

Call for Applications



Social Policy for Development Planners for an Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Recovery Post-COVID-19

Duration
9 weeks

Beginning of the training : 8th August 2022

Application Deadline : 31st July 2022



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for an Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable
Recovery Post-COVID-19**

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Announcement in Brief

Type : Short Term Course

Area: Social policy

Beginning of the course : 8th August 2022

Duration : 9 Weeks

Language : Bilingual (English / French)

Application Deadline: 31st July 2022



Program Rationale

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 .

Moreover, the COVID-19 pandemic brought unprecedented disruptions to Africa resulting in Social and Economic shocks, reducing earnings and increasing poverty and food insecurity as well as leading the region into its first recession in 25 years .

Although, it began as a health emergency, the COVID-19 pandemic has become a devastating socio-economic crisis in Africa, reversing hard-won development gains such as poverty and inequality reduction.

According to ECA, COVID-19 employment effects are likely to be severe in urban areas. With urban-based sectors of the economy (manufacturing and services) which currently account for 64% of GDP in Africa are expected to be hit hard by COVID-19 related effects, leading to substantial losses in productive jobs. In particular, the approximately 250 million Africans in informal urban employment (excluding North Africa) will be at risk. Firms and businesses in African cities are highly vulnerable to COVID-19 related effects, especially SMEs which account for 80% of employment in Africa. These risks are compounded by a likely hike in the cost of living is expected as shown for example by some initial reports of up to 100% increase in the price of some food items in some African cities.

The impact on African economies could be the slowing of growth to 1.8 per cent in the best-case scenario or a contraction of 2.6 percent in the worst case. This has the potential to push 29 million people into extreme poverty .

Lockdown measures and the economic recession are having a dramatic effect on the jobs and livelihoods of workers and their families, as well as on enterprises. In the second quarter of 2020, 60 million full-time equivalent jobs were lost by Africa, including 45 million in sub-Saharan Africa. The great majority of workers, especially women workers, are in informal employment in Africa, where they generally lack social protection and have lower average income. In the first month of the crisis, the earnings of informal workers are estimated to have declined by 81 per cent (United Nations Economic and Social Council, 2020).

The 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 labour market policies in response to the pandemic .

The economic damage to developing economies triggered by COVID-19 can be transformed: from a threat to global growth, into an accelerator of global prosperity. Rapid financial support developed and deployed in concert between developing countries and the major players of the global economy, public and private, will reinject growth momentum into economies which were among the world's fastest growing prior to the pandemic.

Africa's growing economy and society will be a major part of the future of global economic growth. The potential of its growing and young population, as well as the investment and productivity opportunities in its developing free trade area, communications and digitalization drive, its biodiversity, global carbon sinks, and renewable energy potential, are all at the leading edge of a sustainable world economy. Making the continent a global powerhouse of the future is the vision of Agenda 2063 and the task for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Africa for 2030 .

The challenges resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic urgently call for effective and efficient measures, including social protection, to build forward better post- COVID-19 and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including eradicating poverty, and reducing inequality and vulnerability.

Learning Objectives

The overarching objective of the course on “Social Policy for Development Planners for an Inclusive, Resilient and Sustainable Recovery Post-COVID-19” 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 build forward better Post-COVID-19 Africa.

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;
- A robust capacity to design social policy instruments for implementation;
- Skills for assessing and evaluating competing social policy instruments, their strengths and limitations; and
- La capacité à collaborer, de manière efficace, avec des acteurs extraterritoriaux qui proposent des services de conseil dans le domaine des politiques, les consultants en politiques y compris.
- Une meilleure connaissance de la politique sociale dans les pactes internationaux pour atteindre les ODD et l'Agenda 2063.

- Tackling Social Policy to build forward better Post-COVID-19 with lessons learned from the pandemic

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 08th August to 16th September 2022. 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

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: ellearning@unidep.org



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