



## ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

***Approval of request for no-cost extension of project completion date: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)***

***Type of request:*** Minor

***Summary of request***

On 7 April 2025, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submitted its first request for a 12-month no-cost extension of the project “Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in changing climate” implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The request stems from cumulative delays due to several factors such as: i) Unforeseen political constraints in the originally targeted region of Tajikistan, which hindered and required additional coordination with local authorities and communities, as well as an updated screening of activities against the Fund’s Environmental and Social Policy (ESP); ii) Extended procurement and institutional approval processes related to the Early Warning System (EWS) components, which took longer than originally anticipated; and iii) Technical alignment of the new EWS with national meteorological and hydrological agencies’ systems to ensure interoperability and long-term sustainability.

Alongside the no-cost extension request, UNESCO also submitted a request for change in project target sites, which was considered a major change and circulated separately to the Board for approval through Document AFB/B.44-45/.7.

***Secretariat’s review of the request***

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by UNESCO and considers the request for a 12-month no-cost extension to be justified. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

***Conclusion***

*Following the review of the request for a 12-month no cost extension of the project completion date from 29 April 2026 to 29 April 2027 submitted by UNESCO regarding the project “Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in changing climate” implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, this has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).*

***Clearance: AFBSEC-2025-06***