# Challenge

- Extreme weather and climate
- Weather forecasts and climate prediction crucial for better decisions
- Real-time weather observations essential from the entire globe
- Basic surface-based observational data missing - it is not only bad, it is getting worse
- Current financing model not sustainable

## Opportunity

- World Meteorological Congress 2019 landmark agreement
- 193 countries and territories established the Global Basic Observing Network (GBON)
- International obligation to acquire and exchange essential surface-based observational data
- Clear requirements for investments in surface-based observations

## Solution

- Closing the GBON gap requires substantial investments and capacity
- Many countries need support
- SOFF provides financial and technical assistance in new ways

### SOFF Targets

- 5 Year initial implementation period
- $400 Million mobilized
- 68 SIDS and LDCs supported to become GBON compliant and accessing improved weather and climate products

### SOFF operational partners

- WMO - Technical Authority and Verification
- Implementing entities – Managing investments
- WMO Country Support Initiative – Technical advice
- Global Producing Centres – Knowledge

### 3 novel features

- Investments guided by internationally agreed metrics - GBON
- Data exchange instead of capital investments used as measure of success
- Local benefits created while providing a global public good

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The creation of the SOFF is spearheaded by the World Meteorological Organization in collaboration with a wide range of international organizations, including the members of the Alliance for Hydromet Development. The Alliance unites efforts of major development and climate finance partners to close the capacity gap on high-quality weather forecasts, early warning systems and climate information.