



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.32/25
3 October 2023

Adaptation Fund Board
Project and Programme Review Committee
Thirty-second Meeting
Bonn, Germany, 10-11 October 2023

Agenda Item 14 a)

**REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION
DATE: MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION (JORDAN)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its twenty fifth meeting, approved a four-year project titled "Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change", submitted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) for a requested amount of US\$ 9,226,000 (decision B.25/11).
2. The overall objective of the project is to adapt the agricultural sector in Jordan to climate change induced water shortages and stresses on food security through piloting innovative technology transfer, policy support linked to community livelihoods and resilience. The project is addressing these vulnerabilities through two main components, with component 1 presenting four sub-projects related to concrete adaptation solutions to address water scarcity and agriculture in vulnerable regions in Jordan, and component 2 presenting two sub-projects related to policy reforms, training and knowledge management.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and MOPIC on 14 May 2015.
4. The first tranche of disbursement for the implementation of the programme was released following signature of the agreement in June 2015. Due to delay in preparatory activities, the project implementation started only in July 2016 with an inception workshop organized with all stakeholders in Jordan.
5. To date, the project has submitted seven project performance reports (PPRs) that have been cleared by the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat). The latest PPR cleared by the secretariat on October 3rd, 2023, was submitted along with the request for extension of the project completion date. Furthermore, the project medium term evaluation was conducted and submitted to the secretariat in October 2020.
6. As of 30 September 2023, a total amount of US\$ 9,226,000 had been disbursed so far to the programme by the trustee and which represents 100% of the project funding. A total amount of US\$ 8,362,168 has been disbursed to executing entities, for an execution rate of about 90%.
7. The initial project completion date of the project is 13 July 2020. On 17 March 2020, MOPIC had submitted to the secretariat a request for an extension of the project completion date for an additional 18 months, from 13 July 2020 to 13 January 2022 which was approved by the Board in April 2020. Furthermore, the entity has submitted two requests for extension of project completion date due to the impact of COVID-19 pandemic. As per Board Decision B.35.b/163 , the latest request by MoPIC for a temporary no-cost extension of the completion of the project, which has been delayed due to COVID-19, was approved by the Board, and the completion of the project was further extended from 13 January 2023 to 13 January 2024.
8. On September 20, 2023, MOPIC has submit a request for extension of project completion until January 13, 2025, as attached in Annexes 1 and 2 of this document.
9. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.29-30/3/Rev.1) amended by the Board in October 2017 (Decision B.29-30/15) and updated in October 2019 (Decision B.34-35/12), a request for an extension of the programme completion date must be submitted by the implementing entity at least six months prior to the official completion date. However, the request was received only four months before the deadline aforementioned due to late processing of the request at the implementing entity level.

10. The reasons for the project completion date extension, as outlined in the memo shared by MOPIC, include the fact that:

- The project start has experienced significant delay (22 months in total) due to late preparatory activities including challenges in procurement and setup of project implementation unit.
- The project implementation has experienced many challenges including late procurement processes, revision of some site interventions and significant impact of COVID-19 pandemic. The procurement tendering and implementation of concrete activities have also been delayed by multiple factors including drafting of term of references, finalization of environment impact assessment and additional consultation of beneficiaries for some specific activities (community-based adaptation).
- Additional consultation with communities for the proposed activities and delays occurred during project implementation.

11. Despite the issues mentioned above, and as highlighted by MOPIC (Annex 1) and confirmed in an email exchange between the Adaptation Fund Secretariat and the entity, good progress is being made in terms of project outputs and a full delivery is expected by the proposed completion date.

12. As indicated by MOPIC (see Annex 2), the project steering committee has endorsed the proposed request for extension of the project completion date and committed to fully implement the remaining activities. No further extension is envisaged and the process for completion of the project will be achieved by the new deadline of January 13, 2025.

Secretariat's review of the request

13. Following a review of the request and considering the explanation provided by MOPIC, the secretariat believes that this request of a further twelve-month extension is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by MOPIC (Annex 1), it is noted that the project implementation was delayed due to issues related to preparatory activities, additional consultation and internal processing of procurement clearance at the country level. Additionally, the project has experienced significant delay due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.

14. This extension will also ensure that the project delivers the results as approved by the Board including the outcomes/output as well as indicators set in the program document and aligns with Fund's reporting milestones including medium term review, project completion and evaluation.

15. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project 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

16. Following the recommendation of the secretariat after its review of the request for an extension of the project completion date submitted by the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MOPIC) for the project "Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change", as described in document AFB/PPRC.32/25, the Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an additional eighteen-month extension of the project completion date from 13 January 2024 to 13 January 2025 for the project "Increasing the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities to climate change".

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from MOPIC;
2. Letter from Zeina Toukan, Minister of Planning and International Cooperation

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


Implementing Entity Name: Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation (MoPIC)			
AF Project/programme ID: JOR/NIE/Multi/2012/1			
Project/programme Title: "Increasing the Resilience of Poor and Vulnerable Communities to Climate Change Impacts in Jordan through Implementing Innovative Projects in Water and Agriculture in Support of Adaptation			
Country: Jordan			
Project/Programme Approval (date)		10 April 2015	
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	17 January 2024	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	17 January 2025

In light of the ongoing and exceptional challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic, which has greatly affected the progress achieved in implementing activities for the programme, the impact of the pandemic was particularly evident in the prolongation of the procurement process and the repetition of tenders given that the prices offered exceed what was allocated for them. Delays and complications due to disruptions in the global supply chain and significant increases in the prices of goods and services necessary to carry out activities. MOPIC remains fully committed to following up on the completion of its work in implementing activities within the climate change adaptation program in a safe, serious and reasonable manner under the current circumstances. Recently, the level of recovery has been observed in the implementation of the plans and activities in the Project/programme as can be seen in the attached tables below, which reflect the following facts:

- The attached financial Annexes indicate that the total amounts disbursed and committed until the date of 8/1/2023 (the date of the completion the PPR-7th report for the project) was stated at \$8,362,168 out of the total grant amount of \$9,255,500.
- There is an amount of \$368,052 postponed, and the remaining amount of \$7,994,116 will be disbursed before the closing date 13/1/2024 for the various activities mentioned in tables 1 & 2, by the implementing entities before the closing date of the project, and the total amount of disbursed money constitutes 86% of the total amount of the grant of the Project/Programme.
- Accordingly, there will be an amount of \$1,259,959, representing 14%, not committed yet which will be implemented if the project is extended for an additional 12 months until the date of 1/13/2025.
- The 18 Steering Committee meeting of the Project/programme was held and decisions were taken regarding finding solutions to the postponed activities that will be implemented during the extension period. Thus, the implementation of all activities will be completed during the next extension of the project and the final report (completion report) will be prepared and submitted to AF, and the program will be closed in accordance with the rules.

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.

Issa Alnsour, Ph.D.,



Project (Program) Manager

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Annex 2: Letter from Minister of Planning and International Cooperation



MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

Ref. No: 15/1/4/8487

Date : 19/09/2023

Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
c/o Global Environment Facility
Mail stop: N 7-700
1818 H Street NW
Washington DC 20433

Program: Increasing the Resilience of Poor and Vulnerable Communities to Climate Change Impact in Jordan through Implementing Innovative Projects in Water and Agriculture in Support of Adaptation to Climate Change (JOR/NIE/Multi/2012/1).

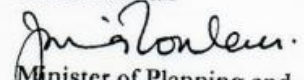
Dear Sir/Madam,

In reference to your letter No.2023/011 dated 14/2/2023, concerning your approval for a no-cost extension to the subject program until January 13, 2024, and in light of the continued and exceptional challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, which have significantly impacted the progress of our program activities, I would highly appreciate your kind approval on a no-cost extension for the aforementioned program until 13 January 2025. The impact of the pandemic has been particularly evident in prolonging the procurement process, where delays and complications have arisen due to disruptions in the global supply chain and substantial increases in the prices of goods and services.

The extension of the program by an additional year would provide us with the necessary time and flexibility to overcome these unforeseen challenges and ensure the successful completion of our objectives.

Please accept my high esteem and consideration.

Zeina Toukan


Minister of Planning and
International Cooperation

CC \ Ministry of Environment

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