



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar 12: Understanding Project Review Criteria and Vulnerability Assessment in Preparation of Project Activities

25 March 2021

Report



Introduction:

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) held its twelfth webinar on Understanding Project Review Criteria and Vulnerability Assessment in Preparation of Project Activities to support project development on 25 March 2021.

Projects have frequently identified the increased intensity of extreme events such as floods, droughts, warming trends and sea level rise, as climate related drivers giving rise to risks in food security and disrupting livelihoods. Projects are typically concerned with reducing vulnerability through the securing of assets, both human and natural. Analyses and/or assessments, which may include vulnerability assessments, at the earliest stage of project/programme preparation to determine the vulnerabilities and needs of the target vulnerable communities could be useful to support the adaptation reasoning. In addition, for Adaptation Fund funded projects/programmes, relevant climate change scenarios and the social, economic, environment and development context need to be outlined and explained.

All presentations made by the speakers are available on the AF website: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/readiness/news-seminars/>.

Welcome Remarks

The webinar began with welcome remarks and an introduction from Farayi Madziwa, Team Lead of the Climate Finance Readiness Programme of the Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat (the secretariat). Farayi highlighted that Vulnerability being a key component of adaptation has an increasing complexity as a multidimensional issue, and social and economic drivers of vulnerability should be considered along with physical hazards. With respect to the broadened definition of vulnerability, the Fund's mandate to finance concrete adaptation projects and programmes (which typically address the risk from physical hazards and impacts) is not at the expense of considering the wider social and economic drivers of vulnerability.

Session 1: AF project review criteria and assessments to support full project development

Ms. Imen Meliane, Climate Change Consultant of the secretariat, gave an overview of the project review criteria, and highlighted a few case studies. She highlighted how vulnerability is a key component of adaptation and further discussed conceptualizing adaptation reasoning, highlighting two key elements, namely adaptation needs and responses.

Session 2: NIE experiences discussing AF project review criteria based on the Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPGs)

6 NIEs (ADA- Morocco, SANBI- South Africa, EPIU- Armenia, MCT- Micronesia, IDDI- Dominican Republic and NEMC- Tanzania) gave presentations and shared their experiences on the Adaptation Fund's project review criteria based on the Fund's Operational Policies and Guidelines (OPGs) and facilitated peer to peer exchange and lesson sharing through roundtable discussions on the approaches they have used and best practice applied across different geographic regions on project design and development that is based on evidence and data collected through assessments, studies and other observations of vulnerability due to adverse climate impacts, including the options to address such vulnerabilities.

Session 3: Closing Remarks

The webinar closed with concluding remarks from Farayi Madziwa, who thanked everyone for their participation and their engagement in the webinar, despite joining from different time zones. He reiterated the importance of understanding project review criteria and vulnerability assessment in preparation of project activities to support project development and acknowledged the need to continue this conversation through the community of practice for direct access entities (CPDAE), which is a platform to continue to engage and reach out to other NIEs. As a last word, he urged everyone to continue to stay safe during these unprecedented times.