

## Weather and Climate Information Services in Africa (WISER Africa)

### Background

Extreme weather, climate variability, and climate change remain significant and growing threats to sustainable development across Africa. The provision of co-produced weather and climate information services that are useful, usable and used enable people, governments and industry to anticipate, prepare and act, building resilience in a changing climate.

Africa is one of the most vulnerable continents to climate change and climate variability. This is compounded by developmental challenges, which lead to low adaptive capacity. Africa faces significant challenges in addressing climate change risks, including increasing temperature, changing precipitation patterns, rising sea levels and more frequent extreme weather and climate events.

The World Meteorological Organisation's Atlas of Mortality and Economic Losses from Weather, Climate and Water Extremes reports Africa recorded 1,695 weather, water and climate related disasters, resulting in 731,747 lives lost and US\$ 38.5 billion economic losses, from 1970 to 2019.

The Weather and Climate Information Services (WISER) programme has been delivering transformational change in the uptake of weather and climate information services in Africa since 2016. To date it has enabled enhanced information for over 3.3 million households and delivered in excess of £200 million of socio-economic benefits.

### WISER Africa

Following the success of WISER in East Africa and in response to these climate risks, the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) asked the Met Office to further expand the WISER programme within Africa. WISER Africa will include West, East and Southern Africa and is part of the FCDO ARCAN (Africa Regional Climate and Nature) programme. WISER Africa is a £15.7 million programme (2022-2026) and aims to deliver improved resilience of people, and the adaptive capacity of countries in Africa to prepare for and respond to the effects of climate change. It has a partner WISER programme, also led by the Met Office, which will support North Africa and the Middle East (WISER MENA).

WISER Africa will build on the transformational change delivered through WISER to date and provide the opportunity to innovate and expand into new areas and partnership, while drawing on the lessons and best practice to date. A key difference in WISER Africa is the focus on mainstreaming weather and climate information services into policy, planning and decision making to ensure improvements are made and sustained. It is estimated that WISER Africa will benefit 6-8 million vulnerable people to become more resilient to weather and climate changes. The programme will draw on some familiar tools from WISER, such as the use of socio-economic benefit evidencing and increasing access to services by users.

While the programme has already been through an initial design stage based on experience to date and desk studies, it is now necessary to test the assumptions and draft approaches and to respond to the differing regional needs and experiences. This will be done through a detailed scoping phase, where the WISER Africa Theory of Change will be consulted on with stakeholders along the value chain, and adapted to meet their needs. Co-production is a core value within WISER and this will form the foundation to the programme and project design. Alongside, the programme will identify potential partnerships and project concepts that will form the delivery of the programme and enable it to reach its expected impact. This scoping will take place between July and December 2022 and will take the form of national, regional and pan-regional engagement with a wide range of stakeholders engaged in weather and climate activities.

The scoping phase will support the identification of a number of national, regional and pan-regional projects, with delivery expected to start from January 2023. A key learning from WISER East Africa was the need to integrate several principles from the design stage, these include taking an applied learning approach to respond to project and programme changes and experiences, to ensure gender, equity and social inclusion are not just considered but fundamental to project and programme design, with projects expected to respond to these needs in their design. The Met Office will support partners with Technical Assistance in areas ranging from project management to co-production to seasonal forecasting in response to learnings from earlier WISER programmes.

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