

Climate change is dramatically altering weather patterns and threatening people's lives and livelihoods. In Africa, the situation is compounded by the limited availability of accurate weather information. As a result, the poorest and most vulnerable communities are increasingly at risk of increased exposure to vector-borne diseases, forced migration and loss of lives and livelihoods.



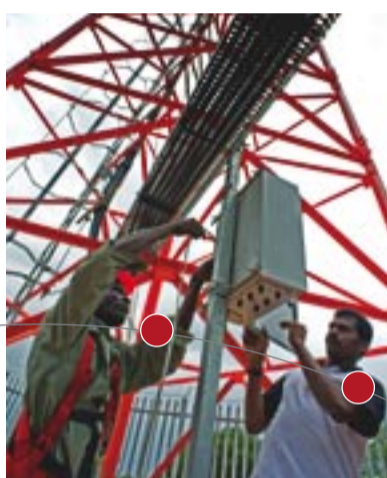
Worldwide Observation Gap - Percentage of weather reports received:

- Zero coverage
- Less than 45%
- 45% to 90%
- 90% to 100%

Source: WMO



1. Installation of weather stations



2. Data collection



3. National meteorological services



4. Dissemination of forecasts and early warnings



5. Impact on local communities



The Weather Info for All Initiative

The Weather Info for All Initiative is an innovative public-private partnership that supports adaptation to climate change in Africa. It aims to fill the existing ground-level weather observation gap and improve the availability of reliable weather information for those worst affected by and most vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Harnessing the opportunities of the recent spread of wireless communication in Africa, the Initiative will deploy automatic weather stations at mobile network sites across the entire continent. These locations are ideal, as they provide the necessary security, connectivity and power. These automatic weather stations will transmit raw weather data to national meteorological services where it will be analyzed and turned into forecasts and early warnings for extreme weather events. In partnership with wireless service providers, the information will be sent to farmers and other end users, via a suitable telecoms bearer, for example SMS.

Through the provision of accurate weather forecasts and early warnings, the Initiative aims to help improve crop planning and increase agricultural productivity, limit the spread of climate-sensitive diseases and epidemics, and reduce the socio-economic impact of extreme climatic events. The Initiative will also help reinforce the capacity of national meteorological and hydrological services, empowering them to deliver more accurate weather predictions in the long term.

Where we are today...

By the end of June 2009, the Forum and its partners will have completed the initial phase of the Initiative and the installation of 19 automatic weather stations in Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania.

Where we are heading to...

Expected to begin in the third quarter of 2009, Phase II will extend the initial phase with the deployment of about 500 units to the entire East African Community.



A Practical Solution to Climate Change