

ADAPTATION FUND

Improving Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable and Food-Insecure Populations – Lesotho.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 638 million** in **86 projects** where food and agriculture is the primary goal, representing **39%** of the Fund's total portfolio.

Through these grants, the Fund has contributed to reducing climate risks, improving food security, and building long-term resilience in vulnerable communities. These projects are expected to reach over **21 million beneficiaries**, increase and protect incomes for over **869,000 households**, and restore **2.7 million hectares** of natural assets.

Figure 1.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'food and agriculture' by **grant amount** (in % of total portfolio & USD million).

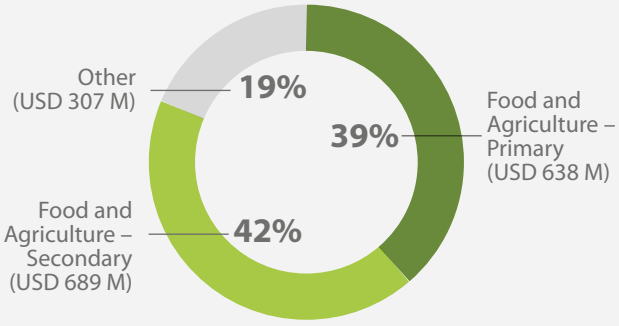
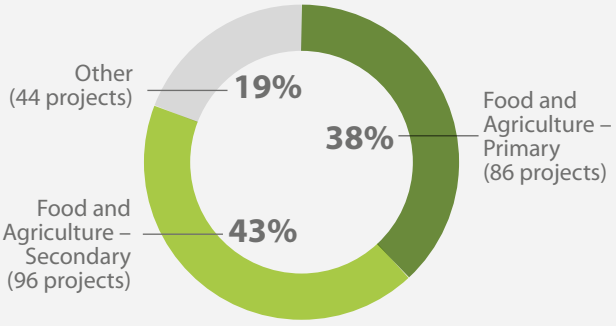


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'food and agriculture' by **number of projects** (in % & number of projects).



Note: *Projects are categorized as "Primary" (directly focused on food and agriculture), "Secondary" (indirectly supporting food and agriculture without it being their primary focus), or "Other" (projects with no substantial food and agriculture component).*



Developing Agro-Pastoral Shade Gardens as an Adaptation Strategy for Rural Communities – Djibouti.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Climate-resilient food and agricultural systems are fundamental to human survival, economic stability, and sustainable development, yet they face mounting pressure from increasingly severe climate impacts. Achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) under the Paris Agreement requires transforming how food is produced, distributed, and accessed, particularly in the most vulnerable communities.

The Adaptation Fund plays a catalytic role in this transformation by financing practical solutions, including climate-smart agriculture, agroforestry, improved water management, and early warning systems, that not only strengthen production capacity and reduce risks, but also address the inequities that leave smallholder farmers and food-insecure populations most exposed to climate risk.



Taking Adaptation to the Ground: A Small Grants Facility for Enabling Local-level Responses to Climate Change – South Africa.
PHOTO CREDIT: SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL BIODIVERSITY INSTITUTE

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Food and Agriculture

The Adaptation Fund's portfolio in food and agriculture spans several operational regions with the largest shares of projects in **Africa (47%)**, followed by **Asia-Pacific (26%)** and **Latin America and the Caribbean (20%)**, and a smaller share in **Eastern Europe (7%)**. It also has a strong focus on highly vulnerable contexts, with **48%** of projects implemented in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Project delivery balances international expertise with direct access, with **33%** projects led by **National**, **14%** by **Regional**, and remaining by Multilateral Implementing Entities.



Building Resilient Food Security Systems – Egypt.
PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

While the portfolio is largely composed of **regular-sized projects**[1] (**86%**), it also includes an important share of innovation, locally led adaptation, and small grants project types.

Of the **86 food and agriculture projects** in the portfolio, **21** are closed, **44** are under implementation, and **21 are at the approval stage**.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of projects by type of implementing entity.
Distribution of Adaptation Fund projects mapped to food and agriculture by region, broken down by the type of implementing entity responsible for project delivery.

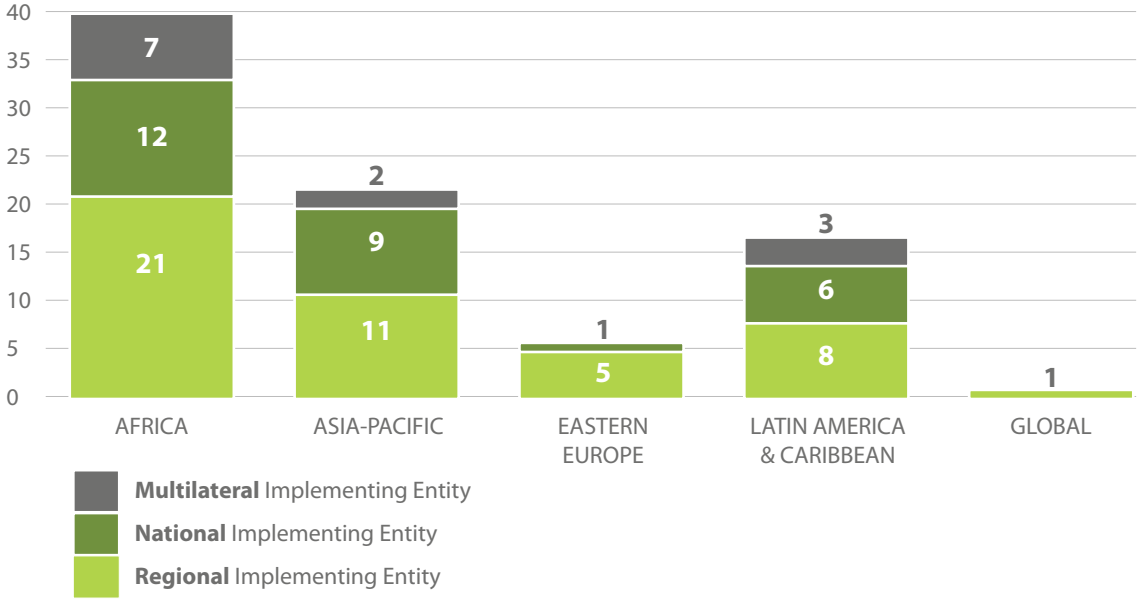


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to food and agriculture by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

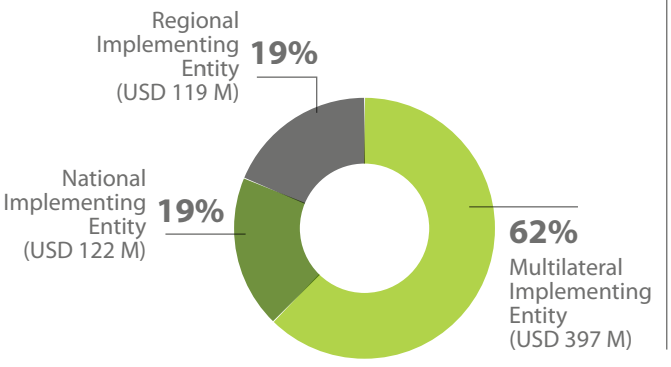
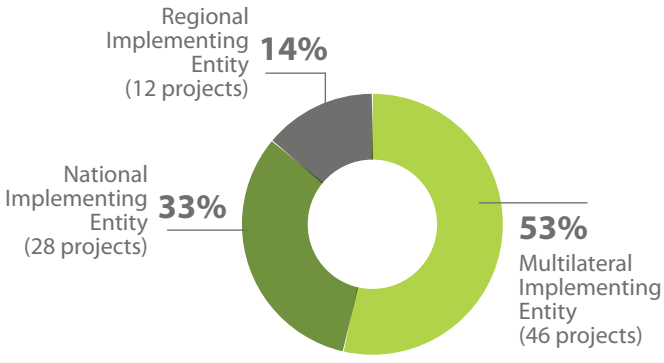


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to food and agriculture by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *The Adaptation Fund food and agriculture portfolio: USD 638 M across 86 projects*

1 Regular-sized projects are defined as projects requesting Adaptation Fund grant financing of more than USD 1 million (Adaptation Fund, 2017).



Enhancing Climate Resilience in San Cristóbal Province– Dominican Republic.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The Adaptation Fund food and agriculture projects are generating measurable, tangible results across vulnerable communities globally, including through avoided climate-related losses such as reduced crop failure, stabilized yields, reduced livestock mortality, and protected farm incomes.

Expected results from the **86 food and agriculture projects** include approximately:

21 million
people reached directly and indirectly through projects, including 47% women and 12% youth.

869,492
households with increased or protected incomes, including 15,221 female-led households.

2.7 million
hectares of ecosystems restored.

190
early warning systems strengthened.

3,000 km
of climate-resilient infrastructure improved.

These grants strengthen food security, improve risk management, and enhance the resilience of vulnerable communities and livelihoods.

Beyond projects where food and agriculture is a primary goal, the Fund's broader portfolio in water, ecosystems, infrastructure, and poverty eradication indirectly reinforces food security by improving irrigation reliability, restoring watersheds and coastal ecosystems, and strengthening climate-resilient services. The scale of these indirect contributions is significant, with expected impacts including:

More than **89 million beneficiaries** reached.

2.2 million hectares of supporting ecosystems restored.

More than **5,500 km of infrastructure** improved.

Each adaptation investment can deliver multiple, compounding benefits, helping communities reduce climate risks while advancing broader development and environmental objectives. These include contributions to biodiversity conservation, gender empowerment, and improved nutrition, through integrated approaches that combine local knowledge, ecosystem-based solutions, and strengthened institutions.

CASE STUDY:
PERU


PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Peru's Coastal Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries

Country:	Peru
Implementing entity:	Peruvian Trust Fund for National Parks and Protected Areas (PROFONANPE) (NIE)
Amount:	USD 6,950,239
Project duration:	2018-2023
Status:	Closed

Peru hosts one of the world's most productive fisheries, yet its artisanal fishing communities are highly vulnerable to climate change impacts, including ocean warming and more frequent El Niño events. These risks are compounded by existing socio-economic challenges, with 54% of communities living below the poverty line. As artisanal fishers depend heavily on already stressed marine resources, they are particularly exposed to the combined effects of environmental and economic pressures.

The Adaptation Fund provided USD 6.9 million to reduce coastal communities' vulnerability to climate change impacts on marine ecosystems and fisheries. The project supported livelihood diversification through sustainable fishing, aquaculture, and ecotourism, deployed a modern climate and environmental monitoring and early warning system, trained stakeholders in ecosystem-based adaptation, and strengthened the institutional framework.

The project produced valuable tools, data, and practical experience with potential for replication in other climate-dependent coastal contexts.


Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Marine Ecosystem and Fisheries.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project contributed to strengthening climate resilience and more sustainable governance of coastal and marine resources.

Key outcomes included enhanced ocean monitoring capacity through the acquisition of three gliders, the legal recognition of several fisheries, the restocking of a scallop natural bank, and the establishment of nine sustainable tourism initiatives that support livelihood diversification.

The project also built trust with fishermen's associations, laying the groundwork for future co-management arrangements.

At the institutional level, it increased the responsiveness of national and local authorities in pilot areas to climate-related pressures on coastal marine ecosystems, ecosystem services, and resource availability.



Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Marine Ecosystem and Fisheries.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	576 beneficiaries, including 554 individuals trained in alternative income activities and 22 Peruvian Marine Research Institute (IMARPE) scientists and technicians.
Early Warning Systems	One modern oceanographic monitoring system was designed to detect short-term environmental deviations and climate-related indicators.

Source: Adaptation to the impacts of climate change on Peru's coastal marine ecosystem and fisheries (PAMC), Final Evaluation Report (2023)



Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Coastal Marine Ecosystem and Fisheries.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:
LIBERIA



Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sector – Liberia .
PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Building Climate Resilience in **Liberia's** Cocoa and Rice Sectors

Country:	Liberia
Implementing entity:	International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) (MIE)
Amount:	USD 9,592,082
Project duration:	2022-2027
Status:	Under implementation

Liberia is a post-conflict nation whose economy and infrastructure were severely damaged by the civil war and Ebola crisis in 2014-15. Agriculture is the primary livelihood for 50% of the country's workforce, yet the country remains highly food insecure, with imports accounting for 60% of its staple food. Rising temperatures and more extreme weather events are likely to exacerbate these issues, which could cause a 40% reduction in climate suitability for agricultural production. These shifts threaten the stability of the cocoa and rice sectors, which are key exports and food staples.



Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sector – Liberia.
PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Over a five-year period, the Adaptation Fund is providing USD 9.5 million to minimize the impacts of climate change on agricultural activities in Liberia. The project focuses on three components: climateresilient agricultural production, postharvest practices, and livelihood diversification, such as fish farming and vegetable gardening; rehabilitation of transport and water infrastructure to better withstand weather extremes; and institutional capacity building and policy engagement aimed at strengthening climate-risk coordination and spotlighting resilient agricultural development in the policy environment.

This project is designed to be a catalyst, aiming to build a business case for climate-smart agriculture to attract support from larger international financial institutions. It also aims to have a regional influence through partnerships with research institutes in Ghana and Cote d'Ivoire, supporting knowledge-sharing across the West African cocoa belt.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project expects to achieve productivity gains for 85% of the beneficiary households, the adoption of climate-resilient farming practices by 60% of targeted beneficiaries, access to potable water and sanitation facilities for 4,000 households, 100 new seed nurseries, and the reduction of the hungry season from four to two months for targeted households.

These outcomes are intended to strengthen food security, raise rural incomes, reduce climate-related agricultural losses, and improve the long-term resilience of vulnerable farming communities.



Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sector – Liberia .
PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	175,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached across Liberia, with at least 40% of direct beneficiaries expected to be women and young people each.
Early Warning Systems	One Early Warning System strengthened by installing agrometeorological stations in 10 districts.
Length of infrastructure (km)	120km of roads to be climate-proofed to facilitate all-weather usability for rural transport.
Households	25,000 households of smallholder farmers report improvements in their living conditions.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	10,000 hectares of overaged or diseased cocoa plantations will be rehabilitated and managed using climateresilient practices.

Source: Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sectors, Project Document (2020)



Building Climate Resilience in Liberia's Cocoa and Rice Sector – Liberia .
PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Methods

Data are drawn from the Adaptation Fund's portfolio database (226 projects as of June 2026), which is classified using the GGA thematic area typology based on project documentation. Core indicator values represent expected or achieved results, as recorded in approved project documents or evaluation reports, respectively, and are extracted using an AI-assisted protocol.

Adaptation Fund:
1818 H Street NW,
Washington DC 20433, USA
Phone: +1.202.473.7402
https://www.adaptation-fund.org/

Instagram
Facebook
X
LinkedIn
Flickr
Youtube

@Adaptation-Fund



Building Resilient Food Security Systems – Egypt.
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