



Investment Phase: Progress update

South Sudan July 2026

Systematic Observations
Financing Facility

**Weather
and climate
data for
resilience**



General Information

Country	South Sudan	
Implementing Entity	FAO	
Agreement effectiveness date	02 May 2026	
Duration	48	
Anticipated end date	02 May 2030	
Reporting period	From: 01 January 2026	To: 30 June 2026
Approved amount	Total: USD 2,079,598.80 FAO: USD 1,851,750.00 WMO: USD 227,848.80	
Disbursed amount	Total: USD 1,279,579.51 FAO: USD 1,203,637.50 WMO: USD 75,942.01	

Summary

Introduction

The project entered its inception phase following approval on 2 May 2026, with several

foundational activities initiated to establish the operational and institutional arrangements required for implementation of the Systematic Observations Financing Facility (SOFF) Investment Phase in South Sudan. This report covers progress from approval through 30 June 2026. During this period, work focused on putting in place the institutional agreements, policy frameworks, technical specifications, and network planning

foundations needed to move the investment phase into active delivery.

Institutional Arrangements: FAO–SSMS Letter of Agreement

A key milestone achieved during the reporting period was the finalization of the Letter

of Agreement (LOA) between FAO and the South Sudan Meteorological Service (SSMS).

The LOA text was finalized and, at the close of the period, was in the final stages of processing, with fund disbursement expected shortly thereafter. Once effective, the LOA will support the implementation of priority activities aimed at strengthening weather and climate observation services, as well as enhancing the institutional and management capacity of SSMS.

Support to the SSMS Policy and Strategic Plan

FAO actively contributed to the development of the SSMS Policy and Strategic Plan, participating in a series of stakeholder consultations and technical workshops held in Juba and Naivasha. The process was facilitated by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) with financial support from Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative. During the reporting period, the draft Policy and Strategic Plan was validated by stakeholders and prepared for submission to the relevant

government authorities for formal endorsement.

Preparations for the National Inception and Awareness Workshop

Preparatory work also commenced for the national SOFF Project Inception and Awareness Workshop, planned for September 2026. The workshop is intended to bring together key government institutions, development partners, technical agencies, and other stakeholders in order to introduce the SOFF programme and its objectives, underscore the importance of strengthening South Sudan's national weather observation network, and clarify the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders in supporting and protecting the country's meteorological infrastructure.

Technical Specifications for Manual Observation Equipment

The project team initiated the development of technical specifications for manual meteorological observation equipment - including thermometers, barometers, rain gauges, and hygrometers/psychrometers - in accordance with WMO standards. These Specifications will guide the procurement and standardization of observation equipment for the five proposed manual meteorological stations (Renk, Raga, Juba Airport, Malakal Airport, and Wau Airport), as well as the University of Juba, which will host equipment for academic and training purposes.

GBON Compliance and the Automatic Weather Station Network

Progress continued towards strengthening South Sudan's compliance with the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON). By the end of the reporting period, 13 Automatic Weather Stations (AWS) had been installed through complementary initiatives under FAO's Building Resilience for Food and Nutrition Security in The Horn Of Africa (BREFONS) Project. Preparatory planning was under way for the installation of the remaining three stations at Juba Airport, Renk, and Malakal Airport. Delays in transporting equipment to Renk and Malakal, primarily owing to river-transport logistics, were being closely monitored by the project team to facilitate timely installation.

Overall Progress and Outlook

Overall, although implementation remained at an early stage during the reporting

period, significant progress was made in establishing the institutional, technical, and operational foundations for the SOFF Investment Phase. These preparatory activities provide a solid basis for the delivery of technical assistance, infrastructure development, institutional strengthening, and capacity-building activities in the subsequent reporting period. Peer-to-peer technical support will continue throughout project implementation to assist SSMS in achieving and sustaining GBON compliance.

Progress of implementation

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks	
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5				
1. GBON institutional and human capacity developed															
1.1 National consultations , including with CSOs and other relevant stakeholders conducted	# of people reached by advocacy activities (1.1.117)	0	25	0	0	0						Not yet started			
	# of steering committee meeting reports (1.1.118)	1	1	1	1	0						On-track	Initial discussions on the establishment of the Project Steering Committee (PSC) have already commenced. The PSC will be formally established once the Letter of Agreement (LOA) with the South Sudan Meteorological Services (SSMS) is finalized.]		
	# targeted gender workshops (1.1.3)	0	1	1	0	0						Not yet started			
	# Gender Mainstreaming workshop report (1.1.119)	0	0	1	0	0						Not yet started			
	% of females work in SSMS (please also indicate the actual number) (1.1.120)	5	5	10	10	0						On-track	The current staffing composition of the South Sudan Meteorological Services (SSMS) is as follows: • Male employees: 25 • Female employees: 3 • Total employees: 28 Women represent 10.7% of the permanent SSMS workforce, with 3 female employees out of a total 28 staff members	Female participation is low	
	# Kick-off workshop report (1.1.121)	1	0	0	0	0						On-track	First discussions on potential dates for kickoff workshop and preliminary agenda discussed. The kickoff workshop is planned in September 2026		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	# Meeting (1.1.122)	1	1	0	0	0						Not yet started		
	# people reached by awareness trainings (1.1.123)	25	25	0	0	0						Not yet started		
1.2 NMHS institutional capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# of recommendation for a legislative framework (1.2.119)	0	1	0	1	0						Not yet started		
	# of calibration plan developed (1.2.118)	0	0	0	1	0						Not yet started		
	# of staff members trained (1.2.117)	10	0	10	0	0						On-track	The training will be organized following the project inception/kick-off workshop	
	# gender assessment plan report (1.2.116)	0	1	0	0	0						Not yet started		
1.3 NMHS human capacity required to operate the GBON network developed	# Number of staff members trained (1.3.94)	0	20	0	0	0						Not yet started		
	# of trainings (1.3.97)	0	0	1	0	0						Not yet started		
	# of visits to GeoSphere Austria's HQ in Vienna (1.3.120)	0	0	1	0	0						Not yet started		
	# of observers & caretakers trained (1.3.121)	0	20	0	0	0						Not yet started		
	# LoA established (1.3.122)	0	1	0	0	0						On-track	During the reporting period, FAO was in the final stages of finalizing the Letter of Agreement with South Sudan Meteorological Service (SSMS)	
2. GBON infrastructure in place														

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
2.1 New land-based stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	0	0	0	0	0						On-track	FAO has initiated the identification and preparation of technical specifications for the procurement of land-based observation stations	
2.2 Improved land-based stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan (2.2.1)	0	8	8	0	0						On-track	The SOFF team is identifying the needs for the existing GBON stations to improve further]	
	# of field Visits reports	2	1	1	1	0						Not yet started		
	# of verification kit	0	2	0	0	0						On-track	The collection of technical specifications required for the procurement process has commenced	
	# Server and data storage system in place	0	1	0	0	0						On-track	The collection of technical specifications required for the procurement process has commenced	
	# Computers	0	2	0	0	0						On-track	The collection of technical specifications required for the procurement process has commenced	
	# Phones for observers	0	5	0	0	0						On-track	The collection of technical specifications required for the procurement process has commenced	
	% Internet is working 80% of the time	20	40	80	80	0						Not yet started		

Output	Indicator	Target					Actual					Status	Milestones achieved	Challenges and risks
		Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5	Y1	Y2	Y3	Y4	Y5			
	# of modem installed	0	1	0	0	0						Not yet started		
	# of new land-based stations installed (manual)	0	6	0	0	0						Not yet started		
2.3 New upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of new stations installed as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	0	0	0	0	0						Select an item		
2.4 Improved upper air stations and related equipment, ICT systems, data management systems and standard operating practices in place	# of stations improved as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	0	0	0	0	0						Select an item		
3. Sustained compliance with GBON														
3.1 GBON land-based stations' commissioning period completed , country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan (3.1.1)	16	16	16	16	0						On-track	13 GBON stations installed under the FAO's BREFONS project. Installation of additional 3 under way but delayed due to logistical challenges in transportation to site using river transport.	
3.2 GBON upper air stations' commissioning period completed , country-specific standard cost for operations and maintenance established, and data sharing verified by WMO Technical Authority	# of stations commissioned as per the GBON National Contribution Plan	0	0	0	0	0						Select an item		