

UNITED NATIONS CAPITAL DEVELOPMENT FUND (UNCDF)

REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA):

Online courses on digital financial services for policymakers and regulators

1. SUMMARY OF THIS REQUEST FOR APPLICATIONS (RFA)

Purpose: Support capacity building of governments to drive ongoing refinements to regional and national regulatory and supervisory frameworks for digital financial services (DFS) to enable an inclusive and competitive ecosystem, protect consumers, and maintain the integrity of the financial system.

Outcome: Policymakers and regulators across Africa to build knowledge on best practices and examples from around the world in relation to DFS as well analysis and communication skills to propose policy and regulatory solutions.

Timeline:

- Publication date: 26 November 2019
- Deadline for questions in writing: 29 November 2019
- **Final deadline for applications: 10 December 2019**
- Project implementation (proposed): 1 January 2020 to 30 November 2022

Applications and any questions about this RFA should be submitted to UNCDF by email at digital.info@uncdf.org. Applications must follow the annexes of this document.

2. ORGANIZATION CONTEXT AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The UN Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) makes public and private finance work for the poor in the world's 47 least developed countries.

With its capital mandate and instruments, UNCDF offers “last mile” finance models that unlock public and private resources, especially at the domestic level, to reduce poverty and support local economic development. UNCDF’s financing models work through two channels: financial inclusion that expands the opportunities for individuals, households, and small businesses to participate in the local economy, providing them with the tools they need to climb out of poverty and manage their financial lives; and by showing how localized investments—through fiscal decentralization, innovative municipal finance, and structured project finance—can drive public and private funding that underpins local economic expansion and sustainable development.

UNCDF has been working with national governments to improve access to financial services for over 25 years. In the last decade, we have focused specifically on the role that digital technologies play in accelerating usage of financial services by low-income people. In our role as a technical assistance provider and neutral broker, UNCDF works closely with global and national partners to build capacity and support governments to engage with industry to facilitate solutions to key market constraints at the local and regional level.

For more information, please see: <https://www.uncdf.org/article/4944/enabling-policy-and-regulation-leaving-no-one-behind-in-the-digital-era>

3. SCOPE

Globally, nearly all policymakers and regulators are seeking to build their capacity to keep pace with rapid market change. Many countries run the risk of ‘being left behind’ if legal reforms cannot capture the potential of new business models and technology to solve age-old problems such as lack of access to services, infrastructure and information. At UNCDF, we are committed to meet this demand for support and work closely with policymakers and regulators to build skills and systems necessary to adapt to the emergent future.

To complement this work, UNCDF invites eligible organizations to apply to deliver online courses on inclusive digital financial services (DFS) including DFS business models and relevant policy and regulatory tools in line with the following requirements:

Participants

- 75-100 policymakers and regulators across Africa from central banks, financial regulatory authorities, telecommunications regulatory bodies, etc.
- UNCDF will select and support qualifying candidates (especially female policymakers and regulators) to apply

Course structure

- A ‘fundamentals’ course on DFS regulation including e-money, customer due diligence, agent networks, consumer protection
- Option to enroll in additional courses based on organizational needs and interests such as:
 - supervision of financial institutions, regulatory technology (regtech)
 - ‘next generation’ issues such as cybersecurity, data protection and privacy, digital identity, interoperability
- Selection of above coursework available in English and French

Expected observable skills

- Upon successful completion of the curriculum, participants will demonstrate the ability to:
 - identify best practices as defined by global standard-setting bodies
 - analyze information from various sources (including examples of regulatory approaches taken by governments around the world)
 - propose policy and regulatory solutions to address local challenges

Example information sources

- [Basic Regulatory Enablers for Digital Financial Services](#)
- [Anti-Money Laundering and Terrorist Financing Measures and Financial Inclusion](#)
- [Good Practices for Financial Consumer Protection](#)
- [Payment Aspects of Financial Inclusion \(PAFI\)](#)
- [A Guide to Supervising E-Money Issuers](#)

Teaching method

- Online courses
- Teaching support such as tutors and discussion forums
- Low-tech options where possible for slower internet speeds

Languages

- English
- French

Budget

- Estimated at USD \$150,000 to \$250,000 depending on the proposed curriculum

Agreement parameters

- The partner is expected to sign a performance-based financing (grant) agreement with UNCDF
- Written outputs and deliverables of the work are considered a public good and therefore should be placed in the public domain for use by other parties (see Annex 2)

Proposed workplan and deliverables

Dates	Deliverables	Payment
Jan 2020	Agreed curriculum and workplan	10%
Jan-Sep 2020	All courses finalized and live	30%
Jan 2020-Nov 2022	Cohort 1: 25 participants Cohort 2: 25 participants Cohort 3: 25 participants (possibility to add additional cohorts)	20% 20% 20%

4. APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Minimum qualification criteria

- Any type of educational organization (commercial for-profit firms, educational institutions, non-profit organizations, universities) is eligible to apply
- Demonstrated experience and capability of proposed staff members in designing and delivering online courses on inclusive digital financial services
- Successfully delivered similar online courses with proven excellent results
- Work experience in Africa
- Ability to work in English and French
- Commitment and ability to provide resources (e.g. tutors) as needed

Structure of the application

- Please see Annex 1: Submission Format for guidance
- Additional documents or links to documents may be included at the applicant's discretion

Technical proposal

- Overview of current/proposed online courses on inclusive digital financial services
 - Samples of course materials
 - Description of teaching support provided for participants such as tutors
 - Description of engagement activities such as discussion forums and assessment tasks
 - Description of any low-tech options for participants who face slower internet speeds
- Detailed workplan with timeline of major activities
- Proposed team (with CVs)

Financial proposal

- Budget quotation for the entire project, with detailed line items
- Planning and foreseen timings
- Detailed price breakdown, including separate figures for each functional grouping or category

Submission of the application

Applications and any questions about this RFA should be submitted via email to digital.info@uncdf.org.

The subject line of the email should be: **RFA: Online courses in DFS for policymakers and regulators.**

5. EVALUATION CRITERIA

The evaluation will follow the combined scoring method:

Rating the Technical Proposal (TP):

$$\text{TP Rating} = (\text{Total Score Obtained by the Offer} / \text{Max. Obtainable Score for TP}) \times 100$$

Rating the Financial Proposal (FP):

$$\text{FP Rating} = (\text{Lowest Priced Offer} / \text{Price of the Offer Being Reviewed}) \times 100$$

Total Combined Score:

$$\text{Final Rating} = (\text{TP Rating}) \times (\text{Weight of TP, e.g. 70\%}) + (\text{FP Rating}) \times (\text{Weight of FP, e.g. 30\%})$$

Technical proposal: 70 points

Criteria	Points obtainable
Quality of current/proposed course materials and engagement activities	25
Timeliness of delivery based on workplan	25
Qualifications and experience of the proposed team	20

Financial proposal: 30 points

To be computed as a ratio of the proposal's offer to the lowest price among the proposals received.

Total proposal: 100 point