heat Health Information Network (GHHIN) is a UN initiative of WMO and WHO focused on building capacity to address extreme heat risks is working together with the UNDRR-WMO Centre of Excellence on Climate and Disaster Resilience to address this critical topic.

WORKSHOP OVERVIEW

The purpose of the virtual scoping meeting with a small group of invited experts is to have an open discussion on the approach and key issues to be addressed in a collective work package of the COE and partners on “heat governance”.

National governments and partners with experience implementing Heat Warning Systems and Action Plans have identified a range of challenges and gaps related to governance. Questions such as, with how to embed heat action plans (HAP) into existing local multi-hazard or sectoral risk management systems; and how to align long-term risk reduction with emergency planning; how to balance community level innovations, equity and inclusion? How to manage and coordinate policy and action to cascading multisectoral risks that heat poses to energy, housing, health, food, water resources?

These types of questions, raise the issue of “What does good heat governance look like?” and how can International Organizations, such as the partners in COE/EW4All/GHHIN, help promote an enabling policy environment to make heatwave early warning and early action successful.

The meeting will ask experts to help set out a roadmap of activities for delivering a solution package to further answer these needs.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Key themes emerged that helped frame the way forward for the extreme heat solution package, these included.

Extreme heat is complex.

Extreme heat is an all of society problem. It is not discrete, but manifests as cascading risks and impacts, some direct and some indirect, which materialize across different timescales, geographies, and sectors. Those affected can be individuals, communities, broader society, economic sectors, as well as the built environment and specific ecosystems. To be better able to guide and inform action it is important to be able to define the hazard, vulnerabilities, its impacts, and those affected - whilst recognizing the limitations in being able to capture impacts in all their complexity. Governance can be undermined by all these different factors, including diverse geographical scales, sectors, timeframes, impacts, and different affected populations - economic and political priorities. Effective governance needs to bring all of this together.

Considerable gaps in extreme heat governance exist.

Heat governance is the "the actors, strategies, processes and institutions that can mitigate and manage heat as a hazard." Heat action plans have been a successful governance tool implemented in many localities and forms. These plans have effectively pointed to gaps and triggered additional discussions around necessary mechanisms for governance, policy, enabling environments, and roles and responsibilities in mitigating and responding to heat risk.

Other examples of governance instruments are more sectoral and not comprehensive, such as building codes, occupational health and safety standards, among others.

A lot of the heat governance instruments have focused on urban settings and on emergency phase preparedness and response, but fail to capture the long term and systemic risk reduction strategies. Many sectors are also not effectively covered by the instruments currently in place or effectively linking to multi-sectoral governance.

Growing demand for extreme heat solutions is shining a light on the governance gap.

The last three months broke records as the hottest three-month period in records. At this time, many were left scrambling for solutions on how to address extreme heat impacts on society. With little time to respond, it is not feasible or desirable to start from scratch developing action plans and policy solutions. It is important to have access to resources that can aid in the process.

Some common elements that would be valuable to have include common indicators and definitions for heat and its impacts, as well as methods for determining vulnerable groups and populations affected. Building on this, a menu of options for preventing and responding to different issues can be developed based on experiences and learning to-date. Uptake of such a tool will require building the capacities of individuals working on these issues and providing the adequate funding for action.

We need to be clear on the objectives we aim to achieve.

Significant steps are needed to address climate change mitigation, and adaptation and risk management to extreme heat in a warming world. Different objectives that address needs at different time scales can be laid out, such as pathways to reducing mortality, safeguarding livelihoods, and protecting the environment, among others. Depending on the objectives, different sectoral elements and actors will have a role to play. It is a difficult task to define the scope of work on heat and thus the corresponding governance needed. Ultimately, there are different ways to approach this, and they each present trade offs and opportunities, that need to be thought through considering local contexts and capacities, and cascading and systemic consequences through time, scale, and sector. This can be a challenging discussion to have. There are some contexts, especially those beyond the global North, where heat has been an ongoing issue left unaddressed for a long time, which will require more deliberate ways of having these discussions around governance.

HEAT SOLUTION PACKAGE

Based on the identified gaps for decision-making and governance for heat risk reduction, the workshop considered key questions to help affirm the purpose of this work, the focus audiences, as well as the potential content and format of the Heat Solution Package. These points of agreement are presented below.

Aims

1. Promote harmonized "heat literacy" and use of standard definitions (hazard, risks & impacts) across agencies
2. Create a space to discuss multi-hazard / cross-sectoral / multi-level governance on extreme heat
3. Provide thought leadership and sector aligned resources as a contribution to EWS-Early Action for heat
4. Articulate (and advocate for) the multi-sectoral policy perspectives
5. Increase UN capacity to better support governments and partners address extreme heat

Audience

The ultimate audience for the heat solution package can potentially be quite broad. It is considerate of those responsible for decision-making and actions, as well as those with contributing roles. In this regard, three major groups of decision-makers were identified, leadership, communities, and practitioners.

CONSENSUS ON THREE MAJOR GROUPS

| Leadership | Communities | Practitioners |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National and local leadership <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Political leaders ◦ Legislators ◦ National authorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Civil society • Academia • Community-based organizations • Media • Communities/individuals | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local government • Risk management actors • Heat officers • UN actors |

WHO IS THE FOCUS AUDIENCE FOR THE SOLUTION PACKAGE?

Word Cloud from discussion



Content : What themes and issues should be covered?

In relation to content of the Heat Solution Package, a large number of potential themes and topics emerged (see word cloud). It was clear the resultant focus, regardless of theme, should be practical and easy to digest, to be quickly and easily used by decision-makers in diverse contexts. Some of components of heat governance that can be supported by this work are summarized in the table below.

| Heat Literacy | Planning and Prioritization | Implementation | Policy |
|---|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic definitions and indicators on vulnerability, impacts, and hazard definition, with supporting methods/ tools Definition of different roles and responsibilities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Process flow for identifying and defining problem to solve and practical solutions, which are fitting to the local context | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Case studies and examples Key learnings and findings Assessment of own capacities – gaps & opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stakeholder mapping Coordination and policy instruments and mechanisms Underpinning enabling arrangements for effective heat action |

WHAT ARE KEY THEMES AND ISSUES TO BE ADDRESSED?

Word Cloud from discussion



Format: What should the deliverables be?

The Heat solution package should be a practical set of tools to help key actors support decision-making and heat governance. It could include: checklists with supporting background information and resources, such as policy briefs, fact sheets, policy statements, among others. The solution package is a common set of resources produced with input from the different participating actors across COE, GHHIN, and others as appropriate.

POTENTIAL DELIVERABLES

Word Cloud from discussion



Way Forward

- COE Technical Advisory Group meeting to present the findings of the workshop and get agreement on next steps.
- COE, working with the GHHIN, will hire a consultant to frame key components of the extreme heat solution package; such as conduct partner scoping and literature review, collect case studies and lessons learned, as well as continue to consult with the relevant stakeholders.
- Aim to have a working draft of key deliverables by end of 2023, with the aim of having a final product by Q1 of 2024.
- Work concurrently with GHHIN and relevant partners on other complementary pieces.

| PHASE 1 | PHASE 2 | PHASE 3 |
|--|--|--|
| <p>SCOPING & COLLECTING</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consultant & COE partners contribute to desk review of actors, resources, governance models | <p>PACKAGE DEVELOPMENT</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Common UN Resource Package • Action Framework • Heat Literacy tool | <p>CONSULTATION / DISSEMINATION</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Consultation • Policy briefing and recommendations |

ANNEXES

PRESENTATION



<https://bit.ly/3PRwEnG>

PARTICIPANTS

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