Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Investment Phase:
Annual Narrative Report

United Republic of Tanzania
Year 1

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience

General Information

Country	United Republic of Tanzania	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Agreement effectiveness date	1 May 2024	
Duration	60 months	
Anticipated end date	1 May 2029	
Reporting period	**From:** 1 July 2024	**To:** 31 March 2025
Approved amount	**Total: USD 9,067,503.87** UNDP: USD 8,437,337 WMO: USD 630,166.87	
Disbursed amount	**Total: USD 5,272,436.82** - UNDP – USD 5,062,402.20 WMO – USD 210,034.62	
Country	United Republic of Tanzania	
Signature of Implementing Entity	DocuSigned by: Shigeki Komatsubara F54C0E2F27704E7... Shigeki Komatsubara, UNDP Resident Representative	

Summary

The implementation of SOFF project in Tanzania commenced in July 2024. The project aims to address critical gaps in the country's meteorological observation network by enhancing institutional capacity and developing essential infrastructure in line with Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) standards. During the reporting period from July 2024 to March 2025, the project made notable progress in laying the groundwork for long-term improvements in weather and climate services, positioning Tanzania to better contribute to and benefit from global data-sharing systems.

Output 1: GBON Institutional and Human Capacity Developed

As part of the development of GBON (Global Basic Observing Network) institutional and human capacity, the project established two key governance bodies: the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Technical Coordination Committee (PTCC). These bodies are responsible for overseeing and coordinating the technical aspects of the project. The PSC held its first meeting on October 16, 2024, and the PTCC convened on July 18, 2024.

To ensure effective project implementation, a series of critical documents and tools were developed. These included a concept note to register the project in Tanzania's National

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Project Management Information System (NPMIS), facilitating tax exemptions and clearance of imported goods. The Terms of Reference (ToRs) for both the PSC and PTCC were created, and additional documents, such as a communication plan to enhance project visibility and a monitoring and evaluation plan, were also prepared. A booklet titled *Historical Perspectives of SOFF in Tanzania* was produced, along with a comprehensive work plan outlining the project's activities for 2024.

Stakeholder Engagement:

In alignment with the development of GBON's institutional and human capacity, the SOFF project was officially launched on January 21, 2025, at Midland Inn View Hotel in Dodoma. This event aimed to engage key stakeholders in weather and climate services, including development partners, decision makers, senior government officials, UN agencies, international organizations, academia, and civil society organizations (CSOs), ensuring they were fully informed of the initiative and their roles in its implementation.

The Guest of Honour at the event was the Prime Minister of the United Republic of Tanzania, Hon. Kassim Majaliwa (MP). In his speech, the Prime Minister outlined five key directives for the successful implementation of the SOFF project. These directives are as follows:

1. **TMA should prioritize improving the weather observation network** in areas that are currently underserved or not covered at all.
2. **TMA should enhance the availability of weather and climate information**, which will support the provision and improvement of socio-economic activities across various regions.
3. **Public servants involved in the project must be equipped to work with integrity and professionalism**, ensuring the effective delivery of the project's intended outcomes for the nation.
4. **All stakeholders involved in the SOFF project**, including Government Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs), Non-State Actors, and Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), should actively support and engage in the project's implementation to ensure its success.
5. **Project coordinators must adhere to the established workplan**, ensuring the project is implemented efficiently and within the set timelines.

Following these directives, TMA developed an action plan for their implementation, which was submitted to the Ministry of Transport as requested.

Output 2: GBON Infrastructure in Place

Infrastructure Development:

As part of developing GBON infrastructure, significant progress has been made in establishing and upgrading key weather stations across Tanzania. Surveys were conducted for the sites of nine new surface stations to be installed in locations such as Pemba, Masasi, Singida, and Kilwa Masoko. Additionally, seven existing stations were assessed for upgrades to meet GBON standards, ensuring they align with international best practices.

For upper-air stations, building designs, architectural plans, and a Bill of Quantities (BoQ) were completed for the upper-air station buildings at Songwe Airport, Mwanza Airport, and Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA). Construction work began in early 2025 at all three sites.

Procurement Progress:

In collaboration with the Peer Advisor (DMI), technical specifications for nine new automatic weather stations (AWS) and upgrades for the existing seven stations were finalized according to GBON guidelines. These stations will be integrated with global data-sharing platforms such as WIS2, enhancing Tanzania's participation in global weather observation efforts.

In parallel, Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA) were commissioned for the upper-air station sites. A consultant was hired to conduct these assessments, and the draft scoping report is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025.

Additionally, to support the operations of GBON stations, five vehicles were procured. The clearance processes for these vehicles are currently ongoing.

Lessons Learned

Procurement Challenges:

- Preparation and reviewing technical specifications is a process that takes time, thus affected timelines for equipment procurement and construction activities. Streamlining these processes is essential to avoid future delays.

Stakeholder Collaboration:

- Coordination among TMA, UNDP, DMI, and other partners including CSOs and Private Sector was crucial in addressing challenges and achieving milestones.
- **Regulatory Compliance:**
- Registering the project in NPMIS facilitated smoother operations by ensuring compliance with Tanzanian legal requirements for investment projects.

Relevant Information

The SOFF project addresses critical gaps in Tanzania's meteorological infrastructure by establishing nine new surface stations, upgrading seven existing ones, and building three new upper-air stations to meet GBON standards.

Key milestones include:

- Finalizing technical specifications for meteorological equipment.
- Commencing construction of upper-air station buildings at Songwe Airport, Mwanza Airport, and KIA.
- Completing surveys for new station sites and assessments for upgrades.

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed														
1.1 **National consultations**, including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	Number of workshops with stakeholders	1	1	1								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
	Percentage of women participating in SOFF consultations with CSOs and the private sector	50%	50%	50%								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
1.2 **NMHS institutional capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Number of TMA Senior Management trained		10									Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
	Number of Team members trained in project Management	5										Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • `Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
1.3 **NMHS human capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Number of TMA Engineers and ICT staff Trained		15	10								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
	Add indicator as per approved funding request											Select an item		
	Add indicator as per approved funding request											Select an item		
2. GBON infrastructure in place														
2.1 **New land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of new land-based stations installed (Nine new stations)		9									On-track	• Technical Specifications of new stations to be procured as well as the Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process; • Survey of sites for the new stations has been carried out; • Procurement process of the new stations (Automatic Weather Stations) has been initiated.	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
2.2 **Improved land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of land-based stations improved (7 stations)		7									On-track	• Technical Specifications of stations spare parts to be procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process.	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
2.3 **New upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and	Number of new upper air stations installed (3 stations)		3									On-track	• Technical Specifications of the equipment and consumables to be	• No challenge;

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
standard operating practices in place													procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process; • Survey of sites for the new upper air stations has been carried out; • Design of buildings for the new Upper air stations, preparation of architectural drawings, and establishment of cost estimates for the buildings was completed;Terms of Reference (ToRs) to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the sites of new upper air stations were developed, tendering has also been completed and the consultant was hired to conduct EIAs for upper-air station sites. ed. • The draft scoping report is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025. • Tendering of construction works for the new upper air stations was completed. . • The Contractor to construct the buildings for the three (3) new upper air stations was hired, and the construction of the buildings at all the three	• Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													sites is expected to be complete by July, 2025.	
2.4 **Improved upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of upper stations improved (1 station)		1									On-track	• Technical Specifications of stations spare parts and rehabilitation material to be procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process.	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														
3.1 **GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed**, country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	Number of land- based stations commissioned				27							Not yet started	• Procurement of five (5) vehicles to support activities of GBON Stations has been initiated; • Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed to ensure effective monitoring of the compliance of the GBON stations.	• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled to take place later ; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
3.2 **GBON upper air stations' commissioning period completed**, country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	Number of upper air stations commissioned				5							Not yet started	• Procurement of five (5) vehicles to support activities of GBON Stations has been initiated; • Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed to ensure effective monitoring of the compliance of the GBON stations.	• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled to take place later ; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Gender

- **Gender Representation in Governance structures:** Both PTCC and PSC committees have made efforts to include women in their membership and decision-making processes, promoting gender equality in governance.
- **Targeted Activities Planned for 2025:** Specific workshops and targeted activities aimed at enhancing gender awareness and capacity-building will take place throughout 2025. These initiatives will focus on empowering women in meteorological services and ensuring their active participation in project activities.

Social and environmental safeguards

Environmental and social safeguards were observed through the following measures:

- **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA):** EIAs are currently being conducted at sites for new upper-air stations (e.g., Songwe, Mwanza, and Kilimanjaro airports) to ensure compliance with Tanzania's Environmental Management Act (2004). A consultant was hired to oversee this process, and draft scoping reports have been submitted for review.
- **Site Selection:** Surveys ensured that new station locations avoided sensitive ecosystems or areas requiring extensive resettlement.

Civil society and private sector participation

- **Launch Event:** The high-level launch of the SOFF project on January 21, 2025, included representatives from CSOs, academia, and private sector stakeholders to foster collaboration.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** Contractors from the private sector were engaged for construction activities, such as building upper-air station facilities.

Complementary financing and leverage

- Of the $13.9 million budget, $9 million was provided by MPTF, with additional funding from the Government of Tanzania.
- SOFF serves as a foundational element and delivery vehicle for the UN Secretary-General's EW4All initiative, which aims to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In 2025, TMA launched the EW4ALL with direct complementarity to SOFF.

Implementation of grievance redress mechanism

No grievances have been reported so far regarding the SOFF project. However, in the event of any issues or concerns, the UNDP grievance redress mechanisms are in place to ensure they are effectively addressed. These mechanisms include the Social and Environmental

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Standards (SES) Grievance Mechanism, the Complaint Handling Mechanism, and the Whistleblower Protection Policy, among others. These systems are designed to handle complaints and concerns raised by stakeholders, ensuring transparency, fairness, and timely resolution. In addition, individuals can also access the United Nations Ombudsman and Mediation Services for conflict resolution, and the Independent Evaluation Office (IEO) can receive feedback related to project performance. These grievance redress options are part of UNDP's commitment to accountability and maintaining open lines of communication with all stakeholders.

Success stories

https://un-soff.org/news/launch-of-the-systematic-observations-financing-facility-soff-project-in-tanzania/

https://wmo.int/media/news-from-members/launch-of-systematic-observations-financing-facility-soff-project-tanzania

https://www.undp.org/tanzania/news/building-climate-resilience-tanzania-launches-soff-project

https://dailynews.co.tz/investments-uplift-meteorology/

https://un-soff.org/news/tanzania-first-meeting-of-project-steering-committee-for-soff-implementation/

https://www.adaptation-undp.org/projects/tanzania-soff-investment-phase

https://www.meteo.go.tz/news/first-meeting-of-project-steering-committee-for-the-soff-implementation-in-tanzania

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