



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.39-40/3
13 January 2023

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR REVISION OF PROJECT
DISBURSEMENT SCHEDULE: UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
(SYRIAN ARAB REPUBLIC)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirty-sixth meeting, approved the project “Increasing the climate change resilience of communities in Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus to water scarcity challenges through integrated natural resource management and immediate adaptation interventions” submitted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the Syrian Arab Republic for a total requested amount of US\$ 9,997,156 (decision B.36/8). The project is executed by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and UN-Habitat.
2. The overall goal of the project is to reduce vulnerabilities to water availability challenges in one of the most vulnerable areas in Syria: Eastern Ghouta. To manage water and land resources efficiently, also considering future climate change risks and population trends in this area, an integrated natural resource management strategy will be developed.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UN-Habitat. The fully-developed project document for this project, presented in document AFB/PPRC.27/10 and approved by the Board, contained, in Section III.H (Table 36), a disbursement schedule which was included in the project agreement following the standard project agreement template.
4. UN-Habitat submitted to the Board, on 4th January 2023, through the secretariat, a request for revising the disbursement schedule (Annex 1), as well as a letter from the Designated Authority endorsing this revision (Annex 2). The letter included the original disbursement schedule as well as the proposed revised one. In addition, UN-Habitat submitted a revised work plan in alignment with the revised disbursement schedule. The secretariat undertook a review of the documents submitted.

Secretariat’s review of the request

5. The revised disbursement schedule has the same total amount as the one originally included in document AFB/PPRC.27/10 and approved through decision B.36/8. The changes are only related to the size and timing of individual tranches.
6. The secretariat’s review finds that, in light of the information contained in the request (Annex 1), no negative effects by revising the disbursement schedule are identified. The reduction of the disbursement tranches would ensure a smooth procurement, since the bulk of project activities are scheduled for the 1st half of 2023. Therefore, the revision of disbursement schedule is justified.

Recommendation

7. The secretariat finds that UN-Habitat has provided adequate reasoning for the changes made in the disbursement schedule.
8. Therefore, the Board may consider and decide to: approve the revised disbursement schedule for the project “Increasing the climate change resilience of communities in Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus to water scarcity challenges through integrated natural resource

management and immediate adaptation interventions”, as requested by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).

Annexes

Annex 1: Letter from the Implementing Entity requesting the revision of the project disbursement schedule;

Annex 2: Letter by the Designated Authority for the Syrian Arab Republic endorsing the revision of the project disbursement schedule.

Annex 1: Letter from the Implementing Entity requesting the change



United Nations Human Settlement Programme
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 001000, KENYA
Tel: +254-20 7623120, Fax: +254-20 7624266/7
infohabitat@unhabitat.org, www.unhabitat.org

4 January 2023,

Dear Mr. Tawfiq,

In reference to the agreement ("Increasing the climate change resilience of communities in Eastern Ghouta in Rural Damascus to water scarcity challenges through integrated natural resource management and immediate adaptation interventions" Project in Syrian Arab Republic) between THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD and United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) signed on July 2021, we would like to request a change in the disbursement schedule as below.

Original Schedule

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Schedule	1 st disbursement –	2 nd disbursement – One Year after project inception	3 rd disbursement - Two years after project inception	4 th disbursement – Three years after project inception
Milestones	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon agreement signature between UN-H and AF 	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon financial report indicating disbursement of at least 50% of funds of 1st year and or: ▪ Upon First Annual Report 	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon financial report indicating disbursement of at least 50% of funds of 2nd year and / or: ▪ Upon Second Annual Report 	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon financial report indicating disbursement of at least 50% of funds of 3rd year and / or: ▪ Upon Third Annual Report

Schedule date	Upon Signing	One Year after project inception	Two years after project inception	Three years after project inception	Total
A. Project Funds (US\$)	6,142,917	1,571,332	483,901	296,300	8,494,450
B. Programme Execution (US\$)	148,953	141,753	241,864	186,949	719,519
C. Programme Cycle Mgt	534,810	145,610	61,689	41,078	783,187
TOTAL (US\$)	6,826,680	1,858,695	787,454	524,327	9,997,156

Mr. Mr. Albara Tawfiq
Chair, THE ADAPTATION FUND BOARD

Proposed revised Schedule

	Year 1	Year 2
Schedule	1 st disbursement –	2 nd disbursement – One Year after project inception
Milestones	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon agreement signature between UN-H and AF 	Milestones <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Upon clearance of the first annual Programme Performance Report Report (PPR)

Schedule date	Upon Signing	One Year after project inception	Total
A. Project Funds (US\$)	6,142,917	2,351,533	8,494,450
B. Programme Execution (US\$)	148,953	570,566	719,519
C. Programme Cycle Mgt	534,810	248,377	783,187
TOTAL (US\$)	6,826,680	3,170,476	9,997,156

In close consultation with Designated Authority and the Executing Entities, we have updated the work plan. Implementation of most of the activities will start in the first half of 2023. Having all funds at our disposal early on will ensure seamless procurement.

Yours sincerely,



Rafael Tuts,
Director, Global Solutions Division,
Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Deputy Executive Director
UN-Habitat

Annex 2: Letter by the Designated Authority for the Syrian Arab Republic endorsing the proposed change

Syrian Arab Republic
Ministry of Local Administration & Environment



الجمهورية العربية السورية
وزارة الإدارة المحلية والبيئة

Letter of Endorsement by Syrian Arab Republic

23 December 2022

To: Adaptation Fund Board
c/ Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

Subject: Endorsement for the change in the disbursement schedule

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Syria, I endorse the request for the disbursement schedule presented by UN-Habitat.

Sincerely,

National Focal Point to Adaptation Fund
Rawan Al-Azem

23-Dec-22

Director of Environmental Safety Directorate
Eng. Rouida Nahar

23-Dec-22