

# WIMEA-ICT: A NEW DAWN OF INNOVATIVE WEATHER SERVICES FOR EAST AFRICA



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WIMEA-ICT is a combined research and capacity building project funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD) under the NORHED (Norwegian Programme for Capacity Development in Higher Education and Research for Development) scheme. The project is a cooperation between Makerere University in Uganda (coordinating institution), Dar-es salaam Institute of Technology (DIT) in Tanzania, the University of Juba in South Sudan and the Geo-physical Institute of the University of Bergen, Norway. Project implementation of activities began in 2013 and ends in 2019.

The project team comprises of Professors and senior researchers from Uganda, Norway, South Sudan

and Tanzania.

Accessibility to reliable weather information is vital for decision making in various sectors such as agriculture, disaster management, aviation, fishing, energy, mining, construction, defense, water resources and health. Under this project, each partner institution is working closely with the Meteorology Authority in their respective country to improve service delivery in terms of accuracy and timeliness of weather information dissemination. In Uganda, the project has a running Memorandum of Understanding with Uganda National Meteorological Authority. The contact person for UNMA is Mrs. Teddy Tindamanyire, the Director, Training and Research.

### Core Areas

The core areas of this project are capacity building and research. Under capacity building WIMEA-ICT is training 08 staff on Ph.D programmes (05 Makerere University Staff, 02 Dar es Salaam Institute Technology staff, 01 University of Juba). In addition 8 Masters students (04 at Makerere University and another 04 at DIT) are being trained in related areas; more staff of University Juba will be trained effective 2017/2018 academic year at Makerere University. In addition short



Members from Makerere University and University of Juba at a weather station during a visit to South Sudan in March 2017

trainings are organized for staff of the Meteorological Authorities in areas of interest to them. This capacity building is distributed among the four core research components of the project i.e Numerical Weather Prediction; Weather Data Repositories; Weather Station Network Density & Weather Information Dissemination. Infrastructure has also been improved through a number of ways including Small scale infrastructure for 70 Automatic Weather Stations distributed in the partner countries; computers for labs; servers for data storage and scanning devices for weather repositories.

One of the other key aspects of this project is gender. Dr. Agnes Rwashana Semwanga, who is the overall Gender Focal Person and Deputy Principal at Makerere University's College of Computing and Information Sciences oversees implementation of gender activities in areas of the project such as curriculum review, recruitment of scholarships, mentorship talks to females on the graduate programmes as well as students in secondary schools to ensure that gender aspects are considered in the project activities at the partner Universities.

The project monitors progress through monthly meetings in which the Ph.D fellows and Masters students participate with their supervisors/ advisors both local and international via online platforms. Annual project meetings hosted rotationally by the various project partners are also held where Norad directly

participates. The National Meteorological Authorities also engage in several of these meetings. Some of the research outputs have been published in reputable conferences and journals around the world. We hope to have the first Ph.D fellows graduate in 2018.

More information about the progress of project activities can be found at: [http://wimea.mak.ac.ug/?page\\_id=1775](http://wimea.mak.ac.ug/?page_id=1775) in form of quarterly newsletters since the project

began in 2013.

The WIMEA-ICT project is sincerely grateful to the Norwegian government for this opportunity to improve weather services in East Africa through their generous funding.

**We celebrate with the Norwegians on their special day.**

