

# Initial Forecasting Course

## Tanzania Meteorological Agency

### Challenge

The development of skilled meteorologists is essential in ensuring national meteorological and hydrological services (NMHSs) provide effective services to their nation, including services to the aviation sector. The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) set the standards for meteorologists working at international airports. Accessing quality training and the funding required to meet the standards can be a challenge for developing NMHSs. Salma Suleiman was already working for the Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) and qualified to degree level, but needed additional practical learning to undertake work for the aviation sector.

### Solution

The WMO Voluntary Cooperation Programme (VCP) encourages support and collaboration between NMHSs. The Met Office, through the UK's contribution to the WMO VCP, sponsors several places on the Met Office College Initial Forecasting Course (IFC) for students from developing countries. The IFC covers the majority of the requisite meteorological knowledge in the WMO Basic Instruction Package for Meteorologists (BIP-M). Salma found out about the course from a colleague, applied online and was successful in securing a place in 2015. During the course Salma was able to develop detailed knowledge of forecast models, build her confidence and learn how to better prepare and present forecasts.

### Benefits

The skills and knowledge that Salma gained on the IFC have enhanced her competence in forecasting, and she is now working in a forecaster position at Julius Nyerere International Airport, Dar Es Salaam. "The training was good and I got to practice and gain experience in delivering weather forecasts," explains Salma. "I use what I learnt on the course in my job. I enjoy applying the statistical techniques and seeing if they work here. I am also able to help my colleagues and share what I have learnt". Wilbert Timiza, Head of International Affairs Office at TMA, commented that, "The knowledge obtained has been very useful to TMA especially now that Salma is applying this knowledge in the provision of weather services to the aviation services at the Julius Nyerere International Airport; one of the busiest airports in Tanzania. Thanks to the support and facilitation offered by the Met Office."



Salma (second from front left) and Initial Forecasting Course delegates.

*"My experience on the IFC course was good. I developed detailed knowledge of forecast models and I would recommend that others apply for the course."*

**Salma Suleiman**  
Tanzania Meteorological Agency



Supporting



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