



## Weather and Climate Information Services in the Middle East and North Africa (WISER MENA)

### Background

Extreme weather, climate variability, and climate change remain significant and growing threats to sustainable development across Middle East and North 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.

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

### Climate risks in the MENA region

A recent Met Office report on climate risk for the MENA region considered current climate, and model projections to the 2050s coupled with their interaction with regional socio-economic vulnerabilities. Some of the key risks identified include:

- Agricultural production across the MENA region is constrained by limited water, high temperatures and the availability of suitable arable land.
- MENA is the most water scarce region in the world with water insecurity already a major stress on socio-economic systems. It will be substantially exacerbated by a combination of climate change and human factors.
- Extreme heat events will become both more frequent and more intense, and place significant stress on power generation and transmission, roads, and other critical infrastructure. This will have knock-on consequences for health and economic systems.

### WISER MENA

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 expand the concept to the MENA region. It is part of the PHENOMENAL (Pioneering a Holistic approach to Energy and Nature-based Options in MENA for Long-term stability) programme. WISER MENA is a £5 million programme (2022-2026) which aims to deliver transformation in the generation and use of co-produced weather and climate services to support decision making at local, national, and regional levels, building resilience to the impacts of climate change.

WISER MENA represents an exciting opportunity to build on WISER by drawing on good practice, replicating and scaling these approaches to other regions, whilst supporting new and innovative ways of improving the uptake of weather and climate information services. WISER MENA will be delivered through an inception phase, followed by a delivery phase. The initial scoping will take place between January and June 2022 and has the following aims: 1. To identify gaps in weather and climate services in the region. 2. To consult on WISER's overarching Theory of Change (ToC) and develop Terms of Reference to facilitate the proposal stage for the interventions in WISER MENA. 3. To co-produce the regional ToC and programme design with partners. 4. To enhance the development of in-region and in-country networks.

The delivery phase will support an integrated regional approach and is expected to strengthen the co-production between producers, intermediaries, and users. This will enhance the relevance and use of weather and climate information services, delivering to the priority needs identified in the scoping phase. Activities are subject to scoping but could involve 1. Through a process of co-production, supporting climate sensitive interventions of non-governmental organisations (NGOs), UN agencies and community groups through design and delivery of tailored services. 2. Strengthening disaster risk reduction through improved early warning systems. 3. Supporting Forecast-based Financing and other resilience-building finance mechanisms through development of Impact Based Forecasting to inform triggering of interventions. 4. Supporting the flow of information to users and sectors from initiatives such as regional coordination mechanisms. 5. Strengthening the capacity for co-produced weather and climate information within producing institutions and other relevant bodies to enable increased use of weather and climate information. The longer-term outcome is anticipated to be an increased use of reliable co-produced weather and climate information services to enhance policy, planning and decision-making for adaptation and resilience.

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