

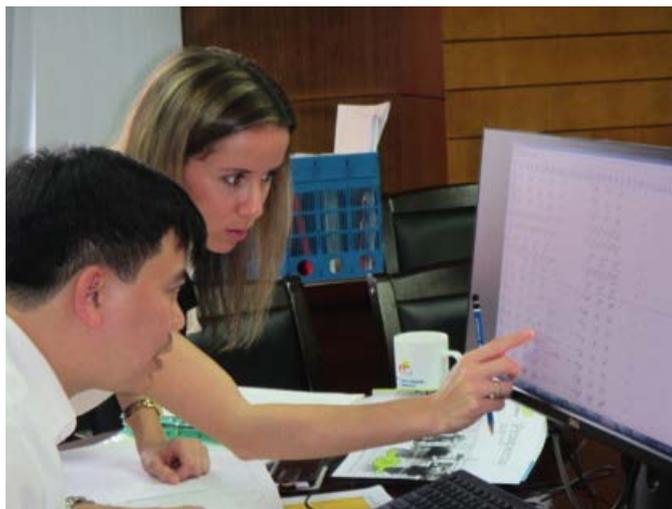


Identifying capabilities and prioritising key areas of development for national meteorological services

National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) deliver weather and climate information services that support improved wellbeing, promote socio-economic development and protect local communities. It is vital that NMHSs have the capacity to design and deliver relevant, useful and accessible services.

As the UK's national meteorological service, we understand the challenges associated with providing effective and customer-focused operational weather and climate services. We draw on our world-leading science and operational expertise to carry out detailed situational assessments, focused on service delivery, that identify existing strengths and areas of development for NMHSs. This helps to prioritise investments and development of key capabilities, to deliver operational weather and climate services.





Becky Beckett, Met Office International Expert Meteorologist, working with a representative from the National Centre for Hydro-meteorological Forecasting in Vietnam.

We have successfully undertaken situational assessments of NMHSs all over the world including Tanzania, Gambia, Malawi, Vietnam, Afghanistan, Iraq and Haiti. While following a standard approach, the assessments enable flexibility and tailoring to local contexts and individual needs of each NMHS and can also be applied to other related institutions. The focus and scope of the review is determined by factors such as the size of the country, climatic and geographical conditions, nature of meteorological hazards, existing institutional arrangements and capacity.

What is involved in a situational assessment?

Typically, the assessment process involves an initial evaluation of existing services, using a tried and tested methodology. We meet with users of weather and climate services, government officials and senior staff within the NMHS to discuss and understand requirements, strategic direction and vision for the service. This may involve on site interviews with NMHS staff members and work shadowing of operational staff to enable detailed assessment. This is followed by a technical assessment covering:

- User engagement
- Observations
- Maintenance scheduling
- Forecaster skills
- Current production processes
- Services delivered
- Modelling and technical capability

With a comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of the NMHS we can create a detailed assessment report with expert recommendations and a roadmap for development.

Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services, Malawi

As part of the World Bank's involvement in the Shire River Basin Management Programme (SRBMP) in Malawi, the Met Office was tasked with carrying out a situational assessment for the Department for Climate Change and Meteorological Services (DCCMS), Malawi's national meteorological service. The assessment focussed on service delivery and identified existing strengths and areas for development. A standardised gap analysis method was used and a technical assessment carried out in order to assess the levels of service delivered against international standards. The final report to the World Bank included recommendations for improvement and investment as well as a series of suggested training and capacity building activities for the DCCMS. Investing in this programme will ultimately enable the DCCMS to deliver improved real-time weather monitoring and forecasting along with climate variability and change scenarios.

“ I can say that I was super impressed by the presentation and scope of analysis – and I appreciate that the efforts look at what is fundamentally important (staff) and what is actually realistic in terms of investment. ”

Louise Croneborg,
Water Resources Management Specialist,
World Bank.

Benefits

- Taking into account political, social, economic and technical factors in the assessment provides a clear and comprehensive picture of the effectiveness of a NMHS.
- Detailed analysis enables investment to be channelled to cost-effective priority areas, delivering real customer benefit.
- Key capabilities related to severe weather and climate change can be identified and their development prioritised.
- Creating a roadmap for development helps ensure the delivery of more effective operational weather and climate services.
- We measure NMHSs against international benchmarks to objectively assess performance and improvement.
- Delivering sustainable and effective customer-focused services enables countries to better prepare for severe weather and adapt to changing weather and climate, ultimately protecting lives and livelihoods.

“ Your advice is very helpful and gives a new perspective on available opportunities and success. ”

Dr Agnes L. Kijazi,
Director General, Tanzania Meteorological Agency.



Workshop to assess weather and climate services in Kenya, facilitated by the Met Office and the Kenya Meteorological Department.

Who we are

The Met Office is a global centre of excellence in weather and climate science, and the UK's national weather service. Founded in 1854, the Met Office pioneered weather forecasting. Ever since then we have been at the forefront of developments in weather and climate science.

Our international development work

We draw on our scientific and operational strengths to offer practical advice and specialist consultancies. Our wide range of skills and expertise enables us to support countries around the globe in developing and enhancing their weather and climate services.

What makes us different?

As an international organisation, we are exposed to many challenges and have a reputation of meeting and exceeding expectations. Our strong track record includes:

- experience of working in over 150 countries;
- a pool of internationally-experienced specialist staff;
- World Meteorological Organization (WMO) accredited training;
- a thorough understanding of how weather and climate are linked to development goals and policies;
- design of impact-based forecasting for WMO policy;
- supercomputing capacity for sophisticated modelling;
- developing one of the most accurate regional meteorological models in the world, now adopted by Australia, South Africa and South Korea.



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