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Project goals, workshop goals and Background

South Africa Severe Weather Forecast Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and Southern Africa Region Flash Flood Guidance (SARFFG)

Regional Technical Meeting and User/CONOPS Workshop

October 26-30

Pretoria, South Africa



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Workshop Goals

- 1) Introduce the Integration Project on bridging and enhancing the two systems capabilities, by bringing experts together to review system architecture and to further develop and agree upon the system integration implementation plan (also referred to as the Roadmap) for both the national and regional levels.
- 2) Establish DRR user community input on warning requirements and value of decision support tools and products that are needed to promote effective responses.
- 3) Begin the process of developing Concept of Operations Plans (CONOPS) for the integrated programmes linking the systems within each country and at the regional level. .



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Workshop Outcomes

- An increased understanding of the SWFDP-SA and SARFFG projects and the effort to integrate system capabilities.
- Input by the DRR user community for the types of warning products and services required to improve emergency responses.
- increased understanding of the capabilities and capacities of NMHSs and their users' needs and requirements for early warnings for extreme hydrometeorological hazards.
- Guidance on potential new and enhanced features of the SARFFG Forecaster User Interface including user-defined layers (e.g., terrain, political boundaries, roads, building locations, etc.).
- Initial development of a roadmap (framework) to integrate the SWFDP and SARFFG
- Initial draft Concept of Operations Plan document for each country and regional centre.



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Project Goal

To improve accuracy, lead time, communication and dissemination of severe weather and flash flood warnings to communities.



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Reaching the Last Kilometer

Achieving project goal means

- Integration of Severe Weather Forecasting and Demonstration Project (SWFDP) and Southern Africa Regional Flash Flood Guidance System (SARFFGS) to improve forecasting of severe hydrometeorological events at National Meteorological Hydrological Services
- Strengthening the capacity (NMHSs) to provide timely and effective early warnings of hydrometeorological events for lead time for action, and
- Developing products and information that addresses needs of users such as National Disaster Management Agencies, NGOs, UN and general public to reduce loss of lives and livelihoods in the Southern Africa region due to hydrometeorological extremes.



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Background

Why this Project ?

SARFFG and SWFDP developed independently

Some NMHS's limited capacity to operate and maintain both systems concurrently

Linking these two system enhances would enhance national and local emergency response & preparedness



Reaching the Last Kilometer

- In July USAID/OFDA launched project meeting in Washington, DC
- Partners consisted of WMO, HRC, SAWS and OFDA
- Project Plan developed consisting of 3 phases



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Project Steps

- Phase 1-
 - 2015- Initiate project- Start development of system Integration
 - Workshops scheduled to begin defining Roadmap and CONOPS and define warning requirements
 - SARFFG Training
 - Begin cross training workshops on SARFFG and SWFDP



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Project Steps

- Phase 2-
 - Complete Roadmaps and CONOPS
 - Complete SARFFG and SWFDP system development
 - Continue cross training workshops on SARFFG and SWFDP
 - Evaluate country needs to strengthen Hydromet System capability
 - Begin forecast verification
 - Develop regional and national products



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Project Steps

- Phase 3-
 - Implement Roadmaps and CONOPS
 - Evaluate SARFFG and SWFDP system
 - Continue cross training workshops on SARFFG and SWFDP
 - Evaluate country needs to strengthen Hydromet System capability
 - Evaluate system and Service delivery to DRR
 - Evaluate regional and national products