



ADAPTATION FUND

REVISED STRATEGIC RESULTS FRAMEWORK AND GUIDANCE DOCUMENT

15 July 2026



Overview

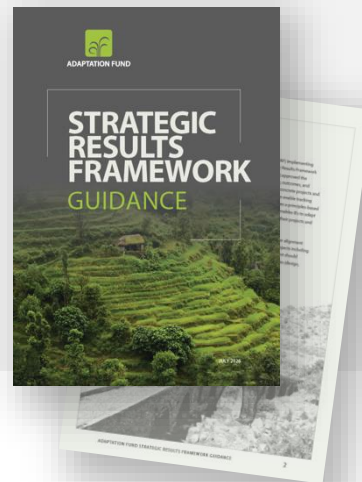
Welcome and background

Overview of the SRF Guidance Document

Applying the revised SRF in practice

Next steps

Q & A





Welcome and Background

Neha Sharma

Lead, Impact, Results and Knowledge Unit,
Adaptation Fund





Board Decision B.45/3

The adaptation fund board (the board), having considered the information contained in document AFB/B.45/8, including the development of specific indicators for the innovation and locally led adaptation portfolio and alignment of current indicators with the global goal on adaptation and other developments, decided:

- (a) To approve the proposed revisions to the strategic results framework (SRF) as contained in document AFB/B.45/8, taking into account the guidance provided by the board;
- (b) To request the secretariat to revise the project performance report templates as needed and develop a guidance document on the revised SRF and related revised project performance report templates, and to share them with the implementing entities, with the understanding that implementing entities were required to report, per current practice, on the proposed indicators relevant to their country context, with mandatory alignment to at least one core indicator;
- (c) To consult with the board when preparing the guidance document;
- (d) That the SRF would come into effect three months after the revised project performance report templates and guidance documents referred to above were shared with the implementing entities.



Rationale for SRF Revision



1

Align with Medium Term Strategy II (2023-27) (MTS II) and Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA)



2

Reflect the Fund's enhanced focus on locally led adaptation and innovation



3

Introduce more flexibility to meet local conditions and more clarity on measurement/attribution



What has changed!

Same Core Structure

Key goals, impact statements, and outcome areas remain unchanged to preserve strategic direction. The number of indicators decreased from 33 to 28. Clarity in wording, removal of redundant indicators. New Indicators for Locally-Led Adaptation and Innovation.

Same reporting requirements

Projects continue choosing relevant indicators, avoiding unnecessary reporting burdens.

Portfolio Comparability

Portfolio-level aggregation remains consistent, with some improvements, enabling measurement and comparability over time.

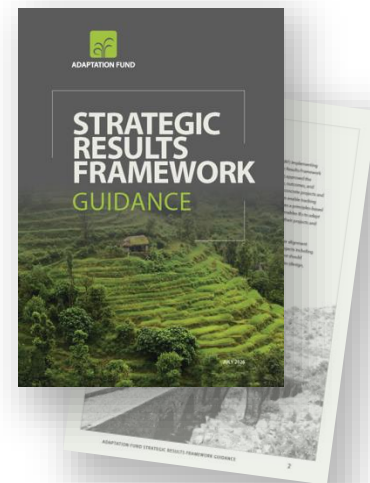




Purpose of the revised SRF Guidance Document

Guides IEs in applying the revised 2025 Strategic Results Framework (SRF) across all funding windows, including innovation and locally led adaptation (LLA).

- Provides a comprehensive overview of the Fund's approach to results-based management, including minimum requirements.
- Clearly explains how to develop, monitor, report, and communicate project results against the SRF.
- Takes a principles-based approach, giving IEs the flexibility to adapt the guidance to their project and programme circumstances.
- Supersedes earlier guidance to align with the revised SRF approved under Board Decision B.45/3.

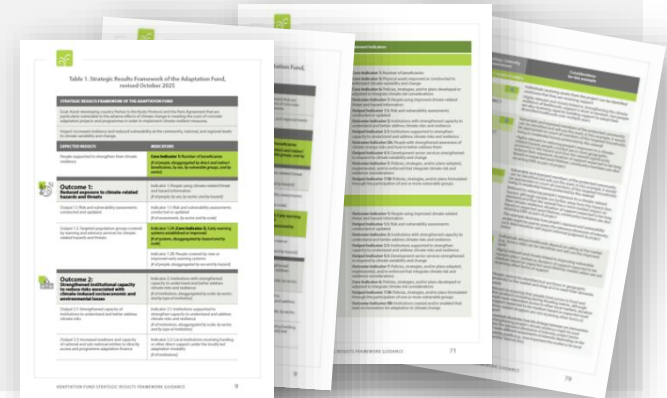




Overview of the revised SRF Guidance Document

Jessica Kyle

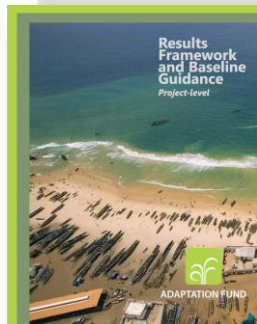
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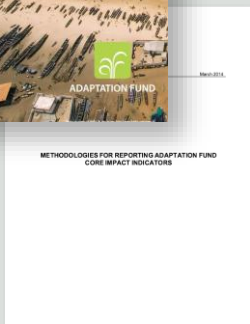


Updated, consolidated, and clearer guidance

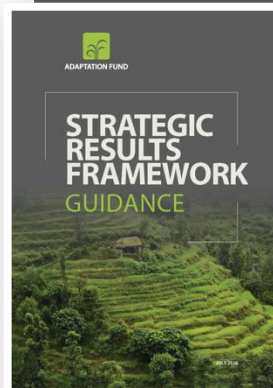
Previous guidance



- Methodologies for Reporting Adaptation Fund Core Impact Indicators
- Project-Level Results Frameworks and Baseline Guidance Document
- Results Tracker Guidance Document



New guidance



- Adaptation Fund Strategic Results Framework Guidelines, including:
- How to apply the SRF during project design and report against it during project implementation
- Guidance on project-specific results frameworks
- Illustrative project-specific and SRF indicator reporting templates
- Consolidated set of indicator reference sheets with definitions and methodologies for all SRF indicators



Updated, consolidated, and clearer guidance

Chapter 1 Introduction

- Overview of Guidance Document
- Where to find information

Chapter 2 Overview of the SRF

- Results-based management overview
- Overview of the SRF
- Full SRF as approved by the AFB in October 2025

Chapter 3 How to Apply the SRF

- Summary of requirements
- Applying the SRF at project design
- Reporting against the SRF during implementation
- Fund-level aggregation and reporting

Chapter 4 Indicator Reference Sheets

- Adaptation Fund beneficiaries indicator
- Indicators by Strategic Outcome
- Suggested disaggregation categories

Annexes

- Annex 1: Glossary of key terms
- Annex 2: Supporting practical guidance on beneficiaries indicator, including examples of common project support



Indicator reference sheets

Indicator reference sheets for Core Indicators and Strategic

Outcomes

- Definition
- Methodology
- Disaggregation categories
- Baseline and target setting
- Reporting frequency
- Links with other SRF indicators



4.1 ADAPTATION FUND BENEFICIARIES

Core Indicator 1: Number of beneficiaries	
Unit: Number of people	
Definition	
This indicator counts the total number of people who have been supported by AF-funded interventions to strengthen their resilience to climate change impacts.^a People reported under this indicator are divided into two categories: direct beneficiaries and indirect beneficiaries. Direct beneficiaries are counted as direct indirect beneficiaries, which is determined based on the targeting and intensity of support provided. Targeting: Targeted support is the intentional assistance of a project to people who are: - Explicitly identified by the project and - Aware they are receiving support and/or use the specific resources provided by the project. Intensity: Intensity of support refers to the level of assistance provided, ranging from high to medium to low based on: - Duration/frequency/duration and/or frequency of support and/or benefit. - Relevance how closely linked the support and/or benefit is to strengthening people's climate resilience. - Cost-effectiveness/Duration and/or frequency of support and/or benefit. - Extent whether people require multi-point forms of support and/or benefit.	
Methodology	
Project teams should determine whether beneficiaries are direct or indirect according to (a) whether beneficiaries are targeted, and (b) the intensity of support provided to beneficiaries, as follows:	
Targeted Not targeted	Low intensity Medium intensity High intensity Not counted Indirect beneficiaries Direct beneficiaries
Teams are expected to apply professional judgment in assessing the intensity of support. They should support their assessments with a short qualitative description in the core indicator reporting form. Additional practical guidance is provided in Annex 2 to help project teams make judgments. This Annex includes guiding questions for assessing relevance, duration, and extent of support across the high-medium-low intensity continuum, as well as concrete examples of typical AF-funded activities on low intensity. The beneficiary core indicator applies to all activities under the project. Projects may support beneficiaries through multiple different types of activities. For example, one component of a project may support direct beneficiaries with associated livelihood practices, while a second component may support beneficiaries with access to new community assets. In practice, this means that projects may need to use more than one project specific indicator to capture the total number of beneficiaries from all project components. It should clearly demonstrate in the core indicator reporting form which project specific indicator they will use to measure their total direct/indirect beneficiaries.	

(continued on following page)

^a While this core indicator does not seek to explicitly measure whether AF-funded support was critical in strengthening people's resilience to climate change impacts, through climate change, should be considered as a project outcome or an output indicator.



Strategic Outcome 2:

Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses



Indicator 2: Institutions with strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks and resilience	
Associated AF result: Outcome 2: Strengthened institutional capacity to reduce risks associated with climate-induced socioeconomic and environmental losses	
Unit: Number of institutions	
Definition	
This indicator counts the number of institutions that demonstrate strengthened capacity to understand and better address climate risks. Institutions may include public or private sector organizations operating at national and/or local levels. Strengthened capacity may be reflected through improvements in relevant institutional functions, such as: - Secure management, including financial, human, or technical resources dedicated to understanding and addressing climate risks and resilience. - Staff competencies, including skills and knowledge at all levels to understand, identify, and address climate risks, and design and implement appropriate adaptation measures. - Having frameworks to collect, analyze, and disseminate climate risk information, including the development of use of risk and vulnerability assessments, and the integration of adaptation priorities into plans or budgets. - Management systems, procedures, and tools that are cost-effective and efficient implementation of adaptation measures, including through stakeholder engagement and "resilient corridors". - Service delivery and responsiveness to the adaptation needs of targeted populations.	
Methodology	
As a core indicator under this outcome and goal, an institution must show measurable change in its capacity and not simply participation in AF-funded activities. Note that Outcome Indicator 2.1.1, use of a limitation that occurred capacity building is support under the AF-funded project, which is the current indicator counts only to use institutions that demonstrate strengthened capacity as a result of that support. Methods used to measure this indicator should be appropriate for assessing changes in knowledge, perceptions, and practices, such as surveys, key informant interviews, and/or focus group discussions. For example, surveys of institutional staff may be employed to capture perceptions of improved resource management, staff capacity, and management systems. Where feasible, perceptions from communities or groups served by the institution should be included to assess improvements in service delivery and responsiveness. If feasible, a baseline capacity assessment should be conducted to measure changes in institutional capacities, including both qualitative and quantitative measures of capacity across the relevant dimensions. This assessment can document the institution's starting point and serve as a comparison against which to measure change in capacity after the project's termination.	
Disaggregation categories	
- Geographic scale - Entity sector - Type of institution	
Baseline and target setting	
The baseline value for this indicator is zero, as it measures the number of institutions that demonstrate strengthened capacity as a result of the project. Annual mid-term and/or final targets should be based on consultation with participating actors, identifying what is feasible within the implementation timeframe and resource allocation. Targets should also be informed by experience and evidence from previous interventions, and/or relevant external evidence.	
Reporting frequency	
At project approval/first PPP, mid-term, and completion/end PPP.	



Summary of Revisions to Guidance Based on IE Feedback

- Maintained the proposed minimum number of SRF indicators required.
- Maintained reporting on all SRF indicators at three times throughout the project cycle
- Refined the terminology used to align project-specific and SRF indicators.
- Maintained the approach of mapping project-specific indicators to SRF indicator
- Developed a standard logframe template to include in project proposals.





Notable indicator updates

Overall improvements:

- Clearer definitions
- Updated terminology and methodology
- Indicator-specific baseline and target setting guidance
- Improved alignment with other funders
- Updated disaggregation categories
- Clearer explanations of links with other SRF indicators

Indicator-specific updates:

- EWS indicators now reference Sendai and EW4All frameworks / methodologies
- Physical asset core indicator now focuses only on physical assets, with development services monitored via Indicator 4.1
- Ecosystem core indicator now aligned with GGA natural resource types
- New Strategic Outcome 8 innovation indicators
- New LLA indicators (2.2, 3.3)



Annex 2: Expanded, practical guidance on beneficiaries



ANNEX 2: SUPPORTING PRACTICAL GUIDANCE FOR CORE INDICATOR 1 ON BENEFICIARIES

Project teams should determine whether beneficiaries are a direct or indirect according to (a) whether beneficiary is a targeted, and (b) the intensity of support provided to be categorized as follows:

	Low intensity	Medium intensity	High intensity
Targeted	Not counted	Indirect beneficiaries	Direct beneficiaries
Not targeted			

The Adaptation Fund uses a **principle-based approach** to determine direct and indirect beneficiaries for several key resources, including:

- Climate adaptation on land: context-specific support covered high intensity in one context may be considered low or medium intensity in a different context.
- Empowering entrepreneurs and innovators in climate adaptation: action necessary for identifying, identifying, defining, and/or actions are assistance with direct or indirect beneficiaries may rapidly become qualified.

To evaluate projects, teams are encouraged to apply professional judgment when applying the targeting and intensity principles and to provide a clear, qualitative description of their assessment in the core indicator reporting forms.

Below is practical guidance for project teams making these assessments, including:

- Guiding questions to assess whether beneficiaries are targeted.
- Guiding questions to assess relevance, duration, and extent of support according to high, medium, low intensity categories.
- Concrete examples of common adaptation project activities and their targeting and intensity categories.

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Guiding Questions to Assess Targeting

Targeting is a binary principle: beneficiary is either targeted or not targeted. Targeted support is the intentional assistance of a project to people who are explicitly identified by the project as who are aware they are receiving support, and/or use the specific resources provided by the project. In assessing whether beneficiaries are targeted by project support, project teams might ask themselves:

- Can we identify the specific people who are receiving support from the project?**
For example, for target setting, people might be identified through feasibility studies in intervention areas, and for reporting of project outcomes and completion, people might be identified through project records or the villages who have received assets or participated in project activities, or on specific household lists that are an ongoing resource provided by the project. Other projects are able to identify people – the project strategy focuses its support on people rather than on physical or natural assets captured by the resource intensity.
- Are people aware that they are receiving support from the project, and/or are they using the specific resource provided by the project?** For example, if people know that they have participated in a project activity or received a resource, then that people do not need to know that the project is providing the support to achieve that they are receiving it. People are also concerned targeted if they can be shown to be using the specific resource provided by the specific climate-relevant to the project, such as physical or natural asset, development services or financial product services.

Guiding Questions to Assess Intensity

Intensity of support refers to the level of assistance provided by the project, targeting for high or medium or low based on the frequency of support, the support intensity, benefits, or in using the project's resources to provide assistance. The frequency of support is a key factor in assessing the project's intensity of support to beneficiaries. It is a continuous variable.

Low intensity	Medium intensity	High intensity
Many steps removed	How closely linked is the support to the beneficiary? Is the support directly linked to the beneficiary's needs?	Closely linked
Short and one-off	What is the duration and frequency of the support to the beneficiary?	Long and/or repeated
Limited	Are people receiving multiple forms of support (such as benefits)?	Extensive

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Examples of common project activities / indicators	Targeting / intensity assessment	Considerations for this example
EXAMPLES OF DIRECT AND INDIRECT BENEFICIARIES		
People receiving certified live trees (e.g., for reforestation, firewood, timber, fruit, medicinal plants, agricultural inputs)	DIRECT	Individuals receiving assets from the project can be identified and know that they are receiving support. High intensity of support is provided as the project is providing a specific resource (live trees) to people who are aware they are receiving support to fulfill a need to adapt their livelihoods or income-generating activities.
People who rely on a specific geographic area (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.) and are vulnerable to climate change (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.)	DIRECT	Vulnerable and exposed members of the protected community can be identified and know that they are receiving support. High intensity of support is provided as the project is providing a specific resource (live trees) to people who are aware they are receiving support to fulfill a need to adapt their livelihoods or income-generating activities.
People who rely on a specific geographic area (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.) and are vulnerable to climate change (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.)	INDIRECT	Vulnerable and exposed members of the protected community can be identified and know that they are receiving support. High intensity of support is provided as the project is providing a specific resource (live trees) to people who are aware they are receiving support to fulfill a need to adapt their livelihoods or income-generating activities.
People who rely on a specific geographic area (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.) and are vulnerable to climate change (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.)	INDIRECT	Vulnerable and exposed members of the protected community can be identified and know that they are receiving support. High intensity of support is provided as the project is providing a specific resource (live trees) to people who are aware they are receiving support to fulfill a need to adapt their livelihoods or income-generating activities.
People who rely on a specific geographic area (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.) and are vulnerable to climate change (e.g., for water, food, fuel, etc.)	INDIRECT	Vulnerable and exposed members of the protected community can be identified and know that they are receiving support. High intensity of support is provided as the project is providing a specific resource (live trees) to people who are aware they are receiving support to fulfill a need to adapt their livelihoods or income-generating activities.

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Also: avoiding double-counting and consistent treatment of people covered by EWS



Applying the revised SRF in Practice

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Climate Change Specialist,
Adaptation Fund





How will we transition to the revised SRF application?

1

Same SRF for all Projects

All projects under implementation, which still need to submit a PPR, will see the revised results tracker in the PPR portal to start applying the revised SRF.

2

Streamlined Reporting Requirements

Projects will stop reporting on indicators that are not part of the revised SRF (to reduce reporting burdens).

3

No Re-Baselining Needed

or retrofitting indicators where data are not available.

4

Context-Sensitive Alignment

The new SRF recognizes country context differences, promoting **progressive alignment** over added burden.



How to apply the revised SRF: minimum requirements

Minimum requirements for using the SRF

- All projects must monitor and report against at least one core indicator and other core indicators, if relevant. To enable portfolio-wide reporting, all projects are expected to report on:
 - **One indicator related to people supported**, either:
 - Core Indicator 1: Number of beneficiaries (direct and/or indirect), or
 - Output 1.2B: People covered by new or improved early warning systems;
 - **Other core indicator(s)**, if relevant; and
 - **One SRF outcome indicator and one corresponding SRF output indicator** that best reflect the project's intended results.
 - Projects are further encouraged to report on **all core indicators and outcome areas** that are relevant to project activities. If project activities are relevant to SRF Strategic Outcomes that have core indicators (1, 4, 5, 6, 7), projects are expected to report on those applicable core indicators.



How to apply the revised SRF: reporting frequency

Project Outcomes	Project Outcome Indicator(s)	Fund Outcome	Fund Outcome Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Outcome 1:				
Outcome 2:				
Outcome 3:				

Total outcome-level grant amount

Project Outputs(s)	Project Output Indicator(s)	Fund Output	Fund Output Indicator	Grant Amount (USD)
Output 1:				
Output 2:				
Output 3:				

Total output-level grant amount



Next steps: rolling out the revised SRF



Share the documents

The AF will share the Guidance Document and updated PPR templates with all implementing entities.



Effective dates

The revised SRF will come formally into effect three months after the guidance is shared, the AF will include the dates on the email to IEs.



Apply to new proposals

IEs are encouraged to use the updated SRF in new proposal submissions. Projects already submitted need not change their framework unless they choose to.



Help Desk support

A helpdesk service will be available to implementing and executing entities to answer customized questions for a period of six months, starting today.



Next steps: the SRF Help Desk



What it is

A support service that answers implementing entities' specific questions on applying the revised SRF — for both existing projects and new proposal development.



What it covers

All matters relating to the revised SRF and Guidance document, including new proposals where you have received comments on the results framework.



When it's available

Support for six months, starting from today



How to access it

Email the below colleagues, or you can ask the PPR reviewer. The AF Secretariat will then arrange a call with a technical support team to address the challenge.

Jmusah@adaptation-fund.org

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nehasharma@adaptation-fund.org



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THANK YOU

