

Social protection and public finance management: A training package for civil society and trade unions

Public Financial Management (PFM) is a framework advocated by donor countries for use in developing countries, informing accountability to the donors and national populations. It dates from 2002, in the context of the aid effectiveness agenda endorsed at the Monterrey Conference on Financing for Development. But it is equally useful for government self-monitoring in the context of their budget cycle process, as it can pinpoint the need to mobilise enough revenues and to allocate the budgets with efficiency and effectiveness, and with transparency for the citizens. For civil society, this framework is useful to see whether the delivery of priority programmes is satisfactory in terms of social outcomes, whether people are better off, and whether the priorities are right.

This course was conceived by the Global Coalition for Social Protection Floors (GCSPF) in the framework of the SP&PFM Programme to reinforce the competencies of civil society organizations and trade unions on public financial management and social protection. It was delivered for the first time in February 2021 in the four participating countries of the GCSPF EU-DEVCO project, namely: Cambodia, Nepal, Senegal and Uganda. The aim is to develop their capacity for effective participation in national dialogues on the building and strengthening of social protection regimes, on sustainably financing them, and on monitoring for desired results, all with a PFM lens.

If you are part of the target group, this course will allow you to:

- Explore the basic concepts, processes and tools that underpin public finance management.
- Understand the PFM relevance for the strengthening of social protection systems, and for the progressive universalizing of social protection regimes.

Course duration: 3 hours (6 sessions)

“With this training, we want to focus on where civil society can play a role. The training aims at strengthening trade unions and CSOs on topics such as the scope and essential principles of PFM, the PFM process and budget, PFM and multi-stakeholder dialogue, seven pillars of the PEFA (Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability). We want to remind governments that social protection is central in the realisation of the sustainable development goals (SDGs), that it has good redistributive mechanisms and that the benefits are reaching the people, especially those who are in vulnerable situations. If the government is failing to meet their needs, as civil society we must do something about it”.

Uzziel Twagilimana, WSM, Deputy Director