



Sixth Steering Committee **27 November 2023**

Updated Work Programme SOFF **First Implementation Period** **July 2022 to June 2025**

Decision 6.6

**Systematic Observations
Financing Facility**

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decision 6.6: Adoption of the Updated Work Programme of SOFF first implementation period July 2022 to June 2025

The Steering Committee

Adopts the Updated Work Programme that reflects a significant increase in the level of ambition.

Acknowledges that in order to continue the speedy delivery and respond to country demands, additional contributions to the SOFF UNMPTF are urgently required, both, in terms of pledges and in terms of deposits.

Encourages the existing SOFF funders to consider additional contributions and support mobilization of new funders.

This document presents an update to the SOFF work programme for the First Implementation Period ([Decision 1.6](#)). It proposes an increased level of ambition while delivering within the previously set funding target of USD 200 million by 2025. It states that in order to continue delivering at speed and at least partially respond to country demand, addition pledges and corresponding deposits of about USD 55 million are required by June 2024.

Updated Work Programme for the SOFF First Implementation Period July 2022 to June 2025

1. Targets

The updated work programme and its programmatic targets reflect the speed of SOFF operational delivery and the high demand from SOFF beneficiary countries as well as the financial constraints set through the 2025 funding target of USD 200 million.

1.1. Programmatic targets

The updated programmatic targets represent a substantial increase of SOFF delivery ambition. The initial 2020-2025 targets set through [Decision 1.6](#) were to deliver SOFF Readiness support to 55 countries and Investment support to 35 countries. The updated targets are to provide Readiness support to 75 countries (36 percent increase) and Investment support to 50 countries (43 percent increase).

The previously set target for the Readiness phase has already been achieved and exceeded. 62 countries have been programmed ([Decision 3.4](#), [Decision 4.4](#), [Decision 5.4](#)) and 59 countries are currently receiving Readiness funding ([Decision 4.3](#), [Decision 5.3](#), [Intersessional Decision 1.1](#)). It is therefore proposed that 13 additional countries access Readiness funding within the first implementation period, to partially respond to the high demand for SOFF support. So far, 39 countries have submitted a request for support but have not yet been programmed.

1.2. Funding targets

The SOFF funding targets for 2027 in the amount of USD 400 million as well as USD 200 million for the first SOFF implementation period 2022-2025 remain unchanged.

- **SOFF Early Warnings for All (EW4All), 5-year funding target:** USD 400 million to provide SOFF Readiness and Investment support to 100 countries, as stated in the EW4All Executive Action Plan.
- **SOFF first implementation period, 3-year funding target:** 200 million USD to allow 75 countries to access Readiness funding and 50 countries to access Investment funding.

In order to deliver on the updated SOFF work programme it is **urgent to mobilize additional pledges and to transfer pledges into deposits**. Current pledges amount to about USD 73 million with expected deposits by end-2023 of about USD 50 million. Without additional pledges and deposits, the **expected liquidity gap by June 2024 corresponds to about USD 55 million**.

2. Assumptions

The SOFF updated work programme is based on the following assumptions:

- **Sufficient financial resources for delivery.** The estimated financial allocations for each year assume sufficient liquidity in the SOFF UNMPTF by the time the Steering Committee considers and approves funding requests. The UNMPTF Office as Trustee will inform the Steering Committee at each meeting whether the SOFF UNMPTF financial status allows for approval of the funding requests.
- **Programming and delivery.** The target number of countries and the corresponding allocation of resources assume the following average time of programming and delivery, based on the experience in the first year of SOFF operations:
 - Four months to move from a Steering Committee programming decision to preparing the Readiness funding request to Steering Committee approval of the corresponding funding request (average for the first 59 countries: 3,9 month)
 - An average of nine months to deliver the readiness outputs
 - Between one and five months to move from the completion of the Readiness phase to preparing the SOFF Investment funding request and SOFF Steering Committee approval of the request.

Country example – Maldives

Maldives is one of the initial focus countries of the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) initiative and was one of the countries programmed by the SOFF Steering Committee in the first batch in November 2022 alongside 25 other beneficiary countries. Its [Readiness funding request](#) in the amount of USD 97,105 was approved in March 2023. The country immediately started working with the Finnish Meteorological Institute and the Indonesia Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency as Peer Advisors, and the United Nations Environment Programme as prospective Implementing Entity.

Maldives has completed successfully all three readiness outputs; the [GBON National Gap Analysis](#), [National Contribution Plan](#) and the [Country Hydromet Diagnostics](#). While the WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis (June 2023) identified the need for 4 surface land and 1 upper air stations, National Gap Analysis results indicated the need for 5 surface land and 1 upper air stations to ensure adequate horizontal resolution for GBON. SOFF flexibility principle allows for deviation from the global gap analysis depending on specific country circumstances.

Maldives is among the frontrunner countries that have submitted an [Investment funding request](#) in a total amount of USD 4,876,526 to achieve GBON compliance within 5 years. In parallel, UNEP is supporting the development of a GCF project proposal

“Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities” that will provide additional resources for the latter part of the value chain.

Following successful completion of the investment phase, Maldives is expected to move to Compliance phase, receiving results-based finance for Operation and Maintenance.

- **Capacity to deliver.** The target number of countries and the corresponding allocation of resources for the Readiness and Investment phase assume the capacity of the operational partners (SOFF peer advisors, SOFF Implementing Entities, WMO Technical Authority). In order to avoid overloading the currently active 20 peer advisors, SOFF will strive to take full advantage of the pool of 28 peer advisors.
- **Allocations for Readiness and Investment phase.** The allocations calculated for the SOFF Readiness and Investment Phase are based on the unit costs and assumptions stated in the document on Expanding SOFF financial support to Middle-Income Countries (Decision 6.5).
- **Allocations for Compliance phase.** If any at all, only very few SOFF beneficiary countries are expected to access the Compliance phase by July 2025. For countries undergoing the Investment phase, O&M costs are fully included in the SOFF Investment phase allocation. Only countries assessed in the Readiness phase as fully compliant and requiring Compliance phase support to maintain compliance would move directly to the Compliance phase. Currently, no country corresponds to this. Correspondingly, no allocations for Compliance phase support have been made.

3. Updated SOFF Work Programme July 2022 to June 2025

		Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		TOTAL (USD million)
SOFF phase		Countries	Allocations (USD million)	Countries	Allocations (USD million)	Countries	Allocations (USD million)	
Readiness Peer Advisory		36	5	29	4	10	1.4	10.4
Investment	Investment Funding	-	-	25	75	25	75	150
	Investment Peer Advisory	-	-	25	10	25	10	20
	Regional Workshops ¹	-	-	-	0.1	-	0.1	0.2
	Results-based finance provided	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Compliance ²	On-demand advisory services	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	SOFF impact ³	-	-	-	0.3	-	-	0.3
External Review		-	-	-	-	-	0.1	0.1
Total SOFF support		5		89.4		86.6		181
Administrative	SOFF Secretariat ⁴	1		1.9		2.2		5.1
	Implementing Entity fees ⁵	-		5		5		10
	WMO fees ⁶	0.3		1		0.8		2.1
	Trustee fees ⁷	0.4		0.6		1		2
	Total administrative costs	1.7		8.5		9		19.2
Total incl. administrative costs USD million		6.7		97.9		95.6		200 ⁸

¹ Regional workshops are planned to foster regionally coordinated SOFF implementation. The SOFF Secretariat is exploring other funding opportunity to cover this cost. If the funding from other sources could be materialized, the cost of this item will be revised

² Costs of O&M for countries in the SOFF Investment phase are fully considered under investment funding.

³ Report to assess the impact of observations in the Numerical Weather Prediction models to be prepared by WMO in collaboration with selected Global Producing center (Decision 6.8)

⁴ Includes 7% WMO indirect support cost for administratively hosting the SOFF Secretariat

⁵ Up to 7% fee - Percentage calculated based on the total allocation expected for the Investment phase; some SOFF Implementing Entities are expected to charge less than 7%

⁶ 7% fee - Percentage for managing the pass-through mechanism and corresponding contracts for the provision of SOFF peer advisory services; calculated based on the total allocation expected for the Readiness phase and Compliance phase

⁷ 1% fee - Based on expected contributions required to implement the SOFF work programme

⁸ Rounded