ADAPTATION FUND

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Adaptation Fund Board
Ethics and Finance Committee
Thirty-eighth meeting
Bonn, Germany

THEMATIC RESULTS BRIEFS

INFORMATION NOTE

Official Use Only

The thematic results briefs are a new set of knowledge products designed to showcase how the Adaptation Fund portfolio contributes to thematic areas, such as the target areas of the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA). Their purpose is to provide evidence of the Fund's contribution, make adaptation results more visible and accessible, demonstrate the interconnected nature of adaptation across sectors, and support learning both within the Fund and among external stakeholders. Each brief focuses on a specific thematic area and brings together information on its strategic relevance, the scale and reach of Fund investments, expected and achieved results, co-benefits across other thematic areas, and illustrative project examples from the portfolio. The topics of the briefs are listed below.

THEMATIC BRIEFS:
Agriculture and Food Security
Water Supply and Sanitation
Ecosystems and Biodiversity
Infrastructure and Human Settlements
Poverty Eradication and Livelihoods
Health
Cultural Heritage
Transboundary Impacts
SIDS and LDCs



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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).

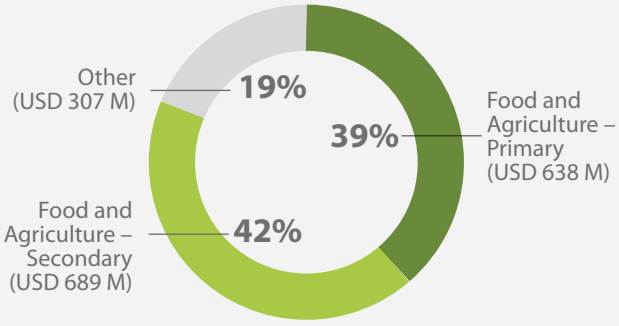
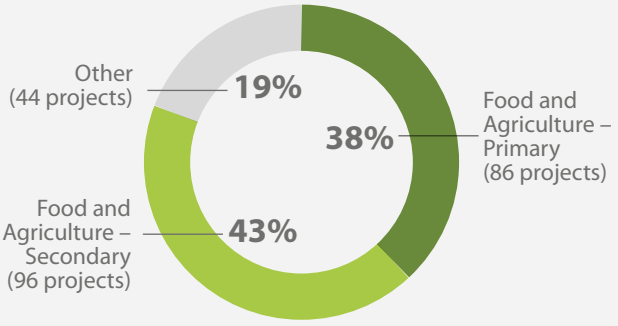


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'food and agriculture' by **number of projects** (in % & number of projects).



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.

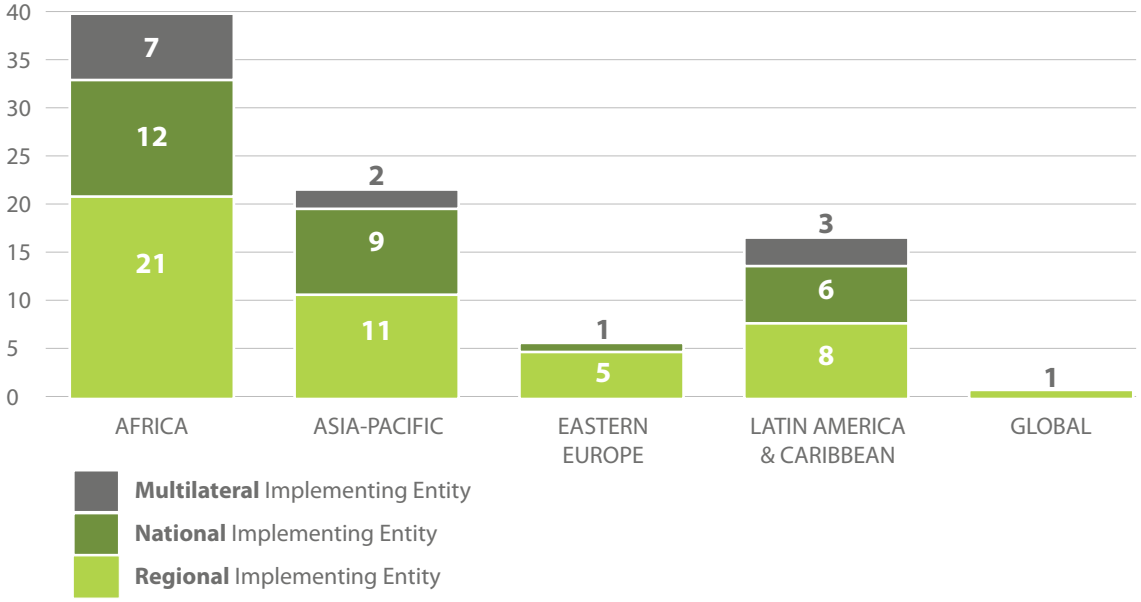


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to food and agriculture by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

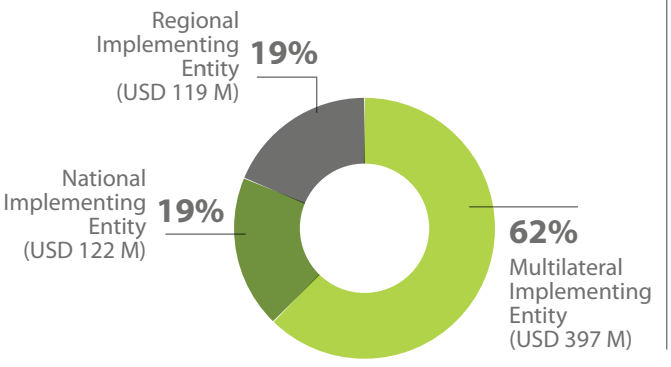
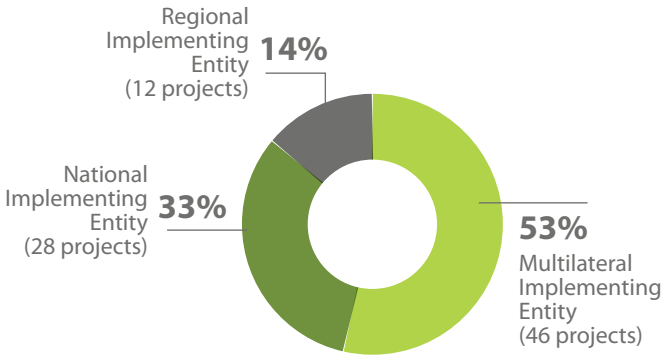


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to food and agriculture by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



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.

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



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Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

WATER AND SANITATION

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 430 million** in **58 projects** where supporting climate-resilient water supply and sanitation systems is the primary goal, representing **26%** of the Fund's total portfolio.

Through these grants, the Fund has strengthened the sustainable management of water resources and services in the face of increasing climate-related water risks such as **drought, flooding, and changing rainfall patterns**, while improving equitable and reliable **access to safe water and sanitation**.

These projects are expected to reach over **35 million beneficiaries**, increase and protect the incomes for over **10 million households**, and restore over **1.5 million hectares** of natural assets.

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

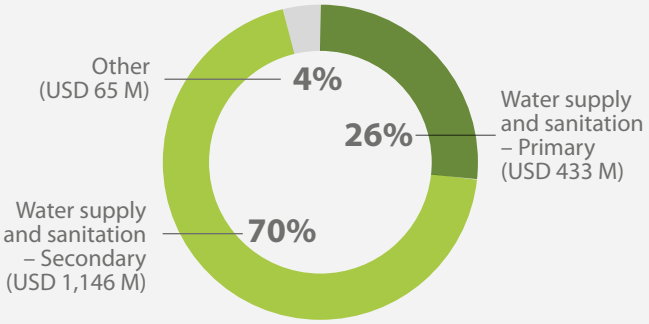
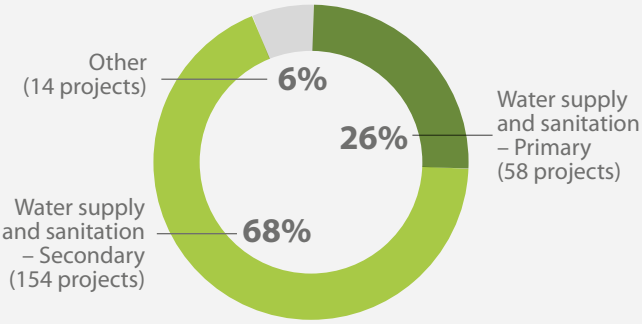


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'water and sanitation', **by number of projects** (in % & number of projects).



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



Restoring Marine Ecosystem Services by Rehabilitating Coral Reefs to Meet a Changing Climate Vuture – Mauritius and Seychelles.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Water insecurity is one of the most direct and damaging consequences of climate change, affecting agriculture, health, economic productivity and stability. In response, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), recognizes climate-resilient water supply, sanitation and water resource management as central priorities to strengthen climate resilience.

The Adaptation Fund contributes through practical, high-impact investments in climate-resilient infrastructure, integrated watershed management and expanded access to safe and reliable water services, targeting communities where vulnerability is highest and development needs are most acute.



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Water and Sanitation

The Adaptation Fund's portfolio in water and sanitation spans several operational regions with the largest share of projects in **Asia-Pacific (38%)**, **Africa (34%)**, and **Latin America and the Caribbean (21%)**, alongside a smaller share in **Eastern Europe (3%)**. 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 and direct access, with **38%** projects led by **National**, **10%** by **Regional**, and remaining by Multilateral Implementing Entities.



Integrated Climate-Resilient Transboundary Flood Risk Management in the Drin River Basin – Albania.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

While most projects are **regular-sized projects**[1] **(74%)**, the portfolio also includes an important share of innovation, locally-led adaptation, and small grant project types.

Of the **58 water and sanitation projects**, 12 are closed, 31 are under implementation, and 15 didn't start implementation yet.

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

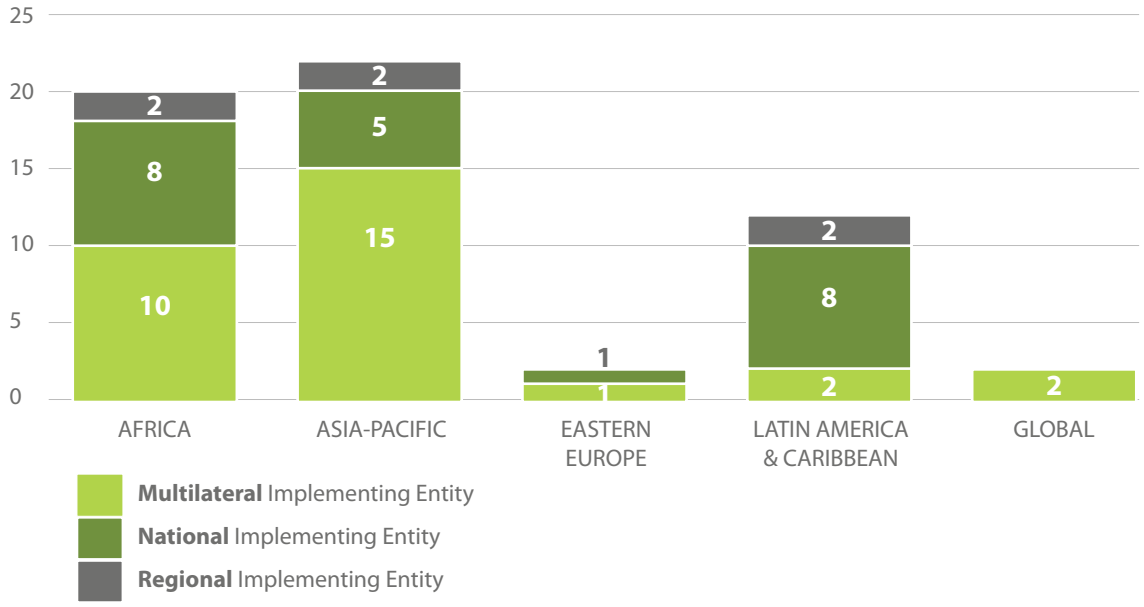


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'water and sanitation', by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

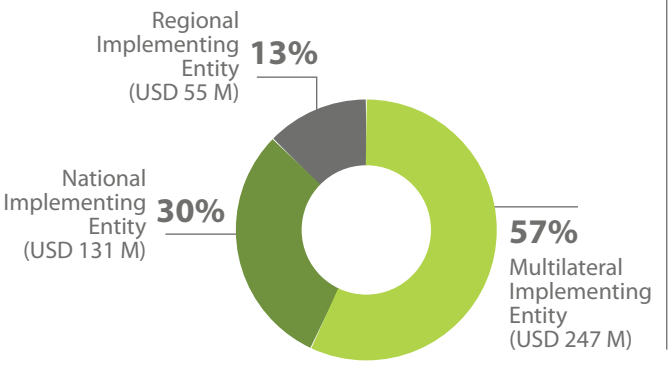
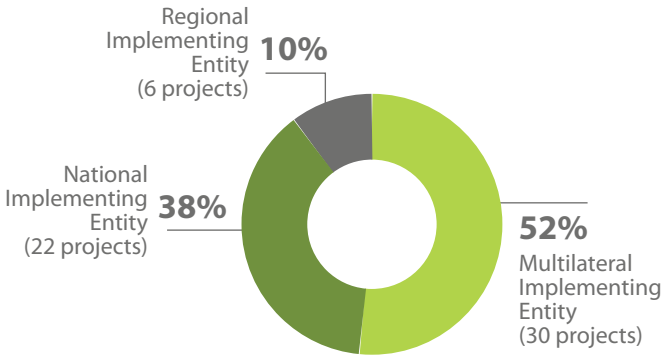


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'water and sanitation', by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'water and sanitation' portfolio: USD 430 M across 58 projects*

1 Based on AF documentation (2017), a regular-sized project refers to a project requesting grants of more than USD 1 million. Link: Instructions-for-Preparing-a-Request-for-ProjectProgramme-Funding_Oct-2017.pdf



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The Adaptation Fund water and sanitation projects are reducing climate-related water risks, improving access to safe drinking water and sustainable sanitation systems, while strengthening the communities' capacity to anticipate, absorb, and recover from climate-related shocks.

Expected impacts from the 58 projects where water and sanitation are a primary goal include:

35 million
people reached directly and indirectly, including 43% women and 10% youth.

10 million
households with increased or protected incomes, including 2,400 female-led households.

1.5 million
hectares of ecosystems restored.

60
early warning systems strengthened.

1,900 km
of climate-resilient infrastructure improved.

These grants help improve water availability and quality, enhance service reliability, reduce climate risks, and strengthen community resilience.

Beyond projects where water supply and sanitation are primary goals, the Fund's portfolio in other areas such as food and agriculture, infrastructure, ecosystems, and poverty eradication also contribute indirectly to water security. These projects improve irrigation reliability, restore watershed and coastal ecosystem functions, and strengthen climate-resilient water and sanitation systems. Expected additional impacts include:

87 million beneficiaries reached.

Around **4 million hectares** of supporting ecosystems restored.

More than **6,700 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 benefits include ecosystem restoration, gender empowerment, and improved health outcomes, driven by integrated approaches that combine local knowledge, nature-based solutions, and strengthened institutions.

CASE STUDY:

LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements in **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Country:	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Implementing entity:	UN-Habitat (MIE)
Amount:	USD 4,500,000
Project duration:	2021-2024
Status:	Project Implementation Completed

Lao People's Democratic Republic is one of the world's most climate-vulnerable countries due to its dependence on climate-sensitive natural resources and limited adaptive capacity. Increasing floods, droughts, and storms, along with associated hazards such as landslides and disease outbreaks, pose growing risks to livelihoods, infrastructure, and basic services, particularly in poor and underserved rural and emerging urban settlements in the country's southern provinces. These risks are exacerbated by inadequate infrastructure, limited access to services, and the high vulnerability of remote and ethnic minority communities.



Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund is providing USD 4.5 million to enhance the climate and disaster resilience of vulnerable human settlements in southern Lao PDR. The project combines institutional strengthening, community capacity building, climate vulnerability and disaster risk assessments, and investments in climate-resilient water, sanitation, and related infrastructure systems. Its objective is to increase sustainable access to basic services while improving resilience to floods, droughts, storms, landslides, and disease outbreaks.
The project aims to improve access to essential services and strengthen the resilience of communities and local institutions.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project successfully strengthened climate and disaster resilience in some of Lao PDR's most vulnerable rural and emerging urban settlements through the construction of climate-resilient water supply infrastructure and complementary capacity-building activities. By completion, 189 communities had gained access to improved water services, benefiting approximately 125,295 people. The project also strengthened institutional and community capacities for climate adaptation through vulnerability assessments, climate action planning, community engagement, and training on the operation and maintenance of resilient water systems. Communities reported improved year-round access to water, reduced time spent collecting water, and enhanced resilience to droughts and other climate-related hazards.



Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	125,295 direct beneficiaries gained access to climate-resilient water supply infrastructure across Attapeu, Salavan and Sekong provinces.
Points of infrastructure	189 water supply infrastructure systems constructed, including gravity-fed systems, solar-powered systems, rainwater harvesting facilities, slow sand filtration tanks, and household water connections.

Source: Terminal Evaluation of "Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements in Lao PDR (2024)



"Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:
UGANDA



PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

Enhancing resilience of communities to climate change through catchment-based integrated management of water and related resources in **Uganda**

Country:	Uganda
Implementing entity:	Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) (RIE)
Amount:	USD 7,751,000
Project duration:	2017 - 2022
Status:	Project Implementation Completed

Uganda is highly vulnerable to climate change, with increasing temperatures and changing rainfall patterns contributing to more frequent floods and landslides. These impacts are particularly severe in the Awoja, Aswa, and Maziba catchments, where environmental degradation, unsustainable use of natural resources, and dependence on climate-sensitive livelihoods increase the vulnerability of local communities. The resulting pressures threaten ecosystems, agricultural production, water resources, and rural livelihoods.

Between 2017 and 2021, the Adaptation Fund provided USD 7.75 million to the Sahara and Sahel Observatory (OSS) to strengthen the resilience of communities in the Awoja, Aswa, and Maziba catchments. The project combines catchment-based water resources management, ecosystem restoration, climate-resilient agricultural practices, livelihood diversification, and institutional capacity building. Its objective is to increase resilience to floods and landslides through integrated, equitable, and sustainable management of water and related natural resources.

Through its integrated approach, which links climate adaptation, ecosystem management, community livelihoods, and water governance, the project aims to strengthen adaptive capacity at local, catchment, and national levels while providing a model for climate-resilient catchment management.



Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment-based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources – Project Completion Report.

PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project strengthened the resilience of communities to climate change across the Awoja, Aswa, and Maziba catchments through an integrated approach combining ecosystem restoration, sustainable water resource management, climate-resilient livelihoods, and institutional capacity development. The project restored degraded landscapes and wetlands, promoted sustainable land and water management practices, strengthened catchment governance structures, and expanded livelihood opportunities for vulnerable households. These interventions contributed to improved ecosystem health, reduced climate-related risks, and enhanced community resilience to floods, droughts, and other climate hazards.



Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment-based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources – Project Completion Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	More than 100,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached through ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and livelihood interventions.
Length of infrastructure	422 km of biophysical flood control and water management structures established, including 250.2 km of demarcated riverbanks.
Households	Over 10,000 households benefited from alternative livelihood opportunities, including beekeeping, ecotourism, fish farming, zero-grazing, and other income-generating activities.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	2,199 ha of deforested land restored through afforestation, 563 ha of wetlands rehabilitated, and 721 ha of riverbanks restored.

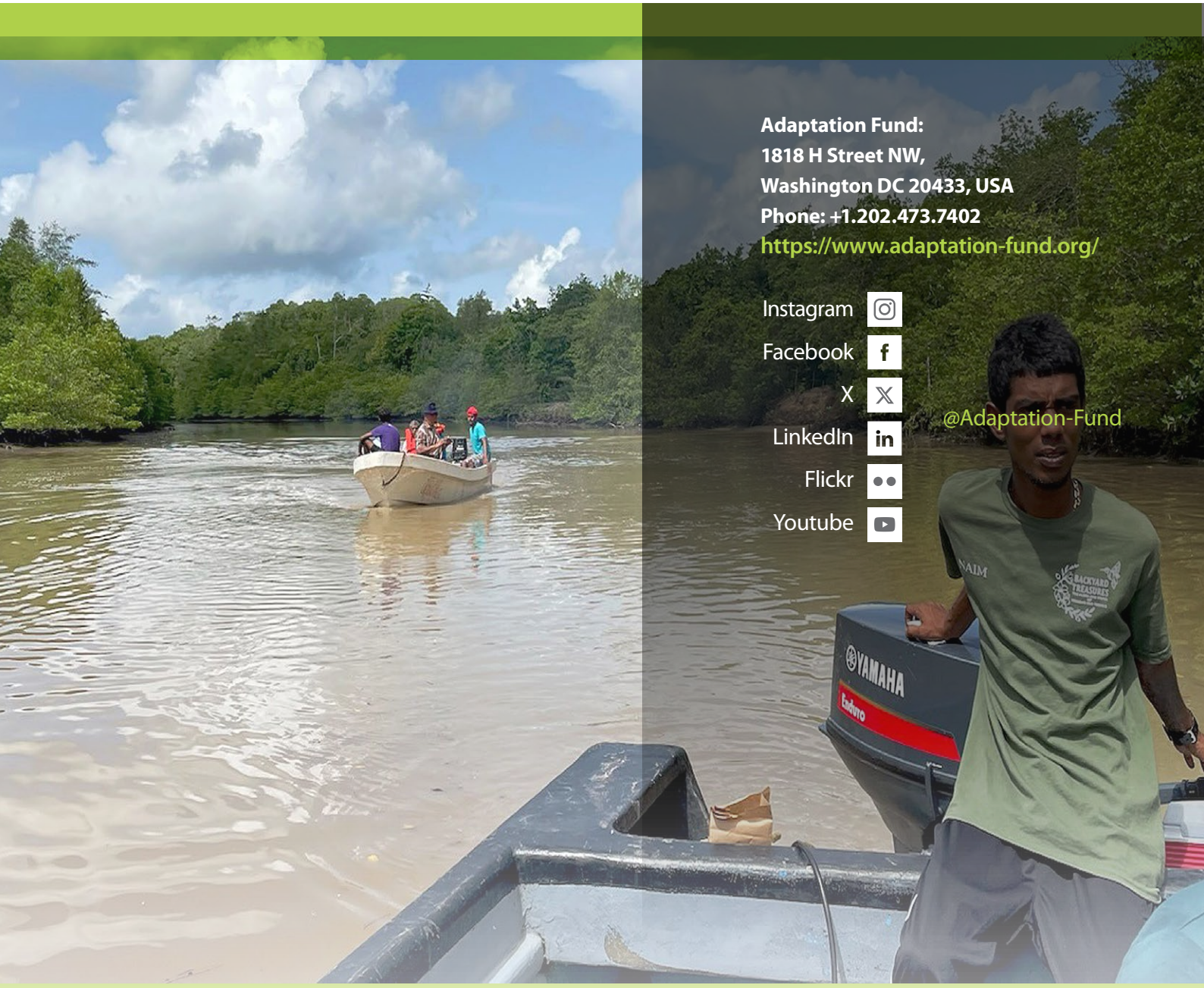
Source: Final Evaluation Report: Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment-Based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources in Uganda (EURECCCA) (2023)



Enhancing Resilience of Communities to Climate Change through Catchment-based Integrated Management of Water and Related Resources – Project Completion Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: SAHARA AND SAHEL OBSERVATORY

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, extracted through an AI-assisted protocol.



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Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche River Basin for Flood Relief – Trinidad and Tobago.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND



ADAPTATION FUND

Enhancing Climate Resilience in San Cristóbal province, Integrated Water Resources Management and Rural Development Programme – Dominican Republic.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 280 million** in **38 projects** where supporting climate-resilient ecosystems and biodiversity initiatives is the primary goal, representing **17%** of the Fund's total portfolio.

Through these grants, the Fund has helped to strengthen ecosystem services and natural resources such as wetlands, coastal zones, and watersheds, enhancing adaptive capacity to key climate-related hazards.

These projects are expected to reach over **9 million beneficiaries**, increase or protect the incomes of **164,000 households**, and restore **1.2 million hectares** of natural assets.

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

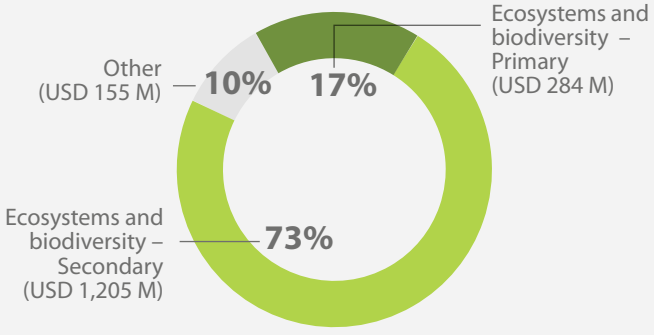
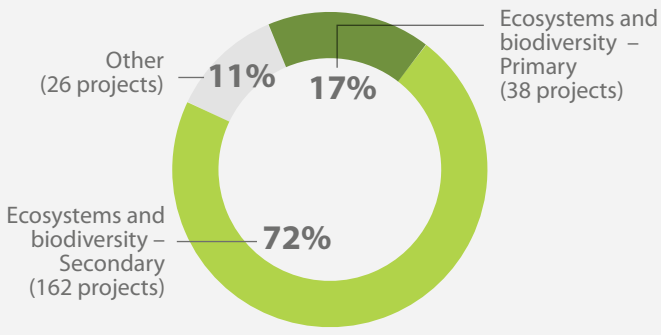


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'ecosystems and biodiversity', by **number of projects** (in % & number of projects).



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

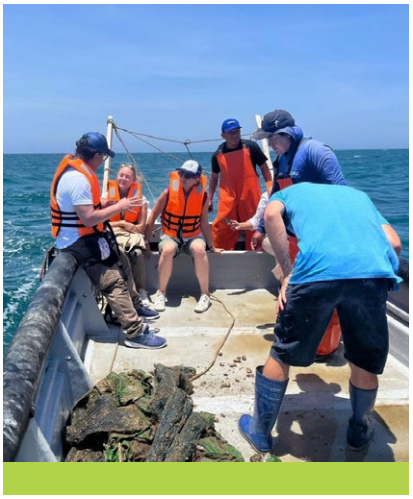


Adapting to Climate Change through Integrated Water Management – Panama.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Healthy ecosystems are fundamental to climate resilience, providing natural protection against floods, erosion, drought, salinization, and other climate-related hazards while sustaining water security, food systems, livelihoods, and biodiversity. As climate change accelerates ecosystem degradation and biodiversity loss, the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) recognizes the restoration, conservation, protection, and adaptive management of ecosystems as a key priority for strengthening resilience.

The Adaptation Fund supports this thematic area by providing grants for ecosystem-based adaptation, watershed and coastal restoration, sustainable natural resource management, and community-led conservation initiatives. By restoring and strengthening the resilience of natural systems, these interventions help reduce climate risks, safeguard essential ecosystem services, and support sustainable livelihoods, while generating benefits for biodiversity and environmental sustainability.



Adaptation to the Impacts of Climate Change on Peru's Coastal Marine Ecosystems and Fisheries.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Ecosystems and Biodiversity

The Adaptation Fund's portfolio in ecosystems and biodiversity spans several operational regions with the largest shares of projects in **Latin America and the Caribbean (37%)**, **Asia-Pacific (32%)**, and **Africa (18%)**. It also has a strong focus on highly vulnerable contexts, with 37% of projects implemented in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.

Project delivery balances international expertise and direct access, with **31%** projects led by **National**, **18%** by **Regional**, and remaining by Multilateral Implementing Entities.



Adapting to Climate Change through Integrated Water Management in Panama.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

While the portfolio is largely comprised of regular-sized projects[1] , it also includes **an important share of innovation (13%)**, locally-led adaptation, and small-grant project types.

Of all 38 projects, 6 are closed, 16 are under implementation, and 16 didn't start implementation yet.

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

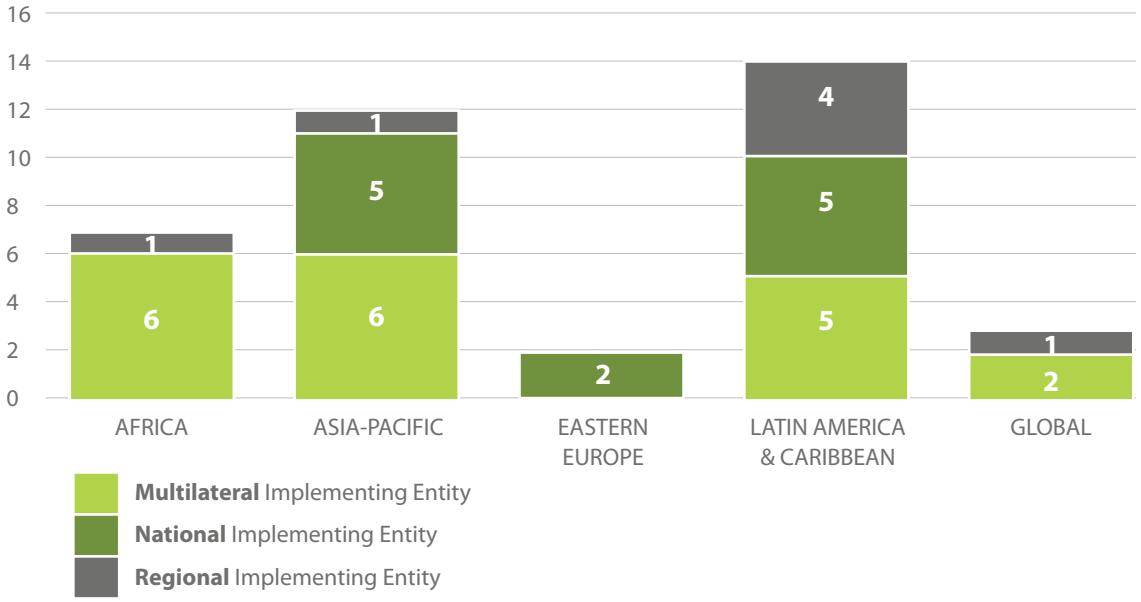


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'ecosystems and biodiversity', by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

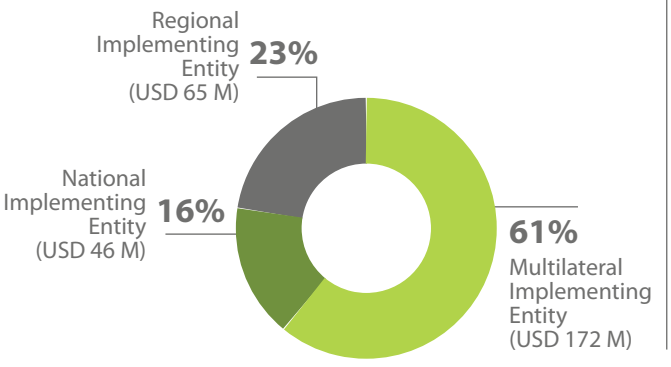
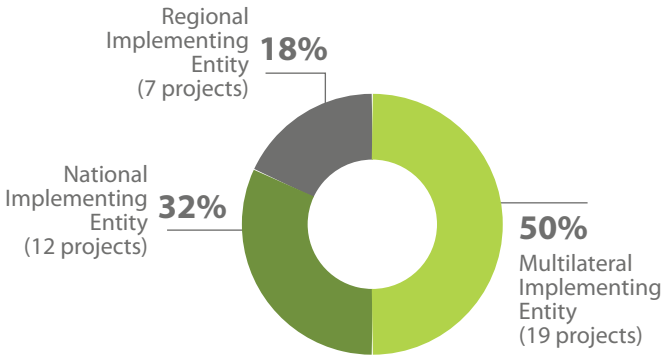


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'ecosystems and biodiversity', by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'ecosystems and biodiversity' portfolio: USD 280 M across 38 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, Integrated Water Resources Management and Rural Development Programme – Dominican Republic.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The Adaptation Fund's ecosystem and biodiversity projects reduce climate-related losses by restoring and protecting natural systems, strengthening their capacity to buffer climate hazards such as floods, erosion, and salinization, and sustaining critical services such as water regulation, coastal protection, and landscape stability.

Expected impacts from ecosystem and biodiversity projects include approximately:

9 million
people reached directly and indirectly, including 45% women and 24% youth.

164,000
households with increased or protected incomes, including over 2,600 female-led households.

1.2 million
hectares of ecosystems restored.

48
early warning systems strengthened.

3,000 km
of climate-resilient infrastructure improved.

Ecosystem and biodiversity outcomes extend well beyond projects where ecosystems and biodiversity is the primary goal. Investments in food and agriculture, water supply, infrastructure and poverty reduction also contribute to ecosystem health by restoring degraded landscapes, strengthening watershed and coastal functions, and expanding nature-based solutions.

Expected additional impacts include:

95 million beneficiaries reached.

4 million hectares of supporting ecosystems restored.

5,300 km of infrastructure improved.

Taken together, these results show a consistent pattern across the Fund's portfolio: adaptation projects generate multiple, mutually reinforcing benefits for biodiversity, for livelihoods, for community resilience, extending well beyond the primary goals of individual project.

CASE STUDY:

HONDURAS



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in **Tegucigalpa**

Country:	Honduras
Implementing entity:	UN-Development Program (UNDP) (MIE)
Amount:	USD 4,379,700
Project duration:	2019-2024
Status:	Closed

Honduras is highly vulnerable to climate change, with increasing temperatures, reduced rainfall, and ecosystem degradation affecting water resources, livelihoods, and local economies. These pressures are particularly acute in the Central Forest Corridor (CFC), which provides critical ecosystem services, including water supply for Tegucigalpa and surrounding communities.
The Adaptation Fund provided USD 4.4 million to help increase the climate resilience of vulnerable communities in the CFC. The project focused on strengthening local governance, implementing ecosystem-based adaptation measures, and improving climate information and monitoring systems. Its objective was to secure livelihoods and maintain the ecosystem goods and services on which local communities and Tegucigalpa depend.



Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa – Honduras.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

By project completion, more than 20,000 people benefited directly and indirectly from the project, including 4,473 families with improved access to water supply services. The project trained 5,583 people in climate change adaptation, sustainable agriculture, forest management, and water resource management, with women accounting for 67% of participants.

The project supported all 14 participating municipalities in integrating climate adaptation into their budgeting processes and updated 14 municipal forest protection plans. It also established watershed governance structures and strengthened local regulatory frameworks for climate adaptation and natural resource management. In addition, more than 1,500 hectares of forest were restored through reforestation and assisted natural regeneration, thereby improving ecosystem resilience and water security within the corridor.

The project also generated important local impacts by strengthening community capacities, restoring degraded ecosystems, and improving forest and water management practices. Its participatory approach, strong engagement with local institutions, and integration of gender and indigenous perspectives provide a foundation for replication in similar landscapes. Wider scaling depends on continued institutional coordination, sustainable financing, and longer-term governance arrangements for the Central Forest Corridor. Other achieved outcomes include:

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	21,290 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached (50% women).
Early Warning Systems	14 municipal early warning systems established or strengthened.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	36,750 hectares of ecosystems protected or rehabilitated.

Source: Ecosystem-Based Adaptation at Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa- AdaptarC HONDURAS, Final Evaluation Report (2024)





Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa – Honduras.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:
INDIA



PHOTO CREDIT: BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Building Adaptive Capacities of Communities, Livelihoods and Ecological Security in the Kanha-Pench Corridor of **Madhya Pradesh**

Country:	India
Implementing entity:	National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) (NIE)
Amount:	USD 2,556,093
Project duration:	2017-2022
Status:	Project Implementation Completed

The Kanha–Pench Corridor (KPC) in Madhya Pradesh is an ecologically important landscape that connects the Kanha and Pench Tiger Reserves and supports critical ecosystem services, including water regulation, biodiversity conservation, and forest-based livelihoods.

However, increasing pressure from resource extraction, forest degradation, climate variability, and declining ecosystem services has heightened the vulnerability of local communities, many of whom depend on forests, agriculture, and livestock for their livelihoods. Climate change is expected to further affect forest health, agricultural productivity, water availability, and livelihood security across the corridor.



Climate smart actions and strategies in north western Himalayan region for sustainable livelihoods of agriculture-dependent hill communities – India.
PHOTO CREDIT: BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

The Adaptation Fund is provided USD 2.6 million to help build the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities in 56 villages across the Kanha-Pench Corridor. The project adopts a three-pronged approach focused on strengthening community institutions, conserving and restoring ecosystems, and promoting climate-resilient livelihoods. Activities include community mobilization, restoration of degraded lands and forests, improved water and soil management, climate-resilient agriculture, livelihood diversification, and knowledge sharing.

Its integrated landscape approach, combining ecosystem conservation, community governance, and climate-resilient livelihoods, aims to provide a replicable model for strengthening resilience in other forest-dependent and climate-vulnerable regions.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

By project completion, the project strengthened the adaptive capacities of approximately 7,609 households across 56 villages in the Kanha-Pench Corridor. Climate-resilient agriculture practices were adopted by 4,582 households, while 1,913 households diversified their livelihoods through activities such as goat rearing, fish farming, kitchen gardening, and non-timber forest product (NTFP) based enterprises. Women played a central role, with 1,651 women participating in self-help groups (SHGs), trainings, and exposure visits.

The project improved ecosystem resilience through watershed development and ecological restoration. A total of 1,823 hectares were treated through watershed activities, improving water availability and agricultural productivity, while 2,096 hectares of degraded land were restored through the removal of invasive Lantana camara. These interventions supported biodiversity recovery, increased availability of NTFPs, and strengthened the resilience of local ecosystems and livelihoods.

The project also strengthened community institutions, including SHGs and Village Development Committees, promoting participatory natural resource management and local ownership of adaptation activities. The integrated ecosystem-based adaptation approach demonstrated strong potential for replication in similar forest-dependent landscapes, although long-term sustainability will depend on continued institutional support, maintenance of assets, and stronger market linkages.

Category	Expected outcomes
Households	Approximately 7,609 households reached across 56 villages.
Early Warning Systems	5 agrometeorological stations were established, providing weather information to 2,360 households.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	2,096 hectares of degraded land restored

Source: Terminal Evaluation Report, Building Adaptive Capacities of Communities, Livelihoods and Ecological Security in the Kanha-Pench Corridor of Madhya Pradesh (2026)



Climate smart actions and strategies in north western Himalayan region for sustainable livelihoods of agriculture-dependent hill communities – India.

PHOTO CREDIT: BAIF DEVELOPMENT RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Methods

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



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Ecosystem-Based Adaptation in Communities of the Central Forest Corridor in Tegucigalpa – Honduras.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND



ADAPTATION FUND

Developing Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities – Georgia.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

INFRASTRUCTURE AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 255 million** in **36 projects** where supporting infrastructure and human settlements is the primary goal, representing **15%** of the Fund's total portfolio.

These grants aim to protect vulnerable communities from climate change, increasing the resilience of infrastructure and human settlements to climate change impacts to ensure basic and continuous essential services for all, minimizing climate-related impacts on infrastructure and human settlements.

The projects expect to reach more than **56 million beneficiaries** and increase or protect the income of **389,071 households**.

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

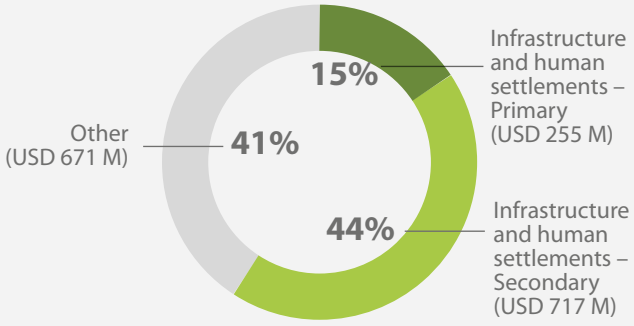
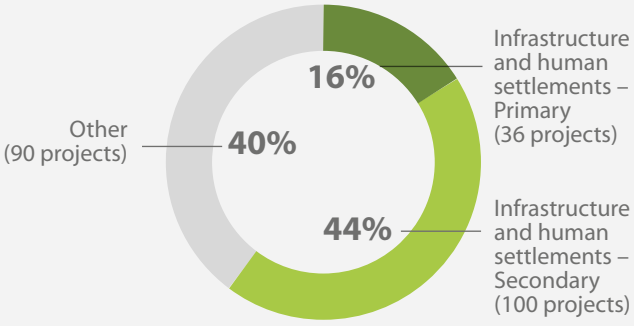


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'infrastructure and human settlements', by **number of projects** (in % & number of projects).



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



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Western Balkans.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Climate change is placing growing pressure on buildings, critical infrastructure, and essential services. Floods, storms, landslides, sea-level rise, and extreme heat can damage assets, disrupt services, and increase risks for communities already living in vulnerable or underserved settlements.

The Adaptation Fund supports this thematic area by funding climate-resilient infrastructure, safer settlements, improved drainage and water systems, and risk-informed planning. These grants help reduce physical damage and service disruption, improve safety and access to basic services, and strengthen the capacity of communities and institutions to plan for, withstand, and recover from climate-related hazards.



Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Infrastructure and Human Settlements

The Adaptation Fund's portfolio in infrastructure and human settlements spans several operational regions with the largest shares of projects in **Asia-Pacific (53%)**, and **Latin America and the Caribbean (19%)** and **Africa (19%)**. It also has a strong focus on highly vulnerable contexts, with **53%** of projects implemented in Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States.



Developing Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities – Georgia.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

While the size of the projects varies, the portfolio is predominantly composed of **regular-sized projects[1] (89%)**, with innovation, locally-led adaptation, and small-grant modalities accounting for a smaller share.

Project delivery combines international implementation capacity with direct access: Multilateral Implementing Entities account for **64% of projects**, **National** for **25%** and **Regional** for **8%**.

Of the **36 infrastructure and human settlements projects** under this theme, 9 are closed, 22 are under implementation, and 5 are at the approval stage.

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

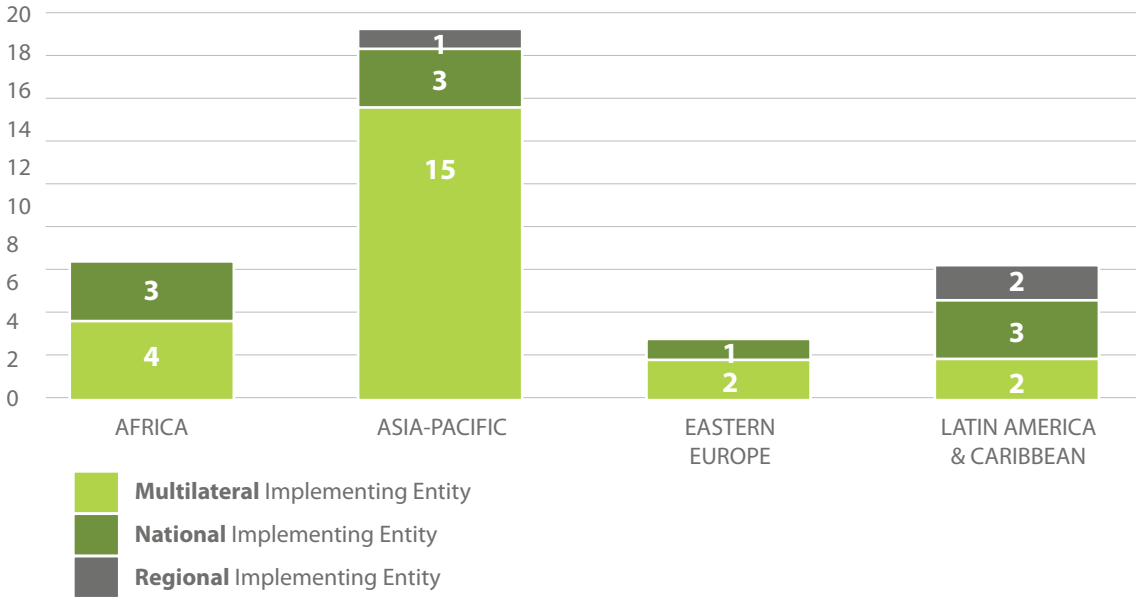


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'infrastructure and human settlements', by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

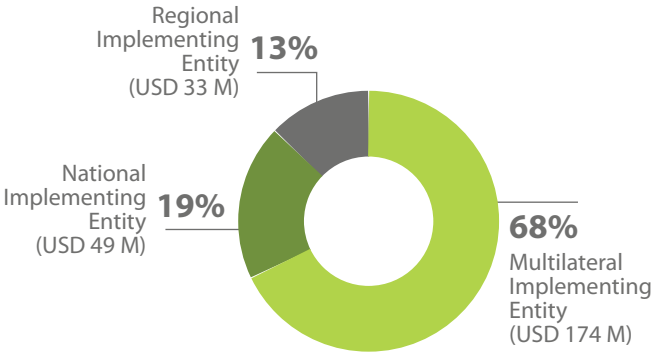
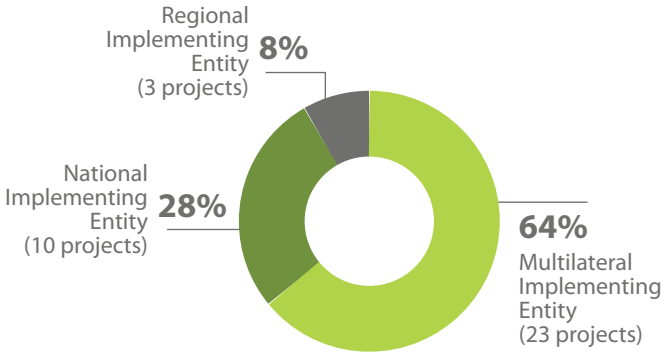


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'infrastructure and human settlements', by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'infrastructure and human settlements' portfolio: USD 255 M across 36 projects.*

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



Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

Adaptation Fund projects in infrastructure and human settlements help reduce climate-related losses by protecting physical assets, limiting service disruption, and improving access to safer water, sanitation, drainage, health, and other essential services in vulnerable communities.

Expected impacts from **36 infrastructure and human settlement projects** include approximately:

56 million
people reached directly and indirectly, including 50% women and 5% youth.

389,000
households with increased or protected incomes, including 1,200 female-led households.

86
early warning systems strengthened.

300 km
of infrastructure improved or strengthened.

6,800
hectares of ecosystems restored.

These grants improve service reliability, reduce climate risks, and strengthen the resilience of communities and built environments.

Beyond projects where infrastructure and human settlements is the primary goal, the Fund's broader funding in water supply and sanitation, food and agriculture, ecosystems and biodiversity, and poverty eradication also contribute indirectly to more resilient communities and built environments by strengthening service delivery systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and integrated land and resource management approaches. Expected additional impacts include:

37 million beneficiaries reached.

2 million hectares of supporting ecosystems restored.

4,100 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 benefits include contributions to healthier, cleaner living environments, better waste and pollution management, reduced exposure to water- and vector-borne diseases, and stronger stewardship of natural resources and ecosystems.

CASE STUDY:

HONDURAS



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

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

Country:	Honduras
Implementing entity:	UN-Development Program (UNDP) (MIE)
Amount:	USD 5,620,300
Project duration:	2011-2016
Status:	Closed

Honduras is consistently ranked among the world's most climate-vulnerable countries, with high exposure to hurricanes, floods, and droughts. The capital faces severe water rationing and is highly susceptible to landslides and flash floods, with the urban poor disproportionately affected. Climate projections indicate a 5–40% decline in rainfall by the end of the century, further worsening water scarcity and social pressures.

The project focused on increasing resilience to water-related climate risks by integrating climate change considerations into water-sector planning, piloting measures such as water harvesting, flood protection, landslide stabilization and improved water management, and improving the climate information systems needed for risk-informed decision-making. Looking ahead, the project outlines useful lessons for future scale-ups and replication in other areas. It highlights the value of early exit planning, sustained budget commitments, continuity across political cycles, and stronger private-sector engagement.

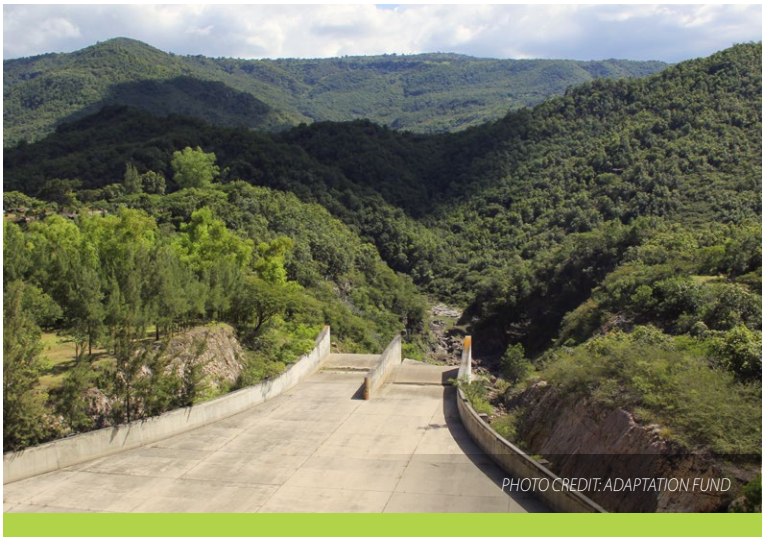


PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project improved institutional capacity to mainstream climate change adaptation into Honduras' water sector, supporting the application of the Water Law and National Plan Law and promoting more inter-sectoral, landscape-based approaches to climate risk management. Key achievements included establishing the Central Forest Corridor Platform, developing 22 watershed action plans, and strengthening the national meteorological network through 46 stations transmitting data to central servers.

Beyond the technical interventions, the project had a larger impact on social capital, building trust and collaboration between community organizations and public institutions. It also helped reposition climate change as part of the national policy agenda, shifting it from an exclusively environmental issue to a broader socioeconomic priority. Together, these interventions contributed to reduced climate-related water risks, improved early warning and planning capacity, and supported broader benefits for watershed protection and water security.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	119,271 beneficiaries with improved resilience to climate change.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	59,000 hectares of primarily watersheds, micro-watersheds, sub-basins, protected areas, and forest ecosystems linked to the water supply of Tegucigalpa were protected, including areas within the Central Forest Corridor.

Source: Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources in Honduras: Increased Systemic Resilience and Reduced Vulnerability of the Urban Poor, Project Evaluation, 2016.



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:
SOLOMON ISLANDS



Developing Climate Resilient Flood and Flash Flood Management Practices to Protect Vulnerable Communities – Georgia.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Enhancing Urban Resilience to Climate Change Impacts and Natural Disasters: **Honiara**

Country:	Solomon Islands
Implementing entity:	UN-Habitat (MIE)
Amount:	USD 4,395,877
Project duration:	2018-2027
Status:	Under implementation

The Solomon Islands is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing recurrent tropical cyclones, sea-level rise, flooding, and other climate-related shocks. In Honiara, these risks are worsened by a significant "adaptation deficit". This is driven by one of the fastest rates of urbanization in the world and reflected in the rapid expansion of informal settlements in high-risk areas such as riverbanks and steep slopes, often without secure tenure or access to basic services. Rising temperatures and more intense extreme weather events are expected to further exacerbate these underlying socioeconomic vulnerabilities.

In response, the Adaptation Fund approved USD 4.4 million to strengthen urban climate resilience at multiple levels across the city. At the community level, the project is supporting local climate action planning and the implementation of priority infrastructure measures, including drainage, bridges, and improved water supply systems. At the ward level, the project is working with councils and communities on disaster risk reduction, urban agriculture, food security, and ecosystem resilience. At the city-wide level, the project is improving institutional capacity to integrate climate risk into urban policy, land-use planning, and building regulations.

This project is structured to be highly replicable, using Honiara as a model for other rapidly urbanizing centers in Solomon Islands and the wider Asia-Pacific region, although its sustainability depends on embedding lessons into policy and maintaining local capacity and financing beyond Adaptation Fund support.

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project is expected to develop or strengthen 25 adaptation assets, based on a conservative estimate of around five infrastructure or resilience measures per hotspot community. These may include improved drainage, evacuation infrastructure, waste management infrastructure, and/or more resilient water supply systems. There are plans to develop women-focused climate risk and integrate climate change into educational programs for youth and children. The project will also foster partnerships among government agencies, Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT) University, and international stakeholders, while integrating community planning into city-level policy processes to enhance the participation of vulnerable informal settlements in decision-making.



Enhancing the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements – Lao PDR

PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	6,000 direct beneficiaries.
Households	750 households benefiting through increased income or avoided losses from assets, employment, water, and health benefits.

Source: Addressing Climate Change Risks on Water Resources in Honduras: Increased Systemic Resilience and Reduced Vulnerability of the Urban Poor, Project Evaluation, 2016.



Communities across the Western Balkans are strengthening their resilience to climate-induced flooding through a regional adaptation initiative - North Macedonia.

PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

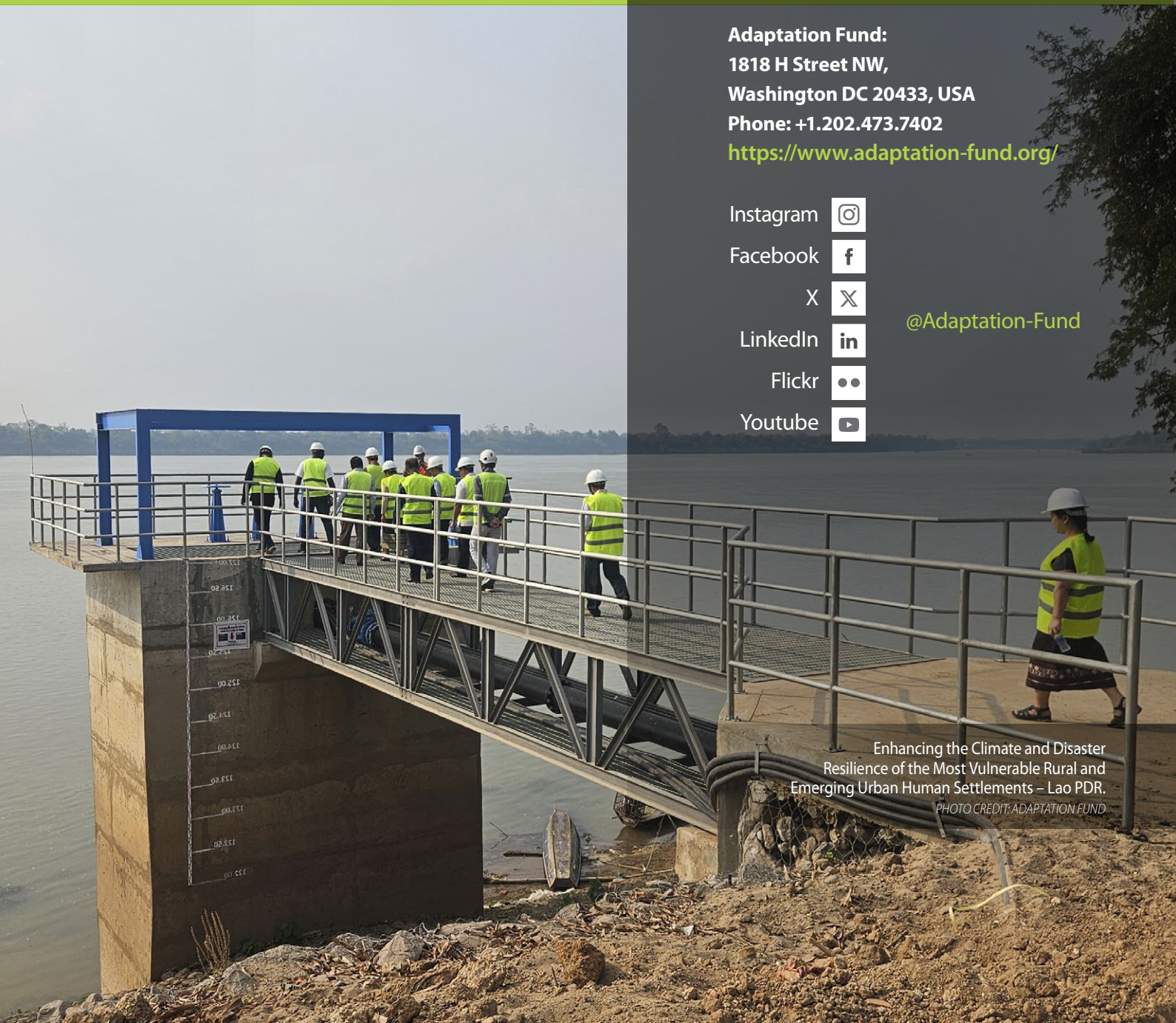
Methods

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.

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Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND



ADAPTATION FUND

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

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

POVERTY ERADICATION AND LIVELIHOODS

Poverty eradication and livelihoods is a cross-cutting objective across the Adaptation Fund portfolio, reflecting the Fund's broader support to developing countries in addressing their adaptation needs. While only 8 projects directly target this thematic area, **208 projects**, representing **92% of the portfolio**, address poverty eradication and livelihoods as a secondary goal.

Across the 8 projects alone, more than **USD 33 million**, representing **4%** of the portfolio, has been allocated to reducing the adverse effects of climate change on poverty and livelihoods, including through adaptive social protection measures.

The projects are expected to reach more than **398,000 beneficiaries**, strengthen and/or protect incomes for **2,400 households**, and safeguard **5,000 hectares** of natural assets.

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

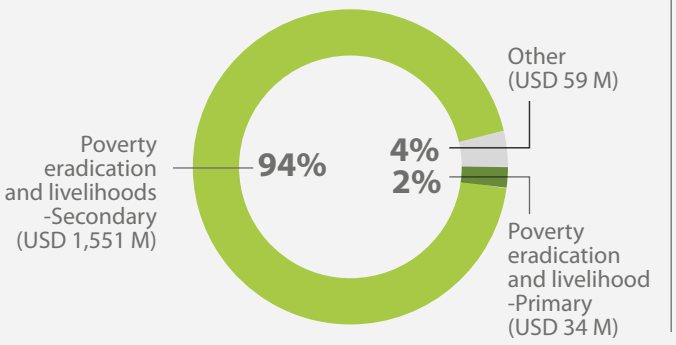
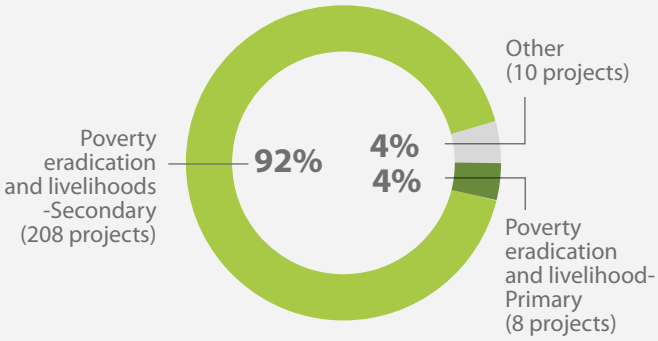


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'poverty eradication and livelihoods', by number of projects (**in % & number of projects**).



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



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Climate change deepens poverty by disrupting livelihoods, reducing income security, damaging productive assets, and limiting access to basic services. These impacts are most severe for households and communities already facing economic insecurity, limited livelihood options, and high exposure to climate-related hazards.

The Adaptation Fund contributes through adaptive social protection and locally-led adaptation that builds resilience and advances climate justice. These projects prioritize the most exposed households and communities, addressing the structural drivers of vulnerability alongside the immediate impacts of climate risk.



Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche River Basin for Flood Relief – Trinidad and Tobago.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Poverty Eradication and Livelihoods

Of the 8 projects targeting poverty eradication and livelihoods, 5 are led by Multilateral Implementing Entities (MIEs) and 3 by National Implementing Entities (NIEs). These projects are distributed evenly across operational regions, reflecting the cross-cutting relevance of poverty and livelihood resilience across different climate-vulnerable contexts. One project, representing 13% of the portfolio, is also implemented in a Least Developed Country.

The portfolio is notably innovation-heavy: 6 of the 8 projects are delivered through innovation windows, including an MIE Aggregator Project, an



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Innovation Small Grant, an Innovation Large Project and a Bundled Innovation/ Learning Grant, with only 2 delivered as regular-sized projects.

Of eight poverty eradication and livelihoods projects in the Fund's portfolio, four projects have been recently approved, two are currently under implementation and two are closed.

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

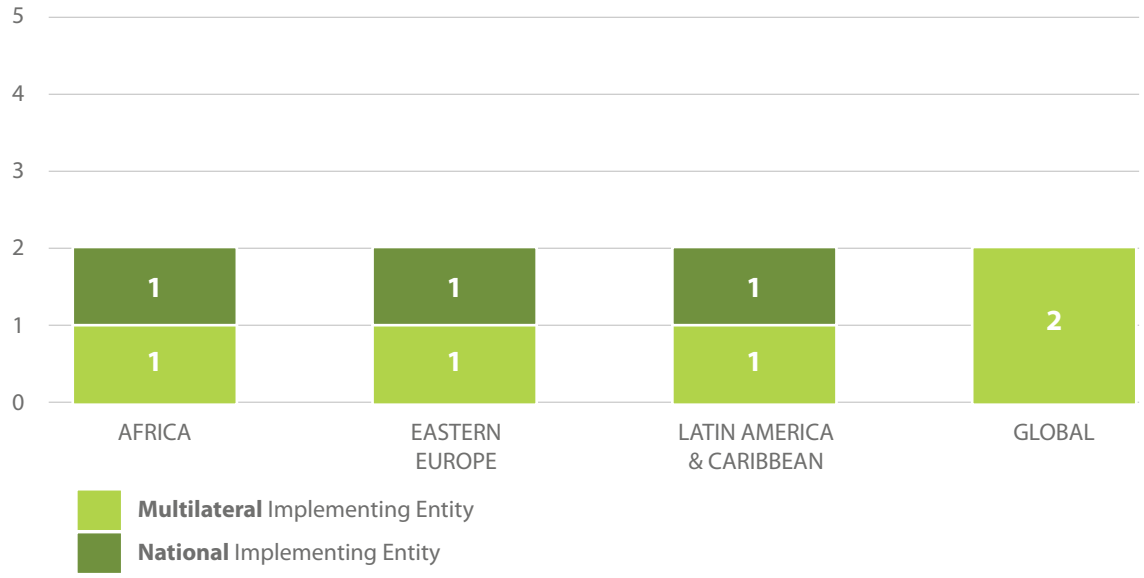


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'poverty eradication and livelihoods', by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

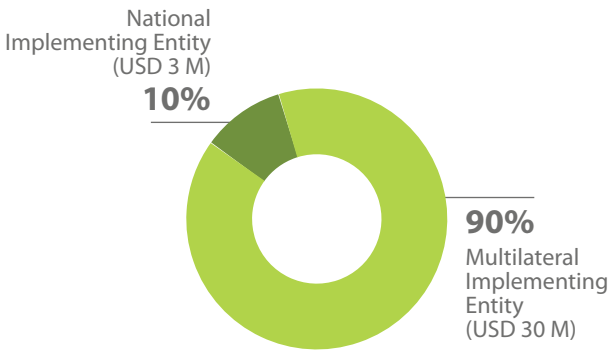
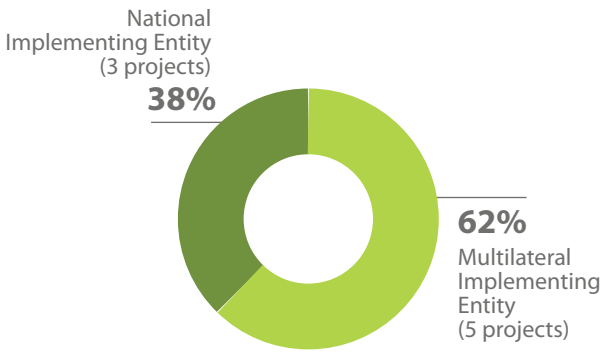


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio mapped to 'poverty eradication and livelihoods', by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'poverty eradication and livelihoods' portfolio: USD 33 M across 8 projects*



Multisectoral Adaptation Measures to Climate Change in the South Oropouche River Basin for Flood Relief – Trinidad and Tobago.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Results, Impacts, and Co-benefits

The Adaptation Fund poverty eradication and livelihoods projects are generating tangible benefits for vulnerable communities by reducing climate-related risks to livelihoods, protecting productive assets, and strengthening resilience to external shocks.

Expected impacts from projects where poverty eradication and livelihoods is a primary goal include:

More than **398,000 people** reached directly and indirectly, including 51% women and 14% youth.

More than **2,400 households** with increased or protected incomes.

5,000 hectares of natural assets protected.

These grants reduce reliance on climate-sensitive livelihoods and expand opportunities for income diversification, thereby enabling longer-term resilience for climate-vulnerable communities.

Beyond projects focused on poverty reduction, the Fund's support to other sectors, such as ecosystems and biodiversity, food and agriculture, infrastructure and human settlements, and water supply and sanitation, also make important contributions to reducing poverty and vulnerability.

Across the wider portfolio, 208 projects are expected to contribute indirectly to poverty reduction by strengthening livelihood security, expanding access to essential services, and reducing exposure to climate-related risks. Expected additional impacts include approximately:

120 million people reached.

11.5 million households with increased or protected incomes, including over 21,000 female-led households.

370 early warning systems established or strengthened.

8,500 km of infrastructure developed or improved.

5.5 million hectares of natural assets protected or restored.

Co-benefits of poverty eradication and livelihoods investments include improved food and water security, gender and youth empowerment, greater financial inclusion, and enhanced protection of the natural resource base on which livelihoods depend. These benefits are supported through integrated approaches that combine community-based adaptation, ecosystem restoration, strengthened local institutions, and inclusive access to climate information and services.

CASE STUDY:
LESOTHO



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Improving Adaptive Capacity of Vulnerable and Food-Insecure Populations in **Lesotho** (Phase I)

Country:	Lesotho
Implementing entity:	UN-World Food Programme (MIE)
Amount:	USD 9,999,894
Project duration:	2020-2025
Status:	Under Implementation

Lesotho is a landlocked, mountainous country and one of the most climate-vulnerable countries globally. Its population is highly exposed to erratic rainfall, recurrent droughts, and flash floods, all of which contribute to severe land degradation; the country is estimated to lose around 4.5 million tons of soil each year. With 57.1% of the population living in poverty and agriculture serving as the main source of rural livelihoods despite only 9% being classified as arable, these climate shocks have contributed to chronic food insecurity and malnutrition.

To address these challenges, the Adaptation Fund is providing almost USD 10 million to support the implementation of a resilience-building project for vulnerable and food-insecure communities in Lesotho. The project focuses on three main areas: strengthening government capacity to generate and use sub-seasonal forecasts and early warning systems, increasing nationwide awareness of climate risks and adaptation options, and supporting community-based planning to develop concrete adaptation assets, including irrigation infrastructure, soil conservation measures, and livelihood diversification activities.

The project aims to build national climate information systems and forecasting processes that can be used beyond the initial target areas. Additionally, planned interventions such as sand dams, solar-powered transformation hubs, and seed testing processes offer relatively low-cost, replicable models that could be adapted for use in other water-stressed and climate-vulnerable regions.



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

PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project sets out a mix of institutional and community-level outcomes, including stronger climate forecasting systems, drought preparedness standard operating procedures (SOPs) in three districts, training for 12 technical staff, climate awareness outreach to 42,840 people, and climate education in 295 schools. At the community level, it aims to deliver 21 local resilience plans, livelihood asset support for 23,000 households, post-harvest loss training for 3,000 farmers, and income diversification support for 4,300 women, with the broader aim of reducing climate-related food insecurity, improving soil and water conservation, and strengthening local market systems.



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

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	1,101,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, including 301,000 direct beneficiaries.
Early Warning Systems	Four Early Warning Systems (EWS), including three district SOPs for drought early warning and early action in Mafeteng, Mohale's Hoek, and Quthing, and one national sub-seasonal forecasting and drought early warning/early action system.
Households	7,300 households, including 4,300 very poor female-headed households with support for household vegetable gardening and 3,000 households with interventions for post-harvest loss reduction.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	54,900 hectares, including the creation and restoration of moderate/highly degraded land in southern districts

Source: Improving adaptive capacity of vulnerable and food-insecure populations in Lesotho, Project Proposal (2018)



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

CASE STUDY:

MOLDOVA



PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt)

Country:	Moldova
Implementing entity:	International Fund for Agricultural Development (MIE)
Amount:	USD 6,008,095
Project duration:	2021-2027
Status:	Under implementation

Moldova is among the most climate-vulnerable countries in Europe, facing rising temperatures, severe droughts, and widespread land degradation. The agriculture sector is particularly exposed to these climate shocks, with around 75% of the country's land at risk of degradation. Agriculture remains a cornerstone of the national economy, employing around 30% of the total workforce, with smallholder farmers accounting for around 60% of national agricultural output. These farmers are especially vulnerable, as many rely on increasingly unreliable rain-fed systems. The increasing volatility of agricultural livelihoods is contributing to outmigration, particularly among young people, creating a "talent retention" challenge and threatening the longevity of rural communities.

The Adaptation Fund is providing USD 6 million to train farmers in climate-resilient agricultural practices, provide financing for water-efficient technologies and irrigation systems, and mainstream conservation agriculture into higher education and training systems. The project recognizes the critical role agriculture serves as a social and economic safety net in rural Moldova and seeks to enhance its resilience to reduce the risk of social exclusion, limit climate-driven poverty, and support the long-term sustainability of rural livelihoods.





Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt) – Moldova.

PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

A core expected outcome is improved access to reliable, climate-resilient water for smallholder farmers with the project investing in tertiary canals, existing water sources and irrigation systems. Grants of USD 2,500 will be provided for at least 400 smallholders to adopt drip and micro-irrigation. The project will also establish a Training of Trainers program as well as setting up 10 demonstration plots to train farmers in water-efficient and climate-resilient farming practices.

Furthermore, the project aims to build long-term capacity for a more sustainable agricultural sector by developing a national understanding of Conservation Agriculture, integrating it into university and technical college curricula, and supporting innovative research focused on soil conservation and climate resilience.



Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt) – Moldova.
PHOTO CREDIT: IFAD

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	16,000 direct beneficiaries, with a target 40% women and 50% youth.
Households	5,000 households benefiting from climate-resilient improvements and improvements to water access.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	23,000 hectares of smallholder agricultural land made climate-resilient so that they are better able to cope with drought and torrential rain.

Source: Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt), Project Proposal (2019)



Talent Retention for Rural Transformation - Adapt (TRTP-Adapt) – Moldova.
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, extracted through an AI-assisted protocol.



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



ADAPTATION FUND

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

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

HEALTH

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 269 million** across **37 projects** where health gains have been identified as an expected outcome, representing **16%** of the Fund's total portfolio. While health is not the primary goal of these projects, the Fund contributes to better health outcomes by addressing underlying drivers of climate-related health risks, including unsafe water, food insecurity, inadequate shelter, and exposure to climate-sensitive diseases.

Through grants in water and sanitation systems, resilient infrastructure, and food and agriculture, these projects are expected to reach more than **16 million beneficiaries** and support over **415,000 households**.

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Climate change poses growing risks to human health, especially in communities already facing limited access to safe water, nutritious food, adequate shelter, and basic services. Health co-benefits are most visible where adaptation investments reduce the conditions that drive climate-sensitive illness and economic disruption.

By funding water and sanitation systems, resilient infrastructure, food security, ecosystems, and livelihoods, the Adaptation Fund helps lower exposure to risks such as unsafe water, malnutrition, heat stress, flooding, and vector- or water-borne disease.

These benefits extend beyond individual health outcomes, they can reduce pressure on households and public systems by helping avoid illness-related costs, disruptions to work and school, and losses in productivity. In this way, projects that are not primarily designed as health interventions can still



Pa Enua Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) – Cook Islands

PHOTO CREDIT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Health

The Adaptation Fund supports health co-benefits through projects whose primary goals fall across five Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) thematic areas: water and sanitation, infrastructure and human settlements, food and agriculture, ecosystems and biodiversity, and poverty eradication and livelihoods. Of the **37 projects** where health outcomes are expected as co-benefits, the largest concentrations are in **water and sanitation (35%)**, **infrastructure and human settlements (28%)**, and **food and agriculture (21%)**.

Figure 1.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'health' co-benefits, by primary GGA theme (**in % of total funding amount & USD million**).

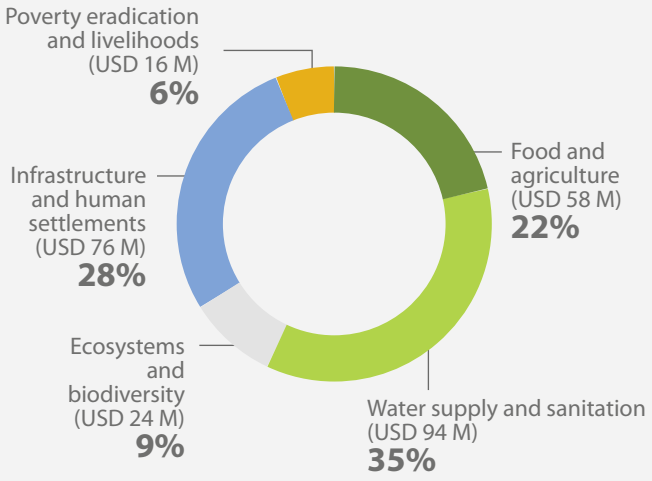
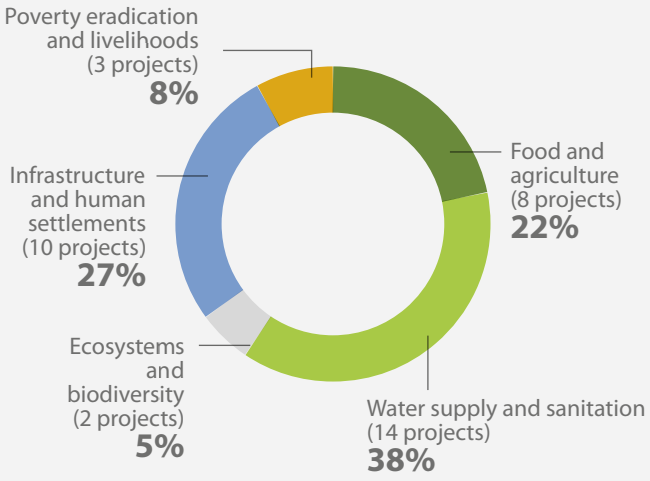


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'health' co-benefits, by primary GGA theme (**in % & number of projects**).



The portfolio has a strong presence in the most vulnerable countries: 19 of the 37 projects (51%) are in Least Developed Countries or Small Island Developing States. Geographically, Asia-Pacific has the highest concentration of these projects (46%), followed by Africa (24%) and Latin America and the Caribbean (22%).

Project delivery also reflects the Fund's commitment to direct access, with **32%** of projects led by **National Implementing Entities**.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of projects with 'health' co-benefits, by type of implementing entity. Distribution of Adaptation Fund funding that have 'health' co-benefits, by region, broken down by the type of implementing entity responsible for project delivery.

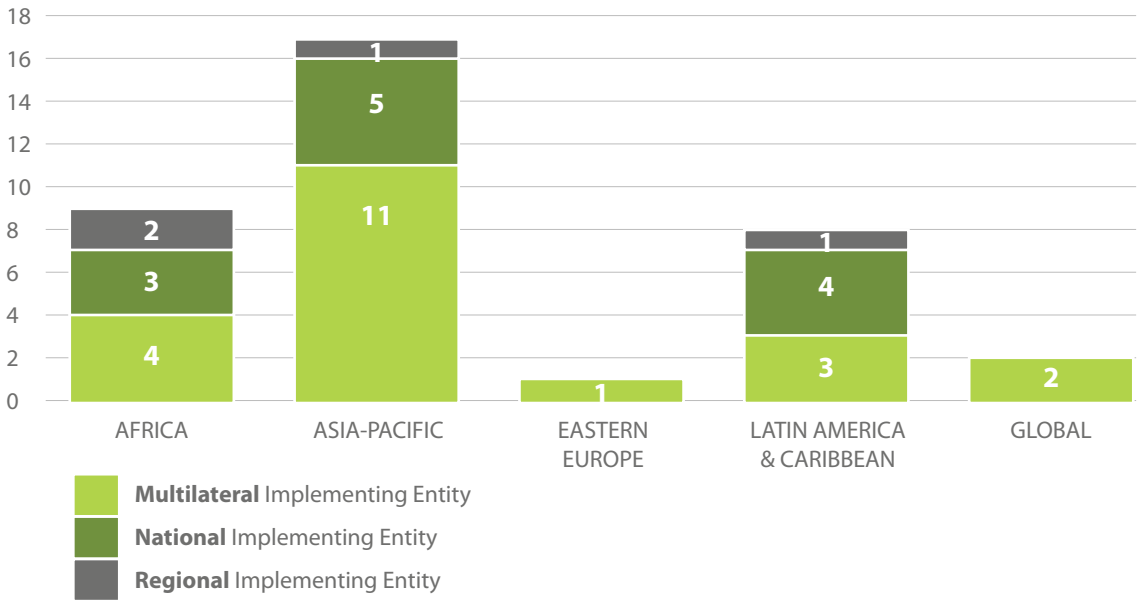


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'health' co-benefits, by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

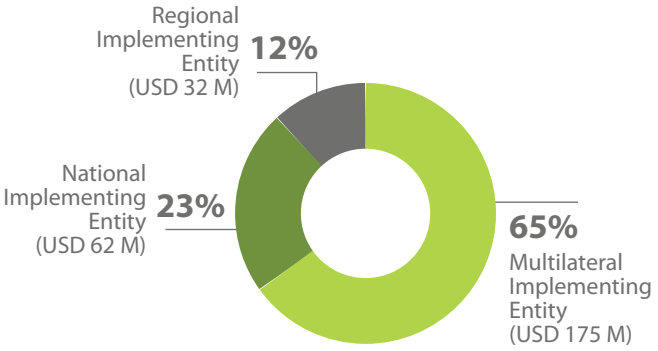
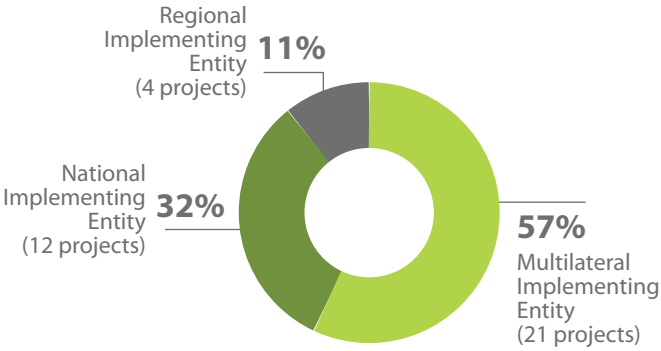


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'health' co-benefits, by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'health' co-benefits portfolio: USD 269 M across 37 projects*

CASE STUDY:

MALAYSIA



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Nature-Based Climate Adaptation Program for the Urban Areas of **Penang Island**

Country:	Malaysia
Implementing entity:	UN-Habitat (MIE)
Amount:	USD 10,000,000
Project duration:	2022-2027
Status:	Under Implementation

Penang Island's urban areas are increasingly exposed to two compounding climate hazards: rising heat and flooding, both of which pose direct public-health risks. Average temperatures in Bayan Lepas increased by 1.5°C between 1951 and 2018, while rapid urbanization has intensified the urban heat island effect, with surface temperatures in urban areas reaching up to 8°C higher than surrounding natural areas. In parallel, increasing rainfall and worsening flood events are placing people, infrastructure, and livelihoods at risk. Resident consultations in George Town have identified a rise in heat-related illness among elderly people and children. Awareness of climate-related illness among the community and health practitioners remains low, and such cases are often not systematically diagnosed, limiting the health system's preparedness.

The Adaptation Fund is providing USD 10 million to implement nature-based solutions across the George Town and Bayan Lepas mukims. The program combines urban greening, blue-green corridors, and stormwater management infrastructure with community resilience initiatives and a dedicated climate-related public health program. A key feature is Malaysia's first public health initiative to systematically monitor heat-related illness in selected hospitals, alongside efforts to strengthen understanding of climate-sensitive diseases and improve the health sector's capacity to respond to climate risks.



Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island – Malaysia

PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

EXPECTED OUTCOMES

The project aims to reduce urban surface temperatures and flood exposure through nature-based infrastructure, while building institutional capacity to track and respond to climate-related health risks. In addition to delivering urban cooling and improved stormwater management and establishing a dedicated climate-related public health program, the project expects to improve surveillance of heat-related and climate-sensitive diseases and build awareness and preparedness among healthcare professionals, vulnerable communities, and local decision-makers. Other expected outcomes are as follows:



Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island – Malaysia
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Expected outcomes
Beneficiaries	343,736 direct and indirect beneficiaries.
Early warning systems	One peer support network on mobile application for disaster preparedness.
Households	343,739 households with increased income or avoided decrease in income.

Source: Nature-based climate adaptation program for the urban areas of Penang Island, Project Document (2022)



Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island – Malaysia
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

CASE STUDY:
LAO PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC



Enhancing the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements in **Lao People's Democratic Republic**

Country:	Lao People's Democratic Republic
Implementing entity:	UN-Habitat (MIE)
Amount:	USD 4,500,000
Project duration:	2017-2024
Status:	Project Implementation Completed

The Southern Lao People's Democratic Republic is highly exposed to climate-driven floods, droughts, storms, and landslides, which often trigger disease outbreaks and damage critical infrastructure. Flooding and water contamination contribute to outbreaks of diarrhea, typhoid, and other waterborne diseases, while dengue and malaria remain significant public health concerns in vulnerable communities. The impacts are felt acutely in the communities of Attapeu, Sekong, and Saravane, where high levels of poverty, limited access to basic services, and the remoteness of many ethnic minority communities increase vulnerability to climate and health risks.

Since 2017, the Adaptation Fund has provided USD 4.5 million to UN-Habitat to strengthen the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban settlements. The project aims to increase sustainable access to climate-resilient water, drainage, sanitation, and health-related infrastructure, while building institutional and community capacity to plan for and respond to climate hazards and disease outbreaks. Implementation is guided by a participatory, community-driven "People's Process", through which communities help identify, prioritize, construct, and maintain locally appropriate resilience investments.



Enhancing the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project strengthened the health resilience of vulnerable communities in Attapeu, Salavan, and Sekong provinces by expanding access to reliable and climate-resilient water supply systems. By improving year-round availability of safe water for drinking, cooking, and household use, the project helped reduce exposure to water insecurity and climate-related health risks associated with floods and droughts. Communities reported improved access to clean water for drinking, cooking, and household use, while many households gained access to piped water and water taps for the first time. The final evaluation also noted that people's health had improved as a result of access to clean water and that communities were able to access water throughout both wet and dry seasons, strengthening resilience to climate-related water insecurity.



Enhancing the climate and disaster resilience of the most vulnerable rural and emerging urban human settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	More than 100,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries reached through ecosystem restoration, climate adaptation, and livelihood interventions.
Points of infrastructure	422 km of biophysical flood control and water management structures established, including 250.2 km of demarcated riverbanks.

Source: Terminal Evaluation of "Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements in Lao PDR (2024)



Enhancing the Climate and Disaster Resilience of the Most Vulnerable Rural and Emerging Urban Human Settlements – Lao PDR.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Methods

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



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



ADAPTATION FUND

Reducing Risk and Vulnerability to Climate Change in the Region of La Depresion Momposina – Colombia.
PHOTO CREDIT: UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME COLOMBIA

THEMATIC BRIEF | JUNE 2026

CULTURAL HERITAGE

The Adaptation Fund has supported developing countries with their adaptation needs by funding over **USD 191 million** in **27 projects** where cultural heritage gains have been identified as expected outcomes, representing 12% of the total Fund portfolio. While cultural heritage is not the primary goal of these projects, the Fund has supported climate-exposed communities whose traditional knowledge, cultural practices, livelihoods and ways of life are increasingly at risk from climate change through these projects.

These projects are expected to benefit 4.7 million people, including **120,000 indigenous people** as direct beneficiaries, protect the livelihoods of around **400,000 households**, and support the protection of more than **650,000 hectares** of natural assets.

Overview and Strategic Relevance

Cultural heritage is closely linked to climate resilience, especially for communities whose identities, livelihoods, traditional knowledge, and living landscapes are shaped by long-standing relationships with land, water, ecosystems, and natural resources.

As climate change intensifies ecosystem degradation, water stress, food insecurity, displacement risks, and damage to culturally significant places and practices, safeguarding cultural heritage becomes an important part of adaptation.

Aligned with the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA), the Adaptation Fund supports communities in safeguarding these assets, while strengthening resilience and preserving their social, cultural, and economic foundations. Even where cultural heritage is not the primary goal, Fund-supported projects can deliver important cultural heritage co-benefits by strengthening community stewardship, integrating traditional knowledge and governance practices into adaptation planning, and enhancing social cohesion through locally-led approaches.



Adaptation to Climate-Induced Water Stresses through Integrated Landscape Management – Bhutan.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

The Adaptation Fund Portfolio in Cultural Heritage

The Adaptation Fund supports cultural heritage co-benefits through projects whose primary goals fall across five GGA thematic areas: ecosystems and biodiversity, water supply and sanitation, food and agriculture, infrastructure and human settlements, and poverty eradication and livelihoods. Of the **27 projects** where cultural heritage outcomes are expected as a co-benefit, the largest concentrations are in **ecosystems and biodiversity (41%)**, followed by **water and sanitation (22%)**, **food and agriculture (18%)**, and **infrastructure and human settlements (15%)**.

Figure 1.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'cultural heritage' co-benefits, by primary GGA theme and grant amount (**in % & USD million**).

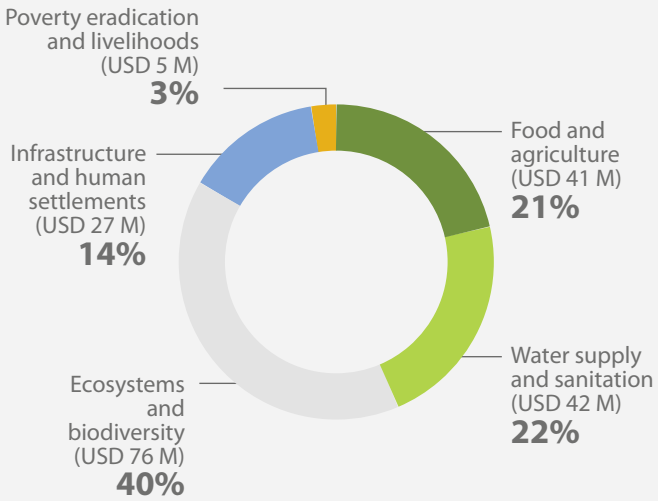
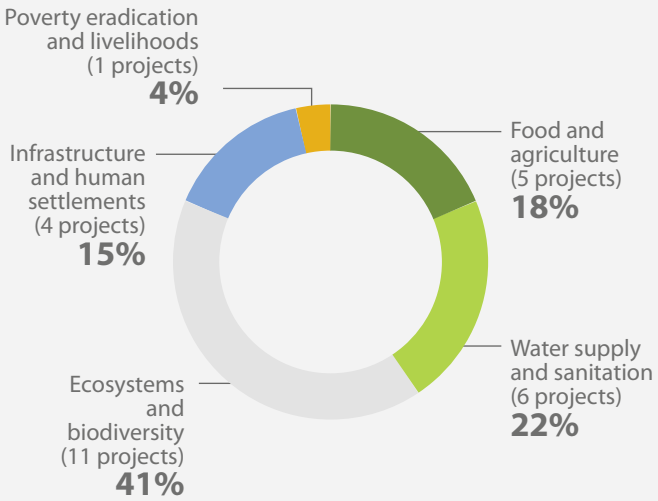


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'cultural heritage' co-benefits, by primary GGA theme and project numbers (**in % & number of projects**).



National and **Regional Implementing Entities** lead **17** of the **27** projects (61%), ensuring that adaptation is designed and delivered by entities with the closest ties to the communities and landscapes involved. Working with national entities is essential as cultural heritage adaptation requires community legitimacy and cultural proximity.

Geographically, **Latin America and the Caribbean** account for 12 of the 27 projects **(44%)**, followed by **Africa and Asia-Pacific with 6 each (22%)**. The portfolio is growing, with **USD 50 million** committed in the last five years.

Figure 2. Geographical distribution of projects with 'cultural heritage' co-benefits by type of implementing entity
Distribution of Adaptation Fund projects that have 'cultural heritage' co-benefits, by region, broken down by the type of implementing entity responsible for project delivery.

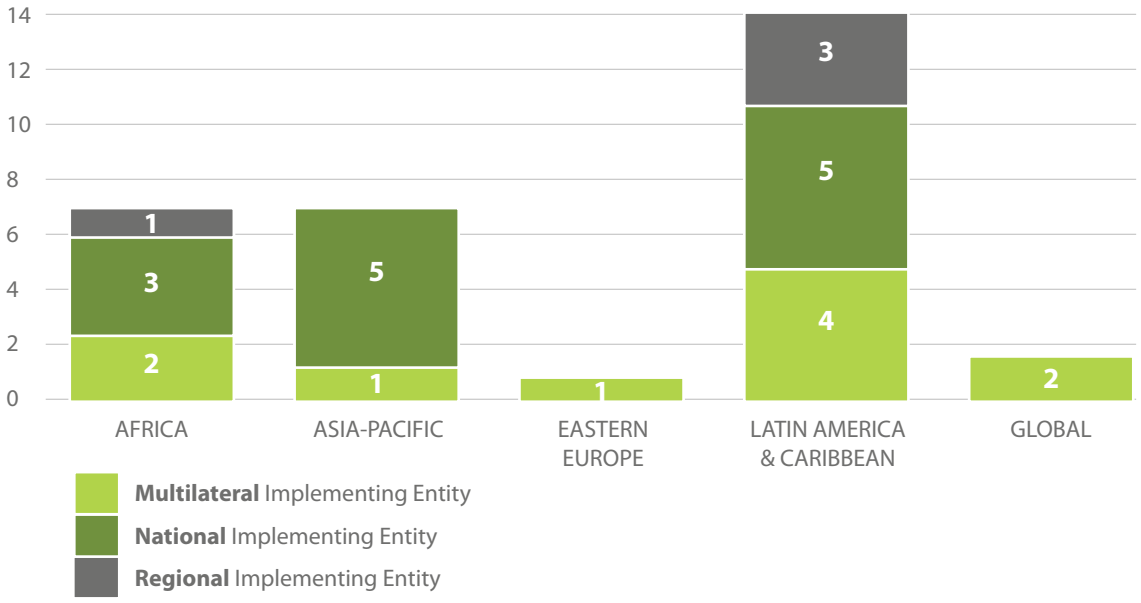


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'cultural heritage' co-benefits, by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

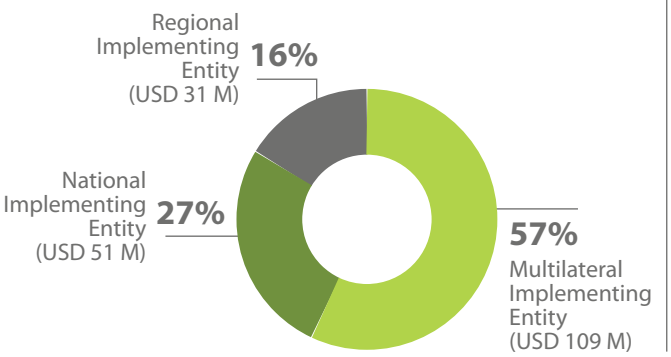
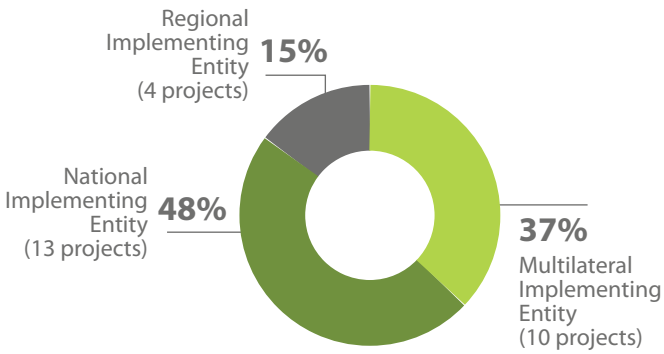


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio with 'cultural heritage' co-benefits, by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



Note: *Adaptation Fund 'cultural heritage' portfolio: USD 191 M across 27 projects*

CASE STUDY:
COLOMBIA-ECUADOR


PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Building Adaptive Capacity through Food and Nutrition Security and Peacebuilding Actions in Vulnerable Afro and Indigenous Communities in the **Colombia-Ecuador Border Area**

Countries:	Colombia, Ecuador
Implementing entity:	UN-World Food Programme (MIE)
Amount:	USD 14,000,000
Project duration:	2018-2024
Status:	Project Implementation Completed

Afro-descendant and Awá communities living in the Colombia–Ecuador border region face acute climate vulnerability, food insecurity, and environmental degradation. The project focused on the Mira-Mataje and Guaitara-Carchi transboundary watersheds, where climate change is exacerbating droughts, floods, ecosystem degradation, and pressures on livelihoods. These impacts have been compounded by decades of marginalization and conflict, which have weakened traditional food systems and eroded ancestral knowledge.

This project strengthened adaptive capacity through food and nutrition security, ecosystem restoration, and peacebuilding. A central feature of the project was the integration of traditional and local knowledge into climate adaptation planning, recognizing that both Afro and Awá communities possess longstanding cultural practices, governance systems, and ecological knowledge that have enabled them to manage natural resources and maintain food security in harmony with their environment.

Funded activities included documenting ancestral practices, inventories of climate-resilient native species and traditional foods, intergenerational knowledge-sharing workshops, cultural events and community dialogues, alongside climate information services, early warning systems, water management measures and ecosystem restoration.

The project also supported the inclusion of adaptation priorities in Indigenous and Afro-descendant development plans, while promoting culturally sensitive and community-led adaptation approaches that combined scientific and traditional knowledge.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project strengthened the adaptive capacity of Afro-descendant and Awá communities by combining ancestral knowledge, food security, ecosystem restoration, and climate adaptation. Ten participatory methodologies were adopted to integrate scientific and traditional knowledge, while ethnobotanical studies identified 112 native and local species that support food security, resilience, and cultural heritage. The project also established two botanical gardens for the conservation of native seeds and promoted intergenerational knowledge exchange through cross-border learning activities.



Building Adaptive Capacity through Food and Nutrition Security and Peacebuilding Actions in Vulnerable Afro and Indigenous Communities – Project Completion Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	25,987 direct beneficiaries reached, of which 52% women.
Early warning systems	Climate information and monitoring system established in Ecuador with 26 weather stations; community-based Early Warning System designed in Colombia.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	15,282 hectares of forests and mangroves protected, restored, or placed under conservation measures across Colombia and Ecuador.

Source: Final Evaluation of the Binational Adaptation Project in Colombia and Ecuador (April 2024).



Building Adaptive Capacity through Food and Nutrition Security and Peacebuilding Actions in Vulnerable Afro and Indigenous Communities – Project Completion Report.
PHOTO CREDIT: WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME

CASE STUDY:

INDONESIA



PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Integrated Watershed Governance in Indigenous People of Ammatoa Kajang Customary Area in **Bulukumba Regency**

Country:	Indonesia
Implementing entity:	Partnership for Governance Reform of Indonesia (Kemitraan) (NIE)
Amount:	USD 1,125,015
Project duration:	2021-2024
Status:	Closed

The Ammatoa Kajang are an indigenous community of 48,411 people living across 36 villages in South Sulawesi, Indonesia, whose customary territory of approximately 22,592 hectares has been governed for generations under customary law. Their culture is deeply rooted in the traditional philosophy of Pasang ri Kajang, a system that regulates land use, forest management, and sustainability principles in forest and natural resource management. Central to this heritage is the 313.99-hectare Kajang customary forest, which serves as a vital ecological buffer and meeting point for three major watersheds. However, climate change is disrupting this balance with seasonal flooding destroying rice crops, prolonged droughts affecting water availability, and seawater intrusion degrading coastal ecosystems and livelihoods. Despite growing climate pressures, customary governance in the Ammatoa Kajang community had received limited recognition in formal planning, and no district-level climate adaptation plans were in place.

In this context, the Adaptation Fund provided over USD 1 million to strengthen climate resilience in the Ammatoa Kajang customary territory. The project focused on four main components, including sustainable integrated watershed management, climate-adaptive livelihoods, policy advocacy, and awareness-raising, while safeguarding and strengthening the cultural heritage and indigenous knowledge that underpin Ammatoa Kajang's relationship with the landscape. By enabling a low-cost, community-based conservation model, the project showcases the potential of small grants delivered through national entities to support locally led adaptation.

ACHIEVED OUTCOMES

The project strengthened climate resilience by combining indigenous knowledge with formal watershed governance and planning. It established the Bulukumba Regency Watershed Coordination Forum, bringing together government, academics, private-sector actors, women, indigenous groups, and traditional leaders to support inclusive decision-making and to recognize and document local ecological knowledge.

At the community level, the project promoted climate-resilient livelihoods through sustainable rice cultivation across 210 hectares, 150 hectares of agroforestry, 50 hectares of banana cultivation, home gardens, and soil conservation measures. These activities improved food security, diversified incomes, and restored degraded landscapes, while training more than 520 community members and engaging 250 local leaders and traditional authorities in climate-resilient adaptation strategies and watershed management.



Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Integrated Watershed Governance in Indigenous People of Ammatoa Kajang Customary Area in Bulukumba Regency – Indonesia.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

Category	Achieved outcomes
Beneficiaries	2,045 direct and indirect beneficiaries.
Households	225 households are benefiting from the utilization of home yards as a source of additional income while supporting local food security.
Natural assets protected or rehabilitated	314 hectares of the Kajang Customary Forest are protected.

Source: Evaluation of the climate change adaptation program through sustainable integrated watershed governance for indigenous communities in the Ammatoa Kajang customary area, Bulukumba Regency. (2025)



Adapting to Climate Change through Sustainable Integrated Watershed Governance in Indigenous People of Ammatoa Kajang Customary Area in Bulukumba Regency – Indonesia.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND

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, extracted through an AI-assisted protocol.



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Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme for the Urban Areas of Penang Island.
PHOTO CREDIT: ADAPTATION FUND



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**).

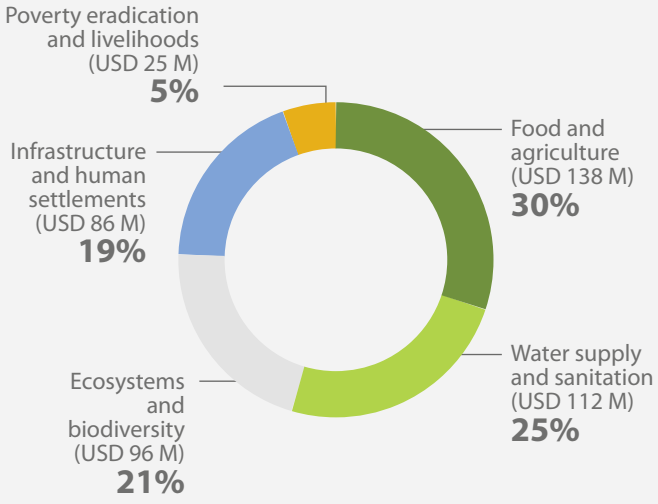
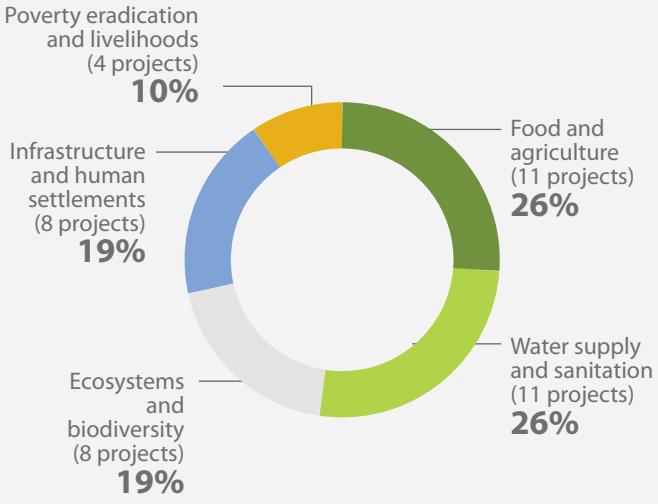


Figure 1.2: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by primary GGA theme and project numbers (**in % & number of projects**).



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.

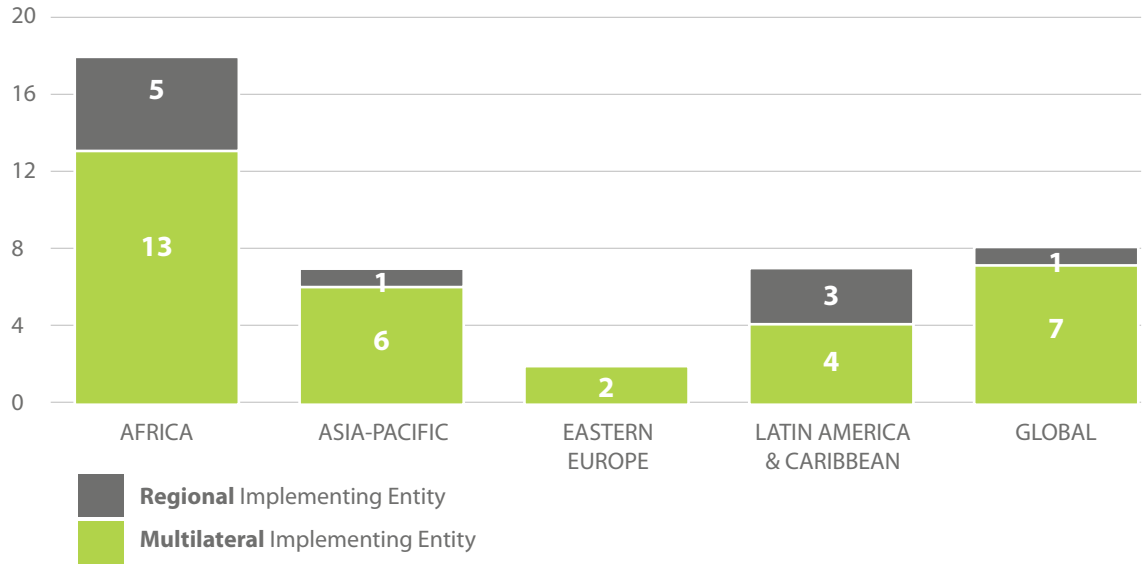


Figure 3.1: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by implementing entity type (**in % of total portfolio & USD million**).

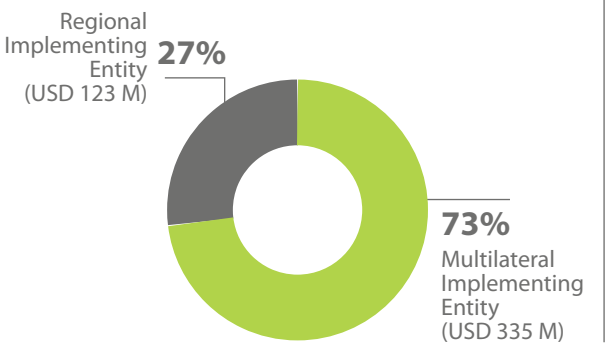
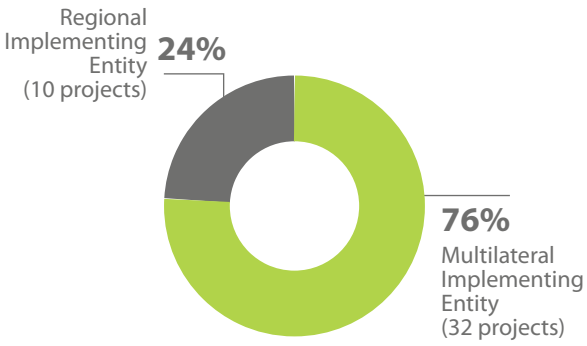


Figure 3.2: Share of Adaptation Fund multi-country project portfolio, by implementing entity type (**in % & number of projects**).



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.

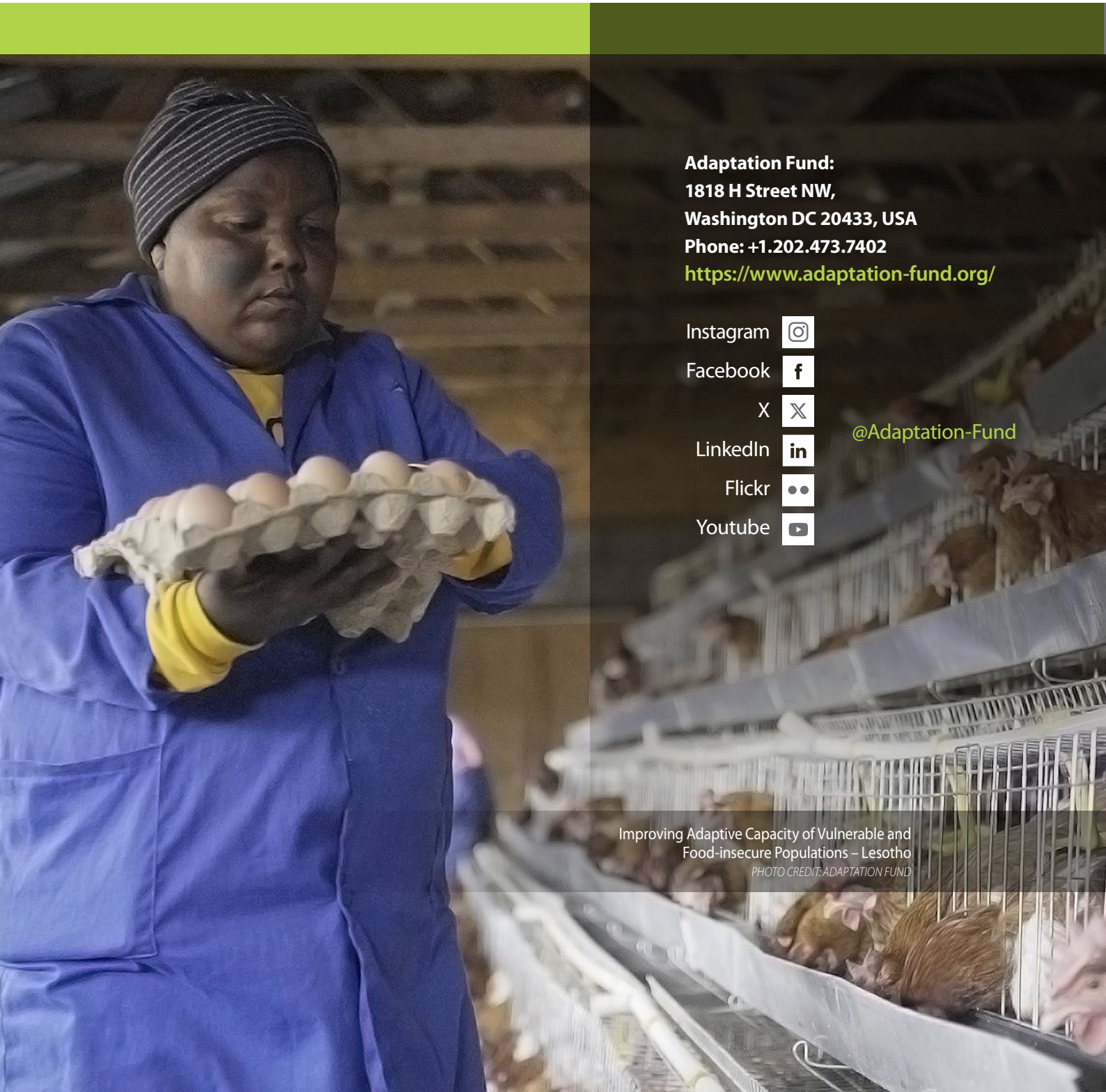
Source: Strengthening the adaptive capacities of climate-vulnerable communities in the Goascorán watershed of El Salvador and Honduras through integrated community-based adaptation practices and services, regional project proposal (2022)



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

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.



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



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

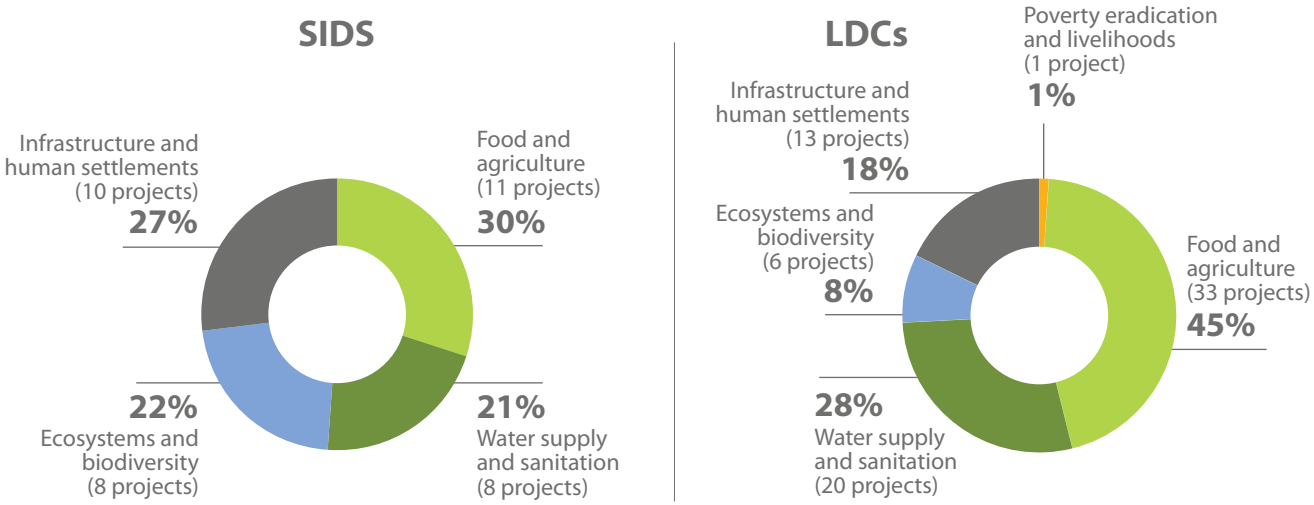
Across its SIDS and LDCs portfolio, the Adaptation Fund supports adaptation action through 103 single-country and regional projects in 64 countries. This includes 23 countries classified as SIDS, 34 as LDCs, and 6 classified as both SIDS and LDCs: Comoros, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kiribati, Solomon Islands,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



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

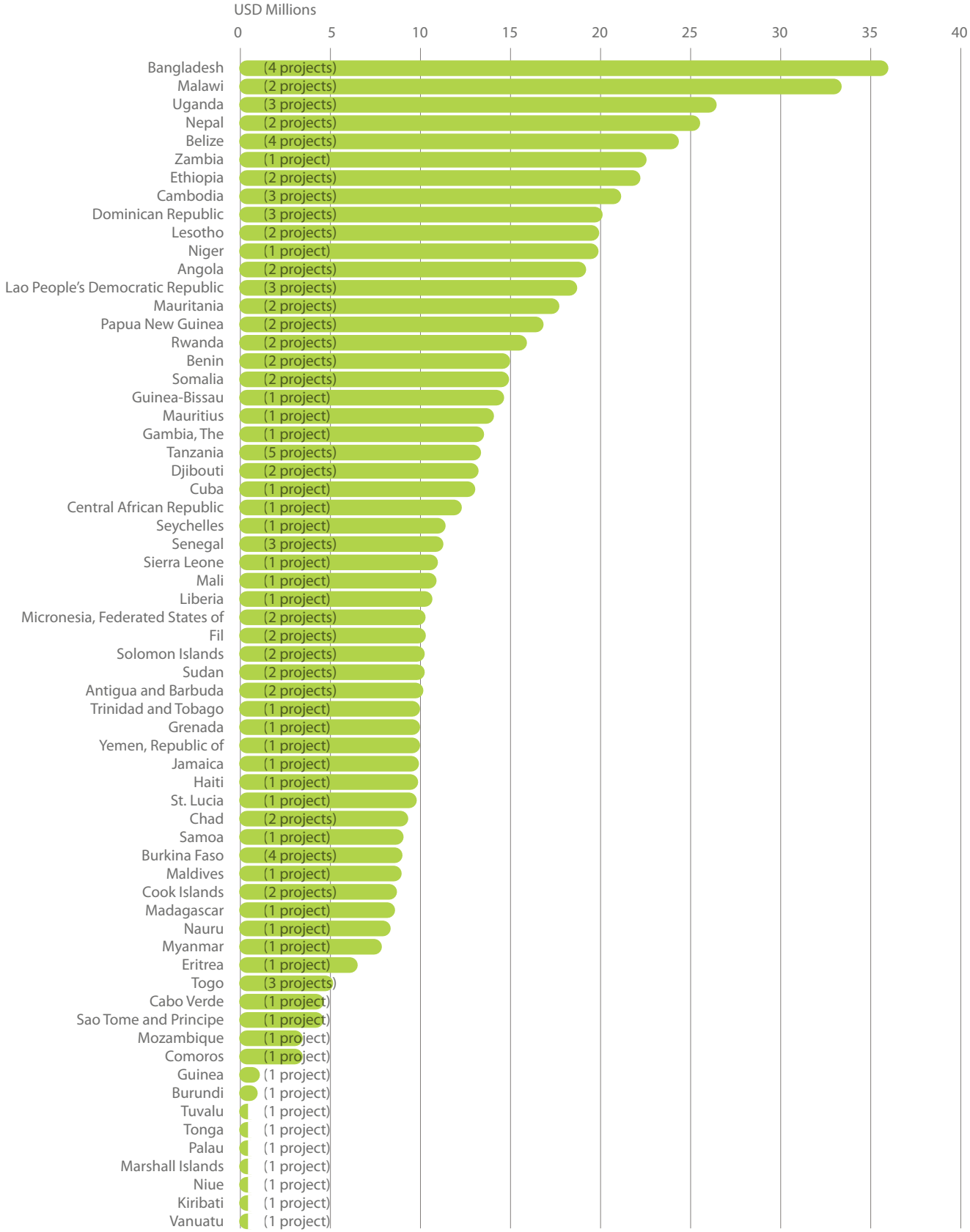
Figure 1. Share of Adaptation Fund portfolio in SIDS and LDCs, by GGA thematic areas and number of projects. Distribution of Adaptation Fund projects across primary thematic areas for SIDS and LDC projects by number of projects (**in % & number of projects**).



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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Pa Enua Action for Resilient Livelihoods (PEARL) – Cook Islands.
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