ADAPTATION FUND

Approval of request for no-cost extension of project completion date: World Food Programme (The Gambia)

Weight of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 3 November 2026, the World Food Programme (WFP) submitted a first request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date for the project "Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building project (RICAR)" implemented in The Gambia. The project was originally expected to be completed on 21 March 2027.

The request is primarily due to significant delays during years one and two of implementation, caused by the time required for evidence generation, local climate change action planning, procedural clearances and extensive stakeholder consultations. These processes were necessary to identify appropriate community sub-projects but took longer than anticipated, delaying the roll-out of livelihood interventions, resilience-building measures and climate adaptation asset establishment. The extension would allow completion of the remaining activities under Output 2.1.2 (concrete resilience building and adaptation measures implemented), namely finalizing livelihoods, climate adaptation and resilience-building assets together with related capacity-building, completing soil and water conservation and related natural resource management activities, and implementing mitigation measures for ESS-related risks identified in sub-project screenings and the Year 4 ESMP revision; and under Output 1.2.1 (systematic approach for climate change capacity development and planning at sub-national level), incorporating and implementing mid-term review recommendations, including a costed gender action plan. No additional funds are required; the remaining funds would also cover monitoring, the audit, the final project evaluation, documentation of lessons learned and submission of the final project completion summary.

Secretariat's review of the request

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by WFP and considers the request for a no-cost extension of the project completion date to be justified. The Secretariat notes that the delay is largely due to the time needed in the early stages of implementation for evidence generation, local climate change action planning, procedural clearances and stakeholder consultations to identify appropriate community sub-projects. The Secretariat further notes that the extension is needed to complete the outstanding activities under Outputs 2.1.2 and 1.2.1, that no additional funds are required, and that the remaining budget is sufficient to complete these activities, as well as monitoring, the audit and the final evaluation. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authority has been notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

Conclusion

Following the review of the request for no-cost extension of the project completion date submitted by WFP for the project "Rural Integrated Climate Adaptation and Resilience Building project (RICAR)" implemented in The Gambia, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme Delays. The revised expected project completion date is 21 March 2028.

Clearance: AFBSEC-2026-31