



ADAPTATION FUND

Climate Change Adaptation in Cities



Climate change is increasingly impacting cities and other urban and surrounding areas around the world, showing a rising need to invest in urban adaptation action and resilience building. The Adaptation Fund's urban initiatives seek to increase cities' resilience to climate change and strengthen their capacities to respond to it effectively. The Fund's adaptation work in vulnerable urban areas has grown, including new projects approved in Fiji and the Solomon Islands to enhance resilience of urban communities that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks.

The Fund's five-year Medium-Term Strategy supports these actions by affirming its mission to serve the most vulnerable while aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement to mobilize stronger climate action by all Parties across the globe, including cities and other subnational authorities.

While many more Adaptation Fund (AF) projects have strong urban resilience components, there are several that stand out for their comprehensive urban focus. These include:

SOLOMON ISLANDS

- US\$ 4.4 million project implemented by UN-Habitat
- Enhancing the resilience of Honiara and its inhabitants to current and future climate impacts
- Strengthening institutions at the city level to respond to climate change, sea level rise and natural disasters

"The project will directly enhance the resilience of some of the most vulnerable informal settlement communities...strengthen capacities at the ward and city levels [and] help to materialize strategic priorities of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan."

— Mr. Andrew Mua, Honiara Mayor



In Honduras, an AF project has been building climate resilience in urban communities in Tegucigalpa, such as enhancing street drainage to reduce flooding. (Photo by UNDP-Honduras)

HONDURAS

- US\$ 5.6 million project implemented by UN Development Programme
- Securing water supplies of Tegucigalpa and surrounding areas against water scarcity and extreme climate events
- 10,000 poor households have 50% increased access to water all year
- 3,500 urban households at risk to mudslides from extreme rainfall stabilized homes through innovative rooftop water storage systems while harvesting water to local schools

"I and my family felt afraid to live here because of the landslides. We couldn't afford to move or to buy wood or to move the house further back. The channeling of rain water helped a lot so that the water doesn't soak into the ground. The land hasn't moved."

— Mr. Carlos Sandoval, Project Beneficiary, Campo Cielo District, Tegucigalpa, Honduras



An AF project in Solomon Islands aims to support resilience actions in vulnerable communities in Honiara, including urban adaptation capacity building. (Photo by UN-Habitat)

FIJI

- US\$ 4.24 million project implemented by UN-Habitat
- Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks
- 6,000 direct beneficiaries, 220 trained in cyclone-resilient construction methods, business skills and microfinance access, and coastal zone management

"It means a great deal to Fiji, which is prone to cyclones, sea rise, flooding and droughts. The project will strengthen institutional capacity to enhance local climate responses. With a focus on the most vulnerable, the Adaptation Fund is in a unique position to help."

— Hon. Lorna Eden, Fiji Assistant Minister for Local Government, Housing and Environment, executing entity of project



Seawall has been built in Rufisque along the coastline of Thiawlene in Senegal against coastal erosion. (Photo by CSE)

SENEGAL

- US\$ 8.6 million project implemented by Centre de Suivi Ecologique, National Implementing Entity for Senegal, pioneering AF Direct Access project
- Protecting vulnerable people, homes and economic infrastructure against coastal erosion, while catalyzing related projects
- 730 meters of seawall protecting urban area, 3,000 tourism and fishing jobs preserved, 5,000 food producers benefiting from infrastructure improvements. UN Momentum for Change Lighthouse Activity Award

"The project helped protect thousands of lives, infrastructures and goods while raising awareness of climate change in three towns along Senegal's vulnerable coast."

— Dr. Assize Toure, General Manager, CSE

TANZANIA

- US\$ 5 million project implemented by UN Environment Programme
- Helping safeguard livelihoods from rising sea levels, extreme weather, erosion and floods in the city of Dar es Salaam
- 2,400 meters of seawalls, 1,000 ha of mangrove habitat and about 2,000 sm of coral reefs restored

"The effects of climate change pose huge challenges to the people of Tanzania. Through the construction of these seawalls we see the importance of the project."

— Ms. Samia Suluhu, Vice President of Tanzania

Partners and Donors

Climate change adaptation in cities and regions requires collaborative problem solving and coordination across sectors. As the urgency of urban adaptation has grown, the Adaptation Fund is working with a wide range of partners and donors to finance and implement projects and programs in the most vulnerable communities and regions.

The Adaptation Fund has received a consistent level of support from subnational governments since it became the first climate fund to receive a pledge from a regional government when the Brussels-Capital Region of Belgium announced its initial pledge of US\$ 1.59 million to the Fund in early 2013. It has received a total of US\$ 19.94 million from Belgium's Walloon, Flanders and Brussels-Capital regional governments since then.

“The Regions of Belgium appreciate very much the work of the Fund towards the most vulnerable populations. We also believe that climate change concerns all citizens and all levels of institutions, including sub-national levels, and the support for climate action from both subnational and national governments is therefore critical.”

—Ms. Sylviane Bilgischer, Belgium, Vice Chair of the Adaptation Fund Board

The Conference of the Parties serving as the 13th meeting of the Parties to the Kyoto Protocol (CMP13) recognized the comparative advantage of the Adaptation Fund, including the speed of project approval and strategic engagement by stakeholders at the subnational level. Furthermore, TANGO



ADAPTATION FUND'S URBAN INVESTMENTS

International in association with the Overseas Development Institute in the First Phase of the Independent Evaluation of the Fund noted its flexible, innovative nature: ***“The Adaptation Fund’s design supports pilot activities with substantial potential for scaling up impact at sub-national, national, and regional levels.”***

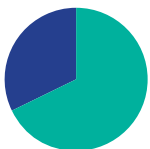
The urgency of climate action increasingly requires the collective will of nations working together with states, regions and cities. ***“The Adaptation Fund has been instrumental in advancing adaptation to the most vulnerable over the past 10 years and ‘walks the talk’. Cities and regions stand ready to help as global adaptation needs continue to rise.”***

—Mr. Ashok Sridharan, Mayor of the City of Bonn, Germany

CLIMATE CHANGE IMPACTS ON CITIES

68%

of the world population projected to live in urban areas by 2050 (UN)



Climate Impacts



Consequences



especially for the urban poor, inhabitants of informal settlements, and other vulnerable groups. (World Bank)

1.6 BILLION

people living in over 970 cities, will be regularly exposed to extreme high temperatures by 2050. (Urban Climate Change Research Network)