

Eighth Steering Committee
18-19 June 2024

SOFF Implementation Progress

INF 8.1

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



Purpose of this document

This document provides an implementation progress update for the 62 countries for which SOFF Readiness funding has been programmed, 60 of which Readiness funding was approved in 2023, and the 11 countries for which SOFF Investment phase funding was approved in November 2023 and March 2024.

The update highlights significant progress in Readiness phase implementation. 19 countries have fully completed the Readiness phase, 6 countries are close to completion, and 25 additional countries have submitted at least one output. In total 104 Readiness phase outputs have been delivered, i.e., almost 60% of all Readiness phase outputs.

Countries have started submission of their Readiness phase semi-annual progress reports highlighting the necessity for flexibility in completion time due to diverse country contexts.

The SOFF UNMPTF Gateway Platform is operational since in February 2024 and serves as the foundational tool for Investment phase implementation progress tracking and reporting for all SOFF Investment funding operations.

The document also provides a progress update of the 11 countries that have moved to the SOFF Investment phase and started implementation. A status update and brief narrative overview highlight the start-up progress of SOFF investments.

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SOFF Implementation Progress

1. SOFF portfolio

The SOFF portfolio of programmed countries currently includes 62 countries. These countries were programmed since November 2022 through three decisions made by the SOFF Steering Committee ([Decision 3.4](#), [Decision 4.4](#), and [Decision 5.4](#)).

1.1. Readiness phase

60 of the 62 countries have received Readiness funding since March 2023 ([Decisions 4.3](#), [Decision 5.3](#), [Intersessional Decision 1.1](#), and [Decision 6.2](#)). Two programmed countries yet to receive SOFF Readiness funding include Sudan and Guatemala. Currently in Sudan, all SOFF-related activities are on hold while Guatemala is delayed in submitting its Readiness funding request.

2. Readiness phase progress overview

Since April 2023, nearly 60% of the outputs have been submitted, marking the one-year milestone in SOFF implementation. 60 beneficiary countries, together with 20 active peer advisors, 7 Implementing Entities have prepared over 100 Readiness outputs¹ which have been screened by the WMO Technical Authority.

Out of the 60 countries included in the first, second and third programming batches, 19 have completed the Readiness phase, 6 countries are close to completing, and 25 additional countries have submitted at least one output. One country (Haiti), with Readiness funding approved in November 2023 ([Decision 6.2](#)), will start implementation in June 2024. Eleven countries have already moved to Investment phase ([Decision 6.3](#)) and 7 more have submitted Investment funding requests for consideration at the 8th Steering Committee meeting (INF 8.3 and Decision 8.4).

As per the assignment agreements with the Peer Advisors, countries have started reporting their semi-annual progress against the deadlines in the agreements. Factors such as organizational delays, complex country geography, challenges in liaising with the partners for certain beneficiary countries and overall capacity constraints were reported as causes of delays. Consequently, the initial timeframe was deemed insufficient to complete all the Readiness outputs and extension of delivery period was requested by several of them.

The SOFF Secretariat and WMO Technical Authority held webinars for knowledge sharing, lessons learnt and provision of technical support to the Peer Advisors on different topics such as GBON National Contribution Plan and WMO Information System (WIS 2.0) implementation during SOFF investment phase. For Country Hydromet Diagnostic (CHD)

¹ GBON National Gap Analysis (NGA), the GBON National Contribution Plan (NCP) and the Country Hydromet Diagnostics (CHD)

a community of practice was formed by the WMO Technical Authority for peer advisors to share lessons on the CHD and SOFF engagement.

Ensuring flexibility in the implementation process is crucial for successful completion of the Readiness phase and smooth transition to the Investment phase. The SOFF Secretariat monitors the implementation of activities using an output-based approach and regularly communicates and assists countries and peer advisors as needed.

Annex 1: SOFF implementation portfolio provides an overview of the portfolio of the 60 countries currently implementing the SOFF Readiness phase.

The following sections break down SOFF Readiness implementation progress by batches of Steering Committee approval.

2.1. First Batch

The first batch of 26 countries approved for Readiness funding started the implementation of Readiness activities in April 2023. 16 peer advisors and 7 Implementing Entities are engaged in the implementation of the Readiness activities in these countries. The figure below provides an aggregated overview of progress.

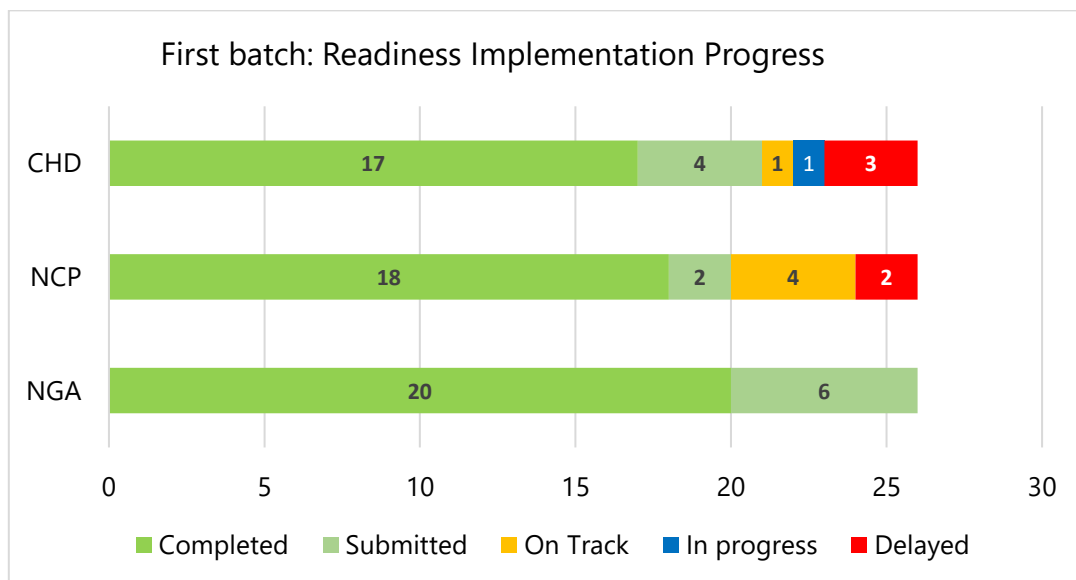


Figure 1. Progress of SOFF first batch countries. NGA – National Gap Analysis; NCP – National Contribution Plan; CHD – Country Hydromet Diagnostics.

All 26 countries in the first batch have submitted at least one Readiness output. Among them, 11 countries have already moved to the Investment phase and an additional 5 countries have submitted Investment phase funding requests for consideration by the 8th Steering Committee meeting. Additionally, 2 countries² have completed Readiness phase while 3 countries³ are close to completing.

² Fiji and Liberia.

³ Nepal, Senegal, and Guyana.

Readiness activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo began in December 2023. All outputs are on track for delivery, but the peer advisor foresees potential delays due to the complex geopolitical situation in the country.

While significant progress has been made, a few countries continued to experience delays due to administrative issues causing delays in country missions and activities, including challenges from difficult political situations, which have prompted requests for delivery period extensions.

Burkina Faso and Grenada have renewed their peer advisor assignment agreements, while Guinea-Bissau and Guyana have submitted amendments for an extension. Readiness activities in the Democratic Republic of Congo only began in December 2023. Although all outputs are currently on track for delivery, the peer advisor has reported potential delays due to the complex geopolitical situation in the country.

The table below presents the status of the delivery of the Readiness outputs for each country in the first batch.

Table 1. SOFF first batch countries and Readiness outputs status.

Batch	Country	National Gap Analysis	National Contribution	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
First	Belize	Completed	Completed	Submitted
	Bhutan	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Burkina Faso	Submitted	On track ⁴	Submitted
	Cabo Verde	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Chad	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Submitted	On track	In progress
	Ecuador	Completed	Delayed	Delayed
	Ethiopia	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Fiji	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Grenada	Submitted	On track ⁴	On track
	Guyana	Submitted	On track ⁴	Completed
	Kiribati	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Liberia	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Madagascar	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Malawi	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Maldives	Completed	Completed	Completed
Mozambique	Completed	Completed	Submitted	

⁴ Status based on the updated assignment agreement for Burkina Faso and Grenada and the amendment to the assignment agreement for Guinea Bissau and Guyana

Nepal	Completed	Submitted	Submitted
Rwanda	Completed	Completed	Completed
Samoa	Completed	Completed	Completed
Senegal	Submitted	Submitted	Delayed
Solomon Islands	Completed	Completed	Completed
South Sudan	Completed	Completed	Completed
Tanzania	Completed	Completed	Completed
Timor-Leste	Completed	Completed	Completed
Tuvalu	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed

Completed	Delivered
Submitted	WMO Technical Authority screening in process
On track	Timely delivery expected
In progress	Delayed compared to original schedule but at advanced stage
Delayed	> one month delay compared to original schedule

2.2. Second Batch

The 10 countries approved in the second batch started implementation in July 2023 with the support of 7 peer advisors and 5 Implementing Entities. ⁵ countries are submitting Investment funding requests for consideration at the 8th Steering Committee meeting. Additionally, ⁶ countries are close to completing the readiness phase. Figure 2 presents the overview of the second batch progress.

Peer advisors have requested extension of delivery period to accommodate the delays stemming from circumstances akin to those encountered during the first batch.

⁵ Nauru, Uganda

⁶ Zambia, Nauru

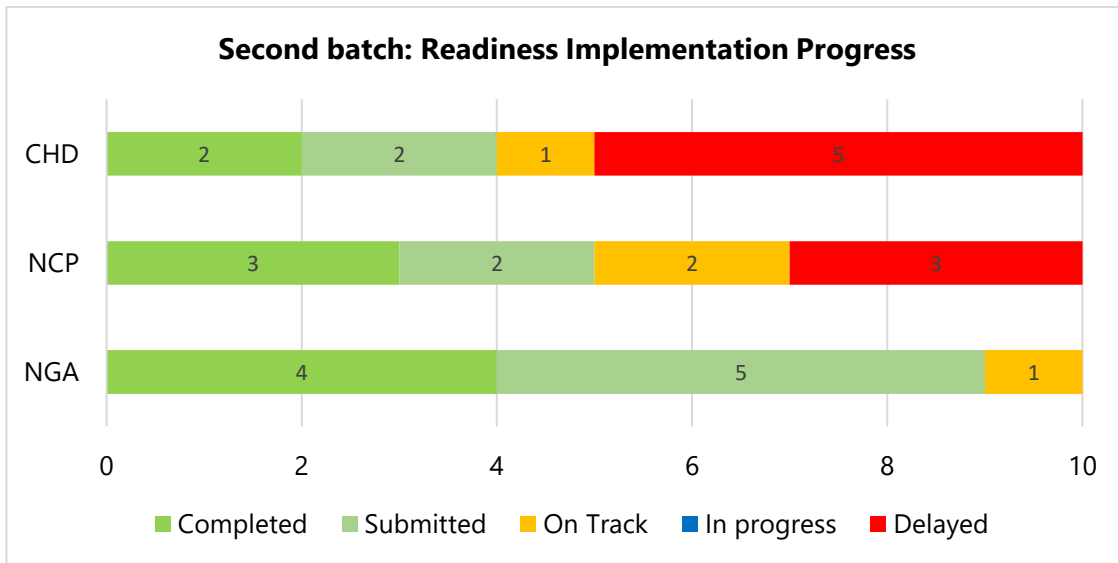


Figure 2. Progress of SOFF second batch countries. NGA – National Gap Analysis; NCP – National Contribution Plan; CHD – Country Hydromet Diagnostics.

Table 2. SOFF second batch countries and Readiness outputs status.

Batch	Country	National Gap Analysis	National Contribution Plan	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
Second	Cambodia	Submitted	Submitted	Delayed
	Guinea-Bissau	On track	On track	On track
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	Submitted	On track	Delayed
	Nauru	Completed	Completed	Completed
	Papua New Guinea	Completed	Submitted	Completed
	Sao Tome and Principe	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Tonga	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Uganda	Completed	Completed	Submitted
	Vanuatu	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
Zambia	Completed	Completed	Submitted	

Completed	Delivered
Submitted	WMO Technical Authority screening in process
On track	Timely delivery expected
In progress	Delayed compared to original schedule but at advanced stage

Delayed > one month delay compared to original schedule

2.3. Third Batch

23 countries in the third batch of Readiness funding requests were approved through inter-sessional Steering Committee decision in September 2023 ([Intersessional Decision 1.1](#)) while Haiti funding was approved in November 2023 ([Decision 6.2](#)).

A total of 11 peer advisors and 7 implementing entities are supporting these countries.

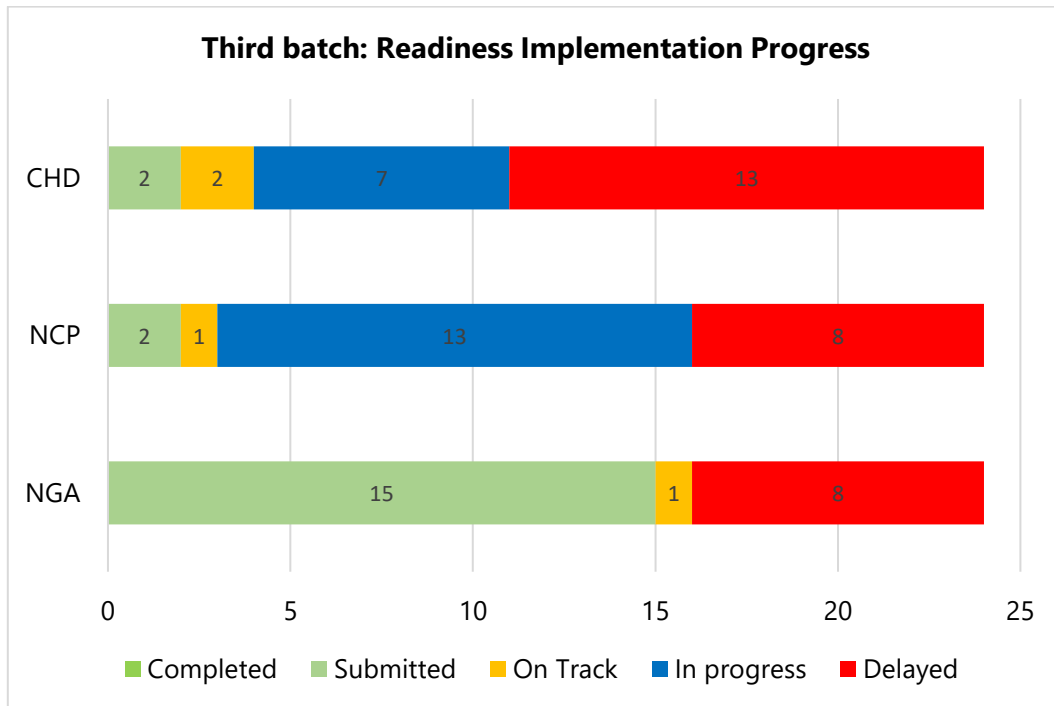


Figure 3. Progress of SOFF third batch countries. NGA – National Gap Analysis; NCP – National Contribution Plan; CHD – Country Hydromet Diagnostics.

Table 3. SOFF third batch countries and Readiness outputs status.

Batch	Country	National Gap Analysis	National Contribution Plan	Country Hydromet Diagnostics
Third	Antigua and Barbuda	Submitted	Submitted	Delayed
	Bahamas	Submitted	In progress	In progress
	Bangladesh	Submitted	Submitted	In progress
	Barbados	Submitted	In progress	In progress
	Comoros	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed
	Cuba	Submitted	In progress	Delayed
	Djibouti	Submitted	In progress	Submitted

	Dominica	Delayed	In progress	Delayed
	Dominican Republic	Submitted	In progress	Delayed
	Federated States of Micronesia	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Haiti	On track	On track	On track
	Jamaica	Delayed	In progress	In progress
	Marshall Islands	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Mauritius	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed
	Niger	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed
	Palau	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Saint Kitts and Nevis	Submitted	In progress	In progress
	Saint Lucia	Delayed	In progress	Delayed
	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Submitted	In progress	Submitted
	Seychelles	Submitted	Delayed	Delayed
	Somalia	Delayed	Delayed	Delayed
	Suriname	Delayed	In progress	On track
	Tajikistan	Submitted	In progress	In progress
	Trinidad and Tobago	Submitted	In progress	In progress

Completed	Delivered
Submitted	WMO Technical Authority screening in process
On track	Timely delivery expected
In progress	Delayed compared to original schedule but at advanced stage
Delayed	> one month delay compared to original schedule

3. Investment phase progress overview

The 6th and 7th Steering Committee meetings approved Investment phase funding for 11 countries. Investment funding requests from 7 additional countries are for consideration by the 8th Steering Committee (INF 8.3).

Of the 11 approved countries, 8 have already received their first tranche of Investment funding, while 3 countries are in the process of finalizing the project documents in the SOFF UNMPTF Gateway. Two countries with MDBs (IADB and AfDB) as implementing entities are pending initiation of this process until signature of the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF; see Decision 8.4 Table 5 below provides a status overview by approved Investment funding request.

Table 4. Investment phase country status overview.

Date of Approval	Country	Peer Advisor	Implementing Entity	Status
Nov 2023	Belize	United Kingdom	IADB	Pending
Nov 2023	Kiribati	Australia	UNEP	1 st disbursement completed
Nov 2023	Maldives	Finland - Indonesia	UNEP	1 st disbursement completed
Nov 2023	Mozambique	South Africa	WFP	1 st disbursement completed
Nov 2023	Rwanda	Finland	UNDP	1 st disbursement completed
Nov 2023	South Sudan	Austria	AfDB	Pending
Mar 2024	Bhutan	Finland	UNEP	1 st disbursement completed
Mar 2024	Cabo Verde	Netherlands	UNEP	1 st disbursement completed
Mar 2024	Ethiopia	Norway - Finland	UNDP	1 st disbursement completed
Mar 2024	Solomon Islands	Australia	UNDP	In process
Mar 2024	Tanzania	Denmark	UNDP	1 st disbursement completed
Submitted June 2024	Chad	Austria	WFP	Investment Funding Request Submitted
	Madagascar	Germany	AfDB	
	Malawi	Norway - Iceland	UNDP	
	Nauru	Australia	UNEP	
	Timor Leste	Finland - Indonesia	UNEP	
	Samoa	Australia	World Bank	
	Uganda	Netherlands	IsDB	

1 st disbursement completed	First tranche of Investment funding disbursed
In process	Finalizing project documents in UNMPTF Gateway and requesting disbursement
Pending	Pending signing of the Framework Agreement with UNMPTF
Request Submitted	Funding request submitted for consideration by 7 th Steering Committee meeting

The first 4 countries that received disbursements in March 2024 have already commenced SOFF activities in the countries. The progress for those 4 is as follows:

- Mozambique: WFP and Instituto Nacional de Meteorologia (INAM) held an annual planning workshop in Maputo to discuss links with SOFF investments and other INAM projects, including early warning and anticipatory actions for drought and cyclones. Five colleagues from the South African Weather Service (SOFF peer advisor) were in Maputo to work with 17 colleagues from INAM and 5 colleagues from WFP on the annual planning exercise for SOFF activities, including consultation exercises (dates, participants, methodology, etc.), site assessment and procurement planning for land-based and upper air stations. SAWS provided training to INAM on GBON compliance as well as human capacity requirements for the roll out of SOFF activities. WFP and INAM are set to sign the MoU which includes SOFF activities in June 2024.
- Rwanda: Stakeholder engagement field trip was conducted to identify suitable site for an upper air/radiosonde. The draft of technical specifications for radiosonde was completed and shared to the peer advisor for review. In addition, a multi-year work plan was completed.
- Kiribati: Implementation modalities have been presented to and discussed with Kiribati Meteorological Service (KMS). Budget allocation between KMS and technical partners (such as New Zealand’s National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research – NIWA) is currently being discussed. The draft Legal agreement is being reviewed by KMS.
- Maldives: Implementation modalities have been discussed and agreed upon by Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS). Budget allocation between Maldives Meteorological Service (MMS) and Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES) as a technical partner has been agreed upon and finalized. Legal agreements with both MMS and RIMES are being prepared and are under review, after which funds will be transferred from UNEP to these partners.

4. Regional workshops

The Intersessional Steering Committee meeting in January 2024 approved the SOFF Regional Workshops ([Intersessional Decision 2.1](#)) with the aim to foster regionally coordinated SOFF implementation, leveraging investments and climate finance opportunities beyond SOFF, and knowledge sharing and consultation on technical issues relevant to the respective regions.

So far, two workshops, namely SOFF Atlantic SIDS Workshop and SOFF Pacific Workshop have been held and two workshops are planned later this year.

Table 5. SOFF Regional Workshops.

Date	Region	Countries
Sep 2023	SOFF Atlantic SIDS Workshop	Cabo Verde, Sao Tome and Principe, Guinea Bissau
April 2024	SOFF Pacific Workshop	Marshall Islands, Solomon Islands, Palau, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Tonga, Samoa, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Vanuatu, The Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Cook Islands, Niue.
Planned September 2024	SOFF Africa Workshop	Burkina Faso, Senegal, Liberia, Niger, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Rwanda, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda, Somalia, Zambia, DRC, Chad
Planned September 2024	SOFF South Asia Workshop	Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal

Annex 1: SOFF implementation portfolio

Overview of countries currently implementing the Readiness and Investment phase and respective peer advisors and Implementing Entities.

Batch	Country	EW4ALL ⁷	Peer	Partner Peer	Implementing Entity
First batch	Belize		United Kingdom		IADB
	Bhutan		Finland		UNEP
	Burkina Faso		Spain	Nigeria	AfDB
	Cabo Verde		Netherlands		UNEP
	Chad	x	Austria		WFP
	Democratic Republic of the Congo		Switzerland		AfDB
	Ecuador	x	Switzerland	Argentina	IADB
	Ethiopia	x	Norway	Finland	UNDP
	Fiji	x	Australia		World Bank
	Grenada		Spain		
	Guyana	x	Austria		IADB
	Kiribati	x	Australia		UNEP
	Liberia	x	Nigeria		AfDB
	Madagascar	x	Germany		AfDB
	Malawi		Norway	Iceland	UNDP
	Maldives	x	Finland	Indonesia	UNEP
	Mozambique	x	South Africa		WFP
	Nepal	x	Finland		UNEP

⁷ The 62 countries programmed include all the 30 Early Warnings for All (EW4All) focus countries, including Sudan, and Guatemala which do not appear in this table as they are not yet receiving SOFF funding for the aforementioned reasons.

	Rwanda		Finland		UNDP
	Samoa	x	Australia		World Bank
	Senegal		Netherlands		IsDB
	Solomon Islands	x	Australia		UNDP
	South Sudan	x	Austria		AfDB
	Tanzania		Denmark		UNDP
	Timor-Leste		Finland	Indonesia	UNEP
	Tuvalu		New Zealand		UNEP
Second Batch	Cambodia	x	United Kingdom		World Bank
	Guinea-Bissau		Portugal		UNEP
	Lao People's Democratic Republic	x	Austria	China	World Bank
	Nauru		Australia		UNEP
	Papua New Guinea		Australia		UNDP
	Sao Tome and Principe		Netherlands		UNDP
	Tonga	x	New Zealand		World Bank
	Uganda	x	Netherlands		IsDB
	Vanuatu		New Zealand		World Bank
	Zambia		United Kingdom		WFP

Third Batch	Antigua and Barbuda	x	United Kingdom		UNDP
	Bahamas		Finland		IADB
	Bangladesh	x	Norway		IsDB
	Barbados	x	Finland		IADB
	Comoros	x	Morocco		AfDB
	Cuba		Spain		UNDP
	Djibouti	x	Austria		UNDP
	Dominica		Austria		WFP
	Dominican Republic		Spain		WFP
	Federated States of Micronesia		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Jamaica		Finland		IADB
	Marshall Islands		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Mauritius	x	South Africa	India	AfDB
	Niger	x	Nigeria		AfDB
	Palau		United Kingdom		UNEP
	Saint Kitts and Nevis		Finland		IADB
	Saint Lucia		Austria		WFP
	Saint Vincent and Grenadines		Austria		WFP
	Seychelles		South Africa		AfDB
	Somalia	x	Nigeria		UNDP

	Suriname		Netherlands		UNDP
	Tajikistan	x	Finland		World Bank
	Trinidad and Tobago		Finland		IADB
Third Batch – Late comer	Haiti	x	Switzerland		IADB