



## Social Protection and Care Economy in Africa

**REGISTER NOW**

<https://forms.gle/aSG8BTrNc2vkysN9>

Date : 20<sup>th</sup> January - 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025

Application Deadline: 19<sup>th</sup> January 2025



ONLINE COURSE



CERTIFICATE

**LANGUAGES : ENGLISH - FRENCH**



## SOCIAL PROTECTION AND CARE ECONOMY IN AFRICA

### CALL FOR APPLICATIONS

#### ANNOUNCEMENT IN BRIEF

**Type : Short Term Course**

**Programme Area : Social Protection**

**Beginning of the course : 20 th January**

**Duration : 4 Weeks**

**Languages : English - French**

**Location : Web Based E-Learning**

**Fee : Covered by the Uneca**

**Application Deadline : 18 th January**

**Specific target Audience : Technocrat in the fields of social Policy**



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

# PROGRAM RATIONALE

Over the past three decades, Africa has witnessed notable fluctuations in economic growth. Average growth in the 1990s was around 2.5%, followed by a sustained growth from 2000 to 2015, making the continent the second fastest-growing region in the world (UNECA 2015). The economic growth has slowed down after 2015, with annual growth rates averaging 3.2 per cent (UN 2019). This was due to the lingering effects of the global financial crisis and subsequent falling commodity prices. The COVID-19 pandemic further impacted growth performance with a contraction of 2.1% in 2020. Additionally, the war in Ukraine has added another layer of difficulties for countries already grappling with the effects of the health crisis<sup>1</sup>.

The fluctuation of growth performance is mainly explained by the high vulnerability of the continent to external factors. The economy is poorly diversified and highly dependent on mining and extraction sectors, which do not generate sufficient employment opportunities for the growing labor force.

Between 1990 and 2015, the poverty rate in Africa fell continuously, from 54 per cent to 41 per cent. However, the absolute number of African people living in extreme poverty (on less than US\$1.90 per day) increased from 278 million in 1990 to 413 million in 2015. According to data from the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic pushed an estimated 55 million Africans into extreme poverty in 2020 and reversed more than two decades of progress in poverty reduction on the continent<sup>2</sup>.

Social indicators such as education and health further illustrate the challenges Africa faces despite economic growth. Investment in social services has not kept pace with the rising population and associated needs. Education enrollment rates have improved, yet quality and completion rates, especially in rural areas, remain low. Access to healthcare has also shown disparities. There have been advances in maternal and child health, while issues like malnutrition and communicable diseases persist. The pandemic exacerbated these challenges, leading to setbacks in health systems and access to essential services, particularly for the most vulnerable.

Recognizing the capital role of social protection in addressing the challenges of poverty and economic instability in Africa, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) call for countries to “implement nationally appropriate social protection systems for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable” (target 1.3). Social protection systems such as cash transfers, access to healthcare, education and other essential services, social protection systems can promote social inclusion and mitigate the impacts of economic shocks and support vulnerable populations.

Robust social protection systems are needed in many African countries particularly for informal workers who make up a significant portion of the labor force. Strengthening these systems can help cushion the effects of economic downturns, such as those experienced during the COVID-19 pandemic, by providing timely assistance to those in need.

Achieving SDG target 1.3 on social protection systems for all in developing countries by 2030 is estimated to cost \$1.0 trillion, or 3.3 per cent of their combined GDP. For low-income countries, the financing gap is estimated at \$78 billion per year, or close to 16 per cent of their combined GDP on average<sup>3</sup>.

Care systems are very important in the African context, particularly given the region's high rates of informal employment, large families, and significant reliance on intergenerational networks for care. These systems, which are essential for societal well-being and stability, are not always appropriately valued in the formal social protections schemes. They include tasks like childcare, elder care, support for persons with disabilities and other domestic work. In Africa, care work is essentially performed by women and remains largely unpaid and undervalued, contributing to persistent gender inequalities.

SDG target 5.4 calls for country to “recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate.”

For social protection to be effective, governments must design and manage programs efficiently. This necessitates that public officials have the appropriate knowledge and skills for developing systems that ensure effective delivery of services. Prioritizing capacity development, improving data collection, and ensuring efficient service delivery are key to making social protection systems effective, sustainable, and responsive to both short-term and long-term structural challenges.

It's against this background that IDEP is organizing the course on “**Social Protection and Care Economy in Africa**”.

## LEARNING OBJECTIVES

The objective of the course is to provide middle and senior level officials and decision makers with comprehensive understanding social protection and care economy in Africa, including the design, financing, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of related policies and programs.

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

- Enhanced understanding of social protection frameworks and care systems.
- Knowledge of existing tools and mechanisms to address the financial sustainability of social protection systems, including insights into the relationship between social protection, public finances, and economic stability.
- Knowledge and expertise to design, implement, monitor and evaluate Social Protection Policies

Skills to develop strategies for advancing gender and care sensitive social protection and building shock-responsive systems that enhance resilience to unexpected events, ensuring better mitigation and preparedness.

# CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course consists of the following key modules:

- **Module 1:** Introduction to Social Protection
- **Module 2:** Social Protection: Types, Coverage and Instruments
- **Module 3:** Financing Social Protection
- **Module 4:** Extending Social Protection to the Informal Economy: Country Case Studies
- **Module 5:** Gender and Care Sensitive Social Protection
- **Module 6:** Shock Responsive Social Protection
- **Module 7:** Monitoring and Evaluating Social Protection Systems

## METHODOLOGY

This self-paced course will be delivered from **20<sup>th</sup> January to 14<sup>th</sup> February 2025**. The course will be moderated asynchronously. 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 Social Policy and Social Protection Policies; development policy and instruments in their countries;
- Officials outside the core planning institutions who play key roles in economic and/or Social Policy and Social Protection formulation.

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### *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://forms.gle/vqUqjwuSznEiRJof9>

## 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

IDEP E-Learning and Knowledge Management Division

Tel: +221 33 829 55 00

Fax: +221 33 822 29 64

Email: [elearning@unidep.org](mailto:elearning@unidep.org)



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