CREWS PROJECT PROGRESS REPORT (January – June 2021)

1. Project title	DR Congo - Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Early Warning Services	**2. Project reference** CREWS/CProj/01/DRC
3. Implementing Partners involved in the project	World Bank (Lead) World Meteorological Organization	**4. Regional/National Partners involved in the project** Agence Nationale de Météorologie et de Télédétection par Satellite (Mettelsat)
5. Project Duration/Timeframe	December 2017 – June 2022	
6. Reporting focal point(s)	Christian Vang Eghoff – ceghoff@worldbank.org Bernard Gomez – begomez@wmo.int Muliro Mashauri mmashauri@worldbank.org in cc Lorenzo Carrera – lcarrera@worldbank.org - in cc Jean-Baptiste Migraine - jbmigraine@wmo.int - in cc	

7. Project overview	**Please include synergies, leveraging, key project deliverables and total funding in bullet points. (max 250 words)**
	• The Grant development objective is to improve the quality of the Government of the DRC's hydro-meteorological and climate services in selected sectors.
	• The CREWS funding seeks to improve the country's hydromet services through:
	  ○ Strengthening institutional, partnerships and regulatory frameworks and capacity building for early warning
	  ○ Provision of technical assistance to Mettelsat at national level for early warning procedures and at local level for early warning systems in selected watersheds
	  ○ Development of QMS for aviation meteorology and institutional support on cost recovery from aviation	

	○ Supporting Mettelsat development strategy • The CREWS financing is implemented by the World Bank (US$2,790,000) and WMO (US$300,000). Subdivided into two components: ○ Component A: Institutional and regulatory strengthening, capacity building and implementation support (cost US$0.95M): (i) strengthening the partnerships between MettelSat, civil protection, RVF and RVA relevant to early warning systems (severe weather, flash flooding); (ii) institutional strengthening; (iii) capacity building ○ Component B: Improvement of hydromet information service delivery (cost US$2.14M) in line with the global framework for climate services. This component supports (i) identification of requirements by decision-makers and the population at-risk; and (ii) support the design and production of more accurate, timely and relevant warnings and information. Thus, the component strengthens the capacity of specific users for optimal use of products and services relevant to early warning systems. • It leverages the Strengthening Hydro-Meteorological and Climate Services Project, US$8M (US$5.3 GEF, US$2.7M GFDRR). • The delivery of meteorological, hydrological and climate services are under the responsibilities of MettelSat while the early warning responsibilities are under the Directorate for Civil Protection as per their respective mandates.
8. Progress summary	**What has been achieved between (reporting period)? – Please list the most significant and tangible developments?** • Staff was recruited to support the conversion of analog data to digital (data rescue). The conversion is ongoing and expected to completed when the COVID-19 pandemic limitations allow for increased physical presence of staff in offices. • The development of a long-term training program for Mettelsat is nearing completion in partnership with EAMAC. Once completed and validated, the training program is expected to inform the training of personnel to fill the capacity gap of Mettelsatin key specific areas that are in line with its mandate

	• The open source climate database (MCH) was installed on MettelSat servers . The MCH is expected to provide storage for the data generated from the network of observing stations as well as feed the WMO Global Telecommunication System (GTS) through the sharing of collected meteorological and hydrological data, which is a prerequisite for the improvement of the quality of global models or the development of modelling capacities in DRC

9. Project Performance

Interpretation of color coding		
	**High**	Good progress; on track in most or all aspects of delivery
	**Medium**	Moderate progress or on track in some aspects of delivery
	**Low**	Less than moderate or poor progress. Not on track in critical areas of its delivery. Requires remedial attention

	Rate of expenditure	Rate of delivery	Alignment of Objectives
Coding			

Narrative	Disbursement June, 2021 From WB side: is $1,123,311 (44.7% of total amount) From WMO side: $126,169in actuals and $43,308 in obligations (56% ot total amount)	The rate of delivery remains medium due to the impact of COVID-19 to the project. A number of measures are initiated to get the project back on track in most aspects of delivery	The project remains fully aligned to the EWS and Climate risk objectives

10. Risk Management Status

Risk Status	What is the current risk status as compared to what was identified in the project proposal? The current risk status of the project is relatively high, largely linked to the current COVID-19 waves across the country and the slow project implementation at 1 year to the closing date.
Measures to address	What mitigation measures have been developed to address the risk status? Closer monitoring is envisaged to ensure the delivery of activities. In relation to the low capacity of Mettelsat, the World Bank, WMO and a number of international and local experts are all involved to support the delivery of activities. This includes technical support to the Project Implementation Unit, conducting well-defined training sessions, leading specific studies, among others. The Project's Annual Work Plan 2021 has been revised to address some of the delays encountered during implementation.

11. Contributions to CREWS Output(s)s

11.1 National Output(s)s

CREWS Output(s) 1: National Meteorological and Hydrological Services service delivery improved, including the development of long-term service delivery strategies and development plans				
State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Assessment of capacity for early warning of drought, heavy precipitation, river flooding, flash flooding, wind storm and recommendations for improvement	100%	50%	30%	50%
Assessment of user needs (3 stakeholders/users workshops organized)	100%	60%	30%	50%
Development and/or review of memorandums of understanding (MoUs) with users	100%	70%	90%	100%
Implement a capacity development and training program for staff (including operational training for technicians and engineers, meteorologists and hydrologists)	100%	70%	50%	70%

Development of the MettelSat Strategy, Action Plan and Business Plan	100%	60%	50%	60%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

Most of the targets for this output were met. The low institutional capacity remains the most important challenge. Activities are carried out with the support of international experts and learning institutions to strengthen the institutional capacity of Mettelsat as part of the mitigation measures.

CREWS Output(s) 2: Risk Information to guide early warning systems and climate and weather service developed and accessible

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Development of a national risk geoportal and development of hazard, exposure and vulnerability information for flood risk assessment and impact forecasting	100%	80%	80%	80%
Establishment of the National Framework for Climate Services	100%	70%	80%	90%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

There is no significant progress in relation to the development of the national risk geoportal. However there is progress in terms of the deployment of a flood EWS in two watersheds through leveraging from the Hydromet Project (P159217), that among other things is expected to provide flood forecasting and warning with sufficient lead time. The National framewok for climate services was validated in Dec 2020, and is yet to be promulgated into law.

CREWS Output(s) 3: Information and Communication Technology, including common alerting protocol, strengthened

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Development of operational procedures to convert extreme weather forecasts (rains, floods, winds, heat waves) in potential impacts	100%	50%	10%	20%
Elaboration of Quality Management Systems for air navigation meteorological services and the recovery of meteorological services rendered to RVA	100%	50%	10%	30%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

No major progress was achieved during this reporting period in relation to the above two activities. The QMS requires significant expenses, including the training of personnel and infrastructure maintenance. Currently, all these expenses are covered by the Hydromet Project, whereas this should be entirely financed from the cost-recovery from airlines.

CREWS Output(s) 4: Preparedness and response plans with operational procedures that outline early warning dissemination processes developed and accessible

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**

Risk mapping and emergency response plans for municipalities including training of operational and decision-making civil servants	100%	40%	20%	20%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them.

No significant progress was achieved during this reporting period in terms of preparedness and response plans. However, the project is currently working on the deployment of a flood early warning system in two selected watersheds. Emergency response plans and trainings will be given the needed priority once the system become operational.

CREWS Output(s) 5: Knowledge products and awareness programmes on early warnings developed

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Community focus groups for flood risk mapping and awareness	100%	60%	30%	30%
Study tour for the 4 institutions contributing to early warning (MettelSat, DPC, RVF, CVM)	100%	50%	0%	0%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

No Knowledge products or awareness program on early warnings was planned during this period.

CREWS Output(s) 6: Gender-sensitive training, capacity building programmes provided

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Women participation in training and decision-making venues sponsored by CREWS	30%	10%	10%	No progress

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

No significant progress was achieved during the reporting period in relation to gender-sensitive training and capacity building as all the trainings and capacity building activities were cancelled as a result of COVID-19. However, the project remains focused on providing gender-sensitive early warning systems and climate risk information.

11.2 Regional Output(s)s

CREWS Regional Output(s): Institutional and human capacities at Regional WMO and Intergovernmental organizations to provide regional climate and weather services to LDCs and SIDS increased

State Project Output(s) in this section	**Overall Project Target**	**Target for reporting period**	**Progress by December 2020**	**Progress by June 2021**
Data sharing with the WMO's global data sharing system through the Moroccan Meteorological Service	100%	50%	30%	30%

Narrative: briefly indicate the major issues or challenges faced and mitigation steps taken to addressing them. (150 to 200 words)

Data sharing discussions are ongoing to connect Mettelsat to the WMO global data sharing system through the Moroccan Meteorological Service. There are currently 57 stations in DRC which are referenced in the WMO OSCAR/SURFACE metadata database, but currently, none is transmitting data to the WMO integrated global observing system. Solving this problem would allow global numerical weather prediction models to provide calibrated and corrected products in DRC and in neighboring countries.

12. Contributions to Value Propositions

Gender Responsive	The project will target beneficiaries with a gender-disaggregated approach with the understanding that gender shapes the way project beneficiaries will have access, process and respond to warnings and risk information. Thus, any plan developed and training offered will consider a fair participation of male and female to ensure that concerns of the two gender groups are taken care of.
Multiplier	The project is expected to generate a wider range of benefits to different users, impacting a considerable number of people over its lifecycle through the current leverage from the country's portfolio (Hydromet Project).
People-centered	No specific local organisation engagement was undertaken during this period. However, the project is working on how best to engage the local community as end-users and main beneficiaries and to ensure their access to early warnings and risk information. Local communities are expected to play a central role in the dissemination of warning once the EWS becomes operational. Warning and risk information are also expected to be packed in a language well understood by the local community, and the medium of transmission is expected to be appropriate and context specific.
Promote Coherence	The Project leverages other in-country initiatives with the aim of generating greater value-added while contributing to the effort of improving the delivery of hydro-meteorological and Early Warning Services in DRC. For instance, the project is expected to provide hydromet data to be used in the WB funded crop insurance instrument under the "National Agriculture Development Program (P169021)". The project is also establishing some level of synergy with the "Kinshasa Multisectoral Development and Urban Resilience Project-Kin Elenda"Project in specific DRM activities.
Solution-oriented	The project will generate innovative approaches and tools that will be shared with different user-groups across the country and beyond. A case in point is the " SAPHIR- Système d'Alerte Précoce Hydrométéorologique Intégré de la RDC", the flood early warning system under development in two watersheds and that can be extended to other places in the country.
Unique	The project remains aligned to CREWS's value as a financing instrument that builds sustained institutional capacity driven by the expertise and specialist networks of its partners.

13.Visibility products

a. *Insert or copy any links to press releases, videos or communication items and/or social media links*

14. Supporting documents

a. *List and annex to the report any documents providing details on project activities such as reports of training sessions, assessment reports, online solutions and tools, manuals, summaries of high-level discussions etc.*