ADAPTATION FUND



Pa Enua Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) – Cook Islands.
PHOTO CREDIT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

SIDS AND LDCs

The Adaptation Fund's support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in addressing their adaptation needs comprises a portfolio of **103 projects** across **64 countries**, with a total estimated value of over **USD 754 million**, representing **46%** of the Fund's total portfolio.

This includes **81 single-country projects**, representing over **USD 570 million** in approved funding, and **22 regional projects** that include one or more participating LDC or SIDS. To estimate the share of regional funding benefiting SIDS and LDCs, regional project amounts were allocated equally across participating countries, amounting to over **USD 183 million**.

Overall, these **103 projects** are expected to directly benefit more than **32 million people**, strengthen livelihoods for more than **10 million households**, and protect over **826,000 hectares** of natural assets and productive ecosystems – building resilience and adaptive capacity in highly exposed contexts.



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

Overview and Strategic Relevance

SIDS and LDCs are among the countries most exposed to the impacts of climate change. Their vulnerability is shaped by a combination of geographic exposure, dependence on climate-sensitive sectors, remoteness, limited economic diversification, and high reliance on natural resources and ecosystems for livelihoods, food security, water supply, and coastal protection.

Supporting adaptation in these contexts is central to the Adaptation Fund's mission and commitment to equitable, locally-led resilience. Achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) under the Paris Agreement requires targeted action in countries where climate vulnerability is highest. In SIDS and LDCs, the Fund helps address interconnected risks across food and water security, resilient infrastructure, ecosystems, livelihoods, and disaster preparedness, while reinforcing direct access and country ownership in highly vulnerable settings.



An Integrated Approach to Physical Adaptation and Community Resilience in the McKinnon's Watershed – Antigua and Barbuda.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in SIDS and LDCs

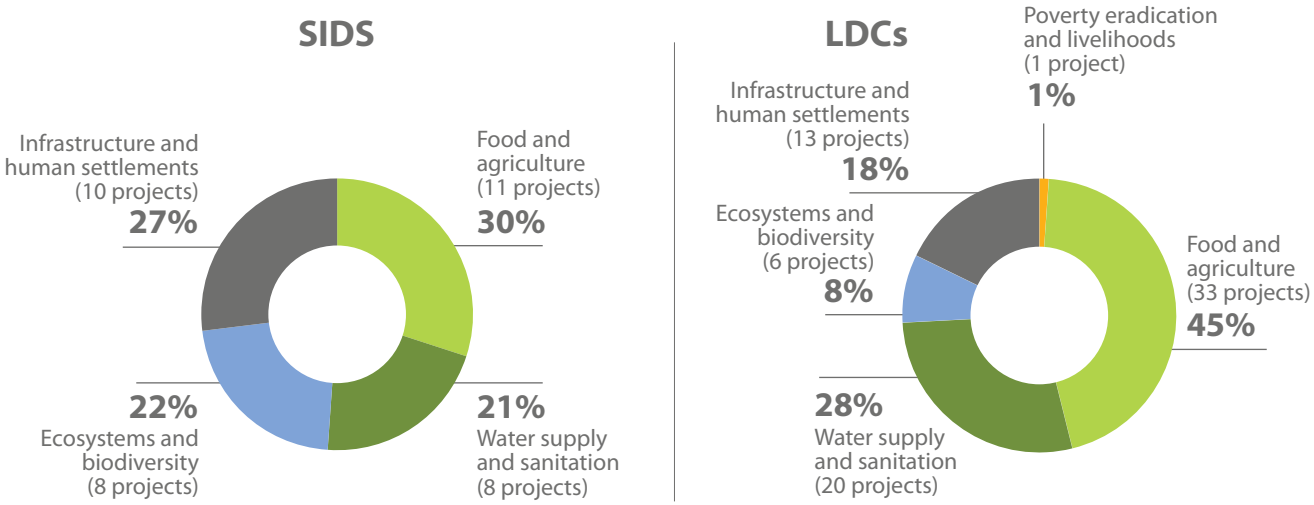
Across its SIDS and LDCs portfolio, the Adaptation Fund supports adaptation action through 103 single-country and regional projects in 64 countries. This includes 23 countries classified as SIDS, 34 as LDCs, and 6 classified as both SIDS and LDCs: Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Solomon Islands, and Tuvalu.

The distribution of funding reflects the multidimensional nature of climate vulnerability in these contexts, with the largest number of projects focused on food and agriculture (41 projects), water and sanitation (28), infrastructure and human settlements (19), ecosystems and biodiversity (14), and poverty eradication and livelihoods (1).



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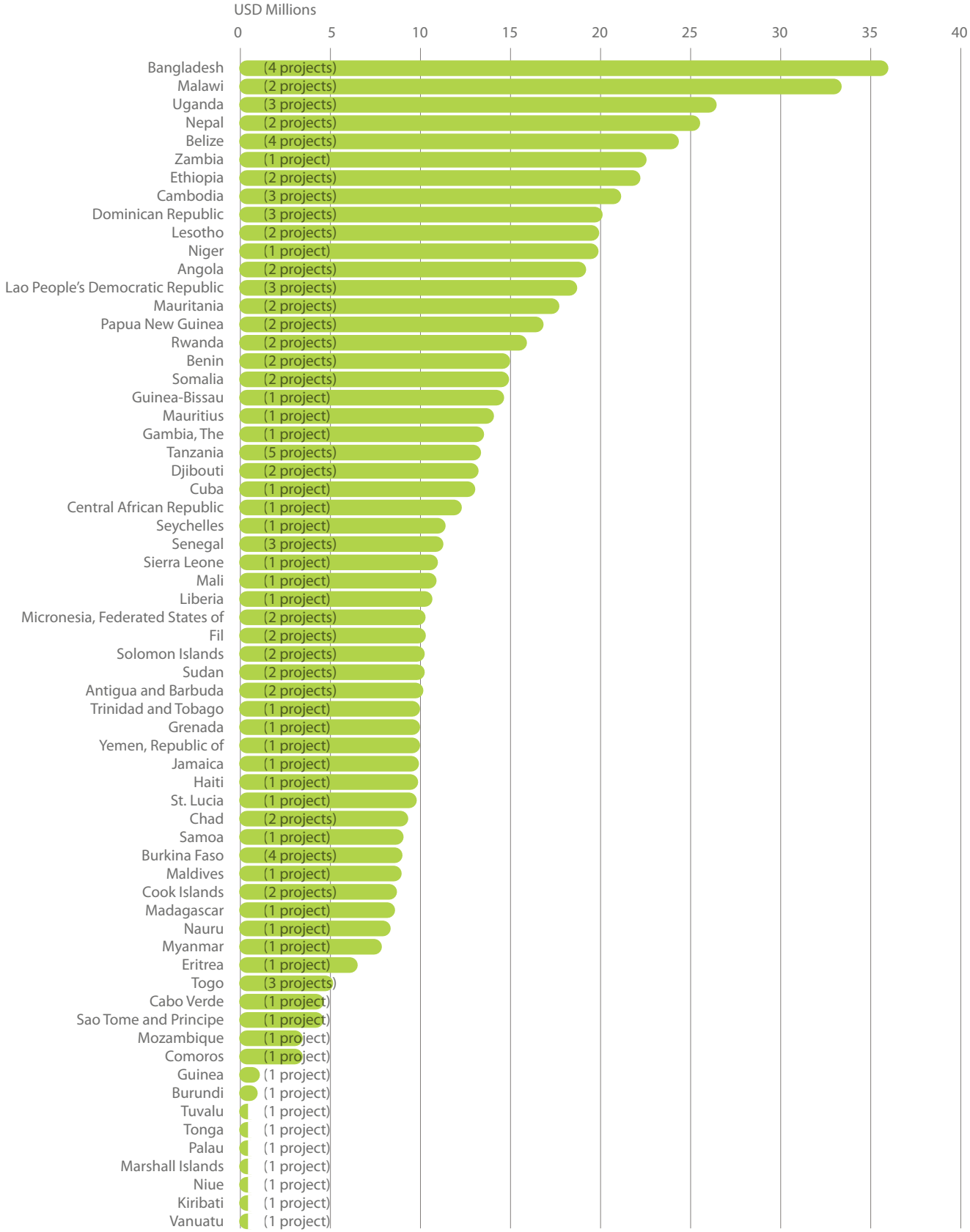
Figure 1. Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio in SIDS and LDCs, by GGA thematic areas and number of projects. Distribution of Adaptation Fund projects across primary thematic areas for SIDS and LDC projects by number of projects (**in % & number of projects**).



National and **Regional** Implementing Entities (NIEs and RIEs) implement **45%** of projects, contributing to strengthened institutional capacity at the national and regional levels.

While the portfolio is predominantly regular-sized projects (81%), it is complemented by an important share of projects promoting innovation and locally-led adaptation, spanning small grants to multi-country programs. This breadth demonstrates the Fund's flexibility and comparative advantage in delivering context-specific, scalable solutions in some of the world's most vulnerable settings.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of Adaptation Fund portfolio, by grant amount and number of projects. Country-level distribution of the SIDS and LDCs portfolio (in USD million & number of projects).



Note: *The country-level project counts shown in this figure sum to more than the overall portfolio total of 103 projects because regional and multi-country projects are counted once under each participating country. For example, a regional project involving five countries is reflected as one project under each of the five countries, while it is counted only once in the overall portfolio total. For regional and multi-country projects, the total project amount is divided equally among participating countries for the purposes of this country-level distribution.*



Strategic Water Harvesting Technologies for Enhancing Resilience to Climate Change in Rural Communities in Semi-Arid Areas – Tanzania.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The projects supported by the Fund are strengthening resilience, improving food and water security, accelerating disaster response, and enhancing critical systems in some of the world's most climate-vulnerable settings – LDCs and SIDS.

Expected results include approximately:

62 million
people reached directly and indirectly, including women, youth, and marginalized groups.

10 million
households expected to strengthen their livelihoods, including over 12,000 female-headed households.

150
early warning systems supported.

7,500 km
of climate-resilient infrastructure improved.

826,000
hectares of ecosystems restored.

Co-benefits include biodiversity conservation, more diversified climate-resilient local economies less vulnerable to climate shocks, and advances in gender equality and social inclusion.

CASE STUDY:
SOLOMON ISLANDS



Climate Risk Communications Workshop organized by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) & University of Melbourne – Solomon Islands.

PHOTO CREDIT: ROYAL MELBOURNE INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY (RMIT) & UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

Enhancing Resilience of Communities in **Solomon Islands** to the Adverse Effects of Climate Change in Agriculture and Food Security

Country:	Solomon Islands
Implementing entity:	UN-Development Program (UNDP) (MIE)
Amount:	USD 5,533,500
Project duration:	2011-2015
Status:	Closed

The Solomon Islands is among the Pacific's most climate-exposed countries. Rural communities depend heavily on subsistence agriculture and fisheries that are increasingly disrupted by erratic rainfall, tropical cyclones, flooding, sea-level rise, and land degradation. These climate pressures are compounded by weak agricultural extension capacity and insufficient meteorological information for planning and decision-making.

The Adaptation Fund provided USD 5.5 million to strengthen the communities' ability to make informed decisions and manage climate-induced pressures on food production and livelihoods across 18 vulnerable wards in five provinces. Interventions combined climate-smart agriculture with climate information services and institutional strengthening. Specific actions included community-based land-use planning and vulnerability assessments, promotion of adaptive agricultural practices such as mulching, composting, contour farming, and crop diversification, establishment of food banks and integrated farming systems, farmer training, installation of automatic weather stations and rain gauges, and support for climate-resilient policy and planning processes.

The project has addressed existing barriers to climate adaptation by combining community-level resilience-building measures with strengthened climate services and institutional capacity for climate-informed decision-making.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project strengthened adaptive capacity at both community and national levels by improving food security and agricultural resilience while expanding climate information services. It introduced climate-smart farming systems, increased household productivity and income, restored resilient crop varieties, and supported a 100% expansion of the national meteorological network through new weather stations and rain gauges, enhancing the availability of climate information for planning and risk management.

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	5,713 direct and indirect beneficiaries living in target villages, including 49% female beneficiaries.
Households	304 households with increased or protected income through climate-resilient agriculture and livelihood support.

Source: Strongem Waka lo Community fo Kaikai (SWoCK): Resilience in Agriculture and Food Security in the Solomon Islands, Terminal Evaluation Report (2016)



Vertical gardens in Ontong Java Community, activity implemented by Kastom Garden Association – Solomon Islands.
PHOTO CREDIT: KASTOM GARDEN ASSOCIATION



Vertical gardens in Wind Valley Community, activity implemented by Kastom Garden Association – Solomon Islands.
PHOTO CREDIT: KASTOM GARDEN ASSOCIATION

CASE STUDY:
PAPUA NEW GUINEA


PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture for Improved Food Security of Resilient Communities in **Papua New Guinea**

Country:	Papua New Guinea
Implementing entity:	Pacific Community (SPC) (RIE)
Amount:	USD 10,000,000
Project duration:	2024-2028
Status:	Proposal Approved

Climate change poses significant risks to Papua New Guinea, where around 80% of the population relies on agriculture for their livelihoods and food security. Rising temperatures, changing rainfall patterns, droughts, flooding, landslides, and sea-level rise are increasingly affecting agricultural production, threatening climate-sensitive staple crops such as sweet potato, cassava, banana, yam, rice, and swamp taro. These climate pressures are compounded by limited agricultural training and extension services, ecosystem degradation, inadequate infrastructure, and restricted market access for smallholder farmers.

The Adaptation Fund is providing USD 10 million to implement the Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture for Improved Food Security of Resilient Communities in Papua New Guinea (ASSA) project. The project aims to strengthen the sustainability of agricultural value chains and improve food security through climate-smart agricultural practices, enhanced post-harvest management, and better market access, with a particular focus on women and youth. Planned interventions include the dissemination of climate-resilient crop varieties, the establishment of multiplication sheds and demonstration farms, the restoration of degraded agricultural landscapes through nature-based solutions, the deployment of solar-powered processing and storage technologies, and the development of a digital platform connecting farmers, processors, traders, and buyers across the agricultural value chain.

The project is expected to address key barriers to adaptation by strengthening agricultural advisory services, improving access to climate-resilient technologies and market information, restoring ecosystem services, and building institutional and community capacity to support climate-resilient food production systems.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project is expected to improve the resilience of smallholder farmers and agricultural value chains in Papua New Guinea. Through the adoption of climate-resilient crops and farming practices, improved post-harvest management, strengthened market linkages, and restoration of degraded ecosystems, the project aims to enhance food security, agricultural productivity, and the sustainability of agricultural production systems in climate-vulnerable communities. Climate-resilient farming infrastructure is also expected to be enhanced through the construction or rehabilitation of 40 multiplication sheds and 10 community nurseries, supporting the production and distribution of climate-adapted planting material.

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	106,340 people, including 18,600 direct beneficiaries. Women will account for 56,300 beneficiaries, and indigenous peoples for 81,700.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	3,000 ha of land expected to be reforested or restored around croplands, mangroves, and degraded forest, by planting vegetation along riverbanks or unstable lands.

Source: Adaptation of Small-Scale Agriculture for improved food security of resilient communities in Papua New Guinea (ASSA), Project Proposal (2023)



Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations – Lesotho.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:

ETHIOPIA



PHOTO CREDIT: MOFEC, FEDERAL DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ETHIOPIA

Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development Project

Country:	Ethiopia
Implementing entity:	Ministry of Finance and Economic Development (MOFED) (NIE)
Amount:	USD 9,987,910
Project duration:	2017-2022
Status:	Closed

Ethiopia's rural communities are highly vulnerable to climate change due to their dependence on rain-fed agriculture, limited irrigation coverage, recurrent droughts, and widespread land degradation. Smallholder farmers face multiple and interconnected challenges, including water scarcity, declining agricultural productivity, degraded landscapes, limited livelihood opportunities, and weak adaptive capacity. These pressures are intensifying as climate variability increases the frequency and severity of droughts, floods, and soil erosion.

The Adaptation Fund provided over USD 9.9 million to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities across seven drought-prone agro-ecological landscapes. The project adopted an integrated watershed approach that combined improved access to potable water and irrigation, climate-smart agriculture, restoration of degraded landscapes, livelihood diversification, and local adaptation planning. Interventions included solar-powered water systems, irrigation infrastructure, soil and water conservation measures, watershed rehabilitation, homestead agroforestry, climate-resilient farming practices, and support for market-oriented livelihood activities.

The project demonstrates how integrated investments in water security, climate-smart agriculture, and ecosystem restoration can simultaneously strengthen household resilience and improve landscape-level sustainability. By addressing multiple drivers of climate vulnerability through a single watershed-based approach, it helped build the resilience of rural communities to the adverse effects of climate change.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project expanded access to potable water and irrigation, increased adoption of climate-smart agricultural practices, and restored degraded landscapes across seven drought-prone areas. It also diversified livelihood opportunities for vulnerable households and strengthened local capacity for climate adaptation planning and sustainable natural resource management. Its integrated approach successfully combined water security, agricultural resilience, ecosystem restoration, and livelihoods enhancement to build resilience to recurrent drought at both household and landscape scales.

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	380,360 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 65,360 direct beneficiaries.
Households	2,556 households with alternative income sources, including 750 female-headed households.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	8,823 hectares of degraded landscapes brought under physical and biological soil and water conservation measures.

Source: Final Evaluation Report of Climate Smart Integrated Rural Development Project in Selected Woredas of Ethiopia (2023)

Methods

Data are drawn from the Adaptation Fund's portfolio database (226 projects as of June 2026), which is classified using the LDCs/SIDS typology by the Fund's Secretariat. Core indicator values represent expected or achieved results as recorded in approved project or evaluation documents respectively, extracted through an AI-assisted protocol. Portfolio aggregates include projects classified as LDCs, SIDS or both; projects classified as 'Neither' are excluded.



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