

World Bank Core Course on Social Safety Nets

For Protection and Promotion: The Design and Implementation of Effective Social Safety Nets

Objectives

The two-week "core course" is offered by the World Bank's Social Protection and Labor practice aims to provide participants with an in-depth understanding of the conceptual and practical issues involved in the development of social protection systems and their foundation – social assistance or safety net programs. Safety nets are non-contributory transfers provided to people vulnerable to or living in poverty. Transfers can be provided by governments in cash, vouchers or in-kind; they can be universal or targeted, and designed in the context of conditional or unconditional programs. Safety nets are only one of the components of broader social protection systems, which also include insurance-related interventions (e.g. health insurance and pensions) and a range of labor-oriented programs. Such systems protect poor and vulnerable population groups from risk of destitution, link them to essential social services and help them escape poverty.

Over the last decade the interest and activity in social safety nets has experienced a paradigm shift. Globally, there is strong political commitment for safety nets as powerful instrument for achieving development goals. The role of social safety nets has been magnified during the recent food, fuel and financial crises. And there is every reason to believe that that role will remain significant going forward. A growing number of countries are introducing and expanding safety net programs.

The core course has been offered for more than ten years. Over 1000 participants from Government agencies in more than 100 countries and major international organizations and NGOs have attended the course.

The course is divided into modules and will be held concurrently with a similar course on Pension systems, offering an opportunity to exchange views and experience with social insurance systems practitioners in a number of joint sessions and social events planned for the duration of the course.

Participants will have the opportunity to present and discuss challenging issues concerning social safety net in their own country, and work toward solutions with other participants and experts.

Course Description

The course provides a platform to update information, data, take a stock of what is going on in the SSN engagements around the world. Last course incorporated the most recent developments – in particular new generation of conditional cash transfers (CCT), Graduation from safety nets, the role of SSN in climate change adaptation developments of robust identification systems to better target, food based instruments, integration of SSNs with labor market programs, role of communication and gender-focused approach to SSN. The course

also helps to address “frequently asked questions” about implementing safety net programs, such as the universalism and targeting in the design of SSN, defining the appropriate level of spending on SSN, productive role of SSN, the role of mobile technology in payments, the role of public works in LICs setting. The course is fostering South-South communication channels with a lot of interaction among the participants and mutual learning. In the latest course sessions on controlling Error Fraud and Corruption were delivered in a forum-style session. The highlight of the course are presentations that participants make to discuss specific issues of SSN design in their countries, and the last course has particularly engaging discussions around the topics of financing SSN, payments, graduation, fragmentation and donor coordination of SSN, and Monitoring and Evaluations.

This year course builds on the latest developments in safety nets as integral part of social protection and labor systems. The presented material reflects the most recent policy developments, delivery innovations, and research findings by the World Bank and other institutions. It covers recent practical experience in safety net delivery worldwide - from advanced to middle to low income, to fragile states.

The course draws from worldwide data Atlas of Social Protection: Indicators of Resilience and Equity ([ASPIRE](#)), analysis and knowledge, including as distilled and summarized for practitioners in the World Bank’s flagship publications, including most recent stock taking report “State of Safety Nets” publication reporting on the evolution of SSNs around the world (<http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/2015/07/24741765/state-social-safety-nets-2015>), as well as well-known books and reports (“[For Protection and Promotion: the Design and Implementation of Effective Social Safety Nets](#)”, “[Conditional Cash Transfers: Reducing Present and Future Poverty](#)”, “[Rethinking School Feeding: Social Safety Nets, Child Development and the Education Sector](#)”). The course also draws on recent global initiatives, especially Social Protection Inter-agency Social Protection Assessment tools (<http://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotectionlabor/brief/inter-agency-social-protection-assessment-tools>). It also uses materials and insights from global learning events (“[Making Public Works Work: The Design and Implementation of Public Works Programs](#)”, “[Social Protection & Labor South-South Learning Forum 2012: The Role of Labor and Social Assistance](#)”, “[South-South Learning Forum 2014: Designing and Delivering Social Protection Systems](#)” and the “[South-South Learning Forum 2015 Urban Safety Nets.](#)”)

The course adopts a mix of learning methods, including presentations, round table discussions, simulation games, hands-on computer assisted exercises and group work. It is taught by experts from the World Bank, top research institutions and representatives of other agencies. The course comprises four interrelated and complementary topics: (1) the role of social safety nets in social protection system, and assessment of their performance; (2) overview of the main social assistance programs and instruments; (3) experience with implementation systems for effective delivery; and (4) how these vary across countries including by economic conditions, political economy, administrative and implementation capacity.

This year the SSN Core courses will follow a modular approach:

SSN Module 1 (First week) lectures, exercises, interactive hands-on group work on topics focused on SPL and SSN systems design and implementation: I. Social protection and labor systems architecture and sustainable financing, II. Performance monitoring and assessment tools for social protection systems and SSN interventions, III. Main SSN instruments (Cash transfers, in kind SSN, public works, social services), IV. Key design aspects common across SSN instruments: approaches to targeting, setting benefit level, budgeting. V. Business processes and SSN delivery systems (registries, enrollment, MIS, payments, staffing,

grievances and redress mechanisms, combatting error, fraud and corruption, communications, monitoring and evaluation).

SSN Module 2 (Second week): in-depth work on the advanced topic of SSN design and implementation. It will comprise panels of experts on a set of sub-topics, followed by case-study discussions and round tables (organized as global café or as case study discussions with reporting back) including in-depth analysis of productive inclusion for SSN beneficiaries (with focus on public works, access to employment services, and other measures improving productivity and inclusion in different contexts) and designing social safety nets for equity and resilience (with a focus on graduation, inclusion of marginalized communities, gender-sensitive SSN, flexible systems to deliver assistance in emergencies and measures to boost household resilience to shocks).

SSN Module 3 (week 1 and 2) will consist of group work on presenting participants' country experiences focused on 12 specific topics around SSN design and delivery. Participants will choose one topic from the course curriculum to discuss their country experience, will form teams and work in teams on joint presentation that will be delivered in the final symposium of the Core course with feedback from WBG CC team and open discussion.

Target Audience

This course is designed for policymakers, policy analysts and research staff from Government agencies, civil society stakeholders, NGOs involved in the implementation of safety nets, researchers and trainers from academic institutions, journalists working on issues related to poverty reduction and social protection, and operational staff from the World Bank and from bilateral and multilateral donor agencies. As teamwork is important in safety nets programs, we encourage interested countries to nominate teams engaged in the design, implementation or evaluation of safety nets programs.

E-Learning

Course participants are highly encouraged to complete the [distance e-learning course - "Introduction to Social Safety Nets"](#). The course aims to support capacity building and on-the-job training of policy makers, managers and technical staff involved in safety nets and food security policy and implementation. The course consists of 6 lessons containing interactive step-by-step instructions, case studies, exercises and relevant reading material. Completion of the course is a consideration for participation in the course. The course is available online, download or on CD-Rom.

Tuition fee

The two-week course is offered at the rate of US\$2,500 per participant. The fee includes tuition, training materials, medical insurance and other conference costs. The fee is payable by wire transfer only. Participants are responsible for their own transportation to and from Washington, D.C., as well as their hotel and subsistence costs. The World Bank has negotiated a group rate with hotels in the Washington area and participants may benefit from these rates on a first come first served basis.

Past participants' course evaluations

The course has been evaluated using several methods including participants' self-assessment and satisfaction, and a pre- and post-test to assess actual learning gains from the course. It received high marks and has been well appreciated by a varied audience from developing countries (60%), World Bank staff (15%) and staff from development agencies, donors and developed countries (25%). Comments from previous years' participants:

“Comprehensive and diverse expert knowledge and country experiences presented by trainers.”

“The mix of theoretical and operational subjects combined with the exchange of experience with other country was wonderful”

“Drawing on rich experience from different speakers from across the world, country specific illustrations and references in addition to informative content added much value to the learning.”

“The approach in the presentations were provocative and challenging, and the discussions that resulted from undertaking the exercise was very helpful”

Speakers

The list of speakers includes recognized experts in Safety Nets from the World Bank as well as from other international organizations, academics, private consultants and policy makers from around the world.

Application

Early application is strongly recommended since admission is competitive, space is limited, and the processing time for US visa applications has lengthened. Acceptance is provisional pending evidence of full financial sponsorship and approval by nominating or coordinating agency (if required).

On-line registration is open

www.surveymonkey.com/s/sncc15

The deadline for registration is February 29, 2016.

Participation is by invitation only, based on acceptance of application, space availability, and payment of tuition fees in full. Selected recipients will be notified on a rolling basis.

Tuition fees are due by April 4, 2016

Information

Course information updates and Applicant Frequently Asked Questions can be found in the World Bank Safety Nets website at:

www.worldbank.org/en/topic/socialprotectionlabor/brief/social-protection-labor-core-course-offerings

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