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Adaptation Gap Report 2025

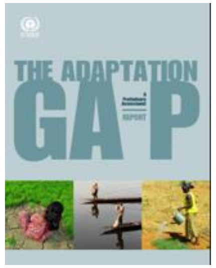
Running on empty

The world is gearing up for climate resilience – without the money to get there

UNEP CPR briefing | 06 November 2025

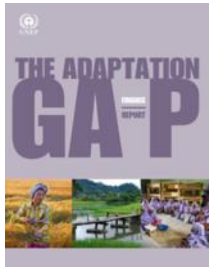
Adaptation Gap Reports – science-based assessments since 2014

LIMA COP20 CMP10



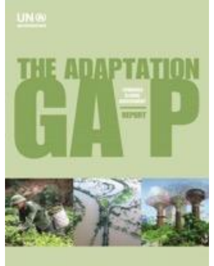
2014

ADAPTATION FUTURES 2016
practices and solutions



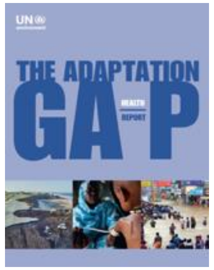
2016

COP23 FIJI
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
BONN 2017



2017

COP24 · KATOWICE 2018
KONFERENCJA NARODÓW ZJEDNOCZONYCH W SPRAWIE ZMIAN KLIMATU



2018

CAS2021

2020

UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE UK 2021
IN PARTNERSHIP WITH ITALY

2021

COP27 SHARM EL-SHEIKH EGYPT 2022

2022

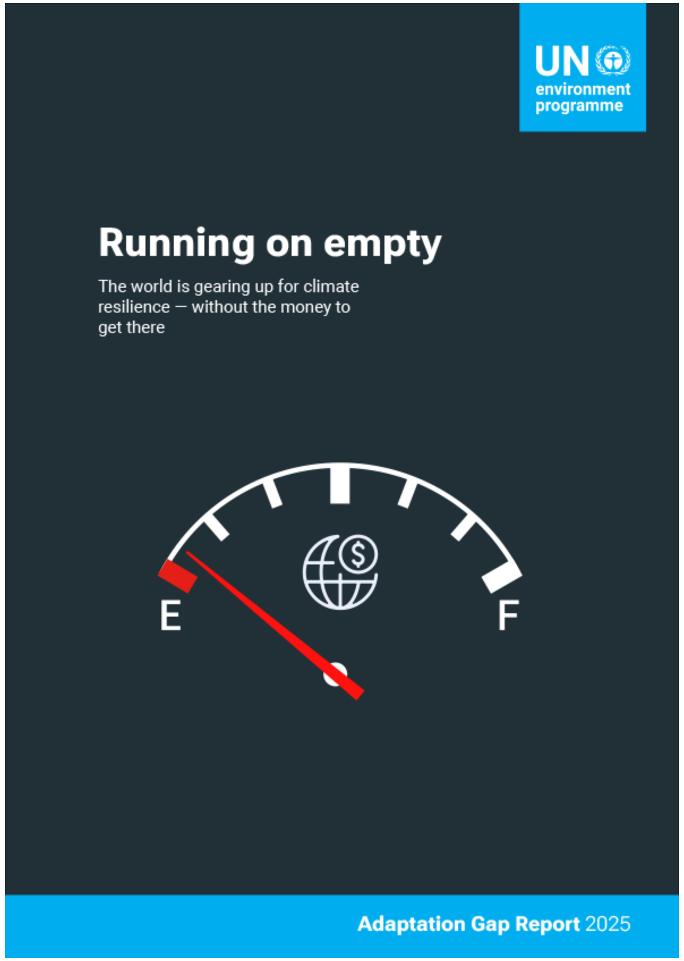
COP28 UAE

2023

COP29 Baku Azerbaijan

2024

COP30 BRASIL AMAZÔNIA BELÉM 2025



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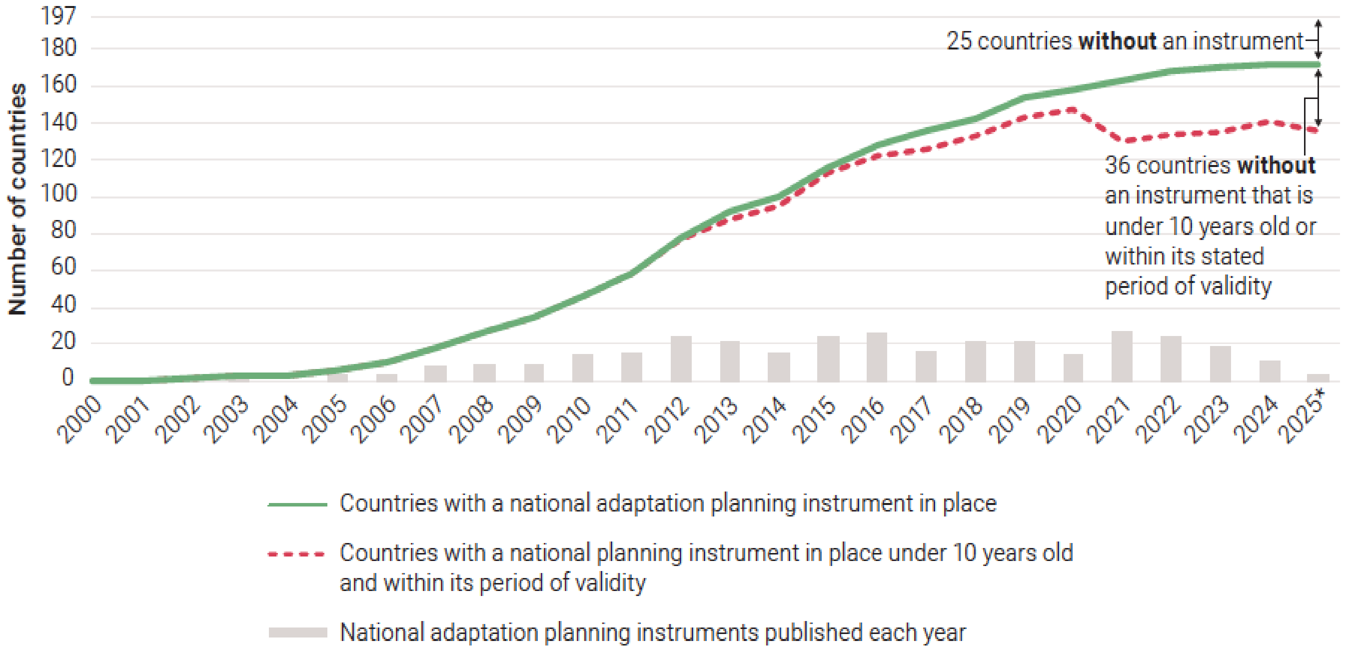
Progress in adaptation planning is visible but patchy

Figure ES.1 Progress towards achieving the UAE FGCR's target of all country Parties having national adaptation planning instruments in place by 2030



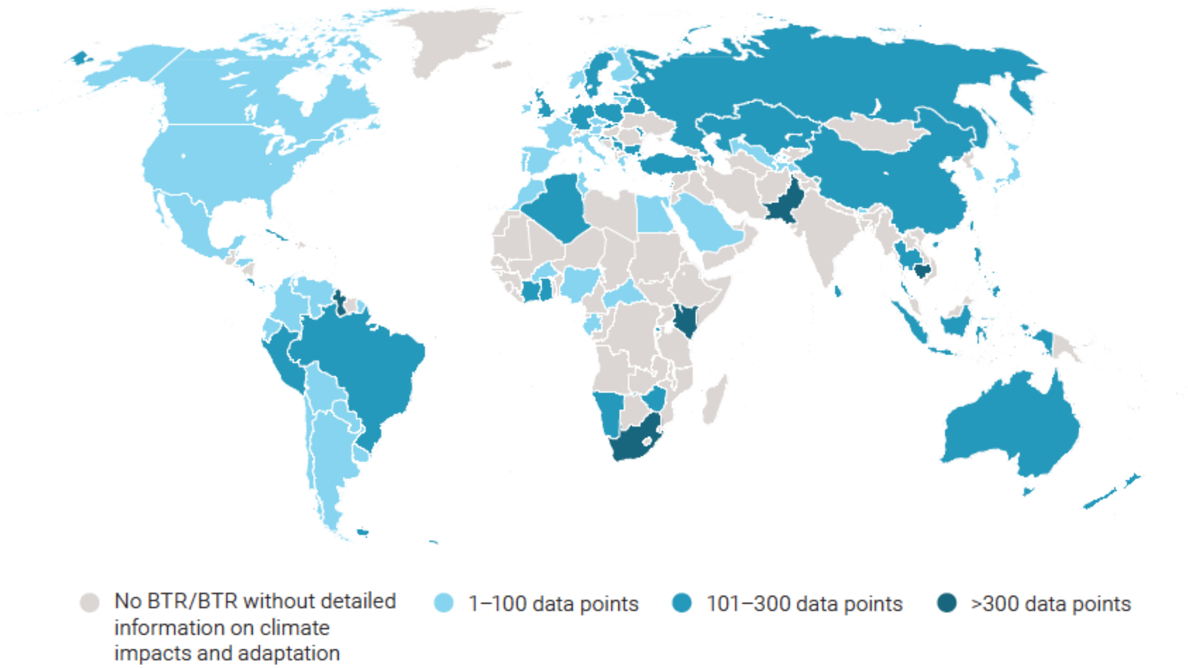
*** Until 31 August 2025**

- 87% of countries have at least one national adaptation planning instrument.
- Most countries without a planning instrument have started developing one.
- 21% of countries have outdated planning instruments.
- Countries should update old plans to minimize maladaptation.
- 59% of countries report on mainstreaming.
- Most SIDS have integrated adaptation into national development planning.

SIDS: Small Island Developing States

Adaptation implementation is progressing, but gaps remain

Figure ES.2 Global distribution of countries that have submitted a BTR with detailed information on climate impacts and adaptation, and the number of data points per country



Note: As at 31 August 2025; a data point refers to a segment of text (such as a statement or block of text) in a BTR that contains information on any of the topics relevant for assessing climate impacts and adaptation.

- 94 of 105 available BTRs address adaptation.
- Coverage of adaptation varies widely.
- Many countries have yet to submit a BTR.
- Countries report over 1600 adaptation actions.
- Actions focus primarily on ecosystems, agriculture, water, and infrastructure.
- Greater emphasis on results is necessary to assess adequacy and effectiveness of actions.

BTRs: Biennial Transparency Reports

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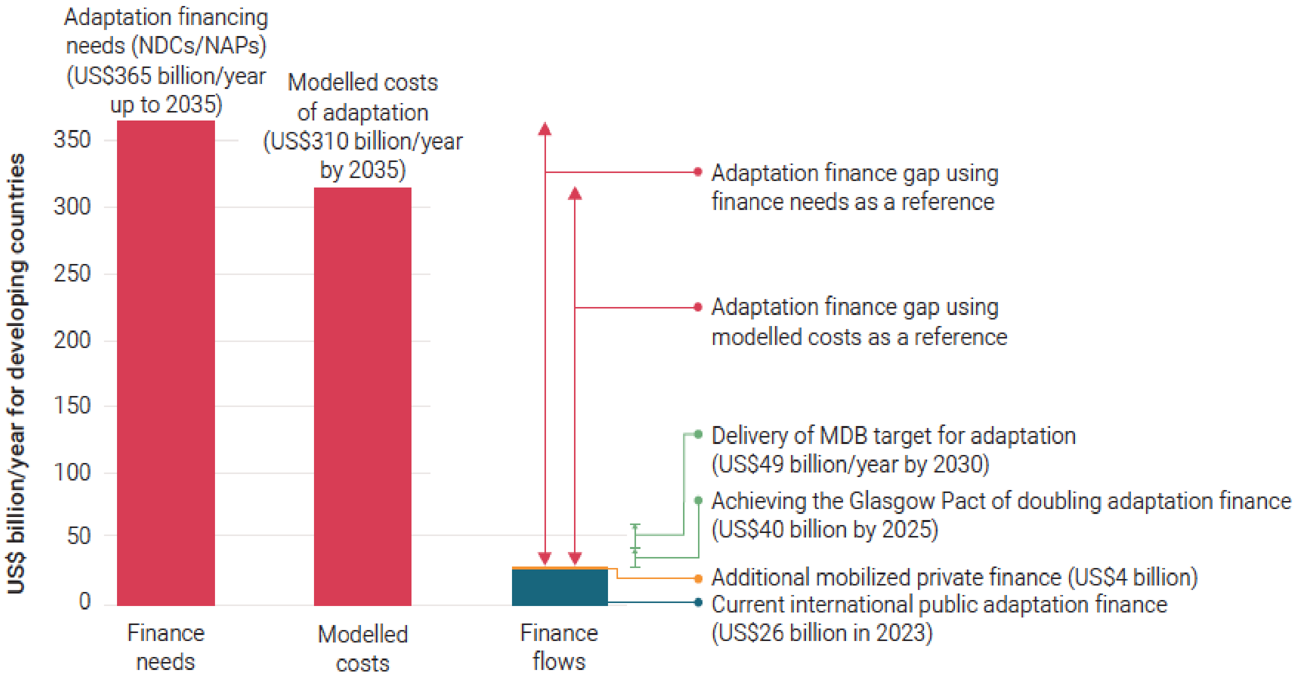
Adaptation finance needs are 12-14 times as much as current flows

Figure ES.3 Comparison of adaptation financing needs, modelled costs and international public adaptation finance flows in developing countries



Note: In constant 2023 prices. Domestic and private finance flows are excluded.

- International public adaptation finance to developing countries was $26 bn in 2023.
- The Glasgow Climate Pact will be missed if current trends continue.
- Developing countries’ adaptation finance needs are $310-365 bn/yr by 2035.
- The NCQG is insufficient to meet adaptation finance needs of developing countries.
- Debt instruments are growing in prominence, raising concerns of affordability and equity.

NCQG: New Collective Quantified Goal for climate finance

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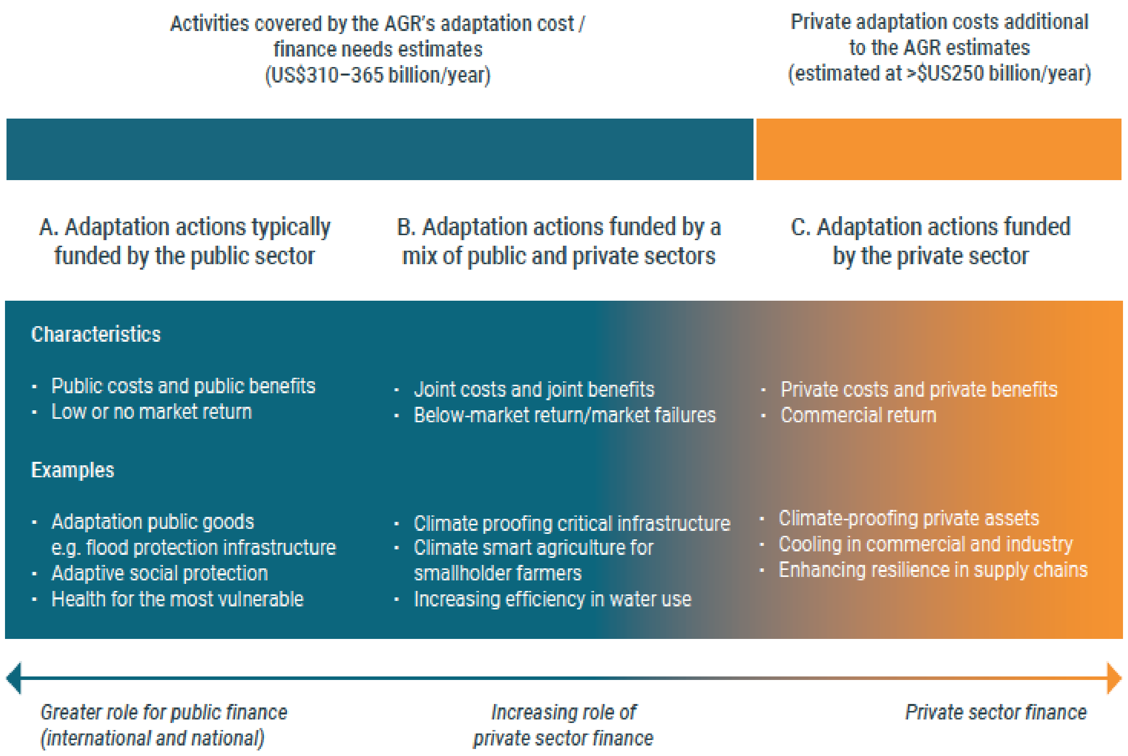
Private sector can close a portion of the adaptation finance gap

Figure ES.4 Simplified categorization of adaptation types and opportunities for private sector engagement



- About 3/4 of adaptation finance needs are funded by the public sector.
- The private sector could finance around US$ 50 bn/yr.
- Reaching this level from currently about US$ 5 bn/yr requires targeted policy action and blended finance.
- Innovative finance models can help bridge the finance gap but will unlikely bridge the funding gap.
- Returning adaptation costs to the most vulnerable countries is unfair and can increase their indebtedness.

B2B must enable scaling up climate finance without enhancing vulnerabilities

- B2B can guide bridging the finance gap without enhancing vulnerabilities of developing nations, by:
  - focusing on non-debt-creating instruments;
  - containing the growth of adaptation finance gap through mitigation and avoiding maladaptation;
  - increasing the volume of adaptation finance with the help of new providers and instruments;
  - engaging more finance actors in integrating climate resilience into financial decision-making.

A global effort is needed to close the finance gap and accelerate climate action

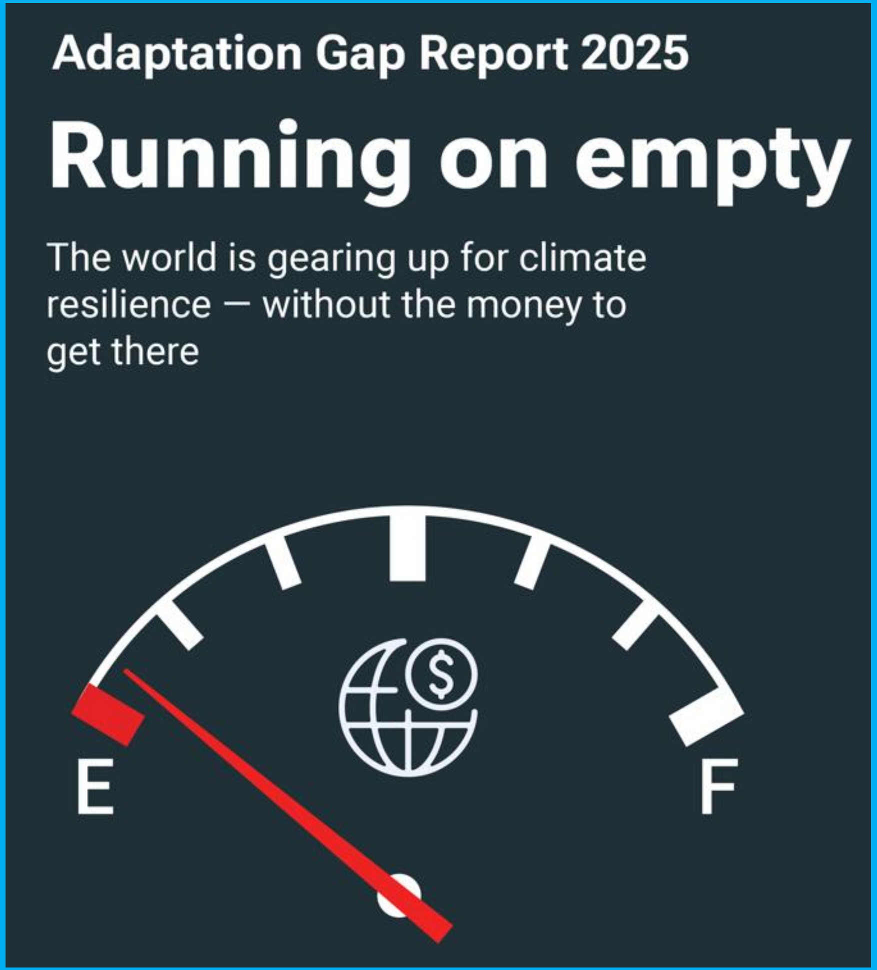
- Adaptation is an investment in the future amid rising climate impacts.
- Increase financial support in line with the Baku to Belém Roadmap to 1.3T.
- Public and private finance must step up without enhancing vulnerabilities.

Thank you

on behalf of the authors,
the steering committee members
and the production team of the report

Henry Neufeldt, Chief Scientific Editor,
UNEP Copenhagen Climate Centre

UNEP Climate Change Division



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