



Investment Phase: Progress Update

Republic of Maldives

January 2026

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: 30 June 2025	To: 31 December 2025
Approved amount	UNEP: USD 4,436,526 WMO: USD 470,800	
Disbursed amount	UNEP: USD 3,992,873 WMO: USD 156,918	

Summary

Highlights of key achievements

The SOFF-funded UNEP investment phase in the Maldives recorded steady progress during the June–December 2025 period, with developments across institutional arrangements, human capacity strengthening, stakeholder engagement, and procurement related to GBON infrastructure. Collaboration among the Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the Finnish Meteorological Institute (FMI), and the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System (RIMES) was maintained through regular coordination and technical exchanges, supporting alignment across planned activities. The period was characterized by consolidation of preparatory work alongside the initiation of key actions, including project management set-up, delivery of targeted training, preparation of stakeholder and gender-focused engagements, and advancement of procurement processes for new and upgraded observation systems.

Under Output 1.1 – National consultations including with civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders, as reported previously, the national [inception workshop](#) was successfully conducted in Malé on 3 June 2025. During the current reporting period, preparatory work focused on organizing a forthcoming high-

level dialogue on the benefits, co-production, and national ownership of GBON infrastructure, tentatively scheduled for the second week of February 2026 in Malé. The high-level dialogue is expected to convene representatives from government ministries, civil society organizations, academia, the private sector, and development partners. Planned discussions will address challenges faced by MMS, including capacity constraints, sustainability of GBON operations, and approaches for incorporating stakeholder inputs into national strategies and planning processes.

In parallel, discussions were held among MMS, UNEP, and FMI on the organization of a dedicated gender workshop, tentatively scheduled for the second week of February 2026 to take place in connection with the high-level dialogue. MMS, UNEP, and FMI are jointly coordinating technical inputs and logistical arrangements for the gender workshop. The workshop will promote gender inclusion within the meteorological sector and will directly inform the development of MMS's Gender Policy. Initial discussions indicated that venue costs would be covered by FMI, while MMS would allocate SOFF resources to support participant travel and per diem costs, including for staff from outer stations.

Under Output 1.2 – NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed, MMS continued preparatory engagement with partners on the development of the Organizational Strategy and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Following internal consultations and discussions with partners, MMS confirmed its decision to engage a national consultant to prepare both deliverables. To promote coherence and alignment, it was agreed that the same consultant would develop both the Organizational Strategy and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan, enabling an integrated and consistent institutional framework. The consultancy is planned to commence in the first quarter of 2026.

In parallel, discussions also took place on the development of an Organizational Gender Policy, which is expected to be initiated in the first quarter of 2026. The policy will draw on the outcomes of the forthcoming gender workshop referenced under Output 1.1 and will be aligned with relevant global guidance as well as national-level priorities, supporting the systematic integration of gender considerations into MMS institutional policies and practices.

Under Output 1.3 – NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed, following approval from the Ministry of Finance on 14 May 2025, MMS initiated the establishment of the Project Management Unit (PMU). Six part-time MMS staff were appointed on 21 July 2025, followed by the appointment of the Project Manager on 3 August 2025. Together, these positions constitute the core PMU responsible for coordinating implementation, monitoring progress, and supporting

operational management of SOFF Investment Phase activities in the Maldives. In parallel, staffing actions were undertaken to support the proposed GBON station at Maafaru. Three staff were recruited on 17 August 2025, and the interview process for two ICT positions was completed, with the selected candidates scheduled to take up their functions in October 2025. Planning for additional positions related to the Maafaru station is ongoing and aligned with the station's phased operationalization timeline.

During the same period, RIMES delivered a [SOFF capacity-building programme](#) in Hulhulé, Maldives, from 13 to 23 July 2025. The training was attended by 21 participants from MMS, of whom 29 per cent were women. Designed using a Training-of-Trainers (ToT) approach, the programme combined classroom-based instruction with field exposure to AWS operations. Training modules covered site selection and siting criteria, sensor fundamentals, data acquisition systems, communication technologies, standard operating procedures, preventive and corrective maintenance, and data validation practices. Participant feedback indicated a high level of satisfaction, with average ratings above 4.5 out of 5. To build on these outcomes, additional on-site practical training is planned once new AWS units are installed, enabling staff to gain direct operational experience. A second capacity-building programme is also scheduled for the third quarter of 2026 to further consolidate skills in line with GBON requirements.

Complementing these efforts, staff from MMS participated in a [customized basic observation course in meteorology](#) conducted by the Meteorological Training Institute of the India Meteorological Department in Pune from 27 October to 1 November 2025. Ten participants attended the course, which focused on core competencies in meteorological observations and operational practices, contributing to strengthened technical foundations across the observation network. At the same time, discussions have been ongoing with the Thai Meteorological Office regarding a potential refresher or exposure visit, aimed at facilitating peer learning and exchange of operational experience.

As part of cross-cutting capacity-building under the SOFF portfolio, a [five-day procurement workshop](#) was conducted at the RIMES headquarters in Bangkok from 13 to 17 October 2025. The workshop was co-organized by UNEP and RIMES and delivered by a UNEP procurement expert, with a focus on procurement planning, application of UN procurement procedures, and contract management in project implementation contexts. Participants included staff from MMS as well as representatives from the Ministry of Transport and Communication of Timor-Leste, in preparation for the forthcoming implementation of the SOFF Investment Phase in Timor-Leste. The

workshop provided a platform for practical learning and cross-country exchange on procurement processes relevant to SOFF-supported projects.

Looking ahead, to support benchmarking of mature project and portfolio management practices and coordination culture, FMI is coordinating with MMS on the organization of a study visit to Finland. The visit is tentatively planned for the last week of March 2026 and is expected to involve three participants from MMS, with the inclusion of at least one woman encouraged. The study visit is intended to support institutional learning on project governance, coordination mechanisms, and management practices relevant to the sustained implementation of SOFF activities.

Under **Outputs 2.1 and 2.2 – New and improved land-based stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems, and standard operating practices in place**, progress was made in advancing procurement processes for the installation of a new Automated Weather Station (AWS) at Maafaru and the rehabilitation of four existing AWS at Hulhumalé (Malé), Hanimaadhoo, Kadhdhoo, and Gan.

RIMES, in consultation with MMS and with technical input from FMI, conducted detailed assessments of the proposed new AWS at Maafaru site and the four existing stations to define technical requirements and implementation needs. For the Maafaru AWS, MMS completed the land allocation survey and submitted a formal requisition to Maafaru Airport. In parallel, MMS is pursuing a temporary office space arrangement with the Airport to enable station operations to commence without awaiting budget relocation for permanent civil works. MMS is also in the process of obtaining the required security clearances for workers who will support installation and related activities.

For the four existing AWS, the assessments identified priority rehabilitation needs, including replacement of outdated sensors, upgrades to data loggers, and improvements to ICT connectivity to support near-real-time data transmission. Based on these findings, RIMES prepared a consolidated procurement package covering both the installation of the new AWS at Maafaru and the rehabilitation of the existing stations. The consolidated approach was designed to promote standardization across sites, streamline procurement, and support more efficient maintenance and improved data reliability. The Procurement Plan was initially approved by UNEP on 15 September 2025. Following subsequent consultations with the UNEP procurement unit, including lessons drawn from the procurement capacity-building workshop, the procurement approach was revised from an Invitation to Bid (ITB) to a Request for Proposals (RFP) to better reflect the technical and service-based nature of the requirements. With

coordination and support from the peer advisor, FMI, the technical specifications and evaluation criteria were updated accordingly.

The [Request for Proposals](#) for the supply, installation, and integration of AWS equipment and related data systems was published on 23 December 2025. The scope includes one new AWS covering temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, precipitation, and wind sensors, instrument masts, data loggers, and solar power systems, as well as the installation and upgrading of sensors and data loggers at four existing surface weather stations. The deadline for proposal submission is 26 January 2026, with delivery of equipment expected in the second quarter of 2026.

Under Outputs 3.1 and 3.2 – Sustained compliance with GBON, procurement preparations are ongoing for a bundled package developed by RIMES and approved by UNEP, which includes provisions for spare sensors covering temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind. The delivery of these sensors is planned to align with scheduled maintenance cycles, ensuring availability when required while reducing the risk of early deterioration or obsolescence. As procurement preparations continue, the package specifies that replacement sensors must meet or exceed existing technical specifications to ensure compatibility across the observation network and maintain consistent data quality in support of GBON requirements, with delivery of the spare sensors expected in the third quarter of 2026.

In addition, following the installation of the new AWS at Maafaru and the upgrading of the four existing stations, the selected contractor will be required to deliver hands-on operational training for MMS staff. The training will cover calibration, diagnostics, troubleshooting, and routine maintenance, supporting the transfer of practical knowledge and strengthening the capacity of national staff to manage station operations independently. Together, these measures support national ownership and contribute to the long-term operational sustainability of GBON-compliant observation infrastructure.

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.	Difficult to achieve 50 % as most of the technical posts in MMS are male dominated. The target for female participation across SOFF-related activities in Maldives 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						On-track	High-level dialogue on the benefits, co-production, and ownership of the national GBON infrastructure and stakeholder engagement workshops, tentatively schedule for 2 nd week of February 2026 in Male.		
	# of high-level events held	1				1						On-track			
	# of gender workshops held		1	1								On-track	Gender workshop is tentatively scheduled for the 2 nd week of February 2026 to take place in connection with the high-level dialogue. MMS, UNEP, and FMI are jointly		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
														coordinating technical inputs and logistical arrangements for the gender workshop	
	% female participation in the stakeholder workshops		50	50									Not yet started		
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	Years in which the organizational strategy will be drafted		X	X	X								On-track	MMS continued preparatory engagement with partners on the development of the Organizational Strategy and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Following internal consultations and discussions with partners, MMS confirmed its decision to engage a national consultant to prepare both deliverables.	
	Years in which gender policy will be drafted			X	X								Not yet started	Gender Policy is expected to be initiated in the first quarter of 2026. The policy will draw on the outcomes of the forthcoming gender workshop and will be aligned with relevant global guidance as well as national-level priorities, supporting the systematic integration of gender considerations into MMS institutional policies and practices.	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
	Years in which stakeholder engagement plan will be drafted		X										On-track	MMS continued preparatory engagement with partners on the development of the Organizational Strategy and the Stakeholder Engagement Plan. Following internal consultations and discussions with partners, MMS confirmed its decision to engage a national consultant to prepare both deliverables.	
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of staff salaries paid	9	9	9	9	9		12					On-track	Six part-time staff from MMS were appointed on 21 July 2025, and the Project Manager was appointed on 3 August 2025. Together, these positions constitute the core PMU. In addition, Three staff were recruited on 17 August 2025, and the interview process for two ICT positions was completed, with the selected candidates scheduled to take up their functions in October 2025.	
	Years in which trainings will be conducted	X	X	X	X	X	1	2					On-track	A refresher training programme was conducted by RIMES in November 2024 as previously reported. RIMES delivered the SOFF capacity-building	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													<p>programme in Hulhulé, Maldives, from 13–24 July 2025. A total of 21 participants attended, of whom 29 percent were female.</p> <p>Moreover, staff from MMS participated in a customized basic observation course in meteorology conducted by the Meteorological Training Institute of the India Meteorological Department in Pune from 27 October to 1 November 2025.</p> <p>As part of cross-cutting capacity-building under the SOFF portfolio, a five-day procurement workshop was conducted at the RIMES headquarters in Bangkok from 13 to 17 October 2025.</p>	
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	The Request for Proposals for the supply, installation, and integration of AWS equipment and related data systems was published on 23 December 2025. The scope includes one new AWS covering temperature, humidity,	
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		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
														atmospheric pressure, precipitation, and wind sensors, instrument masts, data loggers, and solar power systems, as well as the installation and upgrading of sensors and data loggers at four existing surface weather stations. The deadline for proposal submission is 26 January 2026, with delivery of equipment expected in the second quarter of 2026.	
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		
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									On-track		
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	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan		5	5	5	5							On-track	procurement preparations are ongoing for a bundled package developed by RIMES and approved by UNEP, which includes	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
verified by WMO Technical Authority															
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	provisions for spare sensors covering temperature, humidity, atmospheric pressure, and wind. The delivery of spare sensors expected in the third quarter of 2026.		

Attachments:

[Maldives Semi-Annual Report July 2025](#)