



# UNDP - Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator

## Design insights and lessons learnt

Adaptation Fund's webinar  
19 March 2026



# Geographical presence

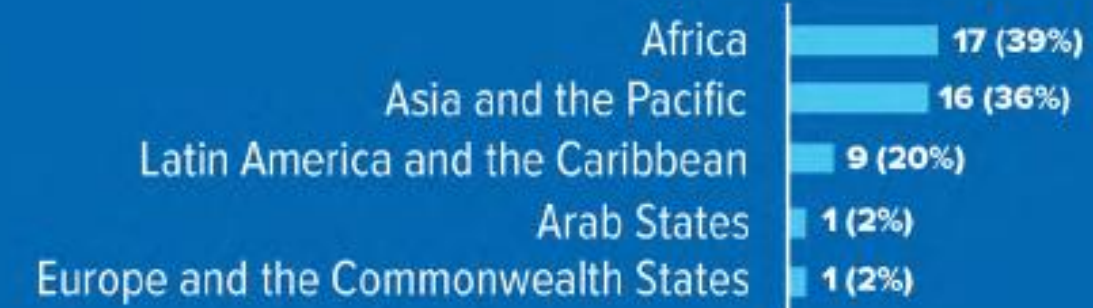
Number of initiatives per country



The distribution of UNDP-AFCIA funding is strategically tailored to address diverse challenges in different countries, underlining the accelerator's global and inclusive approach to face climate change across regions.



**44** initiatives | **33** countries



# Funding per region

Total grant funding delivered  
across 44 initiatives

**\$8,383,246**

**\$3,636,725**

Africa

**\$2,634,024**

Asia and  
the Pacific

**\$120,000**

Arab  
States

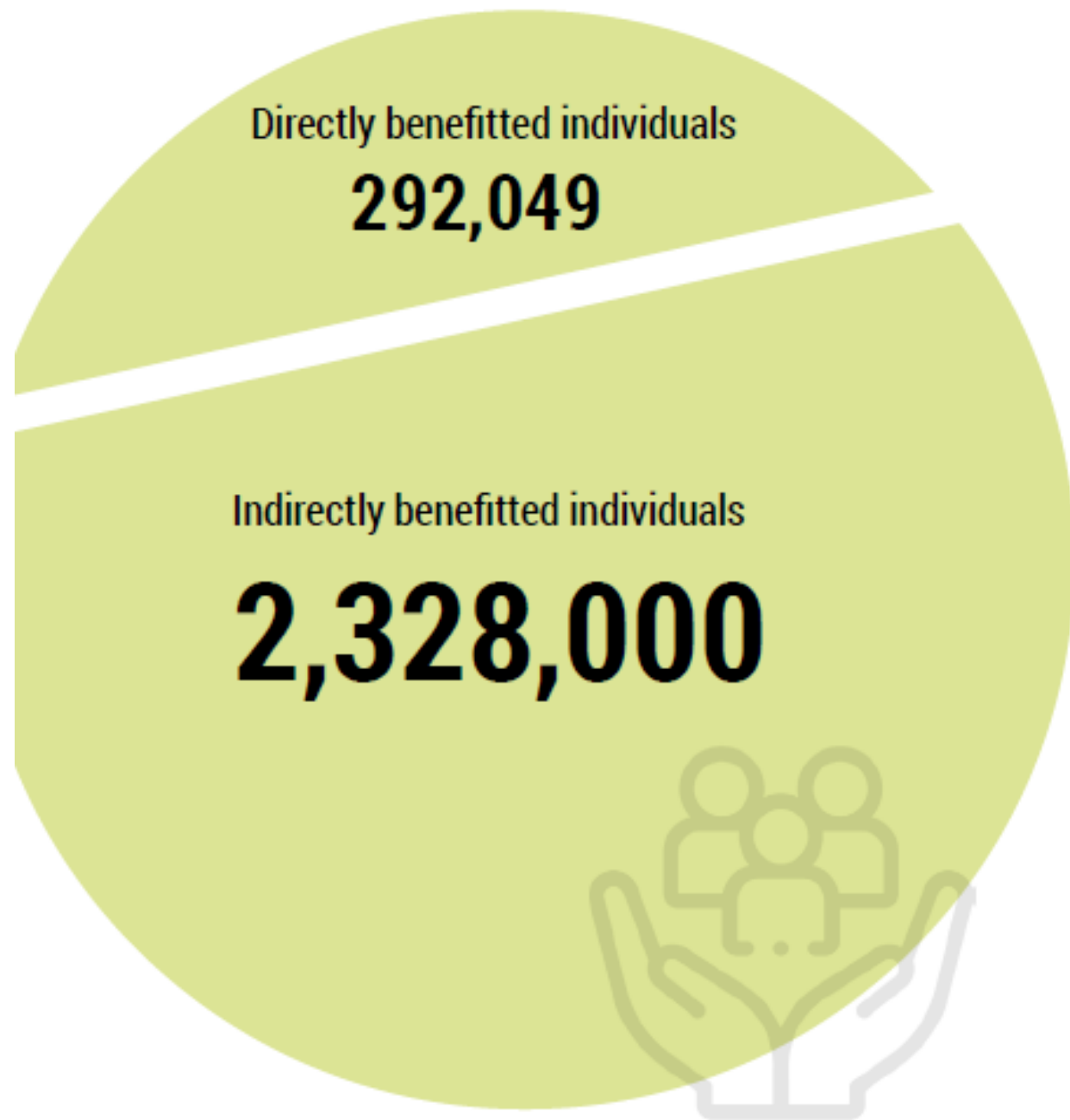
**\$159,497**

Europe and  
Central Asia

**\$1,833,000**

Latin America and the  
Caribbean

# UNDP-AFCIA impact data



Total number of people reached (direct and indirect)

**2,620,049**

**12** New innovative solutions tested

**36** Existing or new solutions accelerated

**29,207 hectares** Land restored or protected

**1,309** Green jobs created

**21,732** Households with improved livelihoods

**6** Initiatives exploring the voluntary carbon credit market

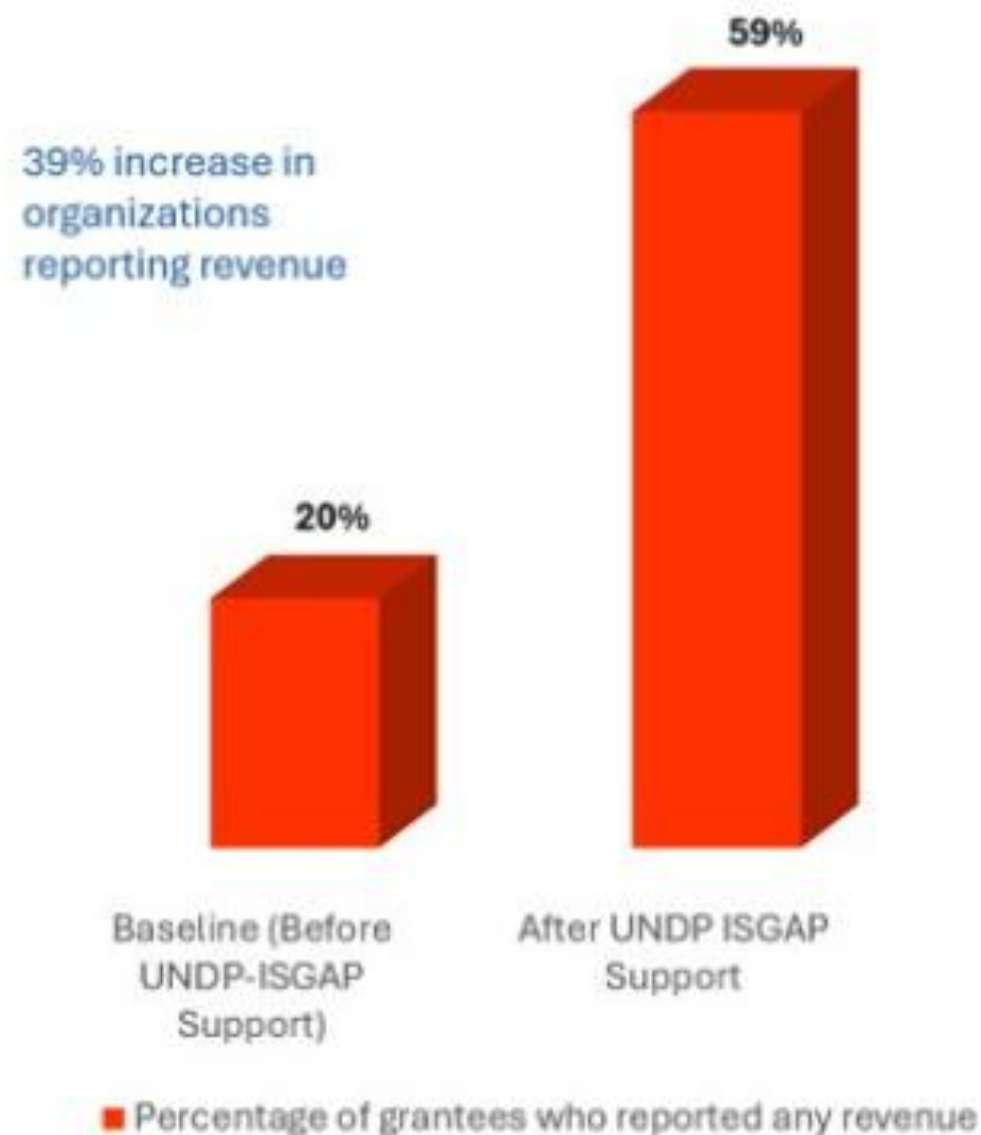
**47,132** Individuals with improved productivity or professional skills

**\$4,171,424** Additional funding unlocked by UNDP-AFCIA grantees

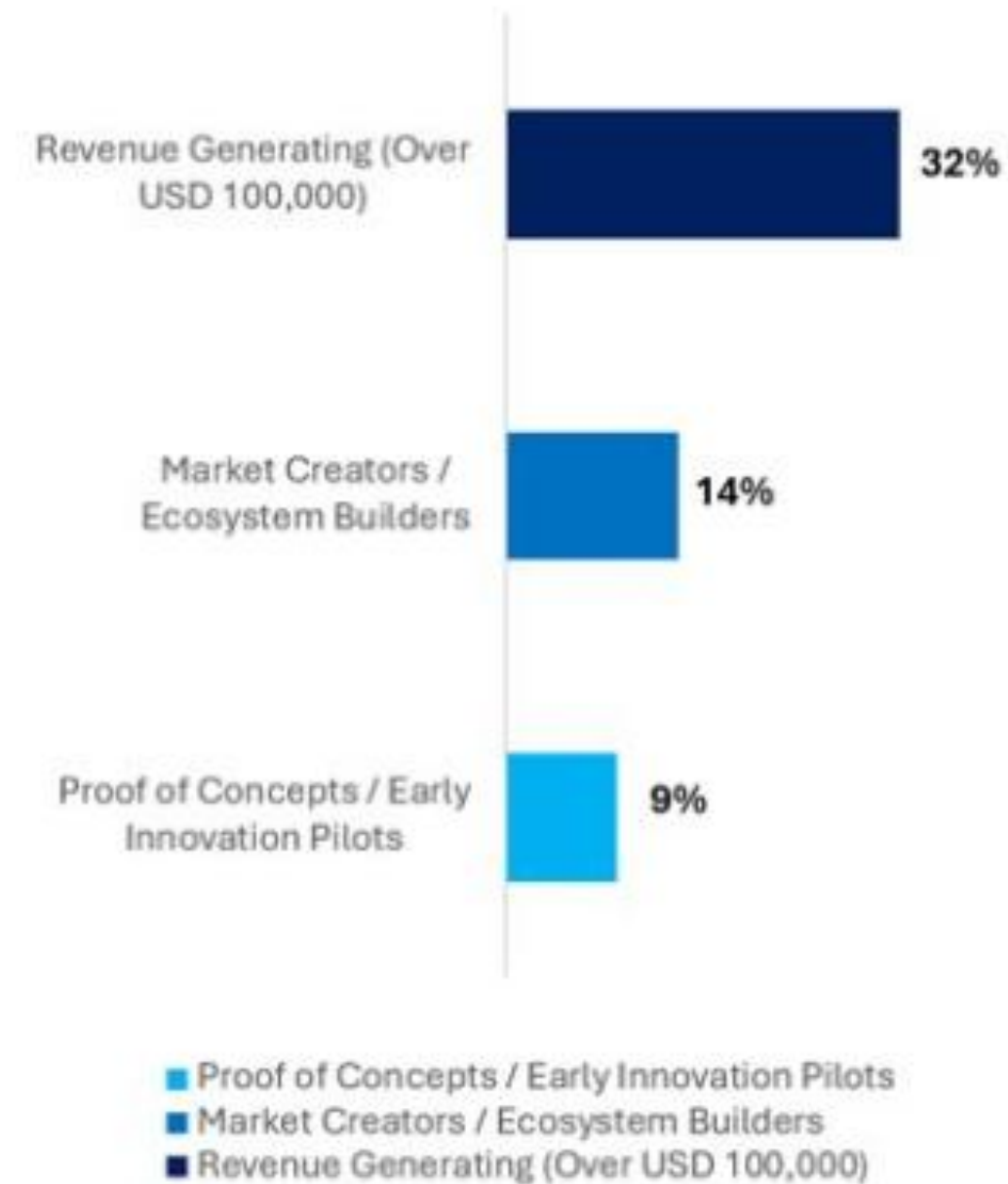
## Key focus of UNDP-AFCIA Phase 1:

Tracking and promoting models that shift from grant dependence to income-generating initiatives to ensure long-term viability and sustainability.

### Growth in Revenue-Generating Capacity of UNDP-AFCIA Grantees



### Business Outcomes across UNDP-AFCIA Grantees





# Lessons & Recommendations

**Insights from UNDP- AFCIA Phase I  
for Strengthening Adaptation Programming**

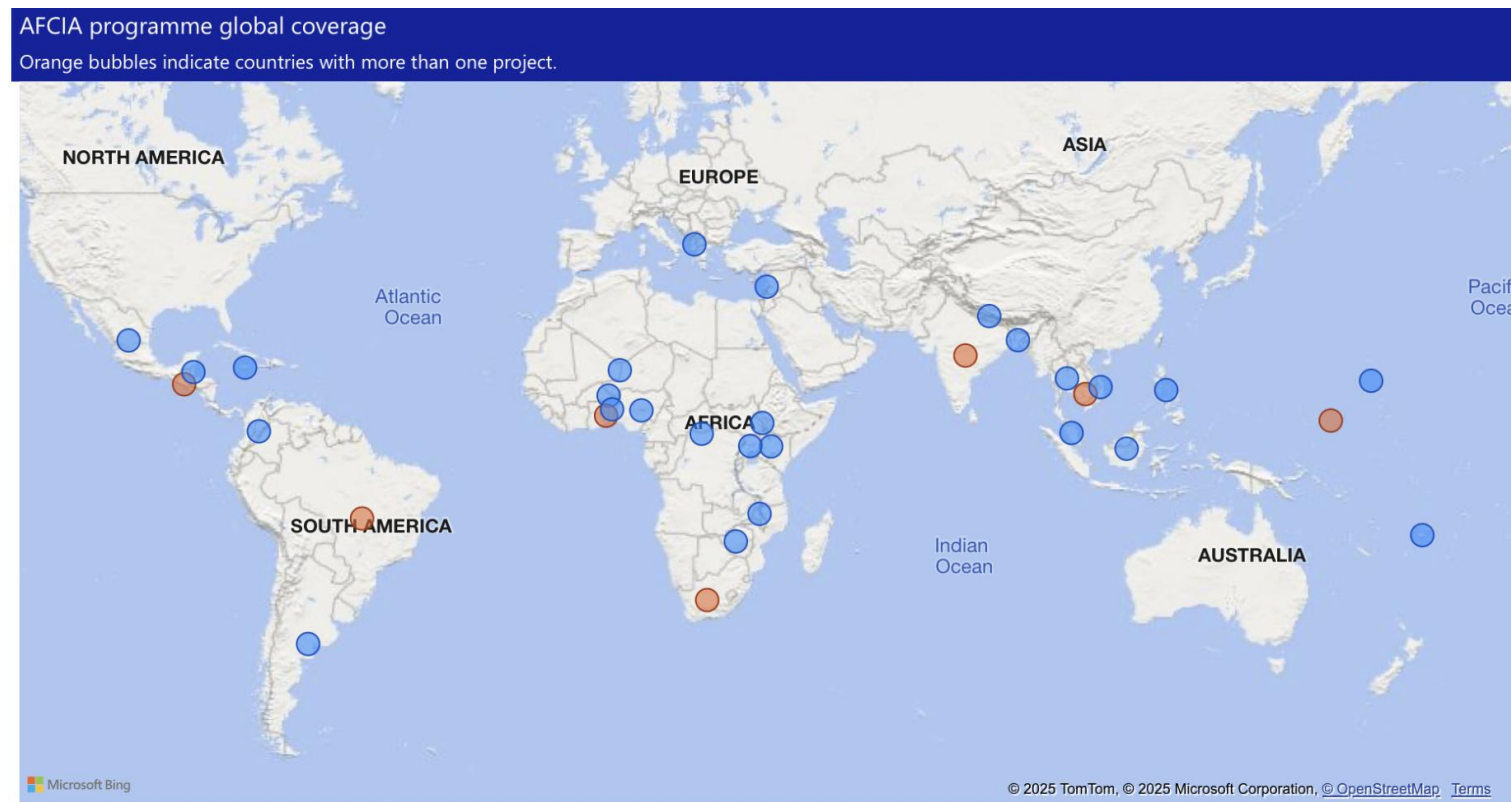


# Improvements in design...

## AFCIA Phase 2

### AFCIA Phase 1

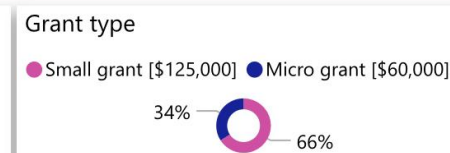
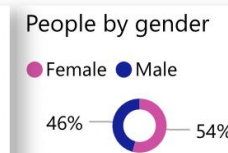
Two global calls (two cohorts selected). Eligible applicants included **not-for-profit organizations** such as NGOs, CSOs, Business Member Associations, cooperatives & community-based organizations registered in developing countries.



No. of projects funded  
44

No. of countries reached  
33

Total people reached (direct and indirect)  
2.6M



- **Two global call for proposals (1 for not-for-profit, 1 for MSMEs)**, with targeted outreach through UNDP's five Regional Bureaus, UNDP's COs, AF's Secretariat.
- **Selection of proposals** will consider:
  - Quality and readiness of proposals
  - Categorization in: **1) Market Ready Innovations; 2) Scale-ready innovations; 3) Public good-anchored innovations.**
- **Focusing in three thematic areas: resilient food systems, NBS, DRR**
- **2–3 high-capacity grantees** will be supported per selected country, if possible.
- A **clustering approach** will:
  - Leverage COs' existing local networks, ecosystem building and opportunities
  - Enable in-country peer learning and collaboration
  - **Cost-effective delivery** and tailored scaling pathways.

# Impact



Urban adapt



Innovative adaptation financing



Focus on communities



Disaster-risk reduction



Nature-based solutions



Food security

## AFCIA Phase 2: focus in three thematic areas



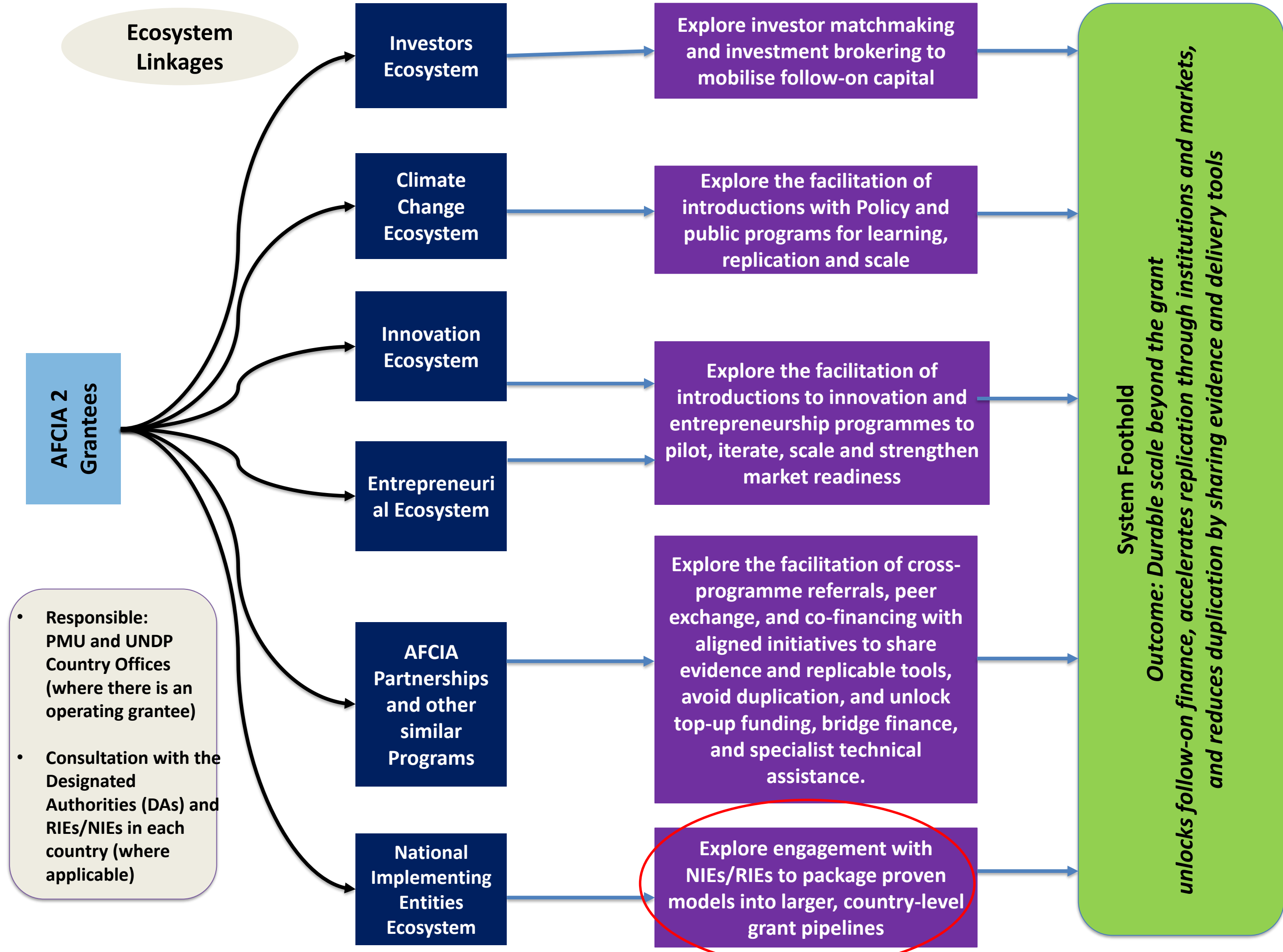
Total investment

**\$8,383,246** AFCIA Phase 1

# Preliminary selection criteria – AFCIA Phase 2

- High potential grantees will be selecting utilizing the following criteria (**list is not extensive and to be further refined in the full proposal**):
  - Solution addresses specific **climate risks**;
  - Community-led and benefit directly **vulnerable communities** (youth or elderly, women, Indigenous Peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic minorities, etc);
  - Their solution is **innovative according to AF’s definition** of “innovation for adaptation”\*
  - Organizations must have track record of **income generation** or demonstrate **revenue generation potential**, as this is the main vehicle to scale and to ensure financial sustainability;
  - Must present a clear **pathway to sustainability and scaling**;
  - Solutions should clearly define and demonstrate a theory of change around **environmental and socio-economic impact**.

*\*The creating, testing, deployment or diffusion of new, adapted or improved adaptation solutions, developed contextually and with the inclusion of the communities most vulnerable to climate change, to enable those communities to become more resilient to climate change. Innovation solutions may include **approaches, technologies and mechanisms**. Innovation projects and programmes differ from concrete adaptation projects and programmes in the nature of their **stakeholder engagement**, including with unconventional actors, and in the emphasis on **iterative deployment where change, learning, and new information is embraced** and can take innovation projects and programmes in different directions.*



## Embed local leadership & inclusive design

**Prioritize inclusive design and tailor flexible funding modalities** that allow implementers to respond to local needs, rather than rigid, pre-prescribed activities.



## **Strengthen ecosystems & multi-stakeholder engagement**

**Actively engage national stakeholders**  
(government, private sector, financial institutions)  
to embed innovations into policy frameworks and  
national climate strategies.



# Combine finance with tailored technical assistance and brokering

Pair small, flexible grants with technical assistance, business coaching, knowledge and investment brokering (impact investors, philanthropy networks, blended finance platforms).



## Build pathways to scale & long - term sustainability

Collaborations with **universities** or private sector partners, to provide tailored mentorship **to refine business models, follow-on funding roadmaps and develop market analyses.**



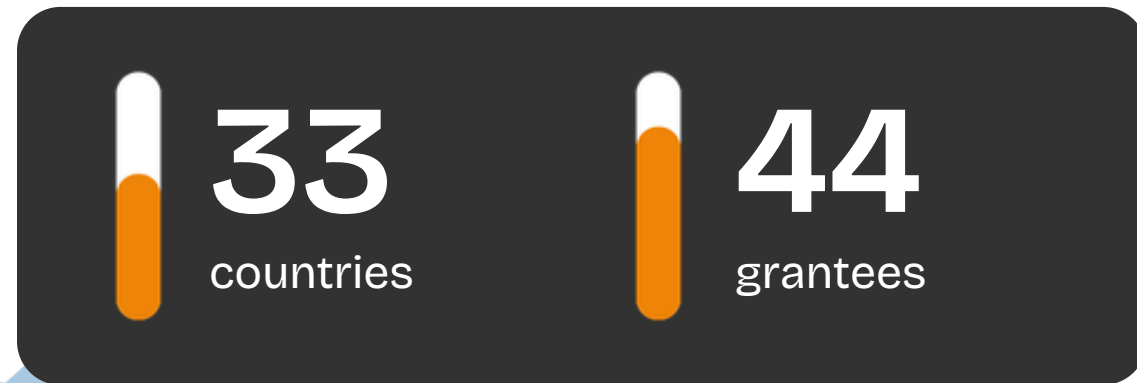
**Capture, use and disseminate lessons learnt and impact evidence.**

**Incorporate continuous learning loops and feedback mechanisms in project cycles to learn from “failure” and adapt design accordingly.**



# UNDP-AFCIA Impact Report

Key findings, impact and lessons learned of a 5-year journey.



**Accessible here:**

<https://www.undp.org/publications/adaptation-fund-climate-innovation-accelerator-impact-report-2020-2025>



## Lessons for adaptation and resilience



Photo: Action for Environmental Sustainability (AfES)

## Lessons on innovation



Photo: HEKS/EPER Cambodia

## Lessons on locally led adaptation



Photo: Phil Kabuje / UNDP Tanzania

## Lessons on gender equality and mainstreaming



Photo: Foundation for Community-Soul (FCS)

## Lessons on replicability and scalability



Photo: Open Ghana

## Lessons on knowledge generation and exchange



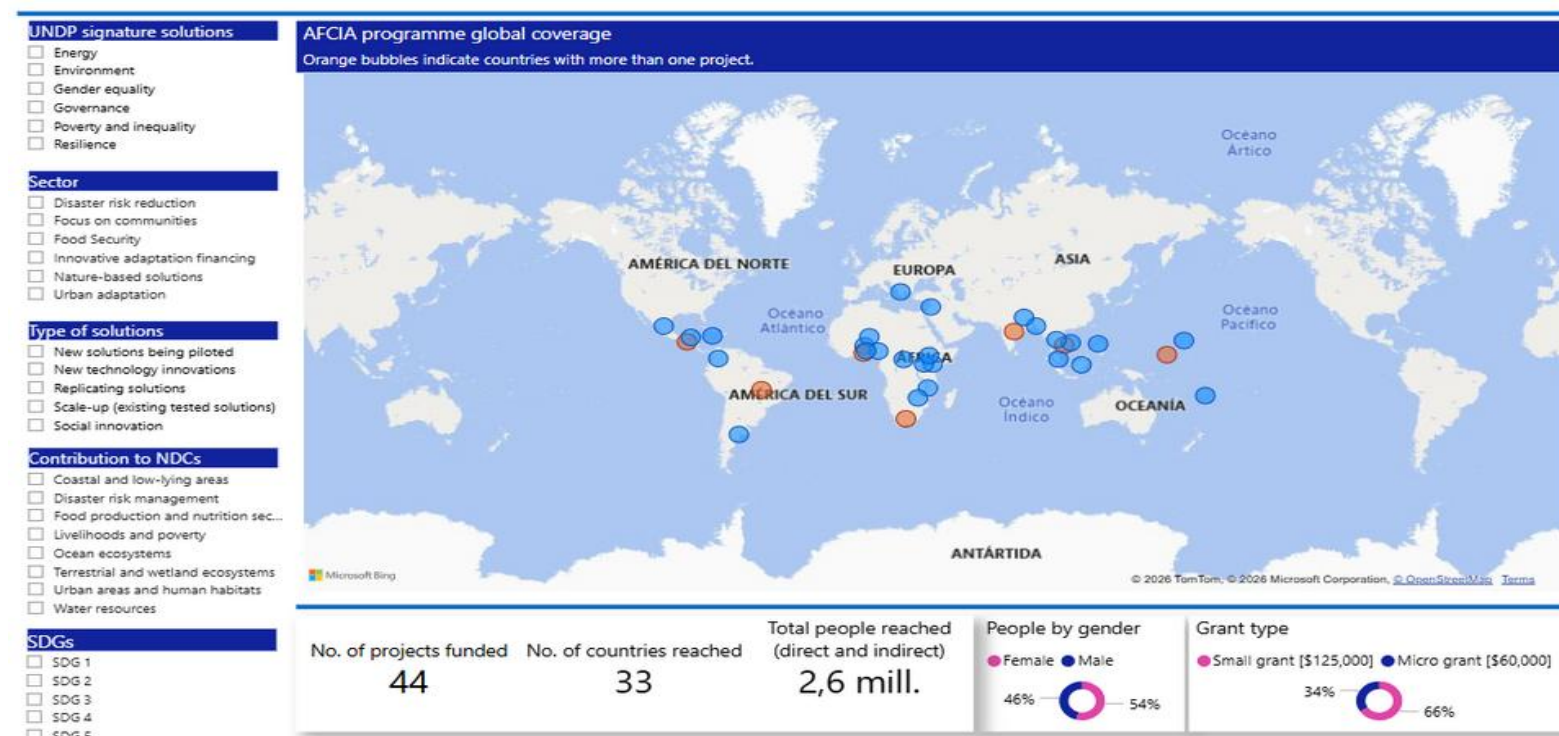
Photo: Smart Farms Fiji Foundation

Accessible here: <https://www.adaptation-undp.org/smallgrantaggregator/>

## Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator Programme (AFCIA) Dashboard

Adaptation Fund - European Union - UNDP Innovation Small Grant Aggregator Platform

This dashboard has been developed to present high-level information and results of the AFCIA programme. It enables interaction based on signature solutions, sectors, interventions, Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and SDGs.



NEWS October 23, 2025

### How locally led adaptation is shaping a climate-resilient future

Locally led innovations empower communities globally to build lasting resilience to the climate crisis.

READ MORE



NEWS September 25, 2025

### UNDP-AFCIA Global Closure Workshop: Celebrating five years of grassroots climate innovation

In Cape Town, AFCIA partners came together to share lessons learned and shape the future of climate action.

READ MORE

**Albania**

**Organization:** Gendra Burimore e Mjedisit ne Shqipëri (Resource Environmental Centre Albania)

**Location:** Municipality of Shkoder and Municipality of Vore

**Solution:** Climate-smart agriculture techniques for olive crops and irrigation in Albania

**Factsheet Period:** First round of UNDP AFCIA funding (16 months)

**Key achievements**

- Created a connectivity-fuelled aggregation of 20 smallholder farmers with a legal and cost-sharing framework
- Implemented solar-based irrigation systems benefiting 20 farmers (eight women)
- Introduced a shredding technology (new to Albania) for olive pruning residues, enhancing soil-based carbon sequestration
- Reduced farmers' working time by 400 hours per 1000 olive trees
- Delivered two new technologies, biomass shredding and renewable water pumping to 20 smallholder farmers, benefiting 57 community members
- Trained 122 high school students and 36 farmers on climate change, emerging low-carbon technologies and gender considerations in sustainability
- Established two farmer collectives led by women farmers

**Social impact**

- Promotes collaboration with a focus on community involvement and shared responsibility over productive assets
- Empower local communities by increasing resilience and productivity in agriculture

**Adaptation benefits**

- Enhanced carbon capture and soil health
- Improved water management with solar-based irrigation, increasing water access
- Boosted agricultural efficiency with advanced technologies and mechanization
- Strengthened smallholder farmers' resilience to climate impacts

**Innovation**

- Enhances sustainability through farmer connectivity and integration
- Improves soil carbon capture, reduces costs and introduces renewable technologies in the olive sector
- Addresses challenges like input costs, productivity and climate vulnerability
- Promotes economic empowerment and resilience among smallholder farmers

**Replication potential**

- Expanding a connectivity model to include new smallholders
- Distributing technology and knowledge to other regions in Albania, such as Obot and Marqinet, to benefit other farmer communities

**Funding snapshot**

- UNDP-AFCIA grant: US\$60,000 (initial grant)

Investability	
Revenue per year	\$12,250 from increased agricultural production and sales, as well as cost savings due to lower dependence on national energy grid.
Sustaining criteria	Technologies purchased using the UNDP-AFCIA grant have low maintenance costs, as they are more energy efficient and require less labour. The increased crop yields and market access ensure overall financial sustainability without further investment.
Financial innovation	Introducing investment and farmer cost-sharing for new technologies, fostering the development of productive assets and stimulating social and economic growth in rural areas.  A collaborative approach mitigates the financial burden on individual farmers and ensures their engagement and commitment, leading to more sustainable and impactful outcomes.

## Local Innovators Driving Climate Adaptation | ...

de UNDP Climate

Lista de reproducción • 44 videos • 93 visualizaciones

In every corner of the world, communities are implementing locally led adaptation solutions to me... más

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Guatemala

2:10

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1:54

Restoring land and livelihoods through climate-smart agriculture in West Timor:...

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Scaling locally led adaptation  
Malaysia

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Restauración de bosques y construcción de una economía verde con las...

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Nigeria

1:53

Climate-smart crops and greenhouse tech in Nigeria: Sustainable Environment...

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Food security through community-led food gardens in South Africa: RULIV NPC

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# Thanks for your attention!

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ADAPTATION FUND

