



Investment Phase: Progress update

Republic of Maldives

July 2025

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



General Information

Country	Republic of Maldives	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	
Agreement effectiveness date	03 April 2024	
Duration	60 months	
Anticipated end date	01 April 2029	
Reporting period	From: 31 March 2025	To: 30 June 2025
Approved amount	UNEP: \$ 4,436,526 WMO: \$ 470,800	
Disbursed amount	UNEP: \$ 3,992,873 WMO: \$ 156,918	

Summary

Highlights of key achievements

The SOFF UNEP Investment Phase in the Maldives made progress in the period between 31 March 2025 and 30 June 2025, with activities generally consistent with the planned timeline and prior reporting. Major achievements included the successful conduction of the [inception workshop](#), endorsement of the [Terms of Reference \(ToR\) for the Project Steering Committee \(PSC\)](#), and its inauguration. Furthermore, the workplans for Year 2 and Year 3 were jointly developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), and Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI) prior to the inception workshop and were presented to the stakeholders during the event. Planning for the procurement of one Automated Weather Station (AWS), installation of sensors and loggers at four existing surface weather stations, and related civil works is ongoing in coordination among MMS, RIMES, FMI, and UNEP. The establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) at the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) is also in progress but had not yet been finalized as of the reporting period, with two staff currently being recruited. In parallel,

recruitment efforts are ongoing for five new technical staff and three IT personnel in preparation for the new surface observation station planned in Maafaru. Regular monthly coordination meetings among MMS, RIMES, FMI, and UNEP continue to ensure effective implementation and alignment across all partners.

The face-to-face [inception workshop](#)¹ and the inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC), part of **Output 1.1—National consultations including with civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders**—were conducted on 3 June 2025 in Malé, Maldives. The event was attended by the Minister of State for Tourism and Environment, as well as participants from the MMS, UNEP, RIMES, FMI, and other national stakeholders, including representatives from UNDP Maldives, the Ministry of Tourism and Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Welfare, National Institute of Education, Aviation Services, Maldives National University, and the Fishermen’s Association. A total of 43 participants attended out of 48 invitees, with 67% male and 33% female participation, exceeding the adjusted gender representation target of 30% female participation for the SOFF Investment Phase in the Maldives (please refer to the [attendance list](#)).

As part of the inception workshop, MMS presented the [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#) for the PSC, which received no objections from the participants, and the Project Steering Committee was formally established. The high-level dialogues on the benefits, co-production, and ownership of the new national GBON infrastructure are planned for Quarter 4 of 2025 after recruitment of PMU.

Under **Output 1.2—NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network**—a [refresher training](#) programme was conducted by RIMES in November 2024, as previously reported. An additional capacity-building session is scheduled for July 2025. RIMES is in the process of finalizing the detailed curriculum for this session, which outlines the training objectives, modules, schedule, and target participants, with technical inputs from FMI.

For **Output 1.3—NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network**—the MMS is continuing efforts to recruit technical staff and establish the PMU. Progress to date includes the development of Terms of Reference, candidate assessment, and evaluation. The recruitment process is ongoing and has required additional time to accommodate administrative procedures, including legal approval processes

¹ Inception Workshop Agenda:
https://drive.google.com/file/d/1PCcT4zY_Orzix1ZMX76BIfQyWW40vt5C/view?usp=sharing

coordinated through the Ministry of Finance. Recruitment and establishment of the PMU are expected to be completed in Quarter 3 of 2025.

Progress has also been made under **Outputs 2.1 and 2.2—New Land-Based Stations, Improved Land-Based Stations, and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems, and standard operating practices**. Procurement packages are being prepared for one new AWS, the rehabilitation of four existing AWS, and associated civil works. MMS and RIMES are jointly carrying out these activities, with technical input from FMI. Completion is expected by the end of 2025.

For **Output 2.3—Improved Upper-Air Stations, related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems, and standard operating practices**—implementation is scheduled for Year 3. Planning is underway to define technical specifications and procurement requirements, drawing on partner expertise to ensure alignment with GBON standards and national operational needs.

Under **Outputs 3.1 and 3.2—GBON land-based and upper-air stations' commissioning period**—RIMES is leading the procurement of spare sensors for temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind for the AWS, as well as spare components including balloons and radiosondes for the upper-air stations. These items are expected to be delivered by the end of 2025.

Visual Stories and Key Media Coverage



3 June 2025 – Inception Workshop for SOFF Investment Phase in the Maldives

[Inception workshop SOFF Website](#), [MMS Website](#), [MMS Facebook](#), [Ministry of Tourism and Environment](#)



2 June 2025: UNEP, MMS, RIMES, and FMI held a face-to-face coordination meeting to prepare for the inception workshop and to develop the Year 2 and 3 workplan.

4 June 2025: UNEP team visited Gan Met Office to observe the site and assess Environmental and Social Safeguards aspects.

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed														
1.1 National consultations , including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	# of inception workshops held	1	1	1	1	1		1				On-track	The face-to-face inception workshop and the inauguration of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) were conducted on 3 June 2025.	
	% female participation in the inception workshops	50	50	50	50	50		33				On-track	A total of 43 participants attended the inception workshop, with 67% male and 33% female participation. Please see the attendance list .	The Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) team engaged in the SOFF programme comprises 70 staff,50 male (71.4%) and 20 female (28.6%), reflecting the current staffing context. Based on this, the target for female participation across SOFF-related activities has been set at 30%. Efforts are ongoing to promote broader gender representation in all planned engagements.
	# of stakeholder workshops held		1	1	1	1						Not yet started		
	# of high-level events held	1				1						On-track	Planned to be held in Quarter 4 of 2025.	
	# of gender workshops held		1	1								Not yet started	Planned to be held in the first quarter of 2026.	
	% female participation in the stakeholder workshops		50	50								Not yet started		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	Years in which the organizational strategy will be drafted		X	X	X							Not yet started		
	Years in which gender policy will be drafted			X	X							Not yet started		
	Years in which stakeholder engagement plan will be drafted		X									Not yet started		
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of staff salaries paid	9	9	9	9	9						On-track	The recruitment of technical staff and the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU) are ongoing, with progress made in the development of Terms of Reference, candidate assessment, and evaluation. The process is currently pending legal approval from the Ministry of Finance	There have been some delays, as additional time is required to accommodate the legal approval process from the Ministry of Finance. It is expected to be finalized, with onboarding anticipated in Quarter 3 of 2025.
	Years in which trainings will be conducted	X	X	X	X	X	1					Achieved	A refresher training programme was conducted by RIMES in November 2024, as previously reported. An additional capacity-building session is scheduled for July 2025. RIMES is in the process of finalizing the detailed curriculum for this session, which outlines the training objectives, modules, schedule, and	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													target participants, with technical inputs from FMI.	
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		1									On-track	Procurement packages are being prepared for one new Automated Weather Station (AWS), the rehabilitation of four existing AWS, and associated civil works. MMS and RIMES are jointly carrying out these activities, with technical input from FMI. Completion is expected by the end of 2025.	
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		4									On-track	Procurement packages are being prepared for one new Automated Weather Station (AWS), the rehabilitation of four existing AWS, and associated civil works. MMS and RIMES are jointly carrying out these activities, with technical input from FMI. Completion is expected by the end of 2025.	
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											Not yet started		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
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								Not yet started	Implementation of this activity is scheduled for Year 3. Planning is underway to define technical specifications and procurement requirements	
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		5	5	5	5						On-track	RIMES is leading the procurement of spare sensors for temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind for the AWS, as well as spare components including balloons and radiosondes for the upper-air stations. These items are expected to be delivered by the end of 2025.	
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			1	1	1						On-track		

Attachments:

- Year 1 Annual Report – [click here](#)