

Session 5: Creating leverage with other partners- technical assistance and investments

- World Bank -

The World Bank has been supporting the strengthening of hydromet and early warning services through three main instruments in South Asia: grants/technical assistance – World Bank or country implemented, lending operations - country-implemented, and Development Policy Financing (DPF) supporting e.g. the passing of hydromet policies. Support is provided both, through national and regional initiatives.

Ongoing national-level activities include:

- The Bangladesh Weather and Climate Services Regional Project (BWCSRP), a lending operation closing in November 2024. The AWS stations selected for GBON under SOFF were installed by this project, however, there are still some pending issues with transmission to the database which will be addressed with the help of the SOFF peer advisor. Also, the radiosondes selected for GBON have been supported by BWCSRP, SOFF's support during the compliance phase provides a critical contribution to the sustainability. This is a clear example how World Bank financing and the long-term in-depth technical and financial support from SOFF can complement each other.
- In Bhutan, the World Bank is providing support through the Strengthening Risk Information for Resilience Project (grant) which includes activities to strengthen hydromet services, flood risk assessment, and formulation of policy documents (i.e. the hydromet policy) and a roadmap for Institutional Strengthening and Modernization of Hydromet and Multi-hazard Early Warning Services in Bhutan between 2024-2034. A TA also supported the preparation of the Technical Guidance Note for the establishment of the NCHM HQ which will be used by NCHM as a guidance in preparing detailed designs and drawings of the infrastructure including the calibration lab that will be supported through the SOFF. A Catastrophe Deferred Drawdown Option (Cat DDO) DPF is in the final stages of preparation, which further emphasizes importance on EWS.
- In Nepal, technical assistance has been provided to strengthen multi-hazard EWS communication, develop a Hydromet Master Plan, etc. Furthermore, support was given for the development of the hydromet policy – related to a DPF.
- Under the Digital Maldives for Adaptation, Decentralization and Diversification Project (lending operation) the early warning platform “Mobilize” is being piloted on one of the Southern islands.
- Integrated Flood Resilience Adaptation Project in Pakistan (lending operation), approved in 2023, will strengthen the Pakistan Meteorological Department. If SOFF is expanded to additional countries in a future phase, the investments under this project will probably feed at least partly into SOFF similar to the situation in Bangladesh.
- In Sri Lanka, the Climate Resilience Multi-Phase Programmatic Approach (lending operation) aims at strengthening of forecasting and early warning including for floods/landslides

- In Afghanistan, the Enhancing hydromet, early warning and Climate Services for Resilience project (technical assistance) supports the development of a drought early warning system, Digital agromet services tool prototype and the updating of the Hydromet Roadmap

Ongoing regional-level activities:

- Through the FCDO funded Resilient Asia Program, South Asia Hydromet Forum (SAHF) activities have been supported such as
 - SAHF IV,
 - a recently initiated assessment of aviation services in the region and the legal situation regarding cost-recovery / revenue generation for provided services and basis for data sharing,
 - concept development for strengthening mountain meteorology and marine services,
 - support to working groups as a part of the SAHF, under the leadership of the SAHF Executive Council to develop comprehensive programs for strengthening observation networks (OBN) and numerical weather prediction (NWP) in the region,
 - etc.
- Regional: Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia (CARE) covering Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan with the goal to (i) promote evidence-based climate smart decision-making (RIMES) and enhance policies, standards and capacities for climate resilient development (ADPC)

Planned activities:

- Together with WMO and UNDRR, World Bank is preparing a CREWS South Asia program. Proposed activities result largely from the SAHF executive council resolution from November 2023 and the SAHF IV conference declaration from February 2024, and include:
 - Support the SAHF secretariat function and SAHF meetings including working groups, executive council, conference, etc.
 - Contribute to implementing OBN and NWP programs > link to SOFF
 - Support tailoring of an NWP prototype model to complex terrain to strengthen mountain meteorology
 - Support the strengthening of marine services
 - Support SASCOF (incl. link to HydroSOS) and framework for climate services (WMO-led)
 - Support FFGS, SWFP, etc. (WMO-led)
 - Etc.
- The World Bank stands ready to provide further support through lending operations in line with national priorities as outlined in SOFF country hydromet diagnostics and other hydromet master plans as applicable, to strengthen hydromet and early warning services.