Implementation of adaptation actions Examples and lessons learned from UNDP's portfolio

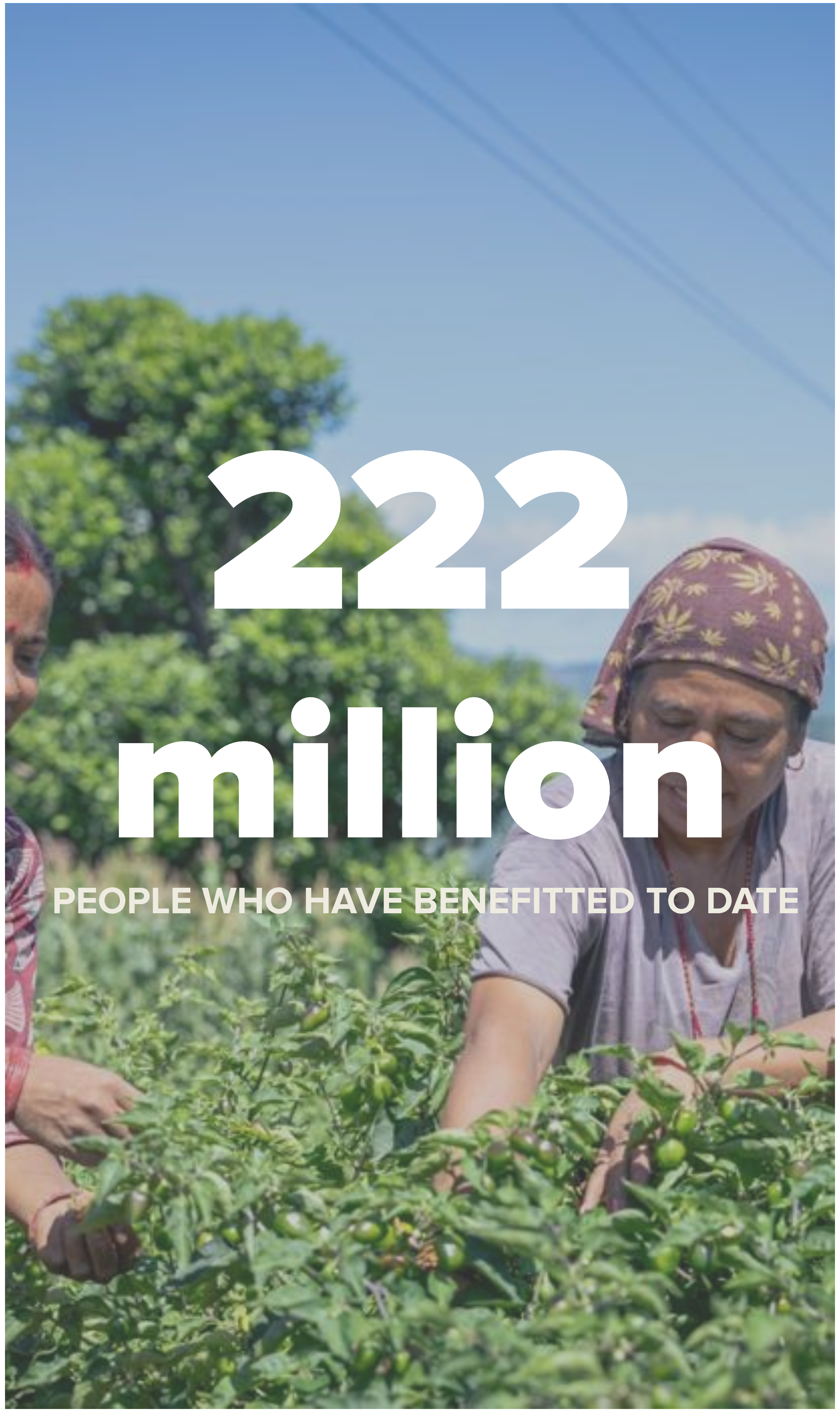
2nd Workshop – Baku Adaptation Roadmap

8 September 2026

Climate Promise

101 countries

INCLUDING 43 LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND 20 SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES



222 million

PEOPLE WHO HAVE BENEFITTED TO DATE

$2.14 billion

GRANT FUNDING SECURED TO DATE

$5.23 billion

CO-FINANCE LEVERAGED

47 National Adaptation Plans
supported by UNDP

3.3 million people
with enhanced access to water

64.7 million people
with increased access to climate information and EWS

1.1 million hectares
reforested or restored

1.2 million hectares
of marine area protected

Climate resilient agriculture and food production in Zimbabwe

Building Climate Resilience of Vulnerable Agricultural Livelihoods in Southern Zimbabwe (GCF $26.6M, total $47.8M). Aims to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable agricultural livelihoods, particularly women, across 15 climate-vulnerable districts in southern Zimbabwe

Key interventions related to technology:

- **Climate-resilient irrigation and water management:** climate-proofed irrigation schemes, water harvesting and improved management of rain-fed farmland.
- **Climate-smart agriculture:** conservation agriculture, drought-resilient crops and labour-saving technologies such as earth augers, threshers and grinder-choppers.
- **Climate information services:** localized weather and climate information to support farmers' decisions.

Impact & Lessons

- 82,000 households benefiting from improved access to irrigation and climate-smart agriculture in rain-fed areas
- On-farm support delivered as part of an integrated package combining market access, village savings and lending groups, climate information services, and women's empowerment
- New irrigation investments enabled farmers to consolidate small plots of 0.2 to 0.3 hectares into larger, communally managed areas, allowing installation of center-pivot irrigation systems and creating economies of scale
- Project facilitated contract farming and off-take agreements with private buyers, strengthening farmers' market access and economic resilience

Advancing Climate Resilience of the Water sector in Bhutan (ACREWAS)

Climate Change Adaptation and Water project funded by GEF (US$ 9 million)

Aims to enhance the resilience of Bhutan's population by strengthening the climate resilience of the water sector.

Key interventions:

- Strengthened governance, institutions and financing mechanisms for climate-resilient water management
- Restoration, sustainable management and protection of vulnerable catchments in the target river basin
- Enhanced adaptive capacity of water infrastructure to climate-induced water shortages

Its key feature is the development of innovative finance mechanisms for water infrastructure and watershed management, including water tariff systems, Public-Private Partnerships and Payment for Ecosystem Services scheme

Tuvalu Coastal Adaptation Project (TCAP)

Fogafale 2019

Fogafale 2019 during very high tide

Fogafale 2050 under IPCC 2019 worst case scenario

Collection of high-resolution bathymetry and topographic data opened possibilities for various assessments critical for long-term adaptation planning:

- Hazard analysis (sea level rise, flooding, storm waves)
- Wave analysis
- Long-term shoreline vulnerability and changes

Visualization of future hazards and vulnerability helped the country to move from reactive to planned long-term adaptation planning

Concrete investments in infrastructure (7.3 hectares of elevated reclaimed land (yellow strip in the picture) which will remain flood-free in 2100.

Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

Funded by the Adaptation Fund (US$5M) and the European Union($11M)

Key interventions:

- **Empowering Local Action:** Empowering not-for-profit entities in developing countries to test and accelerate locally led, innovative climate solutions.
- **Fostering Innovation:** Fostering climate change adaptation using innovative practices, tools, and technologies.
- **Driving Scalability:** Generating evidence of impact to trigger opportunities for scaling up.

PHASE I IMPACT (October 2020-March 2026)

44 micro & small awards across 33 countries globally

$8.3M Direct Funding and $6.0M Technical Assistance provided

2.6M+ beneficiaries (Over 50% women), 21,000+ households improved, 29,000+ hectares of land restored

$4.1M Additional funding mobilized by grantees for climate innovation

59% of grantees now generate revenue, enabling many of them to start shifting from grant-dependence to sustainable business models. Many pioneered new markets or built investment-ready models, demonstrating that adaptation innovation can strengthen both livelihoods and local economies.

UNDP AFCIA Phase II Proposal (US$15 Million budget) submitted to Adaptation Fund, pending Adaptation Fund Board decision

Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

Tanzania (Savanas Forever): enabled Maasai youth and women "seed champions" to leverage Indigenous knowledge, immediately propagating native plants to restore degraded grasslands and safeguard cattle herds from severe drought

> **Lessons learned →** Trust Local Frontlines: Direct, flexible micro-grants unlock rapid local action.

Cambodia (Livestock Development for Community Livelihood): Developing a revenue generating business model in partnership with agri-food enterprises. It is generating more than US$37,000 in gross revenue from the sale of cricket and Chaya products. Income potential is up to $118,000 annually, from 100 cricket farmers (average of 5 pens/farm). Farmers achieve 30-40 % profit margins within 6 months of continuous production; margins can rise to 50%+ with efficiency and scale.

> **Lessons learned →** Business-Driven Capacity: Pair funding with mentoring to secure self-reliance.

Bangladesh (Footsteps): AFCIA financed a micro-entrepreneurship network using "Dreamwater" portable filters. By pairing clean water with a 50% profit-margin business model, rural women became self-employed clean water distributors. This bypassed donor-dependency, proving that local commercial viability can permanently solve water security

> **Lessons learned →** Market-Led Sustainability: Transition from donor-dependency to revenue-generating models.

India (SAFE): Hydroponic rafts bypassed soil salinity to feed 2,200 vulnerable households year-round.

> **Lessons learned →** Adaptive Scaling: Dynamic climate risks require gradual, phased funding pipelines.

Supporting Bosnia and Herzegovina's national MEL system

- **Multi-sectoral NAP covering water, agriculture, forestry, health, energy, transport, urban areas, andtourism**, with a focus on reducing climate risks and integrating adaptation into planning.
- MEL structure combines data collection, evaluation, learning, and feedback mechanisms.
- 152 indicators across 13 sectors track adaptation processes, actions, and results, supporting progressmonitoring and policy decisions.
- Multi-stakeholder governance, involving ministries, local communities, academia, and civil society.
- **Status:** Proposed framework is **not yet operational**, with ongoing capacity-building and coordination needs (GCF readiness project on going to support on this).

Lessons Learned

01 The continuum from planning to implementation is key and some support is required for that transition. Scale can only be achieved when adaptation is mainstreamed into countries' systems. Interventions upstream and down-stream need to be considered holistically. Multi-level planning is key.

02 Solutions should be locally-led, inclusive, incremental, feasible and well timed, and adapted to national contexts. They should also be integrated, including ecosystem-based solutions, to deliver multiple benefits.

03 All programmes should include long-term institutional and individual capacities in partnership with national institutions, including on adequate data and information systems

04 Grant-only approaches and sole reliance on international public finance cannot deliver the scale of climate investment required. Need for innovative financing mechanisms and broader partnerships.

Lessons Learned

05 Isolated projects and weak coordination between partners reduce effectiveness and threaten sustainability. Need for integrated pipelines and a programmatic approach based on NAPs and NDCs and other adaptation policies and strategies.

06 Greater emphasis on economics of adaptation – costing, cost-benefit analysis at macro and micro level can empower decision makers and budgetary planners looking at financing and investment. Supporting business case development is key.

07 Tailoring/applying financial instruments to support adaptation at scale is required. For example, guarentees, other risk sharing instruments, debt swaps, deployment of bonds, payment for ecosystem services require greater deployment

08 Continue to strengthen MEL systems to understand and measure what works, for whom and under what conditions. Learnings from adaptation interventions need to be systematically fed back into the adaptation planning cycle

CLIMATE PROMISE

www.undp.org
@UNDP

climatepromise.undp.org
@UNDPClimate

Sign up for our newsletter