



Thirteenth Steering Committee
18 February 2026

SOFF Investment Funding Requests

Decision 13.3

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Decision 13.3: SOFF Investment Funding Requests

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls

- [Decision 6.3](#) and [Decision 8.4.1](#) that approved and conditionally approved the South Sudan and Madagascar Investment funding request with African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Implementing Entity.
- [Decision 9.7](#) which offered Madagascar and South Sudan the option to change their Implementing Entity, given the delays of the African Development Bank in signing its legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, and to resubmit their Investment funding requests.

Notes

- That through [Decision 10.2](#) Madagascar's revised funding request was approved,
- That South Sudan has changed its Implementing Entity to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) and has submitted a revised funding request as summarized in section 1.

Approves the revised Investment funding request from South Sudan with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as Implementing Entity for a total budget of USD 2,079,598.80

Requests

- The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the funding to the recipient organization in tranches according to the schedule stipulated in the funding request ProDoc:
 - Food and Agriculture Organization: USD 1,851,750.00
 - World Meteorological Organization: USD 227,848.80 (inclusive of 7% fee for WMO)
- WMO to issue the Assignment Agreement with GeoSphere, Austria as the peer advisor for South Sudan as per the terms of reference annexed in the funding request, and to disburse the funds accordingly.

The SOFF Steering Committee

Recalls [Decision 11.6](#) which adopts an approach to managing SOFF country funding requests including the establishment of a pipeline for Investment funding requests.

Notes

- The nine countries in the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline, namely Zambia, Cuba, Bangladesh, Guyana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Sao Tome and Principe, Dominican Republic, Suriname, Antigua and Barbuda (in this order) as publicly available on the [SOFF website](#),
- That the current financial situation of the fund as presented in INF 13.1 allows for the approval of five Investment funding requests in the pipeline.

Approves the Investment funding requests for a total amount of USD 19,497,376.21:

- Zambia with a total budget of USD 3,627,539.58
- Cuba with a total budget of USD 6,523,639.06
- Bangladesh with a total budget of USD 4,954,865.05
- Guyana with a total budget of USD 1,931,350.00
- Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) with a total budget of USD 2,459,982.52

Requests

- The UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office to disburse the funding to the recipient organization in tranches according to the schedule stipulated in the Investment funding request ProDocs and as outlined in the table below:

Country	Implementing Entity (IE)	IE Amount (USD)	Peer Advisor	WMO Amount (USD) (Peer Advisor fee and WMO 7% fee)
Zambia	World Food Programme	3,189,755.50	UK	437,784.08
Cuba	United Nations Development Bank	6,096,858.93	Spain	426,780.13
Bangladesh	Islamic Development Bank	4,438,055.05	Norway-China	516,810.00
Guyana	Inter-American Development Bank	1,802,950.00	Austria	128,400.00
Democratic Republic of Congo	World Food Programme	1,914,282.52	Switzerland	545,700.00

- WMO to issue Assignment Agreements with: Met Office, United Kingdom as the peer advisor for Zambia; AEMET, Spain as peer advisor for Cuba; MET Norway as peer advisor for Bangladesh; GeoSphere, Austria as peer advisor for Guyana; Meteo Swiss as peer advisor for Democratic Republic of Congo, as per the terms of reference annexed in the funding requests, and to disburse the funds accordingly.

The SOFF Steering Committee

Acknowledges the two newly submitted and reviewed Investment funding requests from Cambodia and Haiti for consideration by the 13th Steering Committee

Decides to include the new Investment funding requests in the Investment funding pipeline, to follow after the remaining Investment funding requests in the [pipeline](#), in the following order: Cambodia and Haiti. The Steering Committee will further consider the funding requests when resources are available.

Purpose of this Document

This document provides an update on SOFF Investment Phase funding requests. It covers the status of the revised South Sudan Investment funding request, proposes approval of five countries currently in the SOFF Investment phase pipeline and introduces a new batch of requests for inclusion in the Investment Phase pipeline.

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SOFF Investment Funding Requests

1. Revised South Sudan Investment funding request

1.1. Context

The sixth Steering Committee approved the South Sudan Investment funding request through [Decision 6.3](#) with the African Development Bank (AfDB) as the Implementing Entity. Due to delays of the AfDB in finalizing its legal agreement with the UNMPTF Office, [Decision 9.7](#), granted South Sudan the option to change its Implementing Entity and resubmit the Investment funding request for Steering Committee consideration. Subsequently, in February 2025, the Permanent Representative of South Sudan to the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) formally requested the replacement of AfDB with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) as the new Implementing Entity. A copy of the letter is available in Annex I.

Following this request from the country, [Decision 11.8](#) adopted FAO as SOFF Implementing Entity.

1.2. Revised funding request

With FAO as the new Implementing Entity, South Sudan submitted a revised funding request. The revision is based on a targeted review of the [GBON National Contribution Plan](#), undertaken to reflect recent developments in the country, including significant infrastructure investments made under the FAO- implemented ¹BRFONS project.

By leveraging these existing investments, the revised request aligns SOFF support, resulting in a budget reduction of USD 400,897.2. SOFF resources are refocused on ensuring the long-term sustainability of these investments by upgrading stations installed under BRFONS to GBON standards, supporting operation and maintenance, and strengthening the national human and institutional capacity. This approach demonstrates the Implementing Entity's ability to leverage their own investments with SOFF, improving cost-effectiveness, and enhancing the long-term sustainability of South Sudan's GBON network.

¹ Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security (BRFONS).

Table 1: Comparison of GBON National Contribution Plan Targets (2023 and 2025) against the WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis Baseline (June 2023)

Station type	Baseline WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis 2023			Target National Contribution Plan (2023)		Target Updated ² National Contribution Plan (2025)	
	Targets	Gap New	Gap Improve	Gap New	Gap Improve	Gap New	Gap Improve
Land-surface	16	11	5	11	5	0	16
Upper-air	3	3	0	3	0	3	0

The main revisions in the funding request are listed below:

The GBON targets remain unchanged i.e. 16 surface stations and 3 upper-air stations

- **The initial funding request** proposed a phased approach covering 10 surface stations, financed by both SOFF and BREFONS (with SOFF supporting their operations and maintenance). Additional surface stations were planned for later phases including the upper air station which was subject to the outcome of a feasibility study.
- **The revised funding request** proposes to implement all 16 surface stations in the current phase. All 16 are financed by BREFONS. SOFF investments will not finance new Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) but instead focus on sustaining operations once BREFONS ends. However, five³ new manual stations will be installed by SOFF that will serve as back-up systems for the AWS stations. This ensures continued data-sharing. The upper-air stations remain planned for later phases, pending the results of the feasibility study and implementation experience of the first phase of SOFF investment support.

² The GBON National Contribution Plan (NCP) for South Sudan was approved by the WMO Technical Authority in 2023. However, due to change in the Implementing Entity (IE) for South Sudan, a targeted update of the [NCP](#) was conducted by the Peer Advisors, GeoSphere Austria, to reflect new investments in the country.

³ A sixth manual station will be installed at a local university to support capacity development as recommended in South Sudan's GBON National Contribution Plan - approved by the WMO Technical Authority.

Table 2: Comparison of the budget request between the initially approved Investment Phase funding request with AfDB and the revised funding request with FAO. Budget in US Dollars.

	Initial funding request with AfDB	Revised funding request with FAO
Activities budget	2,024,258	1,730,607.48
Implementing Entity fee (7%)	143,798.00	121,142.52
Peer advisor fee (inclusive of 7% WMO indirect support cost)	312,440.00	227,848.80
Total	\$2'480'496.00	\$2'079'598.80

The revised and original funding requests for South Sudan are available through the links below:

- Revised funding request submitted by FAO: <https://un-soff.org/document/south-sudan-investment-funding-request-version-2/>
- Original funding request submitted by AfDB: [South Sudan SOFF Investment Phase Funding Request \(Version 1\) - Systematic Observations Financing Facility %](#)

2. Investment funding requests proposed to advance from pipeline to approval

Following the adoption of an approach to managing SOFF country funding requests, including the establishment of an Investment funding request pipeline through [Decision 11.6](#), nine countries were placed in the [SOFF Investment Phase pipeline](#) through [Decision 11.9](#) and [Decision 12.2](#). In light of additional funding availability, as outlined in INF 13.1, five countries from the pipeline are proposed for approval by the 13th Steering Committee. These five countries are listed in **Table 3** below. Detailed information on these funding requests is available in [INF 11.4](#). The remaining countries in the pipeline will be considered once additional funding becomes available.

The funding requests for Zambia, Cuba, Bangladesh and Guyana remain unchanged. For the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) the implementation period has been extended from the initial 36 months to 42 months to allow more time for successful

implementation. However, the updated time period has no implications on the total budget.

Table 3: Investment funding requests proposed to advance from pipeline to approval.

Batch	Order	Country	IE ⁴	Peer advisor	Duration (months)	Total budget (USD)
10SC	1	Zambia (phased)	WFP	UK	60	3,627,539.58
	2	Cuba	UNDP	Spain	60	6,523,639.06
	3	Bangladesh	IsDB	Norway–China	60	4,954,865.05
11SC	4	Guyana	IDB	Austria	36	1,931,350.00
	5	Democratic Republic of the Congo (phased)	WFP	Switzerland	42	2,459,982.52
Total						19,497,376.21

3. Updated Investment phase pipeline

Out of the nine countries in the SOFF Investment pipeline, 5 countries are proposed for approval by the 13th Steering Committee. Based on the decision, funding requests will be moved up the pipeline. Additionally, two new Investment funding requests are presented to 13th Steering Committee for consideration. Details are summarized in Annex II. **Table 4** presents the updated pipeline of Investment funding requests including the two new funding requests proposed for the pipeline.

SOFF Investment Phase pipeline is publicly available on the [SOFF website](#).

⁴ Abbreviations: IE = Implementing Entity; IDB = Inter-American Development Bank; IsDB = Islamic Development Bank; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; WFP = World Food Programme; UK = United Kingdom

Table 4: Updated [Investment Phase pipeline](#) including the proposed new batch of funding requests.

Batch	Order	Country	IE ⁵	Peer advisor	Duration (months)	Total budget requested (USD)
11 SC	1	São Tomé and Príncipe	UNDP	Netherlands	60	2,907,084.07
12 SC	2	Dominican Republic	WFP	Spain	36	1,281,021.62
	3	Suriname	UNDP	Netherlands	48	2,666,810.60
	4	Antigua and Barbuda	UNDP	UK	36	1,240,174.94
13 SC	5	Cambodia	IFAD	UK	60	4,265,984.07
	6	Haiti	IDB	Switzerland	36	1,774,060.00
Total						14,135,135.30

⁵ Abbreviations: IE = Implementing Entity; IDB = Inter-American Development Bank; IsDB = Islamic Development Bank; UNDP = United Nations Development Programme; WFP = World Food Programme; UK = United Kingdom; WB = World Bank; IFAD = International Fund for Agriculture Development.

Annex I: Letter from the WMO Permanent Representative of South Sudan



Office of the Director General for Meteorology

Date: 11/02/2025

Ref: SSCAA/DM/21/2025

Director,
Systematic Observations Financing Facility(SOFF)
Secretariat, World Meteorological Organization(WMO),
Geneva, Switzerland.

Subject: WFP's Confirmation of Position on SSMS request to be an Implementing Entity for SOFF in South Sudan

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Ag/Director General for South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority(SSCAA), I am pleased to inform your honour that the World Food Programme (WFP), in South Sudan has informed us by email yesterday, that it will not be able to be an Implementing Entity for SOFF project.

On the other hand, I would like to inform your esteemed office that the United Nations Organization for Food and Agriculture (FAO) has started providing training to the Staff of South Sudan Meteorological Service, locally and at ICPAC. In addition to FAO assistance to SSMS, it is mentioned in the SOFF project document that some stations will be purchased by BREFONS project but will be maintained and operated by SOFF shows a significant collaboration between WMO and FAO.

In this regards, we would like to request FAO to replace the AfDB as the implementing entity for SOFF in South Sudan.

Yours Sincerely,

Mojwok Ogawi Modo,
Director of Meteorology,
PR of South Sudan with WMO,
South Sudan Meteorological Service in
South Sudan Civil Aviation Authority
Juba. South Sudan.

Cc: Hon. Director General for SSCAA
Cc: File



Annex II: Updated Investment phase pipeline and prioritization of funding requests

1. Investment phase pipeline and GBON gap

Table 5 presents the overall status of the SOFF Investment phase pipeline, including the five pipeline funding requests proposed for approval, four remaining in the pipeline and the two new requests proposed for inclusion at the 13th Steering Committee, namely, Cambodia and Haiti. These submissions are grouped and prioritized based on the agreed prioritization criteria, in line with [Decision 11.6](#).

Table 5: Status of the SOFF Investment phase pipeline, including the two new funding requests proposed for inclusion at the 13th Steering Committee.

Batch	Order	Country	IE	Peer advisor	Status
10SC	1	Zambia (phased)	WFP	UK	Proposed for approval
	2	Cuba	UNDP	Spain	
	3	Bangladesh	IsDB	Norway–China	
11SC	4	Guyana	IDB	Austria	
	5	Democratic Republic of the Congo (phased)	WFP	Switzerland	
	6	São Tomé and Príncipe	UNDP	Netherlands	SOFF Investment phase pipeline
12 SC	7	Dominican Republic	WFP	Spain	
	8	Suriname	UNDP	Netherlands	
	9	Antigua and Barbuda	UNDP	UK	Proposed for pipeline inclusion
13 SC	10	Cambodia	IFAD	UK	
	11	Haiti	IDB	Switzerland	

The two new Investment funding requests proposed for inclusion in the pipeline are expected to address 0.2% of the GBON gap for surface stations and 2.2% of the GBON gap for upper-air stations in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs). Together, the 29⁶ countries with Investment funding requests approved or ready for approval, will result in SOFF investments addressing 44% of the GBON gap

⁶ 18 countries with Investment funding requests approved, 9 Investment funding requests ready for approval (5 proposed for approval and 4 remaining pipeline) and two new funding requests proposed for pipeline inclusion.

for surface stations and 43.8% of the GBON gap for upper air-stations over land in all SIDS and LDCs.

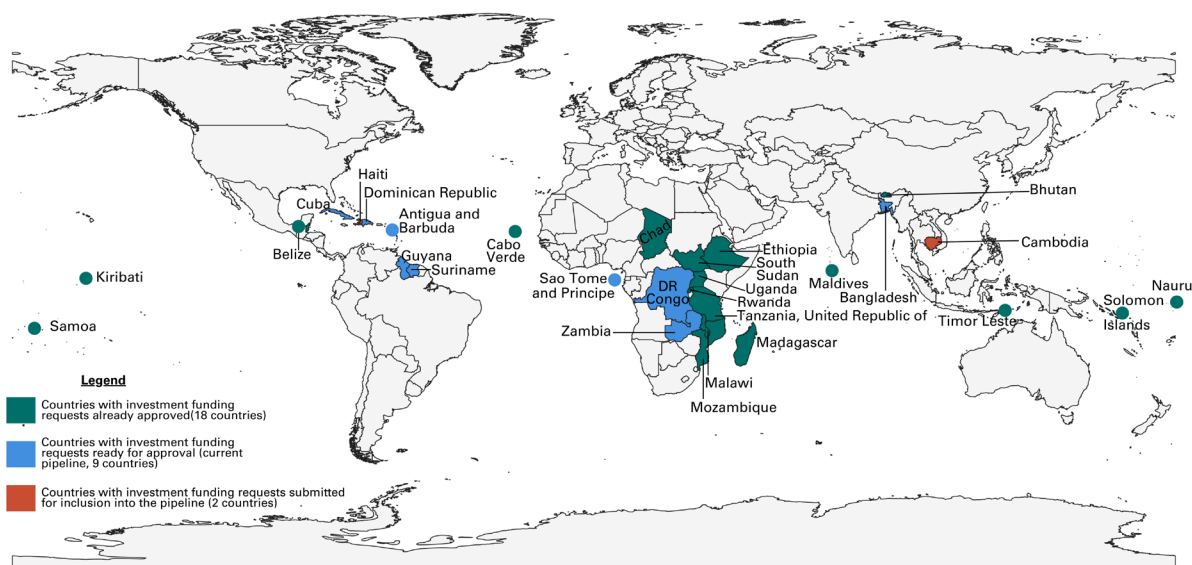


Figure 1: The map shows in green the 18 countries that have Investment funding requests approved and in blue the nine⁷ countries with Investment funding requests ready for approval. Countries in orange are those with funding requests presented at the 13th SOFF Steering Committee meeting for inclusion in the pipeline.

2. Prioritization of funding request

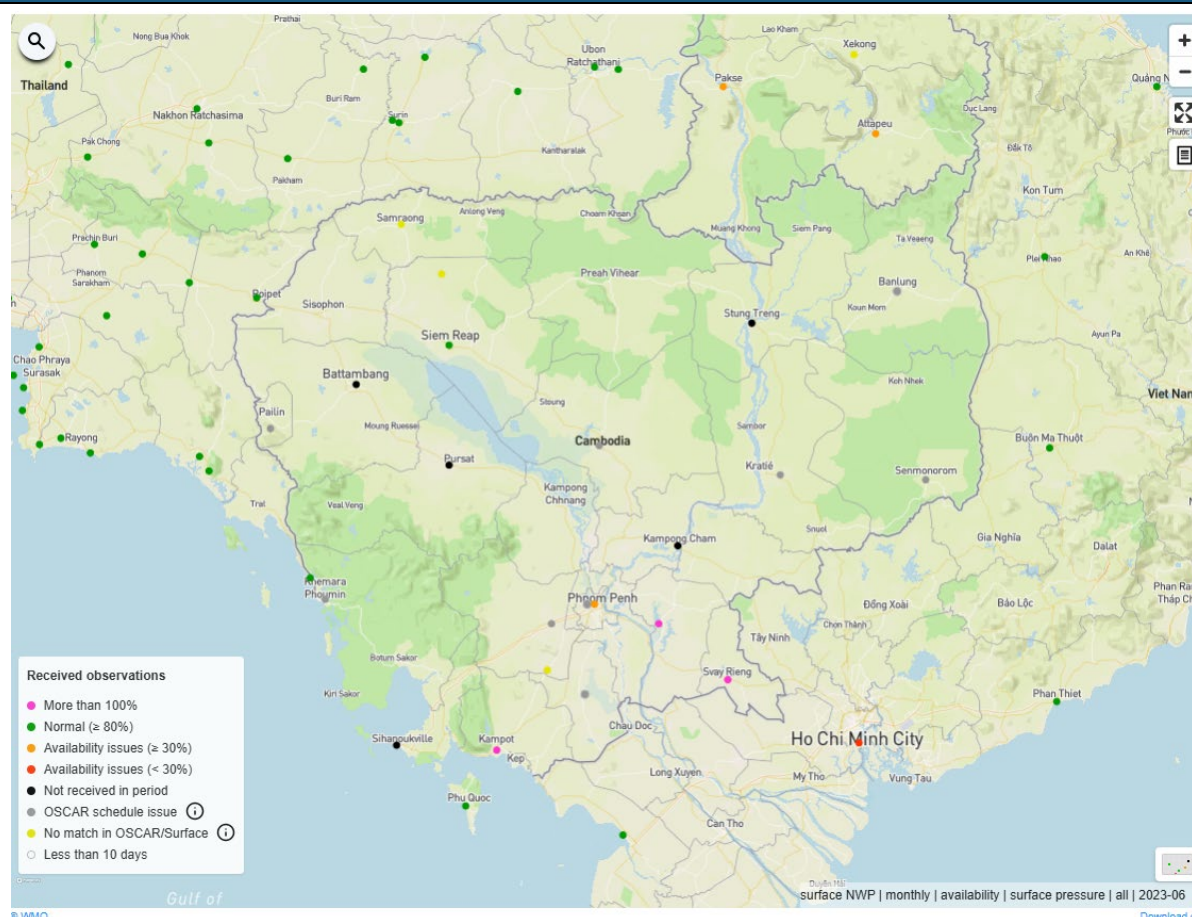
This section outlines the proposed order of Investment funding requests that will be added to the current Investment phase pipeline. This is based on assessment of four criteria endorsed in [Decision 11.6](#): technical feasibility, timing and scheduling, financial considerations, and risks.

2.1. Cambodia

Link	https://un-soff.org/?post_type=document&p=7977	
Implementing Entity	International Fund for Agricultural Development	
Peer advisor	Met Office [United Kingdom]	
Implementation duration	60 months	
Phased approach	No	
Budget requested	Total	USD 4,265,984.07
	<i>Activity costs</i>	USD 3,572,625.00
	<i>Implementing Entity fee (7 %)</i>	USD 250,083.75

	Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	USD 443,275.32
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Status of surface stations for June 2023 as shown in the WDQMS webtool



Overview of the stations to be installed and/or improved

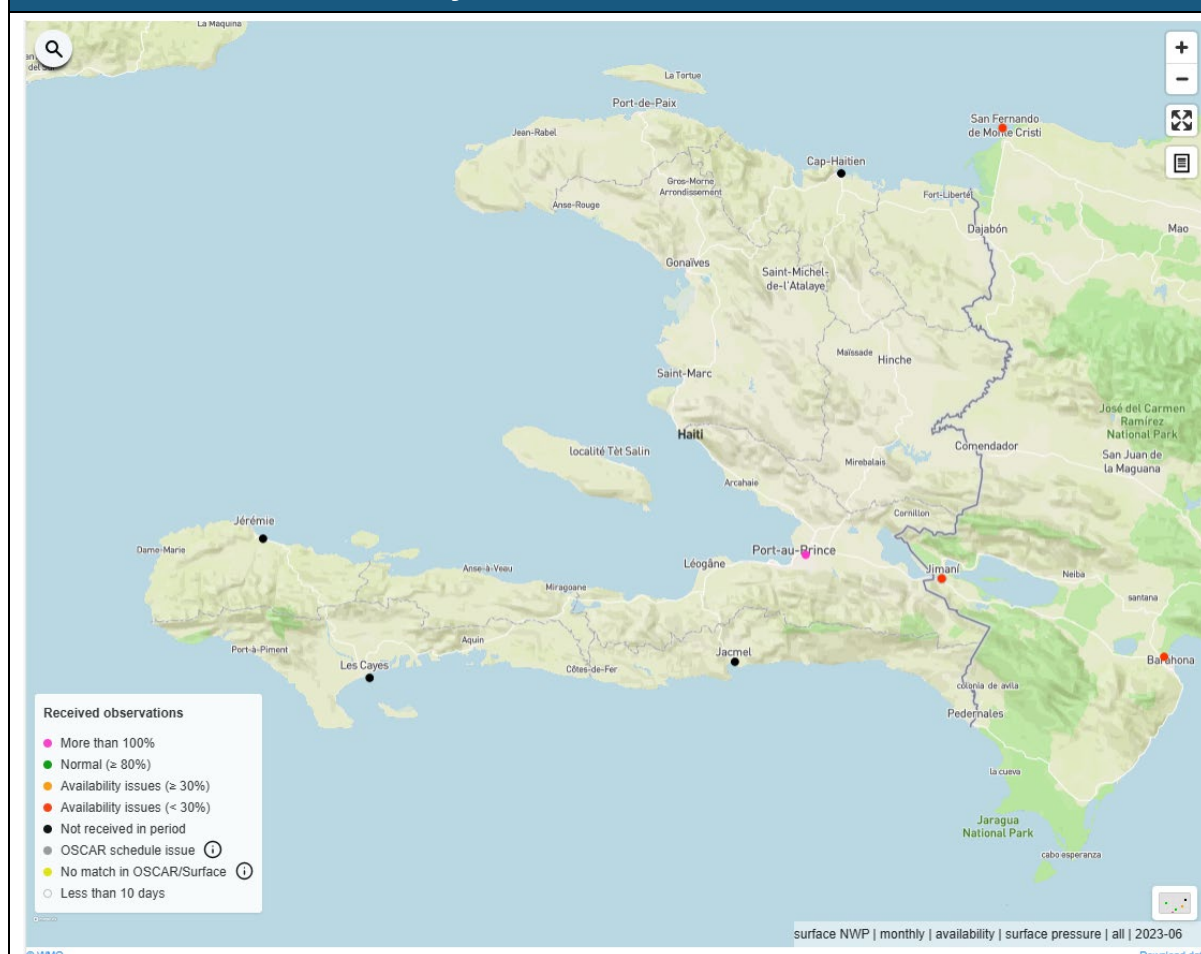
	WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis June 2023	National Contribution Plan	
	Target	Gap new	Gap improve
Surface	5	0	5
Upper-air	1	1	0

Cambodia is ranked first in the proposed pipeline, to maximize synergies with the ongoing CREWS regional project. Cambodia has also made strong progress on its national EW4All Roadmap, including a strong role of the World Food Programme, with additional climate-resilience investments under preparation for the Green Climate Fund. In addition, hydrometeorological investments under the CAISAR project in the Tonle Sap basin will benefit from and reinforce SOFF-supported data, operations, and capacity development.

2.2. Haiti

Link	https://un-soff.org/document/investment-phase-pipeline-haiti/	
Implementing Entity	Inter-American Development Bank	
Peer advisor	MeteoSwiss [Switzerland]	
Implementation duration	36	
Phased approach	Yes	
Budget requested	Total	USD 1,774,060.00
	Activity costs	USD 1,298,000.00
	Implementing Entity fee (6.5 %)	USD 90,860.00
	Peer advisor fee (incl. WMO indirect cost)	USD 385,200.00

Status of surface stations for June 2023 as shown in the WDAQMS webtool



The pink dot corresponds to the availability requirements stated by the country in the database and therefore do not represent GBON requirements. According to GBON standards, the data availability of the PORT-AU-PRINCE/AEROPORT INT station for June 2023 is below 80%, represented by an orange dot.

Overview of the stations to be installed and/or improved			
	WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis June 2023	National Contribution Plan	
	Target	Gap new	Gap improve
Surface	1	0	3
Upper-air	1	1	0

The Haiti Investment Funding Request adopts a phased approach, with operational partners initially focusing on rehabilitating surface stations and strengthening the capacity of the meteorological office, while upper-air stations are planned for potential support in later phases. While the relatively smaller investment size, phased approach, and significant GBON gaps in the Caribbean position Haiti well, the high implementation risks identified that may affect delivery, result in Haiti being ranked second in the Investment Funding Request pipeline.

3. Operationalizing the collaboration framework for enhancing observation

SOFF investments are designed to leverage synergies with key multilateral climate funds, including the Adaptation Fund (AF), Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Green Climate Fund (GCF), Global Environment Facility (GEF), and the Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) Initiative, to enhance the effectiveness and sustainability of investments in systematic observations. The SOFF Secretariat, together with the Secretariats of these five funds, signed a [Framework for Collaboration for enhancing systematic observation and improving the use of essential weather and climate data for effective climate action](#). This framework seeks to further enhance complementarity by leveraging the work of SOFF to support better climate information services and early warning systems.

Potential areas for further synergies in these countries and the operationalization of the Collaboration Framework through SOFF Investments are summarized in **Table 6** below. In addition to projects reflected in the Investment funding requests, table 6 also includes investments in Pillar 2 of the UN Secretary-General's Early Warnings for All Initiative, sourced from the [Global Observatory for Early Warning Systems \(EWS\) Investments dashboard](#), to illustrate broader opportunities for complementarity. Additional details on the operational cooperation between different programmes are provided in the individual Investment funding requests under the section "Creating Leverage"

Table 6: Overview of the operationalization of the SOFF Collaboration Framework with the multilateral climate funds through the funding requests.

Batch	Order	Country	Climate fund	Project title	Status	Financing amount
13 SC	1	Cambodia	AF	Increasing Climate Resilience Through Small-Scale Infrastructure Investments and Enhancing Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable Communities in Kampot and Koh Kong Provinces in Cambodia	On-going	\$10.0 M
			AF (Multi-country)	Enhancing Climate Adaptation and Resilience of Mekong Communities through Strengthening of Weather, Water and Climate Services (ECR-MEKONG) Countries: Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR), Viet Nam and Thailand	Pre-concept submitted	\$12.5 M
			AF	Climate Change Adaptation through Protective Small-scale Infrastructure Interventions in Coastal Settlements of Cambodia	On-going	\$5.0 M
			CREWS (Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic)	Strengthening early warning and early action systems for meteorological, hydrological and climate extremes in Cambodia and Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) (CREWS Cambodia and Lao PDR 2.0) (Southeast Asia 2.0)	Ongoing	\$7.8 M

			GEF	Climate Resilience Enhancement for Building Adaptive Capacity in Agri-Value Chains in Cambodia (CREA)	Project Approved	\$16.9 M
			GCF	Climate Adaptive Irrigation and Sustainable Agriculture for Resilience (CAISAR) in Cambodia	Project Approved	\$240.0 M
			GCF (Multi-country)	Community Resilience Partnership Program	On-going	\$750.0 M
			GCF (Multi-country)	Collaborative R&DB Programme for Promoting the Innovation of Climate Technopreneurship	On going	\$221.2 M
	2	Haiti	CREWS	Support for the Hydrometeorological Unit of Haiti (UHM) for sustainable operability and the implementation of a relevant and efficient hydrometeorological warning system	On going	\$1.5 M
			CREWS (Multi-country)	Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Services in the Caribbean - Phase 2 (CREWS Caribbean 2.0)	On going	\$7.0 M
			AF	Implementing Measures for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation of School Facilities in Haiti	On going	\$9.9 M