DPU
Training and
Advisory Services
The Development Planning Unit (DPU) conducts world-leading research and postgraduate teaching to support national governments, local authorities, NGOs, aid agencies and businesses working towards socially just and sustainable development in the global south.

We are part of The Bartlett: University College London’s global faculty of the built environment. The DPU has almost 70 years of experience in academic teaching, research, policy advice and capacity building in the field of international development.

DPU’s Training and Advisory Services (TAS)

The DPU is proud to have a long history of working with organizations whose purpose and concerns resonate with our own vision of a just world in which men and women are equally able to choose, plan and manage their own lives and communities, and to influence local, national and global development in ways that are economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

As part of our mission to build the capacity of professionals and institutions, the DPU undertakes action-oriented work with partners in different parts of the world. Regular contact with policy and planning practice is an important part of engaging with the theoretical and methodological debates pursued in our teaching and research. Central to this practice orientation are our Training and Advisory Services (TAS). When conducting our TAS work, we place a strong emphasis on understanding development contexts, and working with a range of development planning practitioners and institutions to build long term collaborations.

The DPU’s TAS work is conducted with a wide range of different institutions, covering multilateral development organisations including United Nations bodies and International Financial Institutions, bilateral aid agencies, national and municipal governments, civil society networks, non-governmental organizations, and private sector companies working in the international development sector.
The DPU offers four broad types of Training and Advisory Services:

**Applied Research**

In support of development interventions, this includes research for specific project cycle areas (for example, baseline studies, social and environmental impact assessments and project evaluations), desk-based research in support of issue-based topic guides, and place and sector-based contextual research to inform strategic development work.

Some examples:

**Urbanisation Research Nigeria**
Nigeria | 2013 – 2018
Research to create knowledge and evidence to inform future urban development policy and planning in Nigeria’s rapidly growing cities.
*Lead partner UK Department for International Development*

**Urban Crisis and Humanitarian Responses**
Global | 2015
Literature review on the current evidence base on humanitarian response and development in urban areas.
*Lead partner UK Department for International Development*

**Country Capacity Assessments for Assistive Technologies: Informal Markets Study**
Indonesia and Sierra Leone | 2019 – 2020
Research into informal markets for assistive technologies, to feed into the Global Cooperation on Assistive Technology (GATE) initiative.
*Lead partner Global Disability Innovation Hub*

**International Labour Office Outcome 5: Thematic Funding, Final evaluation**
Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, El Salvador, United Republic of Tanzania, Zambia | 2016
Swedish (SIDA) funded project on domestic workers, minimum wages and precarious employment.
*Lead Partner International Labour Organization (ILO)*

**Topic Guide on Provision and Improvement of Housing for the Poor**
Global | 2013
Topic Guide presenting evidence and analysis of methodologies for the provision of housing for the poor.
*Lead Partner UK Department for International Development*
Methodology Development

DPU develops and trials methodologies with our partners, including analytical frameworks and practical toolkits for research and development interventions.

Some examples:

**Words into Action guidelines:**
*Implementation guide for land use and urban planning*
Global | 2020
Guidance for the urban planning profession and those involved in city development on how to incorporate disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience into urban planning decisions and investments.
*Lead Partner United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction*

**Co-designing built interventions with children affected by displacement (DeCID)**
Global | 2021
A practical handbook to support those involved in the co-design of built interventions affecting displaced children.
*Lead Partner Global Challenges Research Fund (GCRF)*

**Exploring the Contributions of the Capability Approach to VSO’s People First Strategy**
Zambia, Uganda and Bangladesh | 2017 – 2018
Practice based collaboration focused on developing strategic and methodological inputs to support the application of VSO’s ‘People First’ strategy.
*Lead Partner Voluntary Service Overseas (VSO)*

**Gender in Practice Toolkit for the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**
Global | First published 2003
Gender toolkit published as the outcome of a long-term collaboration between the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the DPU's Gender in Policy and Planning Programme.
*Lead Partner Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC/DEZA)*
Policy Development and Analysis

DPU works with partner organisations to support policy development processes as well as to monitor and facilitate the implementation of policy.

Some examples:

**Somaliland Parliamentary and Local Council Election Observation Mission 2021**
Somaliland | 2021
Provision of international observation for Somaliland’s second parliamentary election and third local council elections, representing the latest in a succession of international election observation and analysis initiatives.
*Lead Partners Somaliland National Electoral Commission and the UK Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office*

Capacity Building

DPU works with partner organizations to undertake capacity building, including institutional development and tailor-made training courses.

Some examples:

**The Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC)**
Sierra Leone | 2013 – 2018
Supporting the institutional set up of SLURC and its work to build the research and analysis capacity of urban stakeholders in Sierra Leone.
*Lead Partner Comic Relief*

**International Executive Modules**
Brazil, UK | 2022 – ongoing
Academic teaching inputs to MBA programmes focused on public-private partnerships, environmental sanitation, and cities and innovation.
*Lead Partner Fundação Escola de Sociologia e Política de São Paulo (FESPSP)*

Contact

If you have any questions about DPU’s Training and Advisory Services (TAS), please contact:

**Julian Walker**
Director of TAS
julian.walker@ucl.ac.uk | tel: + 44 (0)20 3108 5411

**Alessio Koliulis**
TAS coordinator
a.koliulis@ucl.ac.uk | tel: + 44 (0)20 7679 8579

Or visit our website:
www.ucl.ac.uk/bartlett/development/