



## ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/PPRC.36/30  
8-9 October 2025

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Adaptation Fund Board  
Project and Programme Review Committee  
Thirty-fifth meeting  
Bonn, Germany, 8-9 October 2025

Agenda Item 6 b)

### **PROPOSAL FOR LOCALLY-LED ADAPTATION SINGLE COUNTRY PROPOSAL FOR LEBANON**

## Background

1. At its thirtieth meeting, having considered document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1, the Adaptation Fund Board decided:

*(a) To adopt the medium-term strategy as amended by the Board, as contained in the Annex 1 of the document AFB/B.30/5/Rev.1 (the MTS); and*

*(b) To request the secretariat:*

*(i) To broadly disseminate the MTS and work with key stakeholders to build understanding and support;*

*(ii) To prepare, under the supervision of the MTS task force, a draft implementation plan for operationalizing the MTS, containing a draft budget and addressing key assumptions and risks, including but not limited to funding and political risks, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting; and*

*(iii) To draft, as part of the implementation plan, the updates/modifications to the operational policies and guidelines of the Adaptation Fund needed to facilitate implementation of the MTS, for consideration by the Board at its thirty-first meeting.*

*(Decision B.30/42)*

2. Pursuant to decision B.30/42, subparagraph b (ii), the secretariat prepared a draft implementation plan for the MTS, including an assessment of assumptions and risks. The secretariat shared a version of the draft with the MTS task force for comments.

3. The draft implementation plan also contains suggestions for specific funding windows that might be opened under the MTS in complement of the Fund's existing funding windows for single-country and regional adaptation projects and readiness support projects. Following the approval of the implementation plan, the secretariat would present specific proposed details for each new funding window at subsequent meetings of the Board for its consideration, in accordance with the timeline contained in the implementation plan.

4. At its thirty-first meeting, the Adaptation Fund Board discussed the draft implementation plan for the MTS, and members of the Board proposed amendments to the document. The secretariat then presented a revised draft, in document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1. Having considered that document, the Board decided:

*(a) To approve the implementation plan for the medium-term strategy for the Fund for 2018–2022 contained in the Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1 (the plan);*

*(b) To request the secretariat:*

*[...]*

- (iii) *To prepare, for each proposed new type of grant and funding window, a specific document containing objectives, review criteria, expected grant sizes, implementation modalities, review process and other relevant features and submit it to the Board for its consideration in accordance with the tentative timeline contained in Annex I to document AFB/B.31/5/Rev.1, with input from the Board's committees;*
- (iv) *Following consideration of the new types of support mentioned in subparagraph (b)(iii), to propose, as necessary, amendments to the Fund's operational policies and guidelines Fund to better facilitate the implementation of such new types of support; and*

[...]

*(Decision B.31/32)*

5. Having recognized that there was a high level of interest among the Fund's stakeholders on Enhanced Direct Access (EDA), a specific funding window on EDA was included in the MTS implementation plan to complement the Fund's existing funding window for single-country projects.

6. At the second session of its thirty-fifth meeting the Board considered the document AFB/PPRC.26.b/18, Window for Enhanced Direct Access under the MTS and the Board decided:

- (a) *To approve the pilot for projects submitted through the window for enhanced direct access (EDA) to promote EDA and further promote locally led adaptation under the Fund;*
- (b) *That the pilot window to promote EDA projects/programmes shall be available to national implementing entities (NIEs) only, in the form of a grant up to a maximum of US\$5 million per country;*
- (c) *That the window for EDA will not count against what the country could access under the country cap established by the Board for regular concrete projects/programmes;*
- (d) *That the execution costs for proposals submitted under the EDA window should be up to a maximum of 12 per cent of the total project/programme budget requested before the implementing entity fees, and should not exceed 1.5 per cent in cases where the Implementing Entity has also taken on the role of Execution Entity for the proposed project/programme activities, and that the implementing entity fee should be up to a maximum of 10 per cent of the total project costs;*
- (e) *That NIEs submitting proposals through the EDA window should do so using the existing approved proposal template and guideline materials for regular concrete projects/programmes nonetheless taking note of the project fees in subparagraph (d) and that EDA proposals submitted through the two-step project approval process are eligible for the project formulation grant and project formulation assistance grant as per the approved criteria by the Board for those grants;*
- (f) *That the review cycle and approval of projects/programmes submitted through the EDA window shall follow the review and approval process as well as reporting*

*requirements for regular projects/programmes under the Fund notwithstanding adherence to subparagraph where it concerns the review and approval of project fees; and*

*(g) To request the secretariat to present to the PPRC at its twenty-eighth meeting, an analysis of the project review cycle for EDA projects including an update on the implementation status of the EDA window.*

*(Decision B.35.b/10)*

7. The Adaptation Fund Board adopted at its thirty-ninth meeting in October 2022 the medium-term strategy of the Adaptation Fund for the period 2023-2027 (MTS-II). The strategy introduced a special emphasis on promoting locally led adaptation (LLA) in the Fund's work and included a new cross-cutting theme to "Promote locally based and locally led adaptation action including by devolving access and decision-making on adaptation finance to national, subnational, and local levels."

8. Three modalities were proposed through Decision B.40/72 in March 2023:

*(a) Enhancing the existing Enhanced Direct Access window,*

*(b) Establishing a new Global MIE Aggregator programme for channeling grants for LLA to non-accredited entities,*

*(c) Opening the option for EDA-type national programmes for MIEs and RIEs.*

9. The Adaptation Fund Board at its forty-second board meeting in April 2024, considered the paper entitled 'Additional delivery modalities for expanding support to locally led adaptation' and the Board decided:

*Single country locally-led adaptation projects and programmes*

*a. To merge the window for enhanced direct access into an expanded and enhanced window for single-country locally led adaptation (LLA) projects/programmes as contained in paragraphs 37–42 of document AFB/PPRC.33/39;*

*b. That the window for single-country LLA projects/programmes will be available for access by eligible countries through national, regional or multilateral implementing entities, in the form of a grant of up to a maximum of US\$ 5 million per project;*

*c. That the window for single-country LLA programmes will continue to be financed outside the country cap established by the Board for regular concrete projects/programmes;*

*d. That single-country LLA proposals can be submitted through the three-step project approval process and are eligible for a project formulation grant (PFG) for a maximum of US\$ 150,000 as per the approved criteria by the Board for those grants;*

*e. That an additional PFG amount (inclusive of the management fee) can be provided on a case-by-case basis for LLA projects up to a maximum of US\$ 100,000, and that such amount should be dedicated to support activities that enable decision making by local actors over how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed and implemented;*

- f. *That, for a PFG at the pre-concept stage, up to 20 percent of the maximum amount of the PFG set in subparagraphs (d) and (e) above could be granted;*
- g. *To approve the revised proposal template and project review sheet contained in annex 3 and annex 4 to document AFB/PPRC.33/39, respectively;*
- h. *To request the secretariat to develop instructions for preparing requests for proposals and additional guideline materials for projects/programmes under this window;*

[...]

**(Decision B.42/37)**

10. Having considered the recommendation of the Project and Programme Review Committee, the Board decided to include in its work programme for fiscal year 2025 a provision for an amount of US\$ 26.5 million for single country LLA grants (B.42/33).
11. The following pre-concept note proposal document titled “Nature-based Water Management & Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon” was submitted for Lebanon by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), which is a Multilateral Implementing Entity of the Adaptation Fund.
12. This is the second submission of the pre-concept note proposal using the three-step submission process.
13. The current submission was received by the secretariat in time to be considered in the forty-fifth Board meeting. The secretariat carried out two technical reviews of the project proposal, with the Project ID number AF00000446.
14. In accordance with a request to the secretariat made by the Board in its 10th meeting, the secretariat shared this review sheet with UN-Habitat and offered it the opportunity of providing responses before the review sheet was sent to the PPRC.
15. The secretariat is submitting to the PPRC the summary and, pursuant to decision B.17/15, the final technical review of the project, both prepared by the secretariat, along with the final submission of the proposal in the following section. In accordance with decision B.25/15, the proposal is submitted with changes between the initial submission and the revised version highlighted or with track changes.





ADAPTATION FUND

## ADAPTATION FUND BOARD SECRETARIAT TECHNICAL REVIEW OF PROJECT/PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

PROJECT/PROGRAMME CATEGORY:

<b>Countries/Region:</b>	<b>Lebanon</b>	
<b>Project Title:</b>	<b>Nature-based Water Management &amp; Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon</b>	
<b>Thematic Focal Area:</b>	<b>Water Management/ NbS</b>	
<b>Implementing Entity:</b>	<b>UN-Habitat</b>	
<b>Executing Entities:</b>	<b>UNICEF, North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE), Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute (LARI), Municipalities, Local NGOs, Academic institutions, Private technical consultancy firm.</b>	
<b>AF Project ID:</b>	<b>AF00000446</b>	
<b>IE Project ID:</b>	<b>To be filled by IE</b>	<b>Requested Financing from Adaptation Fund (US Dollars): 5,000,000</b>
<b>Reviewer and contact person:</b>	<b>Alyssa Gomes</b>	<b>Co-reviewer(s): --</b>
<b>IE Contact Person:</b>	<b>Tarek Osseiran</b>	

<b>Technical Summary:</b>	<p>The project "Nature-based Water Management &amp; Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon" aims to (1) establish a robust water monitoring network to inform sustainable management and develop a hydrogeological model of the different aquifers in Akkar; (2) pilot scalable NbS for wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting; and (3) strengthen local capacities to ensure long-term ownership of adaptation solutions. This will be done through the three components below:</p> <p><u>Component 1:</u> Akkar Water Monitoring Network (USD 2,197,800);  <u>Component 2:</u> Nature-based Solutions (NbS) (USD 1,663,200);  <u>Component 3:</u> Awareness &amp; Capacity Building (USD 405,940).</p> <p>Requested financing overview:</p> <p>Project/Programme Execution Cost: USD 341,355  Total Project/Programme Cost: USD 4,608,295  Implementing Fee: USD 391,705  Financing Requested: USD 5,000,000</p>
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	<p>The proposal includes a request for a project formulation grant of USD 250,000.</p> <p>The first technical review raised some issues, such as the need for more explicit details on how local actors will directly access finance and decision-making power, and a clearer articulation of the innovation rationale specific to LLA, as is discussed in the Clarification Requests (CRs) and Corrective Action Requests (CARs) raised in the review.</p> <p>The final technical review finds that the proposal has addressed most of the CRs and CARs requests. Namely, the project team has provided a clear justification for its LLA approach, which is focused on empowering local institutions rather than providing direct community grants. A request has been made to further detail this model at the Concept Note stage, while all other requests regarding project design, PFG use, and EE identification have been successfully cleared.</p> <p>The second technical review finds that the pending CRs and CARs have been cleared.</p>
Date	8 August 2025

Review Criteria	Questions	Comments 1 <sup>st</sup> Round [23 July 2025]	Comments 2 <sup>nd</sup> Round [8 August 2025]
Country Eligibility	1. Are all of the participating countries party to the Kyoto Protocol and/or the Paris Agreement?	<b>Yes</b>	<b>Yes.</b>
	2. Are all of the participating countries developing countries particularly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change?	<b>Yes.</b> Lebanon is identified as a developing country facing severe water scarcity due to climate change (10-20% precipitation reduction by 2040), groundwater overexploitation, and increased demand from refugee influx, making it highly vulnerable. Akkar, the project's focus, is highlighted as a particularly water-stressed region with critical groundwater depletion and lack of wastewater management.	<b>Yes.</b>

Project Eligibility	1. Have the designated government authorities for the Adaptation Fund from each of the participating countries endorsed the project/programme?	<b>Yes</b> As per the Endorsement letter dated 3 July 2025 signed by Minister of Environment, Dr. Tamara El Zein.	<b>yes.</b>
	2. Has the pre-concept provided necessary information on the problem the proposed project/programme is aiming to solve through the LLA approach?	<b>Yes, but needs clarification.</b>  The proposal clearly states the national water crisis in Lebanon and provides a detailed, compelling problem statement for Akkar, identifying specific issues like groundwater depletion, seawater intrusion, lack of wastewater management, ecosystem degradation (deforestation, sand mining), and institutional/data gaps. A strong justification for action based on climate change impacts (flash floods, droughts) is provided. Target areas (Akkar governorate, specifically coastal aquifer, and selected villages/municipalities for NbS pilots) and beneficiaries (communities, farmers, NLWE/municipal staff) are presented. The proposal includes a concise problem statement outlining the current situation and the desired future. The climate change vulnerabilities impacting Lebanon and Akkar, which are the focus of the proposal, are clearly explained at the pre-concept stage.  <u>LLA Rationale:</u> The proposal defines the climate adaptation problem as	<b>CR1: Cleared (Page 10, Part II, Section 1)</b>  The project has clarified how local institutions will be empowered. It now specifies that local stakeholders and municipalities will be trained on how to use climate data to make informed decisions, such as regulating wells and choosing resilient crops. The proposal also describes a path for municipalities to gradually take over the full operation and maintenance of NbS, representing a decentralization of technical stewardship in line with LLA principles.  <b>CR2: Cleared (Page 11, Part II, Section 1)</b>  The proposal provides a more detailed framework for participatory planning during the project formulation stage. It now explicitly states that a multi-stakeholder technical working group will co-develop the Terms of Reference for technical assessments, and that Focus Group Discussions and co-design workshops will be organized in selected communities to define needs and co-design NbS typologies. This approach goes beyond

	<p>worsening water crisis driven by climate change and unsustainable practices, exacerbated by institutional and data gaps that prevent effective management. The LLA rationale is presented as decentralizing water governance and placing planning/implementation in the hands of sub-national authorities and local stakeholders.</p> <p><b>CR1:</b> While the proposal mentions "decentralizing water governance" and "ensuring community ownership," it needs to explicitly articulate how the project will empower local communities to exercise direct agency and decision-making beyond participatory planning. The pre-concept states "Local institutions (e.g., NLWE, LARI) will lead data collection, NbS implementation (with municipality support), and monitoring," which is important, but the mechanism for broader community leadership and direct access to finance for their own identified adaptation priorities is not yet clear.</p> <p><u>LLA Process:</u> The proposal aims to overcome the CCA problem through a data-driven strategy and NbS pilots. The LLA process is envisioned through participatory planning allowing communities to prioritize interventions. The innovation lies in the real-time</p>	consultation, positioning local actors as active decision-makers.
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		<p>monitoring network (SCADA system) and piloting NbS that are scalable.</p> <p><b>CR2:</b> Please provide further detail on the "participatory planning" process during the project formulation stage. Specifically, how will it ensure that communities are not just consulted on predetermined interventions but are genuinely involved in identifying problems, designing solutions, and managing resources from a local perspective?</p>	
	<p>3. Have the project/programme objectives, components and financing been clearly explained?</p>	<p><b>Partially.</b></p> <p>The project's three objectives are clear: (1) establish monitoring, (2) pilot scalable NbS, and (3) strengthen local capacities. The components (Akkar Water Monitoring Network, Nature-based Solutions, Awareness &amp; Capacity Building) align well with these objectives and demonstrate cohesion. Activities broadly support AF Strategic Objectives by enhancing water security and building resilience.</p> <p><u>LLA:</u> The components explicitly contribute to LLA principles by focusing on building local capacity (Component 3), and by aiming to empower local institutions (NLWE, municipalities) in data utilization and NbS implementation.</p>	<p><b>CR3: Cleared (Page 12, Part II, Section 2)</b></p> <p>The project now provides a more robust justification for how the monitoring network will support local decision-making. It details how data will be made accessible to local authorities and will directly inform local water allocation, enforcement of regulations, agricultural planning, and prioritization of NbS interventions. This demonstrates that data will be a locally controlled asset, rather than just a tool for national reporting.</p>

		<p><b>CR3:</b> To further strengthen the LLA explicit contribution, please clarify how Component 1 (Monitoring Network) will directly support local decision-making and adaptation planning by communities and local authorities, beyond just informing national strategy inputs.</p>	
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	<p>4. Has the project/programme been justified in terms of how:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it supports concrete adaptation actions.</li> <li>- it aligns with the principles of LLA and seeks to operationalize the principles of LLA?</li> <li>- It describes indicatively how it will source locally-led small grant proposals, and screen them for the potential to support concrete adaptation actions to assist the participating countries in addressing the adverse effects of climate change and build in climate resilience?</li> <li>- it is cost-effective?</li> <li>- it is consistent with applicable strategies and plans?</li> <li>- it incorporates learning and knowledge management?</li> <li>- it will be developed through a consultative process with particular reference to vulnerable groups, including gender considerations,</li> </ul>	<p>Partially.</p> <p>The project supports concrete adaptation actions through the establishment of a real-time monitoring network (Component 1) that will enable dynamic water allocation during droughts, and through direct implementation of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) such as constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting systems (Component 2). These NbS directly address pollution, water demand, and health risks, aligning with climate adaptation needs.</p> <p><u>LLA Alignment &amp; Operationalization:</u></p> <p><u>Local Agency:</u> The proposal intends to decentralize water governance by placing planning and implementation in the hands of sub-national authorities (NLWE) and local stakeholders (municipalities).</p> <p><u>Direct Access to Finance:</u> The pre-concept states that "70% of the budget will be spent in favor of local executors (NLWE, municipalities, LARI), avoiding middle-layer inefficiencies." This is a strong positive for LLA.</p> <p><u>Addressing Inequalities:</u> Mentions targeting women-led farming cooperatives (30% of trainees) and</p>	<p><b>CR4: Cleared at the pre-concept stage. Further elaboration is required at the concept stage.</b></p> <p>The project team has clarified that the project is not designed to channel small grants directly to community groups but rather to empower local institutions (municipalities, NLWE, etc.).</p> <p>To ensure the project's LLA rationale is fully aligned and operationalized, <u>please provide a comprehensive and detailed plan in the Concept Note that explains:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How the project will empower local institutions to make genuine, autonomous adaptation decisions.</li> <li>• The specific mechanisms for devolving decision-making authority and funding to these local entities.</li> <li>• How the project will build the necessary technical, financial, and governance capacity within these local institutions to ensure they can effectively lead adaptation efforts.</li> <li>• How the project will ensure that the voice and priorities of vulnerable communities (including farmers, women, and displaced populations) are genuinely reflected in the decisions made by these institutions.</li> </ul>
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	<p>in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- it will take into account sustainability.</li> </ul>	<p>involving Syrian refugees in consultations. Gender audits are planned.</p> <p><u>Investing in Local Capabilities:</u> Component 3 is dedicated to training NLWE/municipal staff and community water stewards.</p> <p><u>Flexible Programming:</u> Not explicitly detailed at pre-concept, but implicit in iterative nature of LLA. <i>Please clarify further at the concept note stage.</i></p> <p><u>Transparency &amp; Accountability:</u> Mentions transparent allocation to mitigate disputes. National Steering Committee (NSC) to review progress and approve reallocations. <i>Please clarify further at the concept note stage.</i></p> <p><u>Collaborative Action:</u> Involvement of multiple entities (UNICEF, NLWE, LARI, Municipalities, local NGOs, academia).</p> <p><b>CR4:</b> While the project emphasizes "local executors," the proposal does not yet describe a specific mechanism or process for sourcing and screening locally-led small grant proposals directly from communities (e.g., community-based organizations, farmer groups). The current approach appears to primarily channel funds to existing institutions and municipalities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> </ul> <p><b>CR5: Cleared (Page 14, Part II, Section 1)</b> The proposal now explicitly outlines multiple mechanisms to ensure genuine local leadership, moving beyond consultation. These include a participatory planning framework with targeted sessions for vulnerable groups, the establishment of community-led monitoring committees to oversee systems, and a delegation of authority to municipalities to lead procurement and implementation processes. This revised approach effectively demonstrates how ownership will be built at the community level.</p> <p><b>CAR1: Cleared (PFG submission form)</b> The project team has addressed this by submitting a PFG request using the official template. The new PFG form provides a detailed breakdown of costs for proposal development, community consultations, and technical assessments, which was missing from the initial pre-concept.</p>

	<p>for project delivery. To fully operationalize LLA, please clarify how direct access and decision-making for community-driven initiatives will be facilitated and how communities will directly propose and manage their own adaptation solutions/grants.</p> <p><b>CR5:</b> Clarify how the project will ensure genuine local leadership and ownership in the decision-making processes, beyond consultation, particularly for vulnerable groups, throughout the project cycle (from design of specific interventions to monitoring).</p> <p><u>Cost-Effectiveness:</u> Justified through NbS being 50% cheaper than conventional WWTPs and having lower O&amp;M, and reusing existing infrastructure. <i>Please clarify further at the concept note stage.</i></p> <p><u>Consistency with Strategies:</u> Highly consistent with NWSS (2024 &amp; 2020), NDC (Target 5.3 NbS, Target 7 Community-based adaptation), Fourth National Communication, NAP, and LIBNOR standards.</p> <p><u>Learning and Knowledge Management:</u> Includes a "Replication Toolkit" for scaling to other governorates and academic</p>	
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		<p>partnerships (LARI, AUB, Balamand) for publishing case studies and hosting workshops. This supports sharing lessons from local initiatives nationally. <i>Please clarify further at the concept note stage.</i></p> <p><u>Consultative Process:</u> Planned stakeholder engagement (Q3 2025–Q1 2026) involving NLWE, Municipalities, farmers, women’s groups, and Syrian refugees, demonstrating compliance with AF's Environmental and Social Policy. Risk mitigation (environmental, social) is briefly addressed.</p> <p><u>Sustainability:</u> Proposed "small tariffs" on agricultural water use for O&amp;M and NLWE integrating project data into the National Water Information System. This indicates strengthening local institutional capacity and ownership. <i>Please clarify further at the concept note stage.</i></p> <p><u>Emphasis on patient and predictable funding, investing in local capabilities:</u> The 70% direct funding to local executors and the extensive capacity building (Component 3) speak to investing in local capabilities and providing funding accessible to local actors. However, see <b>CR3, CR4 and CR5</b> above.</p>	
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	<p>5. Does the pre-concept briefly explain which organizations would be involved in the proposed project at the national/sub-national level, and how coordination would be arranged?</p> <p>Does it explain how national institutions, and when possible, national implementing entities (NIEs) would be involved as partners in the project?</p>	<p><b>Partially.</b></p> <p><u>Regarding EE identification for LLA projects:</u></p> <p>The pre-concept identifies UNICEF as the main EE for the project phase. All EEs need to be identified prior to legal agreement signature for the full proposal and for PFG implementation (if EEs will be contracted for the PFG). Furthermore, the PFG template has not been used to request PFG support.</p> <p><u>The PFG request indicates a total of USD 250,000:</u></p> <p>USD 100,000 for an individual consultant to lead proposal development and the remaining for comprehensive assessments and studies under Component 1. The complete breakdown of the PFG budget distribution along with budget notes should be provided using the PFG template.</p> <p><b>CAR1:</b> Please use the template available at <a href="#">Request for Project Formulation Grant (PFG)</a> to submit the PFG request.</p> <p><b>CR6:</b> Please clarify how the PFG activities, especially the "comprehensive assessments and studies under Component 1" which are stated to be mostly funded by the PFG,</p>	<p><b>CR6: Cleared (PFG submission form)</b></p> <p>The PFG request now clarifies how activities will be executed during the project formulation phase. It specifies that UN-Habitat will lead the overall proposal development, while UNICEF will be in charge of data collection and community consultations. The PFG form also details a breakdown of costs for these activities, including fees for a consultant and technical experts, as well as logistics for community engagement.</p> <p><b>CR7: Cleared (PFG submission form, Section B)</b></p> <p>The proposal has provided more specific information on the private technical consultancy firm. It is now named as Bureau Technique pour le Développement (BTD), and its role is clearly defined: to be subcontracted by UNICEF to conduct the "Groundwater Monitoring Assessment" and the "Weather Station Rehabilitation Assessment." This clarifies the firm's role in compiling technical data for the project, providing a stronger justification.CR7</p>
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		<p>will be executed and by which entity(ies) during the project formulation phase. This clarification should align with AF guidance on PFG use for LLA projects.</p> <p><b>CR7:</b> Please provide more specific information on the intended role and scope of the private technical consultancy firm within the project. It is crucial to clarify what proportion of the EE costs or project components this firm is expected to manage and why.</p> <p>For LLA projects, where some EEs may not be identified, the AF guidance allows for certain eligible activities (e.g., salary for staff of EE to manage specific components; salary of staff/consultants to deliver technical assistance, result-based management and data collection for specific indicators related to efficiency of adaptation measures; some travel related to project execution) to be charged under a project component, with justification.</p>	
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Resource Availability	6. Is the requested project / programme funding within the funding windows of the programme for single country LLA projects/programmes?	<b>Yes.</b> The size of the project is at USD 5 Million which is the available size for LLA single country projects.	-
	7. Are the administrative costs (Implementing Entity Management Fee and Project/ Programme Execution Costs) at or below 8.5 per cent of the project/programme for implementing entity (IE) fees and at or below 9.5 per cent of the project/programme cost for the execution costs?	<b>Yes.</b> The Project/Programme Execution Cost (USD 341,355) is approximately 7.4% of the Total Project/Programme Cost (USD 4,608,295), which is below the 9.5% limit for single-country projects.  The Implementing Entity Fee (USD 391,705) is approximately 8.5% of the Total Project/Programme Cost (USD 4,608,295), which is exactly at the 8.5% limit. The costs appear to be within the specified limits.	-
Eligibility of IE	8. Is the project/programme submitted through an eligible Implementing Entity that has been accredited by the Board?	<b>Yes.</b> Accreditation status: Accredited Accreditation Expiration Date: 30 November 2025.	-



## ADAPTATION FUND

# PRE-CONCEPT FOR A REGIONAL PROJECT/PROGRAMME

## PART I: PROJECT/PROGRAMME INFORMATION

**Title of Project/Programme:** Nature-based Water Management & Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon

**Countries:** Lebanon

**Thematic Focal Area<sup>1</sup>:** Water Resource Management and Climate Resilience

**Type of Implementing Entity:** United Nations Agency

**Implementing Entity:** UN-Habitat

**Executing Entity/Entities:** UNICEF, North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE), Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI), Municipalities, Local NGOs, Academic institutions, Bureau Technique pour le Development (BTD).

**Amount of Financing Requested:** 5,000,000 (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Project Formulation Grant Request:** Yes   No

**Amount of Requested financing for PFG:** ~~250,000~~ 50,000<sup>2</sup> (in U.S Dollars Equivalent)

**Letters of Endorsement (LOE) signed for all countries:** Yes   No

*NOTE: LOEs should be signed by the Designated Authority (DA). The signatory DA must be on file with the Adaptation Fund. To find the DA currently on file check this page: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/apply-funding/designated-authorities>*

### Stage of Submission:

This pre-concept has been submitted before 30 June 2025

<sup>1</sup> Thematic areas: Nonprescriptive

<sup>2</sup> A Project Formulation Grant (PFG) of \$50,000 is being requested for the pre-concept note stage: \$30,000 (20% of the \$150,000) plus an additional amount of \$20,000 (20% of the \$100,00) which are essential at this stage. Those numbers are reflected in submitted PFG form ~~\$250,000 is being requested. Of this amount, \$100,000 will be allocated to hire an individual consultant who will lead and support the proposal development process, \$55,000 will be support extensive community engagement for Component 1 and 2, \$75,000 will fund technical Assessments to identify appropriate sites for surface and groundwater monitoring and \$20,000 will be allocated to assessment of the needs for repair and upgrade of the actual weather stations essential to collect some weather related data during the proposal development.~~

This is the first submission ever of the pre-concept

In case of a resubmission, please indicate the last submission date: Click or tap to enter a date.

**Please note that pre-concept should not exceed 5 pages (in addition to this first cover page)**

## **Project/Programme Background and Context:**

*Lebanon is facing a severe and worsening water crisis, driven by climate change, unsustainable management practices, and socio-political instability. The country's water resources are under stress, with total available freshwater resources estimated at approximately 714 cubic meters per capita annually (which is the result of 4 billion cubic meters to 5.6 million people residing in Lebanon), well below the 1,000 m<sup>3</sup> threshold for water scarcity, while Lebanon maintains a relatively high level of water stress that is likely to increase in the coming years due to climate change impacts (National Water Strategy 2024 – 2035) (Climate projections indicate a 10–20% reduction in precipitation by 2040, coupled with rising temperatures that will exacerbate evaporation and drought (Fourth National Communication to the UNFCCC, 2021).*

*The national water challenges are numerous and can be listed as follows:*

*1. Groundwater Overexploitation: 70% of Lebanon's water supply comes from groundwater, but extraction rates exceed recharge by 30–50% in critical basins (MoE, 2022). Illegal wells (estimated at 60,000 nationwide) and weak enforcement have led to aquifer depletion and seawater intrusion, particularly in coastal areas.*

*2. Non-Revenue Water (NRW): 40% of piped water is lost due to leaks, illegal connections, and poor maintenance (NWSS 2024).*

*3. Sub-optimal and inefficient Wastewater treatment:*

*Wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) are underfunded and non-functional, with only 25% of generated wastewater volumes reaching operational WWTP's. (Ministry of Energy and Water, 2025).*

*4. Climate Pressures: Increased frequency of "flash floods" (e.g., January 2024 Akkar floods) due to deforestation and degraded watersheds. In addition, prolonged droughts have reduced agricultural yields, pushing farmers to over-pump groundwater, worsening scarcity.*

*5. Refugee Influx: Lebanon hosts approximately 1.5 million Syrian refugees, increasing water demand by 20–30% in northern regions like Akkar (UNHCR, 2023). From March 2025, additional more than 23,500 refugees have sought refuge in Akkar (UNHCR flash update- April 2025)*

### **Akkar's Water Crisis: A Microcosm of Lebanon's Challenges**

*Akkar, Lebanon's northernmost governorate, is one of the poorest and most water-stressed regions, with unique vulnerabilities that can be listed as follows:*

*1. Groundwater Depletion & Seawater Intrusion (SWI): Akkar's coastal aquifer is critically overexploited, with 40% of wells operating illegally (NLWE, 2023). Plus, saltwater intrusion has contaminated 30% of wells in coastal areas, rendering water unfit for drinking or irrigation (LARI, 2022). In Akkar this is noticed up to 7km from the shore (Elias and al.2025<sup>3</sup>).*

*2. Total Collapse of Wastewater Management: No functional WWTPs exist in Akkar; untreated sewage flows directly into rivers and agricultural lands, contaminating crops with E. coli and heavy metals (MoE, 2023). This has led farmers to rely on polluted water for irrigation, posing public health risks. (e.g., cholera outbreak in 2022 started in Akkar).*

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<sup>3</sup> <https://doi.org/10.1080/02626667.2025.2468839>

3. *Ecosystem Degradation: Deforestation (loss of 35% forest cover since 2000) and abandoned terraces have reduced natural water retention, worsening floods and soil erosion (FAO, 2021). The example of Wadi Khaled, a key watershed, is drying up due to unchecked sand mining and diversion for agriculture.*

4. *Institutional and Data Gaps: No integrated monitoring of surface/groundwater exists, leaving policymakers without data to regulate extraction or plan interventions (NWSS 2020). This is coupled with lack of funding and technical capacity due to the financial crisis in Lebanon that leave water establishments without proper tools to maintain infrastructure.*

**Why This Project is Critical for Akkar?**

*The proposed project directly addresses Akkar’s crises by:*

- *Filling data gaps through a real-time monitoring network (first of its kind in Lebanon).*
- *Piloting nature-based solutions (wetlands, Rainwater harvesting) to reduce pollution and recharge aquifers.*
- *Empowering local communities to support sustainable water management, aligning with Lebanon’s NDC commitment to nature-based solutions (NbS).*

**Project/Programme Objectives:**

*(List the main objectives of the project/programme.)*

*The project aims to: (1) establish a robust water monitoring network to inform sustainable management and develop hydrogeological model of the different aquifers in Akkar; (2) pilot scalable NbS for wastewater treatment and rainwater harvesting; and (3) strengthen local capacities to ensure long-term ownership of adaptation solutions. By aligning with Lebanon’s Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) and the National Water Sector Strategy 2024 (NWSS), the project will directly contribute to national targets for water security, climate adaptation, and ecosystem restoration.*

*Without intervention, Akkar’s water scarcity will deepen, threatening food security, public health, and social stability in a region already strained by poverty and displacement. This project offers a scalable model for Lebanon’s water crisis response.*

**Project/Programme Components and Financing<sup>4</sup>:**

*(Fill in the table presenting the relationships among project components, outcomes, outputs and countries in which activities would be executed, and the corresponding budgets.)*

Project/Programme Components	Expected Outcomes	Expected Outputs	Countries	Amount (US\$)

<sup>4</sup> IE and EE fees calculator: <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/document/ie-and-ee-fees-calculator/>

1. Akkar Water Monitoring Network	Reliable hydrological data for decision-making	Hydrogeological model of Akkar, SCADA system for real-time monitoring, 5 upgraded meteorological stations, Replication toolkit for other regions	Lebanon	\$ 2 197 800
2. Nature-based Solutions (NbS)	Improved water quality & reduced demand	Constructed wetlands for wastewater treatment, Rainwater harvesting (RWH) systems (Compliance with country norms (i.e. Decision 8/1 MoE 2000), Replication plan for 10+ villages	Lebanon	\$ 1 663 200
3. Awareness & Capacity Building	Empowered local institutions & communities	Trained NLWE/municipal staff (50+ people), 20 community water stewards, Gender-inclusive farming programs, Reduced groundwater extraction by 25% in the targeted area	Lebanon	\$ 405 940
Total Program component cost				\$ 4 266 940
4. Project/Programme Execution cost				\$ 341 355
5. Total Project/Programme Cost				\$ 4 608 295
6. Project/Programme Cycle Management Fee charged by the Implementing Entity (if applicable)				\$ 391 705
<b>Amount of Financing Requested</b>				<b>\$ 5 000 000</b>

**Project Duration: 3 years (36 months) (In years and months)**

## PART II: PROJECT/PROGRAMME JUSTIFICATION

### 1. Locally Led Adaptation (LLA) and Decision-Making Empowerment

The project is designed to decentralize water governance by placing adaptation planning and implementation in the hands of sub-national authorities (such as the NLWE), local stakeholders (such as municipalities), ensuring community ownership and long-term sustainability.

- **Direct Access to Finance & Decision-Making:** Local institutions (e.g., NLWE, LARI) will lead data collection, NbS implementation (with municipality support).
- **Local stakeholders will improve adaptive water management decisions** by using improved groundwater and climate data to guide crop selection, regulate or close unlicensed wells and inform awareness campaigns. Selected municipalities will be trained on climate financing by IE under component 3 of this project as well as assuming responsibility of O&M of Nbs.
- **Participatory planning and Co-Design:** Communities will actively lead the identification and design of interventions (e.g., wetland construction) through focus group discussions, co-design workshops, and multi-stakeholder consultations—ensuring local ownership, institutional alignment, and long-term sustainability in line with Adaptation Fund LLA Guidelines (2023).

- *Integration of Scientific Knowledge: create link between local academic institutions and decentralize water utilities to combine data compilation with hydrogeological modeling to understand recharge and develop strategies.*

## **2. Adaptation Activities and Climate Resilience Value**

*The project's three components address both immediate and systemic vulnerabilities in Akkar:*

- *Component 1 (Monitoring Network for the entire area):*
  - *Outcome: Create hydrological and Hydrogeological database for National strategy inputs*
  - *Enforce Water Framework Directives to limit water extraction to a volume that does not exceed the annual recharge.*
  - *Allocate Water resources based on collected evidence enabling prioritization of vulnerable populations particularly in times of water scarcity.*
  - *Community-level enforcement of water uses regulations, such as identifying and controlling unlicensed wells;*
  - *Agricultural planning, through dissemination of groundwater and weather data to farmers, enabling informed choices on planting cycles and crop selection.*
  - *Prioritization of NbS interventions, based on observed stress in aquifers or recharge patterns.*
  - *Community-led adaptation planning, supported by training and simplified tools to interpret and apply monitoring results.*
  - *Innovation: SCADA system provides real-time data to NLWE, enabling dynamic water allocation during droughts (World Bank, 2023).*
- *Component 2 (NbS Interventions in one or two municipalities):*
  - *Outcome: Constructed wetlands reduce wastewater pollution by 60–80% (LIBNOR 814-2024; Decision 8/1 2000 MoE compliance), mitigating health risks (MoE, 2022).*
  - *Scalability: Pilot RWH systems on greenhouses (inspired by UNICEF model implemented in Zahle under the Water resilient solutions regional project) can expand to farmers in the municipality (UNDP, 2023).*
- *Component 3 (Capacity Building in the selected village(s) for NbS and Rainwater Harvestings):*
  - *Gender Inclusion: Targets women-led farming cooperatives (30% of trainees) to promote equitable resource access (UN Women, 2022 and UN-Habitat 2024 Al Marjeh urban farming project in Tripoli north Lebanon).*

## **3. Cost-Effectiveness and Execution Arrangements**

- *Low-Cost, High-Impact Solutions*
  - *NbS (e.g., wetlands) cost 50% less than conventional WWTPs (if servicing less than 1,000 persons) and have lower Operation and Maintenance (O&M) demands (GIZ, 2022).*
  - *Reusing existing infrastructure (e.g., retrofitting abandoned wells with loggers to monitor the groundwater levels) minimizes capital costs.*
- *Direct Funding Mechanism:*
  - *70% of the budget will be spent on favor to local executors (NLWE, municipalities, LARI), avoiding middle-layer inefficiencies (Adaptation Fund, 2023).*

## **4. Alignment with National/Sub-National Strategies**

The project operationalizes five key national policies:

- a. *National Water Sector Strategy (NWSS 2024): Pillar 1 Enhanced Water Security: By 2035, a data management and monitoring system is fully operational at the Ministry.*
- b. *NDC (2021): Supports Target 5.3 ("NbS for water security") and Target 7 ("Community-based adaptation").*
- c. *Fourth National Communication (UNFCCC, 2021): Addresses Akkar’s designation as a "high-risk zone" for climate-induced water stress.*
- d. *MoE’s National Adaptation Plan (NAP, 2023): Aligns with Priority Area 2 ("Ecosystem-based adaptation in watersheds").*
- e. *LIBNOR 814-2024 Standards: Ensures treated wastewater meets reuse criteria for agriculture.*

**5. Learning and Knowledge Management**

- *Replication Toolkit: Documents best practices for scaling to other governorates (e.g., Baalbek-Hermel and Bekaa, facing similar depletion and BML, North and South facing the Saline Water Intrusion (SWI)).*
- *Academic Partnerships: LARI and American University of Beirut and/or Balamand University will publish case studies and host regional workshops (MoE, 2023).*

**6. Consultative Process and Environmental/Social Safeguards**

- *Stakeholder Engagement: Q3 2025–Q1 2026 consultations will involve NLWE, Municipalities, farmers, women’s groups, and Syrian refugees (AF’s “Environmental and Social Policy” compliance).*
- *Conflict Sensitivity: Ensures water access disputes are mitigated via transparent allocation (UNDP, 2022). NLWE will be able to allocate water*
- *Risk Mitigation:*
  - *Environmental: NbS design mitigate water contamination and if quality allow reuse then reduce water over-extraction following the Ecosystem-based approaches to mitigate societal challenges by improving Human well-being and biodiversity benefits (IUCN, 2021).*
  - *Social: Gender audits ensure women’s participation in water committees (UN Women, 2023).*

**7. Sustainability of Outcomes**

- *Financial: Municipalities will levy “small tariffs” on agricultural water use to fund O&M (World Bank, 2023).*
- *Institutional: NLWE will integrate project data into the National Water Information System (NWSS 2024).*

**8. Economic, Social, and Environmental Benefits**

<b>Benefit Type</b>	<b>Examples</b>	<b>Reference</b>
<i>Economic</i>	<i>\$200K/year saved by reducing groundwater pumping costs</i>	<i>NWSS 2024</i>
<i>Social</i>	<i>30,000+ people gain access to clean water</i>	<i>MoE 2022</i>
<i>Environmental</i>	<i>100,000 m3/year of wastewater treated via wetlands</i>	<i>LIBNOR 814-2024</i>

### 9. Avoidance of Duplication

- Complements ongoing projects (e.g., AFD project on reduction of flash floods risk in Sahel Akkar, World Bank's Water Emergency Project) by adding NbS and monitoring missing in current efforts.

### 10. Justification for Funding

- Full cost of adaptation reflects:
  - Technical complexity of aquifer modeling (\$2.2M).
  - Community training to ensure ownership (\$400K).
  - NbS piloting for scalability (\$1.6M).

## PART III: IMPLEMENTATION ARRANGEMENTS

<b>Partners</b>	<b>Roles and tasks</b>
<i>Implementing Entity (IE): UN-Habitat</i>	<p><i>Ensure project adheres to Adaptation Fund policies and delivers outcomes on time/ budget.</i></p> <p><i>Lead financial management and reporting to the AF.</i></p> <p><i>Provide technical oversight for NbS and monitoring components.</i></p> <p><i>Facilitate knowledge exchange with global NbS initiatives (e.g NATURA, IUCN, etc.)</i></p>
<i>Main Executing Entity (EE): UNICEF</i>	<p><i>Coordinate field activities, procure equipment, and manage subcontractors</i></p> <p><i>Deploy SCADA systems and piezometers (with NLWE)</i></p> <p><i>Construct wetlands and RWH systems (with NLWE, municipalities and farmers)</i></p> <p><i>Train communities and monitor gender inclusion (With A local NGO)</i></p>
<i>Ministry of Environment (MoE) and Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW)</i>	<p><i>Ensure project complies with NWSS 2024 and NDC targets</i></p> <p><i>Approve hydrological and hydrogeological monitoring protocols</i></p> <p><i>Endorse replication plans for other areas/ governorates</i></p>
<i>North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE)</i>	<i>Operate the SCADA system and facilitate well-metering</i>
<i>Lebanese Agricultural Research Institute</i>	<i>Collect and disseminate meteorological data to the NLWE, MoE and MOEW and work closely with the academic institution for the publication on the</i>
<i>Academic Institutions</i>	<i>(e.g. AUB, Balamand University) to validate data and publish results</i>
<i>Private technical consultancy firm</i>	<i>Bureau Technique pour le Développement (BTD) to support technical assessment and the data collection on the field.</i>

<i>Municipalities</i>	<i>Lead site selection, community mobilization, and O&amp;M planning</i>
<i>Communities/ farmers</i>	<i>Participate in training and steward NbS post-project.</i>

*To note that, the project will establish a National Steering Committee chaired by MoE, to ensure multi-stakeholder ownership in order to 1) review quarterly progress reports, 2) approve budget reallocation (if any), 3) resolve conflicts, 4) facilitate permitting processes if needed, and 5) ensure sustainability of the interventions.*

## PART IV: ENDORSEMENT BY GOVERNMENTS AND CERTIFICATION BY THE IMPLEMENTING ENTITY

- A. Record of endorsement on behalf of the government<sup>5</sup>** *Provide the name and position of the government official and indicate date of endorsement for the country participating in the proposed project/programme. The endorsement letter should be attached as an annex to the project/programme proposal.*

<i>(Tamara El Zein, Minister, Ministry of Environment, Lebanon)</i>	<i>Date: (07, 03, 2025)</i>
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- B. Implementing Entity certification** *Provide the name and signature of the Implementing Entity Coordinator and the date of signature. Provide also the project/programme contact person's name, telephone number and email address*

<p>I certify that this proposal has been prepared in accordance with guidelines provided by the Adaptation Fund Board, and prevailing National Development and Adaptation Plans (NDC 2021 supports Target 5.3: NbS for water security and Target 7: Community based adaptation; Fourth National Communication (UNFCCC 2021): Addresses Akkar's designation as high-risk zone for climate induced water stress; MoE's National Adaption Plan 2023: <i>Priority Area 2 ("Ecosystem-based adaptation in watersheds")</i>)) and subject to the approval by the Adaptation Fund Board, <u>commit to implementing the project/programme in compliance with the Environmental and Social Policy of the Adaptation Fund</u> and on the understanding that the Implementing Entity will be fully (legally and financially) responsible for the implementation of this project/programme.</p>	
<p><i>Name &amp; Signature</i> Implementing Entity Coordinator</p>	
<i>Date: (June, 20, 2025)</i>	<i>Tel. and email:</i>
<i>Project Contact Person: Tarek Osseiran (UN-Habitat)</i>	
<i>Tel. And Email: +961 1 978399 ext 1393, +961 3 233671, tarek.osseiran@un.org</i>	

<sup>5</sup>The Party shall designate and communicate to the secretariat the authority that will endorse on behalf of the national government the projects and programmes proposed by the implementing entities.



**REPUBLIC OF LEBANON**  
**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT**

THE MINISTER

Beirut, 3/7/2025  
Ref.: 2451/B/2025

The Adaptation Fund Board  
c/o Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat  
Email: [Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org](mailto:Secretariat@Adaptation-Fund.org)  
Fax: 202 522 3240/5

**Subject : Endorsement for “Nature-based Water Management & Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon” Project**

In my capacity as designated authority for the Adaptation Fund in Lebanon, I confirm that the above national grant proposal is in accordance with the government’s national priorities in implementing adaptation activities to reduce adverse impacts of, and risks, posed by climate change in Lebanon.

Accordingly, I am pleased to endorse the above grant proposal with support from the Adaptation Fund. If approved, the project will be implemented by UN-Habitat and executed by UNICEF, North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE), Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI), Municipalities, Local NGOs, Academic institutions, and Private technical consultancy firm.

Sincerely,

Minister of Environment  
Tamara El-Zein, PhD



Cc: - ~~United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN House, riad El Solh, +961 1 978398, Beirut, Lebanon)~~  
- MoE - DGoE - Service of Environmental Technology – Department of Air Quality  
- MoE - Climate Change Projects



Revised PFG Submission Form<sup>1</sup> (**additions in red**)

Project Formulation Grant (PFG)

Submission Date: **5 August 2025**

Adaptation Fund Project ID: **AF00000446**

Country/ies: **Lebanon**

Title of Project/Programme: **Nature-based Water Management & Data-Driven Strategy for Climate Resilience in Akkar, Lebanon**

Type of IE (NIE/RIE/MIE): **MIE**

Implementing Entity: **United Nations Human Settlements Program (UN-Habitat)**

Executing Entity/ies: **United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)- Lebanese Agriculture Research Institute (LARI) – North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE) – Bureau Technique pour le Développement (BTD) (Private Sector Consultancy Firm)**

**A. Project Preparation Timeframe**

Start date of PFG	For Concept note preparation (October 2025)
Completion date of PFG	End of Proposal submission (October 2026)

**B. Proposed Project Preparation Activities (\$)**

Table 1: Pre-concept note PFG request

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities (Pre-Concept Note stage)	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note <sup>2</sup>
<b>1. Proposal development</b>			

<sup>1</sup> As presented in AFB/PPRC.33/40 Annex 1.

<sup>2</sup> The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break-down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

1.2 Support team (UN-Habitat)	Proposal template and Annexes developed in compliance with AF Standards	\$7,650	UN-Habitat staff who will be contributing to data gathering and desk review for the development of the proposal, the project is requesting a 7.45k\$ at the pre-concept stage out of 40k\$.
<b>Subtotal 1:</b>		<b>\$7,650</b>	
<b>2. Technical Assessment</b>			
2.1 Water experts	Define the ideal locations to enable fine measurement of the wells to be equipped with associated Bill of Quantities (BOQs) and detail costing is identified.	\$20,000	Fees for the water experts who will conduct the technical assessment for the selection of locations for “Piezometers” and “Abandoned Wells” to support the groundwater monitoring and “Sustainable Water Resource Management”. The project is requesting a 20k\$ at the pre-concept stage out of 60k\$.
<b>Subtotal 2 (defining location):</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>	
<b>IE fees (8.5%)</b>		<b>\$2,350</b>	
<b>Total Project Formulation Grant</b>		<b>\$30,000</b>	

Table 2: Additional PFG for the pre-concept note stage

List of Proposed Project Preparation Activities	Output of the PFG Activities	US\$ Amount	Budget note <sup>3</sup>
<b>2. Proposal development</b>			

<sup>3</sup> The proposal should include a detailed budget with budget notes indicating the break- down of costs at the activity level. It should also include a budget on the Implementing Entity management fee use.

1.1 Consultant fees	Proposal template and Annexes developed in compliance with AF Standards	\$5,000	This related to hiring an individual consultant who will be in charge to compile all materials and develop the full proposal
<b>Subtotal 1:</b>		<b>\$5,000</b>	
<b>2. Technical Assessment</b>			
2.3 Environmental expert to develop BoQ and cost estimation	BoQ and cost estimation are prepared to ensure the selected weather stations will enable the proper data collection and real-time sharing with the different stakeholders.	\$4,000	1 expert to prepare the BoQ and the cost estimate for the weather stations
<b>Subtotal 2 (weather stations):</b>		<b>\$4,000</b>	
2.5 NbS expert for the selection of locations	Selection of the locations to install NbS and selection of the NbS typology as well as the different locations.	\$4,000	Fees for a NbS expert for 1 month
2.6 Water Experts to discuss and validate with the NEW and other stakeholders the proposed interventions	Organization of FGD with community and local stakeholders to revise and refine the proposed interventions and deeply understand their willingness to contribute and engage with in the project	\$3,400	Partial fees for experts who will be conducting focus group discussions with a variety of stakeholders and analyze the outcomes for project purposes
2.7 Conduct a series of Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs) with different stakeholders:		\$2,033	Logistics and expenses to conduct the initial FDGs
<b>Subtotal 2 (validation):</b>		<b>\$9,433</b>	
<b>IE fees (8.5%)</b>		<b>\$1,567</b>	
<b>Total Project Formulation Grant</b>		<b>\$20,000</b>	

Please describe below each of the PFG activities and provide justifications for their need and for the amount of funding required:

**For LLA Projects only:**

If requesting additional funding for LLA projects to enable devolving decision making to the local level, please specify the activities that would directly serve to enable devolving decision making to the lowest appropriate level and enable local actors to make informed decisions on how adaptation actions are defined, prioritized, designed, and implemented:

Please provide justifications for their need and for the amount of additional funding required:

***Rationale for the PFG request.***

*This Project Formulation Grant request is driven by the need for the Implementing Entity (IE) and Executing Entities (EEs) to secure clarity and assurance regarding the scope of technical interventions, in order to cost them accurately in the final proposal. The PFG is structured around **three thematic areas** and **four key components**, each involving different stakeholders and institutions.*

***1. Proposal Development***

*The IE will contract either an individual consultant or a consulting firm with demonstrated experience in preparing proposals for the Adaptation Fund. The objective is to ensure that the proposal meets the required standards of quality, precision, and comprehensiveness expected by the Fund. The consultant/firm will be responsible for drafting a robust, detailed, and technically sound submission.*

***2. Community Consultations and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs)***

*To ensure strong community ownership, consultations will be conducted at both governorate and sub-municipal levels, reaching down to the smallest community units. These FGDs will serve to:*

- *Validate community understanding of local needs.*
- *Secure stakeholder input on the three proposed project components.*
- *Ensure early and active involvement of the community (including vulnerable communities), including their long-term commitment.*

*This process will also solidify the engagement of the North Lebanon Water Establishment (NLWE) and the targeted municipalities in the operation and maintenance of the Nature-based Solutions (NbS) that are selected and validated by local communities.*

***3. Technical Assessments***

*These assessments aim to define the technical scope, Bill of Quantities (BoQs), and detailed intervention designs related to groundwater monitoring and the rehabilitation of weather stations.*

***A. Groundwater Monitoring Assessment***

*This technical component will focus on defining the methodology and scope for establishing an aquifer monitoring network. Key activities include:*

- *Detailed review of the hydrogeological characteristics of the different aquifers in Akkar.*
- *Compilation and analysis of existing secondary data on public and private wells, with pre-selection of representative wells for monitoring.*
- *Selection of strategic locations for the installation of water meters and sensors, considering hydrological characteristics.*
- *Potential pumping tests in areas lacking sufficient hydrogeological data.*
- *Technical consultations with the Ministry of Energy and Water (MoEW), NLWE, academic institutions, and specialized consulting firms.*
- *Assessment of options for secure data storage and integration.*

### ***B. Weather Station Rehabilitation Assessment***

*This assessment will evaluate the current condition of selected weather stations, which play a critical role in understanding aquifer recharge dynamics. The objective is to determine the necessary repairs and upgrades required to:*

- *Restore full operational functionality.*
- *Ensure accurate, real-time climate data collection.*
- *Support effective water resource management and climate adaptation planning.*

### **C. Implementing Entity**

This request has been prepared in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Board’s procedures and meets the Adaptation Fund’s criteria for project identification and formulation

Implementing Entity Coordinator, IE Name	Signature	Date (Month, day, year)	Project Contact Person	Telephone	Email Address
UN-Habitat	<i>Tarek Osseiran</i>	August, 05, 2025	Tarek Osseiran	+961 1 978399 ext 1393, +961 3 233671	tarek.osseiran@un.org