TRANSFORM

NEWSLETTER

HIGHLIGHTS | ISSUE NO. 11 | DATE: 26/10/2026



Participants engage in a group exercise during a five-day TRANSFORM training in Morocco, strengthening their understanding of social protection.

STATS & FACTS

180	Government officials trained on the District Package in Zambia
21	Social protection practitioners accredited under Nigeria's National Cohort
237	Government officials in Nigeria trained on the Introductory Package
162	Government officials trained on the revised Shock-Responsive Social Protection Module in Uganda
30	Government officials, social partners, and members of Malawi's civil society organizations trained on the Legal Frameworks Module
21	Regional master trainers upskilled on the revised Shock-Responsive Social Protection Module
33	Government officials and leading social protection practitioners at the national and sub-national levels trained using the introductory module in Ivory Coast

MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATION HUB

Dear Members of the TRANSFORM Family,

As TRANSFORM enters its 10th year, I am proud of how far we have come together and even more excited about where we can take the programme next. What began in 2016, following a request from the African Union to strengthen capacity on social protection, has grown into a vibrant learning initiative with more than 10 modules, reaching nearly 4,000 practitioners across over 30 countries in Africa and the Arab region. Beyond these numbers, TRANSFORM has always been about people, learning, and change. Over the years, it has fostered a strong community of practitioners, trainers, and partners who share experiences, challenge existing approaches, learn from one another, and apply their knowledge to strengthen social protection systems for the people they serve.

As we celebrate this milestone, I believe we have an opportunity to take TRANSFORM to the next level. Our ambition should be to move beyond delivering training and evolve into a broader knowledge and learning platform that continues to shape the future of social protection systems. This will require embedding TRANSFORM more firmly within governments, regional institutions, universities, and other learning institutions, while strengthening communities of practice and ensuring the programme remains responsive to emerging challenges such as climate change, economic shocks, demographic shifts, digitalization, and the changing nature of work.

I see the next decade as an opportunity to build an even stronger and more sustainable TRANSFORM community that not only generates knowledge but also drives policy influence, innovation, and change. Achieving this vision will require the collective efforts of our partners, governments, regional bodies, UN agencies, academia, civil society, trainers, and practitioners. As we mark ten years, I thank everyone who has been part of this journey. The first decade has given us a strong foundation; the next is about building on it with greater ambition, innovation, and impact.

NIGERIA EXPANDS SOCIAL PROTECTION CAPACITY THROUGH TRANSFORM

Nigeria is investing in people to build a stronger, more shock-responsive social protection system, with TRANSFORM playing a central role in developing the skills and leadership needed to drive reform.

Under the European Union-funded project *Supporting Sustainable Social Protection Systems in Nigeria*, jointly implemented by the ILO and UNICEF, TRANSFORM is being used to strengthen the capacity of policymakers and practitioners responsible for delivering social protection across the country. The initiative forms part of efforts to establish a shock-responsive social protection system by 2026, supported by stronger policies, institutions, and financing mechanisms.

A major milestone was reached through a national Training of Trainers (ToT) programme held in Abuja in late 2025, which brought together 25 officials from key social protection institutions. Participants received intensive training in both social protection concepts and facilitation techniques, preparing them to become certified TRANSFORM trainers.

After a refresher seminar in February 2026, participants advanced to the practical stage of accreditation. Between February and March, they facilitated district-level trainings in Abuja, Abia, Sokoto, and Benue States under the mentorship of regional Master Trainers. The sessions provided an opportunity to apply TRANSFORM's participatory learning approach while building the confidence and experience needed to train others.

The results highlight the growing national ownership of social protection learning in Nigeria. Following the supervised training sessions, 21 participants were accreditated as national TRANSFORM trainers, creating a new pool of local experts capable of delivering high-quality training across the country.

More than a training programme, TRANSFORM is helping build a sustainable foundation for social protection reform. By investing in local expertise, Nigeria is creating a multiplier effect that will strengthen institutions, expand knowledge, and improve the delivery of social protection services at both national and state levels. As the country advances its reform agenda, this growing cadre of certified trainers will help ensure that social protection systems are better equipped to respond to future shocks and protect vulnerable populations, bringing Nigeria closer to a more resilient and inclusive future.



Participant proudly displays her certificate of accreditation at the TRANSFORM accreditation ceremony held in Abuja in late 2025

> "The training strengthened my understanding of how different parts of the social protection system work together. I am now better equipped to support programme planning and train colleagues, helping to ensure that social protection interventions are better coordinated and more responsive to people's needs."
>
> - **Mr. Joseph Ikpeamaeze, Director - Social Development, Federal Ministry of Budget and Economic Planning.**

WHATS NEW!

1 With support from WFP, 13 members of Uganda's national cohort have successfully completed the Training of Trainers (ToT) and accreditation process in TRANSFORM's updated Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) curriculum, becoming the first national cohort to achieve accreditation.

2 📚 TRANSFORM has launched a new suite of Shock-Responsive Social Protection (SRSP) modules to help policymakers, practitioners, and development partners build more adaptive, resilient, and inclusive social protection systems. Explore the new resources here: **SRSP Module | TRANSFORM Africa**. https://transformsp.org/africa/learningresources/srsp/

ILO-GIZ PARTNERSHIP STRENGTHENS SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS IN MALAWI AND TANZANIA

The International Labour Organization (ILO), with financial support from the German Development Cooperation (GIZ), is supporting efforts to strengthen social protection systems in Malawi and Tanzania through the TRANSFORM learning initiative. The collaboration demonstrates TRANSFORM's growing influence as the capacity building tool of choice in Africa that has continued to expand and form new partnerships such as one with the GIZ. The collaboration with TRANSFORM further represents GIZ's growing commitment to strengthening inclusive, coordinated, and rights-based social protection systems across Africa.

In Tanzania, the partnership is supporting progress towards universal social health protection through the implementation of the Universal Health Insurance (UHI) scheme on the Mainland and the Zanzibar Health Services Fund (ZHSF). Through the GIZ-supported *Lead the Change for Social Protection Programme*, stakeholders from Mainland Tanzania and Zanzibar identified weak coordination among institutions responsible for delivering health and social protection services as a key challenge to implementation.

To address this, the ILO TRANSFORM Hub facilitated a tailored TRANSFORM Governance and Coordination training that equipped participants with practical tools to strengthen collaboration, clarify institutional roles, and improve partnerships. Participants described the training as timely and highly relevant, noting that stronger coordination structures would help improve programme implementation and sustainability. They recommended follow-up support on agreed action points and expanding TRANSFORM learning opportunities to policymakers and other influential stakeholders to accelerate social protection reforms.

In Malawi, the ILO-GIZ partnership is supporting a landmark reform process aimed at developing the country's first comprehensive Social Protection Legal Framework. The initiative follows the launch of the Malawi National Social Protection Policy (2024-2029), which identified challenges including fragmented programmes, limited coverage, inadequate benefits, and weak coordination.

Through a TRANSFORM training organized by ILO Malawi with support from GIZ Malawi, government and civil society stakeholders strengthened their understanding of how legal frameworks can transform social protection from a collection of programmes into a coherent, rights-based system. Participants assessed existing gaps, explored solutions, and developed action plans to advance the reform process.

Reflecting on the discussions, Traditional Leader Fumukazi Zilanie emphasized the need for broader and more inclusive social protection coverage, stating: *"We can't keep thinking about social protection this narrowly as only being for the poor and vulnerable. Our system currently does not provide adequate protection and coverage."*

Together, the initiatives in Malawi and Tanzania demonstrate how TRANSFORM can partner with other organisations to build stronger, more inclusive, and sustainable social protection systems that can better serve all citizens.

STRENGTHENING FRONTLINE SOCIAL PROTECTION DELIVERY THROUGH THE SINGLE WINDOW INITIATIVE IN ZAMBIA

Zambia is strengthening frontline social protection delivery through the Single Window (SW) Initiative, an integrated service delivery model introduced in 2018 to improve coordination, referrals, and access to multiple services for vulnerable households. While social protection is delivered through decentralized district structures, fragmented services and limited data sharing have hindered effectiveness. To address these challenges, the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services, with UNICEF support, conducted capacity-building trainings for 120 district stakeholders in Mwinilunga, Mushindamo, Kawambwa, and Chifunabuli districts to support implementation of the redesigned SW model. The TRANSFORM initiative has played a key role in equipping officials with skills to manage and coordinate social protection programmes, with government officers from over 40 districts already trained. Participants reported improved understanding of social protection systems, stronger intersectoral collaboration, and greater commitment to enhancing programme implementation, coordination, and service delivery at district level.



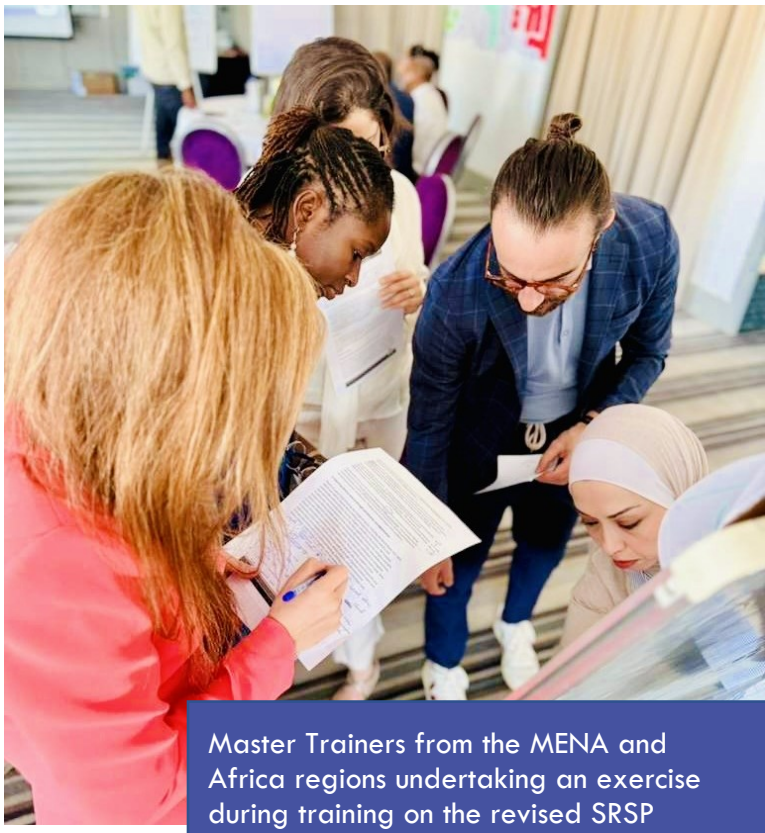
A participant presents key reflections from a group exercise during the TRANSFORM Governance and Coordination Training in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

GROWING CAPACITY FOR SHOCK-RESPONSIVE SOCIAL PROTECTION IN AFRICA AND MENA

As covariate shocks increasingly threaten livelihoods across the globe, governments are seeking stronger social protection systems that can anticipate and respond to shocks before vulnerable populations are pushed deeper into poverty.

To help meet this need, TRANSFORM has recently developed a curriculum that is designed to build capacity of governments to use social protection to anticipate and respond adequately to specific shocks emanating from climate crises, conflict and displacement. Following completion of the course materials, the TRANSFORM Hubs in Africa and MENA region convened a Training of Trainers (ToT) in Tunis involving 21 social protection experts from 17 to 23 May 2026. Together, these modules equip practitioners with the knowledge and tools needed to design systems that are more adaptive, inclusive, and responsive to evolving risks. The ToT aimed to upskill TRANSFORM Master Trainers to deliver the new modules to respond to growing demand for learning and capacity development across the two regions. Conducted in **English** the workshop also served as the final pilot of the revised materials before their full translation and wider rollout, building on earlier pilot trainings held in Jordan and Uganda.

The successful completion of the ToT marks an important milestone in expanding TRANSFORM's ability to roll out trainings in multiple regions in Africa and the Middle East. The upskilling exercise will ensure that governments and development partners in different regions have access to high-quality expertise needed to strengthen resilient and shock-responsive social protection systems capable of protecting people through crises and supporting long-term development outcomes.



Master Trainers from the MENA and Africa regions undertaking an exercise during training on the revised SRSP module.

> Throughout the week, participants strengthened both their technical expertise and facilitation skills through TRANSFORM's action-oriented learning approach. Practical exercises, peer learning, and delivery practice sessions enabled trainers to test the revised materials while building confidence to support future learning initiatives in their respective regions.

TRANSFORM

A Leadership and Transformation Learning Initiative on building and managing social protection floors in Africa.

What is TRANSFORM?

TRANSFORM is an innovative learning initiative on the implementation of national social protection floors in Africa. TRANSFORM promotes critical thinking and builds capacity at national and subnational levels to improve the design, effectiveness and efficiency of social protection systems. TRANSFORM targets government officials and social protection practitioners at national and subnational levels engaged in policy design, oversight, and implementation.

Why TRANSFORM?

TRANSFORM empowers learners to handle the complexities of their own social protection systems, appreciate diversity and uniqueness, own and implement creative solutions suitable for their contexts. All these elements are as important as the technical knowledge itself. TRASNFORM takes delegates through an experiential process and allows them to realize that whatever capacity they are in they have the power to action a difference.

Funding of TRANSFORM

TRANSFORM is primarily funded by the Irish Aid-supported project on Accelerating the Achievement of Universal Social Protection to Leave No One Behind in ILO CO-Lusaka. This funding supports staff, operations, training delivery, and coordination. Module development has been co-funded by various partners including the EU, Finland, OECD and FCDO/STAAR, while country-level rollouts—including Training of Trainers and content adaptation—are supported by UN agencies in respective countries.

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Learn more about the TRANSFORM Initiative on:
https://transformsp.org/ and https://socialprotection.org/connect/stakeholders/transform