



Investment Phase: Progress update

Rwanda

July 2026

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



General Information

Country	Rwanda	
Implementing Entity	United Nations Development Programme	
Agreement effectiveness date	9 April 2024	
Duration	48	
Anticipated end date	9 April 2028	
Reporting period	From: 1 January 2026	To: 30 June 2026
Approved amount	Total: 3,507,377.37 USD UNDP: 3,107,377.37 USD WMO: USD 428,000	
Disbursed amount	Total: USD 2,473,185.43 UNDP: USD 2,330,533.03 WMO: USD 142,652.4	

Summary

During the reporting period (January–June 2026), the Rwanda SOFF Project delivered significant progress toward strengthening GBON-compliant meteorological observations and enhancing national weather and climate services. Institutional coordination was strengthened through sustained stakeholder engagement, improving collaboration and alignment among key actors supporting project implementation. The technical capacity of METEO RWANDA was substantially enhanced through practical, hands-on training provided to approximately 35 meteorologists, forecasters, IT specialists, and data managers in automatic upper-air station maintenance, data management, and forecasting operations.

Key infrastructure investments also yielded tangible results. Three land-based weather stations were successfully upgraded and are now transmitting meteorological data globally through the WIS 2.0 platform, improving Rwanda's contribution to international weather and climate monitoring systems. Rwanda's first automatic upper-air station was also installed, commissioned and is now operational. The station significantly expands the country's atmospheric observation capacity and strengthens its contribution to the Global Basic Observing Network. Configuration for the transmission of upper-air data through the WIS platform is ongoing and will enable the station to contribute critical data for weather forecasting, climate analysis and early warning services.

During the next implementation period (July–December 2026), efforts will focus on ensuring the full operationalization and sustainability of the newly installed upper-air station and upgraded land-based stations, including routine maintenance and ensuring continuous transmission of GBON-required data to global exchange platforms. The project will also complete the remaining capacity-building activities to further strengthen staff competencies and ensure the long-term effectiveness, ownership, and sustainability of the investments made.

A key lesson learned is that combining phased infrastructure upgrades with targeted technical capacity development accelerates progress toward GBON compliance and improves the timely exchange of meteorological data. The project also demonstrated that early and continuous engagement on sustainability, including operational, technical, and financial considerations, is critical for safeguarding project outcomes and maximizing the long-term impact of investments in national observing systems.

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. The representation of females in the first consultation workshop was 60%. Another workshop will happen in the last year.		
	# of high-level dialogues organised	1			1				1			On-track	The first dialogue was successfully convened on the 4th June 2026, coinciding with the launch of the Rwanda’s first upper air station. The event brought together 54 participants including Minister of Environment, WMO region head of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, other Government institutions representatives, stakeholders and experts in the meteorological services. The dialogue		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													strengthened national engagement around meteorological observation system development and provided participants with a first-hand demonstration of the UAS station's capabilities. The second dialogue is planned for the project's final year and will serve as a platform to review project achievements, share lessons learned and best practices, assess progress toward GBON compliance and sustainability objectives, and strengthen stakeholder commitment to maintaining and building on the project's results.	
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	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
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 maintenance of upper-air station		4	4					10			On-track	Following the successful installation and commissioning of Rwanda's first automatic upper-air station, 10 technical staff from METEO Rwanda and key partner institutions were trained on station operations, maintenance. The training significantly strengthened national technical capacity to manage and sustain upper-air observations, ensuring the continuous generation and transmission of high-quality meteorological data.	
	% of female Meteo Rwanda staff participants in the training		50	50					20			On-track	A hands-on training was conducted, a total of 10 staff from METEO Rwanda and key partner institutions were equipped with practical skills in the operation and maintenance of an upper-air observation systems. 2 of the capacitated staff were female, representing 20%.	The target was not fully met, as female representation in observation and maintenance roles remains below 50% of the total staff.
	# of IT technician trained			4					4			Achieved	Following the installation and commissioning of the upper air station, 10 staff from METEO Rwanda were	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
													capacitated on operation and IT of the upper air station. Of the 10 participants, 4 were IT Technicians. This will help ensure the station remains fully functional and sustainability of the achievements.	
	# of forecasters trained			12					25			Achieved	25 forecasters, meteorologists and other stakeholders from both Meteo Rwanda and Kigali International Airport (KIA), 18 and 7 staff respectively were capacitated in the sounding data analysis and application. Among the trainees, 8 were female (32%).	
	# data analysts trained			9					10			Achieved	10 staff from Meteo Rwanda were introduced and capacitated in the AWS810 weather station Web-UI to monitor system status and understand how data is sent from AWS810 to the servers in Kigali. Only one female attended the training (10%)	
	# of staff trained on maintenance and calibration of land surface stations		4					13				Achieved	This was already achieved by year 2. 13 staff acquired skills on installation and maintenance of newly installed sensors and data loggers, as well as the data quality assurance.	

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	% 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.
	# of project management staff supported at IE (1.3.36)	3	3	3	3	0						Achieved	The Project Manager and Project Associate are on board. The recruitment process for the Monitoring and Evaluation Associate is currently underway.	
	# of project management staff supported at beneficiary (1.3.37)	2	2	2	2	0						Delayed	The restructuring of the Single Project Implementation Unit (SPIU) at Meteo Rwanda to accommodate SOFF project staff has been completed. We are awaiting the approval for the recruitment request from the Ministry of Public Service and Labour (MIFOTRA).	The restructuring of (SPIU)/Meteo Rwanda took longer than anticipated. The process has now been finalized, enabling the integration of SOFF project personnel into the SPIU structure once the recruitment is completed.
	# of TA at UNDP HQ recruited for knowledge management (1.3.38)	0	0	0	1	0			1			Achieved	The TA at HQ is recruited for knowledge management, quality assurance, technical support and oversight.	
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										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			
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 globally.	
	# 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					1				Achieved	The installation of the first ever upper-air station in Rwanda has been successfully completed and operational, collecting data and being configured to exchange data globally. This will significantly improve national observation capacity contributing to global data observation capacity as well.	
	# standard operating practices updated				1							Select an item	To be implemented and reported by Peer Advisor	
	# of infrastructure put in place		1					1				Achieved	Required civil infrastructure (connection to electricity, shelter for hydrogen bottles, room for balloon filling and platform for ground system) were all completed.	
2.4 Improved upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A										Select an item	Not planned in the 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														
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 verified by WMO Technical Authority	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	N/A										Select an item	Not planned in this project	
	# land-based stations maintained, calibrated and transmitting data to GTS			3	3				3			On-track	3 land-based stations are transmitting data to GTS. Maintenance and calibration is ensured on regular basis.	
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	# upper air station maintained and sharing data on GTS	N/A		1	1				1			On-track	The upper air station (UAS) is operational, and maintenance will be ensured as required. The configuration for data transmission through WIS is being conducted.	
	# of new technical staff recruited to operate the upper air station.		2						2			Achieved	2 technical staff were recruited to support operations and maintenance of the upper air station on daily basis.	