



SAHF Impact Based Forecasting Working Group (IBF WG) plans and priorities (2025-2027)

Related document(s): 1) [Workshop Report: SAHF Planning Workshop on Impact Based Forecasting and Climate Services](#), 2) [SAHF IBF WG Draft Implementation Plan](#).

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Development of Impact-Based Forecasting (IBF) approaches and respective capacity has been identified as one of the key priorities for SAHF. At national level, development of IBF capabilities is a key priority for National Meteorological and Hydrological Services (NMHSs) and other agencies and stakeholders across Member Countries, especially considering the objectives and timescales under the United Nations (UN) Early Warning for All¹ (EW4All) initiative and the Strategic Plan of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), including the operating plan of WMO Regional Association II (Asia) (RA II).
- 1.2 In the South Asia sub-region, significant progress has been made under the SAHF IBF WG (2021-24), including: establishment of a core WG (comprised of representatives from NMHSs) with connections to 'users' at regional-national level, provision of capacity building and training (for both producers and users) and support for knowledge exchange and learning around existing 'piloting' efforts in Member Countries. IBF has also been the topic of long-standing support in the framework of the WMO Severe Weather Forecasting Programme (SWFP) for South Asia, WMO Tropical Cyclone Programme (in collaboration with the UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)), and the Flash Flood Guidance Systems (FFGSs) in the subcontinent.
- 1.3 SAHF IBF WG priorities during the first phase of SAHF have been supported by a number of partner initiatives, e.g., World Bank CARE² Project, UK Government ARRC³ and WISER Asia Pacific⁴ Projects. For the next phase (phase 2) of SAHF, in line with SAHF EC resolutions (2023/24) '*to strengthen and broaden the forum over*', it has been agreed that the WISER Asia Pacific Project will support SAHF priorities for IBF over the period 2025-30. The Climate Risk and Early Warning Systems (CREWS) initiative has also given the green light for preparing a multi-country project for South Asia that would support, where

¹ [Early Warnings for All | United Nations](#)

² [South Asia - Climate Adaptation and Resilience for South Asia \(CARE\) Project](#)

³ [Asia Regional Resilience to a Changing Climate \(ARRCC\) - Met Office](#)

⁴ [WISER Asia Pacific - Met Office](#)

feasible, SAHF and IBF among other activities.

- 1.4 The proposed SAHF IBF implementation plan, initially covering the period 2025-27, aims to enhance regional-national collaboration through development and piloting of IBF approaches to support early warning, capacity building, and learning and knowledge exchange across producers and users in South Asia.

2 DISCUSSION

- 2.1 The IBF WG and its implementation plan will support transformational change in regional capacity for an impact-based approach to early warning services for vulnerable communities and sectors across South Asia and within its Member Countries.
- 2.2 This will be achieved by enhancing regional-national collaboration through development and piloting of IBF approaches across common hazard/s in different national-local contexts and across common geographies.
- 2.3 The implementation plan will address the key principles / priorities, informed by the SAHF IBF WG and regional-national stakeholders, including WMO:
 - i. Requirement for a regional approach to support capacity enhancement for IBF, to be supported through development of an 'IBF framework and toolkit' through the contracted regional organisation, the Regional Integrated Multi-Hazard Early Warning System for Africa and Asia (RIMES), with technical assistance from the UK Met Office and WMO.
 - ii. Agreement to facilitate regional-national 'piloting' for a common hazard (temperature), following a stepwise, adaptable process, with an initial piloting phase running from 2025-27.
 - iii. Requirement to ensure active linkages and leveraging the broader role of SAHF and its WGs i.e., for data provision (NWP WG), capacity enhancement (CE WG), hydrology (HY WG) and the linking of IBF approaches to the new climate services WG (CS WG), ensuring developments are 'fit for purpose, under future climate scenarios'.
 - iv. Requirement to ensure active linkages and leveraging of related regional fora, projects, and platforms, such as the South Asia Climate Outlook Forum (SASCOF), SWFP South Asia, WMO/ESCAP Panel on Tropical Cyclones (PTC), CREWS South Asia project, regional EW4All coordination, Asia-Pacific Technical Working Group on Anticipatory Action (AP TWG AA), amongst others.
 - v. Ensuring in-region ownership and sustainability through a 'Train the Trainer' (ToT) approach, with regional-national focal points representing both producers and users.
 - vi. Specific focus on reaching vulnerable communities (addressing aspects of gender, equality, and social inclusion) and leveraging existing / planned efforts around

Anticipatory Action (AA) by NGOs, UN, and other partners including but not limited to forecast based early action and financing (especially with regards to AA thresholds/triggers, requiring impact forecasts), disaster risk financing/insurance, and wider humanitarian planning and response in the region.

- 2.4 The IBF WG, RIMES, WMO, and Met Office teams propose to work with countries / key stakeholders interested in developing or enhancing IBF approaches and pilots, under a regional framework (to support learning and knowledge exchange) and through a 'technical assistance' mechanism to provide support to implementing partners.
- 2.5 The IBF WG implementation plan will undertake the following broad activities (see **Info Doc XX_X** for detailed work plan). To note timescales are illustrative and will be adjusted accordingly informed by start date of activity 1:
- i. **Activity 1: Development of a regional framework and toolkit (May 2025 - July 2025)** – Ensuring establishment/enhancement of regional mechanisms to support: stakeholder communications, training and capacity building, access to open-source tools and resources, learning, support to national pilots, and to ensure continuous engagement (remote and physical) across participating stakeholders.
 - ii. **Activity 2: Pilot development and implementation; 20-month duration for initial phase (August 2025 - March 2027)** – Supporting establishment of regional-national network of IBF pilots in South Asia. Focusing on common hazard(s) (temperature and rainfall) and covering a range of countries / geographies, linked and facilitated through the regional framework, toolkit, and technical assistance.
 - iii. **Activity 3: Review and reporting (January 2027 - March 2027)** – Aiming to review pilot implementation, drawing on experience and identified best practice from the IBF pilots and Anticipatory Action across differing geographies and societal contexts. Informing finalisation of the toolkit to inform scaling up of IBF efforts across the SAHF region for both 'temperature' and learning to support other hazards.
 - iv. **Activity 4: Development of capabilities necessary for an impact-based approach to forecasts and early warnings (May 2025 - November 2026)** - Ensuring identification and provision of relevant and necessary training and capacity enhancement activities, to support regional-national piloting through a regional ToT approach. Connecting and leveraging relevant platforms, programmes, and investment to support delivery and longer-term sustainability.
 - v. **Activity 5: Enabling policies and institutionalisation of approach (iterative process) (July 2025 - March 2027)** - Ensuring alignment (and enabling) of regional-national piloting with regional-national policies and processes. Ensuring piloting informs regional-national policy, processes, and funding to support; scaling up and sustainable operationalisation of pilots at national levels, upscaling /wider rollout of this approach across Member Countries in South Asia.

3 ACTIONS REQUIRED BY SAHF EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

3.1 The SAHF Executive Council is invited to:

- i. Review the related documents (Info [Doc XX_1](#), Info [Doc XX_2](#)).
- ii. Review, modify, and agree to the proposed approach and work outlined in paragraphs 2.3-2.6,
- iii. Agree on the participation of SAHF NMHSs in this activity.

3.2 The SAHF Executive Council is invited to consider, and revise, if necessary, the following resolution for adoption:

- Requests the SAHF IBF WG and RIMES in its capacity as the SAHF Secretariat to adopt the approaches and activities set out in the SAHF IBF implementation plan (2025-2027).