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# Investment Phase: Annual Narrative Report

## Rwanda

Year 2

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## General Information

<b>Country</b>	<b>Rwanda</b>	
<b>Implementing Entity</b>	<b>United Nations Development Programme</b>	
<b>Agreement effectiveness date</b>	09 April 2024	
<b>Duration</b>	48	
<b>Anticipated end date</b>	01 January 2028	
<b>Reporting period</b>	<b>From:</b> 01 January 2025	<b>To:</b> 31 December 2025
<b>Approved amount</b>	3,107,377.37 USD	
<b>Disbursed amount</b>	2,330,533.03 USD	
<b>Signature of Implementing Entity</b>		

## Summary

In the year 2025, the Rwanda SOFF project achieved notable progress in strengthening GBON-compliant meteorological observations. Three land-based weather stations were successfully upgraded, increasing the number of GBON-compliant stations from one to four and enabling regular hourly data sharing through WIS2.0. Institutional coordination was reinforced through stakeholder engagement, while the technical capacity of METEO RWANDA in meteorological station's maintenance and data management was enhanced through hands-on training of 13 staff. Preparatory works for Rwanda's first upper-air station were completed, including site designs, construction of the autosome platform and hydrogen generator house, and installation of essential utilities. All upper-air equipment has been delivered to site, with installation scheduled to begin in January 2026.

Implementation, especially the upper air station installation experienced delays due to the site preparation works that took longer than expected, resulting in postponement of the installation, commissioning, and some capacity-building

activities that can only be completed once the station is operational. The next implementation period i.e., year 2026 will focus on completing installation and commissioning, as well as finalizing the postponed capacity strengthening trainings. The continuous stakeholder coordination, and targeted capacity development will be key to maintaining momentum and ensuring long-term sustainability and global data exchange.

It was learnt that early and sustained stakeholder coordination is essential to mitigate delays associated with complex site preparations and infrastructure-dependent activities. Realistic scheduling and early risk assessment are critical for upper-air station implementation. Combining phased infrastructure upgrades with targeted capacity building delivers quick, tangible results in GBON compliance and data exchange.

Early and in-depth engagement on the sustainability aspects of the project is essential to ensure the long-term viability and impact of project's achievements.

## Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
<b>1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed</b>															
1.1 National consultations, including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	# of consultation workshops	1			1		1						On-track	Not planned for in the 2025. Two consultation workshops are targeted over the course of this project. One consultation workshop was held in the first year of the project, while the second is planned in the last year of the project.	
	% female participants in the workshops	50			50		60						On-track	The representation of females in the first consultation workshop was 60%.	
	# of high-level dialogue organised	1			1								Delayed	The SOFF project in Rwanda was launched during the World Environment Day in 2024.  The first dialogue was supposed to take place in the first year, while the second is scheduled for the project's final year. As reported previously, this was scheduled to take place in the last quarter of 2025 to be able to showcase the acquired equipment for the upper air station, however, due to delays in installation, the dialogue is now	The delays in the supply and installation of the upper air station led to this activity being postponed to Year 3 (2026). It is now confirmed that the high-level dialogue event will take place in the second quarter (April-June 2026), as the equipment has been delivered and both installation and capacity-building activities are ongoing.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													planned in the 2 <sup>nd</sup> quarter (April-June 2026). This will enable stakeholders to directly witness the station's capabilities in action. The approach is expected to increase the visibility of project outcomes, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and showcase the tangible impact of the investment on global and Rwanda's meteorological observation capacity.	
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of updated processes				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of people trained	3										Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# gender assessment conducted	1										Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# gender workshop organized			1								Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of developed observation process				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of documents (SOPs or roadmaps) updated or developed				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of Meteo Rwanda staff members participated in the training on operation and		4	4								Delayed	The hands-on training which was planned in the last year 2025 has delayed	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
	maintenance of upper-air station													due to the postponed installation of the upper air station, which is now underway. The training will follow from January to May 2026.	
	% of female Meteo Rwanda staff participants in the training		50	50									On track	The hands-on training which was planned in the last year 2025 has delayed due to the postponed installation of the upper air station, which is now underway. The training will follow from January to May 2026.	
	# of IT technician trained			4									Not yet started	To be implemented in the year 2026	
	# of forecasters trained			12									Not yet started	To be implemented in the year 2026	
	# data analysts trained			9									Not yet started	To be implemented in the year 2026	
	# of staff trained on maintenance and calibration of land surface stations		4					13					Achieved	Thirteen (13) staff trained by the supplier/manufacturer on installation and maintenance of new installed sensors and data loggers, as well as the data quality assurance.	
	% of female participants in the training		50					30					On-track	30% of staff trained were female	The target was not fully met, as female representation in institutional observation and maintenance roles

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
															remains below 50% of the total staff.
1.3.5. Cover the Direct project costs in terms of oversight, procurement support, knowledge management, country coordination, M&E and headquarters technical assistance for IE and Meteo Rwanda for 4 years	# of project management staff supported at IE	3	3	3	3		3	3				Achieved	Three project management staff at IE were recruited.		
	# of project management staff supported at beneficiary	2	2	2	2		0	0				Delayed		The recruitment of project staff required restructuring of the current METEO RWANDA's Single Project Implementation Unity (SPIU) which is done at ministerial level. The request to revise SPIU structure to include SOFF project staff has been recently approved and the staff recruitment process is ongoing.	
	# of TA at UNDP HQ recruited for knowledge management				1							Not yet started		The TA at UNDP HQ will be recruited in y4,2027	
<b>2. GBON infrastructure in place</b>															
2.1 <b>New land-based stations</b> and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A										Select an item	Not planned for this project		
2.2 <b>Improved land-based stations</b> and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		3					3				Achieved	Three (3) land-based stations were upgraded with new sensors and data loggers. With support from WMO, the stations were	The WIS2 node for Rwanda is currently hosted by the WMO WIS Division through the European Weather Cloud. Meteo Rwanda	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
and standard operating practices in place													integrated into WIS2 and are now sharing data globally.	plans to establish a local node during the installation of the upper-air station, rescheduled between January and May 2026.	
	# standard operating practices updated				1								Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
2.3 New upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		1										On-track	The necessary site preparations have been completed. The upper air station's equipment has been supplied and installation started in early January and expected to be fully operational in May 2026.	The tendering process to hire a local contractor to undertake the required civil works at the site took longer than anticipated, resulting in delays to the installation schedule.
	# standard operating practices updated				1								Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
2.4 Improved upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A											Select an item	Not planned in the project	
<b>3. Sustained compliance with GBON</b>															
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	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A											Select an item	Not planned in this project	
	# land-based stations maintained, calibrated and transmitting data to GTS			3	3								Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
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	# upper air station maintained and sharing data on GTS			1	1							Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	

## Gender

Please indicate how the Gender Policy of your organization (Implementing Entity) was applied to SOFF Operations.

The Gender Policy of UNDP emphasizes the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women, ensuring that both men and women have equal access to opportunities and resources. In line with this policy, several measures have been taken to integrate gender considerations into the implementation of the SOFF project:

1. During the upper air site preparation, in total 601 casual labours residing in the neighbourhood of project area have been employed in which 17% were female compared to 83% male.
2. In line with UNDP's commitment to gender equality in leadership roles and decision-making processes, UNDP has appointed two female staff members to play central roles in the project. One is responsible for overseeing the implementation of the SOFF project, ensuring effective project delivery while considering gender equity throughout the process. The other is focused on assisting with the management of the project budget, contributing to transparent financial management.

## Social and environmental safeguards

Please indicate how environmental and social safeguards standards are observed in the execution of activities.

The implementation of the SOFF project has been guided by a strong commitment to environmental and social safeguards, ensuring that all activities are carried out in a manner that minimizes negative impacts on the environment and local communities. Several precautions and measures have been put in place to observe environmental and social safeguard standards throughout the project cycle, from the design phase to implementation. Key actions include:

1. **Environmental Compliance in Procurement:** During the design phase, the specifications for the supply and installation of all meteorological equipment were carefully crafted to include environmental and social safeguards. To ensure that suppliers align with these standards, all bidders were required to provide a certification of environmental compliance and submit their organizational policy for environmental protection. This requirement ensures that the project partners are committed to sustainable and responsible practices.
2. **Environmental Compliance in Site Preparation:** Site preparation was conducted ensuring that construction activities and supply of utilities (water and

electricity) to the site meet national regulations and minimize environmental and social impacts. This included conducting environmental assessments during design, securing permits, managing waste, preventing soil erosion, protecting nearby ecosystems, and engaging local communities throughout the process.

## Civil society and private sector participation

Please indicate any engagements to date with civil society and private sector during Investment Phase implementation.

During the Investment Phase of the SOFF project, significant efforts are being made to engage both civil society and the private sector in the planning and implementation process. These engagements have been vital to ensuring collaboration, fostering ownership, and ensuring the project's success. Key engagements include:

Public and private sector companies in the aviation and airspace industries are integral to the project's planning and decision-making processes. Notably, Rwanda Civil Aviation Authority and the Rwanda Space Agency and ASECNA have been actively involved in the site selection and the on-going implementation of the SOFF project. Their expertise and collaboration ensured that the project aligns with national aviation and space regulations, and that meteorological data can be integrated into broader airspace and aviation operations.

The participation of local CSO representative at district level was notable especially in the upper air site preparation where they contributed to monitoring environmental and social safeguards, advocating for vulnerable groups, and promoting accountability in the delivery of SOFF activities.

## Complementary financing and leverage

Please indicate any complementarity with ongoing and future projects/programmes with other climate funds.

The SOFF Investment phase project in Rwanda is highly complementary to ongoing and future climate programmes, as it provides the foundational weather and climate observation infrastructure upon which other climate investments depend.

SOFF focuses on closing critical data gaps by establishing the first ever automated upper-air station in Rwanda, upgrade of ground-based stations reporting globally increasing number from one to four. While other climate funds and programmes such as the Volcano Community Resilience Project funded by World Bank, Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Adaptation Fund, and

initiatives like Water at the Heart of Climate Action build on this data to deliver early warning services, climate adaptation measures, and sectoral resilience interventions.

SOFF acts as a catalytic financing mechanism, leveraging additional resources from multilateral climate funds and development partners often unlocking significantly larger investments for climate resilience in Rwanda.

Overall, SOFF ensures strong complementarity by providing the core observation infrastructure which enables early warning systems

## Implementation of grievance redress mechanism

The project has implemented a Grievance Redress Mechanism that provides accessibility for stakeholders to submit grievance related to the project activities. The focal point of SOFF project has been designated to receive and resolve grievance. Currently, there are no complaints.

## Success stories

Please share any success stories and links to news and publications relevant to Investment Phase implementation.

Rwanda achieved a significant milestone by becoming the first country to commence and complete procurement processes for both supply and installation of upper air station and ground-based stations. This success is a direct result of the strong collaboration between the beneficiary Rwanda Meteorology Agency and the implementing entity (UNDP) as well as the Peer Advisor (FMI). The effective teamwork facilitated the successful design of the tender specifications, supply and ongoing installation of equipment.

The SOFF project in Rwanda, particularly the country's first automated upper air station has attracted significant attention from high-level leadership. This was demonstrated by a site visit from the Parliamentary Commission responsible for environment, which aimed to assess progress in site preparation, equipment installation, and long-term sustainability. Local community leaders and the local polytechnic university demonstrated strong commitment to the project's implementation by providing conference rooms for training and making staff available to participate in capacity-building activities.

Communication materials:

<https://x.com/RwandaParliamnt/status/2021978636312547520?s=20>

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S13yoYrp\\_qs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S13yoYrp_qs)

23-Apr-2026

