

ADAPTATION FUND

Integrating Flood and Drought Management and Early Warning for Climate Change Adaptation in the Volta Basin.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

TRANSBOUNDARY IMPACTS

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries in addressing transboundary climate impacts by funding over **USD 458 million** in **42 projects** across more than **96 countries**, representing **28%** of the Fund's total portfolio. The analysis includes projects classified as 'regional' or 'global', referred to here as multi-country projects, where adaptation benefits extend beyond a single national context.

Overall, these **42 projects** are expected to directly benefit more than **39 million people**, strengthen livelihoods for more than **10 million households**, and protect over **123,000 hectares** of natural assets and productive ecosystems – building resilience and adaptive capacity across multiple countries simultaneously.

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Climate change is increasingly affecting shared ecosystems, natural resources, and socioeconomic systems that extend across national borders. Achieving the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) requires action not only within countries but also across shared ecosystems, river basins, coastal zones, agricultural landscapes, and other interconnected systems that are increasingly affected by climate change.

By supporting regional cooperation and collective adaptation action, the Adaptation Fund addresses climate risks that cannot be managed effectively through country-level interventions alone. It enables collective management of shared risks, reducing duplication of effort and generating economies of scale. Overall, these projects improve efficiency and effectiveness for countries facing similar climate impacts, particularly amid limited adaptation finance, while facilitating cross-border learning and knowledge exchange.



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

The Adaptation Fund Transboundary Portfolio

The transboundary portfolio, referred to as "multi-country projects" in the Adaptation Fund model, addresses a diverse range of climate risks that extend across national borders. The largest number of projects are concentrated in **food and agriculture (26%)** and **water and sanitation (26%)**, followed by **infrastructure and human settlements (19%)**, **ecosystems and biodiversity (19%)**, and **poverty eradication and livelihoods (10%)**.

Figure 1.1: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by primary GGA theme and funding amount (**in % & USD million**).

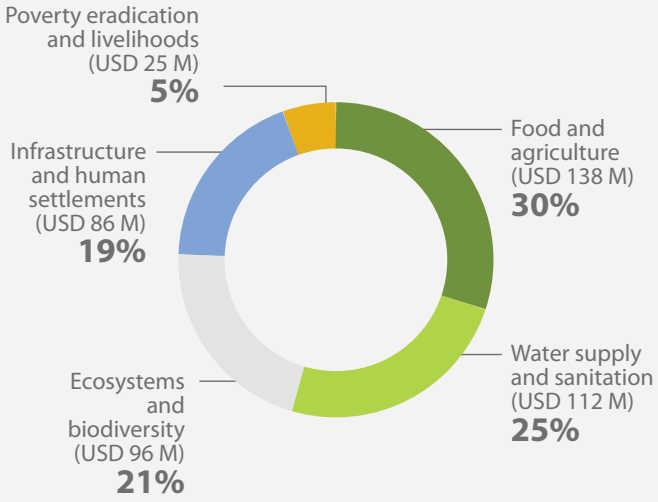
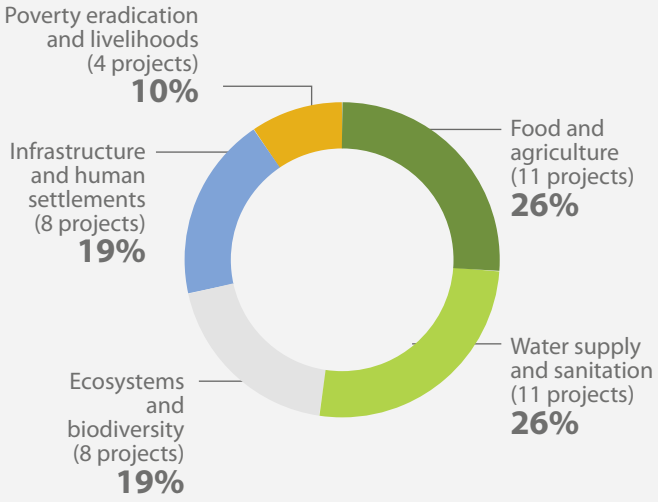


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by primary GGA theme and project numbers (**in % & number of projects**).



Africa accounts for 18 of the 42 projects (43%), followed by **Latin America and the Caribbean and Asia-Pacific, with seven projects each (17%)**. Global projects account for a further eight projects (19%), reflecting multi-region initiatives that span several geographic areas. The portfolio also has a strong focus on highly vulnerable contexts, with **52% of projects** implemented in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIE) lead **32** of the 42 projects **(76%),** ensuring that adaptation is designed and delivered by entities with extensive experience working across countries, institutions,

and regional governance systems. Regional Implementing Entities (RIEs), which are also essential for supporting context-specific coordination and sustaining cooperation beyond country boundaries, account for the remaining **10** projects **(24%)**.

While the size of the projects varies, the portfolio is predominantly composed of regular-sized projects[1] **(64%)**, with innovation projects, including large innovation and MIE aggregator projects, and locally-led adaptation projects accounting for a smaller share. Of the **42** transboundary projects, **26** are under implementation, and **16** are at the approval stage.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of multi-country projects, by type of implementing entity.
Distribution of Adaptation Fund projects with transboundary impacts, by region, broken down by the type of implementing entity responsible for project delivery.

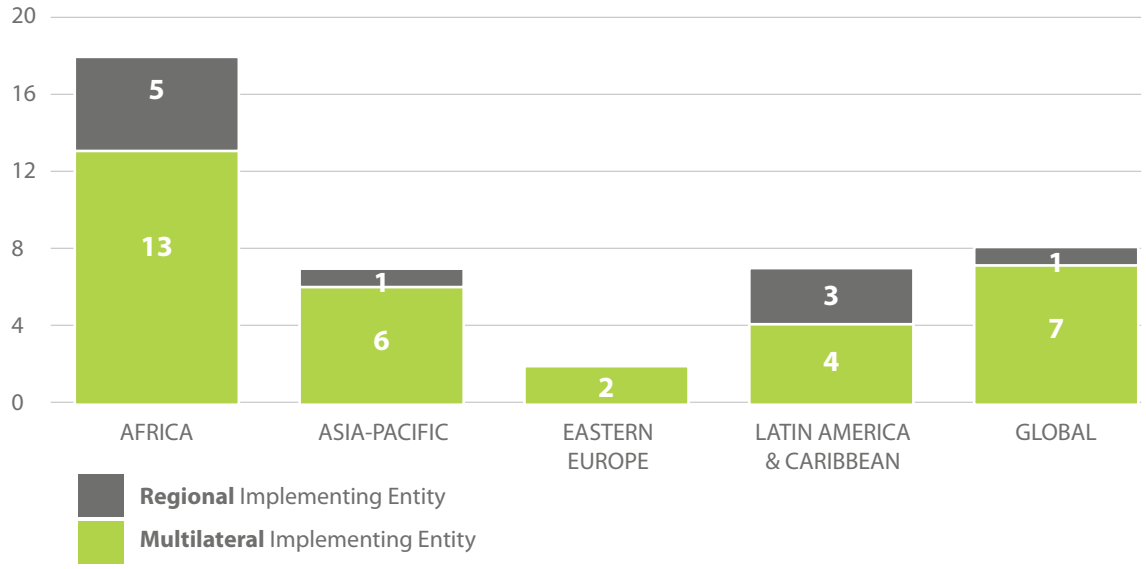


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

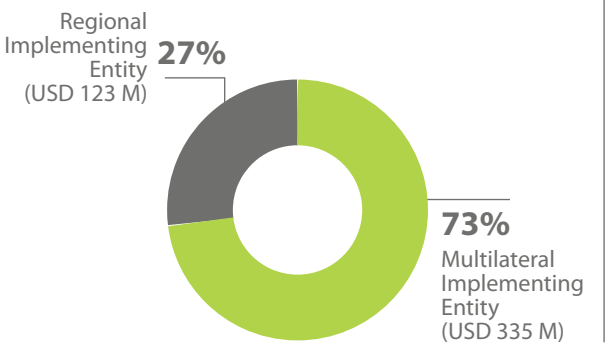
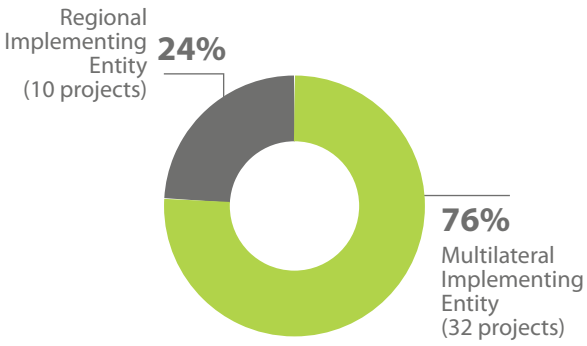


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio: USD 458 M across 42 projects*

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

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The projects supported by the Fund are helping countries manage shared climate risks, improve food and water security, enhance disaster preparedness, and protect connected ecosystems/critical systems that extend across national borders.

Expected results from the 42 transboundary projects include approximately:

76 million
people impacted directly and indirectly, including women, youth, and marginalized groups.

10 million
households are expected to strengthen their livelihoods.

68
early warning systems supported.

3,700 km
of infrastructure assets strengthened.

123,000 hectares
of natural assets protected or rehabilitated.



Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) Grantee 'Savannas Forever' in Arusha, Tanzania.
PHOTO CREDIT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

CASE STUDY:
BENIN, BURKINA FASO, NIGER



PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

Integration of climate change adaptation measures in the concerted management of the **W-Arly-Pendjari transboundary complex**: ADAPT-WAP

Countries:	Benin, Burkina Faso, Niger
Implementing entity:	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (RIE)
Amount:	USD 11,536,200
Project duration:	2020-2027
Status:	Under implementation

The ADAPT-WAP project seeks to strengthen the resilience of the W-Arly-Pendjari (WAP) Complex to the growing impacts of climate change. Spanning Benin, Burkina Faso, and Niger, the WAP Complex is one of the largest and most ecologically significant transboundary protected ecosystems in the West African savannah belt. It supports globally important biodiversity while providing essential ecosystem services and livelihoods for local communities through agriculture, livestock rearing, fisheries, forestry, and tourism. However, this region is facing mounting pressures from land-use conflicts, agricultural expansion, unsustainable resource exploitation, and climate variability, which threaten the landscape and the well-being of the dependent populations.

The project aims to integrate climate change adaptation measures to coordinate management of the transboundary complex, enhancing ecosystem resilience and natural resource management, and reducing the vulnerabilities of local communities to climate-related risks. The project has four main components: (i) the development of a regional multi-risk early warning system to improve monitoring/forecasting and information dissemination; (ii) climate-resilient planning and governance, including management frameworks across the WAP complex to improve coordination across the three countries; (iii) ecosystem and livelihood adaptation measures that aim to restore and reforest degraded ecosystems, delineate and manage grazing areas, and support climate-resilient livelihood activities; and (iv) improved awareness and communication with training, environmental education, stakeholder engagement activities to ensure long-term uptake and sustainability of project interventions.



Integration of climate change adaptation measures in the concerted management of the WAP transboundary complex: ADAPT-WAP - Mid-term Evaluation Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project is expected to strengthen the capacity of local governments, park authorities, and communities to anticipate and respond to climate-related emergencies across the WAP Complex. Expected results include improved transboundary coordination through climate-informed adaptation planning and management frameworks, enhanced access to early warning information for droughts, floods, and wildfires, and greater integration of climate risks into local and regional decision-making processes.

The project is also expected to improve ecosystem resilience through the rehabilitation of water points, restoration and reforestation of wooded and pastoral areas, maintenance of access tracks, and the promotion of sustainable land-use practices such as agroforestry, small-scale irrigation, and sustainable fisheries. Community-level resilience will also be enhanced through improved livestock transhumance infrastructure, support for alternative livelihoods and income-generating activities, and the establishment of revolving funds to diversify household income sources.



Integration of climate change adaptation measures in the concerted management of the WAP transboundary complex: ADAPT-WAP - Mid-term Evaluation Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	654,000 direct beneficiaries.
Early Warning Systems	One multi-risk early warning system for droughts, floods, and wildfires.
Length of infrastructure	326 km transhumance corridors across the three countries, and 2,450 km of rehabilitated or maintained park tracks.
Households	109,000 households with increased income or avoided decrease in income.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	1,800 ha protected or rehabilitated by project end, including wooded and pastoral areas, plantations, and assisted regeneration areas.

Source: Integration of climate change adaptation measures in the concerted management of the WAP transboundary complex: ADAPT-WAP, regional project proposal (2019)



Integration of climate change adaptation measures in the concerted management of the WAP transboundary complex: ADAPT-WAP - Mid-term Evaluation Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

CASE STUDY:
EL SALVADOR, HONDURAS



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the **Goascorán watershed** of **El Salvador** and **Honduras** through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services

Countries:	El Salvador, Honduras
Implementing entity:	UN-World Food Program (WFP) (MIE)
Amount:	USD 12,048,300
Project duration:	2024-2029
Status:	Under implementation

The Goascorán watershed is a transboundary river basin shared by El Salvador and Honduras, spanning the climate-vulnerable Central American Dry Corridor. Communities across the watershed face recurring droughts, erratic rainfall, floods, land degradation, and water scarcity, while high levels of poverty and dependence on rainfed agriculture increase vulnerability to climate shocks. Because water resources, ecosystem processes, and climate impacts extend across national boundaries, environmental degradation and unsustainable land management in one part of the watershed can generate downstream impacts elsewhere in the basin.

To address these shared challenges, the project adopts an integrated watershed approach to strengthen the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities across both countries. Implemented by the WFP in partnership with environmental authorities in El Salvador and Honduras, the project aims to combine community-based and ecosystem-based adaptation with climate risk management.

Activities included developing community adaptation plans, promoting climate-resilient agricultural practices, restoring degraded landscapes, improving soil and water conservation, strengthening climate information and existing early warning systems (including building on El Salvador's community-based observation network and adapting successful approaches for use across the transboundary basin), and supporting access to financial risk management tools such as savings mechanisms and weather-index insurance. The project also seeks to strengthen cooperation and knowledge exchange across the watershed to support more coordinated adaptation planning and implementation.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project aims to strengthen resilience across the Goascorán watershed by increasing the adoption of climate-resilient livelihood practices, restoring degraded ecosystems, and improving communities' capacity to anticipate, manage, and recover from climate-related shocks.

Expected results included stronger integration of climate adaptation into local planning processes, improved access to tailored climate information and financial services, enhanced management of land, water, and forest resources, and greater collaboration between institutions and communities across the basin. By addressing climate risks at the watershed scale, the project is designed to generate adaptation benefits that extend beyond individual communities and support resilience across the shared river basin.



Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources in Honduras: Increased Systemic Resilience and Reduced Vulnerability of the Urban Poor.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	275,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 30,000 direct beneficiaries (smallholder farmers and their family members).
Households	6,000 households as beneficiaries of a set of climate-smart livelihood, community- and ecosystem-based adaptation and disaster risk reduction practices.

Source: Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services, regional project proposal (2022)



Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources in Honduras: Increased Systemic Resilience and Reduced Vulnerability of the Urban Poor.
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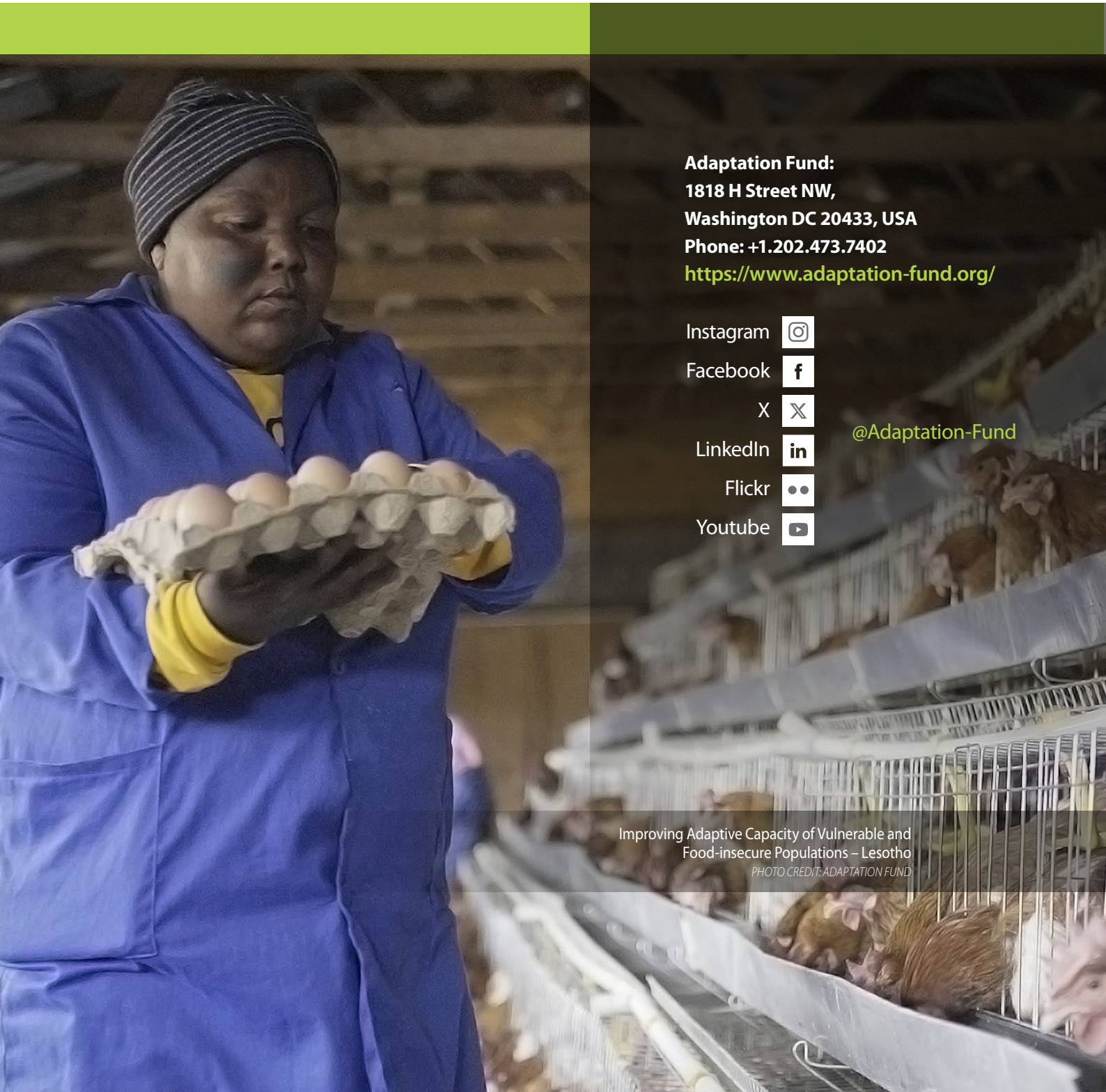
Methods

Data are drawn from the Adaptation Fund's portfolio database (226 projects as of June 2026). Core indicator values represent expected or achieved results, as recorded in approved project or evaluation documents, respectively, and are extracted through an AI-assisted protocol. Portfolio aggregates include projects classified as 'regional' or 'global', referred to here as multi-country projects.



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

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Improving Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable and Food-insecure Populations – Lesotho
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