



SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

PRACTICAL APPROACHES TO LAND ACQUISITION, RESETTLEMENT, AND SAFEGUARDS IN MDB-SUPPORTED OPERATIONS

8 – 12 JUNE 2026
TURIN, ITALY

Information Note



Learn how to unlock development without displacing dignity.



INTRODUCTION TO THE COURSE

In developing and emerging economies, the question of who controls land, and how, profoundly affects diverse populations—farmers, herders, urban dwellers, and small business owners—while shaping government policies. What appears as a simple resource allocation challenge often reveals deeper tensions about identity, tradition, and development paths. Population growth, climate change, and rising demands for resources drive intense competition for land, creating tensions within communities and between communities and investors. When development projects require land, these existing tensions become critical.

Good land governance promotes secure access to land and creates an enabling environment for investments that unlock developing countries' productive capacities. However, land acquisition processes can lead to physical or economic displacement affecting people's livelihoods across rural and urban settings. Land acquisition involves multiple stakeholders across institutional levels, from national ministries to local communities, requiring effective coordination among actors with varying mandates and expertise.

Land acquisition processes are inherently interconnected with cultural heritage preservation and protection of vulnerable populations, including women, youth, pastoralists, traditional communities, and people living under customary land tenure systems. Strengthened capacity and collaborative partnerships are essential to ensure that land governance processes are transparent, equitable, and support inclusive development while safeguarding cultural assets and traditional livelihoods.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This course equips practitioners with the knowledge and tools to implement robust social safeguards in land acquisition and resettlement processes, ensuring sustainable development outcomes across diverse project environments.

Unmitigated displacement creates severe and cascading risks: dismantled production systems, impoverishment from lost resources, relocation to unsuitable environments, weakened community institutions, exacerbated inequalities, dispersed families, and eroded cultural identity. These impacts extend across social, economic, environmental, and psychological dimensions. For this reason, involuntary resettlement must be avoided where possible. When unavoidable, it must be minimized through carefully planned mitigation measures that protect both displaced persons and host communities.

The course examines how operational safeguards on land acquisition and resettlement apply to sovereign operations across developing and emerging economies with diverse legal and institutional contexts. You will explore land acquisition as a comprehensive process encompassing property transfer, livelihood impact assessment, and protection of cultural heritage and vulnerable populations. This requires understanding varied institutional frameworks—from state-centered systems to pluralistic approaches recognizing customary rights and traditional governance—while managing the intersection between formal and customary legal frameworks.

Land acquisition requires coordination across multiple government institutions (finance, public works, lands, and sector-specific ministries), each bringing different mandates and expertise. The course addresses critical implementation challenges: rushed Resettlement Action Plan (RAP) preparation without adequate community consultation, inadequate compensation cost evaluation, weak monitoring mechanisms, and insufficient funding for comprehensive planning. You will learn how multilateral development banks streamline compensation procedures through loan agreements to ensure timely payment, maintain project timelines, and uphold the principle that no investment can proceed unless land is free from encumbrances, occupation, or conflict, and compensation has been negotiated and secured.

PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

The course covers five thematic modules delivered over one week:

Module 1: Land Systems and Governance Foundations

Understanding diverse land tenure systems, customary rights, and legal frameworks across developing and emerging economies, and the alignment between country systems and international safeguard standards.

Module 2: Resettlement Action Plan Development and Implementation

Preparation, planning, and execution of RAPs, including case studies, field lessons, and practical scenario-based group work to develop implementation capacity.

Module 3: Stakeholder Engagement and Consultation

Tools and approaches for meaningful community engagement, early engagement strategies, capacity building for borrowers, and development of context-specific consultation strategies.

Module 4: Compensation, Livelihood Restoration Procedures, and Monitoring

Valuation and consent procedures, compliance with national frameworks, compensation fast-tracking, environmental and quality assessments for relocation sites, livelihood restoration procedures, and RAP completion audit methodologies.

Module 5: Vulnerable Groups, Social Inclusion, and Strengthening Local Institutions

Addressing needs of vulnerable populations, cultural heritage protection, broader social inclusion considerations, stakeholder information disclosure, and development of country-specific support strategies.

COURSE OBJECTIVES

This course examines how development projects can address land acquisition challenges across diverse developing and emerging economies, exploring the principles, frameworks, and practical approaches that enable positive outcomes while avoiding harm to affected communities.

Through implementation-focused training, the course assists multilateral development banks in supporting borrowers to implement risk mitigation measures, particularly those related to land acquisition, compensation, and involuntary resettlement.

The course focuses on three integrated areas:

- Integrating safeguard requirements into project preparation processes
- Examining the implementation phase where borrowers execute RAPs and associated instruments
- Aligning national legislation with international best practices

Through case studies and project examples, participants will develop practical skills that help borrowers achieve meaningful protection for affected communities and restore livelihoods.

TARGET AUDIENCE

- Government officials dealing with land acquisition (lands, finance, sectoral ministries, public works, agriculture, environment, local government)
- Project Implementation/Management Units (PIU/PMUs)
- Social specialists and environmental safeguards professionals
- Development practitioners and consultants
- Multilateral Development Banks staff
- UN Agencies

HOW TO APPLY

Applicants are kindly asked to send us:

1. A completed online registration form: <https://oarf2.itcilo.org/STF/A1019139/en>
2. If you are financed by your organization (or a donor), an official sponsorship letter is required to finalize your registration. The letter can be uploaded to the application form or sent by email to: esg@itcilo.org
3. If you pay the course fees directly, please note that the payment is due before enrolment in the course. More details about payment methods can be found [here](#).

COURSE PRICE

Tuition fees: €1,840

Subsistence fees at the ITCILO Campus: €755

Accommodation expenses cover: Accommodation in a single room from Sunday to Friday inclusive (check-out on Saturday morning) – 6 nights. Breakfast, lunch, and dinner during the period indicated above

Total: €2,595, excluding transportation costs to and from Turin and visa expenses (if necessary).

FURTHER INFORMATION

- **Language:** English and French
- **Venue:** Turin, Italy. Along the banks of the Po River the ITCILO Turin Campus (<https://www.itcilo.org/about/campus>) allows participants to live and study immersed in nature, in a safe and secure environment conducive to learning, exploring, and discovering what the city of Turin has to offer.
- **Certificate:** On completion of all required course activities, participants will obtain an official ITCILO Certificate of Participation
- **Contact:** esg@itcilo.org

CAMPUS LIFE

A THRIVING UNITED NATIONS CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY OF PROFESSIONAL PEOPLE FROM AROUND THE WORLD

- **Three organizations** from the United Nations system on campus
- **More than 300 training courses** and activities in a stimulating international environment
- **Thousands of participants** from all over the world

ENVIRONMENT AND SURROUNDINGS

Grab a campus bicycle and explore the Turin Centre.

Located in a leafy park on the banks of the Po River, it's a great place for study and collaboration. Experience innovative learning and training methods in modern classrooms equipped with simultaneous translation services.

HOUSING, DINING, AND MORE

Comprising more than 280 private dormitories, the **Turin Campus provides a broad range of services for course participants and partners** including a free-flow restaurant, travel agency, laundromat, post office, gym, medical services and a reception desk open 24/7.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND DIVERSITY

Participants can enjoy social events organized by the Turin Centre as well as by their course facilitators. Whether on or off campus, people from different cultural backgrounds have the opportunity to listen to live music together, cook and share traditional foods, or team up to play games and network.

WITHDRAWAL, CANCELLATION POLICY, AND REFUNDS FOR OPEN COURSES

If an enrolled participant wishes or must withdraw from a course, they may choose to apply to a different course or be substituted by another candidate. The participant must notify the Centre, in writing, of their decision at least 14 days prior to the start date of the course. Cancellation of participation in regular courses will result in the following penalties:

- 14 days or more prior to the start date of the course: No penalty, 100% refund of amount paid less applicable bank charges
- 8 to 13 days prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 50% of course price, refund of residual amount paid (if any) less applicable bank charges
- 7 days or less prior to the start date of the course: Penalty of 100% of course price.

INFO

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

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