Training course on Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs

Professional Development Training Course Outline

Category	Social Protection	**Duration**	5 Days
Base Fee	$1,500 USD	**Delivery Mode**	Online / On-site Hybrid

Course Introduction

Effective social protection policies, essential for poverty reduction, inequality mitigation, and resilience building, cannot be realized without a clear understanding of their financial implications and a robust process for allocating resources. Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs are fundamental processes that translate policy aspirations into concrete financial figures, enabling informed decision-making on program design, scale, and sustainability. Training Course on Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs will equip with the expert knowledge and practical methodologies to accurately cost social protection programs, integrate them into national budgets, and monitor their expenditures effectively. The program focuses on costing methodologies, data requirements for costing, budget processes and classification, integrating social protection into medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs), program-based budgeting, expenditure tracking, and cost-efficiency analysis, blending rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, global case studies (with a strong emphasis on African contexts, including Kenya), and intensive costing model development and budget simulation exercises. Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently cost, budget, and manage the financial aspects of social protection programs, fostering unparalleled fiscal responsibility, program sustainability, and enhanced impact, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in ensuring the financial viability of inclusive social protection systems. This comprehensive 10-day program delves into nuanced methodologies for developing detailed costing models for various social protection interventions (e.g., cash transfers, public works, social health insurance), mastering sophisticated techniques for forecasting beneficiary numbers and benefit levels under different scenarios, and exploring cutting-edge approaches to conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses to inform resource allocation, leveraging digital tools for efficient expenditure tracking and reporting, integrating gender-responsive budgeting principles into social protection, and navigating the complexities of multi-year budgeting in a dynamic fiscal environment. A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of costing and budgeting with broader public financial management (PFM) reforms, the specific challenges of costing and budgeting for social protection in decentralized systems or in contexts with large informal economies (as observed in Kenya), and the practical application of fiscal space analysis to inform budgeting decisions.

Programme Curriculum

Training Course on Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs

Introduction:

Effective social protection policies, essential for poverty reduction, inequality mitigation, and resilience building, cannot be realized without a clear understanding of their financial implications and a robust process for allocating resources. **Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs** are fundamental processes that translate policy aspirations into concrete financial figures, enabling informed decision-making on program design, scale, and sustainability. **Training Course on Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs** will equip with the expert knowledge and practical methodologies to **accurately cost social protection programs, integrate them into national budgets, and monitor their expenditures effectively.** The program focuses on **costing methodologies, data requirements for costing, budget processes and classification, integrating social protection into medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs), program-based budgeting, expenditure tracking, and cost-efficiency analysis,** blending **rigorous analytical frameworks with practical, hands-on application, global case studies (with a strong emphasis on African contexts, including Kenya), and intensive costing model development and budget simulation exercises.** Participants will gain the strategic foresight and technical expertise to confidently cost, budget, and manage the financial aspects of social protection programs, fostering unparalleled **fiscal responsibility, program sustainability, and enhanced impact**, thereby securing their position as indispensable leaders in **ensuring the financial viability of inclusive social protection systems.**

This comprehensive 10-day program delves into **nuanced methodologies** for **developing detailed costing models for various social protection interventions (e.g., cash transfers, public works, social health insurance),** mastering **sophisticated techniques for forecasting beneficiary numbers and benefit levels under different scenarios,** and exploring **cutting-edge approaches** to **conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses to inform resource allocation, leveraging digital tools for efficient expenditure tracking and reporting, integrating gender-responsive budgeting principles into social protection, and navigating the complexities of multi-year budgeting in a dynamic fiscal environment.** A significant focus will be placed on understanding the interplay of **costing and budgeting with broader public financial management (PFM) reforms, the specific challenges of costing and budgeting for social protection in decentralized systems or in contexts with large informal economies (as observed in Kenya), and the practical application of fiscal space analysis to inform budgeting decisions.**

Course Objectives:

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

1. **Analyze core concepts and strategic responsibilities** of **costing and budgeting** within the context of social protection programs.
2. **Master sophisticated techniques** for **developing comprehensive costing models** for various social protection interventions.
3. **Develop robust methodologies** for **forecasting beneficiary caseloads and benefit levels** under different policy scenarios.
4. **Implement effective strategies** for **integrating social protection costs into national budget processes** and public financial management (PFM) frameworks.

5. **Manage complex considerations** for **conducting cost-benefit and cost-effectiveness analyses** to inform resource allocation decisions.
6. **Apply robust strategies** for **implementing program-based budgeting and medium-term expenditure frameworks (MTEFs)** for social protection.
7. **Understand the deep integration of expenditure tracking and financial monitoring** to ensure efficient use of social protection funds.
8. **Leverage knowledge of global best practices and lessons learned** from successful costing and budgeting experiences in diverse country contexts, particularly in Africa (including Kenya).
9. **Optimize strategies for promoting transparency and accountability** in social protection financial management.
10. **Formulate specialized recommendations** for **addressing costing and budgeting challenges** related to informal economies, shock-responsiveness, and decentralization.
11. **Conduct comprehensive assessments** of existing social protection financial management systems to identify opportunities for improvement.
12. **Navigate challenging situations** such as **data limitations, fiscal constraints, political pressures, and economic volatility** in budgeting for social protection.
13. **Develop a holistic, evidence-based, and fiscally prudent approach** to **Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs,** ensuring financial sustainability and impact.

Target Audience:

This course is designed for professionals interested in Costing and Budgeting Social Protection Programs:

1. **Budget Officers & Public Financial Management (PFM) Specialists:** From Ministries of Finance and Planning.
2. **Social Protection Program Managers:** Overseeing the financial aspects of program implementation.
3. **Economists & Fiscal Analysts:** Involved in policy analysis and resource allocation.
4. **National Planners:** Responsible for integrating social protection into national development plans.
5. **Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) Specialists:** Interested in linking financial data with program performance.
6. **Development Partners & International Organizations:** Supporting governments in social protection financing.
7. **Researchers & Academics:** Studying social policy financing and public expenditure.
8. **Internal Auditors:** Ensuring financial integrity and accountability of social protection programs.

Course Duration: 10 Days

Course Modules:

- **Module 1: Introduction to Costing and Budgeting in Social Protection**
  - Defining costing and budgeting: Purpose, importance, and distinction.
  - The role of costing and budgeting in the social protection policy cycle.
  - Key concepts: Direct costs, indirect costs, fixed costs, variable costs.
  - Challenges in costing and budgeting social protection programs (e.g., informal sector).
  - Benefits of robust costing and budgeting for program sustainability and impact.
- **Module 2: Costing Methodologies for Social Protection Programs**
  - Top-down vs. bottom-up costing approaches.
  - Unit cost methodology: Calculating costs per beneficiary/unit of service.
  - Activity-based costing: Breaking down costs by specific program activities.
  - Costing for different social protection typologies (cash transfers, public works, health insurance).

    - Introduction to costing models and tools (e.g., ILO/UNICEF costing tools).
- **Module 3: Data Requirements and Forecasting for Costing**
    - Key data elements for accurate costing: Beneficiary numbers, benefit levels, administrative costs.
    - Sources of data: Administrative records, surveys, census data, demographic projections.
    - Forecasting beneficiary caseloads: Demographic trends, eligibility criteria, targeting efficiency.
    - Projecting benefit levels: Inflation adjustments, policy changes, adequacy considerations.
    - Sensitivity analysis: Assessing cost implications of varying assumptions (e.g., targeting errors).
- **Module 4: Budget Process and Social Protection Classification**
    - Understanding the national budget cycle: Formulation, approval, execution, audit.
    - Budget classification systems (e.g., GFS, COFOG) and their relevance to social protection.
    - Identifying social protection expenditures within national budgets.
    - Challenges in tracking social protection spending across different ministries.
    - The role of budget calls and guidelines in social protection planning.
- **Module 5: Integrating Social Protection into Medium-Term Expenditure Frameworks (MTEFs)**
    - Introduction to MTEFs: Purpose, benefits, and components.
    - Aligning social protection priorities with national development plans and MTEFs.
    - Developing multi-year budget ceilings for social protection.
    - Advantages of MTEFs for social protection: Predictability, sustainability, strategic planning.
    - Challenges in MTEF implementation for social sectors.
- **Module 6: Program-Based Budgeting and Performance Budgeting for Social Protection**
    - Shift from line-item budgeting to program-based budgeting.
    - Linking social protection programs to specific outcomes and indicators.
    - Developing performance targets and measuring achievements.
    - Benefits of performance budgeting for accountability and resource allocation.
    - Challenges in implementing program-based budgeting in the social sector.
- **Module 7: Cost-Benefit Analysis (CBA) and Cost-Effectiveness Analysis (CEA)**
    - Defining CBA: Valuing benefits and costs in monetary terms to assess economic viability.
    - Defining CEA: Comparing costs of different interventions to achieve a specific non-monetary outcome.
    - Application of CBA/CEA in social protection: Informing policy choices and prioritizing investments.
    - Techniques for valuing non-monetary benefits and costs.
    - Limitations and ethical considerations in CBA/CEA.
- **Module 8: Expenditure Tracking and Financial Monitoring**
    - Importance of tracking actual expenditures against budgeted amounts.
    - Methods for expenditure tracking: Financial management information systems (FMIS), administrative data.
    - Identifying budget variances and their causes.
    - Real-time financial monitoring and early warning systems.
    - Role of internal audit and external audit in financial oversight.
- **Module 9: Fiscal Space and Advocating for Social Protection Financing**
    - Revisiting fiscal space analysis in the context of budgeting.
    - Identifying legitimate options for creating fiscal space for social protection (tax, re-allocation, borrowing, aid).
    - Developing evidence-based arguments for increased social protection investment.
    - Engaging with Ministries of Finance and other key stakeholders.
    - Strategies for advocating for social protection funding within the budget process.
- **Module 10: Addressing Specific Budgeting Challenges**
    - Budgeting for shock-responsive social protection: Contingency planning and flexible allocations.

    - Decentralized budgeting for social protection: Coordination between national and sub-national levels (e.g., counties in Kenya).
    - Budgeting for social protection in fragile and conflict-affected contexts.
    - Integrating gender-responsive budgeting into social protection programs.
    - Costing and budgeting for social protection for vulnerable informal sector workers.
- **Module 11: Case Studies and Practical Applications**
    - Detailed analysis of costing and budgeting practices from countries with established social protection systems (e.g., Brazil, South Africa, Ethiopia).
    - Examining Kenya's current budgeting processes for social protection programs, including challenges and successes.
    - Group exercise: Participants apply costing methodologies to a hypothetical social protection program design.
    - Mock budget preparation scenario: Participants develop a budget proposal for a social protection initiative.
    - Discussion on leveraging digital tools for enhanced costing and budgeting.
- **Module 12: Developing a Social Protection Budgeting Strategy**
    - Components of a comprehensive social protection budgeting strategy.
    - Integrating costing, fiscal space, and PFM reforms into a coherent plan.
    - Identifying key reform areas for improving social protection budgeting.
    - Developing a phased implementation roadmap for the budgeting strategy.
    - Participants develop a tailored action plan to enhance costing and budgeting for social protection in their respective contexts (e.g., for a specific ministry or county in Kenya).

Training Methodology

- **Interactive Workshops:** Facilitated discussions, group exercises, and problem-solving activities.
- **Case Studies:** Real-world examples to illustrate successful community-based surveillance practices.
- **Role-Playing and Simulations:** Practice engaging communities in surveillance activities.
- **Expert Presentations:** Insights from experienced public health professionals and community leaders.
- **Group Projects:** Collaborative development of community surveillance plans.
- **Action Planning:** Development of personalized action plans for implementing community-based surveillance.
- **Digital Tools and Resources:** Utilization

Upcoming Scheduled Sessions

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Online	$1,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$1,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000

Start Date	End Date	Location	Price
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$3,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$4,500
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000
23 Nov 2026	27 Nov 2026	Physical	$6,000

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