



unitar

United Nations Institute for Training and Research

SYLLABUS

Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience



Photo: LoCAL/UNCDF

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Background

About UNITAR

The United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) provides innovative learning solutions to individuals, organizations and institutions to enhance global decision-making and support country-level action for shaping a better future. UNITAR's four-year strategic framework is aligned with the 2030 Agenda and uses the Sustainable Development Goals as the guiding principle for the Institute's work with the strategic objectives organized around four out of five thematic pillars of the 2030 Agenda (Peace, People, Planet and Prosperity).

UNITAR's Division for Planet builds human capacities for green economy, climate change, chemicals and waste management and sustainable consumption and production through on-the-ground interventions, as well as distance learning and support. The Division works with government departments, civil society organizations, and education and training institutions in 50+ partner countries to harness the power that lies within these institutions and individuals through knowledge, networking, and content development aligned with the 2030 Agenda.

About the SAR Project

On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is supporting the **Pakistan government to improve the conditions for climate adaptation and resilience as well as climate risk management with a specific focus on vulnerable population, especially women.**

The project "Strengthening Climate Adaptation and Resilience (SAR)" supports the entire planning cycle of climate change adaptation measures: from the preparation of climate risk assessments to the piloting of financing approaches and instruments. It contributes towards the National Adaptation Plan (NAP) as well as the Global Nationally Determined Contributions (NDC) Partnership, while also supporting the measures at the local level as well as upscaling through international climate finance.

Scope of the partnership

In the context of the SAR project, UNITAR's Green Development and Climate Change Unit comes to support the capacity building component through the design, development and implementation of, among others, this online, self-paced course on strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience. While the course will feature many Pakistani case studies, it provides a solid core general content on climate change adaptation as one of the main pillars of the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC).

Target Audience

As stated previously, while the course features many Pakistani case studies, serving Pakistani civil servants, it caters also to:

- Civil servants in planning and development departments of various line ministries such as environment, agriculture, industry, finance, development, etc. at the local and national levels;
- Stakeholders from non-governmental organizations and community groups focused on climate change adaptation and resilience.

Overall Objective

The core objectives of the e-course include enhancing knowledge of incorporating climate change into planning, budgeting, and decision-making in an inclusive manner, boosting individual capacities within governments for climate change adaptation through nationally appropriate strategies. Additionally, the course offers insights into innovative financial instruments for financing climate adaptation.

It has been designed and developed through a gender lens, embracing an integrated approach whereby case studies feature how these issues have different impacts on different groups of people enforcing the importance of considering all community members when dealing with these issues.

Methodology

This self-paced distance learning course is designed to meet the needs of busy full-time working professionals. The content is delivered in short digestible learning units allowing participants to engage at their convenience and control their learning pace, thereby supporting the adult learner's desire for autonomy in their learning journey. The delivery format is varied to stimulate engagement and includes interactive lessons, videos, reflective questions, formative quizzes and practical exercises. The learning objectives of each module will be assessed through short quizzes including various question formats such as multiple choice, multiple answers, matching, true and false, ranking, fill in the gap etc.

Course Overview

The e-course is structured in three module, with each module including several lessons.

Module 1: Climate Change Adaptation: the basics

This module introduces fundamental concepts of climate change adaptation. This foundation is crucial for developing a nuanced understanding of climate change adaptation needs, setting the stage for informed decision-making and policy development.

Lesson 1.1: Basics of Climate Change

This lesson introduces the fundamental principles of climate change, its scientific basis, and the concept of adaptation. The lesson also covers the importance of understanding climate data and how it informs policy and planning for climate resilience.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Define key terms related to climate change and adaptation
- Analyse climatic data for informed decision-making

Lesson 1.2: Adaptation and Recognizing Climate Change Risks

This lesson focuses on identifying and understanding the diverse risks that climate change poses. It covers the assessment of vulnerability and exposure to climate hazards in different sectors. The lesson aims to equip participants with the skills to recognize climate risks and consider appropriate adaptive measures.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify risks associated with climate change
- Examine the specific adaptation needs across different government sectors, e.g. agriculture, infrastructure, public health, etc.

Lesson 1.3: Gender-Specific Impacts of Climate Change

Addressing the often-overlooked aspect of how climate change impacts genders differently, this lesson delves into the climate change impacts on various gender groups as well as their unique vulnerabilities and adaptive capacities.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Recognize the gender-specific impacts of climate change
- Describe methods to gather information on gender disparities in climate impacts

Lesson 1.4: Policy Frameworks for Climate Resilience

This lesson provides a comprehensive overview of the policy frameworks that govern climate resilience. It focuses on United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), its key conferences, and the essential legal and regulatory aspects that shape government action in climate change adaptation. Further, the lesson will explore the role of National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) in formulating country-specific responses, and the integration of climate policies in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Discuss the importance of policy frameworks in climate adaptation
- Describe the elements of effective climate change policies
- Outline key legal and regulatory frameworks that guide government action on climate change adaptation

Module 2: Mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation into Planning, Budgeting and Decision Making

This module focuses on integrating climate change adaptation into governmental planning, budgeting, and decision-making processes. This foundation is essential for effectively integrating climate resilience into public sector operations, supporting informed policy and resource allocation.

Lesson 2.1: Planning Climate Change Adaptation

This lesson introduces the crucial role of local governments in climate change adaptation. It explores the responsibilities and capabilities of local authorities in areas such as planning, taxation, and policy implementation. This lesson explores the importance of planning for climate change adaptation at the national, sub-national, and local levels. Participants will analyse how countries globally are formulating National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to identify and address medium- and long-term climate adaptation needs. The lesson looks also at the challenges local governments face when attempting to contribute effectively to climate change adaptation: lack of appropriate budgetary allocation from the national level among others. The principles of locally-led adaptation as defined by the Global Centre on Adaptation are also introduced.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Describe the role of NAPs in fostering climate resilience
- Identify the key phases of the NAP process
- Explain vertical and horizontal integration in aligning national and local adaptation priorities
- Highlight the value of inclusive and gender-responsive planning

Lesson 2.2: Integrating climate change adaptation into budgeting

This lesson explores how public finance systems can integrate climate adaptation into national budgeting processes to address fiscal risks, ensure efficient resource allocation, and support vulnerable communities. Participants will also examine tools like Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) and diagnostic frameworks to enhance transparency and maximize the impact of climate-responsive public investments.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Identify the role of the public finance in climate adaptation
- Discuss tools and strategies for embedding climate goals in budgeting
- Analyze barriers and enablers for effective climate financing
- Evaluate the benefits of Climate Budget Tagging (CBT) for tracking expenditures and mobilizing funds

Module 3: Financing for Climate Change Adaptation

This module examines the critical role of financing in tackling climate change, with a focus on the mechanisms and strategies necessary to support adaptation efforts. Participants will explore the realities of climate finance, the importance of public and private sector contributions, and the innovative instruments that can drive scalable and sustainable action. By the end of this module, participants will have a comprehensive understanding of how to navigate the complexities of financing for climate adaptation.

Lesson 3.1: Introduction to financing for climate change adaptation

This lesson provides a foundational understanding of why climate finance is essential and explores the current realities shaping the global finance landscape. Participants will learn about the role of finance in enabling climate action, the challenges of meeting adaptation finance needs, and the importance of ensuring equitable and effective flows of funding.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Define the role of climate finance in supporting adaptation and achieving global climate goals
- Describe the current state of climate finance flows, including gaps and barriers
- Identify the key actors, sources, and challenges in the global climate finance landscape

Lesson 3.2: Overview of Financing Mechanisms

This lesson delves into the mechanisms through which climate finance flows, highlighting the roles of international, public, and private finance. Participants will explore the frameworks under the UNFCCC, the critical role of national budgets, and the need to engage the private sector to bridge financing gaps for adaptation.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- List the key features of international climate finance frameworks, including those under the UNFCCC
- Categorize the sources of public finance and their applications in climate adaptation
- Recognize strategies for mobilizing private sector investments in climate adaptation
- Differentiate between public, private, and international finance mechanisms

Lesson 3.3: Innovative financing mechanisms

This lesson focuses on innovative instruments that address barriers to financing climate adaptation. Participants will evaluate tools such as thematic bonds, blended finance, results-based financing, and debt-for-nature swaps, which can mobilize and scale investments for adaptation.

Upon completion of this lesson, participants will be able to:

- Recall the purposes and features of innovative financing instruments such as thematic bonds and blended finance
- Identify examples of how innovative tools can attract private capital and support adaptation goals

Completion Criteria and Certification

Participants who successfully complete the course requirements will receive a certificate of completion. The participants are required to pass the final quizzes associated to each module with a minimum score of 70% from no more than three attempts. To do that, participants are encouraged to first consult all lessons available.

Learning Resources

To support learning, the course features a range of learning activities and experiences, such as interactive lessons, videos, quizzes and external resources.

Video presentations

These could be in the form of a talk by a subject-matter expert or via an animated video. The videos take participants through the content of the module, presenting concepts and case studies among others.

Interactive lessons

The interactive lessons provide participants with the content necessary to achieve the two to three specific learning objectives and contain a series of interactive spaces. These guide participants through the various themes and key messages of the lesson in a coherent and progressive manner. Each lesson features a variety of instructional tools, such as clickable objects, navigation buttons, hotspots, tabs, accordions, flipping cards, videos, check-for-understanding spaces, etc.

Check-for-understanding

Interactive quizzes in various forms, and other means to assess and solidify the knowledge of participants, are spread throughout each module, typically after certain sub-themes have been discussed.

Final quizzes

To complete a module, after consulting its associated interactive lessons, participants must successfully answer questions in a final quiz, which assesses the achievement of the learning objectives for each module.

Further reading

Further readings are provided throughout the course materials.

Course evaluation

Participants are requested to provide feedback on the course by filling in a feedback form that can be accessed in the 'Certification' section on the course page.

Technical Requirements

Browser

- The course works best with Firefox 3.6 or higher (download for free at <https://www.mozilla.org/en-GB/>).
- The course is also compatible with Google Chrome (download for free at <https://www.google.com/intl/en/chrome/>).
- For technical reasons, it is not recommended to use Internet Explorer.

Note: JavaScript and Cookies must be enabled.

Software

- Adobe Acrobat Reader (download for free at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html>).
- Adobe Flash Player (download for free at <https://get.adobe.com/flashplayer/>).
- Microsoft Office (Windows or Apple version) or Open Office (download for free at <http://www.openoffice.org>).

Platform

- Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; MacOS 9 or MacOS X Hardware; 64MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space.
- Modem: 56 K