



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.40-41/3  
15 May 2023

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION  
DATE: ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION UNIT  
(REPUBLIC OF ARMENIA)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during its thirty-fourth meeting, approved a one-and half year innovation small grant project titled “Engaging Future Leaders: Digital Education Module on Adaptation Challenges and Best Practices for Youth” submitted by the Environmental Project Unite (EPIU) for a total amount of US\$ 231,250 (Decision B.34/35).

2. The overall goal of the project is to educate new generations of environmentally cultured young change-makers (with particular focus on climate adaptation) in developing countries, through design and introduction of replicable and sustainable digital education solution for high school students in Armenia. The project aims to achieve its overall goal through five specific objectives of the project, which correspond to the five components: (i) Establishing theoretical base for the gamified digital solution; (ii) Designing digital gamified educational module for high school students; (iii) Testing developed module among 100 schools located in different regions of the country; (iv) Advancing the module based on the results of the test-run and design trilingual mobile application; (v) Facilitating knowledge sharing and application.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and DoE in October 2021 and the project started implementation on 11 November 2020. The disbursement rate is 100% as for small grants the amount is disbursed in one tranche.

4. On 21 June 2021, EPIU submitted a request for a COVID-19 extension of the project completion date from 11 May 2022 to 11 May 2023. On 15 February 2023, EPIU submitted a six-month extension of project completion date from 11 May 2023 to 11 November 2023. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29- 30/3/Rev.1; Decision B.29-30/15 and Decision B.34-35/12), a request for an extension of the project completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. The submission date of this request is, therefore, not in compliance with the deadline. The Implementing entity internal process in deciding the appropriate duration for the extension resulted in the delay in submitting the request.

5. The reason for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by EPIU, includes the rationale that the project has experienced some setbacks relating to Component 3 (Testing developed module among 100 schools located in different regions of the country) such as: i) The project had to change the testing platform for testing gamified solution, as it lost popularity with high-school students; ii) Delays resulting from the tender and selection process for a new firm to organize testing activities among 100 schools and iii) Delays in the light of new circumstances, where the eco-educational module had to pass an official examination/assessment before being presented to schoolchildren as decreed by the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports.

6. The aforementioned reasons resulted in a lengthy procedure that had an impact on the implementation of other project activities, including the final adjustments of the educational module based on testing results and development of the relevant tri-lingual mobile application (both for iOS and Android platforms).

### Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by EPIU, the secretariat is of the view that this six-months extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by EPIU (Annex 1), in general, this request would allow

sufficient time to complete project activities, and it would ensure that the project can carry out other reporting requirements.

8. In addition, the secretariat recognizes the adaptive management put in place by EPIU to compliment the process of eco-educational module improvement by hiring specialist to analyze the module, to make recommendation to ensure its user friendliness based on private testing activities and to supervise the development of the application. This intervention is aimed at mitigating the procedural challenges and providing momentum for the achievement of the project's targets.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost programme extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and endorsed by the Designated Authority, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

### **Recommendation**

10. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteenth-months extension of the project completion date from 11 May 2023 to 11 November 2023, for the project “Engaging Future Leaders: Digital Education Module on Adaptation Challenges and Best Practices for Youth” as requested by EPIU.

### **Annex**

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from EPIU.

## Annex 1: Request for an Extension of the Project Completion Date

### ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

*Request for extension of project/programme completion date*

<b>Implementing Entity Name:</b> "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" (EPIU)			
<b>AF Project/programme ID:</b> ARM/NIE/DRR/2019/1			
<b>Project/programme Title:</b> "Engaging Future Leaders: Digital Education Module on Adaptation Challenges and Best Practices for Youth"			
<b>Country:</b> Armenia			
<b>Project/Programme Approval (date):</b> 11 October 2019			
<b>Expected Project/programme Completion (date)</b>	11 May 2023	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date)</b>	11 November 2023

*Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion:*

The "Environmental Project Implementation Unit" SA (EPIU) would like to request a six-month no-cost extension for the project entitled: "Engaging Future Leaders: Digital Education Module on Adaptation Challenges and Best Practices for Youth". The EPIU team considers project extension as a reasonable option to overcome several challenges and to ensure successful completion of adaptive management practices.

The project has faced challenges in the framework of the Component 3 (Testing developed module among 100 schools located in different regions of the country). Initially, it had been envisaged to test the eco-educational module developed under Component 2 through the online Dasaran.am platform. Although during the project development process, Dasaran.am had been widely used by all schools operating in the country, and in some sense, it had been mandatory for schoolchildren to register on the website, after the Covid-19 pandemic, the role of this site was pushed to the background as another mandatory website was established for schoolchildren and teachers. As Dasaran.am lost its popularity among schoolchildren, EPIU didn't find it reasonable any longer to consider the platform as a tool for testing the module and the Fund officially supported the given position. As a solution EPIU announced a tender and selected a firm to organize testing activities among 100 schools. However, the process was prolonged, since in the light of new circumstances, the eco-educational module should pass an official examination/assessment to be presented to schoolchildren. This was the demand of the Ministry of Education, Science, Culture and Sports. The procedure took long time and had an impact on the implementation of other project activities, including the final adjustments of the educational module based on testing results and development of the relevant tri-lingual mobile application (both for iOS and Android platforms).

Taking into consideration the abovementioned factors, the EPIU team has initiated additional activities to compliment the process of eco-educational module improvement by hiring specialists to analyze the module, present recommendations on its user-

friendliness based on private testing activities and to supervise the development of the application. This intervention is aimed at mitigating the procedural challenges and providing momentum for the achievement of the project's targets. However, it will not fully cover the time barrier, and the successful completion of the project will require extension for 6 months.

Although the new circumstances have delayed the project's activities, the extension of its completion date can serve as a solid foundation for additional high-value impact of the integrated complimentary measures and can ensure adequate timing for the activities of utmost importance.

*Implementing Entity certification*

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.

*Name & Signature*



Project/programme contact person: Armen Yesoyan, Acting Director

Date: 09/02/2023

Tel. and Email: +(374)10 651 631  
[info@cep.am](mailto:info@cep.am)