



Call for Applications and Nominations



SOCIAL POLICY FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS IN A CONTEXT OF UNCERTAINTY AND CRISES

Beginning of the training : 20th November 2023

Application Deadline :18th November 2023

4
Weeks



COMING SOON

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SOCIAL POLICY
FOR DEVELOPMENT PLANNERS
IN A CONTEXT OF UNCERTAINTY AND CRISES

Call for Applications and Nominations

Announcement in Brief

Course Type : Short Term Course

Programme Area : Social Policy

Date: 20th November 2023

Duration : 4 Weeks

Language : Bilingual (English – French)

Application Deadline : 18th November 2023

**Specific target: Technocrat in the fields of
Social Policy**

Website : <https://knowledge.uneca.org/idep>



IDEP strongly encourage and supports the participation of suitably qualified female officials in its capacity development and training programme

PROGRAM RATIONAL

As a region, Africa has seen remarkable progress in socio-economic development in the past two decades. It still experiences, however, high levels of poverty and inequality, food insecurity and malnutrition, high maternal and child mortality, high levels of informal employment, conflicts and the impacts of climate change .

The COVID-19 crisis has hit the poorest and most vulnerable hardest and laid bare structural shortcomings such as inadequate health, educational and technological infrastructure, limited social protection, gender inequality, large informal economies, lack of access to basic services, constrained fiscal policy space and a high risk of debt distress in many countries, making them particularly vulnerable to the lasting effects of the pandemic. African countries have realized the need to scale-up social protection programmes and measures to meet the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 crisis as well as to ensure preparedness for other unexpected future events. Thus, they have introduced or adapted over 200 social protection and labor market policies in response to the pandemic.

Building back better requires reducing socioeconomic inequalities. Economic recovery from the pandemic goes hand in hand with promoting social justice and decent work. A human-centered recovery also requires a renewed commitment to a social contract which guarantees quality public services that promote equal opportunity, universal social protection systems that foster economic security, and robust public institutions that ensure equal rights .

While Africa is yet to fully recover from the socio-economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Russia-Ukraine conflict poses another major threat to the global economy with many African countries being directly affected .

The Ukraine crisis has led to disruptions in the access to and availability of staple foods, energy, and agricultural inputs throughout the world, with particular concern among low-income countries that rely on the import of food and fertilizers to secure the productivity of their agri-food sector.

The resulting price shocks have exacerbated food insecurity and malnutrition, especially in countries that depend on global export markets for staple grains, cooking oils and fertilizers. The rise in the cost of the consumption and production of the local breadbasket is disproportionately affecting poor and vulnerable groups that rely on agriculture for their main source of livelihood (Lusigi, 2022; SPIAC-B, 2022; UN Press, 2022) .

In addition to pressures from fluctuations in exchange rates, and high commodities prices, inflation reached double digits in 40 per cent of African countries. Moreover, seven African countries are in debt distress as of January 2023, and 14 more are at high risk of debt distress, which makes them unable to implement meaningful countermeasures .

As a result, African households, who, according to the IMF, already spend over 50 per cent of their overall consumption on food and energy, felt the significant impact of the high conflict-induced global energy prices, along with their indirect effects on the cost of transportation and consumer goods.

Building on the lessons from COVID-19, countries should expand their social protection programmes, making it a priority to reach the poor and most vulnerable who are least able to absorb, and so are most affected by, the increase in the cost of food and other basic consumption items. Social protection and humanitarian actors need to work together so as to leverage humanitarian responses to rapidly expand coverage and strengthen social protection systems .

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The overarching objective of the course on “Social Policy for Development Planners in a Context of Uncertainty and Crisis” is to contribute to the development of a critical mass of highly skilled middle and senior development officials and decision makers who have a strong social policy consciousness and orientation, and who will be suitably or better equipped to design and manage development plans in which social and economic policies and strategies are fully interfaced to deliver the kinds of transformative outcomes desired; especially to face the world’s multiple shocks and ongoing crises.

By the end of the capacity-enhancement training programme, the participants are expected to have acquired:

- A robust understanding of the history, diversity, and conceptual underpinnings of social policy;
- A strong appreciation for the interconnections between economic and social policy, and economic development objectives and social development outcomes;
- A full appreciation of the value of integrated and holistic public policymaking;
- An understanding and appreciation of the multi-dimensionality of social policy instruments and social policy functions, including, in particular, the ways in which social policy instruments produce multiple outcomes;
- Better risk mitigation strategies that can reduce the potential impact of shocks; ensuring preparedness for other unexpected future events and strengthening resilience against ongoing crises and future shocks.
- A robust capacity to design social policy instruments for implementation;
- Skills for assessing and evaluating competing social policy instruments, their strengths and limitations; and
- An improved knowledge of Social Policy in the international compacts to meet the SDGs and Agenda 2063.
- Tackling Social Policy in a Context of Uncertainty and Crises

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course consists of the following key modules:

- **Module 1:** The Principles and Political Economy of Development Planning
- **Module 2:** Introduction to the Political Economy of Social Policy and Origins of Social Protection
- **Module 3:** Social Policy: Typology, Diversity of Instruments
- **Module 4:** Social Policy in International Compacts: Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030
- **Module 5:** Social Protection : Domains, Dimensions, Instruments and Tools
- **Module 6:** A comparative Analysis of the Experiences of Social Policy in East Asia
- **Module 7:** The African Social Development Index (ASDI)
- **Module 8:** Financing Social Policy
- **Module 9:** Towards a Transformative Social Policy Framework for Africa
- **Module 10:** Demographic Dynamics and Development

METHODOLOGY

This self-paced course will be delivered from 13th November to 08th December 2023. The course will be moderated asynchronously on a weekly basis and participants are required to participate in weekly on-line live sessions. In addition, each module has interactive lessons that provide the core content around the topic for that module. The lessons are designed in a way that learners are also able to self-assess their understanding through built-in quizzes. Additional resources such as bibliographies, web links and optional readings are provided for participants who wish to deepen their knowledge of the course topic.

TARGET AUDIENCE

The target participants are as follows:

- Middle and senior level policy officials and managers directly connected with or responsible for planning, designing, managing, monitoring and evaluating development policy and instruments in their countries;
- Officials outside the core planning institutions who play key roles in economic and/or social policy formulation broadly defined.

ACCEPTANCE TO THE COURSE

Applicants to the course are expected to have, as a minimum, a bachelor's degree preferably in social policy or Economy. In addition, two years of work experience in the field will be required. Qualified female candidates are strongly encouraged to apply.

Until the registration deadline, participants are accepted to the course on a rolling basis and subject to availability of slots.

Applications must be completed exclusively on IDEP online application platform at :

<https://idep-applications.uneca.org/>

CERTIFICATE OF COMPLETION

A Certificate of Completion will be issued by IDEP to all participants who successfully complete the course-related self-assessments presented for each module.

TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS

Access to internet is an essential condition for participation. The following specifications, as a minimum in terms of hardware and software, are required to take this e-Learning course, please consult your Network Administrator or Systems person to ensure that you have the following:

- Platform: Windows 95, 98, 2000, NT, ME, XP or superior; Mac OS 9 or Mac OS X; Linux
- Hardware: 64 MB of RAM, 1 GB of free disk space
- Software:
 - Adobe Acrobat Reader
 - Adobe Flash Player
 - Microsoft Office (Windows or Mac) or Open Office
 - Browser: Google chrome, Firefox 36 or higher or Internet Explorer 7 or higher
- Modem: 56 K
- Note that JavaScript, Cookies and Pop-ups must be enabled

CONTACT INFORMATION

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