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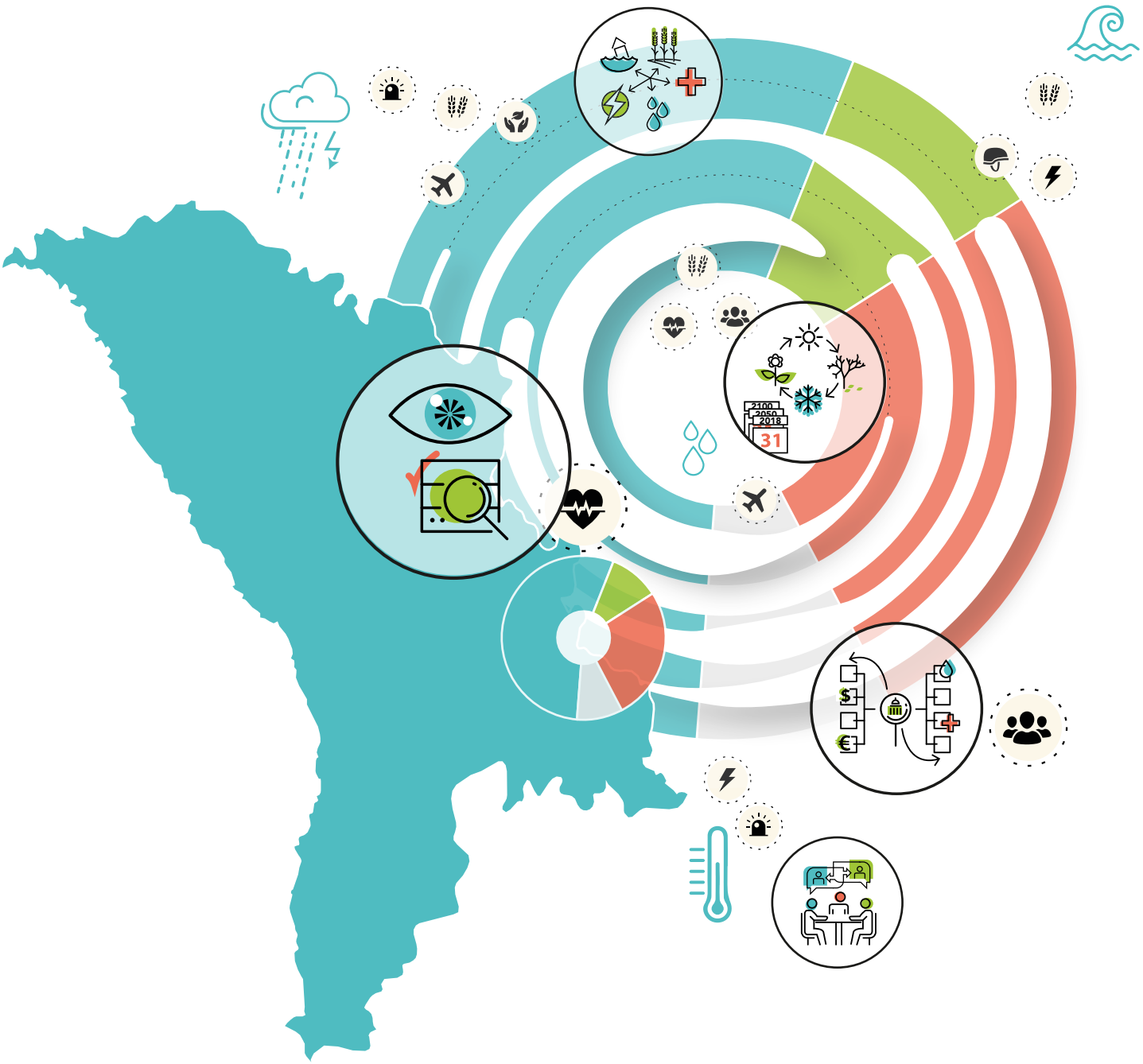
Climate Services in the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA



GLOBAL FRAMEWORK FOR CLIMATE SERVICES

The Global Framework for Climate Services (GFCS) envisions better risk management and more efficient adaptation to climate variability and change through improvements in the quality, delivery and use of climate-related information in planning, policy and practice.

Promoted and facilitated by the World Meteorological Organization in cooperation with the GFCS Partner Advisory Committee, the GFCS focuses on developing and delivering information services in agriculture and food security, disaster risk reduction, energy, health and water, and organizes its work around observations and monitoring; climate services information systems; research, modelling and prediction; user interface platforms; and capacity development.

The World Bank together with the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery has supported the conceptualisation and establishment of a National Framework for Climate Services (NFCS) in Moldova as a priority GFCS country. From 2017 to 2019, the Switzerland-based international non-profit organisation, Zoï Environment Network, worked in close cooperation with Moldova's State Hydrometeorological Service (SHS) and its Ministry of Agriculture, Regional Development and the Environment to develop the NFCS.

A series of interviews with producers and users of hydrometeorological information in early 2018 led to a National consultation workshop in Chisinau in June 2018. At the December 2018 NFCS endorsement workshop that followed, participants discussed, further elaborated and endorsed the NFCS concept and action areas to make it happen. This workshop confirmed the commitment of key stakeholders to the goals of improving how climate and hydrometeorological information is provided, accessed, and used in the country.

MOLDOVA CHALLENGES AND SOLUTIONS

Moldova has a well-functioning system for providing hydrometeorological and climate information to users, but some lingering challenges and gaps need attention. Budget issues, for example, affect SHS and users alike. A significant proportion of users is unwilling or lacks the capacity to pay for climate products and services. Meanwhile, SHS is not only underfunded, but also obliged to pass on funds collected as payments for non-core services to the state budget. The SHS budget limitations also inhibit its ability to interact with users and the mass media, to develop modern analytical systems such as weather and hydrological forecasting, and to attract and keep a qualified workforce.

Imagination and experimentation appear to be in short supply, and the development of new climate products and services such as climate insurance, climate-proofing, extended forecasts, and on-demand delivery could benefit from enabling legislation and economic incentives. In the absence of such progress, the growing abundance of alternative sources of weather information and services, coupled with the lack of clarity and transparency about sources of data in the mass media and online, is likely to continue to sow confusion among potential users. In their turn, potential users are not always aware of what climate products and services are available, and with no systemic approach to strategic planning.

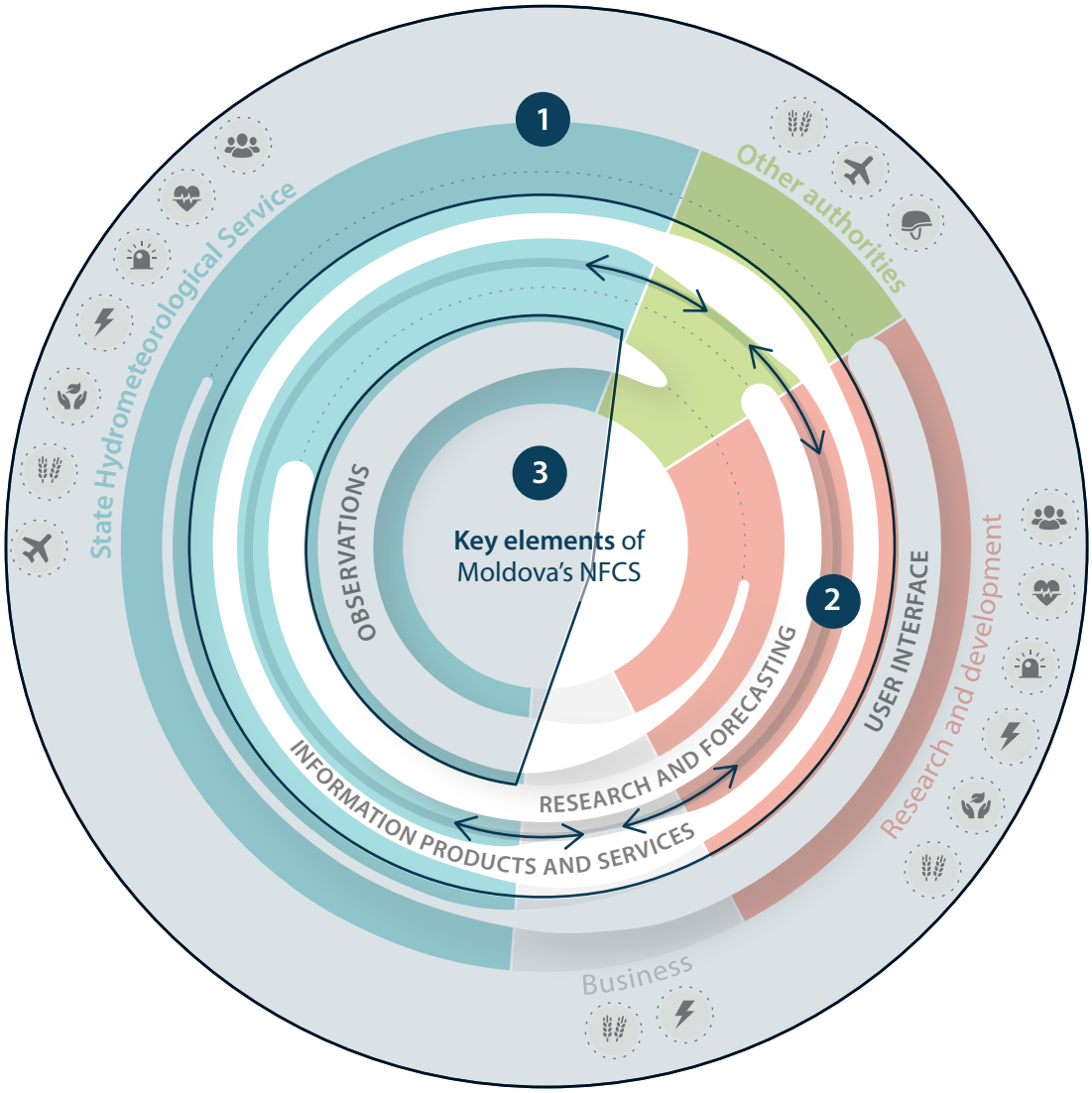
The NFCS concept for Moldova suggests engaging users, including economic sectors, in designing information services; building inter-agency and intersectoral coordination for their delivery; and strengthening the capacities of SHS and other NFCS partners.

Key elements of Moldova's NFCS are designed to help expand and strengthen on the country level the pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services

Providers of climate services in Moldova

Pillars of the Global Framework for Climate Services

Users



1 NFCS user consultation platform and thematic / sectoral dialogue

2 Inter-agency / inter-sectoral NFCS steering and coordination mechanism

3 Secretariat and enabler (the NFCS "engine")

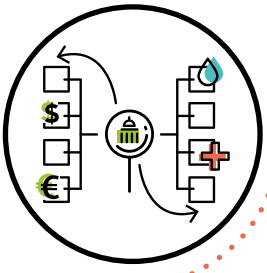
The implementation of the GFCS vision in Moldova will therefore require the following actions. Some are cross-cutting, while others involve specific sectors and timescales

Bringing in the users

entails strengthening the interface with, and capacities of, climate information users by involving them in the design, implementation and oversight of the NFCS.

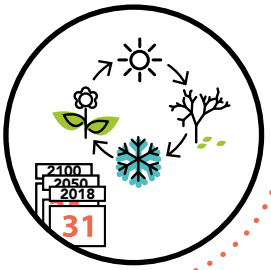
Shaping NFCS governance and sustainability

ensures the effective long-term functioning of climate services in Moldova.



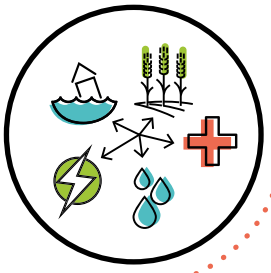
Providing seamless services

that meet the range of user demands calls for expanding and modernizing a line of climate information products, and for building the capacities of Moldova's NFCS partners.



Addressing priority sectors

means building long-term partnerships with Moldova's key recipients of NFCS products and services.



Ensuring visibility

of the NFCS to policymakers, the mass media and the public at large is a prerequisite to broad public and political support.

Action areas endorsed by NFCS stakeholders

- Regular meetings or round tables with users
- Directory of experts in climate information services
- Surveys and focus groups to assess user demand and feedback
- User feedback management in SHS (and other NFCS partners') websites
- Modernised web services and new communication channels
- Transparent information about cost and access rules for data and services
- Improving capacities to understand climate and hydrometeorological information

- NFCS institutional arrangements and responsibilities discussed through user dialogue
- Evaluating options for NFCS steering and coordination mechanisms
- Evaluating solutions for institutionalising NFCS
- Support to drafting NFCS-related legislation and inputs to other relevant documents
- NFCS–SHS financial sustainability model and its long-term implementation strategy

- Evaluating user satisfaction with current climate services, developing new product ideas
- Modernising and developing forecasting capacities and technologies
- Closing gaps in regional observation networks
- Ensuring integration and inter-operability of various existing observation networks
- Electronic archiving of past observation data
- Popular climate-information products for the general public
- Hydrometeorological / climate education and foreign exchange for young specialists

- Agreeing on priority sectors and information services (products) for them
- Developing integrated climate-service solutions for selected sectors
- Considering legislation revision for climate / disaster insurance and climate-proofing
- Guidelines for incorporating climate perspectives into development planning

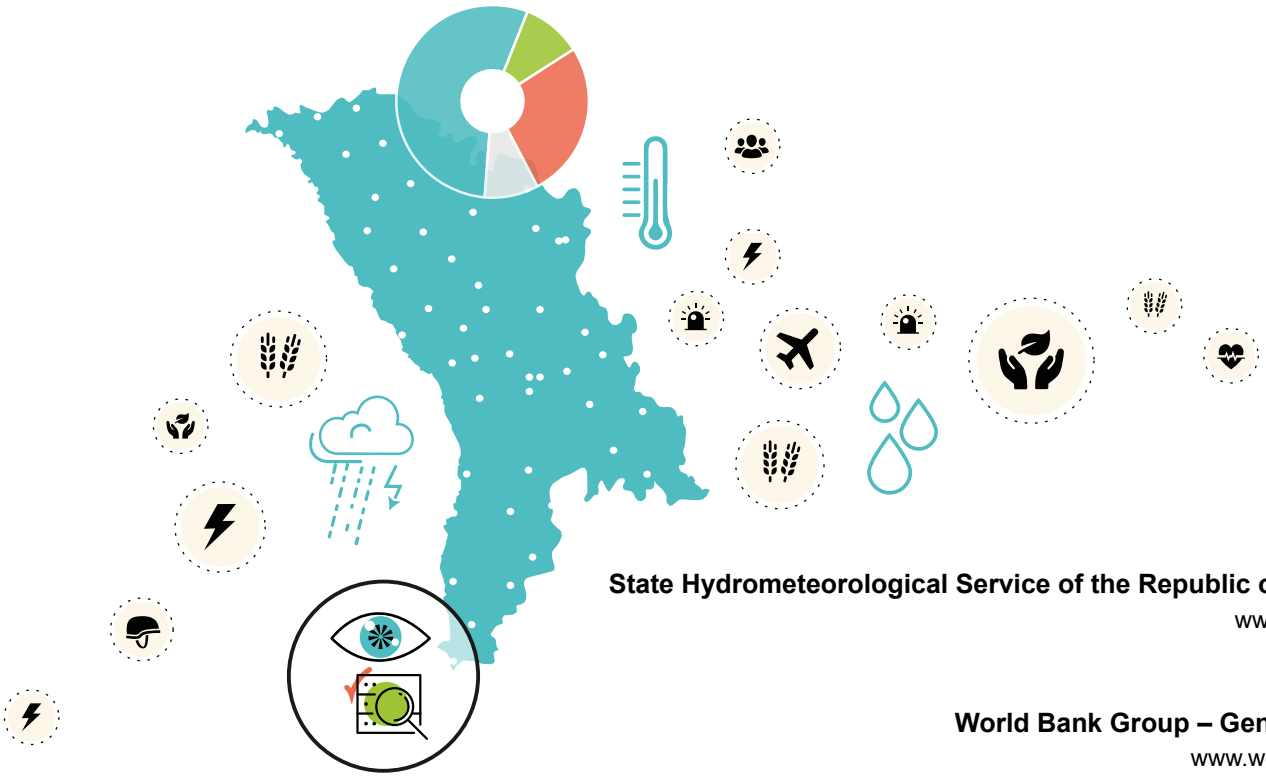
- Communicating economic and non-economic benefits of the NFCS
- Systematic dialogue and targeted cooperation with mass (and other) media
- Developing SHS and partners' capacities for media and public relations
- Studying communication and public relations strategies of the WMO and its members
- Local climate information centres and facilities in selected interested regions
- Comprehensive NFCS communication strategy for different audiences and channels

— low budget needs

— moderate to significant budget needs

— shorter-term actions (1—2 years)

— longer-term actions (3—5 years)



State Hydrometeorological Service of the Republic of Moldova
www.meteo.md

World Bank Group – Geneva Office
www.worldbank.org

World Meteorological Organization
www.wmo.int

Zoï Environment Network
www.zoinet.org

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