



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Fund Board Secretariat

***Approval of request for the inclusion of solar-powered boreholes as an eligible sub-project:
United Nations World Food Programme (The Gambia)***

Weight of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 21 October 2025, the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) submitted a change request for the project “Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project in the Gambia (RICAR)”. This request is for the inclusion of solar-powered boreholes as an eligible sub-project. According to the memo provided by WFP, the request is due to the demand of the 16 targeted communities across the Upper River Region and the Central River Region to construct solar-powered boreholes to provide reliable access to water for their vegetable gardens. Further field consultations with project partners revealed that alternative sources of water such as hand-dug wells, surface water, or rainwater harvesting are not fully adequate to provide the required amount of water for off-season production particularly given the erratic rainfall patterns and salinity issues affecting surface water. While the construction of boreholes was not originally supported by the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, and Natural Resources of the Gambia during the project proposal stage, it has since then endorsed it in a memo dated 10 July 2025. Considering the results of the community participatory processes and the ensuing endorsement by the Gambian government, WFP has put forward this request to bridge the gap between the original design assumptions and practical community needs.

The proposed revision will be implemented in the original project sites. It also does not constitute a change in scope of the project that would result in a significant deviation from the project's expected adaptation outcomes and goals. Therefore, WFP proposes no change to the project budget and the targets in the results framework as two indicators (Output 2.1.2a Number and type of adaptation assets created or strengthened in support of community livelihood strategies, and Output 2.1.2b Number of community assets created through the project) will capture the results from the boreholes construction.

WFP has screened the boreholes construction against the Adaptation Fund's Environment and Social Policy and Gender Policy. The screening found that the addition of boreholes to the eligible sub-project list does not change the risk classification, and the project remains within Category B. Additionally, appropriate risk mitigation measures have been incorporated into the Environmental and Social Management Plan for the proposed borehole construction.

As such, the Secretariat considers the request a minor request. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authority has submitted a letter endorsing the proposed revision, that the Implementing Entity has submitted a letter providing background information and an explanation on the proposed revisions, including updated environmental, social and gender screenings, in alignment with the Fund's Environmental and Social Policy and Gender Policy, as well as outcomes of the

consultative processes, and a revised fully developed project document in track changes, reflecting all modifications induced by the proposed revisions, in line with the Policy on Project Post-Approval Requests for Changes in Projects/Programmes.

Secretariat's review of the request

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by WFP and considers the request for a postponement of the project inception date to be justified. It also acknowledges that the DA has been duly notified, in line with the Policy on Project Post-Approval Requests for Changes in Projects/Programmes.

Conclusion

Following the review of the request to include the construction of solar-powered boreholes as an eligible sub-project submitted by WFP for the project "Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building Project in The Gambia (RICAR)" implemented in The Gambia, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy on Project Post-Approval Requests for Changes in Projects/Programmes.

Clearance: AFBSEC-2025-23