



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.44-45/13
29 July 2025

Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR NO COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT
COMPLETION DATE:
UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
PROGRAMME
(FIJI)**

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirtieth meeting, approved a five-year project titled “Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks” submitted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for a total amount of US\$ 4,235,995 (Decision B.30/24).
2. The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks. This will be achieved through the following components: (i) Institutional strengthening to enhance local climate response actions; (ii) Local (community/informal settlements) resilience strengthening; (iii) Enhancing resilience of community level physical, natural and social assets and ecosystems; and (iv) Awareness raising, knowledge management and communication.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UN-Habitat in January 2018 and the project started implementation on 12 August 2018.
4. As of 21 July 2025, three PPRs were cleared by the secretariat and a total project funding for an amount of US\$ 1,797,380 including the project fees has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 42% of the approved grant.
5. UN-Habitat was granted in 2021 and 2023 two COVID-related twelve-months no-cost extensions of the project completion date respectively from 10 July 2022 to 10 July 2023, and from 10 July 2023 to 10 July 2024, which the secretariat cleared in accordance with Decision B.35.b/16 (Ref. 2021/165 and 2023/112). On 25 April 2024, UN-Habitat submitted a third request for a regular eighteen month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 10 July 2024 to 10 January 2026, which was approved by the Board (B.42-43/9).
6. On 21 July 2025, UN-Habitat submitted a fourth request for a regular eighteen month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 10 January 2026 to 10 July 2027 (see annex 1). The reasons for raising this request are (i) de-prioritization of project activities at the Executing Entity due to post-COVID shortages of personnel; (ii) unexpected delays in transferring funds from the Ministry of Finance to the Executing Entity; (iii) delays in re-confirmation of land tenure arrangements; (iv) necessary re-engagement of the project with local councils and communities in the aftermath of the COVID pandemic.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a thorough review of the request and in light of the justification provided by UN-Habitat, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month no-cost extension request is warranted. As outlined in the documentation submitted by UN-Habitat (Annex 1), this extension should allow sufficient time to complete all remaining activities and to finalize the development and submission of all outstanding project reporting requirements. Additionally, the secretariat acknowledges that the Designated Authority has formally endorsed this extension request (Annex 2).

Recommendation

8. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 10 January 2026 to 10 July 2027, for the

project “Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks” as requested by UN-Habitat.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat.
2. Letter of endorsement from the Designated Authority.

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: FJI/NIE/Urban/2016/1			
Project/programme Title: Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks			
Country: Fiji			
Project/Programme Approval (date)	12-13 October 2017 (Decision B.30/24), project started 11 July 2018 (Inception workshop)		
Expected Project/programme Completion (date)	10/07/2022 (original) 10/07/2023 (first extension) 10/07/2024 (second extension) 10/01/2026 (third extension)	Proposed Revised Completion (date):	10 July 2027

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

Several milestones of the AF project in Fiji have been achieved so far. Whilst the new administration, through its Ministry of Housing and Community development, was fully committed to accelerating the substantive project execution, several operational and institutional challenges resulted in further delays.

- Post-COVID staff shortages at the Executing Entity resulted in the de-prioritization of project activities. In consultation with the EE it was agreed not to hire project personnel unless key HR challenges are resolved to ensure that project funds are not further drained.
- A challenging transition in the financial management resulted in delays of transfers of funds from the Ministry of Finance to the Executing Entity. This was only resolved in early 2024.
- Planning activities with the four local councils and the communities restarted in July 2023 after a two-year COVID-related hiatus requiring a re-engagement with new personnel at the council level as well as at the level of the community leadership.
- Community infrastructure implementation was further delayed due to time-consuming re-confirmation of tenure arrangements.

However, some progress has been made across all outcome areas over the last months, UN-Habitat has re-opened an office in Suva with one staff currently based there, and climate resilience-building community infrastructure implementation is now imminent. In light of the events described above, we are requesting an additional no-cost extension of 18 months until 10 July 2027 in order to complete the remaining activities. The approval of the changes

proposed is key for ensuring the projects' completion and safeguarding of 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
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Director, Global Solutions Division

UN-Habitat

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Annex 2: Letter of endorsement from the Designated Authority



MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Levels 1, 2, 3 & 5, Bali Tower, 318 Toorak Road
P. O. Box 2109
Government Buildings, Suva, Fiji

18 July 2025

The Adaptation Fund Board
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat
By E-mail: Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: Letter of Support for No-Cost Extension of the Adaptation Fund Project Increasing the Resilience of Informal Settlements in Fiji that are Highly Vulnerable to Climate Change and Disaster Risks

The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change ('Ministry'), as the Designated Authority (DA) to the Adaptation Fund (AF) in Fiji, supports the no-cost extension request submitted by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for the project titled "**Increasing the Resilience of Informal Urban Settlements in Fiji that are Highly Vulnerable to Climate Change and Disaster Risks**" (*FJI/NIE/Urban/2016/1*).

The proposed extension of 18 months, until July 2027, is essential to allow for the completion of project activities, particularly those related to community-level implementation. The extension is necessary due to a combination of unprecedented delays and institutional challenges encountered during the early phases of the project. These included significant disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, which restricted in-person engagement and delayed on-ground progress, as well as prolonged administrative constraints such as delays in finalizing cooperation agreements that prevented timely implementation and fund disbursement.

The Ministry notes that key project activities are now progressing steadily, with concrete adaptation interventions being delivered across the targeted informal settlements. The additional time will ensure the effective completion of all planned outputs.

The Ministry will continue to work closely with UN-Habitat to support the implementation of the revised work plan within the extended timeframe.

For any clarifications or further information, please contact Mr. Ravneeth Dewan, Principal Climate Change Officer – Finance via email ravneeth.dewan@environment.gov.fj.

Sincerely,



Dr. Sivendra Michael
Permanent Secretary
Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

18/7/25