



## Project Update #9

Welcome to our ninth [CENTAUR](#) Project Update!

In this issue, we discuss the importance of early warning systems and how the CENTAUR Horizon Europe project contributes to this.

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# The Importance of Early Warning Systems

The year 2024 was officially declared the [warmest year on record](#), a stark reminder of the increasing consequences of climate change. As global temperatures rise, extreme weather events are becoming more frequent and intense.

Last year alone, approximately [148 million people were affected by climate-driven disasters](#). From catastrophic floods in Spain and Central and Eastern Europe to severe droughts in Southern Africa, these devastating events have significantly impacted communities around the world. They not only cause immediate damage but also lead to long-term challenges, such as economic instability, escalating conflicts, and forced displacement.

Effective early warning systems are essential for addressing these challenges. They are key in reducing disaster risks by giving communities, organisations, and governments the time they need to implement proactive measures to prepare for and respond to disasters. These systems have been proven to be efficient and cost-effective in mitigating the impact of disaster events, yet only [55% of countries report having some capacity for multi-hazard early warning systems](#).

Recognising the need for robust early warning systems, this year's [World Meteorological Day](#), taking place on 23 March, will focus on this topic. The annual event highlights the importance of national meteorological and hydrological services in protecting communities worldwide. With the theme "Closing the Early Warning Gap Together," this year will emphasise the need

to strengthen and increase early warning systems to better protect communities against climate-driven disasters.

## How CENTAUR is contributing

A key focus of CENTAUR is to strengthen these systems for urban floods and food and water security. The project aims to improve proactive decision-making and timely emergency response by using advanced satellite data to develop a platform for crisis detection and event-driven monitoring.

Through international cooperation and investment in advancing these systems, we can build a safer, more resilient world. CENTAUR is proud to contribute to this important effort.

Interesting in learning more about CENTAUR? Watch our latest workshop.

[Watch the CENTAUR Workshop](#)

## Suggested Readings



Green Climate Fund approved \$103 million to strengthen early warning systems

[Read More](#)



Children in Southern Africa 'on brink of disaster' after worst drought in 100 years

[Read More](#)



Climate Risk: Which European countries have been hit the hardest by extreme weather events?

[Read More](#)

## Facts & Figures

**14.5 million**  
deaths worldwide could  
be caused by the  
climate crisis by 2025

**2 billion**  
people globally don't  
have access to safe  
drinking water

**4.4 million**  
people could face  
hunger in Somalia by  
April 2025



**CENTAUR**

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