

# WISER Africa and Sahelian Region Call for Proposal FAQs

## **Q: How can my organisation contribute to the programme?**

A: WISER Africa has developed a [Theory of Change](#) as a key Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) tool to identify and guide the impact the programme seeks to achieve. As such, all aspects of projects, including activities and partnerships, need to align to it. The Theory of Change builds on lessons learnt in the previous phases of WISER and has been co-produced by integrating views of regional stakeholders.

WISER Africa aims to identify implementing partners to deliver projects that will contribute towards the outcomes and impact outlined in the Theory of Change. A series of calls for proposals will start from September 2022 to support project proposals (more details below). The programme team would also be interested to discuss how your organisation can support WISER Africa ambitions. To get in touch, please email [wiser@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wiser@metoffice.gov.uk) or reach out to your known point of contact.

## **Q: What is the timeline? When will projects kick off? When will calls for proposals come out?**

A: For East and Southern Africa, Calls have already closed.

A: Call for Proposals is for the Sahelian region. The submission deadline is 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. Details are available [here](#). Projects are due to start implementation from June 2023, with project activities closing by June 2025 and reporting finalised by September 2025 in line with the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) granting.

## **Q: Will projects be joint ventures between producers, intermediaries and users?**

A: There will likely be a range of approaches to meeting the needs of the [Theory of Change](#). WISER has delivered successful projects in the past that have focused on the co-production and delivery across producers, intermediaries and users, and we expect to build on and replicate that success in WISER Africa as co-production has been proven as fundamental to the success of WISER to date.

## **Q: How is WISER Africa different to previous international development programmes?**

A: Building on the lessons from WISER to date, WISER Africa will be a user-centred programme, using Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive co-production and design to ensure that the interventions are impactful and sustainable. Innovation

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is a key principle of the programme, and it will aim to focus on new and enhanced ways of delivering Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS) across each region, to strengthen its 'uptake and use across the value chain.

**Q: What does a Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive approach for WISER Africa look like? What does it mean for projects?**

A: GESI is a principal theme of the WISER Africa programme. GESI will be considered and embedded across all aspects of programme design and delivery and aims for an equity-based approach and to achieve greater equality and inclusion.

All projects supported by WISER are required to be **GESI sensitive** as a minimum (seek to understand inequities even if cannot address them). This will need to be demonstrated through the proposal design and forms part of the evaluation criteria.

Projects can also be **GESI specific** (taking steps to accommodate different and specific needs) or **GESI transformative** (addressing the causes of the inequity and transforming harmful norms). GESI analysis will be conducted at both programme and project level which will enable GESI to be built into the design.

**Q: Innovation is a key principle in WISER – what innovations are projects expected to demonstrate?**

A: Project are encouraged to include innovative approaches, partnerships and technologies which have the potential to demonstrate new ways of doing things and lead to wider and sustained change. In previous phases of WISER, some of the most innovate project approaches delivered unexpected results. Implementing partners should consider how they can learn from previous project approaches and/or innovate through creative approaches to stakeholder engagement, co-production methods, use of technology etc.

**Q: How will WISER Africa ensure sustainability of its efforts after the Programme phases out, and address the challenges in maintaining sustainable weather and climate information systems?**

A: WISER Africa aims to ensure sustainability by supporting activities that will contribute to transformational change. Transformational change for WISER relates to the fundamental ways in which the uptake and use of WISER supported WCIS can be further enhanced, to progress towards the programme's longer-term goal of improving the resilience of community users and the adaptive capacity of countries in Africa to prepare for and respond to climate change. In addition to sustainability, transformational change also takes into account innovation, scalability, replicability and effectiveness of activities. Transformational change is likely to be sustained once WISER support ends. Examples might include the availability of longer-term financing or resources, institutional integration of new approaches in standard operating procedures and strong political commitment to pursue integrating WCIS into policies or strategic plans.

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**Q: Can bidders submit a proposal which includes countries that are not stated in the Call for Proposals?**

A: No. Proposals will need only include activities relevant to the countries stated in the Call documents.

For the Call for Proposals for Sahel region, these are: Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Senegal.

These have been identified as target countries in accordance with FCDO.

**Q: What is WISER Africa's regional approach?**

A: The regional approach in WISER Africa focuses on ensuring that partner activities deliver impact at regional scales.

The regional approach will support the development of strengthened engagement between weather and climate information service providers, intermediaries and users. It intends to involve producers of weather and climate information services, either the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) designated Regional Climate Centres or Regional Specialised Met Centres, and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), intermediaries (e.g. NGOs) and users. This approach would also support multiple areas of focus of the WISER [Theory of Change](#), such as co-production, strengthened partnerships, enhancing producer capacity and policy.

The rationale for the regional approach is underpinned by the successes of WISER East Africa (e.g. [SCIPEA](#), [W2-SIP](#) and [HIGHWAY](#)), where similar methods demonstrated its strong potential to realise an increased reach across a region, shared learnings and greater impact than working at a national level alone. Information flow should be supported from the regional centre, via the NMHS, to the intermediary all the way to the last/first mile. Partners would work through a process of co-production to develop WCIS.

There are a number of ways in that a regional approach could be delivered. Partners are encouraged to form consortia with stakeholders from multiple countries within the geographical regions defined by each Call, and across the WCIS value chain, to include producer, intermediary and user organisations. The lead organisation may be an NGO, a user representative or a producer organisation. The importance is that actors across the WCIS value chain are involved, mandated organisations are capacitated, users are accessing and using WCIS and the WISER intended change (see Theory of Change) is delivered. In particular, the involvement of NMHSs, Regional Climate Centre, Regional Specialised Met Centres or other regional bodies is encouraged.

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**Q: What does the regional approach mean for bidders based in only one country?**

A: Bidders based in only one country would be encouraged to form consortia with regional institutions such as the Regional Climate Centres, and/or partner with other relevant institutions/organisations in eligible countries in the region. National institutions are important components of the flow of information and reaching the first mile.

**Q: Will WISER fund national projects?**

A: The priority will be given to regional projects, and it is expected that these will support activity at a national level, based on identified needs and the priorities of the most vulnerable.

**Q: Will WISER Africa fund equipment?**

A: As WISER is focused on the development of weather and climate services, the provision of funds for the procurement of capital expenditure is expected to be out of scope unless there is a specific and targeted requirement which links explicitly to enhanced service delivery. Examples of capital items include observations equipment such as automatic weather stations, high performance computer equipment, or enhanced visual display equipment for decision-making.

The Call for Proposals for the Sahelian Region does not include the procurement of capital expenditure.

**Q: What is WISER's position on co-funding with other organisations?**

A: WISER Africa would welcome discussions around co-funding opportunities with organisation and initiatives that have an interest in WISER Africa's ambitions and projects.

**Q: How will WISER Africa collaborate with other programmes?**

A: The Met Office has close links with a number of other global and regional programmes and initiatives through its international teams, projects and stakeholder engagement (e.g. CREWS). We are working closely through a number of coordination mechanisms to ensure that WISER Africa activities are complementary and avoid replication of activities. In addition, WISER Africa liaises with FCDO posts to support coordination with other UK government programmes and initiatives.

**Q: Will replication of projects be encouraged, for example, where there have been National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) delivered projects through WISER East Africa, can such projects be replicated in the current Call?**

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A: Learning from success and challenges from WISER East Africa is key. If there are replicable proposals that meet the needs of the WISER Africa programme and the requirements stated in the Call for Proposals, they will be considered. Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the programme's Theory of Change. Examples of lessons, scalability and replication will help to demonstrate the value a project can deliver.

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