

WISER MENA Innovation Grants – Call for Pitches

Introduction

FCDO's [WISER MENA](#) programme is looking for innovative ways to improve how weather and climate information is communicated in the Middle East and North Africa region*. We will be awarding a total of £200,000 through a series of small grants to take forward novel ideas.

We are looking for projects:

- With a maximum value up to £50,000 (each)
- Grant project implementation and delivery lasting up to 12 months.
- To be implemented and reported on between September 2023 and March 2025
[please note: the timeline will need agreeing with the WISER project team]

Ideas could include (but are not limited to):

- New ways of engaging with specific groups so they are better able to understand and act on information.
- Using technology to improve how weather information is communicated and understood.
- Use of social media to share weather and climate information.
- Bringing together those who produce weather and climate information services and those who can use it through coproduction and alliance building.

Some examples of innovation projects supported through WISER Africa can be seen in the following links.

- [Improving uptake of forecasts in informal urban settlements](#)
- [Joining forces to communicate weather and climate information for decision making](#)

If you have an idea, we invite you to pitch to the WISER MENA team week commencing 21st August 2023. You will have 15 minutes to describe your idea, followed by 10 minutes for questions from the WISER MENA team.

To book a 25-minute (15-minute pitch and 10 minutes for questions) slot to pitch your idea, please email Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk

Bookings must be made by 5pm (British Summer Time) Wednesday 16th August 2023

Indicative Timetable

Activity	Date(s)
Call for pitches published	Week commencing (w/c) 17 th July 2023
Deadline for booking pitch slots	Wednesday 16 th August 2023
Stage one: Microsoft Teams Verbal Pitches (15-minute pitch and 10 minutes for questions)	w/c Monday 21 st August 2023
Stage one pitch evaluation by the Met Office	28 th August to 15 th September 2023
Stage one outcome notification	w/c 18 th September 2023
Stage two: Bidder(s) issued Small Grants Funding Application documents	w/c 18 th September 2023
More information will follow for organisations taken through to Application stage.	

Project Pitches

Ideas will need to support WISER MENA's aims to give improved access to weather and climate information services (WCIS) to more people through a range of channels which take into account the needs of hard-to-reach groups through Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) and innovative approaches (see GESI Guidance for more info)'. (see GESI Guidance for more info)'.

We suggest your pitch to includes:

- An introduction
- A statement of the problem and/or need.
- Your solution
- Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) in your project
- How your project includes innovation
- An introduction to your team
- The Grant amount being requested.
- Key project deliverables

Eligibility

- * Eligible countries where ideas can be taken forward are limited to **Algeria, Morocco, Egypt, Jordan, Occupied Palestinian Territories and Tunisia**. Projects can take place in one or more of these countries.
- This call is open to institutions able to operate in the countries above, such as small Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs), training organisations, National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), and others already working to improve provision, access and/or use of Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS)
- Bidders must be able to receive funding in GBP and to contract with the Met Office under our Grant Agreement terms and conditions. A copy of these is available upon request.
- Pitches will need to be made in English.

Evaluation Criteria

The pitches will be evaluated according to the following criteria:

Criteria	What does this mean?	Scoring Percentage
Project Design	How well your solution meets the identified problem and how feasible it is.	40%
Innovation	How innovative/novel your project is in improving uptake and use of Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS).	25%
GESI	How well your project supports marginalised and hard to reach groups.	25%
Value for Money	Do the deliverables offer the potential for good quality results based on the requested amount.	10%
Total		100%

Each submission will be assessed on a 5-point scale against the pre-defined matrix below:

Score	Description	Scoring Methodology
0 Points	Unacceptable	Overall, the Met Office has no confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no response was provided; or • the response fails to address the Requirement at all and/or provide any evidence; or

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a response is provided but it raises one or more unacceptable concerns in relation to the quality of the Bid and/or the Bidder's ability successfully to deliver the Requirement and/or represents a serious risk to the Met Office
1 Point	Major Concerns	<p>Overall, the Met Office has very low confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the response fails to address a substantial part of the Requirement; or the response gives rise to one or more major concerns in relation to the quality of the response and/or the Bidder's ability successfully to deliver the Requirement; or the response gives greater confidence than "Unacceptable" but is not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant "Concerns"
2 Points	Concerns	<p>Overall, the Met Office has low confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the response addresses all elements of the Requirement but at least one of the elements is not adequately addressed or adequately evidenced; or the response gives rise to one or more concerns in relation to the quality of the response and/or the Bidder's ability successfully to deliver the Requirement; or the response gives greater confidence than "Major Concerns" but is not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant "Minor concerns"
3 Points	Minor Concerns	<p>Overall, the Met Office has moderate confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the response addresses all elements of the Requirement in a satisfactory manner, but parts of the response lack sufficient detail and/or evidence to warrant "Good Confidence"; or the response gives rise to one or more minor concerns in relation to the quality of the response and/or the Bidder's ability successfully to deliver the Requirement; or the response gives greater confidence than "Concerns" but is not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant "Good confidence"
4 Points	Good Confidence	<p>Overall, the Met Office has good confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the response addresses all elements of the Requirement well and/or provides good evidence of where the proposed approach/solution has been used effectively in the past and/or why it will work well within the project; or the response addresses all elements of the Requirement well and includes innovative and/or other good quality ideas that meet the Met Office's Requirements and provides good evidence of where such ideas have been used effectively in the past and/or why they will work well within the project; or the response gives greater confidence than "Minor concerns" but is not sufficiently comprehensive to warrant "Very Good confidence".
5 Points	Very Good Confidence	<p>Overall, the Met Office has very good confidence in the Bidder's response because one or more of the following applies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the response addresses all elements of the Requirement very well, in a robust and comprehensively evidenced manner; or the response addresses all elements of the Requirement very well and includes innovative and/or other good quality ideas that meet the Met Office 's Requirements and provides good evidence of where such ideas have been used effectively in the past and why they will work well within the project.

Selection and Award Process

Responding to this call is the first step in the application process for potentially securing funding for your project.

Participation is not a guarantee of funding.

Pitches will be evaluated by a committee comprised of Met Office and FCDO reviewers from different disciplines. The evaluation panel will assess the pitches according to the evaluation criteria detailed above.

The pitch process will identify a short-list of proposals based on the evaluation. Short-listed organisations will be asked to work with the Met Office to develop and submit a Grant Funding Application form. The successful bidders will be supported by the Met Office to complete this Grant Funding Application process.

The Grant Funding Application form will then be evaluated further, and submission is not a guarantee of funding.

To book a 25-minute (15-minute pitch and 10 minutes for questions) slot to pitch your idea, please email Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk

Bookings must be made by 5pm (British Summer Time) Wednesday 16th August 2023.

It is the Met Offices' intention to award Grant Funding to at least four proposals.

Met Office reserves the right to award to more or less beneficiaries, to ensure WISER programme delivery requirements are met.

Notification of progression to Stage 2 (Grant Funding Application) will be issued from the Met Office Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk email address in accordance with the indicative timetable detailed above. Met Office shall be under no obligation to enter into any Grant Agreement or issue any Grant funds whatsoever. The Call process shall be considered to have been completed upon issue of the Grant Award.

Post Selection Requirements

Following Stage 1 (if your pitch is taken forward to Application Stage 2)

Application form and evaluation – Following the verbal pitches, short-listed organisations or consortiums will be asked to work with Met Office to develop and submit a Small Grant Application for review and funding consideration.

Applications will then be reviewed by an evaluation panel, according to the evaluation criteria which will be provided to the short-listed organisations/consortiums.

Due diligence - Due diligence provides a way to mitigate the risks, share good practice and have assurance that organisations awarded grants have the capacity and expertise to deliver required obligations. As part of the second stage, organisations will be asked to complete a due diligence questionnaire. A copy of this questionnaire will be provided at Application stage (2).

Please note, the Met Office must comply with financial sanctions put in place by the UK government or the multilateral organisations that limit the provision of certain financial services or restrict access to financial markets, funds, and economic resources in order to achieve a specific foreign policy or national security objective. Such sanctions are targeted against named individuals and entities and whole countries. Because of our own international dealings, and the international operations of our bank, we must also take heed of the pervasive sanctions issued by the US government - even where UK sanctions permit activity, we may need to refrain due to US restrictions.

ODA Statement - The WISER Programme is part of the UK's official development assistance (ODA) commitment. Official development assistance (ODA) is defined by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) as government aid that promotes and specifically targets the economic development and welfare of developing countries. ODA flows to countries and territories on the DAC List of ODA Recipients and to multilateral development institutions are:

- i. Provided by official agencies, including state and local governments, or by their executive agencies; and
- ii. Concessional (i.e., grants and soft loans) and administered with the promotion of the economic development and welfare of developing countries as the main objective.

All grants made by Met Office through the WISER Programme automatically comply with (i) and (ii). Bidders must demonstrate that the proposed work complies with (ii). All Pitches must therefore be compliant with these guidelines. Through participation, Met Office will assume bidders to confirm ODA compliance. If taken through to Stage 2 Application, bidders will be expected to expand their compliance to a full statement. At Stage 2 the Application ODA

Statements will be evaluated as Pass/Fail. Met Office Technical Assistance and Partnerships will be available to provide ODA guidance.

Following Stage 2 (if your bid is successful following completion of the Application process)

Proposal finalisation – prior to finalising a grant agreement, Met Office reserves the right to request any revisions to the submitted proposal and budget. If requested, a revised proposal with the necessary revisions must be returned in a timely manner to the Met Office.

Grant Agreement – The selection of a pitch and subsequent application bid does not constitute a formal commitment by the Met Office to fund the project. Met office will have no obligation to issue any funds prior to the bidder returning an executed grant agreement issued to them by the Met Office. Any selected organisations must sign Met Office’s grant agreement to receive funds. The grant agreement will provide a schedule to submitting reports. Although there is no limit on the number of co-bidders in one submission, Met Office will only negotiate grant agreements with the lead organisation(s).

Enquiries and FAQs

Any enquiries related to the call for pitches and application process should be sent by email to Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk. All enquiries should be received on for before Wednesday 16th August to receive a response prior to the verbal pitches scheduled for week commencing 21st August 2023.

Any enquiries which effect all bidders received on or before the above-mentioned deadline will be added to the Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) with Met Office’s response to those enquiries, and without revealing the source of the questions.

Information and Confidentiality

By way of participation, you acknowledge and agree that all or any part of your pitch may be recorded, saved, and subsequently shared with independent consultants external to the Met Office, and may also be shared with FCDO, for review purposes. By participating in the pitch process, you consent to the Met Office sharing your pitch submission to the entities and

persons it considers necessary to provide Technical Assistance and Partnerships, and subsequent evaluation or review of your bid.

Your pitch will be treated with the utmost confidentiality.

End of document.