



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.42-43/8
14 June 2024

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR A NO-COST EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT
COMPLETION DATE:
UN-HABITAT
(SOLOMON ISLANDS)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during its thirtieth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara” in the Solomon Islands, submitted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for a requested amount of US\$ \$4,395,877.00 (Decision B.30/26).
2. The overarching goal of this project is to enhance the resilience of Honiara and its inhabitants to current and future climate impacts and natural disasters, with a particular focus on pro-poor adaptation actions that involve and benefit the most vulnerable communities. This will be achieved through a different set of objectives: (i) at community level, the project will support the implementation of prioritized resilience actions in vulnerability hotspot communities; (ii) at ward-level, the project will support the implementation of resilience actions that target women, youth, urban agriculture and food security, and disaster risk reduction; and (iii) at city-wide level, the project aims to strengthen institutional arrangements at the city-level to respond to climate change and natural disasters through improved partnerships.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UN-Habitat on 18 January 2018 and the programme started implementation on 28 July 2018.
4. The project Implementing Entity (IE) submitted three project performance reports (PPRs), which have been cleared by the secretariat, as well as a Mid-Term Review. As of the date of the issuance of this document, an amount of US\$ 2,202,550 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 50 per cent of the approved grant.
5. UN-Habitat was granted two 12-month no-cost extensions of the project completion date from, respectively from 27 June 2022 to 27 June 2023, and from 27 June 2023 to 27 June 2024, due to unavoidable delays caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.
6. On 25 March 2024, UN-Habitat submitted a new request for an additional eighteen-months no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 27 June 2024 to 27 December 2025. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.34-35/6), an implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme’s originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension.
7. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by UN-Habitat, are due to delays in project implementation, occurred by the lag effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the 2021 riots. The social, economic and political crisis, continued to impact engagement with some communities, in particular those along the city boundary. Additionally, concrete adaptation projects at the community level were to be implemented in partnership with designated government institutions, which were no longer in the position to support the project post pandemic.

Secretariat's review of the request

8. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UN-Habitat, the secretariat is of the view that this final eighteen-months no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UN-Habitat (Annex 1), it is noted that this extension would allow sufficient time to complete the remaining activities and ensure the fulfillment of the project objectives.

9. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and is endorsed by the Designated Authority (Annex 2), 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 eighteen-months no-cost extension of the project completion date from 27 June 2024 to 27 December 2025, for the project "Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara" implemented in the Solomon Islands, as requested by UN-Habitat.

Annexes

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat

Annex 2: letter of endorsement from the Designated Authority of the Solomon Islands

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat

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

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name: United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)			
AF Project/programme ID: SLB/MIE/Urban/2016/1			
Project/programme Title: Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara			
Country: Solomon Islands			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	12-13 October 2017, project started 28 June 2018 (Inception workshop)		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	27/06/2022 (original) 27/06/2023 (first extension) 27/06/2024	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	27/12/2025

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

Several milestones of the AF project in Solomon Islands have been achieved so far. However, the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic and related travel restrictions to and within Solomon Islands led to severe delays in project implementation which prompted the earlier extension requests. Additional challenges have emerged since:

- Capacities at local (Honiara City Council) and national level (Ministry of Lands, Housing and Infrastructure) were significantly reduced in the wake of COPVID-19 and the 2021 riots with their impacts on government finance.
- The social, economic and political crisis, continued to impact engagement with some communities in particular those along the city boundary.
- Concrete Adaptation projects at the community level were to be implemented in partnership with designated government institutions. Post COVID, the implementation strategy needed to be readjusted as some of these institutions were no longer in the position to support the project.
- Over the last months, the implementation of concrete adaptation options has commenced across all five informal settlement areas and other projects are very advanced in their planning and community consultations (fully in line with the approved project document).

In light of the events described above, we are requesting another no-cost extension of additional 18 months until 27 December 2025 in order to complete the remaining tasks. The approval of the changes proposed is key for ensuring the projects' completion and safeguard the quality of its execution.

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.



Rafael Tuts
Director
Global Solutions Division

UN-Habitat

Project/programme contact person

Date: 19 February 2024

Tel. and Email:
+254-20-7623726
Raf.Tuts@un.org

Annex 2: letter of endorsement from the Designated Authority of the Solomon Islands



**Solomon Islands Government
Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology
PO Box 21, Honiara, Solomon Islands**

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
Email: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org
Fax: +1 202 522 3240/5

26/04/2023

Subject: Endorsement of UN-Habitat's Request for no-cost project extension of additional 12 months of AF project Enhancing urban resilience to climate change impacts and natural disasters: Honiara (SLB/MIE/Urban/2016/1)

In my capacity as Designated Authority for the Adaptation Fund in Solomon Islands, I support UN-Habitat's request for another no-cost extension of additional 12 months

The executing entities and I understand that the outbreak of the global COVID-19 pandemic and resulting movement restrictions to and within Solomon Islands led to severe delays in project implementation. For almost one year, all field work had to be put on hold completely and community meetings and workshops could not be organized.

Furthermore, the project's main technical partner, the Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT), was unable to travel to Honiara for almost 2 years to assist with design, implementation or monitoring of any project activities, resulting in severe delays in the implementation schedule.

In light of the above, I fully endorse UN-Habitat's request to request a no-cost extension of project activities until July 2024. I will work closely with UN-Habitat to ensure that the revised workplan will be implemented accordingly in the extended timeframe.

Yours sincerely



Chanel Iroi
AF National Designated Authority