

## Annex 2 – Template for CREWS Action Interim Report

<b>1. Action Title</b>	Sierra Leone: Jump-start Early Warning and Early Action Systems	<b>2. Action Reference</b>	<i>To be added by CREWS Secretariat</i>
<b>3. Implementing Partner</b>	World Bank	<b>4. Other Partners (i.e., Sub-contracted)</b>	Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency National Water Resources Management Agency
<b>5. Action Duration / Deadline</b>	12 months – closing date on 30 June 2024 <sup>1</sup>		
<b>6. Reporting Focal Point(s)</b>	Robert Reid: <a href="mailto:rreid1@worldbank.org">rreid1@worldbank.org</a>		
<b>7. Action Type</b>	Continued Assistance Advisory Services		
<b>8. Specific Action</b>	<p><u>Component 1: Information ecosystem mapping to improve the delivery of EW services</u></p> <p>This component will complement the on-going consultancy supported by CREWS WA with a focus on optimizing the flow of high impact weather risk and early warning information across Freetown to serve the most vulnerable communities. Through focus groups, and informant interviews, the existing gaps and bottlenecks in information flow would be identified. The proposed activities would demonstrate the benefits of the rapid operationalization and implementation of the EW services with external expert support (which is called “jumpstart approach”).</p> <p><u>Component 2: Capacity building and technical assistance</u></p> <p>To effectively develop EWS under the CREWS WA project, on-the-job training will be conducted for Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency (SLMet) and the National Water Resources Management Agency (NWRMA) staff, to maximize understanding and exploitation of the available weather data and forecast systems. A long-term training programme covering core meteorology and hydrology will also be developed, for existing and newly recruited staff, although the delivery of such training is outside the current remit of the project. This component will augment capacity, through partnering with West African institutions (e.g., WMO Regional Training Centres , NMHSs in the region such as Ghana Met. Service, universities). This component will also support the improvement of the critical elements of the hydromet system to develop capacities in climate, weather, and disaster risk management services. Such support could include additional software tools or renewing licensing agreement as well as targeted technical advice.</p>		

<sup>1</sup> Grant closing date in the World Bank system, 12 months after its activation.

**9. Progress Summary**

So far activities have focused on:

- Creation of the Flood Forecasting Task Force as a mechanism developed under the project to sustain the operational capacity of the agencies built under the assignment. Letters signed by the heads of the agencies committing to their engagement in the Taskforce.
- Conducting information ecosystem mapping to improve the delivery of EW services to determine the existing gaps and bottlenecks in information flow to the communities at high risk and make recommendations on to improve effectiveness of warnings to communities in Freetown.
- Provide on-the-job training Sierra Leone Meteorological Agency (SLMet) and the National Water Resources Management Agency (NWRMA) staff, to maximize understanding and exploitation of the available weather data and forecast systems.
- Develop a long-term training programme covering core meteorology and hydrology, for existing and newly recruited staff.
- Report detailing the proposed flood forecasting system, included an options assessment exercise (email attached) – this provides system documentation. System documentation is also provided in the slides of training material sent to you by We Transfer and sent to the SL agencies.
- Evidence showing the delivery of the Flood Guidance messaging service being issued from 4<sup>th</sup> July to 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023 (attached ‘ FGS system evidence’ Word document)
- The above ‘FGS system evidence’ document shows that the service is impact-based in the message examples. The impact text was co-developed and agreed with the three agencies in a workshop JBA led in May 2023 (slides sent to you in We Transfer message).
- Workshops held with SLMet and other agencies demonstrating that they understand the principles of flood forecasting (relates to ST 3.7) – see We Transfer message comprising slide packs of meetings. The expected accuracy is reasonable (see ‘rainy season analysis’ attachment) and lead time is good (1-3 days ahead).
- All three agencies have stated that the Flood Guidance trial service has been useful and have discussed onward communication approaches.

The flood guidance system that was being provided by JBA using global models, shows a lot of promise and is probably the only way in the near future that any form of early warning system can be developed. The team is exploring how a continuation of support could be considered for Sierra Leone to refine the system using better data and modelling to be able to achieve a level off accuracy that could start to be communicated with key stakeholders, beyond Hydromet and Disaster management agencies.

<b>10. Action Performance</b>	<i>Interpretation of Coding</i>	
	●	<i>Good progress; on track in most or all aspects of delivery.</i>
	●	<i>Moderate progress or on track in some aspects of delivery.</i>
	●	<i>Less than moderate or poor progress. Not on track in critical areas of its delivery. Requires remedial attention.</i>
	<b>Rate of Expenditure</b>	<b>Rate of Action Delivery</b>
<b>Coding</b>	●	●
<b>Narrative</b>	Expenditure is going according to plan, with nearly 110K in disbursements/commitments. The team has just received the second tranche (125K) in January 2024.	A lot of progress has been made on the activities
<b>11. Other Information (Optional)</b>	N/A	