



Eighth Steering Committee  
18-19 June 2024

## Approach to SOFF Investment Phase Funding

Decision 8.4.2

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Systematic Observations  
Financing Facility

**Weather  
and climate  
data for  
resilience**



## Decision 8.4.2: Approach to Respond to Investment Phase Funding

The SOFF Steering Committee

Endorses the approach to respond to future Investment phase funding requests in the context of limited financial resources, comprised of three elements:

- i. prioritization of Investment funding requests applying the SOFF programming criteria as adopted by Decision 1.4, putting particular emphasis on closing the most significant data gaps and creating leverage.
- ii. Investment funding requests submitted for Steering Committee consideration but not approved due to funding constraints, will be retained in the SOFF Investment phase pipeline, and resubmitted for consideration of future Steering Committee meetings.
- iii. Implementing Entities and countries can revise their Investment funding requests in the pipeline before resubmission.

### Purpose of this document

The document presents an approach to respond to Investment phase funding requests, within the constraints of the currently available financial resources, comprised of prioritization and a phased approach.

# Approach to SOFF Investment Phase Funding

## Approach to SOFF Investment phase funding

### 1. Context

Since March 2023, SOFF has been operating at high-speed to respond to countries demand for support in systematic observations. In just one year, SOFF has approved funding for the SOFF Readiness phase in 60 countries and Investment phase in 11 of those countries.

While the Steering Committee has thus far approved all received funding requests, the current availability of financial resources does not allow SOFF to sustain its implementation at the initially envisaged speed. Therefore, it is proposed that the Steering Committee adopts an approach to respond to Investment phase funding request and prioritize the approval.

### 2. Approach: prioritization and phasing

The approach for responding to the requests for SOFF Investment phase in the context of limited financial resources is comprised of two elements, prioritization based on [SOFF programming criteria](#) and phasing, where feasible. The approach reflects the overarching objective of SOFF which aims at ensuring the provision of a global public good, therefore prioritizes investments that are expected to yield the largest results in terms of global numerical weather prediction.

Based on a careful assessment and in consideration of the SOFF programming criteria, the SOFF Secretariat proposes a prioritization of the investments at each Steering Committee meeting. This is presented in the form of a decision document for consideration by the Steering Committee, with a proposal to approve funding requests for selected countries in alignment with the expected available financial resources.

Furthermore, a phased approach to investment funding is proposed when technically feasible, in cases where closing the GBON gap in one investment is not feasible due to capacity constraints or difficult geopolitical circumstances. This is expected to allow a higher number of countries to benefit from Investment funding support during the First Implementation Period.

### 3. Process

It is proposed that the SOFF Secretariat continue to present to the SOFF Steering Committee all reviewed and completed funding requests in the form of an INF document for transparency and to ensure that the work of SOFF partners is recognized.

The funding requests that are not approved at the Steering Committee meeting will be retained in the SOFF Investment phase pipeline. Ahead of each Steering Committee

meeting, the funding requests in the pipeline will be assessed by the SOFF Secretariat based on the application of the programming criteria and not on the timing of submission. The funding requests that have been submitted but not approved for funding, can be revised upon request of the partners.

#### 4. Risks

The SOFF Readiness outputs and funding requests reflect an assessment of the current state of the observing network and the funding needs of the country conducted by the countries and the peer advisors during the SOFF Readiness phase. The longer a funding request remains in the pipeline, the higher the risk that the content of the funding request will no longer fully reflect the current state of capacity and infrastructure in country.

The SOFF beneficiary countries and their partners have demonstrated full commitment to delivering the Readiness phase outputs in a timely manner and a growing pipeline of funding requests is expected in the upcoming months. This highlights the urgent need to close the funding gap to ensure that SOFF can continue to deliver support effectively at the speed and scale demonstrated so far (Decision 8.2 and INF 8.2).