



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar 13: Enhancing Access to Climate Finance under the AF new Funding Windows

9 December 2021

Report



Introduction:

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) held its thirteenth webinar on Enhancing Access to Climate Finance under the AF new Funding Windows on 9 December 2021.

The Adaptation Fund Medium-Term Strategy 2018 – 2022 (MTS) was approved by the Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) in October 2017 and focusses on three main pillars: Action; Innovation; and Learning. The MTS includes new funding windows that provide vulnerable countries with further opportunities to access funds needed to build resilience on the ground. They offer countries additional opportunities above and beyond their regular country project funding allocations to strengthen local level adaptation and reduce risks, including external health and environmental hazards that may be exacerbated by the onset of climate change, such as the COVID-19 pandemic. This webinar discussed how to enhance access to the above funding windows and shared experiences and learning from NIEs that have already accessed the afore-mentioned grants under the MTS funding windows.

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 the “Action Pillar” of the MTS includes a dedicated window for Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) and another Project Scale-Up Grants to scale-up projects/programmes approved by the Board. The “Innovation pillar” includes small and large-scale Innovation Grants to accelerate, encourage and enable innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change. Learning Grants build on the Fund’s Knowledge Management Framework and Action Plan and help to encourage a culture of learning across institutions and to build capacities for knowledge management within National Implementing Entities (NIEs). Finally, as part of the Readiness Programme, the Adaptation Fund Board at its thirty-sixth meeting, decided to make the Readiness Package Grant available to support the accreditation of NIEs through South-South Cooperation and to enhance access to the Fund’s resources through the Direct Access modality.

Session 1: Overview of Access Criteria for the Innovation (Large and Small) Grant

Ms. Alyssa Gomes, Climate Change Analyst of the secretariat, gave an overview of the Innovation Facility dedicated to roll out successful innovations; scale up viable innovations; encourage and accelerate innovations; and generate

evidence of effective and efficient innovation in adaptation.

Session 2: NIE experiences in Accessing the Innovation Small Grant- EPIU, Armenia

Mr. Vahagn Babayan from EPIU, Armenia gave an overview of their innovation small grant project on “Engaging future leaders: digital education module on adaptation challenges and best practices for youth.” He highlighted that the overall objective of the project was to educate new generation 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.

Session 3: Overview of Access Criteria for the Readiness Package Grant

Mr. Ishani Debnath, Readiness consultant at AFB highlighted the goals and purpose of the readiness package grants along with their eligibility criteria and funding cap with the upcoming deadlines to apply for the grant and the application process. The Readiness Package Grant is meant to facilitate peer-peer support for NIE accreditation and is available up to a maximum of \$150,000 per NIE.

Session 4: Overview of Access Criteria for the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Grant

Mr. Farayi Madziwa, The Readiness Program Officer highlighted the objective of the EDA grants which is to empower developing country recipients of climate finance beyond what can be achieved through the Direct Access modality alone. He explained that EDA will offer opportunities that help build the capacity of local organizations programme to adaptation finance and design and implement their own projects through locally led action. He continued to explain the criteria for accessing the EDA project window, including eligibility and funding cap.

Session 5: NIE experiences in Accessing Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) Grant- PACT, Belize

Denaie Swasey from PACT, Belize gave an overview of how they developed two grants under the Enhanced Direct Access (EDA) and Large Innovation Grant Funding Windows. Their EDA Grant had a national scope and covered a larger number of stakeholders from various sectors while the Innovation Grant targeted Rural Development and Water Management in Southern and Northern Belize (4 Communities). They highlighted the challenges faced when accessing the grants and shared their advice to NIE’s to aid access to the Grants.

Session 6: Overview of Access Criteria for the Project Scale-Up Grant

Ms. Sophie Hans Moevi, Senior Program assistant at the Fund, gave an overview of the project scale-up grants, that are expected to enable expansion or

replication of concrete adaptation activities that are based on country needs, views and priorities, in order to reach more people and/or broaden the effectiveness of resilience measures to help vulnerable communities in developing countries adapt to the adverse effects of climate change.

Session 7: Overview of Access Criteria for the Learning Grant

Ms. Cristina Dengel, knowledge management officer at the Fund, presented learning grants as a mandatory component of AF funded projects and explained expectations from the Fund. She provided clarification on how to apply and the implementation arrangements of the Learning Grants. She highlighted the main objectives of the learning grants, namely: transferring knowledge from one NIE to another; transferring knowledge from NIEs to the wider climate finance adaptation community; and developing knowledge and guidelines through partnerships.

Session 8: Overview of Access Criteria for the Learning Grant

Ms. Aissata Sall from CSE, Senegal gave a overview on the challenges of accessing learning grants, which included difficulties in understanding the scope of the learning grant and what kind of tools from the implementation of AF projects were included into the grant. She continued to share advise on accessing the grants through scale-up, prioritizing the work with other NIEs that have experiences in programming, project implementation etc, and providing more information on how activities financing will be maintained and sustained after project completion.

Session 9: 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 continuing 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.