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

Washington, D.C. (*August 3, 2020*) — The Adaptation Fund has made a key interactive learning tool available in [Spanish](#) to help improve access to climate finance for Spanish-speaking countries.

This E-Learning course, *Direct Access: Unlocking Adaptation Funding*, was also made available [in French](#) for French-speaking countries in [late June](#). The original [English version](#) was [officially launched](#) last November at COP25 in Madrid.

The virtual course is aimed at helping developing country organizations improve access to adaptation finance through the Fund's pioneering [Direct Access](#) modality, which builds country ownership in adaptation through accredited national implementing entities (NIEs) based directly in countries themselves.

The course provides an overview and guide of the Fund's accreditation process for implementing entities, and further covers its project design and implementation processes to help implementers develop effective projects on the ground. It focuses on imparting user-friendly knowledge of the Fund's requirements for accreditation, as well as fostering understanding and application of environmental, social and gender considerations when formulating and implementing adaptation projects.

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

Although both Spanish and French versions are the same as the English one, they will help broaden its reach to Spanish- and French-speaking developing countries with organizations interested in becoming accredited with the Fund.

There are also many Spanish-speaking countries with implementing entities that are already accredited by the Fund, which may want to take the course to further refine their capacities and help them develop quality projects, or prepare for the Fund's reaccreditation process that occurs after five years.

To date, of the Fund's 51 accredited [implementing entities](#), 11 use Spanish as their primary language (eight national implementing entities, two regional implementing entities and one multilateral implementing entity). Accreditation applications from additional Spanish-speaking country organizations are also in the pipeline. The Fund has further committed US\$ 215 million



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to projects and programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, covering about 29 percent of its current portfolio.

“I am very pleased to see the Adaptation Fund offering this virtual course in Spanish, which will help many climate-vulnerable countries in Latin America more easily access the Fund’s accreditation processes and resources,” said Adaptation Fund Board Chair Mr. **Ibila Djibril**, of Benin. *“The English, French and Spanish versions collectively offer additional learning resources across languages to empower countries to more readily access these tools and enhance their readiness to receive climate finance.”*

The E-course is organized into two modules, utilizing case studies to guide users through key accreditation steps as well as project design considerations. It contains quizzes to test participants’ knowledge and is self-paced, with the average duration of each module being about three hours in one sitting. Participants receive a certificate upon completion.

Although it is largely designed to help prospective NIEs achieve accreditation and develop quality projects under Direct Access, the Fund’s [Designated Authorities](#) within developing country governments, already-accredited NIEs, NGOs and civil society organizations, the private sector and other stakeholders will also find value in taking it.

“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 and now Spanish audiences broadens its reach significantly.”*

The course 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 projects, innovative practices and learning across the adaptation field to help achieve the objectives of the Paris Agreement and UN Sustainable Development Goals.

“The Adaptation 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 available in multiple languages helps remove barriers that developing countries may face in accessing international adaptation finance, and ultimately expands and enhances adaptation practices across the globe to help address the urgency of climate change,” said Mr. **Mikko Ollikainen**, Manager of the Adaptation Fund.



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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.

Communications: Matthew Pueschel, mpueschel@adaptation-fund.org or +1-202-473-6743