

PROJECT IMPLEMENTATION REPORT

Project ID:	11498
Project Name:	Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)
Countr(ies):	Global, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, South Sudan, Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Cameroon, Congo DR
Implementing Agency:	UNIDO

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I. Overview

A. Description

Project name

Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in Least Developed Countries (LDCs)

Country

Global, Haiti, Sierra Leone, Madagascar, South Sudan,
Tanzania, Kenya, Somalia, South Africa, Cameroon, Congo
DR

GEF ID

11498

Implementing Agency

UNIDO

Executing Entity

Village Capital

Trust Fund

LDCF

Project Type

MSP

PIR Submission

9/10/2026

Fiscal Year , PIR Number

FY 2026 , 1st PIR

Objective

To empower and support civil society organisations (CSOs) and community-based organisations (CBOs) in Least Developed Countries to implement high-impact and innovative initiatives that deliver climate change adaptation and environmental benefits in an inclusive manner.

B. Ratings and Disbursements

Implementation Progress

Satisfactory

Development Objective

Satisfactory

Overall risk

Low Risk

Project Financing

1,811,301.85

Cumulative Disbursement

649,095.00

C. Key Dates

CEO Endorsement/Approval

7/16/2024

Agency Approval

10/7/2024

Implementation Start 10/17/2024	First Disbursement
Expected MTR 10/1/2026	Actual MTR
Expected Completion 10/15/2027	Actual Completion

II. PROGRESS STATUS AND ISSUES

A. Progress: Information on progress and outcomes of project implementation activities

PC 1 Global convening and coordination

- Organised 'Locally Led Adaptation in Action: Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme CSOs/CBOs workshop and exhibition' in February 2026 in Vienna, Austria, at the margin of UNIDO 'Climate Adaptation and Industrial Resilience Forum 2026'. The event brought together 24 participants (22 in person, 2 online), which provided a strategic platform for knowledge exchange through peer-to-peer learning of implementation experiences, capacity building, identification of challenges and opportunities for scaling successful initiatives, strengthening collaboration and networking with partners, and enhancing visibility of local climate adaptation initiatives (Annex A and B).
- Participating as speakers at the global forums, increased the visibility of locally led adaptation approaches to the government representatives, private sector and other stakeholders at the UNIDO 'Climate Adaptation and Industrial Resilience Forum 2026' as well as the panel discussion 'From Vancouver to Samarkand: Scaling Locally Led Adaptation through Learning, Innovation and Blended Finance' at the Eighth GEF Assembly in June 2026 (Annex C).
- As a good practice of partnership, CSOs/CBOs working on agroforestry co-organised a webinar 'Innovative agroforestry systems in Africa: Challenges, techniques, tree uses and rights outside forests' at the IUCN World Conservation Congress in October 2025. CSOs/CBOs showcased their innovative initiatives to external audience and raised awareness on inclusive and sustainable agroforestry systems (Annex D).
- Created a [webpage](#) under UNIDO website for information sharing and coordination. Currently developing independent digital learning platform for more flexible contents to showcase CSOs/CBOs initiatives, knowledge products and event information.
- Developed project communication strategy and plan to provide clear guidelines and procedures for CSOs/CBOs (Annex E).

PC 2 High impact and innovative inclusive initiatives are supported and implemented

- Supporting six CSOs/CBOs under the Inclusive GEF Challenge Programme in LDCs. In total, engaged with 3,965 beneficiaries (including 1,597 women and 1,228 youth) through capacity building training, workshop and awareness raising activities conducted by each CSO/CBO (Annex F-K).
- Conducted a series of in-person/online capacity strengthening programme for CSOs/CBOs by Village Capital and MannionDaniels. Tailoring to CSOs/CBOs needs, delivered the training focusing on project development, monitoring, evaluation and learning, and digital tools and data systems by the end of June 2026. (Annex L).

PC 3 Monitoring and strategic impact evaluation

- Providing hands on support to each CSO/CBO to monitor progress. Closely reviewing and providing guidance to prepare progress report including narrative report, financial report and project result framework to track targets.

B. Challenges: Information on challenges of project implementation activities

Overall challenge of project implementation

- Facing challenges on digital learning platform development, due to technical restrictions on the UNIDO website and high cost because of the Community of Practice functionality. Exploring alternative website approaches with minimum contents.

- Experienced almost two years delay in approval of the Green Hope Foundation's initiative. Their initiative was originally planned to be implemented in Kiribati, however, following the guidance from the GEF Secretariat, adjusted the scope of initiative to focus on LDCs and SIDS as global initiative. This minor amendment was approved by GEF in June 2026, and it is currently under UNIDO's internal approval process.

Challenges faced by each CSO/CBO

- FoProBiM: Faced ongoing insecurity and travel restrictions due to gang violence in Haiti, limiting the safe participation of stakeholders from across the country and requiring a stronger focus on local engagement in the project target area.
- KYBN: Experienced delays in project start, partner coordination challenges, logistical constraints in fund distribution across five African regions, and climate variability affecting activity implementation
- EFA-SL: Faced leadership gaps at the National Protected Area Authority, which reduced patrols and contributed to increased illegal activities affecting project implementation.
- JADD Madagascar: Experienced delays in project start due to insecurity in the target area.
- Base Net: Faced insecurity and access limitations due to conflict between government and armed groups, as well as inflation and environmental threats, including illegal tree cutting, encroachment, and wildfires.
- The Kesho Trust: Faced conflict-related insecurity following the October 2025 general elections in Tanzania, which disrupted project implementation, limiting mobility and delaying planned activities.

C. Stakeholder Engagement

- FroProBiM: Engaged with local CSOs, communities, and public sector partners. Stakeholders expressed satisfaction with project progress, while insecurity in Haiti required a stronger focus on local engagement due to travel constraints.
- KYBN: Engaged traditional councils and local leaders to support wetland identification and restoration activities, including collaboration with the Sehlaré and Mashego Traditional Councils in South Africa.
- EFA-SL: Continued implementation with no formal feedback received from the GEF OFP or other officials to date, as no external visits have taken place.
- JADD Madagascar: Established partnership agreements with five local community organizations in the project areas and continued collaboration with the Ministry of Fisheries and Blue Economy.
- Base Net: Used participation in the GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop to enhance visibility and collaboration and strengthened partnerships with schools, farmers, and institutions supported environmental stewardship and knowledge sharing.
- The Kesho Trust: Engaged traditional leaders, community organizations, local governments, and schools to support community-led adaptation in Elerai and Enguserosambu.

D. Gender Equality

Gender equality in overall project implementation

- Promoted gender equality by ensuring balanced representation in capacity strengthening programme (over 50% women in average), CSOs/CBOs workshop and exhibition in 2026 (57% women), and CSOs/CBOs speakers at global events (56% women).

Gender equality in each CSO/CBO initiative

- FoProBiM: Promoted women's participation across all project activities, achieving 43% women participation during the reporting period.
- KYBN: Mainstreamed gender equality across all project activities, maintaining an average female participation rate of approximately one-third across implementing partners.
- EFA-SL: Promoted equal opportunities by ensuring balanced participation of girls and boys in environmental education programmes and encouraging inclusive participation in community activities.
- JADD Madagascar: Integrated gender considerations into beneficiary selection, training, and follow-up support, achieving near gender-balanced participation through sex-disaggregated monitoring.

- Base Net: Promoted equal participation of women and men, strengthened women's leadership and economic empowerment, and monitored progress through gender-sensitive indicators measuring participation, decision-making, and access to resources.
- The Kesho Trust: Implemented gender-responsive training to strengthen women's participation in household and community decision-making, promote girls' education, and encourage women's active engagement and leadership during meetings and capacity-building activities.

E. Knowledge Management

Overall knowledge management

- Provided opportunities for knowledge exchange, dissemination of good practices and learning for CSOs/CBOs through the CSOs/CBOs Workshop and exhibition in 2026. Showcased CSO/CBO initiatives through initiative posters, videos, banners, and artefacts at the exhibition. Supported to strengthen institutional and technical capacities of CSOs/CBOs through the capacity strengthening programme.

Knowledge management for each CSO/CBO

- ForProBiM: Initiated the development of educational materials with UNIDO/GEF branding to support knowledge dissemination and awareness-raising.
- JADD Madagascar: Strengthened knowledge management through the development of project communication and knowledge products, dissemination of lessons learned and good practices via the project website and social media, and participation in knowledge-sharing events to exchange experiences and expand collaboration networks.
- Base Net: Strengthened knowledge management by systematically collecting and sharing local rainfall data from five community rain gauges to support climate-informed decision-making and seasonal planning. Base Net, together with CAPTE (Tunisia) and Justdiggitt (Kenya), organized a public knowledge-sharing webinar under the GEF Inclusive Challenge Programme on agroforestry in Africa. The CSO-led event showcased innovative approaches, facilitated exchange of experiences among initiatives, and generated reflections on the rights and uses of trees beyond forest boundaries as key elements for inclusive and sustainable agroforestry systems.
- The Kesho Trust: Strengthened knowledge management through a centralized Content Management System for project documentation and organizational knowledge, and a Learning Management System to facilitate internal peer learning and knowledge exchange. Knowledge dissemination was further supported through stakeholder workshops, newsletters, digital platforms, and online feedback mechanisms.

III: Minor Amendments

CONTEXT	
Result Framework	Results Framework is updated as Green Hope Foundation is added to the project.
Components and Cost	Component 2, increase of USD 68,430 for grant assistance for Green Hope Foundation, and Agency Fee increase of USD 6,500.85.
Institutional And Implementation Arrangements	
Financial Management	The minor amendment was submitted in May 2026 and approved in June 2026, with increase of 4.32% of total GEF Project Financing.
Implementation Schedule	Given the delay in approval of SAFE under the twin project 'Inclusive GEF Assembly Challenge Programme in developing countries (UNIDO ID 230261/ GF ID 11499), the project may require three months extension.

Executing Entity	
Executing Entity Category	
Minor Project Objective Change	
Safeguards	
Risk Analysis	
Increase of GEF Financing up to 5%	Increase of 4.32% of total GEF project financing.
Co-Financing	USD 6,000 is added by Green Hope Foundation co-financing.
Location of Project Activity	
others	

IV: Geographic Coordinates of Project Activities

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Caracol (Haiti)	19.54536	-72.11165	3,728,428

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Adams Arcade (Kenya)	-1.30169	36.78129	8,477,698

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Sussex (Sierra Leone)	8.34679	-13.23061	2,403,669

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Antananarivo (Madagascar)	-18.91368	47.53613	1,070,940

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Juba (South Sudan)	4.85165	31.58247	373,303

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Arusha (Tanzania)	-3.36667	36.68333	161,325

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Yaounde (Cameroon)	3.86667	11.51667	2,220,957

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Mogadishu (Somalia)	2.03711	45.34375	53,654

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Kinshasa (DRC)	-4.32758	15.31357	2,314,302

Location Description:

Activity Description:

Location Name	Latitude	Longitude	GeoName ID
Pretoria (South Africa)	-25.74486	28.18783	964,137

Location Description:

Activity Description:

V. ANNEX

Uploaded Document

Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex A. CSOsCBOs workshop and exhibition report
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex B. Exhibition materials
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex C. Side Event Eighth GEF Assembly
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex D. Partnership_Webinar Innovative agroforestry systems in Africa
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex E. Project communication strategy and plan
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex F. Progress report (FoProBiM)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex G. Progress report (KYBN)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex H. Progress report (EFA-SL)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex I. Progress report (JADD Madagascar)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex J. Progress report (Base Net)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex K. Progress report (The Kesho Trust)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex L. Capacity strengthening programme

Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex M. Grant delivery report (GEF ID11498)
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex N. Workplan
Document Category M and E Document	Title Annex O. Budget
Document Category M and E Document	Title 11498_2026_PIR_UNIDO_Global