Training course on Social Protection and Public Financial Management Linkages

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Social Protection	**Duration**	10 Days
Base Fee	$3,000 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

The effectiveness and sustainability of any national social protection system are intrinsically linked to a robust and well-functioning Public Financial Management (PFM) system. PFM encompasses all aspects of how governments manage public resources ? from revenue collection and budgeting to expenditure management, accounting, reporting, and auditing. For social protection, good PFM is not just about allocating sufficient funds; it's about ensuring that these funds are managed transparently, efficiently, and accountably to reach beneficiaries effectively and reliably. This course is meticulously designed to equip Ministry of Finance officials, social protection program managers, PFM specialists, budget officers, auditors, and development partners with the expert knowledge and practical methodologies to strengthen the linkages between social protection and public financial management. Training Course on Social Protection and Public Financial Management Linkages focuses on budgetary processes, fiscal space analysis, financial planning and forecasting, expenditure management and control, financial reporting and auditing, and the role of digital PFM in social protection delivery, blending rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, global case studies, and interactive budgeting simulation exercises. Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently advocate for and implement PFM reforms that bolster social protection, fostering unparalleled fiscal sustainability, transparency, and operational efficiency, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in ensuring that social protection resources are effectively utilized for maximum social impact. This comprehensive 10-day program delves into nuanced methodologies for conducting comprehensive fiscal space analysis for social protection, mastering sophisticated techniques for developing program-based budgets and medium-term expenditure frameworks that prioritize social protection investments, and exploring cutting-edge approaches to designing robust internal control systems, leveraging digital payment platforms for enhanced financial flows, and establishing strong external audit and accountability mechanisms. A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of revenue mobilization and social protection financing, the specific challenges of ensuring timely and predictable cash transfers in diverse administrative contexts, and the practical application of PFM principles to enhance fraud prevention and financial integrity within social protection programs.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Social Protection and Public Financial Management Linkages

Introduction

The effectiveness and sustainability of any national social protection system are intrinsically linked to a robust and well-functioning **Public Financial Management (PFM)** system. PFM encompasses all aspects of how governments manage public resources – from revenue collection and budgeting to expenditure management, accounting, reporting, and auditing. For social protection, good PFM is not just about allocating sufficient funds; it's about **ensuring that these funds are managed transparently, efficiently, and accountably to reach beneficiaries effectively and reliably.** This course is meticulously designed to equip **Ministry of Finance officials, social protection program managers, PFM specialists, budget officers, auditors, and development partners** with the expert knowledge and practical methodologies to **strengthen the linkages between social protection and public financial management.** **Training Course on Social Protection and Public Financial Management Linkages** focuses on **budgetary processes, fiscal space analysis, financial planning and forecasting, expenditure management and control, financial reporting and auditing, and the role of digital PFM in social protection delivery,** blending **rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, global case studies, and interactive budgeting simulation exercises.** Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently advocate for and implement PFM reforms that bolster social protection, fostering unparalleled **fiscal sustainability, transparency, and operational efficiency**, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in **ensuring that social protection resources are effectively utilized for maximum social impact.**

This comprehensive 10-day program delves into **nuanced methodologies** for **conducting comprehensive fiscal space analysis for social protection,** mastering **sophisticated techniques for developing program-based budgets and medium-term expenditure frameworks that prioritize social protection investments,** and exploring **cutting-edge approaches** to **designing robust internal control systems, leveraging digital payment platforms for enhanced financial flows, and establishing strong external audit and accountability mechanisms.** A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of **revenue mobilization and social protection financing, the specific challenges of ensuring timely and predictable cash transfers in diverse administrative contexts, and the practical application of PFM principles to enhance fraud prevention and financial integrity within social protection programs**

Course Objectives

Upon completion of this course, participants will be able to:

1. **Analyze core concepts and strategic responsibilities** of **Public Financial Management (PFM)** and its direct linkages to social protection systems.
2. **Master sophisticated techniques** for **conducting fiscal space analysis** to identify sustainable financing options for social protection.
3. **Develop robust methodologies** for **integrating social protection priorities into national budgetary processes**, including Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs).
4. **Implement effective strategies** for **improving the efficiency and transparency of social protection expenditure management** and cash flow forecasting.
5. **Manage complex considerations** for **strengthening internal controls and financial accountability** within social protection programs.

6. **Apply robust strategies** for **designing and utilizing financial reporting and auditing mechanisms** to enhance oversight of social protection funds.
7. **Understand the deep integration of digital PFM solutions** (e.g., e-procurement, digital payments) in enhancing social protection delivery and financial integrity.
8. **Leverage knowledge of global best practices and lessons learned** in strengthening PFM for social protection from diverse country contexts.
9. **Optimize strategies for fostering coordination and dialogue** between Ministries of Finance and Social Protection agencies.
10. **Formulate specialized recommendations** for **addressing specific PFM challenges** in social protection, such as delayed payments or leakage.
11. **Conduct comprehensive assessments** of existing PFM systems to identify gaps and opportunities for strengthening social protection financing and management.
12. **Navigate challenging situations** such as **fiscal austerity, political interference, corruption risks, and capacity constraints** in PFM for social protection.
13. **Develop a holistic, fiscally responsible, and results-oriented approach** to **linking social protection and public financial management,** ensuring optimal resource utilization and program effectiveness.

Target Audience (8):

This course is designed for professionals interested in Social Protection and Public Financial Management Linkages:

1. **Ministry of Finance Officials:** Especially those in budget, treasury, and economic policy departments.
2. **Social Protection Program Managers:** Responsible for budgeting, financial management, and reporting for social programs.
3. **PFM Specialists & Practitioners:** Working on PFM reforms, particularly those with a social sector focus.[2]
4. **Budget Officers:** At national and sub-national levels, involved in allocation and execution of social sector budgets.[3]
5. **Auditors & Accountants:** Involved in public sector audits and financial reporting for social programs.
6. **Development Partners:** From multilateral and bilateral organizations supporting social protection and PFM reforms.
7. **Researchers & Policy Analysts:** Focused on public finance, social protection financing, and governance.[4]
8. **Civil Society Organizations:** Advocating for transparency and accountability in social spending.

Course Duration: 10 Days

Course Modules:

- **Module 1: Introduction to PFM and its Relevance for Social Protection**
  - **Defining Public Financial Management (PFM)**: Components, objectives, and importance.
  - **The PFM Cycle**: Budget formulation, execution, accounting, reporting, and external audit.[5]
  - **Why PFM Matters for Social Protection**: Ensuring funds flow efficiently, transparently, and sustainably to beneficiaries.
  - **Common PFM Challenges Affecting Social Protection**: Delayed disbursements, leakage, lack of fiscal space.
  - **Benefits of Strong PFM for Social Protection**: Improved predictability, accountability, and impact.
- **Module 2: Fiscal Space Analysis for Social Protection**

    - **Concept of Fiscal Space**: The room for a government to provide resources for a desired purpose without jeopardizing financial stability.
    - **Sources of Fiscal Space**: Domestic revenue mobilization (taxation), re-prioritization of expenditures, borrowing, grants, tackling illicit financial flows.
    - **Costing Social Protection Programs**: Methodologies for estimating the financial requirements of social protection.[6]
    - **Assessing Fiscal Sustainability**: Long-term financial planning for social protection.
    - **Building a Case for Investment**: Using evidence and economic arguments to advocate for social protection financing.
- **Module 3: Budgeting for Social Protection Programs**
    - **National Budget Processes**: Overview of the annual budget cycle and its stages.
    - **Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs)**: Integrating social protection into multi-year planning.
    - **Program-Based Budgeting (PBB)**: Allocating resources to achieve specific social protection outcomes.
    - **Budget Classification and Coding**: Ensuring social protection expenditures are identifiable and traceable.
    - **Budget Formulation Challenges**: Competing priorities, political pressures, and data limitations.[7]
- **Module 4: Social Protection Expenditure Management and Control**
    - **Cash Flow Forecasting and Management**: Ensuring timely and predictable disbursement of social protection benefits.
    - **Expenditure Commitments and Controls**: Preventing overspending and unauthorized expenditures.
    - **Procurement for Social Protection**: Managing contracts for payment service providers, data collection, etc.
    - **Payroll Management for Social Protection Staff**: Ensuring efficient administration.
    - **Addressing Delays in Disbursements**: Root causes and practical solutions.
- **Module 5: Digital PFM and Social Protection Delivery**
    - **Role of Digitalization in PFM**: Enhancing efficiency, transparency, and accountability.[8]
    - **Electronic Payment Systems (EPS)**: Direct transfers to beneficiaries, mobile money, and smart cards.
    - **Integrated Financial Management Information Systems (IFMIS)**: Leveraging IFMIS for social protection budgeting and accounting.
    - **E-Procurement and E-Auditing**: Digital tools for managing contracts and conducting audits.
    - **Challenges of Digital Transformation**: Infrastructure, capacity, cybersecurity, and financial inclusion.
- **Module 6: Financial Reporting and Transparency**
    - **Principles of Public Financial Reporting**: Timeliness, accuracy, completeness, and understandability.
    - **Reporting on Social Protection Expenditures**: Disaggregating data by program, beneficiary group, and geography.
    - **In-Year Budget Execution Reports**: Monitoring spending performance against approved budgets.[9]
    - **Annual Financial Statements**: Comprehensive reporting on social protection finances.
    - **Promoting Fiscal Transparency**: Open budget initiatives, citizen budgets, and public access to financial information.
- **Module 7: Internal Control and Internal Audit for Social Protection**

  - **Concept of Internal Control**: Policies and procedures to safeguard assets, ensure accuracy of records, and promote operational efficiency.[10]
  - **Key Internal Controls in Social Protection**: Segregation of duties, authorization, reconciliation, physical controls.[11]
  - **Risk Assessment and Fraud Prevention**: Identifying and mitigating risks of fraud and corruption in social protection programs.[12]
  - **Role of Internal Audit**: Providing independent assurance on the effectiveness of internal controls.[13]
  - **Strengthening Accountability**: Linking individual and institutional performance to financial management.
- **Module 8: External Audit and Oversight**
  - **Role of Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs)**: Independent oversight of public expenditures, including social protection.[14]
  - **Types of Audits**: Financial audits, compliance audits, performance audits of social protection programs.
  - **Audit Findings and Recommendations**: Responding to audit reports and implementing corrective actions.
  - **Parliamentary Oversight**: The role of legislative bodies in scrutinizing social protection budgets and expenditures.
  - **Civil Society Engagement in Oversight**: Monitoring social spending and advocating for accountability.
- **Module 9: Inter-Institutional Coordination and Dialogue**
  - **Collaboration between Ministries of Finance and Social Protection**: Overcoming institutional silos.
  - **Joint Planning and Budgeting**: Establishing formal mechanisms for coordination.
  - **Data Sharing and Information Exchange**: Ensuring consistent data flow between financial and program management systems.
  - **Capacity Building for Inter-Ministerial Teams**: Enhancing understanding of each other's mandates and constraints.
  - **Leveraging PEFA Assessments**: Using Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability (PEFA) frameworks to identify PFM strengths and weaknesses relevant to social protection.
- **Module 10: Addressing Financial Leakage and Corruption**
  - **Causes of Leakage and Corruption in Social Protection**: Fraudulent claims, diversion of funds, administrative inefficiencies.[15]
  - **Detection Mechanisms**: Data analytics, whistleblower hotlines, community monitoring.
  - **Preventative Measures**: Robust targeting, strong internal controls, biometric identification, digital payments.
  - **Investigation and Sanction Mechanisms**: Deterring fraudulent activities.
  - **Case Studies on Anti-Corruption Efforts**: Learning from successes and failures in social protection programs.
- **Module 11: PFM in Specific Social Protection Contexts**

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price

21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Online	$2,000
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$3,000
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0
21 Sep 2026	02 Oct 2026	Physical	$0

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