

Project Summary

WISER TRANSFORM

Introduction

The WISER TRANSFORM project aimed to offer a novel approach to support WISER project partners and wider African networks to transform the delivery of weather and climate services. The focus was to increase the knowledge base on co-production and user uptake, which also looked to promote equity and inclusiveness and make explicit socio-economic benefits and value for money considerations. This was done to support WISER projects to demonstrate transformational change and test the hypotheses of the WISER programme.

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Cross- learning

TRANSFORM hosted at least 13 cross-project learning, engagement activities and many more dissemination activities to support enhanced capacity and understanding across the projects. This included generation of a Co-production manual, a number of evaluative case studies and a sustainability paper based on in-depth interviews with WISER projects and a set of key recommendations validated with projects. These interactions have enabled projects to better understand what others were doing, network and seek collaborations for the future. A final learning event was held to provide a platform for projects to collectively produce recommendations that will influence practice and the design of projects. Over 70 recommendations were developed from the peer learning and collaboration process of the learning event.

Creating a body of research and practical guidance around co-production approaches

A manual, policy brief, academic paper, posters and webinars were delivered to provide practical guidance on co-production approaches. The first version of the co-production manual and a digi-book were successfully completed in September 2019 and included 4 extra case studies, in addition to the 14 originally planned. In September 2020 the updated Version 2 of the [Co-production manual and digi-book](#) included an additional 6 cases (resulting in 10 more than originally planned). The Co-production manual has been taken up by a wide variety of stakeholders and has informed the subsequent drafting of other high impact publications including journal papers and other knowledge products written by others.

Dissemination events as part of four large conferences, reached both African and global audiences. A poster of the ten principles of co-production was distributed from October 2019 at numerous events, and an academic commentary "[Addressing power imbalances in co-production of climate services](#)" was published by Nature Climate Change, exploring ways to create more equitable co-production partnerships.

Research and guidance approaches that support the generation of demand and the uptake and use of weather and climate information, recognising gender and equity issues

Conducting research on the uptake of climate information provided valuable insights into how risk perceptions inform climate services, and to support this work, a policy brief, working paper and infographic were developed on environmental psychology as an approach to increase the use of climate information. This also incorporated a

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large regional survey with over 600 participants, resulting in science-informed recommendations for the development of weather climate services that better align to the east African decision context.

TRANSFORM, through the work of ODI, also conducted a qualitative analysis on the [The 'triple dividend' of early warning systems: evidence from Tanzania's coastal areas](#) examining the range of socio-economic benefits associated with improvements in Early Warning Services in coastal areas of Tanzania, including for fishing communities and the marine sector. It uses the Triple Dividend of Resilience (TDR) framework to capture the direct, indirect and co-benefits of investments in disaster risk reduction. Based on interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs), the findings suggest that the understanding and use of short-term weather information has significantly improved as a result of the Multi Hazard Early Warning Service (MHEWS) project. Receiving early warnings has reportedly led to a reduction in mortality and property damage from extreme weather events (the first resilience dividend) and an increase in household incomes (the third resilience dividend), where people engaged in fishing and related activities have been able to better plan their economic activities. Further exploration and quantification of these resilience dividends is required to better understand the scale of change (how many people have benefited) and sustainability (whether positive changes can be sustained over time).

Research was conducted on Gender, Equity and Social inclusion (GESI) through production of a working paper on "[Weather and Climate Information Services into use for Health](#)", co-authored by Virginie Le Masson (TRANSFORM/ODI) and Rose Ochieng (CRISPP/NIRAS). The analysis drew on findings from MEL reports on Coastal Resilience and Improving Services for Potato Production (CRISPP) project in Kenya, key informants' discussions with WCIS producers and intermediaries and secondary information from the scientific and grey literature on the useability of weather and climate information by healthcare providers in Kenya. The paper seeks to provide an accessible synthesis of what types of WCI are provided, to whom and how, and how they address the needs of the health sector. The analysis used a gender perspective and focuses on the feedback and challenges faced by County Directors of Meteorology.

Evaluation of the WISER EA programme to identify examples of transformational change and aimed at informing similar work

The project delivered a guide on preparing qualitative transformational benefits case studies, which was disseminated to WISER programme institutions via email, through a participatory webinar attended by staff representing 6 projects, and by posting on the WISER website to inform future similar work. Following the webinar, the TRANSFORM team also provided individual offers of support to all projects and

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ultimately provided mentoring support to two projects on the development of their transformational change case studies.

The project also prepared three evaluative case studies that interrogated the WISER Theory of Change and progress toward transformational benefits. The first case study examines how and why WISER interventions are delivering results along the causal pathway chain in a single country—Kenya. The second and third case studies take a deeper look at two regional projects in WISER-EA (HIGHWAY and W2-SIP) to test the WISER programme hypothesis that ‘investment in regional initiatives around weather and climate services has greater benefits than individual national and subnational investments.’ The evaluative case studies also provide lessons learned across the programme and recommendations to guide future programming. These evaluative case studies use a robust methodology, including analysis of project and programme documentation, interviews with 34 WISER stakeholders, and coding of qualitative information in Dedoose, a software program that facilitates qualitative research and analysis. The evaluative case studies also underwent a stakeholder review process.

Increased knowledge and capacity of African researchers capacity to utilise co-production approaches

The project helped to increase the capacity of researchers to better understand co-production approaches as well as user needs. This was initiated through a scoping study which drew on WISER projects experiences and needs (36 stakeholders contacted), which guided the development of the dialogues and the Community of Practice. The dialogues were a successful means of sharing knowledge and insights on co-production approaches and climate information. 4 learning and discussion dialogues were held between 2018 and 2021, reaching 68 different individuals over the course of the project. While the scoping study identified the capacity needs of WISER partners, the dialogues were the means for building their capacity on co-production and understanding the users through tacit knowledge and peer-peer exchanges.

The WISER Community of Practice was launched and initiated prior to the final learning event. It was the culmination of lessons learnt, co-development themes, interaction at dialogues and future needs. Seeing the value of the Community of Practice, ICPAC has taken ownership of it, which is now named the “East Africa Climate Services Community”. The value of ICPAC maintaining the Community of Practice ensures its legacy beyond WISER.

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Conclusion

The TRANSFORM project made valuable contributions to supporting other projects to understand co-production and support a community of practice for climate services. Additionally, TRANSFORM provided guidance to other projects and created platforms for meaningful engagement.

Research outputs have been both formal academic publications (three academic journal articles, one peer-reviewed article, and one working paper) as well as high impact knowledge products (Co-production manual, inclusivity posters, video animation, and impact news articles).

TRANSFORM shared key events and knowledge products through partner websites, including Future Climate for Africa (FCFA) and the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN). Over 9750 people were directly reached through TRANSFORM's outreach and engagement approaches and partners. TRANSFORM also partnered with the Pan African Media Alliance on Climate Change (PAMACC) and the Network of Climate Journalists of the Greater Horn of Africa (NECJOGHA) to support nine journalists to produce news content on weather and climate services in the east African region.

In addition, a number of events have been held to communicate the learning through webinars, the African Climate Risks Conference (ACRC), Greater Horn of Africa Climate Outlook Forums (GHACOFs) and presentations at conferences. TRANSFORM also hosted a final Learning Event external session where lessons and recommendations from the WISER programme were shared with external partners and donor organisations such as the UK Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO), Norwegian Research Centre (NORCE), International Development Research Centre (IDRC) and PlanAdapt. The WISER sustainability report (Investing for sustainable climate services: insights from African experience) was presented at GHACOF and shared with the wider community. This may influence practice in the future.

TRANSFORM was approached and has engaged with the Horizon 2020 projects (DOWN2EARTH, CONFER and FOCUS AFRICA) on multiple occasions to discuss lessons learned on the co-production process as well as a more detailed presentation of the co-production manual. This as well as further engagement with WISER partners and stakeholders will directly influence the activities and processes designed within their projects.

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