



COP28 • Side Event

Announcement of new programmes and expansion of the AFCIA Partnership

*Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA)

5 December 2023, 15:00 – 16:00 | UGIH – Global Innovation Hub

Event description

In the face of escalating climate crises in the Global South, where devastating floods, soaring temperatures, and rampant wildfires have become stark realities, the need for enhanced investment in climate adaptation and resilience is more urgent than ever. It transcends mere statistics, demanding localized, affordable, inclusive, and innovative solutions rooted in the unique challenges of the Global South. Current international adaptation financing falls drastically short, with an annual allocation barely surpassing US\$ 50 billion, while the projected adaptation needs by 2030 range from US\$ 160-340 billion and could soar to US\$ 315-565 billion by 2050. This widening gap underscores the pressing need for private investment. The imperative for innovative, local, affordable, and inclusive solutions is undeniable. Community-driven initiatives not only prove cost-effective but are tailored to the unique challenges faced in the Global South, empowering communities to construct resilience from the ground up.

We are therefore proud to announce the expansion of the Adaptation Fund Climate Innovation Accelerator (AFCIA) partnership at COP28 by addition of two new partners, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) and the World Food Program (WFP). AFCIA is a pioneering innovation accelerator program, which aims to ignite and accelerate innovation in climate change adaptation in developing countries and generate evidence of effective solutions that can be scaled-up. Under the auspices of the AFCIA partnership, UNIDO and WFP will administer programmes that will give out small grants and technical support to a wide range of beneficiaries globally in the amount of US\$ 20 million.

The accelerator was first announced by the Adaptation Fund at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP25) in Madrid in December 2019 and launched in November 2020 by AF together with UNDP and UNEP/CTCN. The event will bring together high-level policy makers, industry leaders, investors, entrepreneurs, and key stakeholders to discuss how AFCIA accelerates innovation in climate adaptation.

Key objectives of the event:

- Championing the mission of the Adaptation Fund, UNIDO and WFP in catalyzing innovation in climate adaptation.
- Unveiling two AFCIA initiatives implemented by UNIDO and WFP worth US\$ 20 million.
- Showcasing innovative climate adaptation entrepreneurs



Draft Event Program

Time	Speaker/intervention
15:00 – 15:05	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Introduction and Welcome: Mr. Mikko Ollikainen, Head of Adaptation Fund (5 min)
15:05 – 15:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Scene setting and launch of two new AFCIA programmes by UNIDO Director General, Mr. Gerd Müller and Deputy Executive Director Partnerships and Advocacy WFP, Ute Klamert (pre-recorded remarks) (10 min)
15:15 – 15:40	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Insights from the ongoing work under the AFCIA Partnership (2 mins each)<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Lead Innovation and Programming Adaptation Fund, Saliha Dobardzic○ UNDP Head Climate Change Adaptation, Srilata Kammila and○ Director CTCN (a.i.) and Head CTCN Partnership and Liaison Office UNEP, Rajiv Garg• Presentation of UNIDO's AFCIA programme, Chief of Climate Technology Innovation Division Department of Energy UNIDO, Mr. Alois Mhlanga (7 min)• Presentation of WFP Innovation Accelerator AFCIA programme, Head of Innovation Accelerator WFP, Mr. Bernhard Kowatsch (7 min)
15:40– 15:50	<p>Showcasing by Adaptation Innovators 10 mins (3 mins each)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Climate Adaptation Company (WFP Innovation Accelerator) – Nidhi Pant, Co-founder of S4S Technologies India• UNDP-AFCIA grantee - Vincent Mariadho, National Coordinator of ProInnova Kenya• UNEP-CTCN NDE St. Kitts and Nevis - June Hughes, Drought risk modeling for water supply resilience St. Kitts and Nevis
15:50 – 16:00	<p>Concluding remarks and Group Photo Session</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Closing Remarks – United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Executive Secretary, Simon Stiell (TBC)

Partners and contacts

Adaptation Fund: Saliha Dobardzic (sdobardzic@adaptation-fund.org)

UNIDO: Alois Mhlanga (a.mhlanga@unido.org), Sunyoung Suh (s.suh@unido.org)

WFP: Bernhard Kowatsch (bernhard.kowatsch@wfp.org)