

Agenda

Workshop: Empowering Youth for Inclusive Social Protection and Public Spending

Location: Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan

Date: Friday, July 24, 2026

Following the successful workshop held in December 2025 on youth engagement in budget and fiscal processes, and in an effort to continue strengthening the role of youth in public finance dialogue and advocacy.

The proposed workshop will focus on social protection and social spending in Lebanon, introducing members of the Youth Advisory Group to key concepts, policy priorities, financing and spending patterns and budget-related tools. It aims to strengthen their understanding how social programs are financed and delivered, while equipping them with the knowledge and tools to engage in evidence-based advocacy and informed dialogue with policymakers for more inclusive and equitable public investments.

By the end of the workshop, members of the Youth Advisory Group will be able to:

- 1. Understand the core concepts, principles, and instruments of social protection in Lebanon, including the social contract, rights-based approaches, and the pillars of the National Social Protection Strategy (social assistance, social insurance, labor market policies, social welfare, and financial access to services) and their importance for vulnerable groups.*
- 2. Interpret key data on social spending in Lebanon; including who benefits, how much is spent, and the source of financing.*
- 3. Navigate the national budget documents and budget transparency tools to identify allocations for social protection and related social programmes.*
- 4. Translate technical understanding and budget-related information into clear, evidence-based advocacy messages, and policy asks.*
- 5. Prepare youth to engage effectively with the Minister of Social Affairs by identifying key policy and budget issues, formulating relevant questions, and using evidence to engage in a meaningful dialogue.*

Date

10:00 – 10:15

Opening Session

- Welcome words
- Workshop objectives and agenda
- Participants Expectations

10:15 – 11:30

What Protects Us in Times of Need? Social Protection in Lebanon

- Definition and importance of social protection
- National Social Protection Strategy: social assistance (including financial access to education), social insurance (including financial access to health services), labor market measures, and social
- Targeting, coverage, adequacy and rights-based approaches

- Role of the various stakeholders (ministries of Social Affairs, Health, Labor, Justice, Education, and Finance, NSSF, international organizations, CSOs, etc.)

Speaker: Mr. Khalil Dagher, Social Protection Specialist, UNICEF

11:30 – 12:00

Coffee Break

12:00 – 13:30

What does the Government spend on Social Protection?

- Concepts and objectives of social spending
- Key figures and indicators of spending in Lebanon
- What does the Government spend the most on, and who benefits the most?
- Is social spending adequate, equitable and efficient?
- Where does the financing come from?
- What can be done better?

Speaker: Ms. Sabine Hatem, Chief Economist, Institut des Finances Basil Fuleihan

13:30 – 14 :30

Lunch Break

14:30 – 15:30

Tracking Social Spending in the Budget

- Where to find budget information related to social sectors and social protection
- How to identify allocations for key social programmes
- Using budget information to support evidence-based youth advocacy

15:30 – 16:00

Closing, Evaluation and Certificates distribution