ADAPTATION FUND
Readiness Programme
for Climate Finance

Webinar: Seeking input on Draft Guidance Document for Revised Strategic Results Framework

5 March 2026

Summary Report

Introduction

The Adaptation Fund Secretariat convened a technical webinar to seek input on the Draft Guidance Document for Revised Strategic Results Framework. The webinar formed part of the Secretariat's broader effort to strengthen results-based management, enhance learning at portfolio level, and ensure alignment with the Fund's Medium-Term Strategy, the Global Goal on Adaptation, and evolving global adaptation priorities. The session provided Implementing Entities (IEs) with an overview of the rationale for the SRF revision, highlighted key technical changes to indicators and guidance, and outlined the proposed transition approach and next steps. The webinar was designed to facilitate early engagement with IEs, gather feedback on draft guidance, and ensure that the revised SRF remains both robust at portfolio level and sufficiently flexible to accommodate diverse country contexts and implementation modalities.

Background and Rationale for the SRF Revision

The Secretariat emphasized that the revision of the SRF responds to both strategic and operational considerations. While preserving the Fund's core strategic architecture, namely the strategic goal, impact statement, and eight outcomes, the revised SRF aims to improve clarity, usability, and consistency of reporting across the portfolio. The revision also seeks to better capture results related to locally led adaptation and innovation, while reducing reporting burden on Implementing Entities.

A key design principle underpinning the revision is continuity. Rather than introducing a new framework, the Secretariat has refined existing indicators, consolidated methodologies, and clarified definitions to improve aggregation, attribution, and learning. The number of indicators has been reduced from 33 to 27, while the number of core indicators has increased from five to six (an existing indicator was elevated to become a core indicator), reflecting a sharper focus on Fund-level reporting priorities.

Key Highlights

- The webinar provided a detailed technical overview of the revised SRF, focusing on indicator design, reporting principles, and methodological clarifications.
- Particular attention was given to the beneficiaries indicator, which has historically posed reporting challenges. The revised guidance introduced a principles-based approach to classifying direct and indirect beneficiaries, based on targeting and intensity of support. Practical examples and application rubrics will be included in the guidance to support consistent application across sectors.
- The webinar also highlighted changes related to early warning systems. While the headline measure of people supported is retained, people covered by early warning systems will generally be reported under a dedicated early warning indicator, rather than being double-counted under the core beneficiaries indicator. Limited exceptions may apply where outcome-level behavior change or multiple types of support can be demonstrated.

- Additional clarifications were presented for indicators related to physical assets, ecosystems and natural resources, and policies, strategies, and plans. These refinements aim to strengthen quantitative reporting, align disaggregation with internationally recognized frameworks, and improve Fund-level visibility of policy-related results.
- The Secretariat presented the structure of the consolidated SRF guidance document, which brings together previously dispersed guidance into a single reference document. The guidance document is organized to support navigation from high-level SRF concepts to detailed indicator reference sheets, disaggregation tables, and practical examples.
- The webinar addressed reporting frequency and the proposed transition to the revised SRF. The Secretariat noted that while the current Project Performance Report (PPR) cycle will be maintained, options for annual reporting of selected indicators are being explored to enhance portfolio-level learning and reporting. Participants were invited to provide feedback on the feasibility and potential burden of such approaches.
- A gradual, portfolio-wide transition approach was proposed to avoid parallel standards and minimize disruption. Ongoing projects will not be required to re-baseline or retrofit existing results frameworks. Instead, IEs will be asked to map existing indicators to the revised SRF during the transition period. Updated PPR templates and portal functionality will support this process once the guidance is finalized.

Key Discussion Points and Feedback

Throughout the webinar, IEs raised questions and provided feedback on indicator interpretation, alignment between project-level and Fund-level results frameworks, and the practicality of minimum reporting requirements. The Secretariat also sought feedback on proposed changes to alignment terminology, whereby project outcomes would map to Fund outcomes and project outputs to Fund outputs, to reduce confusion and improve coherence. Participants emphasized the importance of clear guidance on multi-donor projects and the need to aligned guidance across the funds. The Secretariat acknowledged these concerns and indicated that further clarification would be considered as part of the guidance finalization process.

Way Forward and Next Steps

The Secretariat outlined a clear set of next steps following the webinar. Draft guidance has been shared with IEs for consultation, with an initial two-week feedback period and flexibility to extend as needed. To support implementation, the Secretariat will provide a dedicated helpdesk function for a few months and organize additional webinars and trainings focused on practical application of the revised SRF and reporting templates.

Webinar – SRF: Q&A Summary

Question	Response

Considering the challenges the Adaptation Fund has identified in ensuring consistency and comparability of results across diverse contexts, how will the revised guidance balance standardization with flexibility for Implementing Entities to adapt indicators to their local contexts and capacities?	The Secretariat noted that flexibility will be ensured by allowing Implementing Entities to report on indicators that are relevant to their specific country contexts. In addition, a helpdesk function will be established to provide tailored support to Implementing Entities as they apply the revised guidance. The revised guidance will enter into force three months after it is formally shared with all Implementing Entities and will be developed through consultations with them.
When do the revised SRF changes enter into force?	The Secretariat clarified that the revised SRF guidance will take effect three months after the guidance document is officially shared with all Implementing Entities.
Do projects approved at the October 2025 Board meeting need to apply the revised SRF?	Projects approved at the October 2025 Board meeting are not required to already apply the revised SRF, as the updated guidance has not yet been finalized. However, if these projects choose to apply the revised SRF voluntarily at an early stage, the Secretariat will provide dedicated support, including a separate technical call.
Which SRF indicators currently create the most ambiguity for implementers, and what clarifications should be added?	Historically, indicators related to income and the measurement of indirect beneficiaries have posed the greatest challenges. To address this, the Secretariat will prepare a specific guidance note with concrete examples to facilitate consistent reporting.
Could you identify priority indicators for harmonization across AF, GCF, and other funds, and share expected timelines?	The Funds are exploring opportunities for common reporting approaches. For adaptation, common reporting on beneficiaries is expected to be shared soon. Further work will be undertaken to harmonize methodologies, particularly related to beneficiary definitions and counting, although specific timelines were not confirmed.

Concluding Remarks

Ms. Neha Sharma, Lead of Results, Impact and Knowledge team, underscored the Fund's commitment to strengthening results-based management while preserving flexibility for country-driven implementation. By refining rather than replacing the existing SRF, the Fund aims to improve clarity, comparability, and learning across its portfolio, while reducing reporting burden on Implementing Entities. The consultative approach adopted by the Secretariat reflects a shared commitment to ensuring that the revised SRF is technically sound, practical, and responsive to the needs of diverse stakeholders.