**Important discussion points of the First virtual Project Technical Advisory (PTAC) meeting**

**Tuesday 27 July 2021 – 13:00-15:00 pm GMT**

Participants: PTAC Members (Ghana PTAC Members, AGRYHMET and ECOWAS were not present in the meeting)

Project Partners (WMO, VBA and GWP-WA): Giacomo Teruggi, Jean-Paul Gaudechoux, Ramesh Tripathi, M Robert Dessouassi, Niampa Boukary, Armand Houanye, Maxime Teblekou

Adopted Agenda:

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| **Time** | **Discussion points/Topics** |
| 10 minutes | Introduction of participants and brief background |
| 30 minutes | Overall presentation of the second year PPR including challenges encountered and lesson learned |
| 30 minutes | Question and Answers |
| 20 minutes | Next steps or future activities of the project |
| 20 minutes | Open discussion |
| 5 minutes | Final remark and follow-up points |
| 5 minutes | Next PTAC date and closure of the meeting |

**Presentations:**

**English:** [**https://wmoomm.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/Services/ERzKqKFcb79Njpuu0fQRwnoBTI3pf3polgBd2gCA35B37A?e=CPt1tz**](https://wmoomm.sharepoint.com/:p:/s/Services/ERzKqKFcb79Njpuu0fQRwnoBTI3pf3polgBd2gCA35B37A?e=CPt1tz)

**French:** [**https://wmoomm.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Services/EdyapaeMf3xJgYDOW9AbZCUBGP6T9TA45KboWeYSndF0mg?e=wzd3n7**](https://wmoomm.sharepoint.com/:b:/s/Services/EdyapaeMf3xJgYDOW9AbZCUBGP6T9TA45KboWeYSndF0mg?e=wzd3n7)

**PTAC Meeting Recorded video**: [**https://vimeo.com/580269443**](https://vimeo.com/580269443)

**Summary of discussion point/follow-up actions:**

| **Questions/Queries or Comments** | **Response from the project team** |
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| Burkina Faso- 9 activities are postponed due to the covid-19 and it is very concerning. What are the strategies implemented to move forward in the implementation mainly on the development of the National database | The 9 activities are not postponed but they are on-going and will continue during the third year of the project.  The project is continuously providing trainings to the local, national and regional agencies staffs and ensure activities are carried out together with the project team who are joining meetings and workshops virtually |
| How is the project going to involve communities in the activities and what kind of tools the project is going to use or to provide them | As part of the involvement of communities in flood and drought early warning activities, it is planned to develop and implement a community approach to flood and drought management taking into account information tools and early warning. The operational design, implementation and monitoring, evaluation and capitalization of lessons will be implemented from end to end with the communities and this, with the support of the hydro-meteorological structures and management of the risks and consequences of disasters due to weather.  Community-based activities are planned to start in the 6 communities of the Volta Basin from September 2021 . Needs and priorities will be identified and based on that necessary tools will be provided. Later, the project will do pilot testing of the VOLTALARM EWS in the 10 pilot sites and there will be involvement of communities in these activities. |
| Togo- Training of forecasters on myDewetra VoltAlarm should be conducted in September 2021 instead of December 2021? | Initial Virtual training of forecasters on myDewetra VoltAlarm will be organize during September 2021 so that they use the system for their day-to-day work |
| Data sharing issue is witnessed especially in Togo the data is available on paper but not available digitally.  National database establishment should be carried out on urgent basis | Digitization of the data is needed using simple tool like word or excel file. Once digitized, the project will provide support in migrating the existing data into the new database. |
| Remote training is carried out, but we need to encourage participants to continuously work on the project activities | National participants are always encouraged to participate to various trainings and workshops and once completed, participation certificates are provided. It is important National agencies take part in various trainings and workshops as they develop knowledge and skills for long-term sustainability of the project |
| French excel report shared by the project team had lots of mistakes and was not possible to understand in the activities completed | The project team is following the Adaptation Fund template for the PPR report and translation was done in a quick time leading to mistakes.  The project team will prepare shorter activity report in next weeks and share it with the participants |
| Risk map development should go quicker as it is important and linked with the community initiatives | Risk map development activity on-going and parallelly community-based activities will be implemented and linked. |
| Benin- Database is not refreshed regularly and requesting project team to provide IT equipment’s for the National Agencies | The project has provision for developing database and provide trainings to the IT and Database experts and the agencies hosting the National Database will be provided with IT equipment’s to visualize and maintain the system |
| Cote d’Ivoire-Calendar implementation schedule of the activities are not available in the PPR report. It will be good to have a calendar schedule with the activities | The project team will prepare shorter activity report in next weeks and share it with the PTAC participants |
| It was requested to get the dates for the virtual training on myDewetra VOLTALARM system | The project team will discuss and organize the virtual myDewetra training in the month of September and National agencies will be notified |
| IT/DB committee is set-up and how does it will work with PTAC | IT/DB experts are consulted only for establishing National database and connecting it to the VOLTALARM MyDewetra system |
| Burkina Faso- The project will provide forecasting and warning support for both urban and riverine flood? | The Volta project is more focused on riverine flood forecasting and will consider important urban areas.  However, the project will check and liaise with other on-going initiatives such as [CREWS West Africa](https://www.crews-initiative.org/en/projects/west-africa-region-seamless-operational-forecast-systems-and-technical-assistance-capacity) which is going to provide Flash Flood Guidance System. The WMO teams are continuously working to build synergies and ensure both initiative and project builds upon each other. Once available, the VOLTALARM EWS system will also visualize the outputs of the [Flash Flood Guidance System (FFGS).](https://community.wmo.int/hydrology-and-water-resources/flash-flood-guidance-system-ffgs-global-coverage) |
| False warnings will lead to question on the EWS. Whether it is considered in the pilot testing and working with communities? | Yes, the National and communities will be informed about the levels of warnings and verification procedure. National agencies will be provided with virtual training on data collection, modeling, and forecasting. |
| Data sharing should be encouraged between different NMHSs of the Volta Basin countries. VBA should be involved to develop a regional database network so this will help if any country has a network issue | The project has provision to develop a regional database and dialogue between different NMHSs will be initiated at the Next regional workshop. NMHSs of the six countries should agree for establishing such a regional database. |
| VBA- Every country needs to setup and maintain the proper equipment’s for observation and monitoring and once it is available, it will be easy to develop National database management system |  |

The next face-to-face PTAC meeting date was proposed to be held around early 2021 and before the PTAC meeting, the mid-term evaluation of the project will be carried out through the external M&E expert. So, during the PTAC meeting, we can present the mid-term evaluation result and feedback from the M&E expert.

The project team thanked everyone for their active participation and engagement during the meeting.

**Note: the project team is requesting the PTAC members to provide as far as possible their feedback, comments and suggestions on the Annual VFDM PPR-II report and the important discussion point documents latest by 9th August 2021.**