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23 July 2025

Subject: Official update on the Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) and Early Warning System for Floods (EWS-F) projects funded by the US State Department

Dear Sir/Madam,

WMO wishes to inform you that the United States Department of State has decided to rescind, on 11 June 2025, the US Agency for International Development (USAID) termination notice of award dated 26 February 2025, hence reactivating funding made available for Multi-Hazard Hydrometeorological Early Warning Systems (MHEWS) and capacity building.

The fully reinstated funding will allow for the continuation of the critically important Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS) and Early Warning System for Floods (EWS-F) initiatives in strengthening national and regional capacities for flood forecasting and risk management to support saving lives, livelihoods, and infrastructure in your countries.

The grant re-made available to WMO is conditional to the latest approved project work plans submitted and approved by the US Government (through USAID) in 2024, and policy set by the US Department of State. Furthermore, the implementation period of both projects remains the same – concluding in September 2026.

Considering the limited time, WMO has started working at the swift restart of the project implementation and is reaching out to national, regional, and global partners to effectively prioritize high-impact, operationally critical activities to be implemented in the next 15 months. WMO is also working towards reestablishing the FFGS and EWS-F project team, to ensure sufficient human resources are available to allow for the operation of the project.

Since March 2025, WMO has organized 16 Regional Steering Committee (RSC) meetings and two Programme Management Committee (PMC) meetings to mitigate the impact of the disruption, address challenges, identify solutions, and outline the way forward. One of the key issues raised during these meetings has been the essential role of FFGS in national warning systems and importance of Member-led ownership and sustainability.

In response, WMO will work to ensure that both the existing operational FFGS and the newly developed EWS-F systems are guided by the core principles of interoperability, open-source architecture, Member-led governance, and long-term sustainability. Upcoming PMC and RSC meetings will be scheduled shortly to further discuss these priorities and their implementation.

I understand the impacts the latest disruption may have had on your Service, and I sincerely value your persistence during the last few months. WMO remains committed to collaborating with its Members and continuing to ensure progress made towards warranting Early Warnings for All (EW4All). Should you require any additional information or wish to discuss the reactivation of this funding, please do not hesitate to contact the WMO Secretariat.

To: Permanent Representatives of Members with WMO (limited distribution)

cc: Hydrological Advisers

For any assistance or requests, you may reach out to Dr Stefan Uhlenbrook, Director of the Hydrology, Water and Cryosphere Division and Project Executive at suhlenbrook@wmo.int, with copy to Mr Guilherme Varro (gvarro@wmo.int) and Dr Hwirin Kim, (hkim@wmo.int).

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation for your continued support of WMO activities.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'C. Saulo', written in a cursive style.

Prof. Celeste Saulo
Secretary-General