
Investment Phase:

Progress update

Malawi

July 2026

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



General Information

Country	Malawi	
Implementing Entity	UNDP	
Agreement effectiveness date	07 December 2025	
Duration	53	
Anticipated end date	07 May 2030	
Reporting period	From: 01 January 2026	To: 30 June 2026
Approved amount	Total: USD 3,876,356.41 UNDP: USD 3,338,400 WMO: USD 537,956.41	
Disbursed amount	Total: USD 2,516,180.87 UNDP: USD 2,336,880 WMO: USD 179,300.87	

Summary

SOFF Malawi Project Governance: During the reporting period, the Project made significant progress in establishing the institutional, governance, and operational foundations required for effective implementation. The Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) process was successfully completed, resulting in the approval of the Project Document and the first Annual Work Plan (AWP). Following this milestone, formal project governance arrangements were established through the formation of a multi-stakeholder Project Steering Committee (PSC), comprising representatives from the Department of Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), Department of Disaster management Affairs (DoDMA), Malawi University of Science and Technology (MUST), Civil Society Network on Climate Change (CISONECC), Malawi Communication Regulatory Authority (MACRA), Ministry of Information, Malawi Meteorological Society (MAMESO) and UNDP. The establishment of the PSC has strengthened strategic oversight, coordination, and accountability mechanisms for achieving the project objectives.

The project was officially launched on 11th February 2026 through a high-level event held during the 22nd CREWS Steering Committee meeting in Malawi, providing a strategic platform to showcase Malawi's commitment to strengthening systematic observation systems and advancing the Early Warnings for All (EW4All) agenda. The launch was officiated by the Minister of Natural Resources and Climate Change together with the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), demonstrating strong political and technical support for the SOFF initiative. The event brought together senior government officials, development partners, UN agencies, technical experts, WMO, and other stakeholders. Discussions focused on Malawi's GBON Gap Analysis findings, project outputs, implementation arrangements, procurement priorities, sustainability considerations, and timelines. The launch significantly enhanced awareness, stakeholder ownership, and visibility of the SOFF initiative at both national and international levels. The event was publicised through posts and articles on UNDP, SOFF websites, local print and digital media.

Following the official launch, a high-level field mission was conducted by the Deputy Director of the SOFF Secretariat, together with representatives from Peer Advisors the Norwegian Meteorological Institute (MET Norway) and the Icelandic Meteorological Office (Iceland MET), to one of the targeted GBON AWS sites. The visit generated significant visibility and advocacy opportunities for the project, highlighting Malawi's commitment to improving meteorological observation infrastructure and contributing to the global exchange of high-quality weather and climate data. Additional visibility and advocacy for the SOFF Malawi were generated through a high-level mission by Ms. Satu Santala, Chair of the SOFF Steering Committee and Managing Director for Nordic Development Fund (NDF) together with the Icelandic Ambassador to Malawi and UNDP

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Resident Representative on 12th May 2026. The mission provided an opportunity for high level engagement with DCMSS Director and Technical Staff on the potential of SOFF to modernise observations through improvements of AWS's and installation of an Upper Air Station.

GBON Institutional and Human Capacity: Significant progress was also achieved in strengthening GBON institutional and human capacity through the establishment of Project Management Unit (PMU) arrangement that combines national ownership with UNDP's technical and fiduciary support. Under this arrangement, DCCMS has designated a Project Coordinator to provide technical leadership and oversee day-to-day implementation, while a dedicated Finance Officer will support financial management and operational processes within DCCMS. UNDP will provide quality assurance, technical support, and oversight for monitoring, evaluation, reporting, and compliance with SOFF and UNDP programming standards. Additionally, technical leads from Engineering, IT and Forecasting departments from DCCMS have been identified as well as their counterparts from MET Norway to allow for seamless interface and technical support during implementation.

The project also completed the Environmental, Social and Screening Procedure (ESSP) in accordance with UNDP's Social and Environmental Standards, ensuring that potential environmental and social risks associated with project activities are identified, assessed, and managed from the outset. Establishing environmental and social safeguards during the early stages of implementation provides a strong foundation for inclusive, sustainable, and responsible delivery of infrastructure investments and capacity-building activities under SOFF.

GBON Infrastructure: Preparations for GBON infrastructure investments have progressed well, with a comprehensive audit conducted to validate the observation sites identified during the SOFF Readiness Phase Gap Analysis. The audit assessed site suitability, accessibility, existing infrastructure, communication capabilities, and operational requirements for the targeted GBON stations. Findings from the assessment have informed technical planning and procurement of AWS's and associated infrastructure. The report also recommended potential changes to some sites and this will be concluded in next quarter.

Building on the findings of the station audit, DCCMS convened a technical workshop to develop specifications for the procurement of Automated Weather Stations (AWS) and a project vehicle required to support station installation, maintenance, and operational sustainability. The workshop brought together 22 DCCMS technical experts and management (11 males/Females) and served both as a technical planning exercise and an opportunity to strengthen institutional understanding of SOFF requirements. Discussions focused on GBON technical standards, AWS deployment requirements, field operational needs, vehicle specifications, and sustainability arrangements for maintaining observation infrastructure. The process strengthened DCCMS ownership

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and ensured that procurement specifications are aligned with operational realities and long-term GBON compliance considerations.

Overall, the first phase of implementation has successfully established the governance structures, institutional arrangements, stakeholder awareness, safeguards, and technical foundations required for effective SOFF delivery.

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	Inception Workshop Conducted (1.1.93)	1	0	0	0	0						On-track	The SOFF Malawi Inception Workshop has been fully planned and scheduled for early Q3 2026. Preparatory processes, including stakeholder mapping and development of the workshop programme, have been completed	
	Number of Consultations/ Stakeholder engagements conducted (Quarterly engagements – 4/ year) (1.1.94)	4	4	4	4	0	1					On-track	One Local Project Appraisal Committee (LPAC) meeting was conducted where the project shared its objectives with Steering Committee members and implementation modalities. Following the meeting the project was approved for implementation and the 2026 Annual workplan was approved.	
	Number of CSOs/Private Sector engaged (1.1.95)	2	2	2	2	0						On-track	The project has identified civil society and private sector engagement as a key component of GBON sustainability. Relevant stakeholders have been mapped and engagements are scheduled to commence from Q3 2026 as part of the project's inclusive	

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Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													implementation approach	
	% of female participants during consultations (<i>please also indicate the actual number in brackets</i>) (1.1.96)	50	50	50	50	0						Not yet started	Gender mainstreaming mechanisms have been incorporated into project implementation arrangements. Sex-disaggregated data collection tools will be applied across all stakeholder consultations and capacity-building activities to monitor progress towards the project's gender targets	
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	Project implementation team established (1.2.93)	1	0	0	0	0	1					Achieved	The Project Management Unit has been established within DCCMS, comprising a dedicated Project Coordinator and Finance Officer. M&E and necessary project Quality Assurance will be supported by UNDP. Furthermore, Technical Teams from Peer Advisors and DCCMS have been identified and their roles assigned	
	Number of benchmarking visits (1.2.94)	1	0	0	0	0						On-track	Preliminary consultations on benchmarking and experience-sharing opportunities with other SOFF implementing countries have commenced. One	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													benchmarking visit has been planned for Q4 2026 to facilitate knowledge exchange on GBON successes.	
	O&M and IT SoPs developed (1.2.95)	0	2	0	0	0						Not yet started	Development of Standard Operating Procedures for Operations and Maintenance and IT systems is planned as part of the institutional strengthening activities. Preparatory technical discussions with DCCMS and peer advisors are expected to inform the drafting process during implementation	
	Numbers of gender action planning and reporting workshops (1.2.96)	1	1	1	1	0						Not yet started	Preparations for the Gender Action Planning Workshop are underway, with implementation scheduled for Q4 2026. The workshop will support the integration of gender-responsive approaches across project activities and reporting processes	
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	Numbers of staff trained on SOFF related components (O&M, IT, Data mgt, Gender) (1.3.92)	17	0	0	0	0						Not yet started	DCCMS has completed a preliminary assessment of GBON-related capacity gaps, including training needs on WIS 2.0, data management, operations and maintenance of observing systems, and gender integration.	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													Capacity development activities are scheduled to commence from Q3 202	
	% of female staff participating in SOFF trainings <i>(please also indicate the actual number in brackets)</i> (1.3.93)	50	50	50	50	0						Not yet started	The project has adopted a gender-responsive capacity development approach and will monitor female participation across all training activities to achieve the minimum 50 percent target where feasible	
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	0	0	0	0	0						Not yet started	Procurement and installation activities are linked to the approved GBON National Contribution Plan and will commence following completion of technical specifications and procurement processes in subsequent reporting periods.	
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 (2.2.1)	4	0	0	0	0						On-track	Significant preparatory progress has been made towards the rehabilitation of four targeted GBON surface stations. A comprehensive GBON station audit was conducted to validate the proposed sites and assess infrastructure requirements. Findings	<i>Following the assessment some sites (2) may be replaced with others due to identified challenges. Due process and clearance will be sought with SOFF secretariat.</i>

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													from the audit have informed the development of technical specifications, which are currently being reviewed by SOFF Peer Advisors prior to initiation of the procurement process	
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 (2.3.1)	0	1	0	0	0						Not yet started	Preparatory activities for establishment of the upper-air observing station are planned for Q3 and Q4 2026. These activities include technical assessments, development of specifications and procurement planning in line with SOFF and WMO requirements.	
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	0	0	0	0	0						Not yet started	Preparatory work for upper-air infrastructure improvements has been incorporated into the project implementation plan and will commence during the second half of 2026 following completion of technical 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	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan (3.1.1)	0	4	4	4	0						Not yet started	Commissioning activities are dependent on the successful procurement, installation and testing of GBON infrastructure. Current efforts are	

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													focused on establishing the technical and institutional foundations required to achieve sustained GBON compliance	
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 (3.2.1)	0	1	1	1	0						Not yet started	Commissioning of the upper-air station will be undertaken upon completion of procurement, installation and operational testing processes. Preparatory activities initiated during 2026 will contribute towards achieving this output in subsequent reporting periods	