



International
Labour
Organization

► Evaluation Office

Evaluating the Decent Work Agenda in the SDG era

A training programme
for ILO Constituents

User's guide

► 2019 edition



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First published 2020

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Evaluating the Decent Work Agenda in the SDG era: A training programme for ILO Constituents

ISBN: 9789220314968 (print)

ISBN: 9789220314975 (web pdf)

ILO Cataloguing in Publication Data

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Information on ILO publications and digital products can be found at: www.ilo.org/publns.
Design and layout by the International Training Centre of the ILO, Turin – Italy

Printed in Turin - Italy

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List of abbreviations

DW	Decent Work
DWA	Decent Work Agenda
DWCP	Decent Work Country Programmes
EVAL	Evaluation Office
HLPF	High-level Political Forum
ILO	International Labour Organization
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
VNR	Voluntary National Review



Foreword

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by Member State Heads of the United Nations at the General Assembly in 2015, outlines a roadmap for economic, social and environmental development. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) associated with the Agenda help countries to gauge sustainable development and to craft the means of its implementation for the next 15 years. The SDGs encourage countries to develop planning and follow-up tools at both national and local levels so as to monitor and evaluate sustained, inclusive and environmentally friendly development, through the formulation of policies, budgets, and monitoring and evaluation instruments.

The four pillars of the International Labour Organization's Decent Work Agenda are crucial in advancing the entire Sustainable Development Agenda. ILO's tripartite constituents are called on to drive the achievement of social justice as progress is made towards realizing the objectives of the Agenda. Their participation nationally in the monitoring and evaluation of the progress towards the SDGs is thus essential in ensuring that attention is paid to decent work whilst working towards sustainable development.

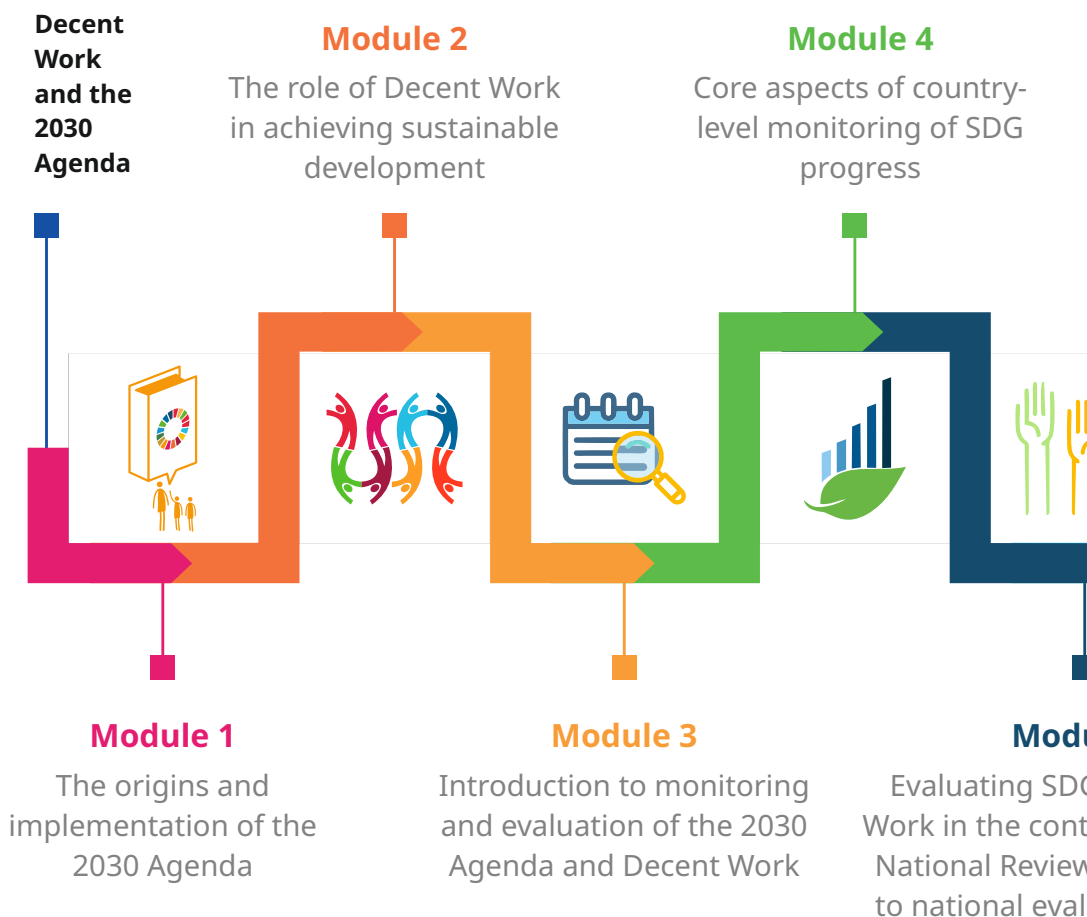
Since 2011, the ILO Evaluation Office (EVAL) has been working on supporting ILO's constituents to strengthen their capacities for country-led monitoring and evaluation. This training programme on Evaluating the Decent Work Agenda in the SDG era aims particularly at fostering awareness of the SDGs, their national implementation, and their monitoring and evaluation. It also provides the means to advocate and use evaluation systems and tools to review sustainable development and decent work in the framework of the 2030 Agenda. The user guide incorporates theoretical and practical guidance material that can be used by ILO constituents engaging in SDGs and Decent Work monitoring and evaluation processes at country level.

ILO Evaluation Office

► 1. Introduction to the user's guide

This user's guide contains nine modules covering the core principles of progress review in the achievement of the Decent Work Agenda (DWA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through evidence-based assessments. This package also provides a comprehensive overview of the SDG framework, its main characteristics and the value-added and functionalities of national evaluation systems in the follow-up and review of progress in achieving the objectives in the Agenda at national level.

► Course overview



Decent Work (DW) as a fundamental driver in achieving sustainable development lies at the heart of the nine modules, along with the relevance and contribution of the DWA and the ILO Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) framework in achieving the SDGs. The user guide includes tools to help constituents use acquired knowledge in a variety of situations, and additional references for further reading on evaluation, DW and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Module 6

The nuts and bolts of an evaluation process



Module 8

Sharing evidence-based results at national, regional and international level



Module 5

SDGs and Decent Work in the context of Voluntary National Reviews: introduction to evaluation systems



Module 7

All your organization needs to know when conducting an evaluation



Module 9

Engaging in the review of SDG progress



► 2. Content

Module 1 The 2030 Agenda, Decent Work and the implementation of the SDGs

Module 1 provides essential information on the origins of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, its framework and the interrelated nature of the 17 SDGs, which are meant to gauge action on five key themes: people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnerships.

In this module, constituents are introduced to the implementation, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of SDG progress at national level and the shared responsibilities national stakeholders have in this process. A closer look into the SDG review framework is provided to help constituents identify national duties in the implementation, review and reporting on the progress towards the accomplishments of the SDGs. A checklist is included to support constituents in identifying tasks related to national adaptation and M&E of sustainable development and Decent Work.



Module 2

Decent Work: A core component of the SDGs

The importance of DW in achieving sustainable development is highlighted in SDG 8, which aims to “promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”. Module 2 examines DW as a key element of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and as a pathway for rights-based sustainable development. How DW is crucial to the achievement of other SDGs is also presented in this module.

Module 2 explores how ILO's Decent Work Country Programme (DWCP) and the broader objectives of the DWA connect with the goals of the 2030 Agenda, national sustainable development plans and the United Nations country frameworks. Detailed examples are provided on the linkages between the SDG targets and the relevant ILO policy outcomes, which can be used by constituents in the process of interrelating ILO's work at country level with national sustainable development plans. Specific examples are provided on the role ILO constituents can play in ensuring that sufficient attention is paid to DW during the planning and review processes of SDG progress at national level.



Module 3

Monitoring and evaluation in the core of the 2030 Agenda

The monitoring and evaluation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development constitutes a national responsibility and requires countries to work on strengthening the M&E infrastructure to report on progress in the achievement of the SDGs.

Module 3 is divided into three parts.

Part I introduces the concepts of M&E and provides an overview of its benefits in reviewing progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda and DW.

Part II examines the national review framework of SDG progress at national level through the SDG global indicator framework and the national complementary indicators.

Part III is of great interest for constituents, as they learn the various stages in the review of SDG progress, and the use of evaluative information to report on SDG progress in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).



Module 4

Country-level monitoring of progress made to the SDGs

Module 4 is divided in three parts.

Part I builds on the previous module, and introduces monitoring as a function that systematically collects data on indicators to determine the extent to which policies and programmes are progressing against expected results. Key

concepts of performance monitoring as a management and accountability tool are described in this section.

Part II reviews the policy and programmatic areas that can be monitored to inform progress in the achievement of DW and the 2030 Agenda targets. It also examines the required infrastructure and practices for effective progress monitoring in achieving sustainable development targets.

Part III covers the share of responsibilities in monitoring operations at country level, notably for ILO tripartite constituents. It also reviews the wide spectrum of stakeholders and entities that are involved in the global monitoring of SDG progress, particularly the UN custodian agencies and the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).



Module 5

Country-level evaluation of progress made to the SDGs and Decent Work in the context of Voluntary National Reviews

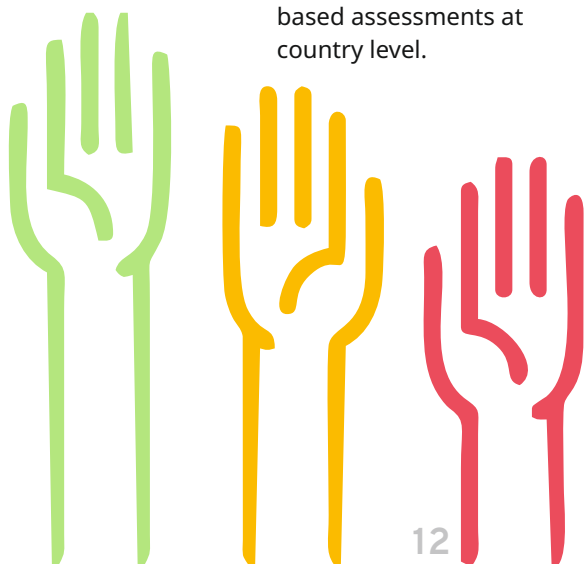
One of the characteristics of the 2030 Agenda is the evaluation of SDG progress at national level.

Module 5 anchors evaluation within policy frameworks and cycles and examines its added value as a vehicle for accountability and learning.

Part I provides an overview of evaluation as a tool to better understand what does and what does not work, and to provide evidence on ways to further the implementation of the DWA and the SDGs. It also introduces national evaluation systems as vehicles for evidence-based assessments at country level.

Part II examines evaluation in the context of the 2030 Agenda and presents the required infrastructure to institutionalize evaluation systems at country level. It also contains examples of country-led evaluations that can generate evidence to inform policy and management decisions on DW and sustainable development.

Part III analyses the role of national stakeholders in country-level evaluations of progress in achieving decent work-related SDG targets. This module is of great interest for ILO constituents, as it provides detailed examples of how evaluations can serve to ensure their views are reflected in examining progress towards sustainable development and DW. Two checklists are provided to support the readiness assessment of national M&E systems, and related capacity needs and gaps. This comprehensive set of skills can assist constituents to advocate for the set-up and use of participatory evaluation systems at national level to review SDG progress.



Module 6 Evaluation of Decent Work and sustainable development

Module 6 expands on the previous modules and introduces constituents to the activity of conducting evaluations in the review of SDG progress. This module is structured in three parts.

Part I provides details on the main purpose of using evaluations as evidence-based assessments of progress in achieving DW objectives and SDGs. It also introduces the principles of participatory evaluation as a way of ensuring the fully-fledged engagement of all stakeholders with no one left behind.

The second part places evaluation activities within the lifespan of the 2030 Agenda and provides details on the types of evaluation that can be conducted as the 2030 Agenda implementation timeframe evolves. This module brings clarity on how country-led evaluations, and those conducted by ILO and UN country teams, can be used to inform national reviews of SDG and DW progress.

Part III examines the main characteristics of the evaluation of DWA in the SDG era, how to plan and conduct these assessments, as well as the type of questions and methods that are most relevant in evaluating DW and SDG progress. A template is included to support the planning of evaluations of DW and sustainable development.



Module 7

Evaluation systems in social partner organizations

The previous module reviewed the critical elements of evaluation systems at national level and the specificities of conducting evaluations of SDG progress. Module 7 focuses on the type of evaluation activities that can be conducted by the social partners to contribute to the national review of SDGs.

Results from evaluations commissioned by the social partners ensure their views are collected and inform national assessments of progress in achieving DW and SDG objectives. This module explores ways to institutionalize evaluation in workers' and employer's organizations, and describes the relevant infrastructure and processes necessary for effective evaluations to take place. This module is intended for use by constituents to identify steps to be taken towards establishing a shared vision and a roadmap for evaluation in their organizations. Practical examples are included that can be used by constituents to be active players in the evaluation of the DWA in the SDG era at country level.

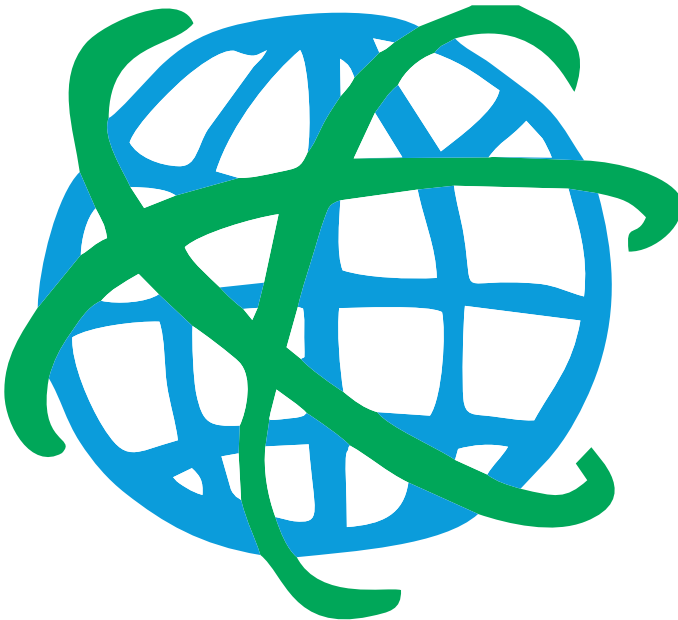


Module 8
Partnerships and
knowledge
sharing on
Decent Work and
sustainable
development

Module 8 highlights the importance of sharing evidence-based results on progress in achieving DW and SDG objectives at national, regional and international levels. In this module, the principle of information sharing and the importance of the ILO constituents' participation in review exercises are introduced.

Successful experiences in sharing evaluation results

to advance the implementation of the DWA and SDGs at national level are provided. Examples are also included on how these can be used to improve DW at country level. A practical tool (Template 2) is available in this module to assist constituents plan the type of evaluative information that can be shared to inform the national review of SDG progress.



Module 9 Engaging constituents in national discussions on SDGs

In order to ensure ILO constituents are part of SDG progress review discussions, Module 9 presents the various ways to engage in discussions on SDG progress reviews at national level, as well as other activities to ensure coverage of DW and labour rights in national SDG review processes. This

module presents resources for constituents to identify the various SDG consultative fora, groups, platforms and evaluation processes to which constituents are required to participate and contribute. Resources are available to help constituents use the practical concepts introduced in this module to effectively engage in the national review of SDG progress relevant to DW.



▶ 3. Additional information

To supplement this user guide, additional information on evaluation, DW and the 2030 Agenda is suggested as follows:

- **International Labour Organization**
 - International Labour Organization (ILO). 2018. Decent Work and the Sustainable Development Goals: A guidebook on SDG labour market indicators, Department of Statistics (STATISTICS).
 - ___. 2018. Diagnostic instrument to assess the evaluability of DWCPs in the context of the SDGs, Evaluation Office.
 - ___. 2018. Decent Work for Sustainable Development Resource Platform. Available online at:
<https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/lang--en/index.htm>
 - ___. 2016. Applying evaluative thinking towards an effective ILO contribution to the implementation of the SDGs, Evaluation Office.
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https://www.ilo.org/wcmsp5/groups/public/---ed_norm/---relconf/documents/meetingdocument/wcms_221635.pdf



- **United Nations**

- United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). 2019. Handbook for the preparation of voluntary national reviews.
- United Nations Development Group. 2017. Fulfilling promises: A practical guide for UN advocacy to promote implementation of the 2030 Agenda.
- United Nations Development Programme. 2017. SDG accelerator and bottleneck assessment.
- United Nations Evaluation Group. 2015. National Evaluation Capacity Development: Practical tips on how to strengthen national evaluation systems.
- United Nations General Assembly. 2015. Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015. 70th Session. A/RES/70/1.
- United Nations Sustainable Development Group. 2019. United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework Guidance.





