



Curriculum on Governance for the Sustainable Development Goals

The [Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs](#) is a comprehensive set of seven Training of Trainers Capacity Development Toolkits, which contain ready-to-use and customizable training material on key governance dimensions needed to advance the implementation of the SDGs. Launched by UN DESA at the end of 2022, the curriculum provides methodologies and approaches to advance knowledge and assist governments in developing capacities at the individual, organizational, and institutional/societal level, to drive the transformational change needed to implement the 2030 Agenda.

Among the modules are materials targeted to COVID-19 pandemic response. The Toolkit on Transparency, Accountability and Ethics in Public Institutions contains examples and case studies on corruption risks in public procurement during the pandemic; the Toolkit on Government Innovation for Social Inclusion of Vulnerable Groups includes a module on ensuring inclusion of vulnerable groups during public health emergencies, focusing mostly on the COVID-19 pandemic, and the Toolkit on Risk-Informed Governance

and Innovative Technologies for Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience has a module on risk-informed governance and innovative technology for public health emergencies.

Enhancing the sustainability, resilience and accessibility of infrastructure investments

UN DESA expanded its capacity development programme on infrastructure asset management (IAM) for local and central government officials in developing countries in support of the SDGs. The initiative supports public sector officials in shaping strategies, policies and actions that maximize the financial and service performance of publicly owned and/or managed infrastructure assets, such as roads, water and sanitation, waste management facilities and natural assets and also strengthen their sustainability, resilience and accessibility for present and future generations.

The IAM programme draws on the 2021 UN DESA publication *Managing Infrastructure Assets for Sustainable Development: A Handbook for Local and National Governments* and its corresponding toolkits-now available in all six UN languages and several local languages following strong country demand. Training has reached over 2,500 public sector officials and resulted in 150

multi-year Asset Management Action Plans designed by local governments around the world. 10 beneficiary countries are now receiving direct technical assistance on IAM.

The recommendations of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration (CEPA) added impetus to the Department's work in this area. In its 21st session, held in April 2022, CEPA emphasized transparent, accountable and participatory management of public finances as a key element of effective governance, even more so during the COVID-19 pandemic, when governments around the world face decreasing revenues and increasing expenditures.

Building country-capacity to navigate the pandemic

UN DESA has developed an e-learning program on the economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This engaging series of courses provides government officials, policymakers, and other stakeholders with additional insights to better navigate the challenges posed by the pandemic and develop more effective mitigation policies.

Five thematic courses, each consisting of 3 to 5 modules, cover several issues addressed by UN DESA policy briefs. Topics include:

- Macroeconomic impacts focusing on projections of global and regional contractions;
- The social effects of the pandemic, such as inequalities and the effect on vulnerable groups;
- The need for a better science-policy-society interface, along with more effective governance for crisis response and recovery;
- The differential impacts of COVID-19 on countries in special circumstances; and
- Policy recommendations for mitigating the socioeconomic impacts of COVID-19.

The COVID-19 Social and Economic Impact online learning program is available for free on [DESA's Digital Learning Centre](#).

