

QUATRIN AFRICA



Strengthening the financial governance of Social protection systems

What is QUATRIN AFRICA?

Governments of Africa face the challenge of effectively extending social protection to all members of their societies after very limited success so far through traditional forms of social security programmes and in view of limited or deficient delivery capacities to perform better. The ILO is devoted to help create an enabling environment to achieve the social aims of each society free from corruption with transparent, efficient and social transfers effectively administered. One necessary condition for the successful implementation of social security falls on the availability of sufficiently trained technical experts, managers, policy makers and tripartite partners.

Against this background, Governments agreed in April 2007 at the occasion of the 11th African Regional Meeting focussed on the Decent Work Agenda in Africa for 2007-2015 that “*the construction of durable social security systems requires a national and long-term commitment*”.

This project initiative is directed to help governments:

- Coherently plan social protection priorities;
- Project financial and fiscal implications of their choices; and
- Organize, control and evaluate experience over time so they remain effective or adopt timely reforms to administer and manage sustainable national benefit delivery system.

The general QUATRIN training concept is adapted to the case of African countries to reinforce financial governance through stronger capacities and better tools at the institutional level.

How will the programme develop?

The project will at the onset assess needs for technical expertise, analytical and monitoring tools at the institutional and national levels. A survey will highlight strengths and weaknesses of existing quantitative professionals and training systems in place so that gaps in financial governance and peripheral competency areas will be identified. Priorities will be set accordingly and the full-blown training programme will be organised for the three target groups from participating institutions.

Who is this programme aimed at?

The project will focus on establishing permanent training capacities in the sub-regions and at the regional level. The International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin will invest in developing a permanent training programme for tripartite policy makers and their future successors. In addition, the project will join forces with two universities in the sub-regions to become centres of excellence to train social security managers and quantitative specialists in future. The project intends to initially focus on a selected number of countries in Africa where social security is part of their Decent Work Country Programmes.

What will the programme leave behind?

The programme will invest in the building of two permanent Masters programmes in Social Protection Financing, one in English- and one in French-Speaking Africa. A Diploma will also address the training needs of tripartite governors. These programmes will continue to train social security experts, planners and managers from the Continent. They will operate in a learning and teaching network supported by two European universities as well as by the ILO Regional Office, the Social Security Department of the ILO and the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin.

Diploma on Financial Governance for Social Security Governors

Policy makers and tripartite representatives will be equipped to take sound financial and policy decisions with regard to the future of their institutions and their public mandate. They will benefit from a training programme on basic social protection principles, financial governance, performance management, international experience and best practices. Courses will be tailored following the approach taken for many years by the International Training Centre of the ILO in Turin. More specifically, the project will develop trainers who will play an active role to train the first cohort of tripartite representatives. Intensive courses of a short duration will form a core series to continue to be offered in the sub-regions in future. Tripartite representatives will at the end of the Diploma be in a position to recommend and lead the implementation of performance monitoring indicators within the institutions they govern.

Masters in Social Protection Financing with specializations

The core of the Masters will combine tutorials and distance-learning teachings to be delivered by two sub-regional partner universities – one in English and one in French. Participants will be sponsored by social security institutions and line ministries involved in the planning and delivery of social security. They will have access to some of the world's best social security financing experts who will provide mentoring to participants. This will strengthen their role within their sponsoring institutions. The project will heavily invest on establishing the university level programmes that will also deliver training on social protection financing, tools development, policy and legal analysis, administrative auditing, management and other thematic areas. This will largely draw on existing ILO tools, knowledge base and currently on-going Masters of Sciences with universities of Maastricht (Social Protection Financing) and Lausanne (Actuarial Sciences).

Executive Management Specialization

The Specialization will enable participating middle managers from sponsoring institutions to monitor more efficiently the financial performance of their institutions. The Masters will enable participants to supervise the development of modelling tools within their institution and will equip them with basic management skills.

Budgeting and Actuarial Modelling Specialization

Technical specialists in social protection budgeting and actuarial modelling will be trained to develop projection models for different types of benefit schemes. At the end of the Masters degree, participants will be in a position to participate to the full process for financial and demographic projections of their institutions.

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