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# Strengthening Capacity for Evidence-based Social Protection Policies for Responding to the Triple Global Crisis in Fuel, Food and Finance

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## **The Triple Global Crisis in fuel, food and finance**

- The Triple Crisis includes the cost-of-living crisis triggered by the impact of the coronavirus pandemic, internal and international conflicts, the energy crunch, financial constraints, and related surging inflation.
- All countries have been affected by one or more aspects of the Triple Crisis
- Project will also address challenges posed by climate change and its impact on vulnerable populations, e.g. current drought in southern Africa and floods in east Africa are a major concern



## **The Triple Global Crisis in fuel, food and finance, cont'd**

- Rises in price levels, energy costs, disruptions in global food markets have all adversely affected SDG targets related to:
  - No poverty and zero hunger (SDGs 1 & 2)
  - Good health and well-being and quality education (SDGs 3 & 4)
  - Gender equality (SDG 5)
  - Affordable and clean energy and inequality (SDGs 7 & 10)
- Resulting in erosion of incomes gains and declining standards of living in many countries

## Government Responses to The Triple Global Crisis

- Provision of various forms of expanded social protection programmes/schemes:
  - Unemployment benefits and targeted financial support to vulnerable households
  - Food assistance (setting up food banks and food distribution mechanisms for people living in poverty and groups in vulnerable situations)
  - Subsidies for fuel, heating and electricity
  - Temporary rent and public transportation subsidies
- Increase in public expenditures has reduced available funding for SDG implementation (how is Namibia closing this SDG funding gap?)





## Objective

- To build countries' capacity to build robust, sustainable, gender-sensitive and crisis-responsive social protection policies and programmes.
- This work is expected to:
  - enhance capacities of target countries to develop integrated social protection policies and strategies that enhance the delivery of social protection services and increase resilience to future crises, and
  - improve the coverage, comprehensiveness, and adequacy of these systems and to leave no one behind



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## Expected Results

- Enhanced capacity of selected countries to design and implement public policies and programmes towards universal social protection, with a focus on identifying and incorporating into the policies and programmes the most affected people and people in vulnerable situations who are disproportionately impacted by the Triple Crisis.
- Effective, and fiscally sustainable solutions to address social protection gaps that are tailored to specific country demographic and social-economic context, based on evidence base.



## How?

- (i) Train policy makers on the use of already existing digital platforms that can provide useful guidance on monitoring SDG progress and acceleration by:
  - identifying those groups left furthest behind
  - understanding the factors and circumstances behind the Triple Crisis that affects them, and
  - help build national capacities to accelerate implementation of development plans, including tracking of progress and M&E.





## How?

- (ii) Develop local capacities to use the Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) as an analytical tool to:
  - identify the most vulnerable people
  - show aspects in which they are deprived
  - target resources and design policies more effectively
  - leverage the MPI to periodically assess progress and make necessary adjustments as conditions evolve

## Target Countries

- Project will support 6 selected countries in Africa and Asia and the Pacific
- Zambia –LLDC & LDC
- Cambodia, Senegal, Tanzania: Least developed countries (LDCs)
- Maldives: Small island developing State
- Namibia & Maldives: Upper Middle-Income Countries and the rest are Low Middle-Income Countries (GDP per capita in the range of US\$2,800-3,800)
- All countries face significant challenges with poverty and inequality. The situation is likely to have been exacerbated by the Triple Crisis

## Poverty rate at \$2.15/day (2017 PPP) and Multidimensional poverty headcount (% population)

- Zambia: PR of 64.35% and MDPR of 65.8% in 2022
- Namibia: PR of 5.62% and MDPR of 27.55% in 2015
- Senegal: PR of 9.93% and MDPR of 23.57% in 2021
- Tanzania: PR of 44.95% and MDPR of 54.59% in 2018 in 2018



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## Social Protection Coverage

- Social protection coverage is low in these countries – 6 to 25% of their populations are covered by at least one social protection benefit, excluding health
- **Namibia: 24.2%**, Senegal: 20.0%, Tanzania: 14.0%, Zambia: 24.6%, Cambodia: 6.2%, Maldives: 21.2% - ILO's World Social Protection Report 2020-22



## **Planned Activities: National and Inter-regional**

- Strengthened capacity of policymakers to design integrated social protection policies and strategies by organizing national capacity building workshops, study tours, and case studies,
- Enhanced technical capacities to identify and include vulnerable groups through the development of a unique statistical tool, training sessions, and toolkits
- Contribution towards the development of integrated social protection policies and strategies by conducting policy mapping, diagnostic workshops, and developing costed participatory roadmaps



## **Outcome 1: empowering inclusive policy design and strategies**

- Revolves around elevating the capacity of countries to craft holistic, evidence-driven social protection policies and strategies: achieved by 2026.
- **Output 1.1:** *Six national workshops organized with policymakers and key stakeholders to discuss experiences in developing universal social protection schemes and discuss efforts and products of Regional Economic Commissions*
- **Output 1.2:** *Six case studies developed with innovative contributions at local level with capacity to scale up, dealing with the triple crisis.*
- **Output 1.3:** *One technical report developed to improve financing strategies and budget allocation for social protection schemes.*





## **Outcome 2: ensuring inclusivity through enhanced technical capacities**

- To create a paradigm shift by ensuring that no vulnerable group is excluded from the embrace of social protection measures: achieved by 2026.
- **Output 2.1:** *Six advisory missions organized (one for each region) to assess participant countries' capacities to identify and include eligible groups in vulnerable situations not currently covered by existing social protection schemes.*
- **Output 2.2:** *Develop a user-friendly prognostic web-based platform, based on an open-source statistical code that identifies the impact different social protection schemes have on population groups in vulnerable situations.*
- **Output 2.3:** *Develop training material and conduct training sessions for technical statisticians (expert users/content developers) and policy makers from Cambodia and Maldives around the development and use of the prognostic web-based platform.*
- **Output 2.4:** *Content development of 1 advanced training module customized to Cambodia and Maldives for statisticians and technical specialists from National Statistical Offices in target countries as well as a training of trainers' manual and workshops for technical specialists and statisticians.*





### **Outcome 3: providing coherence, coordination, and holistic integration for the different components of the project**

- Underscores the importance of aligning social protection policies and strategies with global agendas and overarching principles: achieved by 2026.
- **Output 3.1:** *One training workshop prepared to development officers from Africa and Asia and the Pacific participant countries to access and use UN's-developed social protection toolset.*
- **Output 3.2:** *Conduct one intra-regional study tour organized for policymakers and key stakeholders of the participating countries to share knowledge and learn from best practices.*
- **Output 3.3:** *A toolkit developed to identify landscape of key partners, their inter-connections, and level of engagement to analyze conditions of success for the related social protection service delivery strategy (development of a social network analysis toolkit).*
- **Output 3.4:** *Conduct a workshop for participant countries to share and discuss countries' experiences, lessons learned and emerging challenges on the implementation of tools and findings to advance for sustainable results of the project.*



## Way Forward

- Universal social protection systems and active employment generation programmes should become permanent measures, not merely temporary components of national crisis response measures.
- **SDG 1.3** - Implement nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.
- Social investments should be accorded priority in recovery strategies and development policies.



## Way Forward, cont'd

- Allocate dedicated resources to ensure disaggregated data are collected, processed, updated and shared in a timely manner
- Bridge the data gap to ensure better monitoring
- Build capacity to incorporate administrative data to effectively monitor SDG targets related to social protection, including multidimensional poverty
- Set-up a multi-level governance framework to promote horizontal coordination within government departments (national and sub-national) and vertical co-ordination with other levels of government.



## Way Forward, cont'd

- Ensure recovery plans from the Triple Crisis are aligned with the SDGs and national and sub-national development plans and strategies.
- Leverage the recovery phase as an opportunity to:
  - enhance resilience and preparedness for future shocks and crises
  - establish sustainable financing mechanisms (DRM, ODA, private)
  - promote social protection policy coherence across levels of government
- Use SDG indicators and the MPI to assess the impact of the Triple Crisis at the national and local levels, focusing on SDGs 1-5 (the people dimension)



## Way Forward, cont'd

- Need a developmental policy paradigm for social protection that is universal and progressive
- Such as approach ensures building progressively higher levels of protection that is based on a basic floor of social security for all.
- The question is no longer: “Can countries afford universal social protection?”, the question rather is “how can they afford not to introduce schemes that reach out to all quickly, especially during crisis times”?
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A low-angle, upward-looking photograph of a modern skyscraper with a dark, textured facade. The building's lines converge towards the top of the frame. The sky is a vibrant blue, filled with scattered white clouds. In the bottom right corner, there are several overlapping, semi-transparent white geometric shapes, including squares and rectangles, creating a modern, layered design element.

**Thank you.**