



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT

### 2018 Partnership Report Celebrates a Decade of Partnerships



In 2018, partnerships remained at the center of the Inter-American Development Bank Group's (IDB Group) efforts to improve lives in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). In the pages of [The 2018 Partnership Report: A Decade of Partnerships](#), you will learn about the key development trends unfolding in LAC and how the IDB Group works to address them through partnerships. Don't miss it!

### Boosting Disaster Recovery and Resilience in Haiti with EIB



On the margins of the *Spring Meetings of the Boards of Governors of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund*, the **European Investment Bank (EIB)** and the IDB signed a [first-of-its-kind collaboration agreement](#) to reinforce Haiti's resilience to climate change and natural disasters. The agreement enables the EIB to finance an important project to support post-hurricane reconstruction as part of a broader IDB investment grant to improve Haiti's transport infrastructure.

### Spain Supports IDB's New Priority Initiative: Migration

The **Government of Spain** has pledged [\\$5 million to the IDB's migration initiative](#), which seeks to tackle the challenges arising from increased cross-border migration in LAC and to help local communities foster the inclusion of immigrants. Spain's support will fund migrant registration and documentation, expanded basic and social services, employment and economic opportunities, and institutional strengthening, among other activities.

### \$1.4 Million Social Impact Bond is Approved in Colombia

In partnership with **Switzerland**, the IDB Group's innovation laboratory IDB Lab deployed a *social impact bond* (SIB) to boost employment prospects for vulnerable communities in Cali, Colombia. Operated by Fundación Carvajal, Fundación Colombia Incluyente, and Kuepa, this effort builds upon a [previous SIB](#) to finance social programs using an innovative payment-for-results approach.

### Sustainability Awards Highlight Corporate Pioneers in the Region

In the context of the IDB's *IndexAmericas initiative*, a corporate sustainability index designed in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, **Latin Trade** presented the [Latin Trade IndexAmericas Sustainability Awards](#) to corporate sustainability pioneers at an event at the Colombian embassy in Washington, D.C.

## KNOWLEDGE AND INNOVATION

### Microsoft and the IDB Give Transparency a Boost



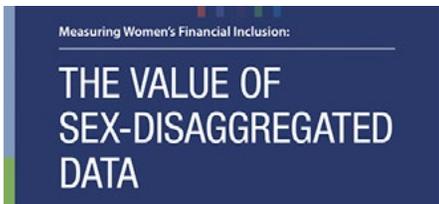
To promote trust among citizens and encourage transparent government spending, [Microsoft and the IDB](#) are expanding [MapaInversiones](#), an initiative that develops digital platforms that allow citizens to track public investments. MapaInversiones has reached Colombia, Costa Rica, Paraguay, and Peru to date, and development has begun in Argentina, the Bahamas, and Jamaica.

### How Can Companies Reduce Food Loss and Waste?



A [new publication](#) by **Foretica** and the IDB set out to explore corporate best practices for combatting food loss and waste in LAC. The report discusses the current state of this challenge at a global level, with a focus on the LAC region, and analyzes the private sector's role in addressing it.

### Can Data Drive Women's Financial Inclusion? A New Study Assesses the Case of Mexico



A [case study](#) developed by **Data2X** and the IDB analyzes Mexico's experience gathering sex-disaggregated data to better understand women's financial inclusion. The study is part of the work of the Women's Financial Inclusion Data (WFID) Partnership, which includes the **Alliance for Financial Inclusion**, **Data2X**, the **Global Banking Alliance for Women**, the IDB, the IDB Group's private sector entity IDB Invest, and other international organizations.

### Filling the Transport Data Gap with MasterCard

Urban data is often scarce. That's why the **Mastercard Center for Inclusive Growth** and the IDB have created the [Resource Center for Digital Urban Transport in Latin America](#) to develop open digital urban transport data for and with LAC cities. The Center will be run through a partnership with the **World Resources Institute Mexico**, the **Massachusetts Institute for Technology's Civic Data Design Lab**, and the **Earth Institute at Columbia University**.

### Innovating in Infrastructure in Colombia

With IDB support and in collaboration with **BANCOLDEX**, Colombia has become the first LAC country to issue energy saving policies under the [Energy Savings Insurance Program \(ESI\)](#), which benefit SMEs investing in energy efficiency and power generation projects. ESI was developed by partnership by the **Danish Energy Agency** and the IDB to promote investments in energy efficiency.

## The Rise of Fintech

A [new report](#) by **Finnovista** and the IDB analyzes the state of *Fintech*, or financial technology, in LAC. The study identified 1,166 Fintech startups, up by 66% since a previous study was published in 2017. It also found that Fintech activity has expanded to 18 countries in the past year.

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## Exploring AI and Ethics with Georgetown University

As new technologies like artificial intelligence (AI) are used as development solutions, it is important to ensure their ethical use. As such, the Bank held a work session with **Georgetown University** graduate students and faculty to analyze cases in which AI had been used for social good, the ethical risks incurred, and the trade-offs between these risks and development effectiveness.

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## How Far Can Your Skills Take You?

A [study by LinkedIn and the IDB](#) addresses this question. Drawing from the information publicly available on LinkedIn profiles, the publication provides new evidence on the shifts in high-demand job skills, paints a more complete picture of the labor market, and facilitates the adjustment of workforce development policies and programs.

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## Through fAIr LAC, Harnessing the Power of Responsible AI

Predictive models and intelligent algorithms will play a key role in transforming social services and generating a more efficient, inclusive, and responsive public sector. Accordingly, the new platform *fAIr LAC* seeks to harness the potential of responsible AI for social impact. Led by the IDB in partnership with governments, international organizations, and companies, *fAIr LAC* will test solutions, scale successful interventions through policy, and assist impact-driven companies that strive to use AI for social good.

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## Korean Trust Funds Report Commemorates 14 Years of Membership

In celebration of Korea's 14 years as an IDB member, the IDB has published [a report on the Korea Trust Funds \(KTFs\)](#), which were established upon the signing of Korea's membership to facilitate cooperation in the region. Today the four funds that comprise the KTFs focus on poverty reduction, technological innovation, private sector development, and infrastructure.

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## OPPORTUNITIES

### Apply Now: Superheroes of Development Contest to Recognize Executing Agencies



The second edition of the [Superheroes of Development Award](#) is accepting new proposals through May 17th. The Award recognizes executing agencies of IDB-financed projects that have successfully addressed challenges during implementation. The contest will identify eight finalists who will travel to IDB headquarters to present their solutions.

## University of Miami Launches Master of Science in Sustainable Business

IDB partner the **University of Miami** is now accepting applications for its new *Master of Science in Sustainable Business*, a full-time program focused on uniting business, science, theory, and practice with a focus on sustainability. [Learn more.](#)

## NEWS DIGEST

### FinDev Canada and the IDB Support Businesses in LAC



A [new partnership](#) between **FinDev Canada** and the IDB Group will support LAC businesses and drive sustainable economic growth. Specifically, the partners intend to co-finance projects, co-invest in funds and businesses, provide technical assistance, promote public-private partnerships, and engage in knowledge sharing activities with a focus on innovation, green growth, and women's economic empowerment.

### Sweden Formalizes Support to IDB Lab



IDB Lab CEO Irene Arias met with Masoud Hashemi, Deputy Director for Multilateral Development Banks at the **Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Sweden**, to formalize Sweden's support to the IDB Group's renewed innovation laboratory. This support will enable IDB Lab to continue fulfilling its mission of mobilizing financing, knowledge, and connections to catalyze innovation for inclusion.

### Korea and the IDB Join Forces to Improve Governance in the Region



Under a new agreement, the **Korean Ministry of the Interior and Safety** and the IDB will jointly enhance governance in LAC by disseminating best practices and knowledge related to e-government, government innovation, disaster and safety management, and identity management and migration. In addition, the partners will train government agencies on the use of digital services to enhance efficiency.

### IDB's Innovation Laboratory Launches New Website



IDB Lab, the newly rebranded innovation laboratory of the IDB Group, has recently launched a [new website](#) that reflects its mission and shares key highlights. The Multilateral Investment Fund (MIF) is the precursor to IDB Lab.

## With the GCF, Channeling Millions in Climate Financing to SMEs

As part of their active partnership, the **Green Climate Fund (GCF)** and the IDB signed [new agreements](#) to help small and medium enterprises (SMEs) invest in energy efficiency. In El Salvador, a \$20 million loan will open a credit line for SMEs, while a new risk sharing facility will unlock innovative financial instruments for agri-businesses in Guatemala and Mexico. In Paraguay, \$23 million will help SMEs increase energy efficiency and support government efforts to incentivize additional investment. Finally, a \$100 million loan in Argentina will help SMEs invest in sustainable energy technologies.

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## Croatia and Slovenia Join IDB Invest as New Member Countries

IDB Invest, the IDB Group's entity for the private sector, welcomed [Croatia](#) and [Slovenia](#) as its newest member countries. These countries, which were already members of the IDB, bring IDB Invest's membership to 47 countries, thereby reinforcing the objective of meeting the growing needs of the private sector in LAC.

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## To Enhance Tax Administration, IDB Teams Up with Korean Tax Service

In a new agreement, the **National Tax Service of the Republic of Korea** and the IDB have pledged to collaborate in the context of tax administration, information protection, and data security. The collaboration will kick off with a workshop co-hosted by the partners in Korea on June 24-28, titled *Tax Administration in the Developing Digital Economy*.

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## The French Climate Fund Gets Off to a Running Start in 2019

The partnership between **France** and the IDB saw a flurry of activity in early 2019. So far, three projects for nearly \$2 million have been approved under the new French Climate Fund for LAC, established in late 2018 by the **French Development Agency** and the IDB to prioritize mitigation and urban resilience.

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## Norway: A Longstanding Partner for Transparency

The **Government of Norway** has donated \$1.1 million to the IDB-managed Transparency Fund to curb corruption and implement pro-transparency reforms. Norway was a founding partner of the Fund in 2007 and has provided more than \$12 million since. To date, the Fund has financed projects worth more than \$18 million in 25 countries. Other Fund partners include **Canada, Italy, MasterCard** and **Sweden**.

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## Results Are in for the Blue Tech Challenge in the Caribbean

Five proposals were selected to initiate project design under the [Blue Tech Challenge](#) in the Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Haiti, and St. Lucia. The Challenge seeks to identify business models that apply new technologies or solutions to foster long-term sustainability of the ocean economy in 14 target countries.

## New University Partnership to Transform the Tax System

A new partnership with the **Vienna University of Economics and Business** will generate knowledge exchange on tax policy and administration. In this effort, the partners will work with the Global Tax Policy Center at the Institute for Austrian and International Tax Law on the Digitalization: *Exploring the Opportunities to Transform Tax System* program.

## WHERE WE'VE BEEN

### Madrid Event Sparks Knowledge Exchange on Migration



In March, IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno gathered with leaders from the Spanish government, multilateral development banks (MDBs), and the private sector for [a conference on migration](#). Hosted at the **Telefónica Foundation** center in Madrid, the event was organized in the context of the *Platform on Migration and Forced Displacement* created by MDBs to advance dialogue and coordination between cities and countries on immigrant inclusion. Specifically, the event explored how to address the challenges experienced by migrants and host communities and capitalize on the development

opportunities related to migration.

### Deepening Ties with the French Development Agency



In April, representatives from the **French Development Agency** traveled to Washington, DC for a “deep dive” at IDB Group headquarters. An annual exercise in which the partner institutions gather to reflect on their ongoing cooperation and to identify new opportunities for expanded engagement, this year’s event laid the groundwork for an enhanced partnership in the year to come.

### AgroLAC 2025 Coordinates Workshop on Improving Agricultural Systems

In March, partners of the IDB-managed *AgroLAC 2025 Fund* worked with the **Government of Argentina** and **Stanford University** to coordinate a high-level workshop on improving agricultural systems. Supported by **Canada** and **Colombia**, *AgroLAC 2025* is a partnership with the **International Center for Tropical Agriculture** and **The Nature Conservancy (TNC)** that seeks to unlock the potential of LAC as the world’s next breadbasket. TNC led the coordination of this event.

### In Paris, Reflecting on SDG Progress

The IDB’s Office in Europe attended the *Meeting of the Members of the Council on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* in March, joining partners to reflect on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) to date, as well as the strategies put in place to continue advancing the SDGs. The [meeting](#), hosted by the OECD and attended by international organizations and more than 65 governments, complements key United Nations processes on the SDGs, including preparations for the High-Level Political Forum to be held in July and September 2019.

## Actively Expanding the IDB's Partnership with Spain

During a visit by Juan Pablo de Laiglesia, **Spain's** Secretary of State for International Cooperation for Ibero-America and the Caribbean, the IDB and its Spanish counterparts held a “deep dive” meeting to identify new co-financing opportunities and reflect on the progress of their partnership. The meetings were attended by officials including the IDB's Vice Presidents of Sectors and Countries and were intended to build upon the Spain-IDB *Framework Agreement* for Co-financing.

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## NTT Data Trains IDB Staff in Blockchain

The IDB's partner **NTT Data**, with which it works to foster an inclusive digital transformation in the region and explore the development implications of blockchain, traveled to IDB headquarters earlier this year to share their expertise with IDB staff. In a full-day workshop, employees were trained on the diverse applications of blockchain, using case studies to illustrate the potential of this tool.

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## In Tokyo, Promoting Colombia-Asia Ties

In Tokyo this March, the IDB's Office in Asia joined forces with the **Colombian Embassy in Japan** and **ProColombia** to organize the *Colombia Business Forum* as a means of creating opportunities for trade and investment between the country and Asia. The event was also supported by the **Japan External Trade Organization (JETRO)**, the **Japan Institute for Overseas Investment (JOI)**, and the **Loan Information Foundation**.

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## IDB President Moreno Brings IDB Expertise to France's One Planet Lab

Members of the *One Planet Lab*, an ideas lab composed of French and international figures with expertise on ecological transition, met for the first time with President Emmanuel Macron of France. Created to help the French government advance concrete goals regarding climate policy, the March gathering included a work session led by France's Environment Secretary of State, Brune Poirson. The IDB was represented by its President Luis Alberto Moreno, whose contributions on biodiversity expand upon the *Natural Capital Lab* established by the IDB last year with 24 million euros in French support.

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## In Singapore, Strategizing to Fill the Infrastructure Investment Gap

Mr. Keisuke Nakamura, the IDB's Representative in Asia, participated in the *G20 Infrastructure Working Group* meeting in Singapore earlier this year. Organized by the Ministry of Finance of Japan and the Australian Department of the Treasury, the meeting sparked dialogue and knowledge exchange on how to facilitate infrastructure investment.

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## SOFINEX Supports the Development of IDB Lab's Human Capital

IDB partner **SOFINEX**, an entity that encourages the creation and growth of companies in the Wallonia region of Belgium, is working with the IDB to develop the human capital of its innovation laboratory IDB Lab. Specifically, they seek to improve the development and supervision of IDB Lab's portfolio in Haiti, as well as to better leverage data in support of its developmental mandate. SOFINEX will sponsor two junior professionals who will join IDB Lab for at least two years.

## Discussing Financial Innovation at the SDG Investment Forum

This March, before an audience of capital providers and development practitioners, the IDB shared the exciting work it's doing to mobilize private capital for the 2030 Agenda. The event, organized by the United Nations Global Compact, sought to advance a dialogue on increasing private investments in SDG priority areas.

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## Blended Finance: Sharing the IDB's Experience

The IDB manages more than \$800 million in blended finance resources. To share its experience in this space, in April the IDB delivered a webinar as part of a *Mission Investors Exchange Series* focused on disseminating knowledge related to sustainable investing. The webinar focused on defining blended finance, its principles, and related risks; identifying circumstances in which it can be effective; and sharing lessons learned through concrete operations.