UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM STAFF COLLEGE

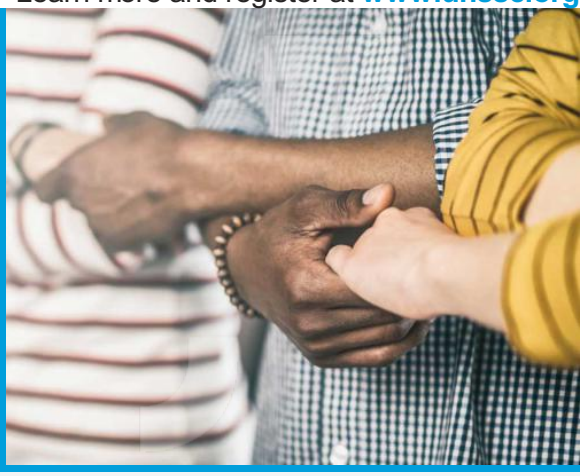
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ONLINE

03 FEB 2025 - 14 MAR 2025

Social Protection for Sustainable Development

Sustainable development and the SDGs



LANGUAGE	DURATION	ENROLL BY	PRICE	LOCATION	TARGET
English	6 weeks	15 Dec 2024	Free	ONLINE	Everyone

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This interactive and facilitated six-week course is designed for anyone interested in learning the basics of social protection and how to apply it through the lens of sustainable development. The course champions a universal, life-cycle approach focusing on partnerships, designing, financing, and implementing comprehensive social protection systems that reduce the vulnerabilities faced by all.

Introduction

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) lay out a set of key development objectives for developed and developing countries alike to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all.

Among the priorities agreed upon by member states is social protection — cited in the agenda as a primary means to protect all individuals and families against social contingencies and market risks across the life cycle. Countries are called on to "implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable."

For the first time, more than half of the world's population (52.4 per cent) are covered by at least one social protection benefit (SDG indicator 1.3.1), increasing from 42.8 per cent in 2015. This is welcome progress. However, if progress were to continue at this rate at the global level, it would take another 49 years – until 2073 – for everyone to be covered by at least one social protection benefit. This pace to close protection gaps is too slow.

The world is currently witnessing the highest levels of displacement on record. More than 120 million individuals have been forcibly displaced worldwide as a result of persecution, conflict, violence or human rights violations. Social protection is a universal human right and an economic and social necessity for development and progress.

Populations in countries at the frontline of the climate crisis and most susceptible to climate hazards remain woefully unprepared. In the 20 countries most vulnerable to the climate crisis, just a mere 8.7 per cent of the population is covered by some form of social protection, leaving 364 million people wholly unprotected. Universal social protection systems have an important role to play to help realize climate ambitions and facilitate a just transition.

The international community has positioned social protection as a key enabler to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, echoed throughout normative frameworks of the United Nations and other international and regional bodies. The Pact for the Future stresses the importance of establishing well-designed, sustainable and efficient social protection systems for all as a key instrument for eradication of poverty. Recently, social protection together with decent jobs, was identified as one of the six transitions and investment pathways to accelerate the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030.

The ambitious objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the newfound drive for building comprehensive social protection systems will require concerted efforts from across the spectrum of UN and national actors, joining up disparate interventions and leveraging new tools to build enhanced social protection programmes and achieve the 2030 target.

Objectives

By the end of this course, participants will be able to:

1. Demonstrate the need for universal social protection systems for individuals and societies to advance sustainable development
2. Grasp the important national-level implications of social protection being a human right
3. Recognize the value of and create a culture around social protection as an investment and lever to achieve sustainable development
4. Utilize concrete policy steps to design, finance, implement, and deliver nationally appropriate social protection systems
5. Identify global trends, tools, and good practices in social protection, particularly in the context of building up individual, household, and national socio-economic and crisis resilience
6. Actively advocate for establishing universal, comprehensive, rights-based, and sustainable social protection systems in their country or regional context

Course methodology

UNSSC online courses are designed to deliver maximum learning outcomes through optimal time investments into carefully chosen high-quality learning materials. Specifically tailored to the needs of the professionals interested in developing the skills to advance their career or deepening their knowledge of a particular subject, our facilitated online courses combine self-paced study modules with applied learning components such as case studies, interactive exercises and collaborative group work.

Participants also benefit from live moderated webinars which feature valuable inputs from renowned subject-matter experts, and allow real-time dialogue with high-level speakers. Webinar recordings are also made available to ensure that participants have a flexible and seamless learning experience.

An expert facilitator guides and assists the participants throughout the course, and provides real-time feedback on activities and exercises. Our user-friendly social online learning platform provides participants with the opportunity to connect with peers from diverse organizational backgrounds, fostering peer-to-peer learning.

While being interactive and participatory, UNSSC online courses give learners the opportunity to complete activities when it best fits their schedule. Participants are largely free to determine their own weekly study plan. Lasting five weeks and demanding five hours of work a week, UNSSC online courses incorporate the same high academic rigour as any UNSSC face-to-face programme.

Course contents

Introductory week: What is social protection?

- Definitions of social protection
- History of the welfare system and early social protection
- Where we stand today – overview of the social protection landscape

Week 2: Present and Future: Social Protection, Partnerships, and the 2030 Agenda (the “why” and “who”)

- The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
- Social protection and the SDGs
- Social protection and the 5Ps
- Key partnerships in the social protection field
- Lifecycle risks

Week 3: Key pillars of social protection (the “what”)

- Social protection floors, universal social protection, and ILO standards
- Instruments of social protection (e.g., social assistance, social insurance, labour market policies)
- Complements to social protection systems (graduation, Cash+, informal social protection, care policies, universal basic income)
- Coverage, adequacy, comprehensiveness, and sustainability
- Social protection as a human right, international labour standards and social protection regulations

Week 4: Designing, financing, and reforming social protection systems (the “how”)

- The policy and reform cycle of social protection systems
- Designing social protection systems
- Adopting and updating national strategies for social protection
- Fiscal space and financing social protection
- Reforming social protection systems

Week 5: Implementing comprehensive social protection systems (the “how”)

- Implementing social protection systems
- The role of information systems and data
- Monitoring and evaluating social protection systems
- Initiating a culture of universal social protection

Week 6: Looking ahead: global trends and adaptive social protection (the “future”)

- Adaptive and shock-responsive social protection
- Deep dive: social protection during the COVID-19 pandemic
- Global trends in the social protection field
- Advocacy for social protection

Target audience

Participants can come from various backgrounds and have different levels of experience working on social protection. Their work may span civil society, academia, the private sector, mass media, political parties, governments, NGOs, international organizations, donors, social workers, educators, volunteers, and influencers.

We are looking for motivated people who do not necessarily have prior knowledge about social protection but who can demonstrate they will use the knowledge gained to benefit others.

Cost of participation

The course is free of charge.