Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Investment Phase:
Progress update

Uganda
January 2026

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

Weather and climate data for resilience

General Information

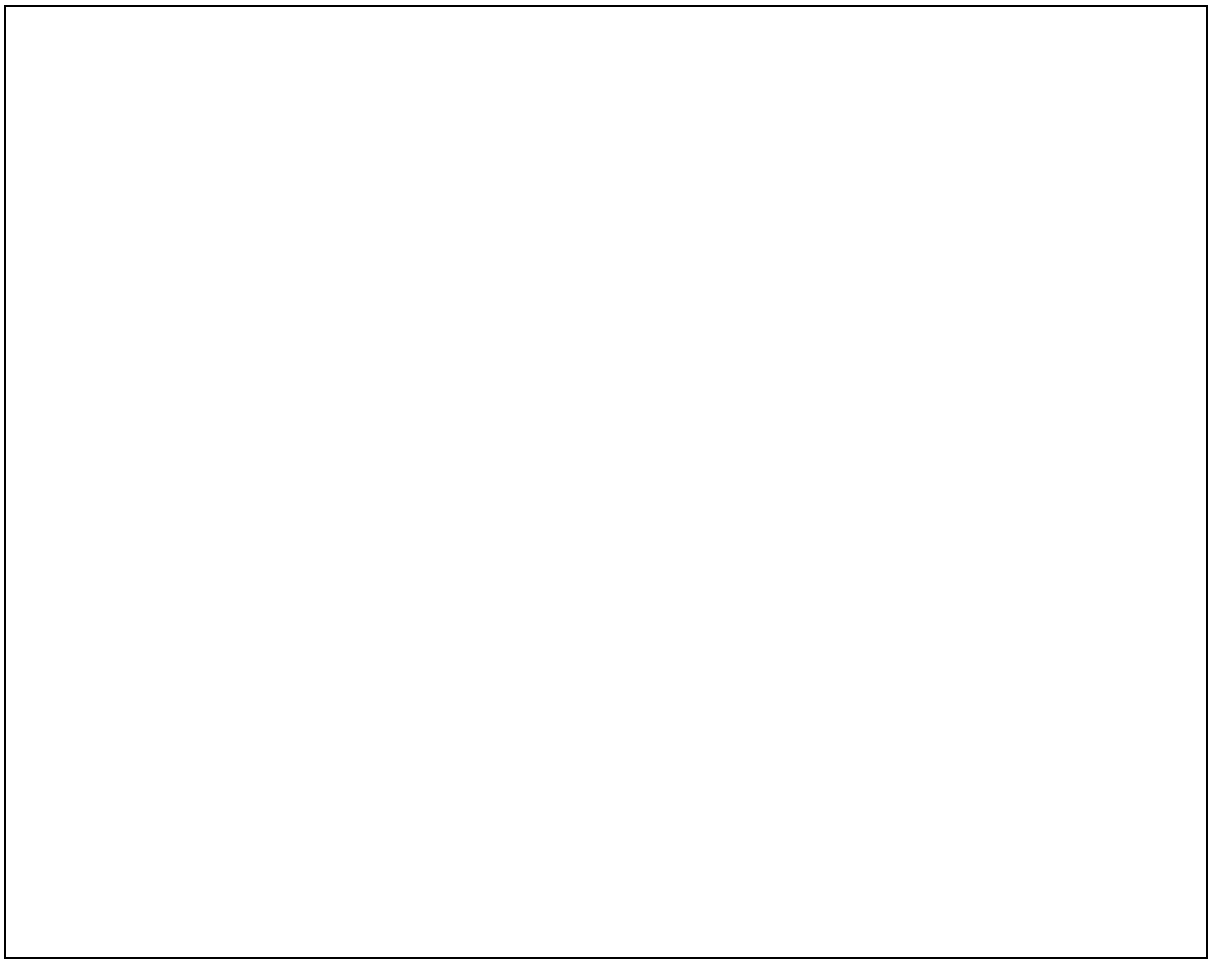
Country	Uganda	
Implementing Entity	IsDB - Islamic Development Bank	
Agreement effectiveness date	24 December 2024	
Duration	48	
Anticipated end date	**24 December 2028**	
Reporting period	**From:** 01 July 2025	**To:** 31 December 2025
Approved amount	ISDB $5,760,136.24 WMO $556,400.00	
Disbursed amount	USD 0	

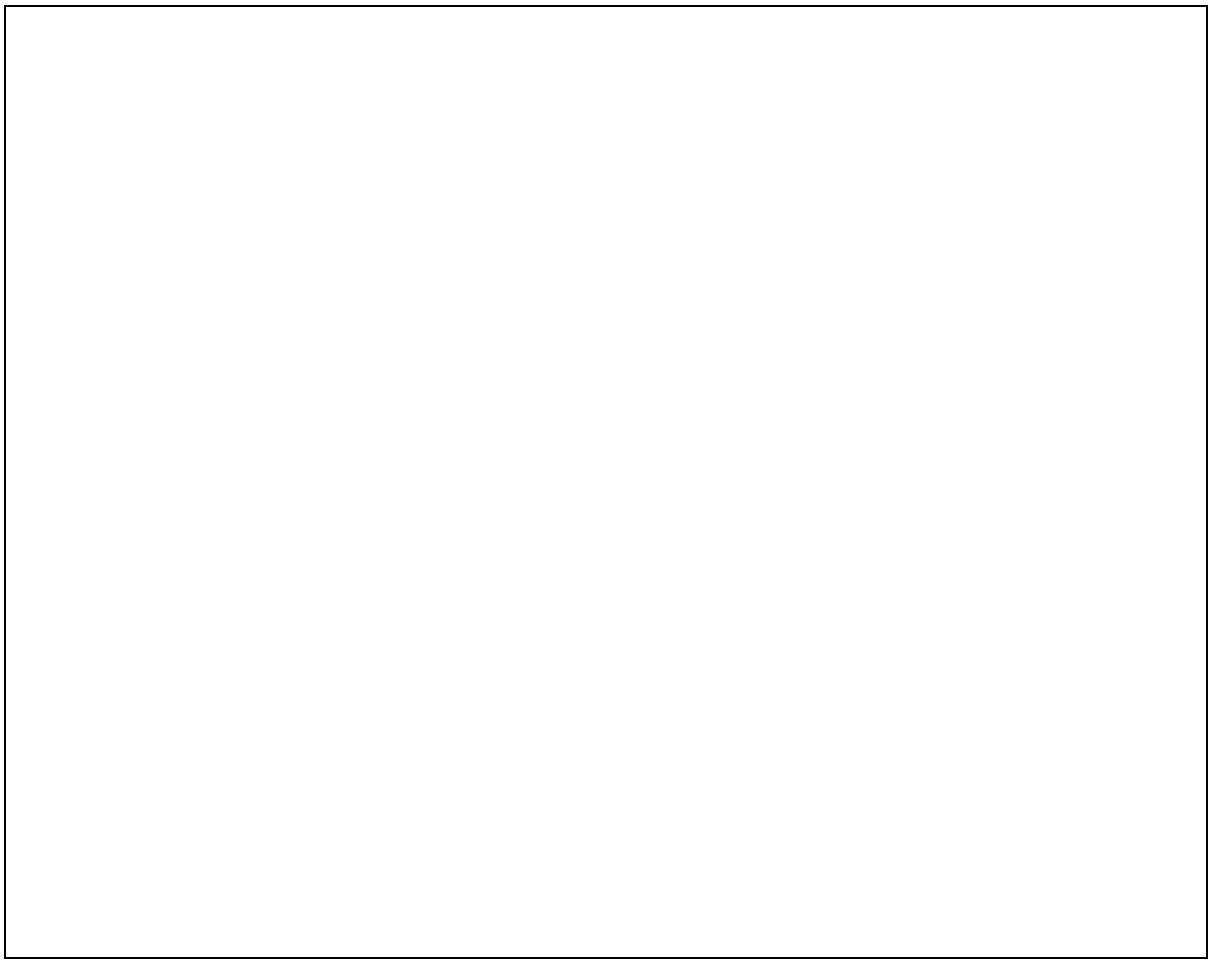
Summary

The IsDB approved the SOFF project on **14 April 2025** and shared the financing agreement with the **Uganda Ministry of Finance on 30 September 2025**. The Kampala Hub participated in interviews for the **PMU Procurement Specialist and Accountant** positions on **9 July 2025**. Additionally, the IsDB issued its **no-objection to the draft PMU contracts on 2 December 2025**.

Expected progress/Next steps for 2026:

- **launch of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Grant: 30 January 2026 in the presence of IsDB Regional Hub Manager, Permanent Secretary of Ministry of Water and Environment and KNMI (online):**
    - Annex 1: SOFF Launching – Photos
    - Annex 2: SOFF Launching – Regional Hub of Kampala Manager Speech
    - Annex 3: SOFF Launching – Press releases
- **Training session and Procurement and Disbursement and onboarding of the SOFF Project Management Unit (PMU) – 05 February 2026**
- **Procurement (Expected end of February 2026)**
    - PMU to Prepare the **General Procurement Notice (GPN)**
    - Revise the **Procurement Plan**
    - Link to the **IsDB procurement template:** https://www.isdb.org/project-procurement/documents
- **Disbursement (USD 500,000 expected 19 February 2026)**
    - Prepare the **expenditures forecast** for the next 6 months
    - In coordination with the procurement team, collect any **proof of progress** regarding the recruitment of the financial audit firm
    - Use these documents (progress proof + forecast) to submit the **first disbursement request**
    - Link to the **IsDB disbursement guidelines:** https://www.isdb.org/disbursement
- **Next Meeting:** Scheduled for **12 February 2026 at 10:00 AM** at the **IsDB Hub Office to monitor progress.**





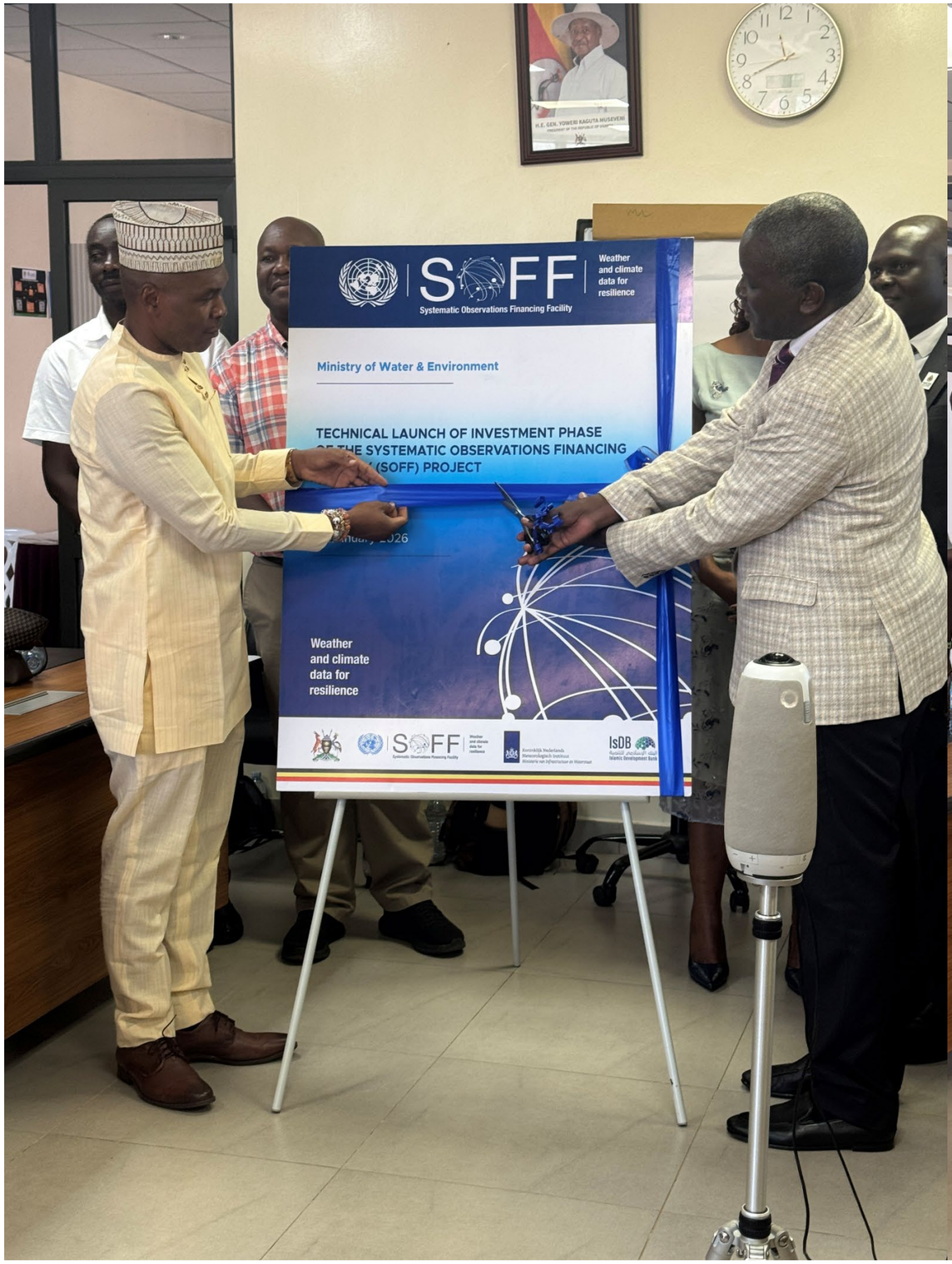
Progress of implementation

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	Five (5) Workshops	2 (launch internal/external)	1 (gender)	1 (stakeholder)	1 (gender)							Not yet started		
	% of female participants in the workshop											Not yet started		
	Add indicator as per approved funding request											Not yet started		
1.2 **NMHS institutional capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Develop training		1 course	1 course								Not yet started		
	Staff (12) + PMU		6+ PMU	8+PMU	10+PMU							Not yet started		
	Regional communication			1 Visit								Not yet started		
	Data flow monitoring			installed								Not yet started		
1.3 **NMHS human capacity** required to operate the GBON network developed	Station operation/maintenance training		1 training									Not yet started		
	Sensor maintenance training		Training Climsoft	1 training								Not yet started		
	Software upgrade and training (WIS2)				1 training							Not yet started		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	Re-tooling data management		Update oscar	WIS2+training QA/QC	Homogenization									
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	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A						Not yet started		
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	6							Not yet started		
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							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								Not yet started		
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
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		3	7	9							Not yet started		
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	2							Not yet started		

Annex 1: SOFF Launching – Photos


Ministry of Water & Environment
TECHNICAL LAUNCH OF INVESTMENT PHASE
(SOFF) PROJECT
Weather
and climate
data for
resilience


Ministry of Water & Environment
TECHNICAL LAUNCH OF INVESTMENT PHASE
OF THE SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATIONS FINANCING
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Annex 2: SOFF Launching – Regional Hub of Kampala Manager Speech

Islamic Development Bank
Banque Islamique de Développement

البنك الإسلامي للتنمية

Friday, 30 January 2026

Dr. Issahaq Umar Iddrisu

Regional Hub Manager

Regional Hub of Kampala-Uganda

Honourable Commissioner, distinguished colleagues from the Ministry of Water and Environment, representatives of the Department of Meteorology, the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute (KNMI), development partners, ladies and gentlemen:

Good morning.

It is a pleasure and honour to join you for the launch of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Grant Project. Today marks an important step in Uganda's commitment to strengthening weather and climate resilience.

As we meet here, I am reminded of a well-known Ugandan saying: **"small trees lean on older ones to grow."**

This proverb captures the spirit of today's event: collaboration, mentorship, and partnership. Through SOFF, Uganda is strengthening its foundations by building on global expertise while nurturing national capacity for generations to come.

This grant project, funded through the WMO-led SOFF Multi-Partner Trust Fund and implemented by the Islamic Development Bank, represents an investment of **USD 6.316 million** to upgrade Uganda's meteorological observation systems and build institutional and human capacity.

Protected

Islamic Development Bank
Banque Islamique de Développement

البنك الإسلامي للتنمية

Why this project matters

Uganda—like much of East Africa—is increasingly affected by extreme weather events, including droughts, floods, and storms, which impact agriculture, water resources, health, transport, and national planning. Enhancing accurate, reliable, and timely weather data is not a luxury; it is a necessity for saving lives, protecting livelihoods, and strengthening the economy.

In a country where **rainfall patterns guide planting seasons**, fishing on **Lake Victoria** depends on safe navigation, and remote communities rely on early warnings to protect their homes, this project responds to real, daily needs of Ugandans.

The SOFF project directly addresses these needs.

What the project will deliver

First, capacity building:

The project will provide training for more than a dozen technical staff, enhance institutional systems, and support national consultations and stakeholder engagement, including with CSOs.

Second, modern infrastructure:

Uganda will rehabilitate and upgrade nine automatic weather stations, establish a new upper-air station, and modernize the existing one at Entebbe, supported by new ICT systems, calibration equipment, and data management tools. These investments will significantly improve Uganda's ability to produce and share high-quality observations.

Third, long-term GBON compliance:

The project ensures that Uganda meets the Global Basic Observing Network requirements, including data sharing with the WMO Technical Authority. This is vital for regional and global forecasting.

Islamic Development Bank
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البنك الإسلامي للتنمية

Our collective responsibility

The Ministry of Water and Environment serves as the Executing Agency, and the Department of Meteorology will implement day-to-day activities. The Islamic Development Bank will provide close technical guidance, procurement oversight, and supervision to ensure full compliance and timely delivery.

Success will depend on strong cooperation, timely procurement, effective staffing, and continuous engagement with stakeholders.

As another Ugandan proverb reminds us,

"One succeeds at their task when supported by others."

Let us carry this spirit into the implementation phase.

Closing

Honourable Commissioner, ladies and gentlemen,

This project has the potential to transform Uganda's early warning capabilities, strengthen climate resilience, and improve decision-making across sectors. This project also goes beyond Uganda and will benefit the world. The Islamic Development Bank is committed to working hand in hand with you to deliver these results.

We look forward to a smooth and impactful implementation journey—and to celebrating the milestones ahead together.

Thank you.

Economy

Uganda secures $6.3m grant to modernize weather infrastructure

GEOFREY SERUGO

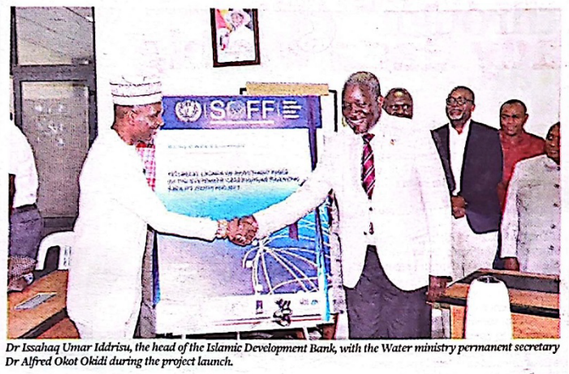
The Department of Meteorological Services (DMS) is set for a major technological improvement following the technical launch of the Systematic Observation Financing Facility (SOFF) project.

The four-year initiative, backed by a $6.3 million (approx. Shs 23.5 billion) grant from the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF), managed through the SOFF Secretariat, is hosted by the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO). The SOFF project funds, provided through Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), aims to fix critical gaps in Uganda's weather monitoring network to ensure compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). It will also ensure that the country's weather data meet international data-sharing standards.

Speaking at the technical launch held at the Ministry of Water and Environment headquarters in Luzira, Kampala, on January 30, Dr Bob Alex Ogwang, the Commissioner for the Department of Meteorological Services, emphasized that the project is a foundational step toward protecting lives through precision forecasting.

A significant portion of the project is dedicated to capacity building. Dr Ogwang highlighted that DMS staff will undergo intensive training in software engineering, station maintenance, and "nowcasting"—the ability to provide highly localized, short-term weather warnings.

This ensures that the technology remains functional long after the initial four-year investment phase ends, providing Ugandans with more accurate and timely alerts for extreme weather events.



Dr Issahaq Umar Iddrisu, the head of the Islamic Development Bank, with the Water ministry permanent secretary Dr Alfred Okot Okidi during the project launch.

FROM PLANNING TO ACTION

Speaking on behalf of the minister of State for Environment (MWE), Beatrice Anywar, the permanent secretary Dr Alfred Okot Okidi declared that the project marks a transition from "planning to action."

"The onset and cessation of seasonal rainfall have changed; temperatures are gradually rising in all regions of the country," Dr Okidi noted. "These changes have resulted in devastating impacts, including loss of lives and destruction of infrastructure.

"The SOFF project is designed to bridge the gap in weather data collection, which remains uneven across the country. According to experts, the current limitations in weather observation coverage have long constrained the accuracy of forecasts for hazardous events.

A GLOBAL COLLABORATION

The project is a result of a strategic partnership between MWE, KNMI, and IsDB.

Dr Okidi lauded the IsDB as the implementing entity and the KNMI for its role as a peer advisor. He also credited the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) for its leadership in the global SOFF initiative.

"This will ensure that every Ugandan is protected by an early warning system that ensures prompt and early actions," Dr Okidi said.

The head of the Islamic Development Bank and the visiting delegation's head, Dr Issahaq Umar Iddrisu, hailed Uganda's environment being the pillar for regional development.

"The Bank selected Uganda because of her favourable environment for investments and development," Dr Issahaq Umar Iddrisu said, adding that the Bank continues to support Uganda in her journey to achieve Vision 2040.

As the technical launch concluded, officials emphasized that the success of the project would depend on continued collaboration between all the partners to ensure the sustainability of these high-tech systems.

16 DISTRICTS CHOSEN ARE 200KM AWAY FROM ENTEBBE FORECASTING CENTRE

UGANDA GETS SH22B TO INSTALL WEATHER STATIONS IN DISTRICTS

By Juliet Kasirye

Uganda has received a $6.4m (sh22.82b) grant from the World Meteorological Organisation to install new and upgrade weather stations in 16 districts.

These global basic observing networks will be installed in Arua, Gulu, Lira, Kitgum, Kotido, Soroti, Masindi, Tororo, Jinja, Makerere, Entebbe, Mbarara, Mubende, Kamuli, Kasese and Kabale.

The assistant commissioner for meteorological services at the Ministry of Water and Environment, Milton Michael Waiswa, said the districts were chosen because they have existing stations, which need to be upgraded, and are also 200km away from the forecasting centre in Entebbe.

"We are embracing automatic weather stations because they can log and produce data hourly or more frequently on a 24/7 basis without human intervention. Currently, we have manual weather stations which require people to record data every hour," he said.

"The current stations use mobile phones to communicate, but since this is an international station, we are going to add to it a communication tool whereby what the station has recorded reaches the global centre straightaway."

An automatic weather station is a meteorological station that automatically records, measures and transmits data including wind, humidity, temperature and rainfall without human intervention.

Waiswa said there are only 211 weather stations across the country. But to provide real time data, he said Uganda needs about 500 weather stations, and each district should have at least three automatic weather stations.

He made the remarks during the launch of the systematic observations financing facility (SOFF) project at the environment ministry headquarters in Kampala on Friday.

The four-year project is expected to enhance weather monitoring capabilities in compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network.

Metrologists say this will be achieved through the installation of automatic weather stations, establishment and rehabilitation of upper air stations and capacity building at different levels among others.

TEMPERATURE CHANGES

Addressing stakeholders, the permanent secretary at the water ministry, Dr Alfred Okidi, said in the recent years, they have noted a profound change in Uganda's weather patterns.

"The onset and cessation of seasonal rainfall have changed; temperatures are gradually rising in all regions of the country. The extreme weather-related occurrences such as floods, drought and landslides are on the rise in terms of frequency and intensity, and these have always resulted in devastating impacts such as loss of lives and livelihoods, and destruction of infrastructure," he said.

Okidi said although early warning services, these observations remain unevenly distributed across Uganda.

"This project will contribute to the implementation of the Early Warnings for All initiative in Uganda, as well as the implementation of the developed National Framework for Weather and Climate Services. This will ensure that every Ugandan is protected by an early warning system that ensures prompt and early actions," Okidi emphasised.

"For instance, these days, you find it is raining in Bunga, but there is no rain in Kikubamutwe and Kyambogo. With these kinds of weather stations, we shall be able to provide more accurate data, avail localised weather information and improve forecasting for specific areas."

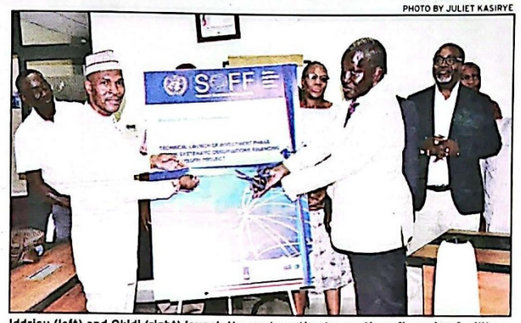
Okidi lauded the Royal Netherlands Meteorological Institute and the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), which enabled Uganda to get the grant.

Through the SOFF project, the commissioner in the department of meteorological services, Dr Bob Alex Ogwang, said: "We shall have two functional upper air stations. So far, we have only one at Entebbe Airport VVIP section, which will be revamped, and another one is expected to be in northern Uganda, either in Lira, Gulu or Kitgum. Data will be collected from everywhere, taken to a global centre and ingested in global models which most of the countries use as input into their local models."

To have accurate forecasts, he emphasised the need to progressively increase the number of observation points across the country to capture timely variations in the weather.

The regional hub manager at IsDB, Dr Issahaq Umar Iddrisu, said the project marks an important step in Uganda's commitment to strengthening weather and climate resilience.

PHOTO BY JULIET KASIRYE



Iddrisu (left) and Okidi (right) launch the systematic observations financing facility (SOFF) project at the water ministry headquarters in Luzira, Kampala, recently

BETWEEN THE LINES

The four-year project is expected to enhance weather monitoring capabilities in compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network.