

Module: Infrastructure for sustainable, resilient and inclusive development

About experts:



Dr. Scott Thacker

Infrastructure and Project Management Specialist, United Nations Office for Project Services / Honorary Research Associate, Environmental Change Institute, University of Oxford

Scott is an expert in the strategic planning of national infrastructure to support the achievement of long-term sustainability and resilience objectives. He has led the development of pioneering methodologies and tools that recognise the importance of infrastructure for achieving national development outcomes. His work helps to influence the practical and real-world decisions of infrastructure practitioners and other relevant stakeholders. Scott has worked on projects in several countries in Africa, Asia and the Caribbean.



Toluwanimi Adeoti

Infrastructure and Project Management Senior Analyst, United Nations Office for Project Services

Tolu contributes to the development of knowledge products and tools on infrastructure development to help countries accelerate progress towards sustainable development. She works with governments on strategic infrastructure financing and strengthening local capacity in this area. Tolu has worked on development projects in Africa and the Caribbean.

Learning Objectives:

- Highlight the importance of infrastructure for sustainable, resilient and inclusive development
- Introduce UNOPS approach to infrastructure through the use of tools and practical examples

Background information:

With a mandate in infrastructure, United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) has over 25 years of experience in project implementation in developing countries and is committed to building a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient future for all. Our expertise in infrastructure development is grounded in international best practices, norms and standards, and adheres to sustainability principles. This enables us to provide technical advice to stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, UN partners and community groups. In addition, we help develop local capacity by supporting training for partners and project beneficiaries.

This module will shed light on UNOPS approach to infrastructure delivery for sustainable, resilient and inclusive development. The importance of the interactions between the built, natural and enabling environment will be introduced as well as the need for a systems approach to national infrastructure planning. Through the use of UNOPS tools and case studies, the relevance of mainstreaming sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness into the infrastructure lifecycle will be examined. These tools include the National Infrastructure Systems Modelling (NISMOD) tool, the Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure (CAT-I) and the Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Tool (SIFT).

This module will enable the participants to understand the following:

- Infrastructure that promotes sustainable, resilient and inclusive development places people at the heart of infrastructure decision-making by providing solutions that respond to their basic needs including providing healthy living conditions, connecting communities, removing barriers for children attending school, supporting families in securing their livelihoods and ensuring equal access to essential services.
- Delivering infrastructure that promotes sustainable, resilient and inclusive development requires a shift away from the traditional view of infrastructure as individual and isolated physical assets, to an understanding of infrastructure as systems comprised of the built, natural and enabling environment, which enable the sustainable provision of services that are essential for societal wellbeing, economic prosperity and environmental sustainability.
- Mainstreaming sustainability, resilience and inclusiveness into the infrastructure lifecycle is critical, as the long life span of infrastructure can lock in the patterns of development in countries for decades to come.
- Infrastructure plays a central role in the achievement of global agendas to promote sustainable, resilient and inclusive development, through its influence on up to 92% of the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals as well as being an important route to delivering on the Paris Agreement due to its profound influence on climate mitigation and adaptation.

Interactive exercise:

- Mentimeter exercises
 - Polls
 - Open questions
- Group activities - breakout sessions
 - Discussion topics
- Exercise Learning Objective
 - Participants are able to reflect on the knowledge provided in the module and how it can be practically applied in their various professional roles.

Further reading:

- NISMOD: [National Infrastructure Systems Model](#)
- CAT-I: [Capacity Assessment Tool for Infrastructure](#)
- SIFT: [Sustainable Infrastructure Financing Tool](#)
- UNOPS and University of Oxford publication: [Infrastructure underpinning sustainable development](#)
- UNOPS, UNEP and University of Oxford publication: [Infrastructure for climate action](#)