

## WISER ARCAN (Africa) Enquiries and FAQs – Call for Concepts - as of 28<sup>th</sup> September 2022.

### Enquiries to date

**1. Could you please clarify if there is any cap on the rates or overheads for this call?**

Thank you for your enquiry. There is no cap, but overheads need to be proportionate to the delivery and will be reviewed within the VfM criteria.

**2. Please can I check whether projects have to run for the full 30 months, or whether they can be slightly shorter in duration (for example, 24 months)? I note that they must start in January 2023.**

Projects can run for any duration – ensuring they are able to meet the deliverables of their project design – but they must close by June '25.

**3. Is there a limit on the number of concept notes that can come from a country?**

No, there is no limit.

**4. Would any UN agencies be eligible to submit a concept on behalf of the country?**

Yes, submissions from UN agencies would be eligible, where they clearly indicate the sub-delivery arrangement. Should there be a co-funding arrangement, this would also need to be made clear in the Concept.

**5. Will there be and payment by results?**

Payment will be in arrears as default.

**6. When will reporting and Grant Management requirements be available?**

Reporting and Grant Management requirements and information will be available if taken through to Stage 2 Proposal Development.

**7. Is the agreement type for WISER3 a grant or a contract?**

WISER is governed by an MOU agreement between Met Office and FCDO. The onward grant defrayment for projects resulting from the call for Concept and subsequent Proposals will be a Grant Agreement - this will include Terms and Conditions and be signed by Met Office and successful bidders following the completion of Stage Two.

**8. Will there be partnering opportunities in the area of Program Research, Monitoring and Evaluation?**

WISER Africa is a delivery programme and does not have direct funding for research or to provide M&E support to the programme through the granting mechanism underway. However, we are shortly launching a call for consultants to join a consultant framework, which speaks more to the research and MEL elements you mention. This framework will allow organisations or individuals to register their interest to support the WISER programme through an expertise area, which could be contracted and call down on throughout the life of the programme. This may be of more interest, so do look out for the Call for this in the next few days.

**9. Do we have to write wiser output as they are or we generate our own output which will contribute to one of wiser outputs?**

In the Project Overview section of the Concepts form, the proposal narrative needs to outline *how* the proposed activities will *contribute* to one of more of the WISER Theory of Change Outputs. At this stage of Call for Concepts, we are not expecting example Project Outputs to be developed.

**10. What is the maximum number of WISER's five Theory of Change Output Areas one Concept Note can address?**

There is no maximum or minimum.

**11. Is there a correlation between the maximum number of WISER's five Theory of Change Output Areas one Concept Note can address and the maximum Estimated Value of Grant Funds?**

No there is no correlation.

**12. I have noted that under the section of Project Overview, the required Met Office Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Options has not included Forecast Based Financing. Is this not part of the Technical Assistance and Capacity Development Options?**

For clarity, the offer of Technical Assistance is not required, but is there if it would be useful. Forecast Based Financing can be requested under that Technical Assistance offer.

**13. One questions I have is about the payment schedule (when money will be disbursed and needs to be spent). Would it be OK to spend most of the money in 2024/2025?**

Funds will be disbursed according to the budget needs submitted in the Project Proposal (if taken forward from Concept Stage). Project activity is expected to run from January 2023 and close by June 2026, so spend will need to take place between these dates. A key evaluation criteria is value for money, which needs to be considered in your proposal as projects with a very short timeline are unlikely to deliver value for money and present a possible delivery assurance risk should there be delays.

## **FAQs**

**Q: How can my organisation contribute to the programme?**

A: WISER Africa has developed a Theory of Change as a key Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning (MEL) tool to identify and guide the impact the programme seeks to achieve. As such, all aspects of projects, including activities and partnerships, need to align to it. The Theory of Change builds on lessons learnt in the previous phases of WISER and has been co-produced by integrating views of regional stakeholders.

WISER Africa aims to identify implementing partners to deliver projects that will contribute towards the outcomes and impact outlined in the Theory of Change. A series of calls for proposals will start from September 2022 to support project proposals (more details below). The programme team would also be interested to discuss how your organisation can support WISER Africa ambitions. To get in touch, please email [wiser@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:wiser@metoffice.gov.uk) or reach out to your known point of contact.

**Q: What is the timeline? When will projects kick off? When will calls for proposals come out?**

A: The timeline will be different across the three regions under WISER Africa (East, West and Southern). For East and Southern Africa, a Call for Concepts is currently open with a submission deadline of September 30<sup>th</sup> 2022. Details are available [here](#).

Projects are due to start implementation from January 2023, with project activities closing in June 2025 and reporting finalised by December 2025 in line with the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) granting.

**Q: Will projects be joint ventures between producers, intermediaries and users?**

A: There will likely be a range of approaches to meeting the needs of the Theory of Change. WISER has delivered successful projects in the past that have focused on the co-production and delivery across producers, intermediaries and users, and we expect to build on and replicate that success in WISER Africa as co-production has been proven as fundamental to the success of WISER to date.

**Q: Will replication of projects be encouraged, for example, where there have been National Meteorological and Hydrological Service (NMHS) delivered projects through WISER East Africa, can such projects be replicated in other areas within the same country?**

A: Learning from success and challenges from WISER East Africa is key. If there are replicable proposals that meet the needs of the WISER Africa programme, they will be considered. Concepts and Proposals will need to demonstrate how they meet the programme's Theory of Change. Examples of lessons, scalability and replication will help to demonstrate the value a project can deliver.

**Q: How is WISER Africa different to previous international development programmes?**

A: Building on the lessons from WISER to date, WISER Africa will be a user-centred programme, using Gender, Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive co-production and design to ensure that the interventions are impactful and sustainable. Innovation is a key principle of the programme, and it will aim to focus on new and enhanced ways of delivering Weather and Climate Information Services (WCIS) across each region, to strengthen its 'uptake and use across the value chain.

**Q: What does a Gender Equity and Social Inclusion (GESI) sensitive approach for WISER Africa look like? What does it mean for projects?**

A: GESI is a principal theme of the WISER Africa programme. GESI will be considered and embedded across all aspects of programme design and delivery and aims for an equity-based approach and to achieve greater equality and inclusion.

All projects supported by WISER are required to be **GESI sensitive** as a minimum (seek to understand inequities even if cannot address them). This will need to be demonstrated through the proposal design and forms part of the evaluation criteria.

Projects can also be **GESI specific** (taking steps to accommodate different and specific needs) or **GESI transformative** (addressing the causes of the inequity and transforming harmful norms). GESI analysis will be conducted at both programme and project level which will enable GESI to be built into the design.

**Q: Innovation is a key principle in WISER – what innovations are projects expected to demonstrate?**

A: Project are encouraged to include innovative approaches, partnerships and technologies which have the potential to demonstrate new ways of doing things and lead to wider and sustained change. In previous phases of WISER, some the most innovate project approaches delivered unexpected results. Implementing partners should consider how they can learn from previous project approaches and/or innovate through creative approaches to stakeholder engagement, co-production methods, use of technology etc.

**Q: How will WISER Africa collaborate with other programmes, e.g. CREWS?**

A: The Met Office has close links with a number of other programmes and initiatives through its international teams, projects and stakeholder engagement. We are working closely through a number of coordination mechanisms to ensure that WISER Africa activities are complementary and avoid replication of activities.

**Q: What is WISER's position on co-funding with other organisations?**

A: WISER Africa would welcome discussions around co-funding opportunities with organisation and initiatives that have an interest in WISER Africa's ambitions and projects.

**Q: How will WISER Africa ensure sustainability of its efforts after the Programme phases out, and address the challenges in maintaining sustainable weather and climate information systems?**

A: WISER Africa aims to ensure sustainability by supporting activities that will contribute to transformational change. Transformational change for WISER relates to the fundamental ways in which the uptake and use of WISER supported WCIS can be further enhanced, to progress towards the programme's longer-term goal of improving the resilience of community users and the adaptive capacity of countries in Africa to prepare for and respond to climate change. In addition to sustainability, transformational change also takes into account innovation, scalability, replicability and effectiveness of activities. Transformational change is likely to be sustained once WISER support ends. Examples might include the availability of longer-term financing or resources, institutional integration of new approaches in standard operating procedures and strong political commitment to pursue integrating WCIS into policies or strategic plans.

**Q: What is WISER Africa's regional approach?**

A: The regional approach in WISER Africa supports the development of strengthened engagement between weather and climate information service providers, intermediaries and users. It will involve producers of weather and climate information service, either the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO) designated Regional Climate Centre or Regional Specialised Met Centre for the regions (East, Southern or West Africa), and National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs), intermediaries (e.g. NGOs) and users.

This approach would support multiple areas of focus of the WISER Theory of Change, such as co-production, strengthened partnerships, enhancing producer capacity and policy. The rationale for the regional approach is underpinned by the successes of WISER East Africa (e.g. SC�PEA, W2-SIP and HIGHWAY), where similar methods demonstrated its strong potential to realise an increased reach across a region, shared learnings and greater impact than working at a national level alone. Information flow should be supported from the regional centre, via the NMHS, to the intermediary all the way to the last/first mile. Partners would work through a process of co-production to develop WCIS.

There are a number of ways in that a regional approach could be delivered. Partners are encouraged to form consortia across the WCIS value chain, to include producer, intermediary and user organisations. The lead organisation may be an NGO, a user representative or a producer organisation. The importance is that actors across the WCIS value chain are involved, mandated organisations are capacitated, users are accessing and using WCIS and the WISER intended change (see Theory of Change) is delivered.

**What is the plan for Call for Proposals for West Africa?**

A: There will also be a programme of work in the West Africa Region under WISER Africa. As the budget allocation in this region will take a different approach. As such there is likely to be a Call

towards the end of 2022 for smaller project concepts, taking innovative approaches. The detail of this approach will be shared in due course.

**Q: Can projects have a pan-African/cross-regional remit?**

A: Calls will be developed on a regional basis (East, Southern, West Africa). However, an organisation can respond to a regional Call with a project that proposes activities in the specific region and additional sub-Saharan African countries or regions.

**Q: What does the regional approach mean for implementing partners only based in one country?**

A: Implementing partners based in only one country would be encouraged to form consortia with regional institutions such as the Regional Climate Centres. National institutions are important components of the flow of information and reaching the first mile.

**Q: Will WISER fund national projects?**

A: The priority will be given to regional projects, and it is expected that these will support activity at a national level, based on identified needs and the priorities of the most vulnerable.

**Q: Will WISER Africa fund equipment?**

A: As WISER is focused on the development of weather & climate services, the provision of funds for the procurement of capital expenditure is expected to be out of scope unless there is a specific and targeted requirement which links explicitly to enhanced service delivery. For organisations and consortia responding to the Southern Africa Call for Concepts, up to 10% of total budget can be used to procure capital items that will directly support delivery against the Output Area(s). Examples of capital items include observations equipment such as automatic weather stations, high performance computer equipment, or enhanced visual display equipment for decision-making. Concepts should not be limited to these example items and capital only proposals will not be considered.

**Q - Why is WISER Africa focused on East, West and Southern Regions?**

A - WISER Africa is expanding beyond East Africa and the Sahel in this phase. Priority has been given to East, Southern and West Africa where existing projects or partnerships can be built on to deliver a higher impact. Other regions will be reassessed for their suitability in future phases should the programme expand.

**Q - Will Met Office support/Technical Assistance be available during the Calls for East and Southern Africa?**

The Call for Concepts for East and Southern Africa are the first stage in a two-stage application process. In terms of Met Office Technical Assistance:

- During Stage 1, you can ask clarifications about the Call through the email [Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk](mailto:Grant.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk). However, no Met Office support is available to aid with the content of the Concept submission.

- If your Concept is successful in Stage 1, you will be invited to develop a detailed Proposal in Stage 2. At this point, the Met Office will be able to support the preparation of Stage 2 Proposals to facilitate alignment with the Programme's ambitions and requirements.

**Q - Will Met Office Technical Assistance be available to awarded implementing partners?**

The Met Office will offer technical assistance and capacity development to projects that are awarded funding. Implementing partners will be the main drivers of projects and are expected to project manage and lead the delivery. Technical Assistance can be utilised to support specific areas where a gap in capacity has been identified. Types of technical assistance include seasonal forecasting, sub-seasonal forecasting, impact-based forecasting (IBF), service development and delivery, co-production, climate services, user engagement, marketing (including user-engagement, product development and lifecycle management), private sector engagement, strategy, and observations.

**Q - Which countries are included in WISER Africa's definitions of East and Southern Africa? What is the rationale for including or excluding countries from each region?**

In East Africa, for consistency we have included the same countries as in previous phases of the programme. East Africa countries therefore include Comoros, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda.

In Southern Africa, we selected thirteen of the sixteen SADC member countries. Included countries are Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

The three countries not included in Southern Africa are:

- Democratic Republic of Congo: Not included as its geographical location is Central Africa, and does not therefore align with WISER's FCDO and MO agreed focus on East, West and Southern Africa.
- Seychelles: is not identified as ODA eligible in the 2022-23 DAC List of ODA Recipients, and cannot therefore benefit from UK Aid.
- Tanzania: included in East Africa to ensure consistency with WISER 2.