Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Investment Phase:
Annual Narrative Report

United Republic of Tanzania

Year 1

Systematic Observations Financing Facility



Weather and climate data for resilience

General Information

Country	United Republic of Tanzania	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	
Agreement effectiveness date	1 July 2024	
Duration	42 months	
Anticipated end date	31 December 2027	
Reporting period	**From:**1 July 2024	**To:** 31 December 2024
Approved amount	USD 9,067,503.87 - UNDP – USD 8,437,337 WMO – USD 630,166.87	
Disbursed amount	USD 5,272,436.82 - UNDP – USD 5,062,402.20 - WMO – USD 210,034.62	
Country	United Republic of Tanzania	

Summary

The implementation of SOFF project in Tanzania commenced in July 2024. The achieved milestones during the period under review (July 2024 – December 2024) are as follows:

1. **Governance and Institutional Framework:**
    - **Establishment of Governing Bodies:** Two key bodies were formed: the Project Steering Committee (PSC) and the Project Technical Coordination Committee (PTCC). These committees are tasked with providing oversight and coordinating technical aspects of the project. The PSC held its first meeting on October 16, 2024, while the PTCC convened on July 18, 2024

- **Development of Project Documents and Tools:** Essential documents were prepared, including:
    - A concept note to register the project in Tanzania's National Project Management Information System (NPMIS), enabling tax exemptions and clearance of imported goods.
    - Terms of Reference (ToRs) for both PSC and PTCC.
    - A communication plan to enhance visibility, a monitoring and evaluation plan, and a booklet titled *Historical Perspectives of SOFF in Tanzania*.
    - A comprehensive work plan was developed to guide the project's activities for 2024.
    - SOFF project Communication Plan;
    - Monitoring and Evaluation Plan

2. **Stakeholder Engagement:**

- A high-level launch event was held on January 21, 2025, officiated by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa. The event engaged stakeholders from government agencies, UNDP, WMO, academia, and civil society organizations. The Prime Minister issued five (5)directives emphasizing timely implementation and collaboration among stakeholders.

3. **Infrastructure Development:**

- **Surface Stations:** Surveys were conducted for the sites where nine new surface stations will be installed, at locations such as Pemba, Masasi, Singida, and Kilwa Masoko. Seven existing stations were assessed for upgrades to meet GBON standards.
- **Upper-Air Stations:** Building designs, Architectural plans and Bill of Quantities (BoQ) for upper-air station buildings at Songwe Airport, Mwanza Airport, and Kilimanjaro International Airport (KIA) were completed. Construction began at all three sites in early 2025.

Procurement Progress:

- **Weather Stations:** In collaboration with the Peer Advisor (DMI), technical specifications for nine new automatic weather stations (AWS) and existing seven stations to be upgraded were finalised based on GBON guidelines. These stations will be integrated with global data-sharing platforms like WIS2.
- **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA):** A consultant was hired to conduct EIAs for upper-air station sites. The draft scoping report is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025.
- **Vehicles:** Five vehicles were procured to support GBON station operations; clearance processes are ongoing.

Lessons Learned

Procurement Challenges:

- Preparation and reviewing technical specifications is a process that takes time, thus affected timelines for equipment procurement and construction activities. Streamlining these processes is essential to avoid future delays.

Stakeholder Collaboration:

- Coordination among TMA, UNDP, DMI, and other partners was crucial in addressing challenges and achieving milestones.

Regulatory Compliance:

- Registering the project in NPMIS facilitated smoother operations by ensuring compliance with Tanzanian legal requirements for investment projects.

Relevant Information

The SOFF project addresses critical gaps in Tanzania's meteorological infrastructure by establishing nine new surface stations, upgrading seven existing ones, and building three new upper-air stations to meet GBON standards.

Key milestones include:

- Finalizing technical specifications for meteorological equipment.
- Commencing construction of upper-air station buildings at Songwe Airport, Mwanza Airport, and KIA.
- Completing surveys for new station sites and assessments for upgrades.

Unfinished activities from 2024 have been rescheduled for implementation in 2025.

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed														
1.1 **National consultations**, including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	Number of workshops with stakeholders	1	1	1								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
	Percentage of women participating in SOFF consultations with CSOs and the private sector	50%	50%	50%								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
1.2 **NMHS institutional capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Number of TMA Senior Management trained		10									Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	Number of Team members trained in project Management	5										Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • `Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
1.3 **NMHS human capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Number of TMA Engineers and ICT staff Trained		15	10								Not yet started		• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled in the Annual Workplan for 2025; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
	Add indicator as per approved funding request											Select an item		
	Add indicator as per approved funding request											Select an item		
2. GBON infrastructure in place														
2.1 **New land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of new land-based stations installed (Nine new stations)		9									On-track	• Technical Specifications of new stations to be procured as well as the Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process; • Survey of sites for the new stations has been carried out; • Procurement process of the new stations	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													(Automatic Weather Stations) has been initiated.	
2.2 **Improved land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of land-based stations improved (7 stations)		7									On-track	• Technical Specifications of stations spare parts to be procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process.	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
2.3 **New upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	Number of new upper air stations installed (3 stations)		3									On-track	• Technical Specifications of the equipment and consumables to be procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process; • Survey of sites for the new upper air stations has been carried out; • Design of buildings for the new Upper air stations, preparation of architectural drawings, and establishment of cost estimates for the	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													buildings was completed;Terms of Reference (ToRs) to carry out Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the sites of new upper air stations were developed, tendering has also been completed and the consultant was hired to conduct EIAs for upper-air station sites. ed. • The draft scoping report is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2025. • Tendering of construction works for the new upper air stations was completed. . • The Contractor to construct the buildings for the three (3) new upper air stations was hired, and the construction of the buildings at all the three sites is expected to be complete by July, 2025.	
2.4 **Improved upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and	Number of upper stations improved (1 station)		1									On-track	• Technical Specifications of stations spare parts and rehabilitation material to be	• No challenge; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
standard operating practices in place													procured have been prepared for tendering process; • Technical Specifications of Universal Data Collection System have been prepared for tendering process.	activity are being adhered to.
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														
3.1 **GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed**, country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	Number of land- based stations commissioned				27							Not yet started	• Procurement of five (5) vehicles to support activities of GBON Stations has been initiated; • Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed to ensure effective monitoring of the compliance of the GBON stations.	• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled to take place later ; • Mitigation measures for the identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.
3.2 **GBON upper air stations' commissioning period completed**, country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	Number of upper air stations commissioned				5							Not yet started	• Procurement of five (5) vehicles to support activities of GBON Stations has been initiated; • Project Monitoring and Evaluation Plan has been developed to ensure effective monitoring of the compliance of the GBON stations.	• No challenge, the activity for this indicator is scheduled to take place later ; • Mitigation measures for identified risks associated with this activity are being adhered to.

Gender

- **Gender Representation in Governance structures:** Both PTCC and PSC committees have made efforts to include women in their membership and decision-making processes, promoting gender equality in governance.
- **Targeted Activities Planned for 2025:** Specific workshops and targeted activities aimed at enhancing gender awareness and capacity-building will take place throughout 2025. These initiatives will focus on empowering women in meteorological services and ensuring their active participation in project activities.

Social and environmental safeguards

Environmental and social safeguards were observed through the following measures:

- **Environmental Impact Assessments (EIA):** EIAs are currently being conducted at sites for new upper-air stations (e.g., Songwe, Mwanza, and Kilimanjaro airports) to ensure compliance with Tanzania's Environmental Management Act (2004). A consultant was hired to oversee this process, and draft scoping reports have been submitted for review.
- **Site Selection:** Surveys ensured that new station locations avoided sensitive ecosystems or areas requiring extensive resettlement.

Civil society and private sector participation

- **Launch Event:** The high-level launch of the SOFF project on January 21, 2025, included representatives from CSOs, academia, and private sector stakeholders to foster collaboration.
- **Private Sector Involvement:** Contractors from the private sector were engaged for construction activities, such as building upper-air station facilities.

Complementary financing and leverage

- Of the $13.9 million budget, $9 million was provided by MPTF, with additional funding from the Government of Tanzania.
- SOFF serves as a foundational element and delivery vehicle for the UN Secretary-General's EW4All initiative, which aims to ensure that every person on

Earth is protected by early warning systems by 2027. In 2025, TMA launched the EW4ALL with direct complementarity to SOFF.

Implementation of grievance redress mechanism

No major grievances have been reported so far.

Success stories

1. **High-Level Launch Event:** The successful launch of the SOFF project in Dodoma on January 21, 2025, marked a milestone in Tanzania's efforts to enhance meteorological infrastructure. The event was officiated by Prime Minister Kassim Majaliwa and garnered widespread stakeholder support.
2. **Progress in Infrastructure Development:** Construction of upper-air stations at Songwe, Mwanza, and Kilimanjaro airports is underway, demonstrating tangible progress toward GBON compliance.