



World Meteorological Organization
7bis, Avenue de la Paix
CH-1211 Genève 2
Suisse
www.wmo.int

Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) Adaptation Programme in Africa

Programme Brief

November 2015

1. Overview of the new WMO Norway-financed cross-agency programme (Norway 2)

On the 20th of November 2013 WMO signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs for a multi-agency Global Framework for Climate Services Adaptation programme to be implemented over the next three years (2014 – 2016), with a total budget of USD 10 million.

The focus countries for this programme are **Tanzania and Malawi**. The programme also has a component in food security and nutrition in Ethiopia.

2. Partnership arrangements under the programme

A key characteristic of the Programme is the partnership approach, involving seven different international agencies and research institutes. The partners involved in the programme are:

- CGIAR Research Program on Climate Change, Agriculture and Food Security (CCAFS)
- Centre for International Climate and Environmental Research – Oslo (CICERO) and the Chr. Michelsen Institute (CMI)
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) including Norwegian Red Cross and Red Cross/Red Crescent Climate Centre
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- World Health Organization (WHO)
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO)

This is the **first time the above agencies have worked together on delivering climate services. Collectively, they** represent natural and social sciences as well as on-the-ground development and humanitarian agencies. **WMO is the lead for the partnership.**

The programme is governed by two mechanisms:

- A Programme Steering Committee (PSC) with overall management oversight of the programme and strategic decision making responsibilities. The PSC consists of representatives from each partner organization, and the donor, and is chaired by WMO. The PSC meets biannually in April and October.
- Project Delivery Teams (PDT) in Malawi and Tanzania with responsibilities for monitoring progress on programme activities and planning and implementing joint activities. The PDTs met on a monthly basis during the first year of programme implementation and moved to quarterly meetings in the second year. The membership of the PDTs has been expanded to include government officials from the Ministries of Agriculture, Health and Disaster Management Departments of the target countries. For coordination purposes, agencies implementing climate service programmes with links to the GFCS programme have been invited to certain PDT meetings to discuss synergies and coordination of activities.

WMO's main local partners for the programme are the **Tanzania Meteorological Agency (TMA)** and the **Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services in Malawi**. These agencies chair the PDTs in their respective countries.

This **programme is a model** of how agencies can work together under the GFCS umbrella, and the programme includes a strong **communications** component to enable partners to reach different target audiences with key lessons learned and success stories. It is hoped that this programme will lead to similar partnerships advancing climate services in other countries.

3. Achievements

The main achievements to date include the following:

Steering Mechanisms established for Climate Services

In Tanzania, the Tanzania Disaster Relief Committee (TANDREC) accepted in August 2014 to expand its mandate to serve as a National Steering Committee for Climate Services, and the Technical Committee for Climate Change serves as the Steering Committee for Climate Services in Malawi. Work is currently underway to develop roadmaps for climate services to be presented to both these bodies for adoption and implementation to ensure sustained engagement between users and producers of climate services.

Capacity Building of programme partners

Capacity has been built mainly for the NMHSs in the production of climate information. This includes training more than thirty TMA staff on severe weather monitoring, application of NWP and satellite information and products in weather forecasting for disaster risk reduction; and training five TMA staff on statistical methods for tailored analysis, interpretations and communication of climate information to specific users. For Malawi, the Finnish Meteorological Institute have been engaged to provide support in the production of “downscaled” seasonal forecasts and climate scenarios.

The programme was also seen to have significantly enhanced awareness about climate services among the partners involved in implementation. This is significant for the health sector where awareness has been raised on the link between health and climate change for health practitioners and policy makers at the national level, for instance through the establishment of Health Core Climate Teams. Another example of capacity development is the programme support provided by CICERO to work with local partner UDSM and facilitate 12 Master’s students’ research on climate services, which has enhanced the ability and expertise of Tanzanian students and senior researchers to undertake policy-relevant climate services research.

Identifying and responding to user needs

A household level baseline survey on the use of climate services was conducted in the target districts in Malawi and Tanzania under the leadership of CCAFS. In addition CCAFS also led on scoping studies for Radio and ICT as mechanisms for delivering climate services. The findings of these studies have been used to inform the design and delivery of new climate services. For instance, the seasonal forecast for the GFCS programme districts have been downscaled for the 2015/2016 season in Malawi, and for the October – December season in Tanzania as the baselines identified a request for more local climate information.

Climate services access is very low among women, and the programme has made efforts to take into account the different needs of men and women in the design and delivery of climate services but partners recognized that this was often challenging. For example, when considering “IT” options at the community level to disseminate information, studies undertaken identified that women in some settings are likely to have less access to radios/radio programmes, and that talking with extension workers and receiving SMS were preferred avenues to receive information, which has led the programme to focus on these mechanisms in some areas.

In Malawi enhanced collaboration with DCCMS and stakeholders in the DRR sector has contributed to increased effectiveness of disaster preparedness and response teams. The trained response teams have been instrumental in the dissemination of early warning messages from DCCMS to communities and the development of contingency plans. Beneficiary households in Nsanje reported to have used climate services to manage food security, health and DRR risks caused by climate variability. They also report that they are now more receptive to forecasts and warnings communicated to them.

Farmers on test plots supported by the Tanzania Red Cross reported increases in their harvest following provision of regular, on-field, advice from agricultural extension officers, RC volunteers and agro vets, who disseminated information from the district agricultural departments. The test plot farmers also employed mechanized plowing, increased fertilizer inputs, and improved seeds. In Olpopong, 10,000 people are served by the earth dam. The availability of water from the dam has decreased the vulnerability to inter-community conflicts as there is a decreased need to wander through others’ cropland looking for water

Training of intermediaries

Intermediaries, such as agricultural extension workers and Red Cross volunteers have been trained in Participatory Integrated Climate Services for Agriculture (PICSA) during 2014-2015 by CCAFS & WFP, in conjunction with U. Reading, and with support from DCCMS/TMA. These intermediaries in turn are providing training and support for farmer groups in several target districts in Tanzania and Malawi. The approach introduces the use of climate information (historical and forecast) in supporting farmers’ production and livelihood decisions. The trainings reached 107 food security intermediaries from Kiteto and Kondoa districts in Tanzania 68 intermediaries from Balaka, Nsanje and Lilongwe in Malawi, with additional trainings planned for 2016. The training is a participatory process, aimed at fostering co-production of climate products. The process also allows for feedback to be obtained from the farmers both on the training itself as well as on the climate services delivered through the intermediaries.

4. Planned Activities in 2016

National level activities

The aim of the activities at the national level is that national actors have the capacity to tailor, deliver and evaluate climate services to support adaptation in Malawi & Tanzania.

National actors have the capacity to tailor, deliver and evaluate climate services to support adaptation in Malawi & Tanzania	
The target Meteorological Services are able to identify and respond to user-demand for climate services	
Malawi	Tanzania
Improve, develop and publish various climatological products, including bulletins for health and DRR	Train TMA staff on the use of best available tools for developing homogeneous climatological zones and development of the zones.
Train staff on best available seasonal forecast downscaling tools	Train TMA Staff on application of NWP and Satellite information and products in weather forecast
Conduct National Climate Outlook Forum	Organize training to enhance capacity of TMA staff in packaging, interpretation and communication of climate information and associated uncertainties.
Improved awareness and capacities of sector (food security, health, DRR) to integrate climate related issues.	
Both countries	
Develop a road map for climate services to be presented to the Steering Committees on Climate Services in Malawi and Tanzania	
Downscale and disseminate seasonal forecast to targeted districts	
Plan and implement a communications strategy to raise awareness, including the provision of risk Communication Training for Health Communication and Media, in conjunction with National Met Services and GFCS Partners. (i.e. how to interpret uncertainty, how to develop effective public service announcements and warnings)	
Malawi	Tanzania
Produce and publish crop-weather calendars	Enhance the dissemination and application of Farm SMS weather Alert.
Community sensitization on climate through organizing of annual World Met Day: Awareness campaign in schools, colleges and communities and support for District Climate Centres	Development & follow up on the country-specific indicators for the Minimum Standards for climate-smart disaster risk reduction (to serve as an essential bridge between national climate policy and local capacities for DRR)
Health NAPs integrate climate service priorities in Malawi and Tanzania, towards improved longer term climate change adaptation.	
Both countries	
Mainstream Climate Services into Health Policy. Identify and propose how climate services can be mainstreamed to support climate risk management and adaptation within the (i) Health and Environment Ministerial process (ii) NAPs (iii) Health Emergency Risk Management (iv) select disease control programs.	

District Level

The aim of the activities at the district level is that targeted communities are better able to manage the risks related to climate variability. The target districts for the programme are as following:

- Malawi: Chikwawa, Nsanje, Lilongwe and Balaka in Year 1, Zomba added in Year 2
- Tanzania: Kiteto, Longido and Kondoa districts

Strengthened capacity of intermediaries and local institutions, including health and food security workers, to link climate information into action
Both countries
Support establishment of local multi-stakeholder frameworks for co-producing climate services in target pilot sites
Train sub-national health workers on how to interpret and make decisions to respond to climate-informed early warnings

Design and Implement Climate Services for Health pilot, that builds on existing health programming	
Train agricultural extension workers and lead farmers in how to access, interpret and apply climate information.	
Support trained intermediaries to provide tailored climate services to farmers, and monitor progress and effectiveness.	
Targeted households and communities are able to demand and use climate services for the management of climate risks at household level.	
Both countries	
Conduct public awareness and education campaigns	
Implement pilot SMS weather advisory service and radio advisory programme in selected villages	
Malawi	Tanzania
Dissemination of DRR messages and in schools through printing of selected walls	Training on agro ecological techniques to develop a climate-smart coping mechanism
Dissemination of DRR area specific weather advisories through Nsanje community Radio	Demonstration of local adaptation mechanisms and management of risks (e.g rainwater harvesting and fodder preparation)
Establish Village Civil Protection Committees in 4 areas in Lilongwe and conduct ToT for EWS SIMEX in 4 areas of Lilongwe (training with Met Services) and 4 EWS SIMEX	Exchange visits with communities in Kiteto

5. Lessons learned

The programme conducted an internal mid term review in 2015 and identified the following lessons learned and recommendations for issues to be considered in designing and implementing similar interventions.

1. A country-led scoping phase should be conducted in a smaller number of potential countries that includes needs and capacity assessments to guide final country selection. These assessments should be conducted prior to any programme being designed and dedicated resources, including financial resources, should be set aside for this phase. The scoping phase should include national consultations and be informed by existing activities, policies, governance structure, programmes and services and an understanding of what capacities, structures and resources need to be in place in each potential country, especially for the National Meteorological and Hydrological Services, to support implementation.
2. The scheduling of the design phase needs to be well planned and strictly followed so that programme activities are designed and informed by baseline studies, an overview of the institutional landscape as well as community level consultations. Enough time needs to be allocated to various activities taken into account potential delays and in-country processes/bureaucracy. The outcome of the design phase should be a jointly developed programme framework.
3. Following the development of the framework, a full project document should be written up, to complete the design phase, led by in-country partners.
4. The various mandates, roles, internal processes and regulations of the different partners need to be recognized so that these are reflected well in the design of the programme and potential issues clarified in the initial stages of design.
5. For the health sector, in countries where core climate adaptation activities are not yet underway, an additional stage for stakeholder engagement and awareness raising needs to be included. Other partners could also benefit from awareness raising during the very first phase.
6. The design should make clear linkages with relevant national processes and identify how the programme contributes to those, and how various stakeholders are involved.
7. A Project Delivery Team like structure should be set up at the country level, ensuring all relevant national stakeholders are involved from the start and that clear Terms of References are agreed. Smaller working groups between partners can also be set up to support/encourage their collaboration on different activities.
8. Sufficient budget should be made available for the work of the PDT, including for participation in activities organized by other partners and user engagement at all levels.
9. The financing modalities for the programme needs to be carefully planned to ensure flexibility in funds allocations where needed and that there is enough incentive for combination of resources between implementing partners. Each partner should have a dedicated global staff member coordinating the programme.

10. Multiple modalities need to be established for user engagement – a single source is not enough and the user interface needs to involve clear feedback pathways, building on existing structures and systems for user engagement.

6. Calendar of events January – June 2016

January	
February	Learning event on integrating weather and climate in participatory planning and assessment methodologies, Nairobi, 1 st – 2 nd of February
March	
April	Programme Steering Committee Meeting, Geneva
May	
June	