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# SDG Implementation and Institutional Capacity Training Course for Senior Public Officials

10 – 14 May 2027  
Geneva





## SDG Implementation and Institutional Capacity Training Course for Senior Public Officials

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### Programme Summary

SDG implementation and institutional capacity is the subject of this one-week training course for senior public officials and development agency leaders, ending in a capacity development plan for one national priority. Governments adopt sustainable development goals, yet delivery stalls where agencies lack clear mandates, coordination routines, financing links and reliable data. The programme moves from capacity assessment to institutional arrangements, planning and localisation, financing, partnerships, monitoring and reporting, using cases from social services, infrastructure and the environment. Mars Training Centre UK delivers this programme on SDG implementation to mixed-organisation cohorts.

### The Business Case

National goals are delivered by many agencies at once, each with its own budget, data and reporting line. Without a shared view of capacity gaps and coordination duties, effort overlaps, financing misses priorities and progress cannot be shown. A common capacity building method lets senior officials decide where to strengthen institutions first and how to prove that delivery is improving.

- Policy Coordination: Improves as mandates, lead agencies and decision routines are agreed and written down.
- Budget Alignment: Improves as spending plans are tagged to goals and tested against priorities.
- Reporting Quality: Improves as indicators, data owners and review cycles are set before reporting begins.

### Principles and Evidence Base

- UN Agenda for Sustainable Development: Its goals and targets frame the national priorities and the capacity analysis, applied in Sessions 1 and 3.
- Voluntary National Review Process: The country reporting process guides monitoring design and the preparation of a review, applied in Sessions 4 and 5.
- SDG-Aligned Budgeting: Links spending lines to goals so that financing choices can be traced, applied in Session 3.

### Intended Participants

- Senior officials who coordinate national sustainable development planning across ministries.
- Planning and development agency leaders who set priorities and track results.
- Budget and finance officials who link public spending to national goals.
- Monitoring and statistics leaders who own indicators, data flows and review cycles.
- Partnership and donor liaison leads who manage relations with civil society and the private sector.



Typical functions include planning ministries, finance ministries, statistical offices and development agencies.

## Learning Outcomes

1. Participants will be able to assess institutional capacity against the functions needed to deliver national goals.
2. Participants will be able to design coordination arrangements that assign lead and supporting agencies.
3. Participants will be able to construct a national priority plan that localises goals and targets for delivery bodies.
4. Participants will be able to evaluate budget and financing options for their effect on goal delivery.
5. Participants will be able to prioritise stakeholder partnerships and define what each partner contributes.
6. Participants will be able to justify a monitoring and reporting design that supports a voluntary national review.

## Programme Structure

### Day 1: SDG Implementation and Capacity Assessment

Which institutional capacities does delivery of national goals require, and where are they weak?

- Global Goal and Target Map
- National Priority Selection Sheet
- Institutional Function Inventory
- Capacity Gap Scoring Grid
- Capacity Building Priority List

### Day 2: Institutional Arrangements and Coordination

Who leads, who supports, and how are decisions made across agencies?

- Mandate and Overlap Review
- Lead and Supporting Agency Matrix
- Inter-Agency Coordination Calendar
- Decision Rights and Escalation Map
- Coordination Arrangement Charter

### Day 3: Planning, Localisation and Financing

How are goals turned into plans that delivery bodies can fund and run?



- National to Local Target Translation Table
- Delivery Plan Results Chain
- Budget Tagging to Goals
- SDG-Aligned Budgeting Review
- Financing Option Comparison

## Day 4: Partnerships, Monitoring and Reporting

How are partners engaged and progress measured and reported?

- Stakeholder Engagement Map
- Partnership Contribution Agreement Outline
- Indicator and Data Owner Register
- Review Cycle and Data Quality Check
- Voluntary National Review Preparation Outline

## Day 5: Capacity Development Plan for One Priority

Do the assessment, arrangements, financing and monitoring records support one plan?

- Applying the Session 1 Capacity Gap Scoring Grid
- Testing the Session 2 Coordination Arrangement Charter
- Reviewing the Session 3 Financing Option Comparison
- Checking the Session 4 Indicator and Data Owner Register
- Completing the Capacity Development Plan

## Methodology

The programme uses a structured exercise method built on a shared case of a national priority delivered by several agencies with unclear mandates and weak data. Participants build each artefact on prepared case records, then adapt it to a priority from their own administration and test it with peers.

- Suggested activity: Scoring institutional capacity gaps for a case priority and ranking them.
- Suggested activity: Drafting a coordination charter that settles lead and supporting roles.
- Suggested activity: Presenting a financing and monitoring design to a mock steering committee.

## Capstone Output

Each participant completes a capacity development plan for one national priority. It holds a capacity gap grid, a coordination charter, a localised delivery plan, a financing comparison and an indicator register. The plan is used at work to brief senior leadership, agree agency roles and set the reporting cycle for the priority.



## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Is SDG implementation training suitable for officials without a development background?**

Yes. SDG implementation is taught through cases and templates, assuming experience in public administration, planning, finance or statistics but no prior work on sustainable development.

### **Which frameworks does SDG implementation training rest on?**

SDG implementation training rests on the UN Agenda for Sustainable Development, the voluntary national review process and SDG-aligned budgeting, applied to institutional capacity and coordination.

### **How is the plan from SDG implementation training used at work?**

You use the capacity development plan to brief senior leadership, agree agency roles and financing links and set the monitoring and reporting cycle for a national priority.

### **How does SDG implementation differ from public policy analysis training?**

SDG implementation concentrates on building institutional capacity to coordinate, finance and report on agreed goals, while public policy analysis training concentrates on evaluating and choosing between policy options.