

Flood forecasting and early warning



Client: The World Bank/*Office National de Météorologie d'Algérie*

Duration: February 2004 — December 2004

Description

This project follows the devastating floods in the capital city, Algier, in November 2001. 260 mm of rain fell in 24 hours — 100 mm of this in just three hours. Around 800 people were killed by the resultant floodwave and damage has been estimated to exceed \$400m. The Met Office was successful in winning the project to increase the Algerian meteorological service's capability to forecast and warn of severe flooding and other severe weather events.

The project involves an analysis of the meteorological conditions that caused the flood event in 2001; specification of new equipment, including radars; training of Algerian staff and identifying links with organisations responsible for flood warning.

The Algerian meteorological service requires capacity development, both in terms of human resources and forecasting infrastructure. Capacity building is being provided in a variety of areas: data assimilation; running

numerical weather prediction models; presentation of the models' outputs in different forms; archiving of forecast and analysis data and improving the quality control of the models. This capacity building is required so that model outputs are available in sufficient time for the forecasters to issue timely warnings. It also allows meteorological events to be simulated using various physical parameterisation schemes, without disturbing operational products.

As part of the project, the Met Office is providing consultancy, equipment specification and training for the Algerian meteorological service to ensure that it has the capability to issue first-class warnings of severe weather to the institutions responsible for flood warning.

Screengrab taken from actual footage of flood

