Improving synergies between social protection and Public Finance Management: Course session briefs

Session 5: General process for sustainable social protection policy reform (diagnostics, costing, poverty analysis, fiscal space analysis and assessment of financing options)

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Objectives
- Consolidate the knowledge of the general process to attain a social protection reform, using a country case.
- Learn about the quantitative nature of poverty analysis and how to use the results for evidence based policy advocacy and priority definition.
- Learn about the objectives, steps and quantitative nature of fiscal space analysis.

Content
Review of the general process for sustainable social protection policy reform, with special emphasis on the later stages of this process. The poverty impact assessment, which is a written analytical assessment to estimate expected poverty impact of the scenarios of social protection extensions on different beneficiary groups (e.g. children, mothers, unemployed, disabled, and older persons, etc.). This analysis is based on simulations using micro-data gathered from national household surveys.

Fiscal space analysis uses the framework of eight financing options described in the Handbook on Fiscal Space for Social Protection. It is especially important to note that the outcome of the fiscal space analysis should be quantitative, expressing estimated amounts of resources that will be mobilized by a given financing option (usually as a percentage of GDP).

Methodology
A review of the overall general process for social protection policy reform but now with an emphasis on the stages after costing: poverty impact analysis and fiscal space/financing options. This session will have a discussion of the policy reform process based on a country case.

Reading
More than 4 billion people still lack any social protection
Sections 1.4-1.6 of Fiscal Space for Social Protection: A Handbook for Assessing Financing Options

Other resources

World Social Protection Report 2020-22
Measuring financing gaps in social protection for achieving SDG target 1.3.
Universal Social Protection Floors: Costing Estimates and Affordability in 57 Lower Income Countries