



Photo: Scott Wallace/World Bank

# Hydromet, Climate Services & Resilience (HCSR) Community of Practice

## Background

In response to demand from partner countries and in recognition of the growing need to improve public weather services, invest in disaster related early warning systems, and strengthen information and decision support systems for climate dependent sectors such as agriculture and water resources, the World Bank (WB) is increasingly providing operational and analytic support to hydromet modernization and development of climate products and services. Investments involving hydromet, whether as standalone or as part of broader resilience or disaster management projects, are being supported by the WB in

all regions. While availability of climate finance such as through the Pilot Program for Climate Resilience has provided much needed support to spur such investments, partner countries are also using IDA resources to strengthen hydromet services. There is an urgent need to enhance the design and uptake of climate services and products through effective use of hydromet and other related datasets and information. The integration of these considerations at early stages of project design is critical to ensuring climate and disaster resilient outcomes. Today such projects are being supported by several Global Practices (GPs) and Cross Cutting Solution Areas (CCSAs) working on water, weather, disasters and

climate, and teams supporting such activities have different professional training and intellectual trajectories.

Despite the importance of such often technically complex operations and the WB's increasing support to such projects, at present there is no common cross-sectoral space for exchanging information on this issue or knowledge platform that can inform ongoing and planned operations. While there is a lot of experience and understanding of what makes these investments sustainable or not, this understanding needs to be better shared between teams from different regions. The HCSR Community of Practice aims to fill this gap.



## Strategic Goals

The main goals of the HCSR Community of Practice are to:

**Provide a mechanism for sharing lessons and experiences from Bank operations involving hydromet modernization, weather, water and climate services and resilience;**

**Share cutting edge thinking on this issue and foster a strong linkage between research and policy institutions with Bank operations;**

**Promote a culture of joint learning with our partner countries.**

## Themes and Services

The COP focuses on some of the following emerging themes:

Lessons from hydromet projects; Designing and Implementing Regional hydromet projects; Climate Services (in different sectors such as agriculture, water etc); Hydromet and Early Warning Systems (EWS); Institutional and policy issues; Economic analysis of hydromet services; transboundary disaster risk management, workshops on specific severe weather and weather/climate related events (eg. cyclones, landslides, storm surge, drought, flash floods, thunderstorms); cryosphere monitoring and capacity building, hydromet and DRM context; data sharing between countries, decision support systems for risk management, end to end early warning systems, regional disaster risk management, and so forth.

It will address these themes through the

1. Organization of Roundtables, targeted learning opportunities, including organization of technical seminars, workshops, BBLs, webinars, and the establishment of a group collaboration and knowledge sharing portal, to allow access to information on demand;
2. Staff Mentoring and Training;
3. Providing a forum for information exchange both through formal and informal activities; and
4. Services such as connecting teams to experts, providing support to operations, etc, documenting lessons learnt, etc.



# Membership and Engagement

This Knowledge Silo Breaker (KSB) is formed as a Community of Practice (CoP) that aims to enable Bank staff and professionals from other development organizations, specialized global, regional and national agencies (such as WMO, RIMES, NOAA and others), research institutions to participate and government agencies responsible for using and providing meteorological and

hydrological services to actively engage. The COP involves members from many Global Practices and CCSAs including GWADR, GSURR, GENDR, GCCPT, GFDRR and GCCDR both based in Washington as well as in Country Offices. It is composed of self-selected participants, based on their passion for and interest in learning from and contributing to this topic of conversation.

Membership is open to all concerned parties. Currently, membership comprises mostly of global and Country Office WBG staff. However, participation of representatives of relevant global, regional, and national specialized agencies and organizations, as well as individual experts from academic and research organizations, is encouraged.<sup>1</sup>

## Activities Undertaken



1. Roundtable on Regional Hydromet Projects, January 14, 2015

2. Valuing Weather and Climate: Economic Assessment of Meteorological and Hydrological Services, June 25, 2015

## Activities Planned

### Roundtable

# Weather, Water and Climate Services

**November 10, 2015**

**Just-in-time clinics, coaching, and mentoring** opportunities are offered to ensure that expert advice is provided as needed. (E.g. Support to preparation of Terms of Reference for acquisition for hydromet equipment and maintenance, and provision of hydromet services)

**Operational Notes:** Addressing specific topics related to the CoP's main focal areas.

**eGuide:** Develop, in collaboration with WBG experts and relevant partners, an interactive multimedia eGuide for TTLs and practitioners.

**Collaboration Platform:** The CoP is developing a Collaboration for Development Platform C4D with curated repository of key information resources, including publications and links to expert sources, videos. Including Bank's resources as well as information and data from relevant partners such as WMO, NOAA, USAID, among others.

Videos



**Study Tour on Agrometeorological Products and Yield Forecasting**

Supported by the Nepal “Building Resilience to Climate Related Hazards” in collaboration with the World Bank



**World Bank Secondment Program**



<sup>1</sup> **Core Team:** Poonam Pillai, Senior Environmental Specialist, GSURR (Group Team Lead); Erika Vargas; Knowledge Management Officer, GSURR; Luis Corrales, Disaster Risk Management and Environmental Consultant, GSURR; Arati Belle, Senior Climate Change and M&E Specialist, GSURR; Nagaraja Harshadeep, Senior Environmental Specialist, GENDR; Kanta Kumari Rigaud, Lead Environment Specialist, GCCPT; Vladimir Tsirkunov, Senior Environmental Engineer, GCCDR; Makoto Suwa, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GCCDR; Xiaolan Wang, Senior Operations Officer, GSURR; Henrike Brecht, Senior Infrastructure Specialist, GSURR; Ana Elisa Bucher, Climate Change Specialist, GCCPT; Ana Campos, Senior Disaster Risk Specialist, GSURR; Gaetano Vivo, Disaster Risk Management Specialist, GSURR; Diego Juan Rodríguez, Senior Economist, GWADR.