Investment Phase:
Progress update

Ethiopia
July 2025

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience

General Information

Country	Ethiopia	
Implementing Entity	UNDP	
Agreement effectiveness date	16 August 2024	
Duration	36 months	
Anticipated end date	**19 August 2027**	
Reporting period	**From:** 01 January 2025	**To:** 30 June 2025
Approved amount	USD 9,956,802.60	
Disbursed amount	USD 6,457,817	

Summary

GBON institutional and human capacity strengthened. First, the project management structure formally established, with a particular focus on institutional capacity-building through recruitment and staffing to ensure effective project management and oversight. Two Programme Specialists and one Programme Associate deployed by UNDP Ethiopia CO since to provide technical, oversight and operational support. Simultaneously, the recruitment process for EMI's Project Management Unit (PMU), comprising the Project Manager, Finance Officer, and M&E Officer completed. The selected PMU team members fully onboarded marking a crucial step in establishing the project's national execution structure and enabling day-to-day coordination and implementation.

Second, to ensure effective oversight and coordination, a Project Steering Committee (PSC) formally established, bringing together representatives from national and international partners involved in the implementation of the project. The PSC provides strategic oversight and serves as the highest decision-making body for the project. It ensures alignment with project objectives, resolves coordination challenges, and reviews and approves annual work plans and budgets, while offering strategic and policy guidance to enhance implementation. The first PSC meeting held on 22 July 2024. During this session, PSC members reviewed the progress to date and validated the prioritization of key activities identified in the 2025 Annual Work Plan. The meeting also served to formally adopt the TORs for both the PSC and the Technical Task Team (TTT). These TORs define the mandates, roles, and responsibilities of each group and set the foundation for structured decision-making, monitoring, and reporting throughout the project life cycle. The PSC also outlined concrete next steps and a forward-looking implementation plan to ensure smooth execution in the coming months. To complement the work of the PSC, a TTT

has been established under the EMI. The TTT is composed of specialized professionals—including engineers, meteorologists, technicians, and IT experts—who are tasked with providing hands-on technical guidance for project execution. Their responsibilities include supporting the installation and commissioning of new meteorological stations, advising on data transmission systems, refining calibration protocols, and contributing to the development of robust IT infrastructure required to meet GBON standards. The TTT serves as a critical technical backbone, ensuring that implementation is grounded in scientific best practices and national standards.

Third, building on the national and regional inception meetings held on 7–8 November 2024, the Regional Meteorology Service Centers (RMSCs) facilitated stakeholder engagement workshops in nine locations in February 2025. These workshops aimed to raise awareness of the project's goals and expected outcomes, engage local communities on potential implementation challenges, and initiate land acquisition processes for new meteorological stations.

Fourth, a national training program on weather station installation and maintenance conducted from 23 to 30 June 2025 in Adama, Oromia Region. The training brought together 100 participants (72 male, 28 female) from EMI headquarters and 11 RMSCs, strengthening practical skills and promoting consistent technical understanding across regions.

Fifth, a four-day joint mission and workshop took place from 27–30 May 2025 in Addis Ababa and Adama, marking the first in-person coordination among SOFF investment phase partners in Ethiopia—EMI, UNDP, MET Norway, ETH-SOFF PMU, and the EMI SOFF technical task team. The mission aimed to strengthen collaboration, review operational progress beyond the Readiness phase, and ensure alignment on key areas such as infrastructure rollout, calibration, data quality, and long-term system sustainability under the SOFF framework. The mission engaged 25 stakeholders (17 male, 8 female), including representatives from Eastern and Central Oromia Meteorological Service Centres. Key outcomes included updates on EMI's legacy calibration infrastructure, clarification of AWS calibration procedures, sharing of practices on WIGOS metadata generation, review of Addis Ababa's upper-air station status, and briefing on the WIS 2 deployment checklist. The team also discussed a phased procurement strategy for station infrastructure in line with SOFF budget ceilings.

GBON infrastructure is in process. The procurement process for 13 new land-based stations and the upgrade of 16 existing land-based stations is currently underway through UNDP. This follows the comprehensive review and clearance of technical specifications, conducted in close collaboration with MET Norway, UNDP, and EMI leadership. The bidding opportunity officially advertised on 20 June 2025, with an initial submission deadline of 11 July 2025. However, in response to limited supplier submissions, the deadline extended to 15 August 2025 to encourage broader participation. As part of the preparatory phase, site visits and supervision for AWS site selection conducted from 5–19 January 2025, building on insights gathered during the stakeholder and inception workshops. These visits ensured that the proposed sites met WMO technical, logistical, and operational standards consistent with the objectives of the SOFF project. The fieldwork provided a solid framework for AWS deployment by validating proposed locations, identifying priority

areas, and incorporating stakeholder feedback. In addition, the visits facilitated community engagement, addressed logistical constraints on the ground, and ensured compliance with technical and environmental requirements. Further advancing implementation, the bidding process launched through EMI on 3 July 2025 for the construction of both internal (20m × 20m) and external (100m × 100m) fencing for the identified AWS sites. Bid evaluation is expected to conclude by mid-July, with contractor selection and award anticipated by the end of the month. In parallel, the draft specifications for new upper-air stations and the upgrade of upper-air stations submitted to MET Norway and are currently under technical review and clearance. Early field readiness has been demonstrated through on-site testing and data preparation activities. EMI technical teams conducted field visits to remote new AWS locations to perform live communication signal tests using AWS-RTU. Furthermore, metadata for five upper-air station locations has been compiled and submitted to the EMI-OSCAR focal point for registration with the WMO OSCAR/Surface database, contributing directly to global GBON compliance.

Sustain compliance with GBON is in progress. The procurement for three field vehicles through UNDP is underway to support mobile calibration operations and to be completed in the week of August 4 2025. An official endorsement letter endorsed from the Ministry of Transport and Logistics, authorizing the importation of hybrid vehicles with EMI support. In parallel, progress has been made in establishing a sustainable national calibration capacity through technical collaboration with MET Norway. Both EMI and MET Norway agreed to conduct a joint audit to assess the existing and potential capacities of EMI and the National Calibration Center. Based on this assessment, a phased approach has been proposed for establishing a nationally accredited meteorological calibration laboratory, beginning with with limited calibration chambers like climate chamber and pressure chamber. The experience of Bangladesh, including its calibration specifications, will serve as a key benchmark in this process. Additionally, the high-standard, accredited calibration laboratory of the China Meteorological Administration (CMA) has been recognized as a model for best practices. MET Norway, which serves as the Peer Advisor for Bangladesh under the SOFF initiative, has prior experience collaborating with CMA on capacity-building activities. This established partnership could be leveraged to extend similar support to EMI, further strengthening Ethiopia’s national calibration capacity through South-South and triangular cooperation.

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target			Actual			Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3			
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed										
1.1 **National consultations**, including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted • Inception workshops at the national and sub-national level • Stakeholder engagement workshops on implementation • Consultative workshop at 11-RMSC's on station security with key stakeholders	# of inception workshops held	1			1			Achieved	Inception workshop successfully organized on November 6-7, 2024	
	# of stakeholder workshops held	1			1			Achieved	Stakeholder Workshop organized in February 2025	
	# of sub national workshops	1	1	1				On-track	Sub national Stakeholders Workshops planned and will be scheduled during the installation of external fences in Q4 2025. (the project kicked start on August 2024; thus, the status of project implementation is on-track)	
1.2 **NMHS institutional capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed • Establish a full staff PMU and a project execution team, including project management and stakeholder management skills to support the execution of the project. • Promote gender equality by establishing thresholds for female participation in SOFF related activity 50 % of all participants in SOFF-related and supported trainings; SOFF consultations, planning workshops; staff for operating and maintaining GBON stations; and decision-making and project management positions where applicable will be women.	# of project staff	5			6			Achieved	2 Programme Specialist and 1 Programme Associate deployed by UNDP Ethiopia CO to provide technical, oversight and operational support. Project Management Unit members, comprising the Project Manager, Finance Officer, and M&E Officer have been fully onboarded marking a crucial step in establishing the project's national execution structure and enabling day-to-day coordination and implementation following the recruitment process.	
	% female participants in the workshops		25%					On-track	25% of female participants attended the inception workshop and stakeholder consultation workshops	
1.3 **NMHS human capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	# of experience sharing	1	1					On-track	1 visit and study tour conduced for experience sharing and capacity building in 2024. (The	

Output	Indicator	Target			Actual			Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3			
• Experience sharing and capacity building on GBON/SOFF key components for EMI leadership									project kicked start in August 2024, thus the status of project implementation is on-track)	
• Experience sharing and SOP development on IT infrastructure for effective GBON and SOFF implantation • Recruitment of observers, ICT and project management staff • Training in cellular and satellite communications and router configuration • Training in weather station maintenance • Participation in the regional trainings	# of employed staff	3	5		1			On-track	Project Management Unit members, comprising the Project Manager, Finance Officer, and M&E Officer have been fully onboarded marking a crucial step in establishing the project's national execution structure and enabling day-to-day coordination and implementation following the recruitment process.	
	# of trainees	5	5		100			On-track	100 trainees (28% female) drawn from the EMI headquarters and 11 Regional Meteorological Service Centers (RMSCs) across the country trained on weather station installation and meteorological equipment maintenance from 23 to 30 June 2025 in Adama, Oromia Region.	
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	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		7	6				On-track	The procurement for installation of 13 new land-based stations is underway through UNDP following the review and clearance of the specifications by the MET Norway.	
2.2 **Improved land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		8	8				On-track	The procurement for the upgrade of 16 existing land-based stations is underway through UNDP following the review and clearance of the specifications by the MET Norway.	

Output	Indicator	Target			Actual			Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y1	Y2	Y3			
2.3 **New upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		2	1				On-track	The draft specifications for new upper-air stations submitted to MET Norway and are currently under technical review and clearance.	
2.4 **Improved upper air stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		1	1				On-track	The draft specifications for the upgrade of upper-air stations submitted to MET Norway and are currently under technical review and clearance.	
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	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		17	12				On-track	The procurement for three field vehicles to support mobile calibration operations is underway through UNDP. In parallel, progress has been made in establishing a sustainable national calibration capacity through technical collaboration with MET Norway.	
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	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		2	3				On-track		