



# Freetown Aquatic WASH and Environment Project

Through the Africa Adaptation Acceleration Program (AAP), the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) is working with the African Development Bank (AfDB) to mobilize finance through the Green Climate Fund (GCF) for climate adaptation investments. These investments support a key sub-project under the Freetown WASH and Aquatic Environment Revamping Program, namely the Freetown Water and Sanitation Resilience-building Project (FWASReP). The objective of the overall program is to improve water supply and sanitation services while ensuring the sustainability of the vital aquatic ecosystem in the Western Area/Freetown. The sub-project, FWASReP, seeks to enhance the climate resilience of Freetown's water and sanitation systems through nature-based and transformative solutions for water efficiency and security, thereby reducing the city's vulnerability to climate-induced service disruptions.

## Adaptation Need

Sierra Leone, with 13% of its land area and more than 35% of the population exposed to multiple climate hazards, is one of the most climate vulnerable countries in Africa. Inadequate urban drainage systems heighten flood risks, particularly in Freetown, where floods have become a yearly occurrence, displacing communities, and disrupting water supply, sanitation, and electricity services. Women and girls bear a disproportionate burden in accessing safe water and often face health, safety, and educational setbacks as a result. Thus, investments in integrated water resources management and sanitation services need to address climate risks and integrate strategies for gender responsiveness to ensure community and livelihood resilience.

## GCA's Added Value

GCA is supporting the development of a concept note and US\$112 million funding proposal to the GCF for FWASReP by contributing expert technical content. GCA mobilized expert support to strengthen the integration of climate adaptation into the project design, inform the development of a climate-risk-informed Gender Action Plan, and enhance gender responsiveness in the environmental and social assessment. GCA also contributed specialized economic analysis to guide investment planning for resilient water and sanitation infrastructure and nature-based solutions, helping establish the project's climate rationale and economic case for funding.

Total Investment Value Influenced

**\$189.17M**

Beneficiaries

**1.40M**

IFI Implementation period

**2018 - 2023**

Program

**Water and Urban**

Partners

**African Development Bank**

Status

**In progress**

Countries



SDG contribution



## PROJECT GOALS

### Mainstreaming Adaptation and Resilience

GCA's support has helped ensure that FWASReP advances gender-responsive, climate resilient infrastructure and planning aligned with GCF investment criteria. By identifying climate and gender vulnerabilities, and working with AfDB partners to incorporate these findings into the proposal design, GCA helped embed a focus on adaptation and gender-sensitive planning into AfDB's future investment portfolio for Freetown.

### Expected Outcomes

Strengthened climate adaptation measures tailored to local needs.

Enhanced gender equity and social inclusion by identifying measures which empower women, improve their access to resources, and enhance their capacity to adapt to climate change.

Mobilization of additional financing towards increasing the resilience of WASH systems in Sierra Leone, enabled through the strengthened climate rationale and financial analysis led by GCA

TIMELINE

# GCA Support Status

Technical Assistance Preparation

GCA Support Implementation

November, 2018

GCA Support Completion

Monitoring

FINANCE

# Total Investment Value

## \$189.17M

IFI INVESTMENT VALUE

\$189.17M

OTHER INVESTMENT  
VALUE

N/A

## IFI partners



African  
Development Bank

CONTACTS

GENERAL MEDIA INQUIRIES

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## RELATED ARTICLES & RESOURCES

AfDB Project Portal

