



ANTICIPATORY ACTION



WFP
World Food Programme

SAVING
LIVES
CHANGING
LIVES

Anticipating Weather and Climate Risk

Weather Information for the Global Public Good

Weather observations are the foundation on which all climate products rely, from daily weather forecasts and long-term climate analyses to early warning systems that protect those living on the frontlines of the climate crisis. Gaps in weather data are significant, especially in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) which are particularly vulnerable to climate change and extreme weather.

Without this data, national meteorological centres are unable to make skillful predictions of future weather and climate. It limits their ability to **support communities to adapt and mitigate the impacts of changing weather patterns**, and it reduces the effectiveness of global weather models that governments worldwide rely on.

THE SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATIONS FINANCING FACILITY (SOFF)

The overarching goal of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is to strengthen climate adaptation and resilient development through improved weather forecasts, early warning systems, and climate information services to save lives, improve livelihoods, and protect property. Vulnerable countries and communities bear the brunt of the climate crisis, with the most food-insecure populations suffering the most. It's there where additional investments into climate risk management should be directed. We must urgently scale up climate adaptation and improve access to climate finance for the most fragile, vulnerable and conflict-affected communities, which are being hit by intensifying climate impacts but are currently left behind by climate finance.

The SOFF is a financing mechanism that supports countries to close the basic weather and climate observations data gap. It works with countries with the most severe shortfalls in observations, prioritising the LDCs and SIDS and providing long-term financial and technical assistance that contributes towards a global public good.

The current context requires more climate finance to support proactive and forward-looking approaches to manage risks and prevent losses and damages. Approaches that link early warning systems with capabilities for anticipatory action have gained significant momentum in recent years, demonstrating that leveraging scientific improvements in hazard forecasting can prevent predictable natural hazards from turning into humanitarian disasters. However, to avoid acting in vain or not acting at all, investments in early warning systems and anticipatory action in SIDS and LDCs need to increase.

Early warning For All (EW4A) and the SOFF

"As the climate crisis worsens, it is crucial that we boost the power of prediction for everyone so countries can reduce disaster risk. That is why we have launched an initiative to ensure that every person on Earth is protected by early warning systems within the next five years. The Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) is an essential tool to achieve this." António Guterres, United Nations Secretary-General

SOFF is a foundational element and delivery mechanism of the UN Secretary-General's EW4A Initiative launched in 2022. The Initiative calls for the whole world to be covered by an early warning system by the end of 2027.

WFP AND SOFF

As the UN's largest humanitarian agency, dedicated to saving lives on the frontlines of the climate crisis, often in remote and challenging locations, and as the sole humanitarian organization that is a member of the Alliance for Hydromet Development, WFP is uniquely positioned to place people at the core of this endeavour. Leveraging WFP's extensive field presence, ability to gather and analyse data

related to food security, nutrition, and climate, as well as a knowledge of local contexts and expertise in food security settings, WFP can help governments and the international humanitarian system to leverage SOFF investments to support a shift from reactive crisis response to more forward-looking risk management. This collective effort reinforces WFP's commitment to eradicating hunger and improving food security globally.

This collaboration involves WFP taking the lead in preparing and actively overseeing the implementation of SOFF funding proposals in the assigned countries. This includes efforts to strengthen the generation of climate observations, sharing of data with local and international partners, adequate training for national partners, linkages with complementary programmes and sectors and that these investments are built with a long-term vision towards sustainability in partnership with relevant national or regional partners, the private sector, and civil society organizations.

As of August 2023, WFP in partnership with the National Meteorological Services of Austria, South Africa, Spain and the UK, is supporting the governments of Chad, Mozambique, Sudan, and Zambia in Africa, as well as Dominica, St Lucia, Dominican Republic, and St Vincent, and the Grenadines in the Caribbean region. Other SOFF

implementing entities are the Asian Development Bank (ADB), African Development Bank Group (ADBG), Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), UNDP, UNEP, the World Bank and IFAD.

ALIGNING WITH WFP'S MANDATE

Blending SOFF resources with existing WFP-funded programmes ensures improved local weather and climate prediction products, serving as essential tools for climate adaptation, resilience development, and anticipatory action projects.

WFP's collaboration with SOFF and national meteorological agencies is a pivotal force in strengthening weather forecasts and saving lives. Together, we empower vulnerable communities to combat climate challenges and build resilience, ultimately making a difference in the lives of those we serve.



CLIMATE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION SERVICE

World Food Programme

Via Cesare Giulio Viola 68/70,

00148 Rome, Italy - T +39 06 65131

wfp.org/anticipatory-actions

Photo page 1: WFP/Esteban Barrera

Photo page 3: WFP/Lena von Zabern