



SDC & SOCIAL PROTECTION

ONLINE LEARNING SERIES (06/21 – 09/22)



Social protection is an economic investment. It plays a key role in mitigating economic and social risks and combating poverty, inequality and exclusion. Thus, social protection is a key-feature of Sustainable Development and contributes to Leave No One Behind (LNOB). The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of social protection measures as an effective means to mitigate the negative health and socio-economic impacts of the pandemic in the short-term. In the long-term, social protection instruments can help to be prepared for future shocks.

SDC invites all interested SDC staff to an online learning on social protection. The training encompasses **ten learning events** spread over a period of one year. The learning modules build one upon another and will look at social protection from various angles, including major concepts and target groups, as well as the more hands-on use of social protection across different policy fields. The first two modules generate a common understanding of the concept, instruments and impacts of social protection and constitute the basis for the seven technically more specialized modules which follow afterwards.

The main objectives of the learning modules are:

- \\ **Become familiar** with social protection in development & humanitarian contexts, including conceptual approaches, instruments, measures, impacts and challenges
- \\ **Discuss** the role of social protection in contributing to the SDG & LNOB
- \\ **Reflect** on how social protection can support & maximise sector outcomes in the SDC using examples
- \\ **Brainstorm** & learn how social protection can be more systematically integrated in SDC's work

We kindly invite you to **register** for the modules [here](#)

MODULE DESCRIPTION

BASIC MODULE 1: WHAT IS SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE SDC?

WEDNESDAY, 23.06.2021, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

This introductory module will lay the foundation for the overall structure of the course. We will discuss the major concepts of social protection in the development context, target groups as well as how it is linked to overall development goals and principles (human rights, social contract, social cohesion, SDGs/LNOB). The module will discuss how social protection fits into SDC's overall development framework and related concepts such as LNOB, social inclusion, protection and decent work.

BASIC MODULE 2: OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PROTECTION INSTRUMENTS AND IMPACTS

WEDNESDAY, 18.08.2021, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

Social protection is delivered through a range of instruments, including cash transfers, conditional cash transfers, insurance or cash and food for work, social services or so-called cash plus, subsidies, fee waivers, school feeding or vouchers. In this module, we will discuss the various instruments in more detail and in which vulnerability, risk and SDC contexts these are usually applied.



TECHNICAL MODULE 3: AGRICULTURE, FOOD SECURITY & SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 22.09.2021, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

Beyond protection against life-cycle risks (health, old-age, maternity or chronic poverty), in the agricultural context social protection has a key role in protecting against livelihood risks, typically through climate-risks. This also includes food and nutrition security. Beyond the protective aspect, social protection has also an important promotive dimension. As a demand-side based instrument, social protection has the potential to enhance agricultural production, employment and increase local demand. This module provides an overview of typical social protection interventions in the agricultural context aiming at protecting life-cycle risks as well as promoting sustainable livelihoods.

TECHNICAL MODULE 4: SOCIAL PROTECTION IN THE CONTEXT OF EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND PRIVATE SECTOR DEVELOPMENT

WEDNESDAY, 17.11.2021, 09:30-11:30AM (CET)

Social protection plays an important role in protecting people from exclusion of their basic rights, such as education or from other life-cycle risks caused by a loss of income or other livelihoods. Social protection has also an important promotive function strengthening and sustaining equality, productivity and livelihoods with a positive impact on social and economic development and growth. This is particularly strong when linked to complementary measures such basic education, vocational training or social services. In this module we will discuss some of these instruments in more detail, in particular in the context of the role of social protection in improving access to education, informal employment and decent work.

TECHNICAL MODULE 5: HEALTH & SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 26.01.2022, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

Poverty and poor health are inextricably linked. Poverty increases the chances of poor health. Poor health, in turn, traps communities in poverty. In this module we will discuss the role of social protection in the context of health with regards to three dimensions: 1) social health protection is a means to improve access to health services, 2) social protection as an important social determinant of health and 3) cross-sectorial linkages between health and social protection measures with the aim to improve health and poverty outcomes.

TECHNICAL MODULE 6: TRIPLE NEXUS: HUMANITARIAN, DEVELOPMENT, PEACE & SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 23.03.2022, 15:00-17:00 (CET)

The COVID-19 crisis has shown the vital role of social protection & humanitarian aid in addressing crisis & shocks as well as the importance of building social protection mechanisms that are adaptive and shock-resilient. In this module, we will cover the nexus from a social protection perspective aiming at complementing the rich know-how and experience of the SDC humanitarian arm. Discussing different models and practical examples, it aims at identifying links and entry points as well as discussing major challenges and limits in realising such an approach.

TECHNICAL MODULE 7: GOVERNANCE / SYSTEMS STRENGTHENING & SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 18.05.2022, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

The governance dimension of social protection is closely related to systems building and strengthening in social protection. This includes the development of legal frameworks & national strategies, public finance management & fiscal space, coordination across ministries, programmes & instruments (e.g. graduation strategies), management information systems & capacity development in social protection etc. It also relates to aspects of decentralised management, good and service provision of social protection. In this module we will examine potential entry-points, good practices & lessons learnt from SDC in strengthening governance of integrated social protection systems.



TECHNICAL MODULE 8: GENDER AND SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 22.06.2022, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

Social protection has a key role in increasing equal access to services for girls & women, promoting equitable employment, empowerment, equal rights and opportunities from early childhood onwards. Social protection systems can address gendered risks over the lifecycle & provide support in situations of poverty, vulnerability or crisis. These play a vital role in protecting women & men from poverty and insecurity, coping with risks, recovering from shocks & transforming women's outcomes. In this module we will discuss how gender-responsive social protection measures may look like and what entry points exist for SDC to make social protection initiatives more gender sensitive.

TECHNICAL MODULE 9: SOCIAL PROTECTION INDICATORS TO LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

WEDNESDAY, 24.08.2022, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

Good social protection indicators can lead to improvements in monitoring, targeting and service delivery for the poor and most marginalized people. SDC is supporting a wide range of social protection measures, but the results of social protection are rarely monitored or reported. Further progress is possible concerning social protection indicators within the SDC. In this module we will look at good practice indicators from SDC and other donors and show how SDC can make their social protection indicators LNOB-sensitive.

TECHNICAL MODULE 10: FINANCING SOCIAL PROTECTION

WEDNESDAY, 28.09.2022, 09:30-11:30am (CET)

For low-income countries, raising the resources to finance at least a minimum social protection floor provides a huge challenge due to limited domestic fiscal and administrative capacities. This also impedes development partners' efforts to invest in social protection policies sustainably. In this module, several strategies and options for increasing the fiscal space for social protection are discussed, including innovative ways of increasing domestic tax revenues, elimination of illicit financial flows, debt management and management of the ODA aid and transfers to sustainably improve the domestic resource base for financing social protection. This also includes approaches to gender-based budgeting.

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