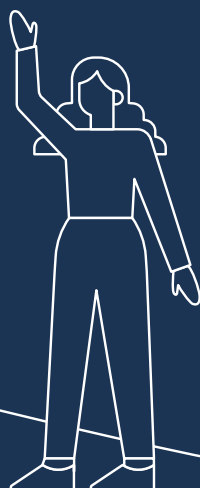




| **S**  **FF**  
Systematic Observations Financing Facility

# 2023 ACTION REPORT

WEATHER AND CLIMATE  
DATA FOR RESILIENCE



# FOREWORD

**A**s co-chairs of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Steering Committee we have the pleasure to present the first SOFF Action Report. SOFF is a new United Nations climate fund, co-created by the World Meteorological Organization, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme. The fund has a single purpose: to support countries in need to close today's basic weather and climate data gaps in a sustained manner.

Weather forecasts and climate predictions are only as good as the data they are built upon. For any forecast beyond a few days for any location on our planet we need data from across the globe. Yet, today, Least Developed Countries, Small Island Developing States and Lower Middle-Income Countries generate and internationally exchange only seven percent of the internationally agreed and mandated surface-based observation data. Accurate data are critical for making effective and urgently needed climate policy and investment decisions for mitigation and, particularly, for adaptation, including for the United Nations General-Secretary's Early Warnings for All initiative. In addition to being an essential input for weather forecast

models, data from weather stations are also critical for our understanding of the climate baseline and for monitoring changes in the climate. According to the recent IPCC Sixth Assessment Report it is extremely difficult to project with any accuracy potential changes in heatwaves, flooding events and drought in large parts of Africa, Latin America and Pacific due to lack of data.

SOFF, with its focus on closing the basic weather and climate data gaps, has a unique role to play within the climate finance landscape. And it plays its role in an innovative manner. First, it provides long-term grant finance in recognition of the global public good value of the data. Second, technical assistance is provided in a peer-to-peer manner by those who know how to run an observing system – advanced national meteorological services. Third, it works with Multilateral Development Banks and United Nations Organizations as Implementing Entities who blend SOFF finance with their own projects and programs for comprehensive country support packages.

An important hallmark of SOFF is the speed with which it operates. SOFF opened its doors for business in July 2022, and

today 60 countries are already benefitting from SOFF support. The average time it took for countries to progress from being programmed to receiving support, preparing their funding requests and having their funding requests approved, corresponds to 3.7 months.

SOFF's rapid development and take-off is a testament to the clear demand for its outputs, the support from many visionary funders, and the hard work by the SOFF Secretariat and the community of practitioners it has created. It is a demonstration of how First Doers can come together to set up an important piece of the climate finance puzzle in a very short period of time. We call on all of our partners to support us and to join us in this effort.

**Karin Isaksson**

*Managing Director of the Nordic Development Fund*

**Petteri Taalas**

*Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization*

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**"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."**

**ANTONIO GUTERRES**  
*United Nations Secretary-General*

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- 1 FOUNDATIONAL
- 2 UNIQUE
- 3 SEQUENCED
- 4 FAST-PACED
- 5 INTEGRATED
- 6 IN DEMAND

# SOFF IN NUMBERS

## FOUNDATIONAL

**300+**  
**BILLION**

cost to the global economy in 2022 through disasters triggered by weather- and climate-related hazards.

**193**  
**COUNTRIES**

the members of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) established the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON) as a new global standard for real time international exchange of basic weather and climate requirement to improve forecast products and services.

**ONLY**  
**7%**

of the mandatory GBON surface land data from Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Lower Middle-Income Countries (LMICs) are actually delivered.

## UNIQUE

**1**  
**PURPOSE**

to provide long-term financial and technical support to countries to close GBON weather and climate data gaps.

**28**  
**COUNTRIES**

provide peer-to-peer technical assistance through their National Meteorological and Hydrological Services.

**200 KM**

horizontal resolution for surface land stations to meet GBON standard density requirements to be enabled by SOFF.

## SEQUENCED

**3**  
**PHASES OF SUPPORT**

Readiness, Investment, and Compliance to ensure sustainability of investments.

**6**  
**PROGRAMMING**

criteria for prioritizing beneficiary countries' requests.





**FAST-PACED****1.5  
YEARS**

of SOFF operation.

**3.7  
MONTHS**on average from  
programming to readiness  
funding approval.**60  
COUNTRIES**with Readiness funding  
approved.**54**Country readiness outputs  
delivered by countries within  
7 months.**6  
COUNTRIES**with Investment funding  
requests approved.**INTEGRATED****72  
INTERNATIONAL  
PARTNERS**joining forces to close  
the basic weather and  
climate observation gap  
and incorporate data  
into improved climate  
information products and  
services.**9  
MULTILATERAL  
DEVELOPMENT  
BANKS AND UN  
ORGANIZATIONS**serving as SOFF  
Implementing Entities,  
leveraging SOFF resources  
by blending them with  
their own projects and  
programmes.**5  
MULTILATERAL  
CLIMATE FUNDS**partnering with SOFF  
through a collaboration  
agreement for maximum  
effectiveness.**IN DEMAND****101  
COUNTRIES**have requested SOFF  
support.**12  
INITIAL  
FUNDERS**enabled SOFF to take off:  
Austria, Belgium, Canada,  
Denmark, Finland, Iceland,  
Ireland, Kingdom of the  
Netherlands, Nordic  
Development Fund, Norway,  
Spain and the United States  
of America.**USD 73  
MILLION**

secured as initial pledges.

**USD 127  
MILLION**million funding gap to  
deliver on the work  
program by 2025.





# 1 FOUNDATIONAL

CLOSING THE DATA GAP IN BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE OBSERVATIONS IS CRITICAL FOR EVIDENCE-BASED INVESTMENTS IN ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE.

## URGENCY OF ACTION.

### INCREASED FREQUENCY AND INTENSITY OF CLIMATE IMPACTS NECESSITATES URGENT ADAPTATION ACTIONS.

**Human-induced climate change, including more frequent and intense extreme events, has already caused widespread adverse impacts as well as loss and damage to people and nature.** Disasters triggered by weather- and climate-related hazards cost the global economy over **USD 300 billion** in 2022 alone ([Statista](#), 2023 and [AON](#), 2023).

OVER

# USD 300 BILLION

IN 2022 ALONE.

Urgent and ambitious action is needed to mitigate the continued rise in greenhouse gases globally. But based on the current global trajectory, adaptation and resilience building is crucial to reduce the expected negative effects of the changing climate and to avoid further loss and damage, especially to those most vulnerable.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2023) has documented progress on adaptation in many areas, but found most responses to be fragmented, incremental, sector-specific, and unequally distributed across countries and regions.

Significantly stepping up the amount and the quality of investment on adaptation requires high quality weather forecasts and climate prediction to be available everywhere. Decision-makers and investors need information about specific expected impacts if they are to prioritize the use of their limited resources and take effective, efficient, and timely action.

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“REPORTING FROM STATIONS IN REMOTE AREAS OF THE GLOBE CONTRIBUTE TO GLOBAL FORECAST QUALITY UP TO 20 TIMES MORE THAN ANY SINGLE STATION IN CONTINENTAL EUROPE. THIS IS WHY SOFF’S VISION IS SO FORWARD-LOOKING AND INNOVATIVE.”

**FLORENCE RABIER**  
*Director-General, European Centre for Medium-Range Weather Forecasts (ECMWF)*

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## DATA ARE AT THE ROOT OF EVERY WEATHER AND CLIMATE FORECAST.

### Observations are the basis for monitoring and prediction of weather and climate.

For forecasts beyond a few days for any location, observations from the whole globe are required to effectively predict future conditions. Both ground and satellite data contribute to global observations, but it is essential that the two complement each other. Satellite data alone are difficult to use over land, snow and ice surfaces, and the use of satellite data relies on a good distribution of surface-based measurements for calibration and validation. In addition, some basic measurements, for example the detailed vertical structure of the atmosphere and surface pressure, cannot be made from space. Therefore, sufficient global surface-based measurements are an essential input for the effective deployment of the downstream or “last mile” components of the value chain – local data processing, weather forecasting and delivery of weather and climate services, including timely early warnings.

**In October 2021, the 193 Member countries and territories of the World Meteorological Congress took a landmark decision by agreeing on a new global standard and requirements for mandatory real time international data exchange of basic weather and climate observation** to improve forecast products. GBON defines in clear and quantitative terms the commitments of the WMO Members to acquire and internationally exchange basic surface-based observations. It offers a new approach in which the basic surface-based observing network is designed, defined and monitored at the global level.

# 193 COUNTRIES

AND TERRITORIES ESTABLISHED THE GLOBAL BASIC OBSERVING NETWORK (GBON).

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“THE LACK OF OBSERVATIONS FROM SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES LIMITS THE QUALITY OF FORECASTS AND CLIMATE DATA PRODUCTS GLOBALLY, BUT ESPECIALLY IN THE COUNTRIES FROM WHICH OBSERVATIONS ARE MISSING. AOSIS HIGHLY WELCOMES SOFF TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES IN CLOSING THE BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE OBSERVATIONS GAP.”

**AMBASSADOR LUTERU PA'OLELEI**

*Permanent Representative of Samoa to the United Nations and Chair of Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)*

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## CLOSING THE OBSERVATIONS DATA GAP IS ESSENTIAL FOR THE WORLD TO UNDERSTAND AND PREPARE FOR THE IMPACTS OF A RAPIDLY CHANGING CLIMATE.

**Since January 2023, GBON has become a mandatory global standard for surface-based observations, but many countries are far from achieving GBON compliance.**

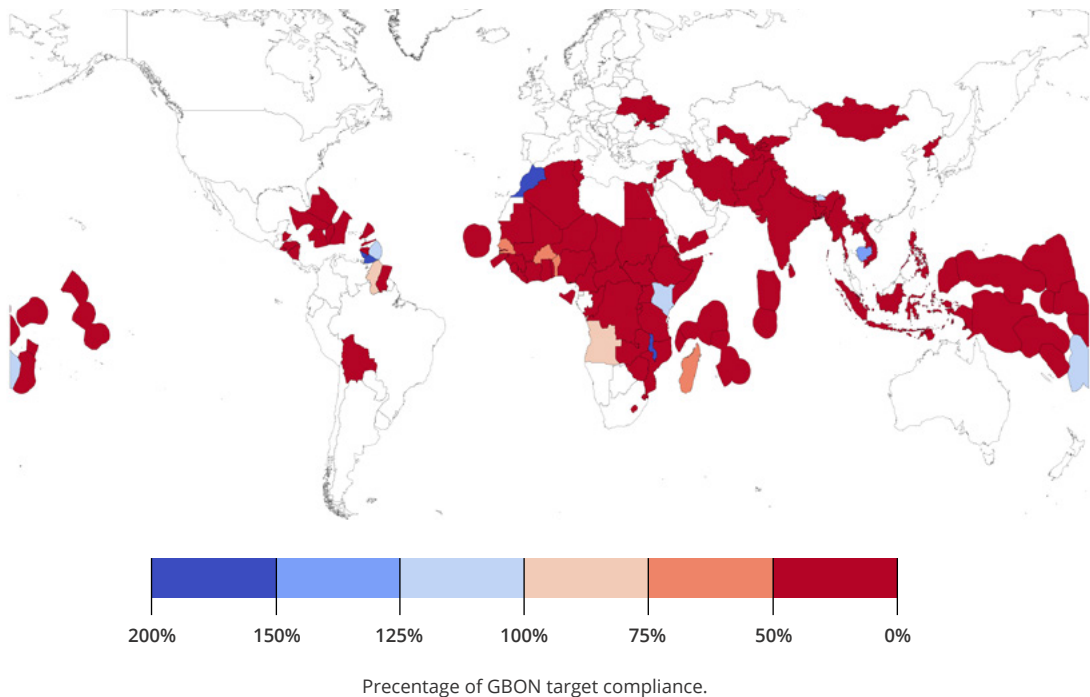
According to the WMO GBON Global Gap Analysis of June 2023, over 100 countries classified as SIDS, LDCs and LMICs deliver only seven percent of the required GBON surface land data and 24 percent of the GBON upper air data. Together, these countries represent 45 percent of the

total GBON surface land data gap and 59 percent of the GBON upper air data gap. Closing the data gaps in these countries is essential for better forecasts – for the countries themselves as well as for the global community.

ONLY  
**7%**

OF THE REQUIRED AND MANDATORY  
GBON SURFACE LAND DATA FROM  
SIDS, LDCs AND LMICs ARE ACTUALLY  
DELIVERED.

GBON surface land compliance SIDS, LDCs and LMICs



**Description:** GBON target compliance of surface stations is evaluated according to the WMO standard density compliance criteria, for SIDS, LDCs and LMICs. Countries with reported availability more than 80% on at least 80% of days in June 2023 are shown as compliant.

## SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS.

### ENORMOUS SOCIO-ECONOMIC BENEFITS OF CLOSING THE GBON DATA GAP IN OBSERVATIONS.

The economic benefits from improved weather and climate services result from the operation of the entire meteorological value chain, and the impact of observations or observational data exchange cannot be assessed in isolation. However, a recent [study by the World Bank, WMO and the United Kingdom's Met Office](#) estimated that the

potential benefits from having all countries generate and share the data required for GBON could exceed USD 5 billion per year. Every dollar invested in achieving GBON could help unleash additional economic benefits at a benefit-cost ratio of over 25:1.





© José René Morales Nuñez, WMO 2022 Calendar Competition



## 2 UNIQUE

SOFF HAS A UNIQUE MANDATE AND APPROACH TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES IN CLOSING THE BASIC OBSERVATIONS GAP.

**A SPECIALIZED UN CLIMATE FUND WITH AN EXCLUSIVE FOCUS ON SUPPORTING COUNTRIES TO ACHIEVE GBON COMPLIANCE.**

**SOFF is a dedicated specialized United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund (UNMPTF) that provides long-term technical and financial support for countries to collect and internationally exchange basic weather and climate observations.** While having a single focus on data generation and exchange, SOFF also supports countries to leverage additional financing for investments in the subsequent parts of the value chain.

All 149 SIDS, LDCs and other Official Development Assistance (ODA) eligible countries are eligible for SOFF technical assistance. Today SIDS and LDCs are additionally eligible for financial support. Looking forward, the SOFF Steering Committee may consider expansion of financial support to LMICs in a phased and prioritized manner.

## 1 PURPOSE

**TO PROVIDE LONG-TERM SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES TO CLOSE THE GBON WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA GAPS.**

**LONG-TERM AND RESULTS-BASED GRANT FINANCING IS KEY FOR SUSTAINED DATA EXCHANGE.**

**Observations exchange creates a global public good.** In other words, investments to improve observations exchange in any country will have global benefits beyond those for the country itself. It is in the nature of global public goods that they will be underprovided unless special efforts are made through global institutions and financing mechanisms to support their provision.

**SOFF provides long-term, grant-only resources in recognition of the fact that GBON investments made in one country create benefits globally.** It finances the infrastructure and human and institutional capacity required to close the countries' established GBON gaps and substantially contributes to the costs for operating and maintaining their systems in the long term. It shifts support from the traditional focus on short-term capital investments to a focus on achieving long-term observational data exchange as a way of measuring results. Provision of this long-term finance is results-based and is triggered by GBON data exchange compliance.

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“CLIMATE CHANGE THREATENS MACROECONOMIC STABILITY, WHILE CLIMATE ACTION OFFERS OPPORTUNITIES FOR GREEN GROWTH AND JOBS. SO, IT’S VITAL [THAT] THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY SUPPORT THE EFFORTS OF LOWER-INCOME AND SMALL ISLAND ECONOMIES TO COLLECT AND DISSEMINATE HIGH QUALITY AND COMPARABLE CLIMATE DATA. THIS IS ESSENTIAL TO ENABLE STAKEHOLDERS TO TAKE BETTER INFORMED DECISIONS TOWARD MORE SUSTAINABLE AND MORE RESILIENT ECONOMIES.”

**KRISTALINA GEORGIEVA**  
*International Monetary Fund Managing Director*

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**PEER ADVISORS PROVIDE EXPERIENCE, CONSISTENCY AND STABILITY IN TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SOFF COUNTRIES.**

**SOFF enhances beneficiary countries’ capacity by harnessing the operational experience of advanced National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHS).** Operating and maintaining observing networks and internationally exchanging data is a complex undertaking, in particular for countries with limited human and institutional capacity and challenging national circumstances. Twenty-eight countries are offering peer advisory services through their NMHS. They provide hands-on peer-to-peer technical and institutional assistance, including South-South peer support. Twenty peer advisors have already started providing their services and support for SOFF implementation.

The peer advisor NMHS have a long-term history of operating observing systems and corresponding expertise and knowledge of WMO standards and requirements. This facilitates standardization, coherence, and coordination of SOFF technical advice across

countries, regions and globally. The long-term provision of advisory support from advanced NMHS, on a cost-recovery basis, is the basis for human and institutional sustainability of the investments.

## 28 COUNTRIES

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**ARE OFFERING PEER-TO-PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE THROUGH THEIR NATIONAL METEOROLOGICAL AND HYDROLOGICAL SERVICES.**

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“ONE OF THE UNIQUE DESIGN FEATURES OF SOFF IS ITS INNOVATIVE, HANDS-ON, PEER-TO-PEER TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING SOUTH-SOUTH SUPPORT. THE SOUTH AFRICAN WEATHER SERVICE IS PROUD TO SERVE AS A SOFF PEER ADVISOR.”

**ISHAAM ABADER**  
*CEO of South African Weather Service and Permanent Representative of South Africa with WMO*

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**SOFF DELIVERS ON INTERNATIONALLY AGREED METRICS THROUGH A STANDARDIZED AND OUTPUT-BASED APPROACH.**

SOFF actions are guided by an internationally agreed global design and corresponding metrics – WMO’s GBON. The GBON metrics and WMO’s data quality monitoring system allow for an efficient and effective allocation of resources and an objective and easily verifiable assessment of SOFF results.

Taking advantage of the clear GBON metrics, SOFF uses a standardized and output-based approach, tailored to country circumstances.

The GBON standard density requirements for horizontal resolution of surface land stations and upper air stations operated from land are 200 km and 500 km. For SIDS, where the surface area of the Exclusive Economic Zone is significantly larger than the land surface area, the observing responsibility applies to the entirety of that area, and the horizontal resolution is 500 km for surface land stations and 1000 km upper air stations operated from land.

SOFF WILL ENABLE A

# 200 KM

GRID OF GBON STANDARD DENSITY FOR HORIZONTAL RESOLUTION FOR SURFACE LAND STATIONS AND 500KM FOR UPPER AIR STATIONS OPERATED FROM LAND.

## SOFF IS CONTRIBUTING TO THE GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM (GCOS).

GCOS is recognized by the UNFCCC as an authoritative voice on climate observation needs and reports to Conference of the Parties meetings. GCOS recognizes 55 Essential Climate Variables across the atmospheric, oceanic and terrestrial domains as the minimum set of observations deemed necessary to adequately monitor the evolving global climate system. There are ten GBON variables that must be exchanged in real time, and those ten are an important subset of the 55 GCOS variables. As SOFF is providing grant financing and technical assistance for the sustained collection and international exchange of surface-

based weather and climate observations according to the GBON regulations, SOFF is making an important contribution to GCOS implementation.

## WMO SERVES AS SOFF TECHNICAL AUTHORITY.

WMO plays a central role in guiding SOFF as its Technical Authority. The World Meteorological Congress is responsible for establishing and approving the GBON regulations and updating them. The Commission for Observation, Infrastructure, and Information System oversees and coordinates the development of technical guidelines, processes, and procedures for the implementation and compliance monitoring of GBON. The WMO Secretariat provides technical support to the peer advisors, Implementing Entities and beneficiary countries on GBON regulations. It is also responsible for the technical screening of SOFF Readiness phase outputs, including the countries' GBON National Gap Analysis and GBON National Contribution Plan, and for independently verifying the GBON compliance status of beneficiary countries.



## 3 SEQUENCED

A SEQUENCED SUPPORT TO COUNTRIES TO CLOSE THEIR GBON GAPS.

**SOFF's overall objective is to improve the effectiveness of climate adaption and resilient development through improved weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information services through sustained and strengthened observation networks.** SOFF provides grant finance and technical assistance in three programmatic phases: Readiness, Investment and Compliance. Each stage has clearly defined outputs outlined in the SOFF Theory of Change.

### 3 PHASES OF SUPPORT

READINESS, INVESTMENT, COMPLIANCE.

#### READINESS: GETTING READY

SIDS, LDCs and other ODA-eligible countries can access technical assistance provided by advanced NMHS as peer advisors. The Readiness phase delivers three outputs: the detailed assessment of the national GBON gap, the development of the GBON National Contribution Plan to close the gap, and the standardized assessment of the beneficiary country NMHS, its operating environment, and its contribution to weather and climate services and warnings.

#### INVESTMENT: CLOSING THE GAP

Based on the Readiness phase outputs, SOFF provides grants to establish the infrastructure and human and institutional capacity required to achieve GBON compliance through nine standardized outputs and outcomes. In the Investment phase, SOFF works with Multilateral Development Banks and UN organizations as Implementing Entities, supported by technical assistance from the peer advisors.

#### COMPLIANCE: SUSTAINING DATA EXCHANGE

During the Compliance phase, results-based and long-term grant finance is provided to support operations and maintenance of GBON data-sharing compliant stations. Advisory support for GBON operations and maintenance is provided through peer advisors on a demand basis.





## PROGRAMMING CRITERIA.

### SOFF DEFINES ITS PROGRAMMING BASED ON CLEAR TECHNICAL AND OPERATIONAL CRITERIA.

SOFF has established six programming criteria for prioritizing beneficiary countries' requests for support.

- **Close the Most Significant Data Gaps:**  
Target geographic areas that currently have the poorest observational coverage, where strengthening the observing network would yield the largest results with respect to improving the quality of the numerical weather prediction products.
- **Target Easy Fixes:**  
Prioritize countries where through relatively small interventions, stations and related infrastructure could be fixed to start quickly delivering the data into the global system.
- **Maximize Delivery Capacity:**  
Identify countries where Implementing Entities and peer advisors have on-going operations and can deliver SOFF support efficiently and effectively as part of larger programmes.
- **Create Leverage:**  
Pursue opportunities where there is complementarity between SOFF programs with larger operations supported by the Implementing Entities and other funds, including the multilateral climate funds represented in the SOFF governance structure.
- **Subregional Gains:**  
Find opportunities for economies of scale and optimize the design of the observing networks through coordinated multi-country and sub-regional implementation.
- **Ensure Country Balance:**  
Balance support particularly among SIDS and LDCs and across regions, including Fragile and Conflict-affected States.

# 6

## PROGRAMMING CRITERIA

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### FOR PRIORITIZING BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES' REQUESTS.

## 4 FAST-PACED

SOFF IS DELIVERING WITH AMBITION AND SPEED.

# 1.5 YEARS

OF OPERATION.

### READINESS PHASE:

## 60 COUNTRIES

with Readiness funding approved.

## 54 READINESS

Readiness outputs delivered by countries within 7 months.

- 14 Country Hydromet Diagnostics submitted.
- 13 National Contribution Plans submitted.
- 27 National Gap Analyses submitted.

## USD 139,000

average costs for Readiness work per country.

## 3.7 MONTHS

average time from programming to readiness funding approval.

### INVESTMENT PHASE:

## 6 COUNTRIES

with Investment funding requests approved.

## USD 30,543,829

total Investment phase funding approved for the first six countries.

## GOING ABOVE AND BEYOND.

Given the high levels of country demand for SOFF support and the urgency of aligning SOFF programming with the UN Early Warnings for All initiative, SOFF has gone above and beyond what was initially envisaged for the first 18 months of SOFF operation.

Following the first SOFF Steering Committee, hosted by the Government of Finland in June 2022, SOFF became operational on 1 July 2022. At its first meeting, the Steering Committee adopted the governance structure, the programming criteria, and the initial work programme. This initial work programme targeted SOFF Readiness support to 15 countries in the first year of operation.

In November 2022, the Steering Committee increased the ambition level and programmed support to 26 countries, authorizing them to prepare their Readiness phase funding requests. The countries prepared these requests quickly, and the Steering Committee approved the funding in March 2023. The meeting also further raised SOFF ambition by programming support to an additional 14 countries.

At the Steering Committee meeting hosted by the Government of Denmark in June 2023, it was decided to further expand SOFF support to a total of 62 countries, including all 30 Early Warnings for All initiative focus countries. It also approved ten additional Readiness phase funding requests and asked the SOFF Secretariat to analyse the implications of a potential Middle-Income Country (MIC) expansion.

In September 2023, the Steering Committee approved additional Readiness phase funding requests from 23 countries, bringing the total number of countries with approved requests to 59.

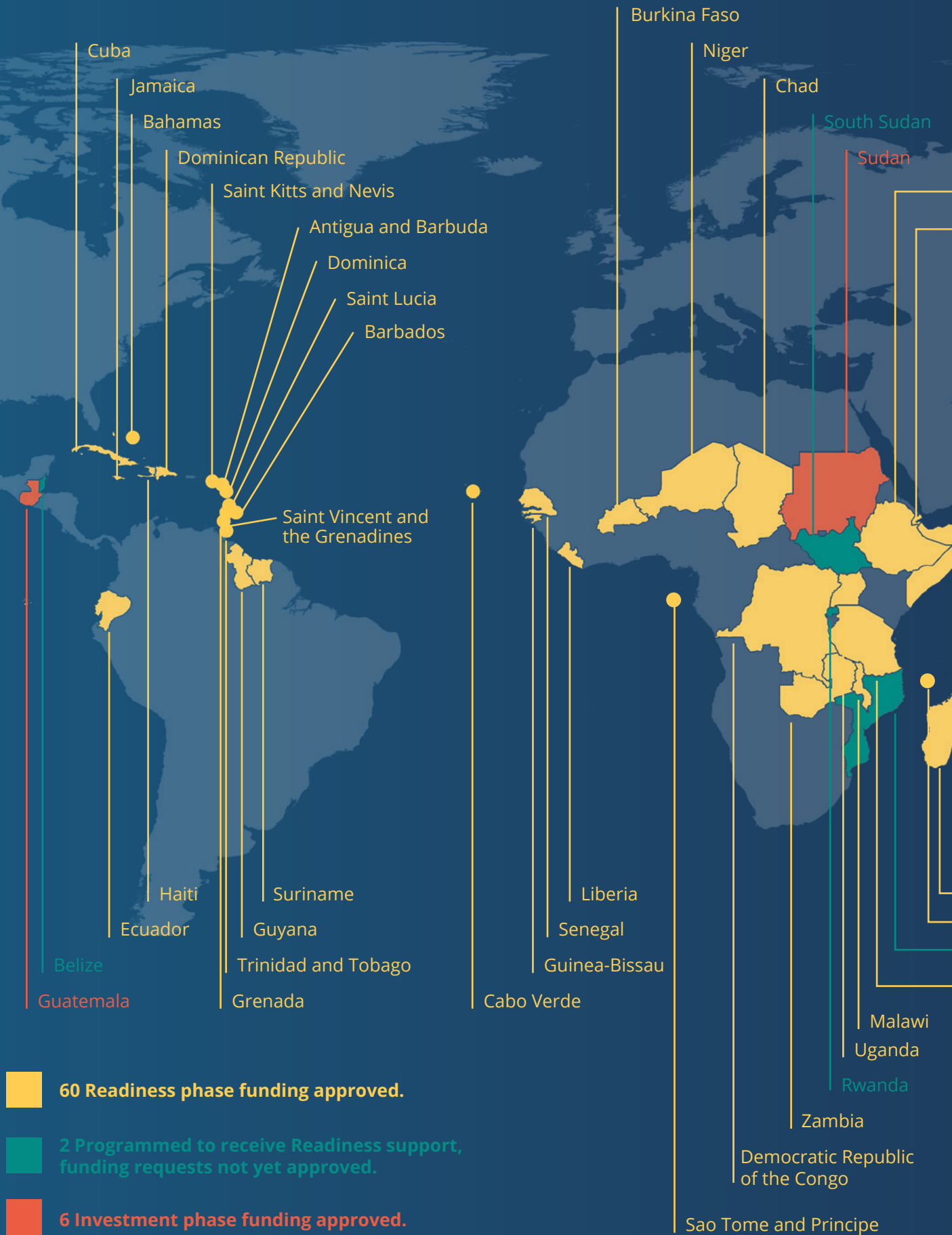
With the first group of countries having completed the Readiness phase and submitted Investment phase funding requests, the November 2023 Steering Committee meeting approved Investment phase funding requests from the first six SOFF countries: Belize, Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan. These six countries currently have nearly no station reporting in compliance with GBON and represent 9.3 percent of the GBON gap for surface stations and 9.5 percent of the GBON gap for upper air stations in SIDS and LDCs. The SOFF investments total USD 30+ million.

As of November 2023, 18 months after the launch, SOFF has programmed support to 62 countries, and approved Readiness funding for 60 countries and Investment funding to six countries.

During the November meeting, the Steering Committee adopted the Collaboration Framework between the SOFF Secretariat and the Secretariats of the Adaptation Fund (AF), Climate Investment Funds (CIF), Climate Risk & Early Warning Systems initiative (CREWS), Global Environment Facility (GEF) and Green Climate Fund (GCF).

The rapid pace of SOFF operations responds to the urgency in international calls for enhanced ease of access to finance. Thanks to the clearly defined GBON metrics and the output-based design and operational modalities, countries can access funding quickly and efficiently. The average time between the Steering Committee programming decision and approval of the funding request was 3.7 months for the first 60 countries.

## THE CURRENT SOFF PORTFOLIO SPANS 62 COUNTRIES.







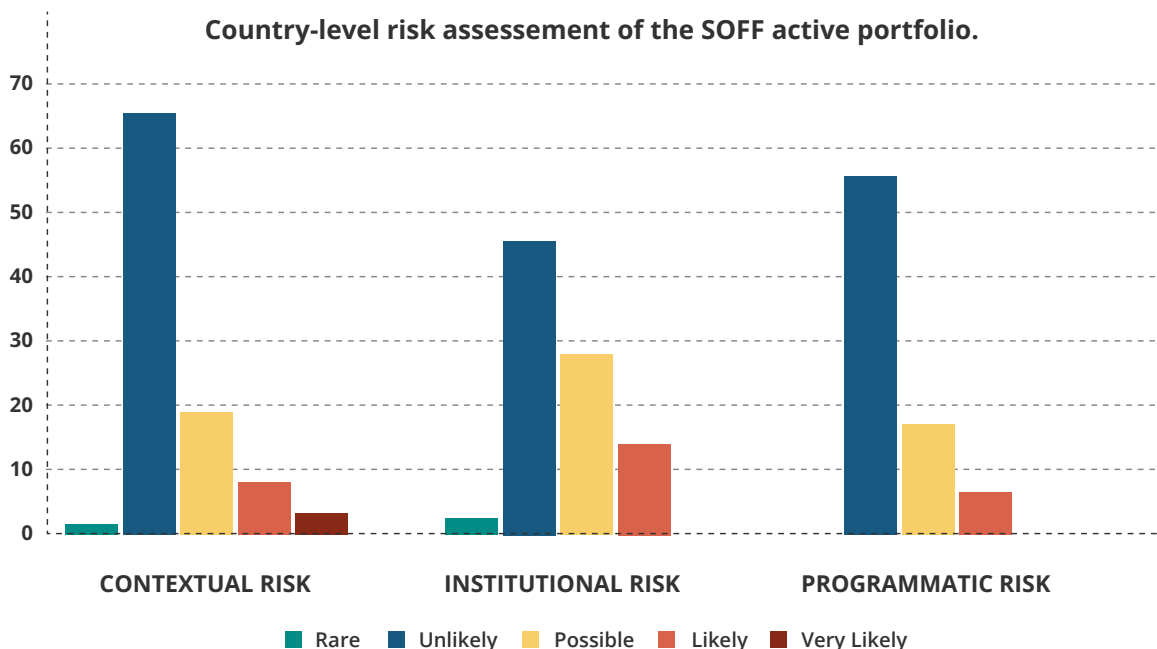
## SOFF IS TAKING AND MANAGING RISKS.

SOFF utilizes a Risk Management Framework to assess and mitigate potential risks that might affect its implementation. A preliminary Fund-level assessment showed that SOFF is a high-risk Fund, mostly due to the institutional and programmatic risks associated with the implementation in countries with challenging socio-economic contexts, such as Fragile Conflict-afflicted States. One third of the countries in the SOFF active portfolio are classified as such. Another important Fund-level risk is the uncertainty of reaching the funding target in a timely manner.

While the risk level is high, the assessed risks likelihood shows a differentiated picture.

When submitting a funding request for the Readiness and Investment phases, countries must conduct a preliminary country-level risk assessment and most of the risks identified in those assessments were considered low. Only a few cases flagged higher potential for adverse outcomes.

SOFF is addressing these risks through a close collaboration between operational partners. An exceptional case is Sudan; the country was programmed in March 2023, but all SOFF-related activities are suspended given the current political situation in the country.



**Description:** Preliminary assessment of country-level risks conducted by the countries and the peer advisors during the preparation of the SOFF Readiness Phase funding request.

“BHUTAN HIGHLY WELCOMES SOFF SUPPORT AND IS CONCLUDING ITS READINESS PHASE. CLOSING THE BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA GAP IN BHUTAN AND OTHER VULNERABLE COUNTRIES WILL IMPROVE GLOBAL WEATHER MODELS SUBSTANTIALLY, LEADING TO BETTER LOCAL FORECASTS AND MORE EFFECTIVE EARLY WARNINGS.”

**KARMA DUPCHU**

*Director National Centre of Hydrology and Meteorology, Royal Government of Bhutan and Permanent Representative of Bhutan with WMO*

## GENDER CONSIDERATIONS.

SOFF promotes gender equality and strives to ensure that gender considerations are systematically integrated in all SOFF activities. Since the scope of SOFF is limited to the initial part of the meteorological value chain, the [SOFF Gender Action Plan](#) focuses on two main targets. First, it seeks to maintain equal gender representation in the SOFF constituent bodies and, to date, it has achieved 46 percent average female representation across the SOFF Secretariat, the Steering Committee and the Advisory

Board. Second, in collaboration with the beneficiary countries, the peer advisors, the Implementing Entities and the civil society organizations, SOFF seeks to promote female empowerment across all of its operations by including gender considerations in all the GBON National Contribution Plans and providing guidance on gender in the SOFF Operational Guidance Handbook. Both targets have been achieved.

## SOFF INDEPENDENT EXTERNAL REVIEW.

**An independent [review](#) was commissioned to assess SOFF design and early implementation and deemed the trajectory to date as very successful and validated that the SOFF has delivered on its commitments in all areas.** SOFF is considered to be highly relevant, transparent, and effective. Across all stakeholder groups, SOFF is seen as the best available option for countries to upgrade, maintain and operate their observation systems in a sustainable fashion and as foundational for additional investments of other partners. All interlocutors acknowledged the

scalability of SOFF design, both vertically (expansion of SOFF financial support to MICs) and horizontally (expansion to other earth observation domains). While stakeholders see the potential for scaling up SOFF, they recommended a careful approach, focusing on a carefully phased expansion to MICs.

The review concluded that SOFF's early success has led to high expectations for further SOFF implementation, and that adequate funding will be crucial for SOFF to continue meeting these expectations.

# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: MOZAMBIQUE



Mozambique is one of the Early Warnings for All initiative initial focus countries and has already completed the SOFF Readiness phase with support from the South African Weather Service (SAWS) as peer advisor. SAWS, with its extensive experience in managing observing networks in line with GBON requirements, hosts the Regional WMO Integrated Global Observing System (WIGOS) centre for Southern Africa and collaborates closely with Mozambique.

To date, the Mozambique National Institute of Meteorology has funded the observation network through governmental budget and international development projects. However, limited resources, and frequent natural hazards, combined with many vast and remote locations, have made network accessibility and maintenance difficult.

With currently no GBON-compliant stations, Mozambique is receiving USD 7.8 million in Investment phase support to install six new land surface stations, upgrade 15 existing surface stations and install four upper-air stations to meet GBON requirements. The implementation will be led by the World Food Programme as the SOFF Implementing Entity. Its role is crucial, leveraging its extensive field presence, data analysis capabilities, and ongoing projects in the country. SOFF operations will enhance national capacities for early warnings, forecast-based finance, and Anticipatory Action.

Moreover, SOFF support will ensure the sustainability of stations funded by previous projects, including those from the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience, Nordic Development Fund, and World Bank, which were abandoned due to a lack of maintenance resources and spare parts.



# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: KIRIBATI



Kiribati is one of the Early Warnings for All initiative initial focus countries. It is a Small Island Developing State with an exclusive economic zone covering 3.5 million square kilometres – larger than the size of India – and hence to achieve GBON compliance has a huge observation remit.

The SOFF Readiness phase was completed with the support of the Australian Bureau of Meteorology as peer advisor and UNEP as SOFF Implementing Entity. Results from the Readiness activities showed that the Kiribati Meteorological Services relies on government funds, international development projects and support from advanced meteorological agencies such as United Kingdom's Met office and New Zealand Metservices for its observing network. Nevertheless, Kiribati Meteorological Services faces significant constraints in covering essential equipment and consumables such as radiosondes, providing staff training and securing operational funds due to limited resources.

With currently no GBON-compliant stations in the country, Kiribati is receiving SOFF Investment funding of USD 10.8 million to upgrade 14 existing land surface stations, upgrade one existing upper air station, and install two new upper air stations to achieve GBON compliance. Given the country's vast exclusive economic zone, Kiribati has sought an exemption from the GBON requirement of a fourth upper air station, grounded on the impracticality in this extremely remote and uninhabited marine zone.

Kiribati is part of the planned SOFF Pacific regional investment program that is being developed with the Pacific beneficiary countries and in coordination with the Weather Ready Pacific initiative, with the objective to seek economies of scale through coordinated procurement, maintenance, and training.







## 5 INTEGRATED

SOFF LEVERAGES PARTNERS' COMPETENCIES AND RESOURCES TO MAXIMIZE EFFICIENCY AND IMPACT.

### IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES BLEND SOFF RESOURCES WITH THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND LEVERAGE INVESTMENTS.

**SOFF supports and leverages the investments of its nine Implementing Entities, which include Multilateral Development Banks and UN organizations.**

It does this by programming SOFF investments so that they can be blended with or parallel financing for larger climate investment operations supported by the Implementing Entities, either within a country or at a sub-regional level. Blending of SOFF resources also ensures that the improved local weather and climate prediction products will be used for the downstream development and application of services by other projects and programmes. In addition, Implementing Entities can draw on the peer advisory services provided by advanced NMHS. Implementing Entities are encouraged to partner with national or international organizations, including bilateral cooperation agencies and national or regional institutions accredited to climate funds (e.g., GCF direct access entities), for SOFF implementation.

## 9

### MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS AND UN ORGANIZATIONS

**SERVE AS SOFF IMPLEMENTING ENTITIES, INCORPORATING SOFF RESOURCES INTO THEIR OWN PROGRAMS AND LEVERAGING THEM.**

**"THE AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK IS PROUD TO SERVE AS SOFF IMPLEMENTING ENTITY AND IS COMBINING SOFF RESOURCES WITH OWN FINANCE SO THAT COUNTRIES CAN BENEFIT FROM A COMPREHENSIVE, INTEGRATED AND COHERENT PACKAGE OF SUPPORT ACROSS THE METEOROLOGICAL VALUE CHAIN."**

**AKINWUMI A. ADESINA**

*President of the African Development Bank Group*

## SOFF CLOSELY PARTNERS WITH THE MULTILATERAL CLIMATE FUNDS REPRESENTED IN ITS GOVERNANCE STRUCTURE.

At COP25, major international development and climate finance institutions forged the Alliance for Hydromet Development and collectively committed to scale up and unite efforts to close the hydromet capacity gap by 2030, with SOFF creation as a priority. SOFF was designed with the challenges of the global climate finance architecture in mind. By bringing together key partners – WMO, UNDP and UNEP as SOFF co-founders, Implementing Entities, peer advisors, and the multilateral climate funds into its design and operation – SOFF can provide a coherent, coordinated package of technical and financial support.

SOFF optimizes synergies with five other major multilateral climate funds for maximum effectiveness of their respective mandates. These five funds are the AF, CIF, GCF, GEF and CREWS. Four climate funds (AF, CIF, GCF, GEF) participate in the Advisory Board and CREWS is represented on the Steering Committee. Through these governance arrangements, the climate funds are contributing to SOFF policy, operations, and investment decisions. In addition, the SOFF Secretariat is an observer on the CREWS Steering Committee.

Recently, the SOFF Secretariat, along with the Secretariats of these five funds, have jointly developed a framework for collaboration for enhancing systematic observation and improving the use of basic weather and climate data for effective climate action. The framework for collaboration intends to further enhance complementarity. SOFF, as a specialized fund, provides technical and financial support for GBON compliance. The other climate funds endeavor to ensure their support for upstream investments

does not duplicate SOFF support, and in addition, focuses on the latter parts of the meteorological value chain, leveraging SOFF enhanced observations for better hydromet services, including early warnings.

# 5

## MULTILATERAL CLIMATE FUNDS

ARE PARTNERING WITH SOFF THROUGH A FRAMEWORK FOR COLLABORATION FOR MAXIMUM EFFECTIVENESS.

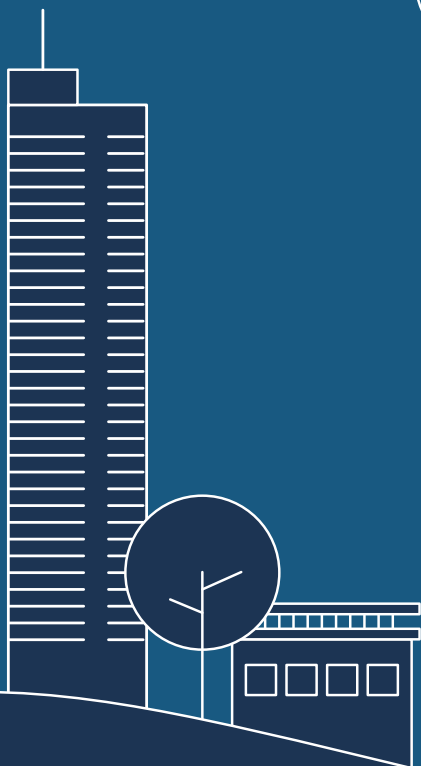
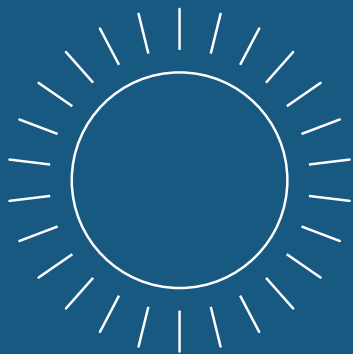
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“AS THE LARGEST MULTILATERAL INVESTOR IN EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS, THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND HAS BEEN A STEADFAST SUPPORTER OF SOFF FROM THE VERY BEGINNING. WE BELIEVE AND THE EVIDENCE PROVES THAT TIMELY, RELIABLE, AND ACCURATE WEATHER DATA SAVE LIVES, PROTECTS LIVELIHOODS, AND ARE THE FOUNDATION FOR SOUND DECISION-MAKING IN TIMES OF CRISIS. SOFF IS WELL ALIGNED WITH OUR COMMITMENT TO DELIVER EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS IN AS MANY AS 60 COUNTRIES BY 2027.”

**MAFALDA DUARTE**  
Executive Director, Green Climate Fund

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## SOFF SECRETARIAT.

**THE SOFF SECRETARIAT WORKS AS THE INTERFACE BETWEEN THE BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES AND SOFF PARTNERS AND STAKEHOLDERS, AND FACILITATES COORDINATION, COHERENCE AND INTEGRATION.**

The SOFF Secretariat facilitates coordination, coherence and integration between beneficiary countries, the SOFF governing bodies (Steering Committee and Advisory Board), the SOFF operational partners (Implementing Entities, peer advisors, WMO Technical Authority), and the UNMPTF Office as trustee. It serves as the SOFF interface with multiple partners and stakeholders, supports the work of the governing bodies, drafts operational policies and procedures, reviews funding requests, maintains a portfolio overview, coordinates the provision of the peer advisory services, carries out SOFF outreach and communications, and supports SOFF fundraising. It was established in January 2022, is accountable to the Steering Committee and operates under its overall guidance. The SOFF Secretariat is hosted by WMO.



# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: MALDIVES



Maldives is an Early Warnings for All initial focus country, and with support from the peer advisors – Finnish Meteorological Institute in collaboration with the Indonesia Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysical Agency – and UNEP as SOFF Implementing Entity, it has already completed the SOFF Readiness phase. Currently lacking GBON-compliant stations, Maldives is receiving USD 4.8 million for the Investment phase to upgrade four existing surface stations, install one new surface station and upgrade an obsolete upper air station. UNEP is also supporting the development of a GCF project-proposal “Toward Risk-Aware and Climate-resilient communities – Strengthening climate services and impact-based multi-hazard early warning in Maldives” (approved at the concept note level) that will provide additional resources to holistically strengthen the meteorological value chain. UNEP, as a GCF Accredited Entity and SOFF Implementing Entity, will seek to maximize synergies between SOFF investments and complementarity investments and capacity development efforts.

# COUNTRY SPOTLIGHT: SOUTH SUDAN



South Sudan is an initial focus country of the UN Early Warnings for All initiative and successfully completed the SOFF Readiness phase with the support of Geosphere Austria as peer advisor and the African Development Bank as the Implementing Entity. The South Sudan Meteorological Services face significant limitations in terms of observations capacity and corresponding infrastructure, human resources, and expertise. The country currently has no GBON-compliant stations. For the first stage of phased SOFF investment support, the country is receiving USD 2.5 million that will enable the installation of five manual stations and four Automatic Weather Stations as well as the rehabilitation of one. African Development Bank's BREFONS project will add five AWS, and SOFF support will ensure their sustained operation. Coordination between SOFF, BREFONS and the CREWS East Africa project is optimizing resources.



**SOFF BRINGS TOGETHER 72 INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS TO SUPPORT COUNTRIES IN SYSTEMATICALLY CLOSING THE BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA GAPS IN A SUSTAINED MANNER.**

## STEERING COMMITTEE

### CO-FOUNDERS

World Meteorological Organization (WMO) (Steering Committee co-chair)

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)

### INITIAL FUNDERS

Austria

Belgium

Canada

Denmark

Finland

Iceland

Ireland

Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

Norway

Nordic Development Fund (Steering Committee co-chair)

United States of America

Spain

### ADDITIONAL MEMBERS

Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS)

Least Developed Country (LDC) Group

Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS)

SOFF Secretariat\*

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office\*

# 72

## INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

ARE JOINING FORCES TO CLOSE THE BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE OBSERVATION GAP AND MAKE EFFECTIVE USE OF BETTER DATA AND FORECAST PRODUCTS.

\* SOFF Secretariat and UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office are ex-officio members of the Steering Committee.



**ADVISORY BOARD**

UNDP (Advisory Board co-chair)

UNEP (Advisory Board co-chair)

Adaptation Fund  
Global Environment Facility

Green Climate Fund

Climate Investment Funds  
United Nations Office for  
Disaster Risk Reduction  
(UNDRR)

Global Center on Adaptation

Risk-informed Early Action  
PartnershipInternational Federation of Red  
Cross and Red  
Crescent Societies (IFRC)  
Insu ResilienceGlobal Facility for Disaster Risk  
reduction and Recovery

Centre for Disaster Protection

Group on Earth Observations

European Centre for Medium-  
Range Weather Forecasts  
(ECMWF)Global Network of Civil Society  
Organizations for Disaster  
ReductionAssociation of Hydro-  
Meteorological Equipment  
Industry**OPERATIONAL PARTNERS****PEER ADVISORS**

Argentina

Australia

Austria

China

Colombia

Denmark

Egypt

Fiji

Finland

Germany

Iceland

India

Indonesia

Ireland

Morocco

Netherlands (Kingdom of the)

New Zealand

Nigeria

Norway

Portugal

South Africa

Spain

Sweden

Switzerland

Türkiye

United Kingdom of Great Britain  
and Northern Ireland

United Republic of Tanzania

Argentina

**IMPLEMENTING  
ENTITIES**

Asian Development Bank (ADB)

African Development Bank  
(AfDB)International Fund for  
Agriculture Development (IFAD)

Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)

Inter-American Development  
Bank (IADB)United Nations Development  
Programme (UNDP)United Nations Environment  
Programme (UNEP)World Food Programme (WFP)  
World Bank



## 6 IN DEMAND

### CLOSING THE BASIC WEATHER AND CLIMATE DATA GAP.

While SOFF has substantially raised its ambition and has already programmed Readiness support to 62 countries, many countries' requests for SOFF support have not yet been considered. In total, 101 countries have requested SOFF support, either individually or as part of regional initiatives. For example, in February 2023, all African countries, through a decision of the WMO Regional Association, requested SOFF to consider a comprehensive African regional SOFF program to be implemented with urgency. That same month, WMO Central American Members requested a SOFF program to enable GBON compliance in the region.

Tapping into opportunities for economies of scale and optimization of sub-regional observing networks through coordinated multi-country and sub-regional implementation is an important SOFF programming criterion. SOFF has initiated such sub-regional approaches in the Pacific, Caribbean, Atlantic SIDS and Indian Ocean SIDS. In this regard, SOFF will endeavor to respond to demands from all countries of a subregion in a coordinated manner, including those that have not yet been programmed.

A paramount programming criterion for SOFF is targeting geographic areas that currently have the poorest observational coverage, where strengthening the observing network would yield the largest results with respect

to improving the quality of the numerical weather prediction products. This applies to SIDS and large land-locked countries. To date, SOFF has almost fully delivered on programming island states with 90 percent of SIDS already benefitting from SOFF support. The next frontier is to address the needs of large land-locked countries not yet eligible for SOFF funding.

# 101

## COUNTRIES

HAVE REQUESTED SOFF SUPPORT.

**"ONE CRITICAL ASPECT OF SOFF IS THAT IT SUBSTANTIALLY AND CONCRETELY CONTRIBUTES TO COVER OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE COSTS, WHICH IS A CRUCIAL ELEMENT FOR SUSTAINABILITY – IN THE LONG TERM AND THROUGH RESULTS-BASED FINANCE, ESTABLISHING A NEW RELATIONSHIP AMONG EQUAL PARTNERS, BENEFICIARY COUNTRIES AND SOFF FUNDERS."**

**MADELEINE DIOUF SARR**

*Least Developed Countries Group on Climate Change Chair*

## CLOSING THE SOFF FUNDING GAP.

**SOFF has rapidly taken off at scale, thanks to the leadership and support of its 12 initial funders:** Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nordic Development Fund, Norway, Spain, and the United States of America. These funders have mobilized USD 73 million in pledges so far, with several funders already making or considering additional pledges.

**The SOFF Independent External Review concluded that adequate funding will be crucial for SOFF to continue meeting countries' expectations.** The SOFF Steering Committee at its meeting in November 2023 adopted the updated SOFF work program, targeting Readiness support for a total of 75 countries and Investment support for 50 countries by June 2025. To deliver on this program, SOFF will need to close the current funding gap of USD 123 million to reach the 200 million funding target for that time period. The SOFF total overhead costs – Trustee fee, Implementing Entity fees, peer advisor administration costs, and SOFF Secretariat costs – correspond to approximately 10 percent of this amount.

# 12

## INITIAL FUNDERS

ENABLED SOFF TO TAKE OFF: AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CANADA, DENMARK, FINLAND, ICELAND, IRELAND, KINGDOM OF THE NETHERLANDS, NORDIC DEVELOPMENT FUND, NORWAY, SPAIN AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA.

## SOFF IS A DELIVERY VEHICLE OF THE UN EARLY WARNINGS FOR ALL INITIATIVE.

In 2022, the United Nations Secretary-General initiated the Early Warnings for All initiative, with the objective of ensuring that every person on the planet is covered by early warnings by 2027. As warnings are only as good as the data they are built upon, SOFF is a foundational element and delivery vehicle of the initiative. As part of the Early Warnings for All Executive Action Plan, launched by the Secretary-General at COP27, the SOFF funding target corresponds to USD 400 million. All 30 initial focus countries of the Early Warnings for All Initiative are already included to receive SOFF support, and four of these countries are among the SOFF frontrunner countries that are already receiving SOFF Investment phase support: Kiribati, Maldives, Mozambique and South Sudan. South Sudan is also a focus country of the Water at the Heart of Climate Action initiative supported by the Kingdom of the Netherlands.

# USD 73

## MILLION

SECURED AS INITIAL PLEDGES.

# USD 127

## MILLION

FUNDING GAP TO DELIVER ON THE WORK PROGRAM BY 2025 .



“THE WORLD IS IN A RACE AGAINST TIME TO PROTECT THOSE ON THE FRONTLINES OF THE CLIMATE CRISIS. EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS ARE AN EASILY AVAILABLE, EFFECTIVE AND PROVEN LIFESAVING TOOL TO PROTECT THE LIVES. ALL STAKEHOLDERS MUST TO MOBILIZED TO SUPPORT THE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S GOAL OF ENSURING UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS BY 2027. WE NEED ALL HANDS ON DECK TO MAKE THIS HAPPEN. ONE LIFE LOST FROM A LACK OF ACCESS TO AN EFFECTIVE EARLY WARNING SYSTEM IS ONE LIFE TOO MANY.”

**SELWIN HART**

*Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Climate Action and Just Transition*

## SOFF FINANCIAL REPORT 2022.

Read the [Consolidated Annual Financial Report of the Administrative Agent for SOFF, 1 January to 31 December 2022](#) here.

## UNFCCC URGES SUPPORT FOR SYSTEMATIC OBSERVATION.

**The importance of Systematic Observation has been referenced by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), the Paris Agreement, and COP27 decisions.**

The Convention commits signatories to promote research, systematic observation, and data development related to the climate system (Article 4), and further calls on them to support international efforts to strengthen systematic observation and scientific research, especially in developing countries (Article 5).

The Paris Agreement states that Parties should strengthen scientific knowledge through systematic observation to support decision-making and climate services (Article 7).

The Sharm el-Sheikh Implementation Plan (COP27) emphasizes the need to address gaps in the global climate observation system and enhance early warning systems and welcomes the UN Secretary General’s

Early Warnings for All initiative, of which SOFF is a delivery vehicle.

The Subsidiary Body for Scientific and Technological Advice documents (2021/L.5 and 2022/L.20), acknowledge the progress in and encouraging support for systematic observation, such as through the development of SOFF.

Collectively, these documents and decisions emphasize the importance of systematic observation exchange for the international community and call for international cooperation and support to strengthen efforts, particularly in developing countries, as a critical component of enhancing resilience and adaptive capacity in the face of climate change.

Systematic observation exchange and early warnings help to minimize and reduce loss and damage. As SOFF plays an important role in achieving this objective, it is listed as an existing funding arrangement and innovative source relevant to addressing loss and damage (Transitional Committee TC2/2023/3).

## THE SOFF JOURNEY.

● DEVELOPMENT ● START-UP ● IMPLEMENTATION ● FUTURE

**WORLD METEOROLOGICAL CONGRESS  
ESTABLISHED GBON CONCEPT.**

193 Member States and Territories of the World Meteorological Organization agreed (<https://library.wmo.int/records/item/56690-world-meteorological-congress?offset=1>) to set global requirements for continuous real time international data exchange of basic weather and climate observation to improve forecast products.

**FIRST TO FIFTH FUNDERS FORUM HELD.**

A series of events ([https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sf\\_s=funders%20forum](https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sf_s=funders%20forum)) presented to potential funders the main advances for the establishment of SOFF, including expanding the value proposition and institutional and governance arrangements.

2019

JUNE 2019

DECEMBER 2019

2020 - 2021

MARCH 2021-APRIL 2022

**ALLIANCE FOR HYDROMET  
DEVELOPMENT LAUNCHED.**

At COP25, 12 international development, humanitarian and climate finance institutions collectively committed ([https://alliancehydromet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Alliance\\_for\\_Hydromet\\_Development\\_Declaration.pdf](https://alliancehydromet.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/Alliance_for_Hydromet_Development_Declaration.pdf)) to scale up and unite efforts to close the hydromet capacity gap by 2030, with SOFF creation as a priority.

**2<sup>ND</sup> AND 3<sup>RD</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING.**

Decisions of the second ([https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm\\_governance\\_%26\\_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm\\_meeting\\_type=2nd%20Steering%20Committee](https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm_governance_%26_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm_meeting_type=2nd%20Steering%20Committee)) Steering Committee meeting included the adoption of SOFF Operational manual and the endorsement of SOFF Resource Mobilization and Outreach Strategy.

The third meeting decided ([https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm\\_governance\\_%26\\_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm\\_meeting\\_type=3rd%20Steering%20Committee](https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm_governance_%26_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm_meeting_type=3rd%20Steering%20Committee)) on the inclusion of the first 26 countries with a request to prepare Readiness phase funding requests, and adopted the SOFF Readiness Phase Results Framework and the SOFF Gender Action Plan.

**TOTAL COUNTRIES PROGRAMMED: 26**

NOVEMBER 2022

OCTOBER - NOVEMBER 2022

**COP27 EMPHASIZED NEED TO ADDRESS EXISTING GAPS IN THE  
GLOBAL CLIMATE OBSERVING SYSTEM AND SBSTA APPRECIATES  
SOFF PROGRESS.**

At COP27 the UN Early Warnings for All Executive (EW4All) Action Plan (<https://library.wmo.int/records/item/58209-early-warnings-for-all>) was launched, including SOFF as a delivery vehicle. The COP27 cover decision ([https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27\\_auv\\_2\\_cover%20decision.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/cop27_auv_2_cover%20decision.pdf)) emphasized the need to address existing gaps in the global climate observing system and welcomed EW4All. SBSTA ([https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2022\\_L20\\_adv.pdf](https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/sbsta2022_L20_adv.pdf)) noted with appreciation the progress on systematic observation through SOFF.

**5<sup>TH</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING IN COPENHAGEN  
INCREASED SOFF AMBITION.**

The fifth meeting ([https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm\\_governance\\_%26\\_operations=%20%20SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm\\_meeting\\_type=4th%20Steering%20Committee-%2C-5th%20Steering%20Committee](https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm_governance_%26_operations=%20%20SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm_meeting_type=4th%20Steering%20Committee-%2C-5th%20Steering%20Committee)) decided to expand SOFF support to 62 countries, including all EW4All focus countries, approved 10 additional Readiness Phase Funding Requests, and requested the SOFF Secretariat to analyse implications of a MIC expansion. Netherlands and Belgium joined as Funders and Steering Committee members.

**TOTAL COUNTRIES PROGRAMMED: 62  
TOTAL READINESS PHASE FUNDING REQUESTS  
APPROVED: 36**

2023

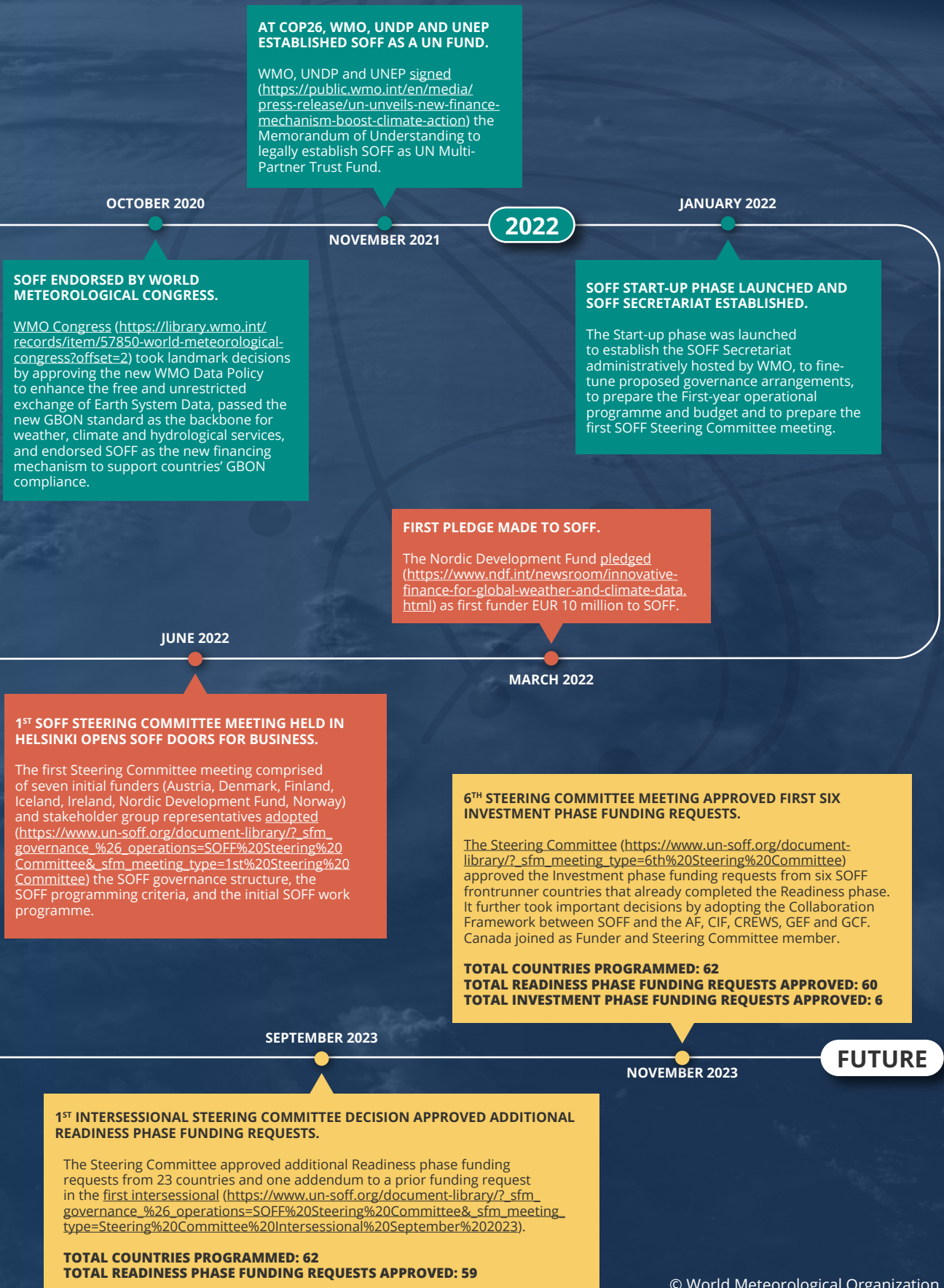
MARCH 2023

JUNE 2023

**4<sup>TH</sup> STEERING COMMITTEE MEETING PROGRAMMED ADDITIONAL COUNTRIES AND  
APPROVED FIRST READINESS PHASE FUNDING REQUESTS FROM 26 COUNTRIES.**

The fourth Steering Committee meeting ([https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm\\_governance\\_%26\\_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm\\_meeting\\_type=4th%20Steering%20Committee](https://www.un-soff.org/document-library/?sfm_governance_%26_operations=SOFF%20Steering%20Committee&sfm_meeting_type=4th%20Steering%20Committee)) approved the Readiness phase funding requests from 26 countries, programmed an additional 14 countries, and adopted the SOFF Risk Management Framework. Spain and US joined as Funders and Steering Committee members.

**TOTAL COUNTRIES PROGRAMMED: 40  
TOTAL READINESS PHASE FUNDING REQUESTS APPROVED: 26**





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