ADAPTATION FUND



AFB/B.47-48/7
24 November 2026

Adaptation Fund Board

REQUEST FOR NO COST EXTENSION OF PROJECT COMPLETION DATE: UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLMENTS PROGRAMME (FIJI)

Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) at its thirtieth meeting, approved a four-year project titled “Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks” submitted by the Secretariat of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) for a total amount of US$ 4,235,995 (Decision B.30/24).

2. The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks. This will be achieved by implementing the activities aligned with the 4 project components: (i) institutional strengthening for enhanced local climate response; (ii) local (community/informal settlement) resilience strengthening; (iii) enhancing resilience of community level physical, natural and socio-economic assets and ecosystems; (iv) awareness raising, knowledge management and communication.

3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UN-Habitat on 18 January 2018 and the project started implementation on 11 July 2018.

4. As of 9 November 2026, seven PPRs were cleared by the secretariat and a total project funding for an amount of US$ 3,904,143 including the project fees has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 92.2 % of the approved grant.

5. UN-Habitat was granted two COVID-related twelve-months no-cost extensions of the project completion date. The project was extended from 10 July 2022 to 10 July 2023, and then from 10 July 2023 to 10 July 2024. These extension requests were cleared by the secretariat in accordance with Decision B.35.b/16 (Ref. 2021/166 and 2023/118. On 5 September 2025, the project was granted a third, eighteen-month, extension, extending the completion date from 10 July 2024 to 10 January 2026, which was approved by the Board through Decision B.42-43/9. A fourth, eighteen-month, extension, extending the completion date from 10 January 2026 to 10 July 2027, was approved by the Board through Decision B.44-45/18.

6. On 2 November 2026, UN-Habitat submitted a fifth request for a regular eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 10 July 2027 to 10 January 202 (see Annex 1). The project has encountered several key delay drivers, from COVID-19 to staff shortages at the Executing Entity level and funds transfer delays from the Ministry of Finance. Due to these earlier delays, additional time is needed to fully realize the remaining adaptation interventions, including key infrastructure and capacity-development activities. Since the last extension, progress has been made in implementation and cross-coordination between UN-Habitat and the Executing Entities has improved, but additional time is required to complete the remainder of the interventions across all targeted informal settlements. The extended timeline will also allow sufficient time for infrastructure commissioning and handover, establishment of operation and maintenance arrangements, and monitoring and documenting of project results.

Secretariat’s review of the request

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UN-Habitat, the secretariat is of the view that this eighteen-month extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UN-Habitat, it is noted that this request should allow sufficient time to deliver all remaining activities, as well as key sustainability functions such

as strengthening operation and maintenance arrangements. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been notified, in accordance with the amended Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

Recommendation

8. The Board may consider and decide to approve the request for an eighteen-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 10 July 2027 to 10 January 2029, for the project “Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks” as requested by UN-Habitat.

Annex

1. Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat.

Annex 1: Request for an extension of the project completion date from UN-Habitat

ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME

Request for extension of project/programme completion date

Implementing Entity Name:	United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
AF Project/programme ID:	FJI/NIE/Urban/2016/1
Project/programme Title:	Increasing the resilience of informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks
Country:	Fiji
Project/Programme Approval (date):	12-13 October 2017 (Decision B.30/24), project started 11 July 2018 (Inception workshop)
Expected Project/programme Completion (date):	10/07/2022 (original) 10/07/2023 (first extension) 10/07/2024 (second extension) 10/01/2026 (third extension) 10/07/2027 (fourth extension)
Proposed Revised Completion (date):	10 January 2029

Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/programme completion:

Significant progress has been made since the previous no-cost extension, with the project transitioning into an accelerated implementation phase following earlier institutional, operational and post-COVID constraints. Key implementation arrangements are now in place, and climate-resilient infrastructure works have commenced across targeted informal settlements.

Key achievements include:

- Commencement of infrastructure works, including access roads and evacuation facilities and other community-level resilience measures, with additional interventions progressing through design, procurement and implementation.
- Strengthened implementation arrangements between the Ministry of Housing, participating local governments, communities, technical partners and UN-Habitat, including progress on technical designs, land and tenure considerations, and procurement.
- Expanded project implementation capacity, with a dedicated team of approximately ten personnel currently in the process of being established to support project management, engineering, procurement, financial management, safeguards, community engagement and monitoring.
- Renewed engagement with participating municipalities and communities, ensuring that investments respond to locally identified climate risks and priorities.
- Progress on planning and capacity-building activities, complementing infrastructure investments and supporting their long-term operation and maintenance.

While the project has entered its principal delivery phase, the scale and complexity of the remaining investments require sufficient time for procurement, construction, technical supervision, safeguards compliance and quality assurance. Accelerating these processes beyond realistic timelines could compromise implementation quality and sustainability.

UN-Habitat therefore requests an additional 18-month no-cost extension, from 10 July 2027 to 10 January 2029, to complete the remaining infrastructure, planning and capacity-building activities. The project aims to complete substantive implementation within the first 12 months of the extension, with the remaining period dedicated to finalizing outstanding works, commissioning and handover, strengthening operation and maintenance arrangements, and completing monitoring, reporting and project closure.

The requested extension will build on the substantial progress achieved, safeguard the Adaptation Fund's investment and ensure that project outcomes are delivered effectively and sustainably for vulnerable informal settlement communities in Fiji.

Implementing Entity certification

This request has been prepared in accordance with Adaptation Fund policies and procedures, has been agreed by participating executing entities, and the designated authority (DA) has been notified.



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