UNITED NATIONS
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMISSION FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC
STATISTICAL INSTITUTE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (SIAP)

Developing National Indicator Frameworks for SDG Monitoring

(e-Learning course)

24 May – 25 June 2021

Guideline

I. OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

This e-learning course aims to provide insights on how to facilitate the alignment of national plans and indicator frameworks. It provides details on the important role statistical indicators play in monitoring national and sector plans. While the focus is on developing indicator frameworks to monitor national and sectoral plans, the course also includes guidance on aligning national processes on indicator development with the 2030 Agenda and the accompanying SDG indicator framework. Other important regional/global initiatives are also discussed, to gauge how they can help identify appropriate national indicators. Besides providing details on integrating policy and indicator frameworks, the course also provides details on ways in which the overall effectiveness of planning (and associated implementation) processes could be improved.

Specific topics that are part of the course include:

a) The process of policy and planning decision making and implementation, with and without evidence – ground realities, and value-added scenarios with effective monitoring
b) Understanding what issues in the policy/strategy need to be measured using indicators – policy makers' intent
c) The alignment of the key policy priorities and strategies addressed in the plan, with the accompanying indicator framework
d) Identifying potential indicators that can improve relevance and coverage of existing monitoring framework of the plan
e) Process of identifying disaggregation requirements in the indicator framework to make sure the policy is addressing issues of all vulnerable groups
f) Introduction to the EPiC (Every Policy is Connected) tool and how it can facilitate user producer dialogue to address all the above issues

II.   TARGET PARTICIPANTS

The target audience is officials in national statistical offices, line ministries (especially Ministries of Planning), and other institutions that are working on monitoring and evaluation of national and sector development plans. The course may also benefit a broader audience interested in learning more about developing indicators that are statistically sound and well-aligned with policies.

III.   LEARNING OUTCOMES

By the end of the course, participants will be expected to have an improved understanding of:

- The basic concepts of development planning and related measurement frameworks
- How to develop indicator frameworks that are aligned with policy documents and plans
- The EPiC tool and how it can be applied.

IV.   COURSE DESIGN AND CONTENT

The course contains three modules, with each module consisting of a series of slide show presentations with quizzes and exercises. After all modules have been completed, participants will be required to complete a final test that will cover all modules. The modules are expected to take a maximum of 6 hours to complete. Participants are also expected to attend three webinars/Q&A sessions. The live online sessions will provide an overview of the course topics and allow for participants to ask questions. Furthermore, participants are encouraged to actively participate in the online forum of the course. Topics for discussion will be posted regularly and participants are invited to share their views/comments/questions.

The course will be conducted in English.

Outline

Module	Coverage
1. Overview of the Development and Structure of National/Sectoral Plans	
1.1 Overview of the Development Planning Process	• Common terms used in planning • Why do we have plans? • Planning cycles • Planning process activity
1.2 Development Plan Structure	• Typical information contained in a plan • Examples of sections of plan documents

	• Using of logical frameworks within planning documents • Balancing national and global priorities
1.3 Measuring Progress	• Why monitor the progress of plans? • Thought process to generating indicators in a plan • Targets vs. Outcomes and importance of baselines • Key to effective Monitoring (and Evaluation) of a plan • Examples of monitoring the SDGs in Asia-Pacific

2. Process of developing an indicator framework

2.1 What is an indicator and what purpose does it serve?	• Definition of a statistical indicator • Role of indicators in monitoring progress
2.2 What are the Characteristics of a Good Indicator?	• Five characteristics of a good statistical indicator • Assessing the usefulness of an indicator
2.3 What are the Different types of Indicators for Monitoring Progress?	• Types of indicators used to plan, monitor and evaluate results in national planning and policy documents • How different types of indicators can be used in developing indicators in the context of national planning • Types of performance indicators in the context of Results Based Management
2.4 Implementing Global and Regional Indicator Frameworks into National Processes	• Regional and global indicator frameworks • Overview of the Sustainable Development Goals • Relevant indicator frameworks in Asia and the Pacific • Regional and national reporting and the required follow-up
2.5 Importance of Sound Metadata to Define Indicators	• Definition of metadata • Types of metadata • Importance of metadata in relation to indicators • SDG indicator framework metadata template

3. Every Policy is Connected (EPiC) – Application of EPiC in Developing National Indicator Framework

3.1 Policy and data integration	• What is policy and data integration • Importance of integrated policies • Significance of an Indicator Framework and its role • Concepts in policy and data integration • Introduction to the EPiC tool used to facilitate policy and data integration

3.2 EPiC - An Online Tool for Integrating Policy and Data	• EPiC tool key steps • Key Stakeholders by phases • Review of outputs when applying EPiC

V.   EVALUATION

Participants must receive 70% or higher in the test at the end of this course to receive a certificate. They must also complete a short assignment on national plans and indicators; details will be provided at the beginning of the course.

Participants will be given 60 minutes to complete the test. Participants may not work together on the test. The course facilitator reserves the right to deny course certificates to participants suspected of cheating on the test. The supervisor is expected to ensure that the test of the course is taken in his/her presence.

VI.   FOLLOW-UP PHASE

Following the completion of the training and depending on resource availability, in-kind support will be made available to countries interested in applying the EPiC tool in their countries. Further details on the follow-up phase will be provided during the course.

VII.   SOURCE MATERIAL

This course draws upon various sources, including international statistical standards and case studies from national statistical offices.