

WISER MENA Call for Proposals FAQs

Q: How can my organisation contribute to the programme?

A: WISER MENA 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 MENA aims to identify implementing partners to deliver projects that will contribute towards the outcomes and impact outlined in the Theory of Change. The programme team would also be interested to discuss how your organisation can support WISER MENA ambitions. To get in touch, please email wiser@metoffice.gov.uk or reach out to your known point of contact.

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

A: This Call for Proposals is for the MENA region. The submission deadline is 28th April 2023. Projects are due to start implementation from July 2023, with project activities closing by June 2025 and reporting finalised by September 2025 in line with the UK Government's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) granting.

Call documents are available via Pro Contract DN657631 or email Grants.Defrayment@metoffice.gov.uk

Q: Can bidders submit a proposal which includes countries that are not stated in the Call for Proposals?

A: No. Proposals will need to only include activities relevant to the countries stated in the Call documents.

Q. Will WISER MENA fund equipment?

A: As WISER is focused on the development of weather and 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. Examples of capital items include observations equipment such as automatic weather stations, high performance computer equipment, or enhanced visual display equipment for decision-making.

The Call for Proposals for the MENA Region does not include the procurement of capital expenditure.

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

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

Q. How will WISER MENA collaborate with other programmes?

A: The Met Office has close links with a number of other global and regional 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 MENA activities are

complementary and avoid replication of activities. In addition, WISER MENA liaises with FCDO posts to support coordination with other UK government programmes and initiatives.

Q. Given the very particular operations and security context with respect to target populations, how does FCDO anticipate the engagement with the NMHS in the target countries?

The WISER programme works with key weather and climate stakeholders as part of its activities – with NHMSs being crucial actors. The programme and FCDO are aware that stakeholders including NHMSs might face a series of limitations and challenges, especially in areas affected by issues such as conflict and instability. Projects will need to have a good understanding of these considerations and take them account as part of delivery. Met Office Technical Assistance and Partnerships can also form part of projects to support work with NHMS, for example through capacity building.

Q. Will a proposal that does not directly respond to the open call requirement of co-production with NHMSs, but is able to explain the reasons, be considered as not responsive?

Proposals will be expected to explore how co-production can occur between the humanitarian and meteorological community in support of IDP/refugee communities, but indeed highlighting limitations and risks, and explanations regarding what the proposals considers as appropriate measures to ensure positive outcomes would be welcome.

Q. If the support to NMHS and the fulfilment of the stated requirement are mandatory, would engagement with a NMHS in one country, deemed safe for the humanitarian operations, be sufficient and serve as guidance for other countries?

Overall, the Proposal needs to be relevant to and have activities in all 4 countries - but the Proposal does not need to have exactly the same level of activity in all countries. Therefore, the suggested approach could be viable.

Q. Given that three out of four countries (except Palestine) are currently under 'Advice against travel status' how does FCDO anticipate NMHS capacity building? Is there a role for the regional centre in Cairo?

The Proposals would need to clarify how activities will be delivered within the context of the target countries – bidders would therefore need to be able and set up to operate within the set of restrictions and security considerations. This can include delivery on site either through local partners or agencies which can operate and travel to target countries, virtual approaches when appropriate, indeed through structures like a regional centre, or any viable and appropriate course of action.