WISER
Weather and Climate Information Services for Africa

Project Summary

Tanzania National Project

Introduction

The purpose of the project was to enhance the capacity of the TMA in the provision of climate services for the agriculture, energy, marine transportation, disaster and water sectors.

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Digitisation of data

The provision of quality climate services that would meet stakeholders' expectations required an improved meteorological data bank and through this project seven weather parameters i.e., radiation, wind direction, wind speed, pressure, temperatures (dew point, wet and dry bulb) were converted from paper to electronic format. The digitised data were from five meteorological stations in Dodoma, Dar es Salaam, Tanga, Zanzibar and Pemba located in the targeted areas of the project. The electronic version of the historical climate information was uploaded and archived in the climate database system (CLIDATA). This has increased quality, availability and accessibility of historical climate information from TMA to be used by stakeholders from different sectors.

Improved skills of TMA staff in the generation of tailored weather and climate products

There has been an improvement of skills of the TMA staff in the generation of tailor-made weather and climate products. 23 TMA personnel have been trained on the development of different tailor-made products from a target of 15. Moreover, the project supported capacity building of 13 TMA staff on developing a surface run off map which is one of the inputs in generating a flood forecasting map. Furthermore, six downscaled products for Kiteto, Kondoa, Dodoma, Tanga, Babati, and Simiyu were developed and evaluated by stakeholders. Also, the project supported development of 8 tailor-made products. These products are being used in preparation of seasonal and sub seasonal climate reports and used in the targeted sectors. The project has also supported 14 co-production meetings. These meetings not only provided an opportunity to receive feedback on climate services from users but also allowed TMA to improve their forecast templates. The meetings were used to enhance the trust of stakeholders in the products and services provided to them after being involved in the whole forecasting process. Templates for issuing downscaled forecasts for each district were co-developed. The major change from previous templates is that the new version will now have information (in map form) about the climatology of an area. The climatological maps will support stakeholders to make informed decisions that will enhance productivity.

Increased knowledge of producers and users in co-production and application of weather and climate information products

The demand of weather information has increased after trainings and sensitization seminars conducted in pilot areas. Overall, the project trained 502 intermediaries on the application and use of weather and climate information from the target of 400. Moreover, the number of learning products developed has increased from 2, when the project started, to 6 by the time of project closure.

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The learning products developed were: a hydrological surface run off map for the Simiyu region, downscaled products for the Kiteto and Kondoa districts as well as a newly developed forecast template for Dodoma, Kondoa and Kiteto. Furthermore, the project recorded an increased number of learning events (16) from the baseline of 1 from the design stage. These included events that reached out to more users of weather and climate information and products, the identification of users' needs from the targeted sector, a sector's stakeholders meeting on improved products, a learning event conducted to share lessons learned from both producers and users, co-production meetings of improved weather and climate information and products, training of staff on flood forecasting, documenting achievements of WISER I, training of journalists in co-production and delivery as well as effective communication of weather and climate information, a workshop to enhance understanding and effective dissemination of climate services to targeted sectors, an event to sensitize users on new weather and improved products, training of zonal managers to understand and communicate climate information and products, training of sector stakeholder champions on weather and climate information services analysis, processing, assessing and documentation of user needs, identification of intermediaries in different targeted sectors, identification of communication channels that can reach ends users, a Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forum (GHACOF) and a National stakeholders meeting.

Strengthened weather and climate information dissemination channels

The project has enhanced accessibility of weather information through training of intermediaries including media, extension officers on the use of Farm SMS. Through this, the number of people registered and receiving weather and climate information through the FARM SMS system has increased from 6,000 households at baseline, to 11,664 households at the end of the project. The number of community radio stations disseminating weather and climate information has increased from 20 to 43. These radio stations were identified in the areas where the project was carried out. Furthermore, the number of journalists trained in interpretation and communication of weather and climate information has increased from 50 at baseline, to around 108 journalists by the end of the project. Before the training, journalists were not aware of the available products and services provided by TMA. They also didn't have adequate understanding of the importance of using climate information in various sector activities.

Conclusion

The project has led to an increasing availability of quality weather and climate services, the beneficiaries of which have included farmers, livestock keepers and fishermen. More users are now able to access, understand and utilize weather and climate information and products in their routine activities. This change was achieved through implementing different activities aimed at enhancing capacity of users on gathering, understanding and applying weather and climate services. Additionally,

the project was able to facilitate easy accessibility of historical climate information when required for various purposes including in developing tailor-made climate products for the targeted sectors (achieved through the digitization of historical climate data.)