



Supported by:



## Welcome to the February 2023 issue of our WISER newsletter

### WISER Programme Coordination



Since our last newsletter, the WISER Programme Team have been moving WISER from its Scoping and Inception Phase into the Programme Delivery Phase. We have been progressing the Call for Concepts and Project Awards for the East and Southern regions of the WISER Africa Programme and the successful projects were recently awarded, with activity due to commence early this year.

We are looking forward to sharing details about these projects shortly once the contracts have been finalised. We have also recently launched a [Call for Proposals for the Sahelian Region](#).

We have also been developing a set of guidance documents to support Implementing Partners delivering projects under WISER Africa and WISER MENA. These include; Theory of Change How to Guide, Logframe templates with easy dropdown menus, Value for Money and Transformation Guidance, Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion resources, Knowledge Management and Applied learning guidance – all designed to support Implementing Partners, as well as a number of guiding strategies that will underpin programme delivery. There has been a complete review of the Project Reporting expectations, based on the learning from previous phases of WISER. A suite of new templates and tools have been developed, keeping 'proportionate reporting' central to these, to allow Implementing Partners more time to focus on delivery.

### WISER Africa

Whilst we were approving the main grant process, we have made great progress with our CAPEX activities. Although these are smaller interventions, they have been an integral element taken forward from previous phases of WISER, which has been brilliant to see come to fruition.

### Kenya Meteorological Department Capital Expenditure Project



Kenya Meteorological Department (KMD) is in the process of implementation of the capital expenditure (CapEx) project. It intends to procure and install an Automatic Weather Station at Pwani University and a tidal gauge at the port of Mombasa. The equipment will enhance availability of weather data and safety for marine operators at the coast. KMD advertised and evaluated bids at the end of 2022 and the winning bidder has been notified. The delivery of the project is expected to be completed and commissioned by the end of April 2023.

## Tanzania Meteorological Authority Capital Expenditure Project



Excellent progress has been made with Tanzania Meteorological Authority (TMA) to gain approval and agreement for the WISER CapEx Project. The implementation of the project is now underway for TMA to procure four Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) to support improved data collection, processing and dissemination of agro-meteorological information for planning and decisions. The procured AWS will be installed at Hombolo (Dodoma), Naliendele (Mtwara), Igeri (Njombe), and Kizimbani (Zanzibar).

The enhanced availability and accessibility of data will contribute to the generation of improved information and agrometeorological products to the farming community including downscaled forecasts. The information and products will be used before, during and after the cropping season. This in turn, will contribute to enhanced productivity and resilience to weather and climate related shocks.

## Meteo Rwanda Capital Expenditure Project

Meteo Rwanda intends to upgrade the National Climate Data Centre to enhance data services. The following integrated weather and climate data storage and information sharing system will serve the purpose of:

- Supplying and installation of the network attached storage with its accessories and extended displays with their computers;
- Supplying of fit for purpose computers for weather and climate information generation and climate applications;
- Configuring the Weather Radar terminal displays with TITAN ILOSE systems at specific locations;
- Supplying of the appropriate network switches;
- Supplying of the compatible VPN Routers;
- Integrating METEO RWANDA's existing data systems in the supplied system and ensure adequate interoperability with other systems;
- Training on the use and maintenance of the supplied system.

The upgraded National Climate Data Centre will enhance accessibility and usability of climate data, allow for easy data quality control, analysis and sharing; easy data transmission to the Global Telecommunication System (GTS) as well as improve data sharing within Meteo Rwanda and with stakeholders such as higher

learning institutions. The integrated new system will allow the development of new products like the numerical simulation of the short-range weather and hydrological forecasts. The new improved products shall contribute to Early Warning of severe weather events to inform decision-makers in preparedness, mitigation, and response to hydro meteorological hazards.

[Find out more about WISER Africa](#)

## Open now: Call for Proposals from Sahelian region

WISER Africa has launched a Call for Proposals focusing on the Sahelian region. This seeks to identify organisations and consortiums to deliver grant activities through a regional approach across more than one of the following countries: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal.

The Call is organised into three lots, and bidders can submit project any or all of the lots.

- Lot 1: Stakeholder engagement and co-production
- Lot 2: Enhanced integration between climate service providers and social protection sector
- Lot 3: Support for the National Frameworks for Climate Services (NFCS)

Proposals can be submitted with budgets in the range of:

- Lot 1: Up to £200,000
- Lot 2: Up to £250,000
- Lot 3: Up to £100,000

Proposals will need to clearly demonstrate how they contribute towards one or more of WISER Africa's five Theory of Change Output Areas. Delivering against the five output areas is anticipated to support changes leading to greater access to services and awareness of the value of using weather and climate information in decision making. This will contribute in turn to the improved use of weather and climate services in a range of decisions different users make.

WISER Africa expects to work with a variety of stakeholders in partnership to form a coordinated, diverse and complimentary set of projects that feed into and across WISER's five outputs.

Proposals must be received no later than: 12noon (GMT) Friday 24th March 2023.

[Find out more](#)

## Looking for inspiration?

To give a sense of the types of projects WISER has selected in the past, you can find details of completed WISER projects on our webpages, including infographics and project summaries which give a brief overview of each.

Further insights into WISER can be found through our brochure, including aims, objectives and achievements of the programme from 2015-2021, as well as learnings to take forward into the next phases of WISER.

## Key Programme Achievements

**WISER**  
Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa

**£207.5m**

of avoided losses supported in East Africa due to the use of climate information

**3.3m**

households can access new or improved Weather and Climate Information Services

**8.2m**

people's resilience improved



**£28.8m**

of additional funding attracted for improved generation, uptake and use of Weather and Climate Information Services

**65**

joint analysis and learning initiatives which support an enabling environment for the delivery of Weather and Climate Information Services



**482,219**

households supported to use new or improved Weather and Climate Information Services to inform decision making



**7**

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services and Regional Climate Centres with new and upgraded technology and hardware for production of climate services

**53**

processes facilitated, with coproduction underpinning WISER's approach

**33**

forums organised from global to national level, strengthening networks and partnerships



**146**

new or improved coproduced climate service products produced

**94**

research or knowledge management outputs produced

**6,000+**

people trained, improving their knowledge and skills to produce, access and use co-produced climate services



Supported by  
**UKaid**  
Fund manager  
**Met Office**

The results presented in this graphic are from a range of data collection and analysis methods that reflect the requirements of the programme.

Explore WISER's completed projects

Read our brochure

**WISER**  
Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa

## Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER): East Africa 2015-21

The Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) for Africa programme's aim was to deliver transformational change in the quality, accessibility and use of weather and climate information services at all levels of decision making to support sustainable development in Africa.

The programme set out in East Africa, designed to develop and test an approach to measuring changes in weather and climate resilience and an approach to quantify value of avoided losses, as well as to pilot new and innovative project approaches and partnerships. WISER 2015-21 focused primarily on East Africa. It also included activity in complex operating environments including the Sahel, Somalia, and South Sudan.

Delivery ranged from focused national projects to large, complex regional projects with delivery through a range of partners, such as National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), International NGOs and European and African organisations, each with differing strengths and areas of expertise.



## WISER Middle East and North Africa (MENA)



WISER MENA has developed a Theory of Change and Logframe based on findings from by the [Scoping Report](#) and through consultation with key regional stakeholders.

This enabled the progressing of programme design, which will include grants, capacity building and technical assistance, and awareness raising activities around the weather and climate information services.

At the moment, WISER MENA activities include working with humanitarian partners in Yemen to understand what forecasts are needed to support their work with vulnerable populations.

We have also been developing some training on weather and climate information services and how these are a vital tool for building resilience and supporting adaptation. This will be delivered initially to the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) climate attachés in the region with the aim of rolling this out more widely once our regional coordinator is in place.

A Call for Proposals will be launched on the week of the 27th February aimed at supporting Anticipatory Action in the MENA region. An Early Market Engagement exercise will give potential bidders time to consider and plan their response. More details will be available on our [open opportunities page](#).

Find out more about WISER MENA

## WISER Technical Assistance and Partnerships Team

### What is Technical Assistance and Partnerships?

As part of the WISER programmes, support has been made available from several Met Office teams and specialist consultants to successful participants in the recent WISER Africa grant process. This support will continue throughout the WISER programmes in key areas.

As projects under the WISER programmes get underway, it is expected that these teams will work closely with the implementing partners, providing technical information where required as well as learning from the projects, giving a mechanism for innovative and proven methodologies to be shared across the projects and programmes. This collaboration will be available on request by the projects with no requirement for inclusion in the project budgets.

Teams involved in this delivery include:

**International Development** – The International Development team at the Met Office has been working for over a decade in the improvement in and uptake of weather and climate information systems globally with a focus on least developed countries.

The team comprises stakeholder regional managers, development practitioners and expert International Meteorologists all with extensive experience in working in programmes globally.

The International Development Team specialise in:

- co-production in theory and practice
- Stakeholder engagement for impact-based forecasting
- Project and Programme Design
- Monitoring Evaluation and Learning implementation
- training in core meteorological skills such as delivery of warnings and climate services
- developing standard operating procedures
- quality management
- development of stakeholder management
- enhancing business skills.

**International Applied Science and Services (IASAS)** - this comprises seven teams of diversely skilled scientists, focused on the generation and communication of weather and climate information to inform decision making on climate resilience throughout the world. These include:

- **Climate Services Development**, who build strategic partnerships, influence key international climate service activities, and develop and deliver strategically important climate services with partners.

- **Weather Analytics**, who provide expertise on weather timescales to UK based and International projects and supporting analysis of climatological data.
- **Sub-seasonal to Seasonal Outreach**, who support international collaborators, partners and stakeholders across sub-seasonal and seasonal timescales.
- **Seasonal to Climate Applications**, focused on the application, communication and co-production of seasonal and climate knowledge for international development contexts.
- **Climate Risk, Engagement and Outreach**, who work to bridge the gap between climate science and development applications, translating and communicating climate risks, and using climate information to support adaptation and resilience.

IASAS engages with international partners and stakeholders to co-develop weather and climate services, and support capacity development of provider and user organisations in low- and middle-income countries. We work with teams across the Met Office as well as external partners to advance approaches in applied weather and climate science and services.

## Changes to the WISER Programme Coordination Team

There have been a number of changes in the WISER Programme Coordination Team in the last few months and we are introducing some new faces and bidding farewell to others. Kate Ferguson has left as the Programme Manager, with interim support provided by Adam Rejzl and George Gibson while we recruit a new Programme Manager. Both Tom James and Natsumi Astley have moved onto new roles within Met Office, with Christine Gifford taking over from Tom, as Senior Project Manager, to cover East and Southern Africa, and we are recruiting a replacement for Natsumi. If you are unsure who to contact, please email [wiser@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wiser@metoffice.gov.uk).

## Contact us

Supported by:

If any colleagues would also be interested in receiving this newsletter, do ask them to subscribe by [emailing us](#).



You can also keep up to date by viewing the [Met Office web pages](#) and following our Twitter hashtag #UKaidWISER.

