



ADAPTATION FUND

AFB/B.43-44/10  
26 February 2025

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Adaptation Fund Board

**REQUEST FOR A NO-COST EXTENSION OF THE PROJECT  
COMPLETION DATE:  
UNITED NATIONS EDUCATIONAL, SCIENTIFIC AND  
CULTURAL ORGANIZATION  
(HAITI)**

## Background

1. The Adaptation Fund Board (the Board) during the intersessional period between its thirty-seventh and thirty-eighth meeting, approved a three-year project titled “Implementing Measures for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation of School Facilities in Haiti” in Haiti, submitted by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) for a requested amount of US\$9,916,344.00 (Decision B.37-38/8).
2. The objective of the project is to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the Haitian education sector to disaster risk of natural hazards related to climate change, through the establishment of appropriate risk assessment tool, schools retrofitting and implementing adaptation actions in Haiti. The project promotes and adopts innovative, structural and non-structural resilient resolutions. More specifically, this project is intended to strengthen the resilience to hurricane and flood of the Haitian education sector by: 1) Improving the national comprehensive knowledge of exposure and physical vulnerability of school facilities and decision-making process of intervention in Haiti; 2) Strengthening school safety by promoting rehabilitation, retrofitting or reconstruction on selected schools and risk management protocols for schools; 3) Enhancing the capacity and awareness of the local population and civil protection stakeholders in risk management at national and local levels.
3. As mandated by the decision, an agreement was prepared and signed between the Board and UNESCO on 30 May 2022 and the project started implementation on 21 December 2022.
4. The project Implementing Entity submitted its first project performance report (PPR), which was cleared by the secretariat and rated satisfactory. As of the date of the issuance of this document, an amount of US\$ 5,915,279.00 including the project fees, has been disbursed by the trustee, which corresponds to 59.7 per cent of the approved grant.
5. On February 2025, UNESCO has submitted a request for twelve-months no-cost extension of the project completion date, from 21 December 2025 to 21 December 2026. As outlined in the Adaptation Fund Project/Programme Delay Policy (AFB/B.34-35/6), an implementing entity may request for a project/programme extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/programme if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/programme’s originally approved scope will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justifications for the extension.
6. The reasons for this request, as outlined in the memo shared by UNESCO, are due to several institutional, political, and security-related factors. Firstly, there was a significant delay with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in selecting schools for rehabilitation under component 2. Politically, episodes of country lockdown from 2022 to 2024 resulted in partner institutions closing and slowed activities, with government changes necessitating continual resets that further exacerbated delays. Security issues, including blockades by armed gangs, severely restricted land transport and access to building materials and fuel, affecting project implementation. Additionally, the recurrent closure of airports impeded the air transport of essential staff, further delaying project activities. Finally, a guarantee period of at least six months will be required after school rehabilitation, adding to the timeline for project completion.

### **Secretariat's review of the request**

7. Following a review of the request by the secretariat and considering the explanation provided by UNESCO, the secretariat is of the view that this twelve-month no-cost extension request is justified. As evidenced by the memo provided by UNESCO (Annex 1), it is noted that this request would allow sufficient time for the project to compensate for accumulated delays faced in the project implementation, and ensure the fulfillment of the project outcomes.

8. Finally, the secretariat acknowledges that this no-cost project extension request has been agreed with the Executing Entity and the Designated Authority has been notified, in accordance with the Adaptation Fund Policy for Project/Programme Delays, as specified in Annex 1.

### **Recommendation**

9. The Board may want to consider and decide to approve the request for a twelve-month no-cost extension of the project completion date from 21 December 2025 to 21 December 2026, for the project "Implementing Measures for Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction Mitigation of School Facilities in Haiti" in Haiti, as requested by UNESCO.

**Annex 1: Request for a no-cost extension of the programme completion date****REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME****ANNEX A: REQUEST FOR EXTENSION OF CONCRETE ADAPTATION PROJECT/PROGRAMME**

<b>Implementing Entity Name:</b> United Nations Organization for Education Science and Culture			
<b>AF Project/program ID:</b> AF00000235			
<b>Project/program Title:</b> Implementing measures for climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction mitigation of schools facilities in Haiti			
<b>Country:</b> Haiti			
<b>Project/Program Approval (date)</b>	02/23/2022		
<b>Expected Project/program Completion (date)</b>	12/21/2025	<b>Proposed Revised Completion (date):</b>	12/21/2026

*Request for extension of project/program completion date*

*Reasons/justifications for the extension of project/program completion:*

Haiti is subject to a range of natural hazards that may be of hydro meteorological or geodynamic origin. Haiti is considered the fifth country more exposed to the risk of disasters worldwide. Nearly 98% of the population is exposed to at least two natural hazards: earthquakes, hurricanes, landslides, floods and/or drought. Indeed, more than a hundred disasters hit the country in the years 1900-2016. Disasters have a major impact on children, youth and education systems. Studies suggest that in the world every year 175 million children are likely to be affected by natural hazards leading to disaster, and children in Haiti are no exception. In January 2010, approximately 38,000 students and 1,300 teachers and education personnel died in Haiti. The Ministry of Education offices were destroyed along with 4,000 schools – close to 80 % of educational establishments in the Port-au-Prince area.

The overall objective of the project is to enhance the adaptive capacity and resilience of the Haitian education sector to disaster risk of natural hazards related to climate change, through the establishment of appropriate risk assessment tool, schools retrofitting and implementing adaptation actions in Haiti.

Significant achievements including multi-risk assessment of 622 schools through VISUS methodology and a web platform have been shared with the local authority, 1341 people have been trained on disaster risk reduction, 209 students have been trained on climate change adaptation, 200 engineers and students from engineering schools have been trained on new construction methods in order to prevent disaster, 3 workshops were held on the integration of disaster risk management and environmental education into the Haitian education system including climate change adaptation, 10 schools have been preselected for rehabilitation in the component 2.

During all the project's implementation, significant progress has been made through all the outcomes, some have been successfully completed and others are ongoing. Furthermore, based the following factors, an extension of the project duration is requested.

**Institutional reasons:** delays with the Ministry of National Education and Vocational Training in selecting the schools for the rehabilitation, component 2 of the project. This process was considerably delayed by the Ministry which was supposed to provide the list of schools in June 2023, the list was communicated to us until April 2024. This creates a considerable delay in the implementation of the second component.

**Political reasons:** The episodes of "country lock" recorded from 2022 to 2024 have caused the closure of partner institutions, and the slowdown of activities. Thus, creating delays in the implementation of certain activities.

Changes of government also require a perpetual start over and further amplify delays.

**Security reasons:** blockade of main roads by armed gangs, significantly reducing land transport, reducing access to building materials and fuel. This creates delays in the implementation of component 2

**Airport closures:** the recurrent closure of airports, thus causing the slowdown of the transport of essential staff by air and thus the slowdown of activities. This causes delays in the activities implementation.

**Guarantee period:** At least one guarantee period of six (6) months will be required after the rehabilitation of the schools.

Noting that the adaptation fund policy for project/ program delays in the point 14 states: " An implementing entity may request for a project /program extension beyond the original completion date for up to 18 months for a concrete adaptation project/program if (i) no additional funds are required; (ii) the project/program's originally approved will not change; and (iii) the entity provides reasons and justification for the extension. The DA must be notified of an extension request. Additional time beyond the 18 months stated above may be granted under exceptional circumstances. UNESCO address a request for an extension of 12 months starting from December 2025 to December 2026.

The 12 months no-cost extension will be used to undertake:

- The continuation of the rehabilitation process of the schools selected in the component 2.
- The continuation of the project implementations activities such as: strengthening community capacity to deal with disaster risks related to climate change, strengthening the capacity of the education system to cope with disaster risks.
- Conducting simulation exercises in schools and communities, installation of evacuation plans at school level,
- Establishment of school gardens.
- Integrating education with disaster risk management, and environmental education in the school curriculum.
- Installing early warning systems in communities.
- Define the necessary guarantee period for rehabilitated schools

No additional funds are required and there will be no change in the project signed framework. Be sure that, the project management cost will not exceed the originally approved cost already approved in the signed document.

*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.

Mr Eric Voli Bi, Head of office and UNESCO Representative to Haiti.



Project/programme contact person: Mr Panaroty Ferdinand Prophete, Programme specialist,



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