



Strengthening hydromet services in developing countries: experience of the World Bank

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Hydrological and meteorological (or “hydromet”) hazards are responsible for 90% of total disaster losses worldwide. 2017 was the costliest year on record in terms of weather-related natural disasters. From hurricanes and wildfires to droughts and floods, global economic losses totaled more than \$330 billion. The actual cost of those disasters is even higher when factoring in the specific vulnerability of the poor who are less able to recover from a disaster. According to the World Bank report “Unbreakable”, average annual losses are 60 percent larger and reach close to \$520 billion dollars a year. The impacts of extreme natural disasters force some 26 million people into poverty every year. According to the World Economic Forum 2018 Global Risks Report four of the five most pressing risks the world is confronted with are related to hydromet phenomena. Demand for the provision of hydromet services is rapidly increasing.

In response to increased demands for quality hydromet services in developing and emerging countries, the World Bank has been providing financial, technical and advisory support to national governments to modernize and manage the hydromet value chain needed to collect data, develop forecasts, and deliver the services to the public and to risk managers. The World Bank’s portfolio for the hydromet sector has more than tripled over the last 10 years, now almost reaching a total of 1 billion US dollars in more than 60 countries.

The presentation focuses on the World Bank experience and lessons learned through these lending operations and technical assistance and discusses emerging issues to consider including public private engagements and partnerships with development partners.