



ADAPTATION FUND

Adaptation Fund E-Learning Course Aimed at Broadening Direct Access to Climate Finance Now Available in French

Washington, D.C. (June 29, 2020) — The Adaptation Fund has broadened its suite of knowledge products with the launch of its E-Learning course on Direct Access [in French](#).

The interactive learning tool is aimed at helping developing country organizations improve access to adaptation finance. The [English version](#) of the course has been available since last November when it was [officially launched](#) during COP 25 in Madrid.

The course provides an overview and guide of the Fund's accreditation process of becoming an implementing entity with the Fund, and also covers its project design and implementation processes to help implementers develop effective projects on the ground. It has a particular focus on imparting user-friendly knowledge of the Fund's requirements for accreditation, and understanding and applying environmental, social and gender considerations when formulating and implementing sustainable climate change adaptation projects.

It was produced by the Adaptation Fund together with the Open Learning Campus of the World Bank Group, and is free and open to anyone interested in taking it.

Although the French version of the course is the same as the English version, it will help broaden its reach to French-speaking developing countries that have organizations interested in becoming accredited with the Fund. There are also several Francophone countries with entities that are already accredited through the Fund, which may want to take the course to further refine their capacities and help them prepare quality projects, or help prepare for the reaccreditation process that occurs after five years.

To date, of the Fund's 50 accredited [implementing entities](#), seven use French as their primary language of operations (five national implementing entities and two regional implementing entities). Several others have applied for accreditation and their applications are being reviewed.

"I am very pleased to see the Adaptation Fund offering this new online tool in French, which will help many climate-vulnerable countries that may have challenges with English more easily access the Fund's accreditation processes and resources," said Adaptation Fund Board Chair Mr. **Ibila Djibril**, of Benin. *"As a French speaker myself, I have worked very hard to hone my English skills but having the same learning resources available in one's own language further empowers many countries to more readily and quickly access these tools and enhance their readiness to receive climate finance. It is also another example of the Fund continuing to stay active and deliver to vulnerable countries in diverse ways during the COVID-19 pandemic."*



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The course is organized into two modules, utilizing case studies to guide users through key accreditation steps and through addressing environmental, social and gender considerations in project design and implementation. It contains quizzes to test participants' knowledge along the way. It is self-paced, but users generally can complete it in about three hours in one sitting. They receive a certificate upon completion.

It is largely designed to help prospective NIEs achieve accreditation and develop quality projects under the Fund's pioneering [Direct Access](#) modality — which empowers country ownership in adaptation.

“The E-Learning course is a highly interactive knowledge tool for capacity building at the national and subnational levels. It tackles specific challenges and opportunities with Direct Access, particularly capacity gaps in financial management, and environmental, social and gender standards,” said Ms. **Cristina Dengel**, Knowledge Management Officer of the Adaptation Fund. *“Expanding to French audiences broadens its reach significantly, and we hope to follow with a Spanish version soon.”*

The course further supports the Fund's 'Learning and Sharing' pillar of its five-year [Medium-Term Strategy](#) launched in 2018, which is designed to enhance and scale up quality adaptation actions, innovative practices and learning across the adaptation field to help achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“The Fund is in a unique position having built up over 12 years of knowledge through its concrete adaptation work on the ground and building country capacities through Direct Access. Making valuable tools and models available in multiple languages helps remove barriers that developing countries face in accessing international adaptation finance, and ultimately expand and enhance adaptation practices across the globe that contribute to addressing the urgency of climate change,” said Mr. **Mikko Ollikainen**, Manager of the Adaptation Fund.

The E-Learning course is targeted especially at the Fund's [Designated Authorities](#) within developing country governments, as well as accredited NIEs making use of Direct Access, prospective NIEs, other Fund partners, NGOs and the private sector.

ABOUT the ADAPTATION FUND

Since 2010, the Adaptation Fund has committed about US\$ 745 million for climate change adaptation and resilience projects and programmes, including 105 concrete localized adaptation projects in the most vulnerable communities of developing countries around the world with more than 8 million direct beneficiaries. It also pioneered Direct Access, empowering countries to access funding and develop projects directly through accredited national implementing entities.



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