



## **Sixth Steering Committee** **27 November 2023**

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# **SOFF Implementation Progress**

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



This document provides an implementation progress update for the 59 countries for which SOFF Readiness funding has been approved. It notes considerable progress in most of the 36 countries with Readiness funding requests approved in March and June 2023. The 23 countries with Readiness funding requests approved in September 2023 started implementation in October.

The first group of 6 frontrunner countries already completed the SOFF Readiness phase and submitted an Investment Funding request (Decision 6.3). It is expected that by June 2024 in total about 25 Investment funding requests will be submitted to the SOFF Steering Committee, as reflected in the updated SOFF work programme (Decision 6.6).

# SOFF Implementation Progress

As of 31 October 2023

## 1. SOFF Portfolio

The SOFF portfolio currently includes 62 countries that were programmed through three SOFF Steering Committee decisions ([Decision 3.4](#), [Decision 4.4](#), [Decision 5.4](#)) starting November 2022. Out of these 62 countries, so far Readiness funding has been approved for 59 countries ([Decision 4.3](#), [Decision 5.3](#), [Intersessional Decision 1.1](#)). Three countries have not yet accessed Readiness funding, namely Sudan, Haiti, and Guatemala. In Sudan, all SOFF-related activities have been suspended due to the political situation. Haiti has submitted a Readiness funding request for consideration and decision by the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee (Decision 6.2) and Guatemala is expected to submit a funding request to 7<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee meeting.

The table below provides an overview of the portfolio of the 59 countries currently implementing the SOFF Readiness phase.

**Table 1:** Overview of countries currently implementing the Readiness phase and respective peer advisors and Implementing Entities.

Batch	Country	EW4ALL <sup>1</sup>	Peer	Partner Peer	Implementing Entity
First batch	Belize		United Kingdom		IADB
	Bhutan		Finland		UNEP
	Burkina Faso		Spain	Nigeria	AfDB
	Cabo Verde		Netherlands		UNEP
	Chad	x	Austria		WFP
	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Switzerland		AfDB
	Ecuador	x	Switzerland	Argentina	IADB

<sup>1</sup> The 62 countries programmed include all the 30 Early Warnings for All (EW4All) focus countries, including Sudan, Haiti and Guatemala which do not appear in this table as they are not yet receiving SOFF funding for the aforementioned reasons.

	Ethiopia	x	Norway	Finland	UNDP
	Fiji	x	Australia		World Bank
	Grenada		Spain		
	Guyana	x	Austria		IADB
	Kiribati	x	Australia		UNEP
	Liberia	x	Nigeria		AfDB
	Madagascar	x	Germany		AfDB
	Malawi		Norway	Iceland	UNDP
	Maldives	x	Finland	Indonesia	UNEP
	Mozambique	x	South Africa		WFP
	Nepal	x	Finland		UNEP
	Rwanda		Finland		UNDP
	Samoa	x	Australia		World Bank
	Senegal		Netherlands		IsDB
	Solomon Islands	x	Australia		UNDP
	South Sudan	x	Austria		AfDB
	Tanzania		Denmark		UNDP
	Timor-Leste		Finland	Indonesia	UNEP
	Tuvalu		New Zealand		UNEP
Second Batch	Cambodia	x	United Kingdom		World Bank
	Guinea-Bissau		Portugal		UNEP
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	x	Austria	China	World Bank
	Nauru		Australia		UNEP
	Papua New Guinea		Australia		UNDP

	Sao Tome and Principe		Netherlands		UNDP
	Tonga	x	New Zealand		World Bank
	Uganda	x	Netherlands		IsDB
	Vanuatu		New Zealand		World Bank
	Zambia		United Kingdom		WFP
Third Batch	Antigua and Barbuda	x	United Kingdom		UNDP
	Bahamas		Finland		IADB
	Bangladesh	x	Norway		IsDB
	Barbados	x	Finland		IADB
	Comoros	x	Morocco		AfDB
	Cuba		Spain		UNDP
	Djibouti	x	Austria		UNDP
	Dominica		Austria		WFP
	Dominican Republic		Spain		WFP
	Federated States of Micronesia		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Jamaica		Finland		IADB
	Marshall Islands		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Mauritius	x	South Africa	India	AfDB
	Niger	x	Nigeria		AfDB
	Palau		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Finland		IADB
	Saint Lucia		Austria		WFP

Saint Vincent and Grenadines		Austria		WFP
Seychelles		South Africa		AfDB
Somalia	x	Nigeria		UNDP
Suriname		Netherlands		UNDP
Tajikistan	x	Finland		World Bank
Trinidad and Tobago		Finland		IADB

## 2. Readiness phase progress overview

The implementation of the Readiness phase in the 36 countries included in the first and second programming batch shows substantial progress, with six countries already moving into the Investment Phase (decision 6.3). The countries that were programmed in the third batch started implementation in October 2023.

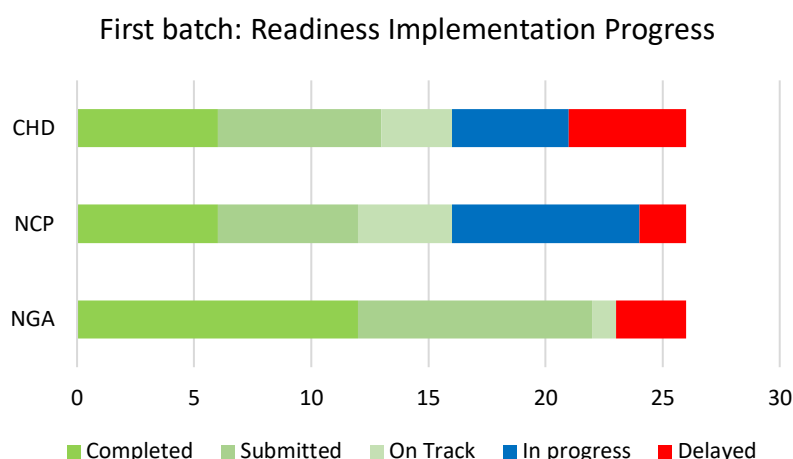
While the initial assumption was that the Readiness Phase could be completed in six months, given the diverse country contexts and the capacity constraints of some beneficiary countries, it has been observed that on average approximately 9 months are required to deliver all the three Readiness outputs, namely the GBON National Gap Analysis (NGA), the GBON National Contribution Plan (NCP) and the Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD).

Allowing flexibility in the implementation is crucial for the successful completion of the Readiness Phase and it should be noted that the delivery of the outputs is not always sequential. The SOFF Secretariat monitors the implementation of activities using an output-based approach and regularly communicates and assists countries and peer advisors as needed.

The following sections break down the SOFF Readiness implementation progress overview by batch.

### 2.1. First Batch

The first batch of 26 countries accessing Readiness funding started the implementation of Readiness activities in April 2023. 16 peer advisors and 7 implementing entities are engaged in the implementation of the Readiness activities in these countries. The figure below provides an aggregated overview of progress.



**Figure 1.** Progress of SOFF first batch countries.

NGA – National Gap Analysis; NCP – National Contribution Plan; CHD – Country Hydromet Diagnostics

Out of the 26 countries, 25 are currently in the process of delivering their Readiness outputs and most countries are close to completion. Activities were temporarily suspended in Ecuador and Burkina Faso due to security concerns related to political instability and presidential elections. In Guyana, activities were delayed due to health issues and temporary absence of key partners. The peer advisors promptly communicated to the SOFF Secretariat the challenges encountered, the measures taken and how these would impact the delivery of the activities. Currently, the activities in the three countries have been resumed.

Tuvalu has shown significant delay in the implementation due to challenges faced by the peer advisor in liaising with the beneficiary country, but works are now progressing.

The Democratic Republic of Congo will begin the implementation of the activities in December 2023, as indicated in the funding request, due to the risks associated with the election period.

Six countries have completed the Readiness Phase and have submitted an Investment Phase Funding Request that is presented to the 6<sup>th</sup> Steering Committee for its consideration. Many countries are expected to complete all activities by March 2024, potentially moving into the Investment phase in the second quarter of 2024.

The table below presents the status of the delivery of the Readiness outputs for each country in the first batch.

**Table 2:** SOFF first batch countries and Readiness outputs status

Batch	Country	National Gap Analysis	National Contribution Plan	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
First	Belize	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Bhutan	Completed	In progress	In progress
	Burkina Faso	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed
	Cabo Verde	Submitted	In progress	Submitted
	Chad	Submitted	In progress	Submitted
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	On track	On track	On track
	Ecuador	Submitted	On track	In progress
	Ethiopia	Completed	Submitted	In progress
	Fiji	Submitted	In progress	Submitted
	Grenada	Submitted	In progress	Delayed
	Guyana	Delayed	On track	Delayed
	Kiribati	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Liberia	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted
	Madagascar	Completed	In progress	On track
	Malawi	Completed	Submitted	In progress
	Maldives	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Mozambique	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Nepal	Completed	In progress	In progress
	Rwanda	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Samoa	Submitted	In progress	Submitted
	Senegal	Submitted	On track	On track
	Solomon Islands	Submitted	Submitted	Submitted
	South Sudan	Completed	Completed	Completed

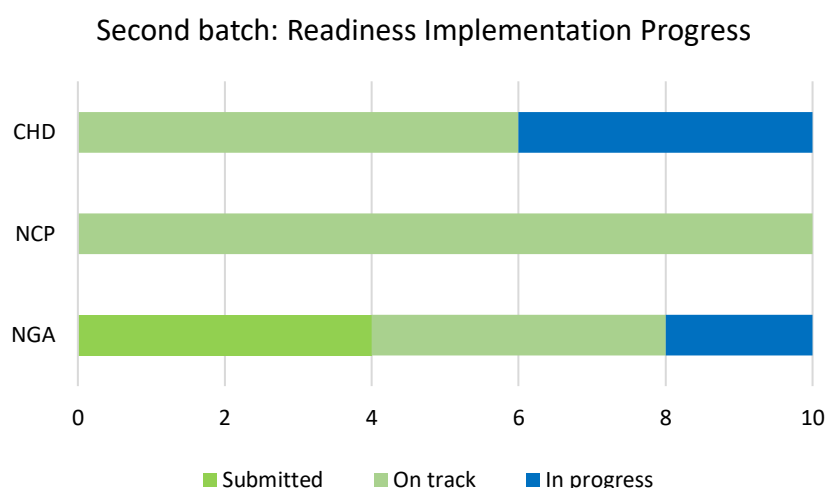


	Tanzania	Submitted	Submitted	Delayed
	Timor-Leste	Completed	Submitted	Submitted
	Tuvalu	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed

Completed	Delivered
Submitted	WMO Technical Authority screening in process
On track	Timely delivery expected
In progress	Delayed compared to original schedule but at advanced stage
Delayed	> one month delay compared to original schedule

## 2.2. Second Batch

The 10 countries programmed in the second batch started implementation in July 2023 with the support of 7 peer advisors and 5 implementing entities. All 10 countries are on track to deliver their Readiness outputs as stated in their respective funding documents. A SOFF regional workshop on Atlantic SIDS will be conducted in November where all partners will address challenges and lessons learnt from SOFF Readiness phase implementation and plan coordinated SOFF Investment phase activities in the three Atlantic SIDS, namely Cabo Verde, Guinea Bissau and Sao Tome and Principe.



**Figure 2.** Progress of SOFF second batch countries.

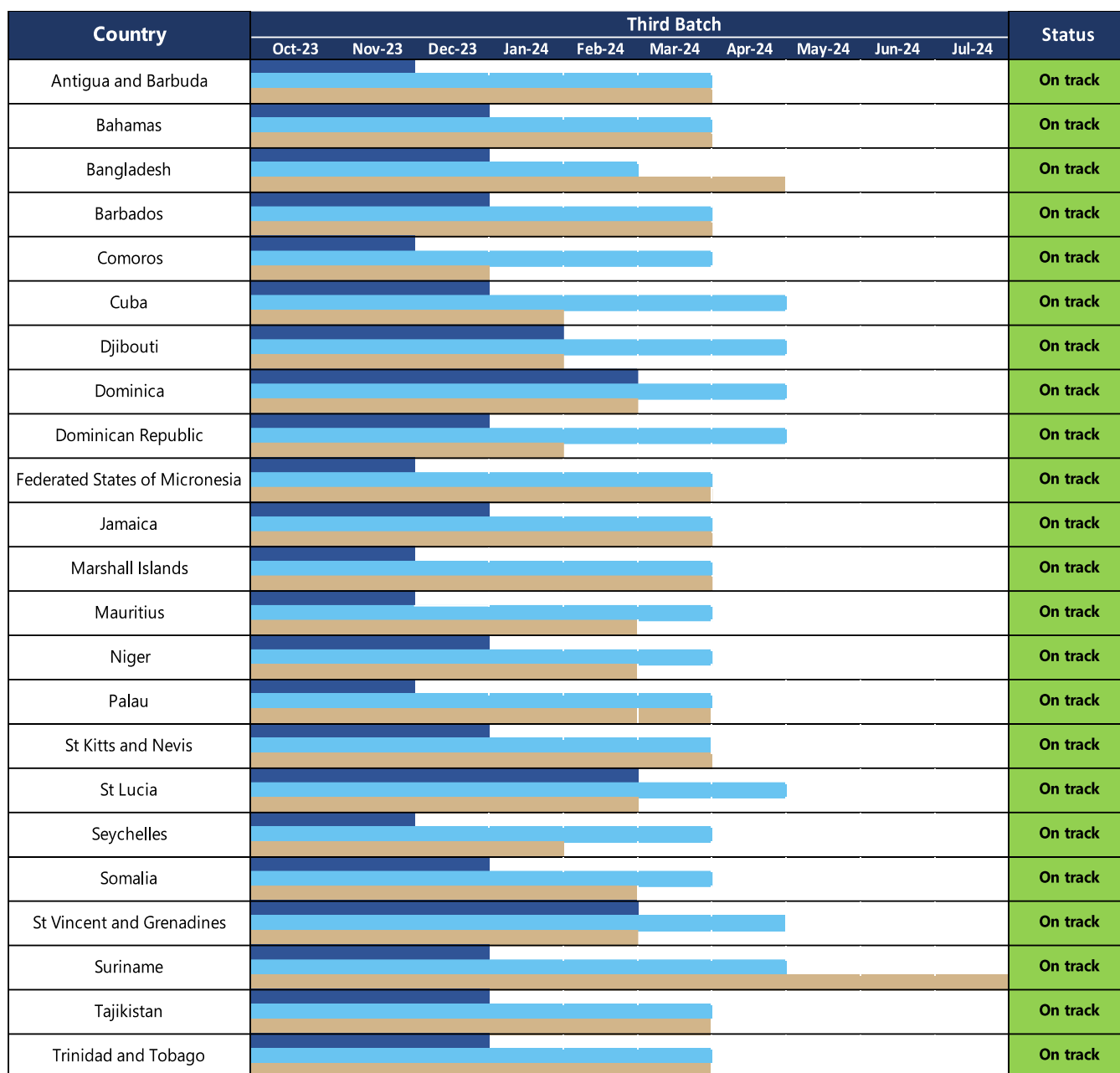
NGA – National Gap Analysis; NCP – National Contribution Plan; CHD – Country Hydromet Diagnostics

**Table 3:** SOFF second batch countries and Readiness outputs status

Batch	Country	National Gap Analysis	National Contribution Plan	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
Second	Nauru	Submitted	On track	In progress
	Papua New Guinea	Submitted	On track	In progress
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	On track	On track	On track
	Sao Tome and Principe	In progress	On track	In progress
	Uganda	On track	On track	On track
	Tonga	On track	On track	On track
	Vanuatu	In progress	On track	On track
	Guinea-Bissau	On track	On track	On track
	Cambodia	Submitted	On track	On track
	Zambia	Submitted	On track	In progress

### 2.3. Third Batch

The third batch of Readiness Funding requests was adopted through inter-sessional Steering Committee decision in September 2023. This batch includes 23 countries and one addendum to a previously approved funding request. 10 peer advisors and 7 implementing entities are supporting these countries.



**Figure 3.** Overview of delivery schedule in the third batch of countries as indicated in the funding requests.

	National Gap Analysis
	National Contribution Plan
	Country Hydromet Diagnostics