

Project summary

Enhancing National Climate Services (ENACTS)

ENACTS

ENHANCING NATIONAL CLIMATE SERVICES

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Introduction

The ENACTS initiative is implemented by National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and Regional Climate Centres in Africa with the support of the International Research Institute for Climate and Society (IRI) and other partners. It is designed to transform local, national and regional climate-sensitive development decisions through the widespread uptake of timely, relevant, locally enhanced and quality-assured climate information at relevant spatial and temporal scales. WISER funding was allocated to IRI to help implement ENACTS in Uganda and Kenya, and to strengthen the initiative in countries where it already exists (Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda).

IRI also partnered with CARE Adaptation Learning Programme (ALP), the Columbia Data Science Institute and others to follow the impact of the 2015 El Niño in order to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the communication of the event, its potential impact and the responses.

Implementation of ENACTS in Kenya and Uganda

The foundation of ENACTS is the creation of quality-controlled, spatially and temporally complete climate data set. This involves the organisation and quality control of station data, and generating historical time series by combining station observations with satellite and other proxies. IRI supported the Uganda National Meteorological Authority (UNMA) and Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) to develop these datasets, and then worked with their staff to install the data library, create maprooms and provide training in their use. Workshops were also held by UNMA and KMD in order to raise stakeholder awareness of ENACTS data, products and services.

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Strengthen ENACTS in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda

ENACTS had previously been implemented for the National Meteorology Agency of Ethiopia (NMA), Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA) and Rwanda Meteorology Agency (Meteo Rwanda), and WISER funding enabled the strengthening of these services. This work included the inclusion of daily rainfall data in the climate analysis maproom for NMA, and the integration of a climate predictability tool (CPT) and associated training for NMA and TMA. This improved knowledge in understanding the basics, interpreting and communicating probabilistic forecasts, performing and interpreting probabilistic forecast evaluation, and using the CPT for regional seasonal forecasts.

This development also took place in Rwanda where primary implementation of ENACTS was undertaken by CCAFS (CGIAR research programme for Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security). As part of this work, CCAFS developed a seasonal forecasting maproom for Rwanda.

Prepare for long-term sustainability of ENACTS

In order to ensure the sustainability of ENACTS, buy-in and engagement from regional and global organisations is critical. This WISER ENACTS project sought to ensure that this happened in a number of ways, including the following:

- KMD, UNMA and ICPAC (IGAD Climate Predictions and Applications Centre) all held public launches of ENACTS/the maprooms.
- NMA secured external funds to support internal training and outreach.
- Meteo Rwanda accessed external funds specifically to support ENACTS in relation to a USAID funded agricultural project.
- UNMA is using external funds to train their staff outside of Kampala.
- National ENACTS partners have been established in Rwanda, Tanzania and Ethiopia, namely the Rwandan Ministry of Agriculture and the Ministries of Health of Ethiopia and Tanzania.

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- ENACTS inclusion in World Meteorological Organization (WMO) materials and requests from AMCOMET (African Ministerial Conference on Meteorology) for participation in strategic meetings.
- ICPAC and GFCS (Global Framework for Climate Services) support for ENACTS.

Build capacity in the user community

Part of this project was to build capacity in the user community to use current ENACTS products and services and to demand/create new services. This was particularly successful in Ethiopia and Tanzania. A Health and Climate workshop in Ethiopia was well attended with engaged stakeholders, and the TMA Ministry of Health workshop resulted in the inclusion of ENACTS products in the draft national malaria surveillance guide.

Follow the impact of the 2015 El Nino

The purpose of this element of the WISER ENACTS project was to follow the impact of the 2015 El Nino, along with CARE ALP, to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the communication of the event, its potential impacts and the responses. A series of reports was produced including media analyses, impact assessments, surveys and interviews.

Conclusion

The WISER ENACTS project was completed successfully with the introduction of ENACTS in Kenya and Uganda, and the strengthening of the programme in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Rwanda. The building and strengthening of partnerships has helped to make ENACTS more secure and sustainable, developing the demand for ENACTS products and building capacity within user communities.

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