

## Early warnings save lives

HIGHWAY delivers improved early warnings to local communities by using innovative products and leveraging existing scientific expertise of the national meteorological services in the East African Region.



Three countries border Lake Victoria: Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda. Two downstream countries - Burundi and Rwanda - also depend on the lake. Nearly half of Lake Victoria's 40 million dependents live with less than US\$ 1.25/day<sup>2</sup>.

Establishing a sustainable early warning system will reduce loss of life and damage to property and drive economic development.

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Supported by:



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[public.wmo.int](http://public.wmo.int)

<sup>1</sup> Mary, A. H. and C. Gomes, 2014: Lightning safety of under-privileged communities around Lake Victoria. *Geomatics, Natural Hazards & Risk*, 6(8):1-17.

<sup>2</sup> The World Bank, 2013: Kenya Economic Update, report, June, <https://bit.ly/2Bqibeh>



WORLD  
METEOROLOGICAL  
ORGANIZATION

# HIGHWAY

High impact weather lake system





## Risking death for a way of life

Lake Victoria is the largest freshwater body in Africa and the largest inland fishery in the world.

Up to 5 000 fishermen and small boat operators die on the lake each year, affecting 40 000 dependents and compounding the poverty cycle<sup>1</sup>.

Locals get caught in deadly storms either because there is no weather warning, they do not receive the warning message, or the message is not taken seriously because it is presented in an unclear way.

HIGHWAY works with meteorological services to provide a solution.

### Cooperation framework

*Using local expertise to build a sustainable regional early warning system that saves lives.*



### Data access

*Upgrading observation networks for the best regional data coverage.*



### New tools

*Improving quality of evidence-based services through innovation, i.e. applications for satellites and radar.*



### Communication to change behavior

*Issuing understandable warnings that prompt immediate action and build trust over time.*

