Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Investment Phase:
Progress update

Rwanda
January 2026

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience

General Information

Country	**Rwanda**	
Implementing Entity	**United Nations Development Programme**	
Agreement effectiveness date	1 January 2024	
Duration	48	
Anticipated end date	1 January 2028	
Reporting period	**From:** 1 July 2025	**To:** 31 December 2025
Approved amount	3,107,377.37 USD	
Disbursed amount	2,330,533.03 USD	

Summary

During the reporting period, the Rwanda SOFF project achieved notable progress in strengthening GBON-compliant meteorological observations. Institutional coordination was reinforced through stakeholder engagement, while the technical capacity of METEO RWANDA in meteorological station's maintenance and data management was enhanced through hands-on training of 13 staff. Three land-based weather stations were successfully upgraded, increasing the number of GBON-compliant stations from one to four and enabling regular hourly data sharing through WIS2.0. Preparatory works for Rwanda's first upper-air station were completed, including site designs, construction of the autosonde platform and hydrogen generator house, and installation of essential utilities. All upper-air equipment has been delivered to site, with installation scheduled to begin in January 2026.

Implementation experienced delays due to the upper air site preparations, resulting in postponed installation, commissioning, and some capacity-building activities that can only be completed once the station is operational. The next implementation period (Jan-Jun 2026) will focus on completing installation and commissioning, as well as finalizing the postponed capacity strengthening training. The continuous stakeholder coordination, and targeted capacity development will be key to maintaining momentum and ensuring long-term sustainability and global data exchange.

It was learnt that early and sustained stakeholder coordination is essential to mitigate delays associated with complex site preparations and infrastructure-dependent activities. Realistic scheduling and early risk assessment are critical for upper-air station implementation. Combining phased infrastructure upgrades with targeted capacity building delivers quick, tangible results in GBON compliance and data exchange.

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 consultation workshops	1			1		1					On-track	Not planned for this reporting period. Two consultation workshops are targeted over the course of this project. One consultation workshop was held in the first year of the project, while the second is planned in the last year of the project.	
	% female participants in the workshops	50			50		60					On-track	Not planned for this reporting period	
	# of high-level dialogues organised	1			1							Delayed	The SOFF project in Rwanda was launched during the World Environment Day in 2024. The first dialogue was supposed to take place in the first year, while the second is scheduled for the project's final year. As reported previously, this was scheduled to take place in the last quarter of 2025 to be able to showcase the acquired equipment for the upper air station, however, due to delays in installation, the dialogue is now planned in the 2nd quarter (April-June 2026). This will	Delays in installation of the upper air station has put on hold the high-level dialogue, as the project steering committee recommended organizing it once the newly acquired upper-air station is delivered, installed, and fully operational.

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													enable stakeholders to directly witness the station's capabilities in action. The approach is expected to increase the visibility of project outcomes, strengthen stakeholder engagement, and showcase the tangible impact of the investment on global and Rwanda's meteorological observation capacity.	
1.2 **NMHS institutional capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	# of updated processes				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of people trained	3										Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# gender assessment conducted	1										Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# gender workshop organized			1								Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
1.3 **NMHS human capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	# of developed observation process				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of documents (SOPs or roadmaps) updated or developed				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
	# of Meteo Rwanda staff members participated in the training on operation and		4	4								Delayed	The hands-on training was delayed due to the postponed installation of the upper-air station, which is now underway.	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	maintenance of upper-air station												The training will follow in January 2026.	
	% of female Meteo Rwanda staff participants in the training		50	50								Delayed	The hands-on training was delayed due to the postponed installation of the upper-air station, which is now underway. The training will follow in January 2026.	
	# of IT technician trained			4								Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
	# of forecasters trained			12								Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
	# data analysts trained			9								Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
	# of staff trained on maintenance and calibration of land surface stations		4					13				Achieved	13 staff acquired skills on installation and maintenance of new installed sensors and data loggers, as well as the data quality assurance.	
	% of female participants in the training		50					30				On-track	30% of staff trained were female	The target was not fully met, as female representation in observation and maintenance roles remains below 50% of the total staff.
2. GBON infrastructure in place														
2.1 **New land-based stations** and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A										Select an item	Not planned for this project	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
and standard operating practices in place														
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		3					3				Achieved	Three land-based stations were upgraded with new sensors and data loggers. With support from WMO, the stations were integrated into WIS2 and are now sharing data internationally.	The WIS2 node for Rwanda is currently hosted by the WMO WIS Division through the European Weather Cloud. Meteo Rwanda plans to establish a local node during the installation of the upper-air station, scheduled for January 2026.
	# standard operating practices updated				1							Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
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		1									Delayed	The necessary site preparations have been completed. The upper air station's equipment has been supplied, and the installation will start from January 2026.	The tendering process to hire a local contractor to undertake the required civil works at the site took longer than anticipated, resulting in delays to the installation schedule.
	# standard operating practices updated				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by WMO/Peer Advisor	
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	N/A										Select an item	Not planned in the project	
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														
3.1 **GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed**, country-	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A										Select an item	Not planned in this project	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	# land-based stations maintained, calibrated and transmitting data to GTS			3	3							Not yet started	Not planned for this reporting period	
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	N/A										Not yet started		