



ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar 14: Distilling the characteristics of Enhanced Direct Access and Innovation Project design in Adaptation

8 December 2022

Report



Introduction:

The Adaptation Fund (the Fund or alternatively, the AF) held its fourteenth webinar on Distilling the characteristics of Enhanced Direct Access and Innovation Project design in Adaptation on 8 December 2022.

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 the key features that distinguish EDA and innovation projects from regular adaptation projects and shared experiences and learning from proposals approved by the Adaptation Fund Board under the afore-mentioned 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 includes three expected result areas (ERs), the first (ER1) being that: vulnerability is reduced, resilience strengthened, and adaptive capacity is enhanced. Under ER1 it is expected that Enhanced Direct Access involving sub-national institutions and civil society organizations would be implemented through a dedicated EDA window, making use of the Fund’s experience in Direct Access (DA) and Enhanced Direct Access (EDA). The “Innovation pillar” includes small and large-scale Innovation Grants to accelerate, encourage and enable innovation for effective, long-term adaptation to climate change.

Session 1: Accessing finance from the Adaptation Fund

Ms. Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist of the secretariat, gave an overview of the portfolio of the AF and accessing finance from the AF. She highlighted that the AF is the only global UN fund created to fund concrete adaptation projects, in most climate-vulnerable developing countries; it is one of the 1st fully functioning climate funds, operating since ‘07; pioneered innovative ‘Direct Access’ climate finance modality; and it has grown rapidly to almost \$1B funding today. She continued to give a general overview of the funding windows, the project life cycle and the role of Designated Authorities.

Session 2: Key Elements of Enhanced Direct Access and Innovation Projects

Ms. Alyssa Gomes, Climate Change Analyst at the Fund gave an overview on the overview of Funding and key elements of EDA and innovation projects. She highlighted the origin from Midterm Strategy (2018 – 2022), the EDA and Innovation Grants (Small and Large) outside country cap of USD 20 Million, the EDA projects – 1 project up to USD 5 Million per country, the innovation projects – Any number of projects per country for USD 250,000 per project (Small Innovation Grant) and USD 5 Million per project (Large Innovation Project), and on Project Formulation Support up to USD 50,000 available to NIEs for EDA and Large Innovation Proposals at Concept Note stage. She continued to highlight on where EDA and Innovation having similarities and how they are different, where both types of project may include a funding model that has an on granting facility. However, while EDA focuses on the model for devolving decision making to local actions, innovation grants focus innovation in the process/ modality, tool, technology or approach.

Session 3: Rolling Basis Submission

Ms. Saliha Dobardzic, Senior Climate Change Specialist of the secretariat, gave an overview of the new rolling basis submission where proposals for Innovation, Enhanced Direct Access (EDA), learning grants and project scale-up grants can continue to be submitted on a rolling basis beyond January 20, 2023 but will be reviewed only following the conclusion of the Board meeting AFB40 in March 2023.

Session 4: 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.