Approval of request for extension of project completion date: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan)

Type of request: Minor

Summary of request

On 5 October 2026, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) submitted a second request for an extension of project completion date for the project "Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in changing climate" implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan. According to the memo provided by UNESCO, the delay is related to the procurement, delivery and installation of the Early Warning System (EWS) in the Lakhsh district, Tajikistan, where installation of equipment during the winter would be technically challenging and would increase operational and safety risks. In addition, several smaller activities remain to be finalized in other participating countries. The additional implementation period will allow the project to complete these activities in a coordinated manner, and will ensure that all planned outputs and indicators are achieved with the expected quality.

The first extension of the project completion date from 29 April 2026 to 29 April 2027 (cleared through AFBSEC-2025-06) was requested due to unforeseen political constraints, extended procurement and institutional approval processes, and technical alignment of the new EWS with national meteorological and hydrological systems.

Secretariat's review of the request

The Secretariat has reviewed the request and the reasons provided by UNESCO and considers the request for extension of project completion date to be justified. It also acknowledges that the Designated Authorities have been duly notified, in line with the Policy for Project/Programme Delays (Amended, 2025).

Conclusion

Following the review of the request for extension of project completion date from 29 April 2027 to 29 October 2027 submitted by UNESCO for the project "Reducing vulnerabilities of populations in the Central Asia region from glacier lake outburst floods in changing climate" implemented in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, the request has been cleared by the Secretariat as per Decision B.44/44 and the Policy for Project/Programme delays (amended in April 2025).

Clearance: AFSEC-2026-30