Systematic Observations Financing Facility

Fifteenth Steering Committee
21 October 2026

SOFF Portfolio and Implementation Progress

INF 15.1

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility



Weather and climate data for resilience

Purpose of this Document

This document provides a high-level overview of the SOFF country portfolio and the status of implementation across Readiness and Investment Phases as of 30 August 2026.

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SOFF Portfolio and Implementation Progress

1. Overview

As of 30 August 2026, the SOFF portfolio covers a total of 66 programmed countries from which 64 are receiving support as follows:

- **Readiness Phase**: 64 countries are receiving Readiness Phase funding amounting to USD 9.5 million, with 51 countries having completed the Readiness Phase.
- **Investment Phase**: 26 countries with Investment Phase funding approved, for a total allocation of USD 132.8 million.
- **Pipeline & Requests:** 6 countries are currently in the Investment Phase pipeline with the total budget of USD 16 million, in addition one country Readiness funding request is on hold, and 38 countries are with unmet requests for SOFF support.

Figure 1 presents the geographic distribution of the SOFF-supported countries.

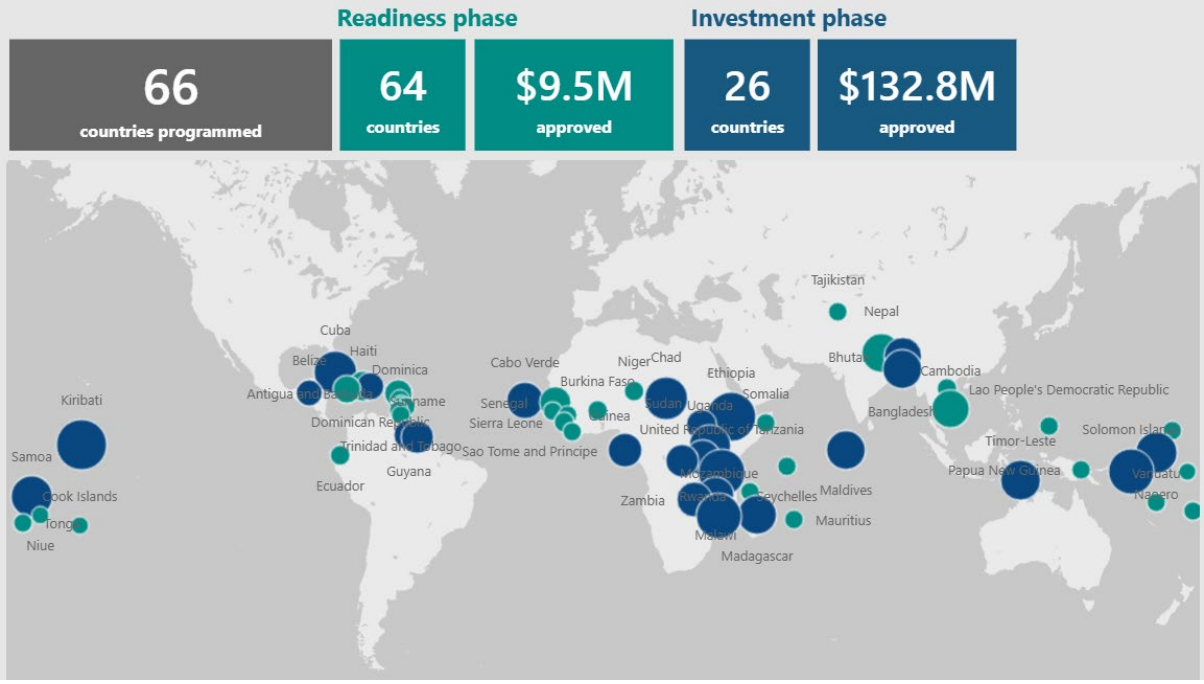


Figure 1. Overview of SOFF Operations (August 2026)
The size of each bubble is proportional to the funding per country.

The SOFF portfolio has evolved significantly since July 2022 (see Figure 2) with an increased number of countries that have completed the Readiness Phase and a steady pipeline ready to move to the Investment Phase, pending Steering Committee approval and available funding. Since March 2024, the SOFF Investment portfolio more than doubled.

More granular information is available in the SOFF Portfolio Dashboard.

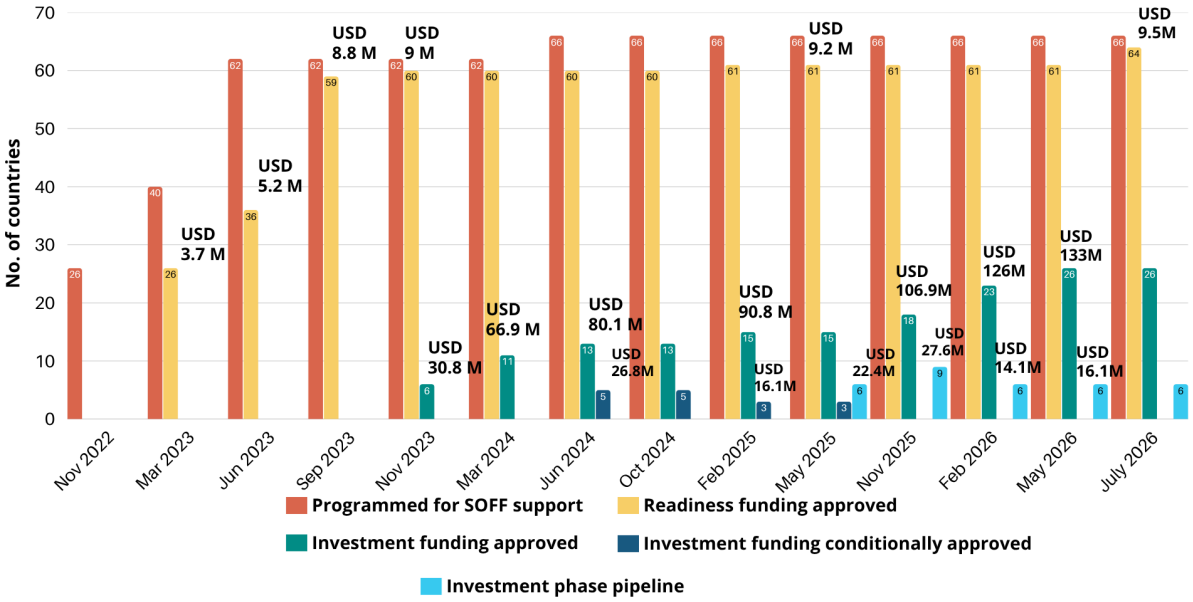


Figure 2. Evolution of the SOFF Portfolio (November 2022-July 2026)
The number of countries at each phase are represented by bars according to the legend (bottom) and the amount approved in USD displayed in text.

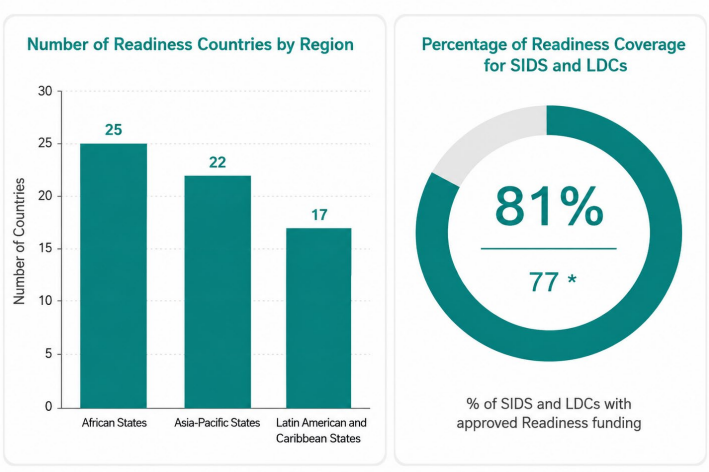
2. Implementation Progress

2.1 Readiness Phase

2.1.1 The SOFF Readiness Portfolio

Of the 64 countries with approved Readiness Phase funding, 51 have completed the Readiness Phase, and 10 are currently finalizing outputs. SOFF Readiness funding requests for three countries Cook Islands, Niue and Guinea were approved by SOFF Steering Committee intersessional Decision 3.1, and the activities are expected to commence soon.

The Readiness Phase covers **32** Least Developed Countries (LDS) and **38** Small Developing States (SIDS), representing 81% of all LDCs and SIDs in total. (see Figure 3)

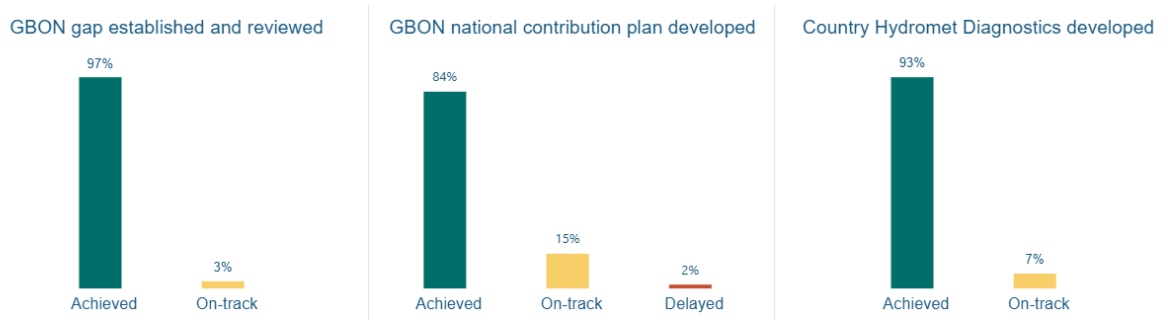


*Total number of LDCs and SIDS at the time of the approval of the funding requests

Figure 3. Regional distribution of the SOFF-supported countries in the Readiness Phase (left) and percentage of SOFF-supported countries within the 77 Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

2.1.2 Readiness Phase Progress

Significant progress has been made since the start of the SOFF Readiness Phase with the first country funding approvals in March 2023. An overview of the results for the three Readiness outputs is presented in Figure 4. The SOFF Monitoring Dashboard offers a more granular, country-level view of each output.



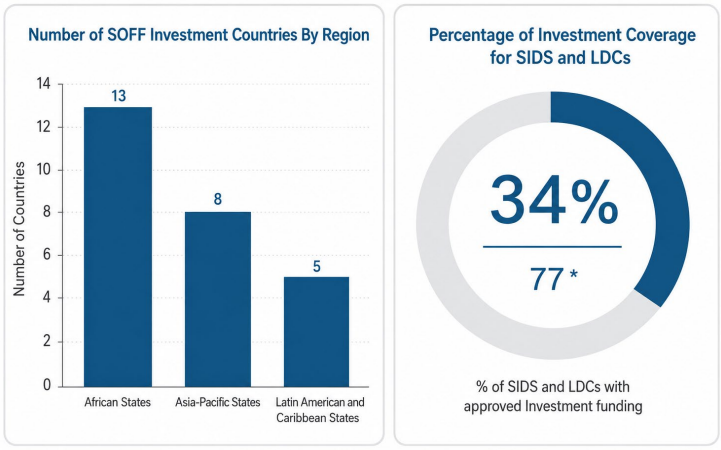
source: SOFF Monitoring Dashboard

Figure 4. Progress against the three Readiness Outputs (August 2026)

2.2 Investment Phase

2.2.1 The SOFF Investment Portfolio

Figure 5 provides an overview of the regional distribution of the **26 countries** with approved and ongoing SOFF investments, as well as their proportion among all 77 Least Developed Countries and Small Island Development States.



**Total number of LDCs and SIDS at the time of the approval of the funding requests*

Figure 5. Regional distribution of the SOFF-supported countries in the Investment Phase (left) and percentage of SOFF-supported countries in Investment Phase within the 77 Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Further details on operational partners and approved funding are provided in Annex I.

2.2.2 Investment Phase Progress

While countries are at varying stages, ranging from advanced status (e.g., Rwanda, Bhutan, Tanzania) to early inception and legal finalization (e.g., Naoero, Samoa, Timor-Leste), notable progress has been achieved in WIS 2.0 data exchange, procurement launch, upper-air station construction, and capacity building.

The table below summarises the progress for the status of SOFF-supported **surface and upper air stations that are already sharing data internationally** in WIGOS Data Quality Monitoring System (WDQMS), presented in alphabetical order with cutoff date of 30th August 2026.

Country	No. of stations sharing data	Progress
Bhutan	5	Five land-based stations supported by Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) which are earmarked for SOFF Compliance Phase have started sharing data internationally, according to WDQMS. In addition: • SOFF supported station (Damphu Class A AWS) was upgraded on 17 June 2026,

		establishing it to become Bhutan's first GBON-compliant station. • Construction of the Tsirang Upper-Air Facility is progressing, with 70% of the boundary wall completed.
Cabo Verde	2	Surface stations at Sal and Praia have transmitted hourly observations globally via WIS 2.0 since June 2026, replacing previous six-hourly manual reporting.
Chad	16	Following a national maintenance and inspection campaign, 16 land-based stations (of total 27 that are scheduled for rehabilitation) are regularly transmitting meteorological observations internationally through WIS 2.0.
Mozambique	4	Four improved land-based stations are operationally sharing meteorological observations internationally through WIS 2.0.
Rwanda	4	• Three upgraded land-based weather stations are already fully integrated into WIS 2.0 and actively transmitting data globally. • One upper-air station is also sharing data in accordance to GBON.

Countries like Rwanda, Bhutan, Tanzania, Ethiopia are advancing in establishing **upper air stations** - automatic radiosonde sounding systems and hydrogen facilities for Upper Air Infrastructure.

As progress continues, several **implementation challenges** have emerged, leading to delays against the initial timeline set out in the submitted workplans. The two major constraints are as listed below:

- Procurement continues to be one of the main reasons of delay in several countries, attributable to factors such as approval-process bottlenecks, technical specification requirements, supplier onboarding timelines, or bids exceeding budgeted estimates (e.g., Chad, Cabo Verde, Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique). This is particularly the case where SOFF implementation follows a hybrid executing

model comprising a National Executing Entity, compared to a model where the Implementing Entity executes.

- External and logistical constraints are also affecting timelines, including limited remote-site access, inter-island travel requirements, incomplete civil works, and isolated supplier disruptions (e.g., Kiribati, South Sudan, Cabo Verde).

The SOFF Secretariat is following up with the respective countries, WMO Technical Authority, Implementing Entities to address procurement and logistical bottlenecks and support countries in getting back on track with their workplans.

Annex 2 provides the detailed country reports.

The outputs-based progress based on the annual progress reports of the Implementing Entities are available in the SOFF Monitoring Dashboard, which is updated based on the Annual Narrative Reports (2025) as received from the Implementing Entities.

2.2.3 Strengthening Efficiency through Collaboration and Complementarity

The reports provide several concrete examples of SOFF investments being coordinated with other programmes, national investments and partner systems to reduce duplication and strengthen sustainability.

- **Samoa:** The SOFF grant is co-financing the World Bank's Pacific Resilience Project for Samoa (PREPARE-Samoa), alongside USD 30 million from the International Development Association (IDA).
- **Kiribati:** The project is assessing whether Aviation Weather Observing Systems (AWOS) financed through Australia's Partnerships for Aviation programme at Bonriki, Kiritimati and Kanton can contribute to Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) requirements, subject to confirmation by the WMO Technical Authority.
- **Solomon Islands**: SOFF implementation is being coordinated with a Bureau of Meteorology (BoM)-led Aviation Weather Observing System (AWOS) at Munda Airport and the World Bank's Solomon Islands Roads and Aviation Project (SIRAP) Aviation Weather Observing System at Henderson Airport/Honiara, to provide complementary coverage and data ingestion rather than duplication.
- **Maldives:** High-level SOFF stakeholder engagement was conducted alongside the inception of the United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) approved Green Climate Fund (GCF) scaling-up project, **Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient Communities (TRACT)**. Designed as a downstream scaling-up initiative, TRACT directly complements SOFF by connecting foundational meteorological observing infrastructure to the wider early-warning value chain.

- **Timor-Leste:** UNEP is coordinating SOFF implementation with an ongoing Green Climate Fund (GCF) - Enhancing Early Warning Systems to build greater resilience to hydro-meteorological hazards in Timor-Leste project so that SOFF activities can build on and continue relevant work already initiated.
- **Bhutan:** The SOFF-funded National Calibration Laboratory is being housed within the wider National Weather and Flood Warning Centre at Yusipang, financed primarily by the Government of India, with Royal Government of Bhutan co-financing and administrative support.
- **Mozambique:** Mozambique's use of a UNDP Long-Term Agreement (LTA) was intended to leverage an existing procurement mechanism and enable implementing entities to build on and leverage each other's capacities.

Key lesson: These examples suggest that complementarity is most effective when roles, technical standards, procurement pathways and timing are agreed early.

2.2.4 Implementing Entity Perspective: Spotlight on WFP

WFP serves as Implementing Entity for five countries in the approved Investment Phase portfolio: Chad, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic and Zambia representing approximately USD 22.24 million in approved Investment Phase funding (including SOFF peer advisory services).

WFP's growing SOFF portfolio demonstrates how investments in basic weather and climate observations can deliver wider development and humanitarian returns, particularly in fragile and climate-vulnerable countries. By combining field presence, logistics and procurement capacity, established government partnerships, and expertise in early warning and anticipatory action, WFP helps translate meteorological infrastructure into actionable information that can protect lives and livelihoods.

In Chad, sixteen [1] SOFF-supported stations are currently reported as transmitting observations internationally via WIS 2.0. Importantly, the SOFF supported maintenance campaign also enabled met office in Chad to rehabilitate ten[2] of non-SOFF stations that are transmitting data. This is an example of how SOFF support is helping strengthen the wider national observation network beyond the stations directly covered by the project.

In Mozambique, four SOFF stations[3] are sharing data internationally. Implementation has also generated important institutional and social benefits beyond infrastructure

[1] Moundou, Doba, Sarh, Moissala, Goré, Pala, Bongor, N'Djamena, Mongo, Oum Hadjer, Abéché, Biltine, Goz Beida, Am-Timan, Mangalmé and Haraze Mangueigne

[2] Dono Manga, Moussa-Foyo, Larmanaye, Guelendeng, Deli, Léré, Lagon, Fianga, Dourbali and Massenya

[3] Caia , Catandica, Chicualacuala auto, Changalane

procurement, including community engagement, gender and protection from sexual exploitation and abuse capacity-building, technical planning, and strengthened coordination among national institutions. These complementary investments are essential to ensuring that improved observations are sustained and converted into effective early warnings and informed decisions.

Implementation in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Dominican Republic and Zambia is at an earlier stage, with activities currently focused on project launch and establishing the foundations for delivery.

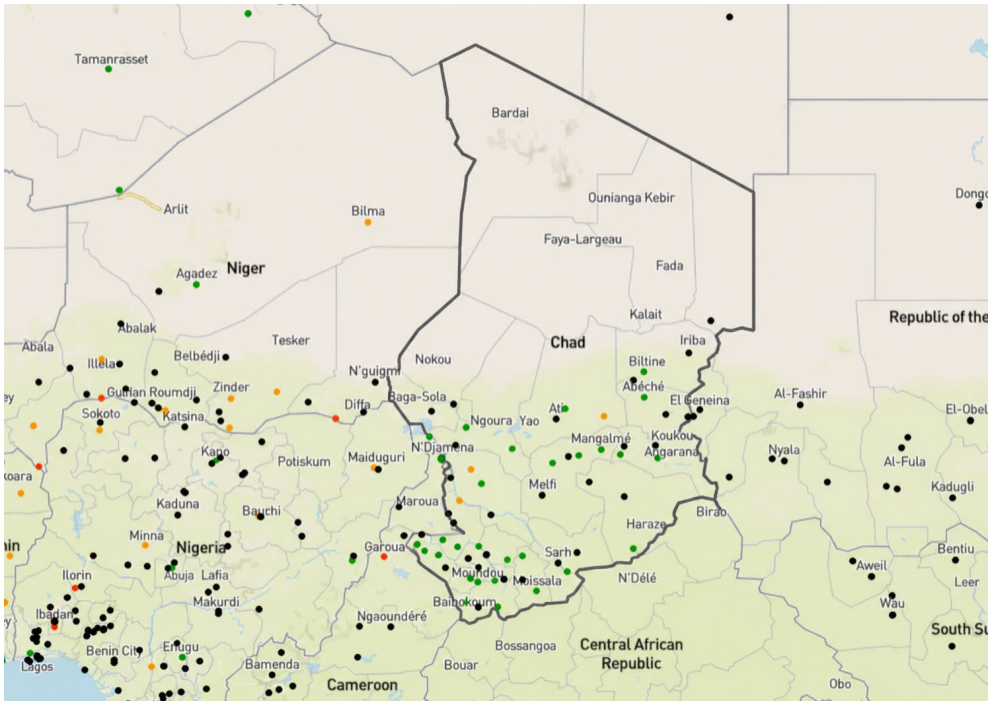


Figure 6. Status of Chad GBON surface stations for September 2026 as shown in the WDQMS webtool

2.2.5 Outlook

The active portfolio is expected to continue moving from procurement and civil works into equipment delivery, installation, system integration and data-exchange verification.

In parallel, the SOFF Investment Phase pipeline continues to grow. Six countries are currently in the pipeline in accordance with Decision 13.3. Additionally, six new Investment funding requests are presented to the 15th Steering Committee for consideration for inclusion in the Investment phase pipeline (Decision 15.3).

Annex I: Approved Investment funding requests

Country	Date of approval	IE	Peer advisor	Partner Peer advisor	Amount approved (in USD)	Amount transferred (in USD)	Status
Belize	Nov 2023	IADB	United Kingdom	-	864,543	503,035	Under implementation
Bhutan	Mar 2024	UNEP	Finland	-	4,624,024	3,514,453	Under implementation
Cabo Verde	Mar 2024	UNEP	Netherlands	-	3,879,118	2,883,272	Under implementation
Chad	Jun 2024	WFP	Austria	-	6,980,083	4,689,874	Under implementation
Ethiopia	Mar 2024	UNDP	Norway	Finland	9,956,803	6,701,576	Under implementation
Kiribati	Nov 2023	UNEP	Australia	-	11,155,102	9,715,184	Under implementation
Madagascar	Feb 2025	UNDP	Germany	-	4,914,295.84	3,752,903	Under implementation
Maldives	Nov 2023	UNEP	Finland	Indonesia	4,907,326	4,149,791	Under implementation
Mozambique	Nov 2023	WFP	South Africa	-	7,892,560	5,373,477	Under implementation
Rwanda	Nov 2023	UNDP	Finland	-	3,535,377	2,473,185	Under implementation
Solomon Islands	Mar 2024	UNDP	Australia	-	8,488,524	5,732,049	Under implementation
South Sudan	Feb 2026	FAO	Austria	-	2,079,599	1,279,580	Under implementation
United Republic of Tanzania	Mar 2024	UNDP	Denmark	-	9,067,504	5,272,437	Under implementation
Timor-Leste	Feb 2025	UNEP	Finland	-	5,756,742	4,958,893.26	Under implementation
Uganda	Jun 2024	IsDB	Netherlands	-	6,316,536	4,217,543	Under implementation
Samoa	Nov 2025	WB	Australia	-	6,005,375	3,118,579.81	Under implementation
Nauru	Nov 2025	UNEP	Australia	-	6,194,529	5,415,904	Under implementation
Malawi	Nov 2025	UNDP	Norway	Iceland	3,876,356	2,516,181	Under implementation
Cuba	Feb 2026	UNDP	Spain	-	6,523,639	5,019,733	Under implementation

Country	Date of approval	IE	Peer advisor	Partner Peer advisor	Amount approved (in USD)	Amount transferred (in USD)	Status
Democratic Republic of Congo	Feb 2026	WFP	Switzerland	-	2,459,983	1,521,880	Under implementation
Guyana	Feb 2026	IDB	Austria	-	1,931,350	-	Implementation to begin in 2027
Zambia	Feb 2026	WFP	United Kingdom	-	3,627,540	2,378,742	Under implementation
Bangladesh	Feb 2026	IsDB	Norway	China	4,954,865	-	Implementation to begin soon
Sao Tome and Principe	May 2026	UNDP	Netherland	-	2,907,084	1,145,206	Under implementation
Dominican Republic	May 2026	WFP	Spain	-	1,281,022	865,849	Under implementation
Suriname	May 2026	UNDP	Netherland	-	2,666,811	1,777,794	Under implementation
				Total	**132,846,690.84**	**88,977,121.07**	

Annex II: Semi-Annual Narrative Reports (Jan–June 2026) by Implementing entities

There are 26 countries in the investment phase, of which reporting was eligible for 18 countries during the period from January to June 2026. Below are the links of the semi-annual reports submitted by the implementing entities for this reporting period.

Country	Links of the report
Belize	https://www.un-soff.org/document/belize-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Bhutan	https://www.un-soff.org/document/bhutan-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Cabo Verde	https://www.un-soff.org/document/cabo-verde-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Chad	https://www.un-soff.org/document/chad-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Kiribati	https://www.un-soff.org/document/kiribati-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Ethiopia	https://www.un-soff.org/document/ethiopia-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Madagascar	https://www.un-soff.org/document/madagascar-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Maldives	https://www.un-soff.org/document/maldives-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Mozambique	https://www.un-soff.org/document/mozambique-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/

Rwanda	https://www.un-soff.org/document/rwanda-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Samoa	https://www.un-soff.org/document/samoa-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Solomon Islands	https://www.un-soff.org/document/solomon-islands-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
South Sudan	https://www.un-soff.org/document/south-sudan-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Timor-Leste	https://www.un-soff.org/document/timor-leste-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Uganda	https://www.un-soff.org/document/uganda-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
United Republic of Tanzania	https://www.un-soff.org/document/united-republic-of-tanzania-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Malawi	https://www.un-soff.org/document/malawi-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/
Naoero	https://www.un-soff.org/document/naoero-semi-annual-narrative-report-investment-phase-progress-update-jan-june-2026/