

ASPIRE – Adaptive Social Protection - Information for Enhanced Resilience



Overview

- ASPIRE will integrate climate information into social protection decision making in the Sahel so that it can **become responsive to climate shocks**. *For example, increasing regular cash payments to vulnerable households if a drought is forecast.*
- ASPIRE is a 2 year project funded by the UK Department for International Development (DFID) as part of the WISER programme. It will be delivered by the UK Met Office, Walker Institute and Norwegian Refugee Council. ASPIRE's Embedded Consultant, Issa will be based in the region.
- Supports the World Bank's Adaptive Social Protection Programme in the Sahel (ASPP)
- Project is made up of 2 work packages:

WP1: Brining social protection decision makers and national meteorological services together to co-produce weather and climate services for social protection.

WP2: Enhancing seasonal forecasting in the region and training stakeholders to use climate information

ASPIRE's Inception Phase - Key Findings

- Evidence suggests social protection interventions can dramatically reduce disaster risk and vulnerability to climate change but there is **limited evidence of how climate and livelihood information can be successfully integrated into ASP;**
- Most countries in the Sahel have Social Protection programmes and National Meteorology and Hydrology Departments (NMHSs). However, these are at very different stages of development/sophistication and there is **very limited interaction between them.**
- There are some well-adopted tools and initiatives in the Sahel region to monitor drought, food security and nutrition which could support ASP, such as the Cadre Harmonisé, HEA, ARC and PRESASS. However, there **is a lack of institutional capacity to maintain current level of skills and meet future demands.**
- **Seasonal and sub-seasonal** timescales seem to have the most potential to drive action to inform ASP decisions. Shorter-range forecasts are also relevant if they are informed by livelihood data to improve impact forecasting and rapid targeting of interventions;

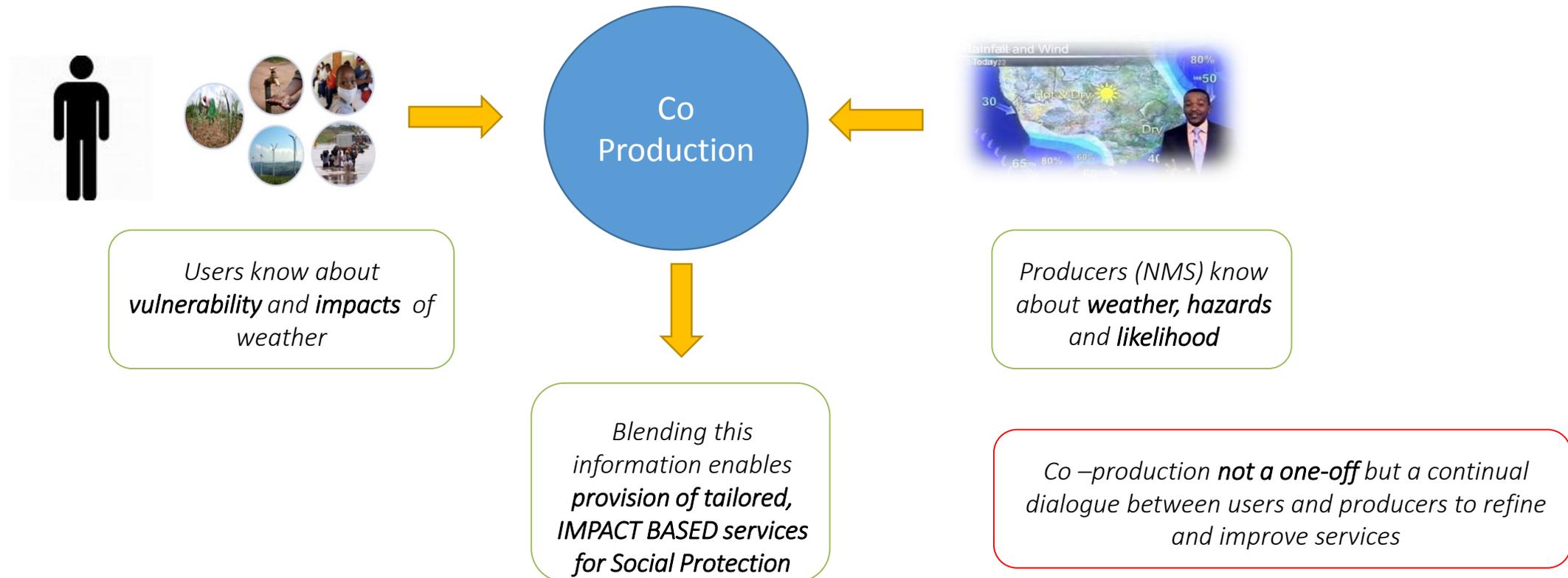
Co-production in ASPIRE

- Uptake of weather and climate information is generally low in Africa. National Meteorological Services are therefore being encouraged to **move away from a 'one size fits all approach** to working with users to the co-produce services they need.
- **Co production** refers to the process of bringing people who use weather and climate information ('users') together with those that provide it (usually a National Meteorological Service).
- Principle of co-production evolved from recognition that **weather and climate information/forecasts** are more valuable when tailored to the user and the **impacts weather has on their activities**. For example:
 - Fishermen may need information on wave height in next 5 hours to decide if it's safe to go out fishing;
 - Farmers may need information on levels of rainfall over a set period to know if they will need to irrigate newly planted crops;
 - Wind farm operators may need information on wind speed to forecast energy output; or
 - Disaster Risk Management Agencies may need to know which communities would be most affected by flooding to plan evacuations



Co-production in ASPIRE contd

- ASPIRE will be supporting Meteorological Services in the Sahel to do this with Adaptive Social Protection users through ASPIRE teams (1-2 week workshops). Social Protection stakeholders will also be **trained in understanding and using climate and livelihoods information**.



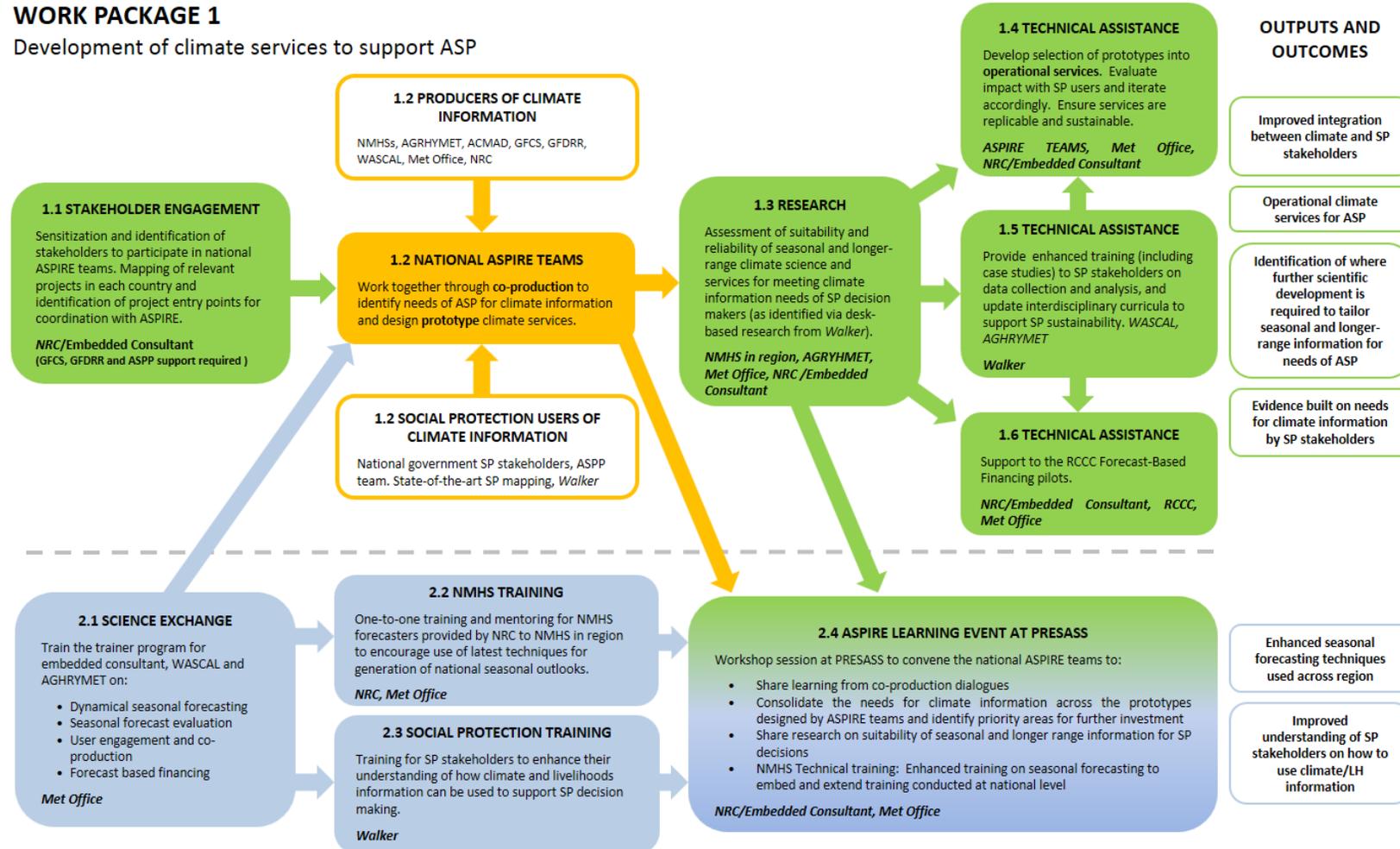
Enhancing seasonal forecasting in the Sahel

- Seasonal timescales are felt to be relevant to Adaptive Social Protection as provide opportunity to take meaningful action.
- Seasonal forecasting techniques in the Sahel felt to have stalled as largely rely on statistical methods.
- ASPIRE will assess the skill of seasonal forecasts in meeting the requirements for information on this timescale of social protection users.
- ASPIRE will provide training to National Meteorological Services on dynamical methods as a combination of dynamical and statistical methods is likely to significantly improve the skill level of seasonal forecasts in the region. Whilst this will benefit a range of users, ASPIRE will help to tailor these improved outlooks to the needs of social protection users.

ASPIRE

WORK PACKAGE 1

Development of climate services to support ASP



WORK PACKAGE 2

Enhancing seasonal forecasting in the region and training SP stakeholders how to use climate information

Figure 1: ASPIRE – Key Stakeholder Map

