



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# Blended eLearning Course

Effective National to Local Public Governance for  
SDG Implementation

**24 February - 25 April 2025**

## Course Syllabus



Photo Credit:  
UPSC

**Self-paced Online Course with Live Sessions**

## Course Background

The Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation eLearning course, developed in alignment with UN DESA's objectives, addresses the critical role of coordinated governance in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The success of the SDGs depends on strong, integrated public governance that ensures effective collaboration between national and local governments, as well as engagement with the private and non-profit sectors.

## Course Goals and Outline

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG blended eLearning course aims to strengthen public institutions to facilitate consistent and effective SDG implementation. Participants will explore how national and local authorities coordinate in areas such as planning, policy development, and financial management to drive SDG progress.

In addition to providing a broad understanding of effective national-to-local governance, the course delves into key aspects of SDG localization, including vertical integration, SDG financing, and monitoring and evaluation. By examining case studies and practical tools, learners will gain valuable insights into fostering integrated governance structures that enhance the implementation, oversight, and long-term success of the SDGs.

## Outline

The course is comprised of eight units that will be covered over 9 weeks (24 February – 25 April 2025):

|   | Unit                | Module | Course Description                                                   |
|---|---------------------|--------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | Course Introduction | 1.1    | Understanding Sustainable Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs      |
|   |                     | 1.2    | Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation |
|   |                     |        | Exercise on Governance Self-Assessment                               |

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| 2 | Institutional Effectiveness for SDGs | 2.1 | Effective, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions                |
|   |                                      | 2.2 | Institutional Arrangements                                        |
|   |                                      |     | Exercise on Readiness Assessment for Policy Coherence             |
| 3 | Multi-Stakeholder Engagement         | 3.1 | Whole-of-Government Approach (Original Module 2.3)                |
|   |                                      | 3.2 | Whole-of-Society Approach (Original Module 2.4)                   |
|   |                                      |     | Exercise on Setting Up a Stakeholder Engagement Plan              |
| 4 | Localizing the SDGs                  | 4.1 | Need for Localization of SDGs (Original Module 2.5)               |
|   |                                      | 4.2 | Localization from National to Subnational (Original Module 3.4)   |
|   |                                      |     | Exercise on Assessing Decentralization and Local Governance       |
| 5 | Vertical Integration                 | 5.1 | Aligning Local Planning to Achieve the SDGs (Original Module 3.5) |
|   |                                      |     | Exercise on Exploring the Policy Cycle – Case Study               |

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|   |                                     | 5.2 | Vertical Integration for Policy Coherence (Original Module 3.2)              |
|   |                                     |     | Exercise on Vertical Integration for SDG Implementation                      |
| 6 | Financing for SDG Localization      | 6   | Financing for SDG Localization (Original Module 3.7)                         |
|   |                                     |     | Exercise on Governance and Coordination for SDG Financing at the Local Level |
| 7 | Follow-up Measure                   | 7.1 | Monitoring and Evaluation (Original Module 4.1)                              |
|   |                                     |     | Exercise on Monitoring and Evaluation                                        |
|   |                                     | 7.2 | Reporting SDGs (Original Module 4.2)                                         |
|   |                                     |     | Exercise on Conducting a Voluntary Local Review (VLR)                        |
| 8 | Action Plan for Accelerating Change | 8   | Action Plan for Accelerating Change (Original Module 5)                      |
|   |                                     |     | Final Exercise on Strategic Planning to Achieve the SDG at the Local Level   |

## Learning Outcomes

The learning outcomes for this Blended eLearning Course are designed around the often-expressed challenges of strengthening national to local government coordination and institutional effectiveness for the SDGs. Therefore, this course aims to break these barriers for more effective achievement of the SDGs and highlights the role of local government.

Upon completion of the Blended eLearning Course, learners will have:

- **Applied** the principle of effective governance to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels, to achieve the shared vision for the people and the planet embodied in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- **Enhanced** understanding of whole-of-government approaches for strengthening vertical coordination and aligning national to local planning to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **Gained** an understanding of how to promote a whole-of-society approach for national to local planning to ensure effective stakeholder engagement in public governance and leave no one behind.
- **Identified** and applied various innovative financing mechanisms to advance local SDG implementation.
- **Developed** a governance strategy and roadmap on monitoring, evaluating and accelerating SDG implementation at the local level.

# Schedule, Course Content, Learning Objectives and Learning Tasks

| Units                             |                                                                                                                   | Content                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | Learning Objectives                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          | Learning Tasks                                                                                                      |
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| <b>Foundational Course</b>        |                                                                                                                   |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Week 1</b><br>24 - 28 Feb 2025 | <b>Course Introduction</b><br>Understanding Sustainable Development and the Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs | This module will cover the following: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Understanding of Sustainable Development</li> <li>2. Principles of Effective Governance for the Sustainable Development</li> <li>3. Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs</li> </ol> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Familiarize with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 SDGs</li> <li>• Examine the 11 Principles of Effective Governance for SDGs</li> <li>• Learn about the Curriculum on Governance for Sustainable Development Goals</li> </ul> | <b>Forum discussion:</b><br>Why is it important to equip public servants with the capacities to implement the SDGs? |
|                                   | <b>Unit 1</b><br>Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation                             | <b>Module 1</b><br>Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation                                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify potential governance challenges and opportunities for effective implementation of the SDGs</li> <li>• Help analyze the status of SDG implementation at the national and local levels</li> </ul>                                            | <b>Governance self-assessment exercise</b>                                                                          |

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| <p><b>Week 2</b><br/>3 - 7 Mar 2025</p> | <p><b>Unit 2</b><br/>Institutional Effectiveness for SDGs</p> | <p><b>Module 2.1</b><br/>Effective, Accountable, and Inclusive Institutions</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn the concept of effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions</li> <li>• Identify the need for effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions for SDG implementation</li> <li>• Understand institutional roles and responsibilities</li> <li>• Understand why effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions are vital for SDG implementation</li> <li>• Identify approaches to effective institution building</li> </ul> | <p><b>Quiz</b></p> <p><b>Forum discussion:</b><br/>How can you ensure horizontal coordination across sectors and vertical coordination across government levels?</p> <p><b>Reference document:</b><br/>Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</p> |
|                                         |                                                               | <p><b>Module 2.2</b><br/>Institutional Arrangements</p>                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the importance of institutional arrangements for SDGs implementation</li> <li>• Understand how institutional arrangements can be strengthened</li> <li>• Learn about different types of institutional arrangements</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                    |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

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|  |  |  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Identify approaches to horizontal and vertical coordination</li> <li>• Increase understanding of cross-sectoral coordination</li> </ul> |  |
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**Live Session 1: Discussion of Course Introduction, Units 1 & 2**  
 (Thursday, 6 March 2025, 13:00 - 14:00 Bangkok Time, 15:00 - 16:00 Seoul Time)

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| <p><b>Week 3</b><br/>10 - 14 Mar 2025</p> | <p><b>Unit 3</b><br/>Multi-Stakeholder Engagement</p> | <p><b>Module 3.1</b><br/>Whole-of-Government Approach</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the whole-of-government and its need for SDG implementation</li> <li>• Explore the barriers and enablers to the whole-of-government work</li> <li>• Explore the rationale of whole-of-government to localizing and achieving the SDGs</li> <li>• Identify the main strengths and challenges of different coordinating structures</li> </ul> | <p><b>Quiz</b></p> <p><b>Forum discussion:</b><br/>How can you to identify and effectively involve diverse stakeholders from government, civil society, private sector, academia, and marginalized communities, ensuring inclusive participation, clear communication of goals, transparent decision-making, and mechanisms to track progress and accountability towards</p> |
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|  |  | <p><b>Module 3.2</b><br/>Whole-of-Society Approach</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strengthen your understanding of the importance of stakeholder engagement in SDG implementation at the local level</li> <li>• Explore the challenges of stakeholder identification and engagement</li> <li>• Understand the possibilities for integrating stakeholder perspectives into planning processes</li> <li>• Define the principles for stakeholder classification and strategies for their engagement</li> </ul> | <p>achieving sustainable development goals across different levels (national, regional, and local)?</p> <p><b>Exercise on Setting up a Stakeholder Engagement Plan</b></p> |

**Live Session 2: Deep dive into Unit 3**  
(Thursday, 20 March 2025, 13:00 - 14:00 Bangkok Time, 15:00 - 16:00 Seoul Time)

## Advanced Course

**Week 4**  
17 - 21 Mar 2025

**Unit 4**  
Localizing the SDGs

**Module 4.1**  
Need for Localization of  
SDGs

- Understand the concept and importance of localizing the SDGs
- Understand why the SDGs are important for local and regional governments
- Support the improvement of localization strategy
- Learn the importance of Local and Regional Governments (LRGs) for the SDGs

### Quiz

#### Forum discussion:

How do national and subnational governments collaborate to implement sustainable development at all levels?

#### Reference documents:

- [Inter-Agency Policy Brief: Accelerating SDG Localization to deliver on the promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)
- [Inter-agency\\_policy\\_briefs\\_on\\_accelerating\\_progress\\_on\\_the\\_2030\\_Agenda\\_from\\_local\\_to\\_global\\_levels:The\\_critical\\_importance\\_of\\_SDG\\_localization](#)

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|  |  | <p><b>Module 4.2</b><br/>Localization from National to Sub-National</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the different approaches to localization</li> <li>• Learn different forms of integrated local governance</li> <li>• Explore mechanisms to strengthen and encourage local governments</li> <li>• Learn how to assess decentralization and local governance using different tools</li> </ul> | <p><b>Exercise on Local Governance Assessment</b></p> |
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**Live Session 3: Discussion on Unit 4**  
(Thursday, 3 April 2025, 13:00 - 14:00 Bangkok Time, 15:00 - 16:00 Seoul Time)

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| <p><b>Week 5</b><br/>24 - 28 Mar 2025</p> | <p><b>Unit 5</b><br/>Vertical Integration</p> | <p><b>Module 5.1</b><br/>Aligning Local Planning to Achieve the SDGs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shape strategies, policies, and plans for sustainable territorial development</li> <li>• Provide action-oriented recommendations on planning, policies, and strategies</li> <li>• Tailor the SDGs to national, subnational, and local contexts</li> </ul> | <p><b>Quiz</b><br/><b>Exercise on Vertical Integration for SDG Implementation</b></p> |
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|  |  |                                                                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand key concepts of development planning processes, including its stages and key elements</li> <li>• Learn about the integration of SDGs into local policy plans</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                              |  |
|  |  | <p><b>Module 5.2</b><br/>Vertical Integration for Policy Coherence</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the concept and relevance of policy coherence</li> <li>• Reflect on the building blocks of an institutional system for policy coherence</li> <li>• Learn vertical integration across levels of government at the planning stage</li> <li>• Learn the tools for vertical integration in SDG implementation</li> </ul> |  |

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| <p><b>Week 6</b><br/>31 Mar - 4 Apr 2025</p> | <p><b>Unit 6</b><br/>Financing for SDG<br/>Localization</p> | <p><b>Module 6.1</b><br/>Financing for SDG<br/>Localization</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reshape both national and local financial systems in line with sustainable development</li> <li>• Learn various financing mechanisms for SDG localization</li> <li>• Understand different financial innovation for SDG financing at the local level</li> <li>• Discover key trends that can help accelerate the transition toward sustainable finance</li> </ul> | <p><b>Quiz</b></p> <p><b>Exercise on Governance Coordination for SDG Financing at the Local Level</b></p> <p><b>Forum discussion:</b><br/>What key actions are necessary to advance disaggregated and timely data, monitoring, evaluation, and reporting on SDG localization?</p> <p><b>Reference documents:</b><br/>Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development</p> |
| <p><b>Week 7</b><br/>7 - 11 Apr 2025</p>     | <p><b>Unit 7</b><br/>Follow-up Measures</p>                 | <p><b>Module 7.1</b><br/>Monitoring and Evaluation</p>          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Understand the rationale of undertaking Monitoring and Evaluation (M&amp;E)</li> <li>• Learn to integrate SDG M&amp;E into national policy frameworks</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                 | <p><b>Quiz</b></p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |

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|  |  |                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Apply the steps in monitoring and evaluating SDG at the national and local levels</li> <li>• Identify how to localize the follow-up of the 2030 Agenda</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |  |
|  |  | <p><b>Module 7.2</b><br/>Reporting SDGs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Learn and adapt approaches to national SDG reporting</li> <li>• Understand the elementary building blocks and the basic and practical information on the steps that countries could take when preparing their Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)</li> <li>• Provide a deeper analysis of the core principles that should underpin the Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) process while also outlining different approaches and practical steps to undertake them</li> <li>• Provide specific guidance to help local and regional governments (LRGs) prepare their VLRs</li> </ul> |  |

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| <b>Week 8</b><br>14 - 17 Apr 2025 | <b>Unit 8</b><br>Action Plan for<br>Accelerating Change | <b>Module 8</b><br>Action Plan for<br>Accelerating Change | Have an overview of specific<br>phases of designing the<br>action plan for accelerating<br>the change | <b>Exercise on strategic<br/> planning to achieve the<br/> SDG at the local level</b> |
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**Live Session 4: Discussion on Units 5 - 8**  
(Thursday, 17 April 2025, 13:00 - 14:00 Bangkok Time, 15:00 - 16:00 Seoul Time)  
**Submission of Action Plan**

## Methodology

This 9-week course combines self-paced learning with interactive live sessions, equipping participants with key concepts and practical strategies for Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation.

The course materials are presented in various formats, including text, excel tools, graphs, images, and videos, to enhance engagement and knowledge retention. Participants will complete knowledge checks, contribute to forum discussions, and attend live webinars with experts. Additionally, practical activities will encourage interaction, experience sharing, and the real-world application of concepts learned.

## Course Structure

Each unit is structured with the following elements:

**eLearning Course:** Core, mandatory lessons, delivering the essential content for each module. This includes printable versions, resources, and additional materials such as videos.

**Knowledge Checks:** Multiple-choice quizzes to assess your understanding of the key concepts.

**Discussion Forums:** Platform to discuss course topics, seek clarifications, and exchange ideas with peers and instructors.

**Live Sessions:** Interactive sessions led by course expert, providing deeper insights into the course material and an opportunity to have your questions answered in real-time.

**Feedback Survey:** Your input is invaluable. This survey allows you to share your thoughts on the learning experience, helping DPIDG/UNPOG continuously improve the course quality.

## Learning Resources

The learning resources are the core components of the course, designed to guide you toward achieving the course's learning outcomes. Additional support materials are provided to enhance your learning experience.

### eLearning Course

Through the [UN DESA Digital Learning Platform](#), the Effective National to Local Public Governance for SDG Implementation eLearning Course are the lessons, it introduce the foundational concepts of each unit through modules in an interactive format.

All modules feature interactive tasks, reflections that allow you to stay engaged and self-assess your knowledge.

- Each lesson typically consists of 25 slides, including interactive activities.
- You can pause a lesson at any time, and the system will automatically save your progress so you can resume where you left off.
- A printable version of the lessons is available for offline review.

### Forums Discussions

A user-friendly, informal forum where you can post questions related to the course material and share your insights. There is no right or wrong questions. Everyone is encouraged to collaborate in the forum, add topics of interest, and respond to the questions based on their knowledge and experience. You are encouraged to initiate new discussion threads and actively participate in ongoing conversations. All forums are moderated by an expert to support meaningful dialogue.

## Assessment Tasks

The following activities contribute to your final certificate:

- Knowledge checks: Mandatory quizzes for each module to evaluate comprehension.
- Forum participation: Active involvement in discussion forums enhances learning and contributes to certification.
- Action plan: Final assessment requiring participants to develop an action plan based on course knowledge.

## Study Framework

The course runs from 24 February to 25 April, with an estimated workload of 3-4 hours per week. The flexible structure allows you to plan your learning at your own pace, with all lessons, tasks, and supplementary materials are accessible throughout the e-learning course. You are required to complete all mandatory activities before the course ends.

**Language:** English.

## Organizers

### UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

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### UN DESA/CDPMO

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