

Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures

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Introduction

As of January 2022, a total of 3,856 social protection and labor measures were planned or implemented by 223 economies. This constitutes a net increase of 523 measures, or 15.6%, since the last update in May 2021 (figure 1). While noteworthy, such increase is the lowest among net additions observed over previous semesters. In fact, the global pace of measures' introduction over January 2020-January 2022 has been slowing down: from a peak of 180 measures/week in March 2020, about 16 weekly measures are currently introduced (figure 2).

Figure 1. Social protection and labor measures planned/implemented, cumulative and net additions (January 2020-January 2022)

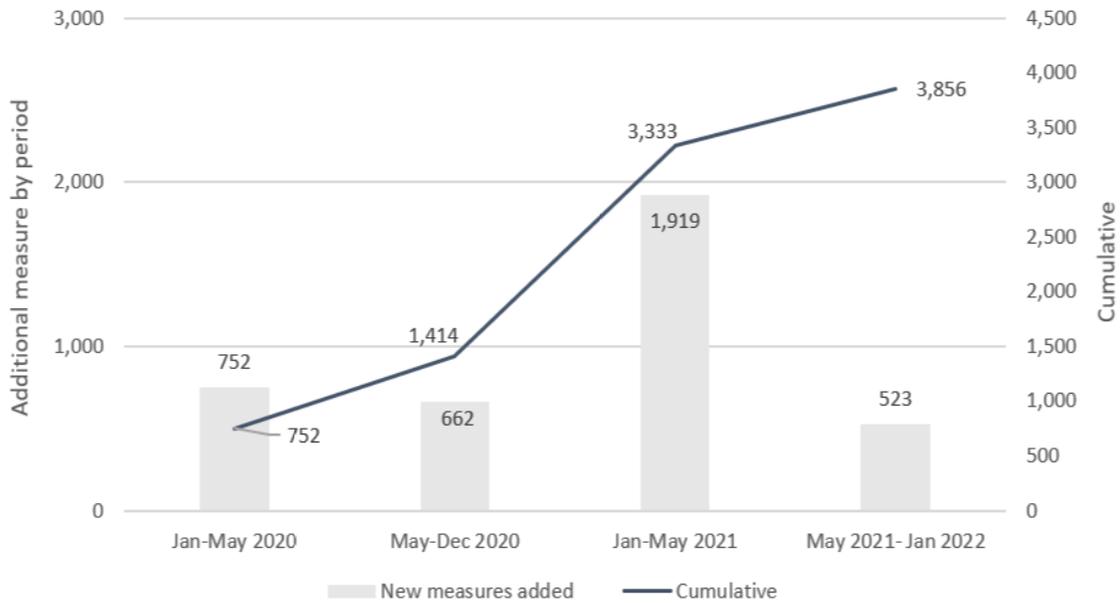
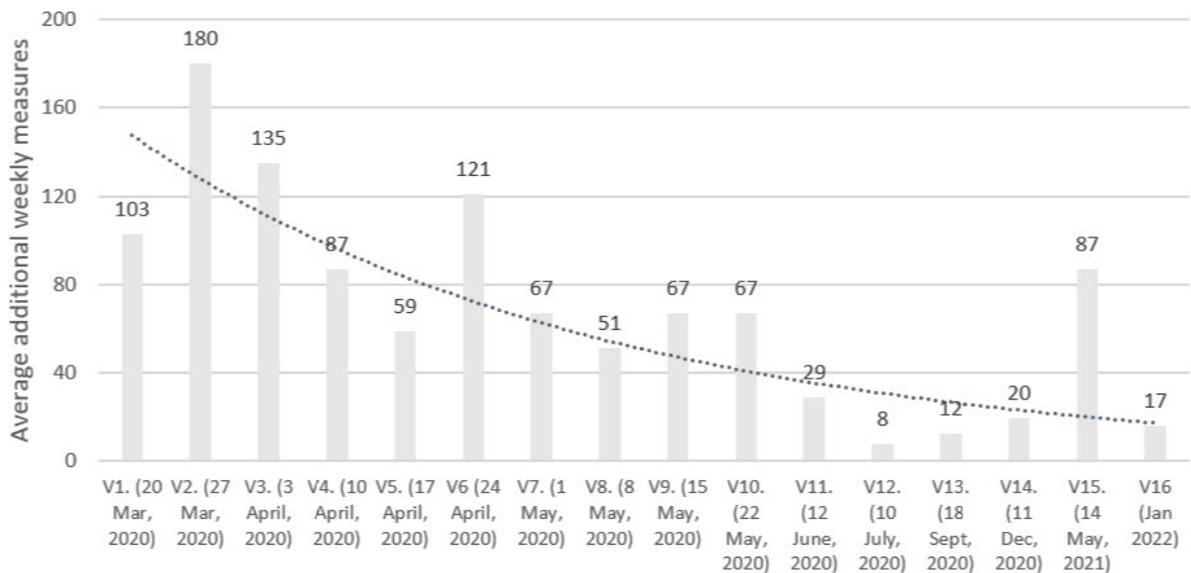
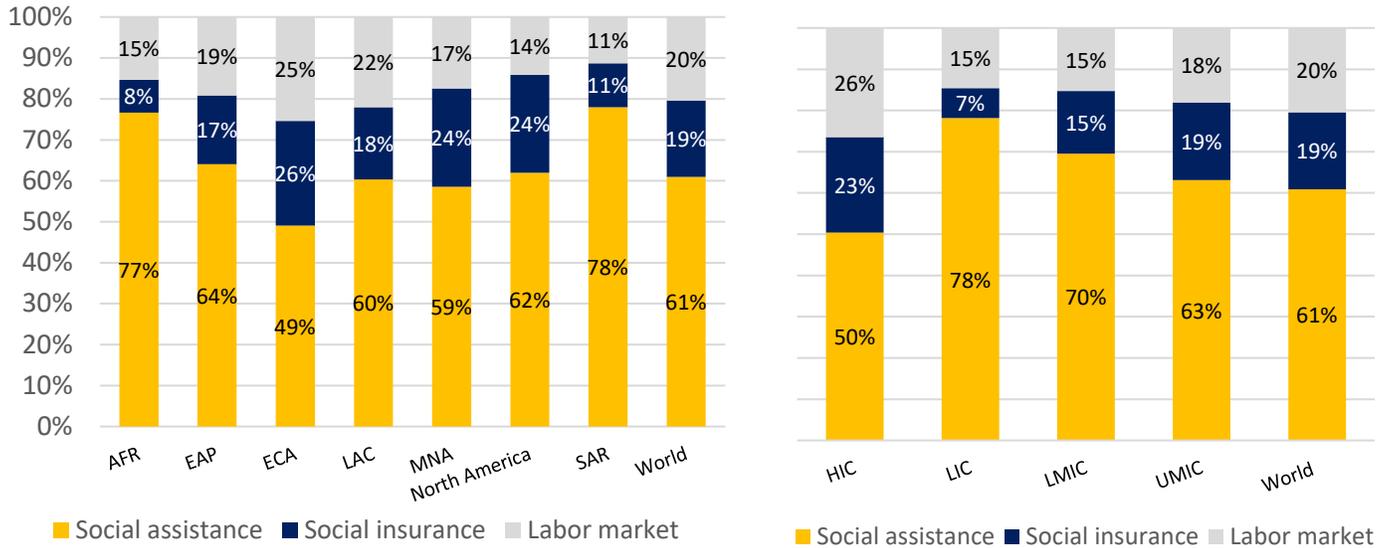


Figure 2. Average weekly measures introduced by tracker updates



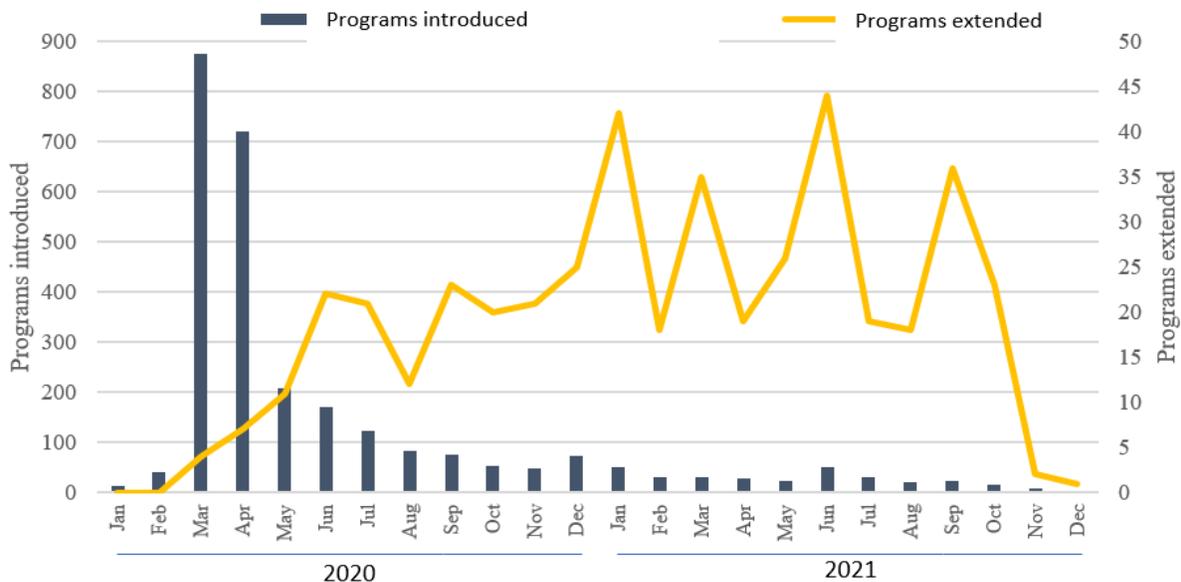
By accounting for an average of 61% of social protection and labor measures, social assistance continues to represent the most prevalent form of support across regions and country income groups, followed by supply-side labor market programs (20%) and social insurance (19%) (figure 3). Even in high-income settings, social assistance represents half of enacted measures. The peak of social assistance is reached in South Asia and low-income countries, where they account for 78% of the social protection and labor portfolio in those contexts.

Figure 3. Social protection and labor measures by component, region, and country income



Out of total social protection and labor measures, 2,796 had information on dates (73% of total); 16% of them extended programs over 2020-21. Figure 4 shows an increasing reliance on program extension for the large majority of the observed period.

Figure 4. Extension of social protection and labor programs (number of programs)



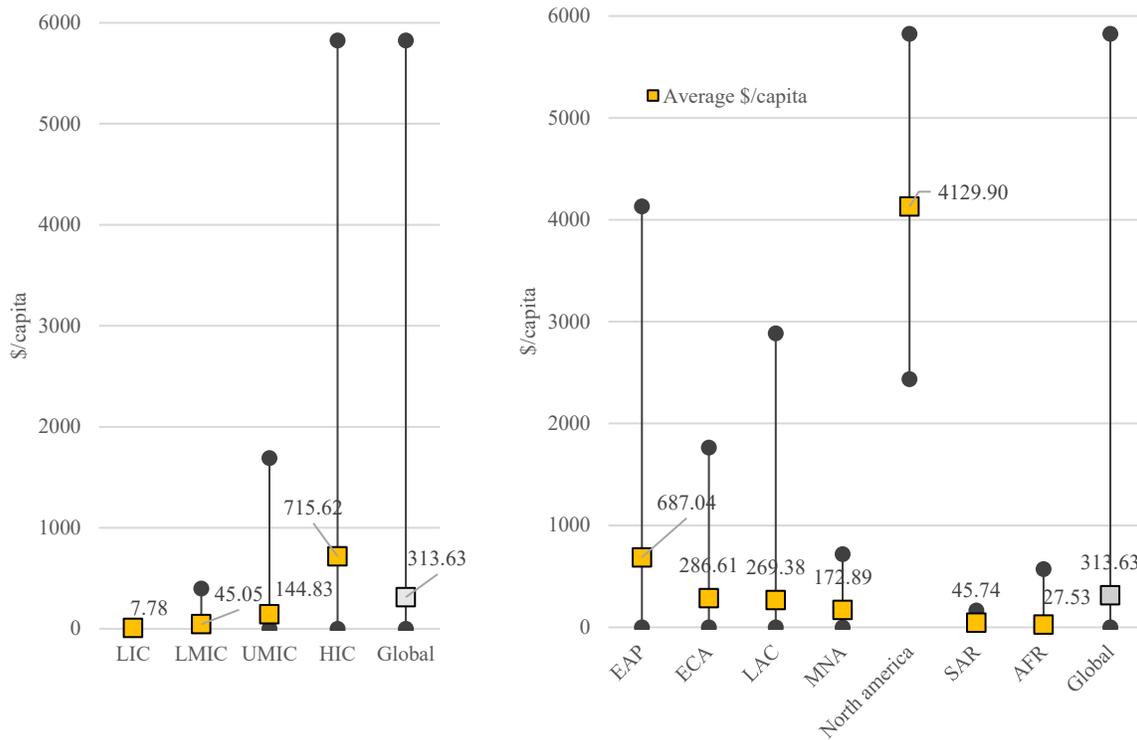
Data on social protection and labor program spending is available for 23% of programs in our inventory. Over 2020-2021, countries invested a total of over \$3 trillion in those interventions (table 1). Such current level of expenditures represents around 18% of overall stimulus packages, and it is about 4.5 times higher than the estimated level of social protection spending during the Great Recession of 2008-09. The United States accounts for a large majority of global social protection spending (64%). In line with the distribution of measures, most of spending takes the form of social assistance which represents over 65% of investments.

Table 1. Social protection and labor spending by income group and region, 2020-2021

Countries	Social assistance	Social insurance	Labor markets	Total spending	Average USD/capita
HIC (n=71)	1,762,195,333,142	600,119,442,415	213,539,424,364	2,575,854,199,921	716
LIC (n=24)	5,666,914,202	n.a.	20,693,462	5,687,607,664	8
LMIC (n=45)	76,897,684,743	10,558,643,437	7,171,793,482	94,628,121,662	45
UMIC (n=54)	123,957,634,154	194,073,682,184	6,298,899,219	324,330,215,558	145
Region					
AFR (n=45)	14,574,407,914	4,331,266,979	101,674,068	19,007,348,960	28
EAP (n=34)	348,397,989,478	176,875,399,808	42,022,664,602	567,296,053,888	687
ECA (n=51)	152,749,959,607	7,788,474,320	119,747,065,082	280,285,499,008	287
LAC (n=38)	49,419,744,009	12,934,584,200	1,232,470,503	63,586,798,712	285
MENA (n=16)	17,735,478,089	1,218,006,236	4,870,312,243	23,823,796,568	173
N. America (n=2)	1,362,830,897,714	592,003,902,305	56,973,647,966	2,011,808,447,985	4,130
SAR (n=8)	23,009,089,430	9,600,134,191	2,082,976,064	34,692,199,685	46
Total (n=194)	1,968,717,566,240	804,751,768,037	227,030,810,528	3,000,500,144,805	\$314

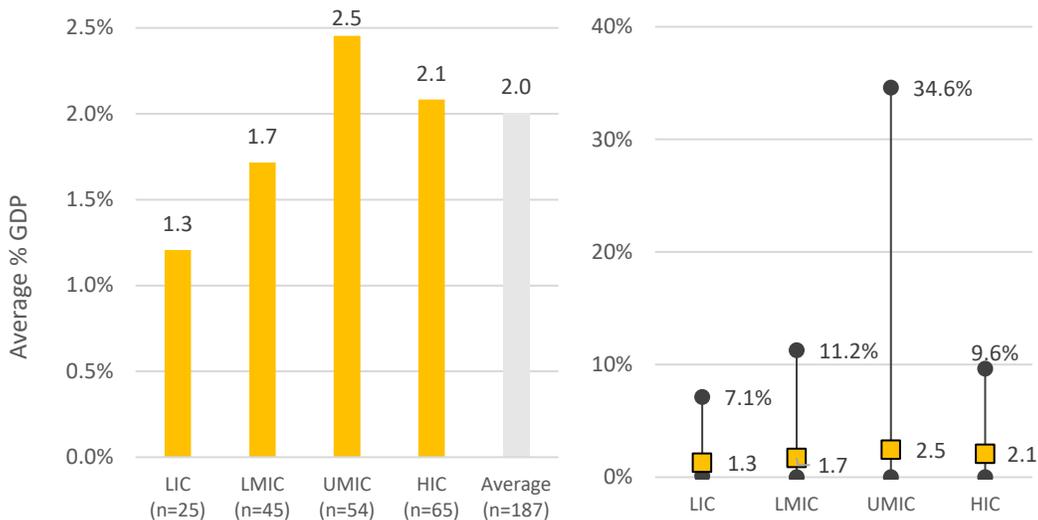
There are stark differences when considering spending in per-capita terms: high-income countries have spent a level over 90 times higher than low-income countries – i.e., about \$715 and \$8 per capita, respectively (figure 5, left side); regionally, per capita spending ranges from about \$28/capita in Sub-Saharan Africa to 4,130/capita in North America (figure 5, right side).

Figure 5. Social protection and labor spending, 2020-2021 (USD per capita)



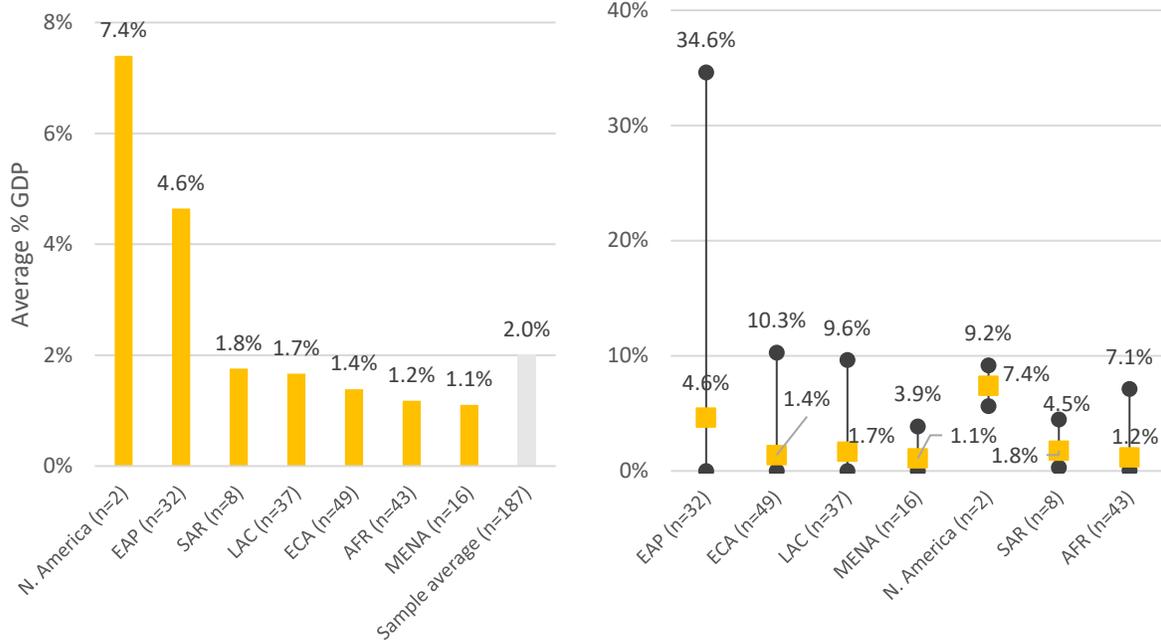
In general, countries have devoted an average of 2% of GDP on social protection Covid responses, ranging from about 1.3% in low-income countries to 2.5% in high income settings (figure 6, left side). There is high variance also within country income groups: for instance, on the upper end of the spending curve, an upper middle income country like Fiji spent almost 35% of GDP; while in lower middle income settings, Micronesia invested 11% of GDP. Among low income contexts, Somalia stood out with its allocation of about 7% of GDP (figure 6, right side).

Figure 6. Social protection and labor spending by income group, 2020-2021 (% of GDP)



A similar heterogeneity is observable in spending across regions. North America’s expenditures reach 7.4% of GDP while the Middle East and North Africa only devote an average of 1.1% of GDP to Covid-related social protection and labor responses. In addition to East Asia with the mentioned outlier exceed 30% of GDP, other regions like North America, Latin America and the Caribbean as well as Europe and Central Asia have countries that spent, as an upper level, about 10% of GDP (figure 7).

Figure 7. Social protection and labor spending by region, 2020-2021 (% of GDP)



The remainder of the tracker will examine social assistance, social insurance, and labor market programs, including discussing them in respective sections. For social assistance, we hereafter offer an update of key facts and trends, supplemented annex 1 presenting a deep dive into country experiences organized by social assistance intervention.

Social assistance

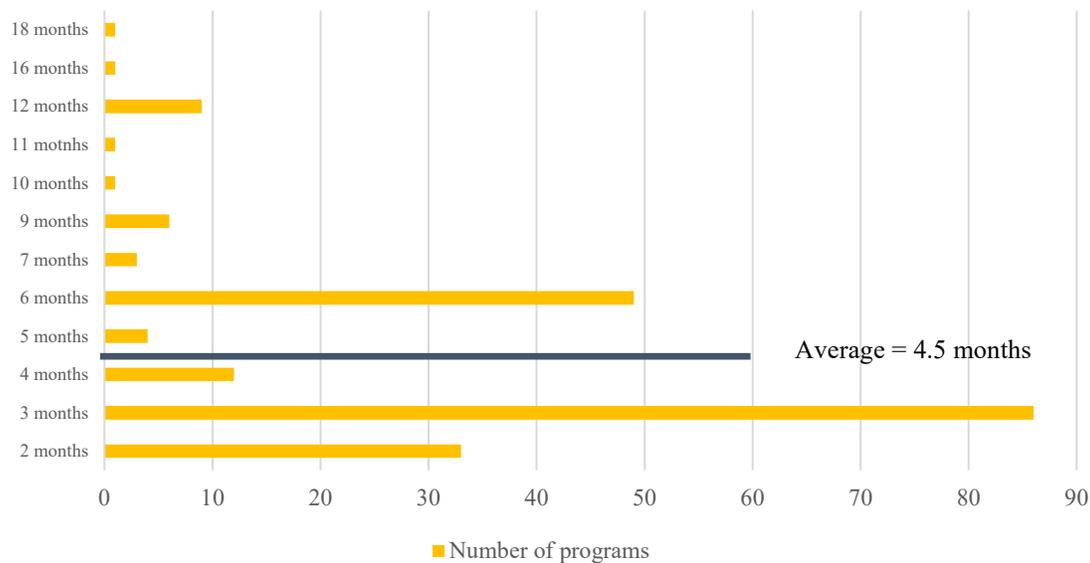
In terms of social assistance component sub-categories, cash transfer programs are the most widespread social assistance intervention: these include 962 measures in 203 countries, or nearly 25% of total social protection and labor measures and 41% of overall social assistance: if also social pensions are included, hence raising the tally to 1,023 measures, those shares of cash-based measures would be soar to 26.5% and 43.5%, respectively (table 2). In-kind transfers also keep representing an important share of social assistance: food transfers in the form of unconditional transfers and school feeding account for about 20% of social assistance.

Table 2. Social assistance measures

Sub-component	N. of measures	N. of countries
Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	962	203
Social pensions	61	48
Sub-total (all cash-based measures)	1,023	
In-kind food/voucher schemes	393	151
School feeding	93	74
Sub-total (all in-kind measures)	486	
Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	764	187
Public works	76	48
Total	2,349	218

The average initial duration of the overall set of cash transfers measures is 4.5 months (figure 8). Such duration is estimated out of 206 measures. For 50 of those, information is available on extension, which resulted in an average of 6.3 months (ranging from 1 month in countries like Azerbaijan and Greece to 23 months in Bhutan and Brazil). In several cases, extensions were surrounded by uncertainty on whether and when they would be enacted. For example, Indonesia’s unconditional cash transfer program (BLT Dana Desa) was implemented from April to June 2020. Its extension (until September 2020) was reported on June 3 of that year. Jersey’s Covid cash transfer (CRESS) was initially operated over the same period, i.e., April-June 2020. On June 30, the program was eventually extended until August 31. In the Maldives, the Income Support Allowance – which also ran over the same April-June period – was extended (or reintroduced) in October, or after the program lapsed, until December 2020.

Figure 8. Duration of cash transfer programs



Our database provides information on two important indicators of program “status”: (i) progress in implementation – or “actual” beneficiaries those reached in practice as opposed to those “planned” to be reached – and (ii) overall state of the programs (whether they are planned, ongoing or ended). In terms of the former metric, data for the largest 50 programs shows that the difference between planned and actual coverage rate is

minimal, namely 0.38 percentage points (see annex 2, as well as discussion on coverage in paragraphs ahead). With regards to the other indicator (ii), a total of 49% of cash-based transfer programs (and 72% of total social assistance) present information on their status: at the time of finalizing this global tracker update, 21% of cash-based transfers were still active (a rate mirrored for social assistance overall) (table 3). In practice, it is possible that the rate may be slightly lower given the absence of status information for about one-fifth of social assistance programs.

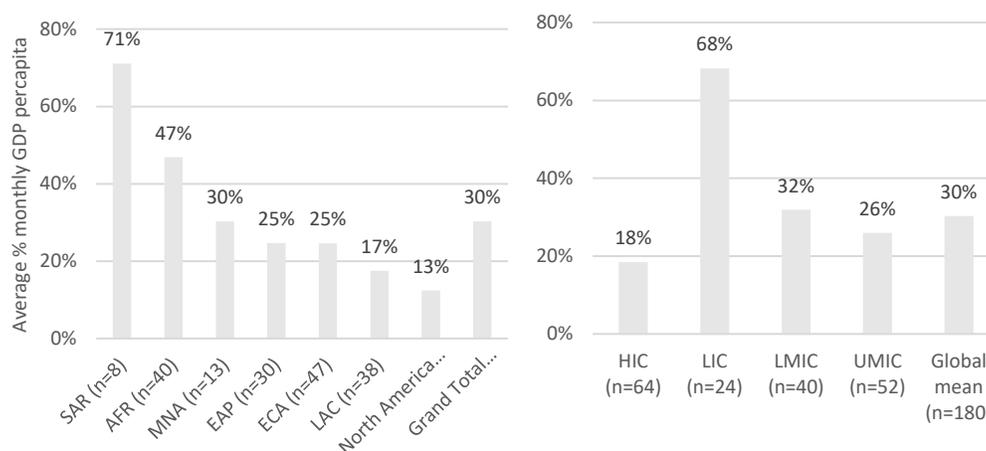
Table 3. Status of social assistance programs

	Planned	Ongoing	Ended	Total with program status info	Total measures	% measures with program status	% active measures
Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	6	96	366	468	962	49%	20%
Social pensions	0	10	15	25	61	41%	40%
<i>Cash-based measures</i>	6	106	381	493	1,023	48%	21%
in-kind food/voucher schemes	4	21	132	157	393	40%	13%
School feeding	3	8	10	21	93	23%	38%
<i>Total in-kind measures</i>	7	29	142	178	486	37%	16%
Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	4	77	226	307	764	40%	25%
Public works	2	14	15	31	76	41%	45%
Total	32	361	1,287	1,680	2,349	72%	21%

Note: active rate = ongoing/total with status info

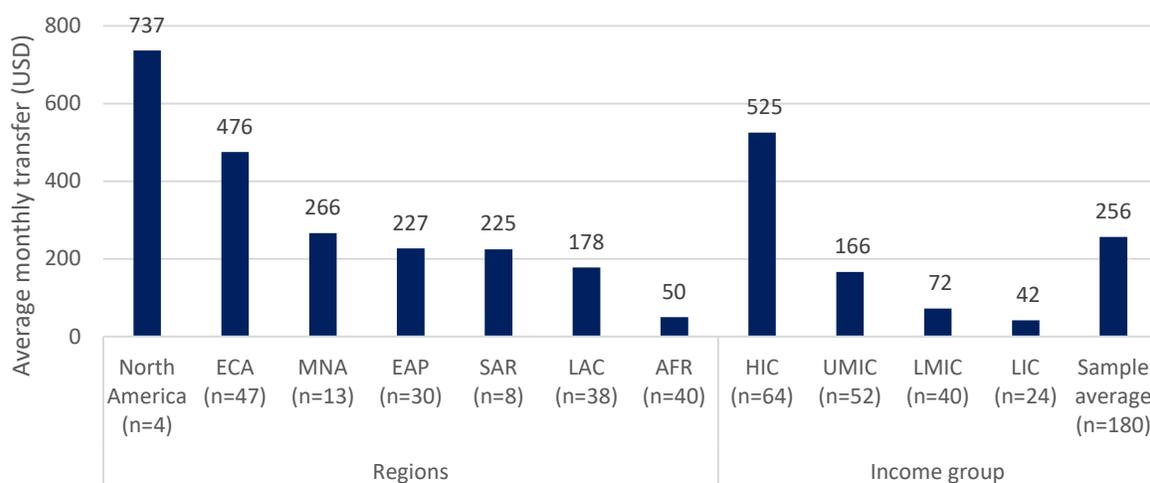
The database offers information on the adequacy of transfers. The size of cash transfer programs represents an average of 30% of monthly GDP per-capita¹ (figure 9). In absolute terms, monthly transfers were on average \$256, ranging from \$525 in high income countries to \$42 in low-income settings (figure 10). How does such level of generosity compare to pre-Covid benefit size? Based on data from 56 programs, Covid-related cash transfer responses increased average generosity by almost 70% (annex 3).

Figure 9. Size of cash transfer benefits (% of monthly GDP/capita)



¹ Note that such GDP-related information is, of course, distinct from the overall GDP analysis conducted for spending levels: in the latter case, the denominator is annual GDP; in the case of adequacy the denominator is monthly GDP.

Figure 10. Size of cash transfer benefits (\$/capita)



Programs have been adapted in various ways (table 4). Most of cash transfers have been expanded horizontally to reach more people. This was pursued almost entirely via new programs: 672 such measures were enacted (13 of which provided on a universal basis), compared to 55 extending the coverage of existing programs. About 48% of new programs were one-off transfers. Benefit levels were increased in some form in 146 cases. A total of 39 programs provided both horizontal and vertical expansion, while administrative simplifications were implemented in 50 programs.

Table 4. Adaptations in cash transfers

	N. of programs	N. of countries
Vertical		
Vertical expansion	79	61
Additional payment	64	43
Vertical expansion and admin simplification	3	3
Sub-total	146	90
Horizontal		
Existing programs	55	45
New programs	672	186
one-off (targeted)	312	112
one-off (universal)	12	12
multiple payments (universal)	1	1
multiple payments (targeted)	347	159
Sub-total	727	192
Vertical and horizontal		
Vertical and horizontal expansion	35	28
Vertical, horizontal expansion and admin simplification	4	4
Sub-total	39	32
Administrative adaptations		
Admin simplification	35	30
Advanced payment	15	14
Sub-total	50	43

Note: adaptation categories are not mutually exclusive.

In terms of coverage, we present data for direct beneficiaries actually reached by 124 cash transfer programs (142 social assistance programs) based on administrative data. Overall, over 1.39 billion people were covered by social assistance programs over 2020-2021; this is a level slightly higher than for cash transfers alone, which cover around 1.36 billion people². In terms of country regional and income classifications, about half of the population in North America and East Asia and Pacific received at least one cash transfer payment, while one-tenth did so in Africa. In Middle-income countries, about one-fourth of the population was covered. Low-income countries have single digit coverage (figure 11).

Figure 11. Coverage of cash transfers by country income and regions (% population)

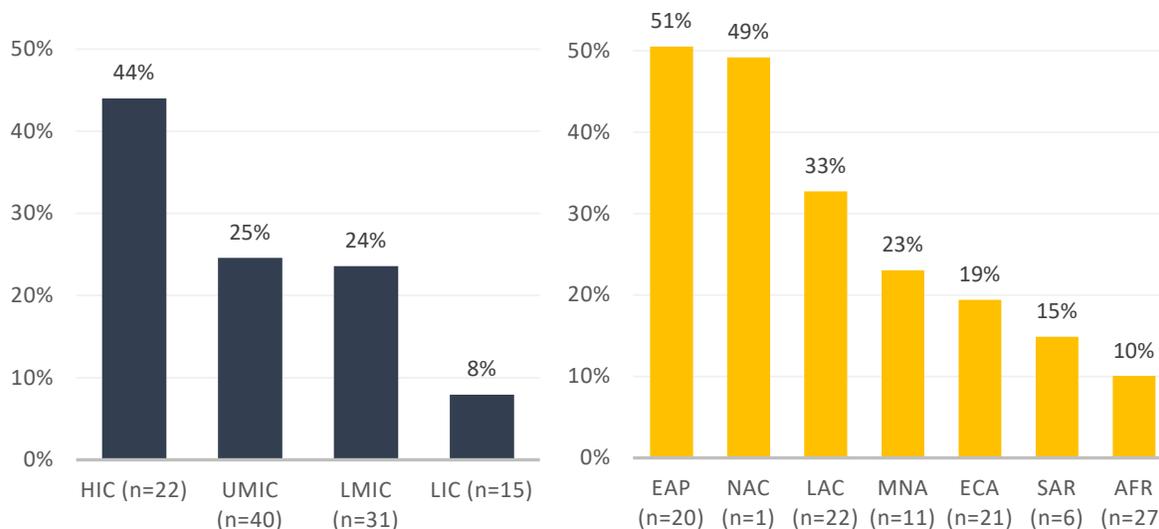
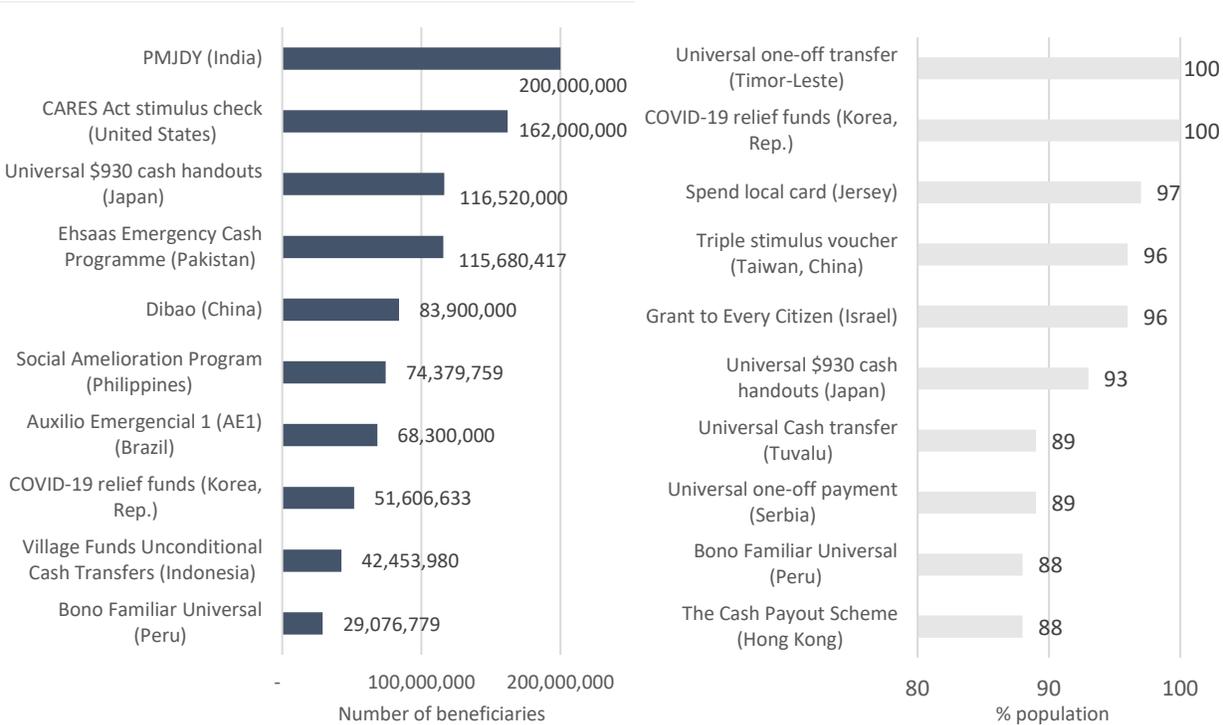


Figure 12 presents the top-10 programs by coverage number and rates: the PMJDY program in India reached 200 million people, while the US CARES stimulus checks, Japan’s universal transfers and Pakistan’s Ehsaas all reached over a hundred million people. Since a total of 13 economies provided universal transfers to the full or adult population, the top-10 rankings include those experiences (except Peru’s Bono familiar which was a quasi-universal program). Annex 5 lays out the full list of 124 programs for both indicators.

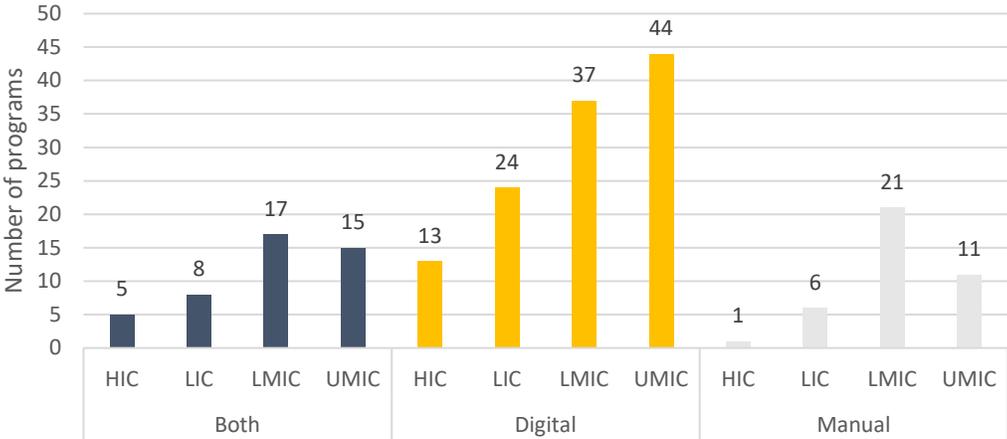
² Numbers are 1,395,513,097 for social assistance and 1,357,175,244 for cash transfers (see Annex 4 for methodology and complementary ways for estimating coverage). Note that coverage data provided in the text uses “actual” rates across the analysis.

Figure 12. Coverage of top 10 cash transfer programs by number of beneficiaries (left) and share of the population (right)



With regards to payment modalities, we present data from 202 cash transfer programs with relevant information available (figure 13). When measured in terms of number of programs globally, digital payments constitute the majority of transfers (58%), followed by a combination of manual and digital payments (22%) and purely manual transfers (19%). Aside from high-income countries where the share of digital transfers is unsurprisingly high (68% of all cash payments), low-income countries present the highest share of digital payment relative its overall number of programs compared to lower- and upper-income countries – i.e., 63.1%, 49% and 62.8% respectively.

Figure 13. Number of cash transfer programs by payment method



Note: “digital payments” include fully functional account, limited purpose account, and electronic non-account-based solutions; “manual payments” encompass checks and physical cash disbursements.

The landscape changes when examining the number of direct beneficiaries actually covered via digital payments. Note that not all programs for which there is information on payment modalities may also present data on beneficiaries: in fact, this data is available for 107 programs (96 of which in low- and middle-income countries). In total, 763 million people are reached by digital cash transfers, or 62% of all cash transfers with available information (table 5)³. Among beneficiaries covered digitally, almost two-thirds, or 481 million people, are located in lower-middle income countries. India’s PMJDY scheme, Pakistan’s Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme and the Philippines’ Banyanihan-1 response drive those numbers with 200, 115 and 59.7 million beneficiaries, respectively. China’s Dibao (83.9 million people), Brazil’s Auxilio Emergencial-1 (68.3 million) and Turkey’s Pandemic Social Support Program (25.2 million) are among the largest digital schemes in upper middle-income countries. The highest-coverage digital program in low-income countries is Malawi’s cash transfer scheme implemented as part of the National Covid-19 Preparedness and Response Plan. Such scheme reached 1.3 million people.

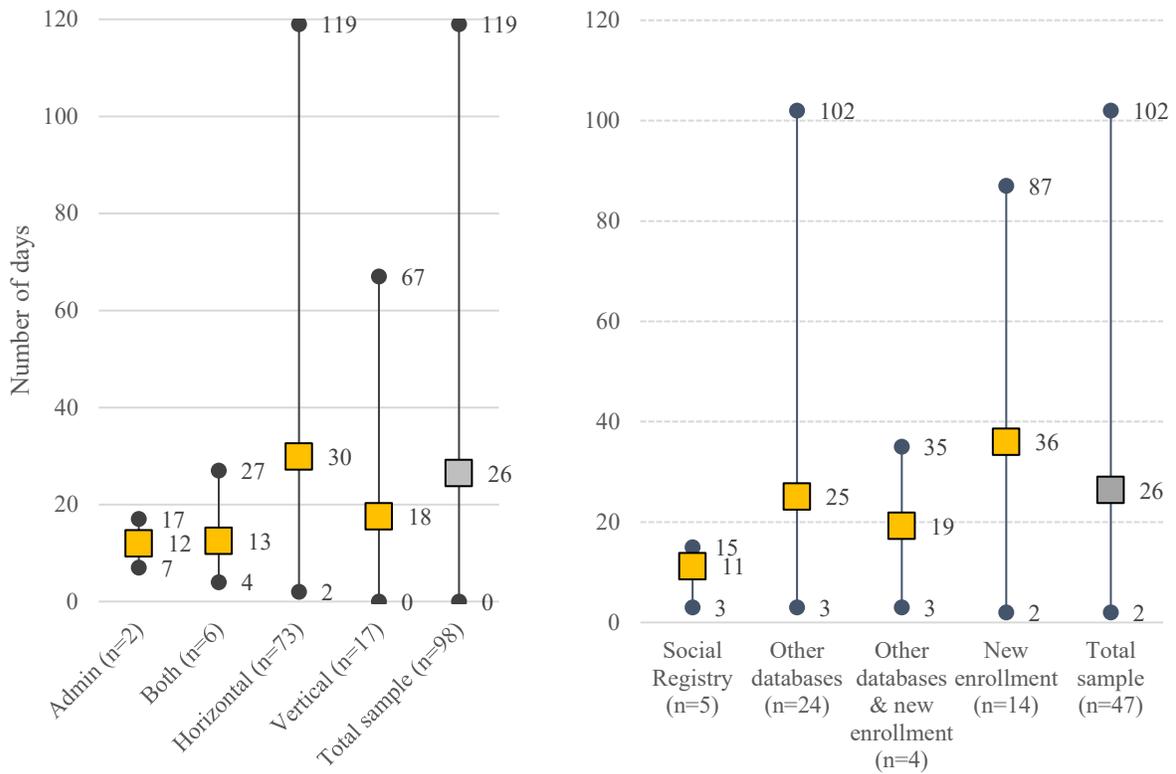
Table 5. Number of cash transfer beneficiaries by payment method

Payment modality	Income group	Number of programs	Number of beneficiaries (direct, actual)
Digital	LIC	12	5,544,567
	LMIC	18	481,276,790
	UMIC	20	247,204,804
	HIC	9	29,087,574
	Total digital	59	763,113,734
Manual	LIC	4	4,165,501
	LMIC	12	158,894,825
	UMIC	8	12,014,063
	Total manual	24	175,074,389
Both	LIC	2	3,786,979
	LMIC	13	92,741,725
	UMIC	7	26,560,155
	HIC	2	162,372,231
	Total both	24	285,461,090
Grand total		107	1,223,649,213

Version 16 of our database offers new information on speed of response, or timeliness of assistance (see annex 6). This is defined as the number of days between the announcement of a cash transfer program and its first payment. Based on data from 98 programs, we estimate that an average of 26 days passed between program announcement and payment. The vertical extension of benefits took 18 days as opposed to the 30 entailed by horizontal expansion (figure 14, left side). Looking at the range of days in the vertical segment, one program, Tekoporã in Paraguay, was able to augment benefits the same day of announcement (zero days). Countries that had an existing social registry responded faster than others (11 days). Yet, social registries alone were likely an insufficient mechanism to ensure coverage expansion. In fact, the utilization of other complementary databases is a widespread strategy: in a number of circumstances, these may have been tapped for the first time for cash transfer payments (whether new databases generated for that purpose, or existing databases used for difference purposes). Hence, they took a longer time for disbursements, i.e., between 19 and 36 days (figure 14, right side).

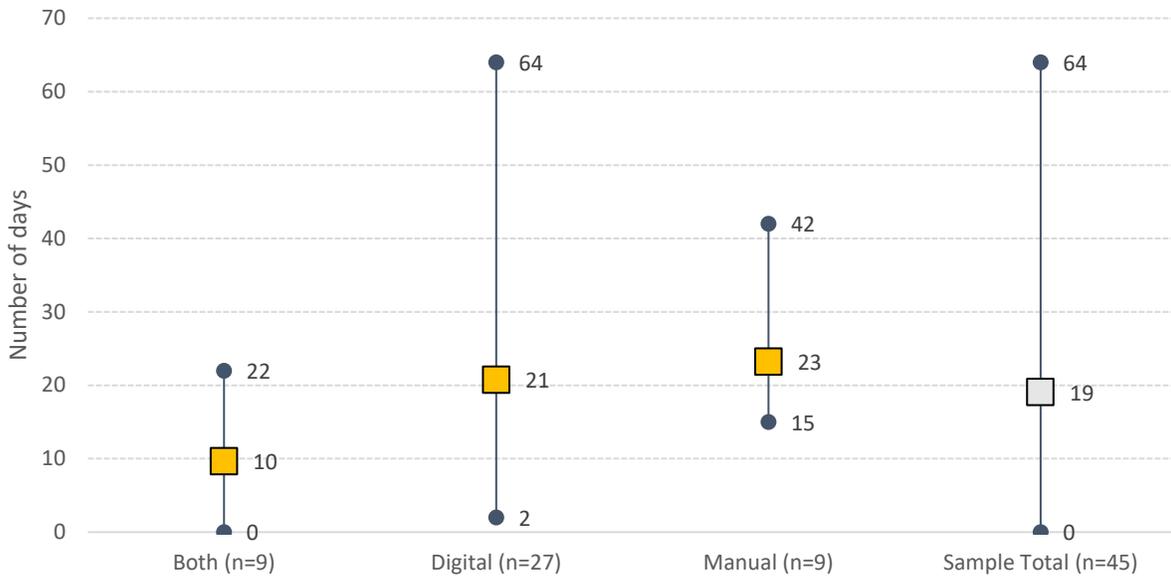
³ The estimates follow the same method as for coverage calculation, including counting the highest coverage program based on administrative data.

Figure 14. Response speed by adaptation and database (number of days)



When comparing the speed of digital versus manual payments, the former modality was faster, but not by a significant amount of time – i.e., 21 versus 23 days, respectively. As in the case of additional databases used for identifying new beneficiaries, the narrow lead of digital payments could be due to their novel nature in a number of contexts, including possible time for set-up (figure 15).

Figure 15. Speed of response by payment modality



Social insurance

Countries have invested significantly in social insurance responses to the pandemic. Over 2020-2021, a total of 719 measures have been recorded (table 6). While reported separately, measures implemented in the realm of pensions are closely related to contributions waivers. Combined, their represent half of Covid-related social insurance measures.

Table 6. Social insurance measures

Sub-component	N. of measures	N. of countries
Paid sick support	149	87
Healthcare insurance support	68	51
Pension	96	63
Social security contribution waiver/subsidy	261	115
Unemployment benefit	145	88
Total	719	179

Because of their significance, it might be important to further examine pensions and related measures concerning early withdrawals of pension savings; contribution waivers, holidays, or subsidies; additional benefits; and their administrative adjustments.

Some countries with a component of savings in their pension systems (mandatory or voluntary) provided early access to withdraw savings in an effort to provide a quick response to the pandemic effects, sacrificing the long-term income protection provided by the schemes. While voluntary schemes tend to provide some level of flexibility with certain conditions, mandatory schemes traditionally prevent any sort of early access to savings until eligibility conditions are met. The cases of Australia, Chile, and Peru are the most salient examples of early withdrawals from pension savings, with Chile and Peru in particular allowing withdrawals in up to three separate instances.

In order to reduce the burden of employers, countries adopted contribution waivers or subsidies, usually accompanying other tax measures, such as reduction or postponement of tax payments. In Defined Benefit or PAYG schemes these measures affect the funding of the pension agency, while in funded schemes they directly affect the future pension of participants. This was the most commonly observed measure in our review of country experiences, perhaps because it is easy to implement, does not imply a direct cost (although it has implicit costs) and complements well with other measures implemented to reduce labor costs to employers. It is observed in 115 countries with up to 261 different measures.

Many countries provided additional benefits to current pensioners, such as top-ups, one-off payments, increased indexation or higher minimum pensions. In most cases these benefits were financed by general revenues, but some countries used pension system resources, affecting the level of funding in the pension schemes. Additional benefits were observed in 63 countries, with 96 measures. One-off pension top-ups were implemented in countries such as Argentina, Czech Republic, Serbia, and Turkey. Permanent pension increases were observed in Cameroon, Egypt, Georgia, and Uzbekistan.

Given the lockdowns imposed to fight the spread of the virus, many pension systems had to adapt their administrative systems and delivery mechanisms to ensure continuity of services. Introducing remote payment mechanism and allowing a third party to collect benefits were the most common measures, while the use of digital technologies and online platforms is still rare in the area of pensions in developing countries. Our review has

collected 15 instances of delivery or administrative adjustments in 13 countries that were widely announced. However, it is possible that pension systems had to introduce many more administrative adjustments in their operations that are not captured in this review. Pension delivery was modified in countries such as Algeria, Armenia, Bulgaria, Serbia, and Uruguay, while Brazil introduced the possibility to present proof of life using a mobile app.

Labor market (supply) programs

The analysis presented in this section focuses on four types of labor supply policies that have been instrumental in supporting workers. These allowed them to maintain their income and provided flexibility in the employer-worker relationship throughout the pandemic: (i) wage subsidies, (ii) labor market regulations, (iii) shorter work time arrangements⁴ and (iv) activation policies which refer to training and placement assistance. By design, these types of policies typically target formal sector workers. However, they have been implemented by countries throughout the course of the pandemic, irrespective of their income group or level of informality. To better understand how countries have used these four policy types to target both formal and informal workers, this section briefly examines countries' policy responses through the lens of informality. The section also discusses how these policies have been used to target other vulnerable groups. Boxes 1 and 2 at the end of this section examine additional labor policies implemented over the past two years to help firms and workers cope with the adverse economic impacts of COVID-19.

Most countries have introduced supply-side labor market policies, with 187 countries and territories announcing 788 policies of the four selected policy types over 2020-2021 (table 7). Globally, about 84 percent of countries introduced at least one of these policies. Across income groups, the percentage stands at 76 percent of LICs, 83 percent of LMICs, 83 percent of UMICs, and 88 percent of HICs, which means that HICs have implemented these types of policies slightly more frequently.

Table 7. Labor market measures

Sub-component	N. of measures	N. of countries
Wage subsidy	233	117
Activation (training) measures	140	77
Labor regulation adjustment	284	134
Shorter work time benefits	131	89
Total	788	187

Of the 788 policies introduced, 36 percent are labor regulation adjustments, around 17 percent are shorter work time arrangements, approximately 30 percent are wage subsidies, and 18 percent are activation measures (figure 16). The distribution of programs, however, varies across income groups. LICs have heavily relied on labor regulatory adjustments and shorter work time arrangements, whilst HICs have preferred wage subsidies in addition to labor regulatory adjustments (figures 16 and 17). The preference for labor regulatory adjustments and shorter work time benefits decreases with countries' income level, whereas wage subsidies are favored by UMICs and HICs. The percentage of activation measures is relatively similar across income groups.

⁴ Shorter work time arrangements refer to regulatory changes to work time and working conditions. They differ from subsidies that allow firms to reduce working time because they do not require monetary compensation. They are addressed separately from other labor market regulatory changes as they are the most commonly used by the countries considered.

Figure 16. Distribution of programs by countries' income group

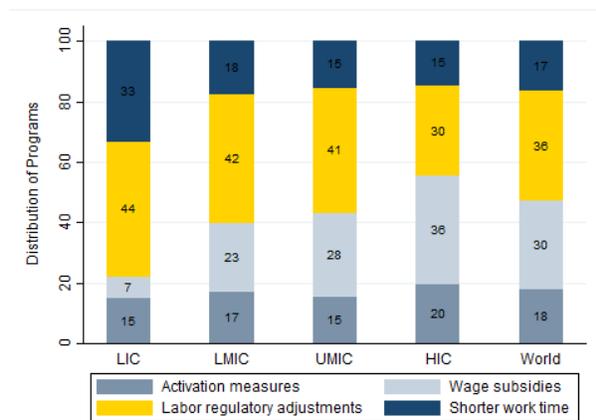
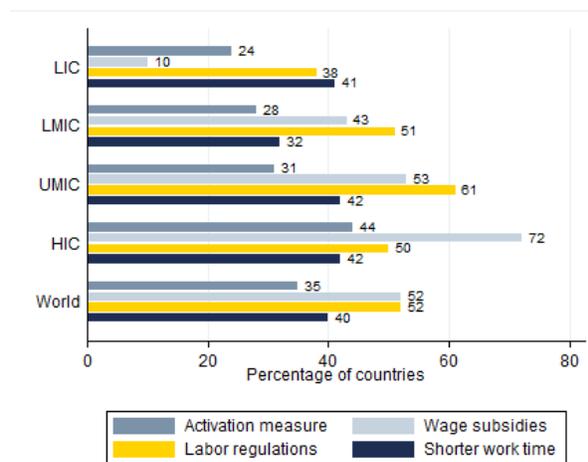


Figure 17. Percentage of countries with at least one of the selected labor policies by income group



Note: Graphs based on 788 programs implemented by 187 countries and territories, including 22 low-income countries (LIC), 39 lower-middle-income countries (LMIC), 49 upper-middle-income countries (UMIC), and 77 high-income countries (HIC). This includes 140 activation measures; 233 wage subsidies; 284 labor regulations, and 131 shorter work time arrangements.

Countries introduced new policies tailored to combat the negative effects of the pandemic and adapted their existing policies. Overall, two thirds of the Labor Market supply-side policies introduced were new, whereas the remaining third were adaptations of existing policies. Even two years into the pandemic, countries are still responding to its unprecedented economic impact by implementing new programs. They are also continuously extending policies introduced earlier in the crisis to prolong their support to workers and firms as the pandemic unfolds. More than 20 percent of the selected policies have been extended, with some being extended more than 6 times. These policy extensions can be of different types. In some cases, they consist of an extension of the time that beneficiaries can receive a benefit, while in others, these extensions are accompanied by additional changes to a specific policy (e.g., modifying the amount of the benefit, the target group or the conditions for eligibility). Out of the four policy types, wage subsidies were extended the most, with over 36 percent of programs being extended at least once.

The majority of the selected labor market policy types have targeted wage workers, the self-employed and unemployed. For programs where data is available, over 73 percent of the selected labor policies were directed at wage workers, whereas around 11 and 9 percent were aimed at the unemployed and self-employed, respectively.⁵ The self-employed and unemployed benefited mainly from activation measures and wage subsidies for the maintenance and creation of employment. On the other hand, wage workers benefited mostly from labor regulation changes and shorter work time benefits in addition to wage subsidies.

By design, most of these programs target workers in the formal sector, yet they have been introduced in countries with varying degrees of informality. In order to be eligible for wage subsidies or covered by labor regulations, workers typically need to have a formal work relationship. This can exclude a significant portion of the labor force in countries with large informal sectors. Lockdowns and closure of businesses pose a magnified threat to the livelihoods of informal workers, as they typically lack access to formal social benefits, have less savings, and are employed in sectors that were hit hard by the economic downturn such as retail and manufacturing. Therefore, it is important to also examine countries' policy responses to the pandemic through the lens of informality. For

⁵ These figures are based on the 635 policies out of the total policies being reviewed which specified the target worker type.

this analysis, countries have been classified into terciles according to their pre-pandemic informality levels. All four types of supply-side policies were used across all terciles, although in varying degrees (figures 18 and 19).⁶ A strong, negative correlation exists between informality and per capita GDP which can explain the similarity in the patterns seen across informality levels and income groups. It should be noted, however, that countries with similar per capita GDP can have considerably different informality levels.

Figure 18. Distribution of programs by level of informality

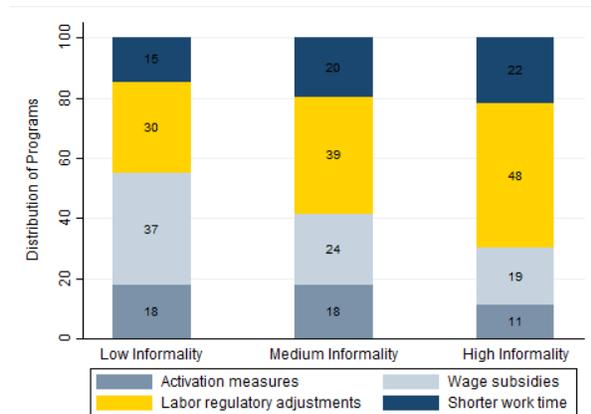
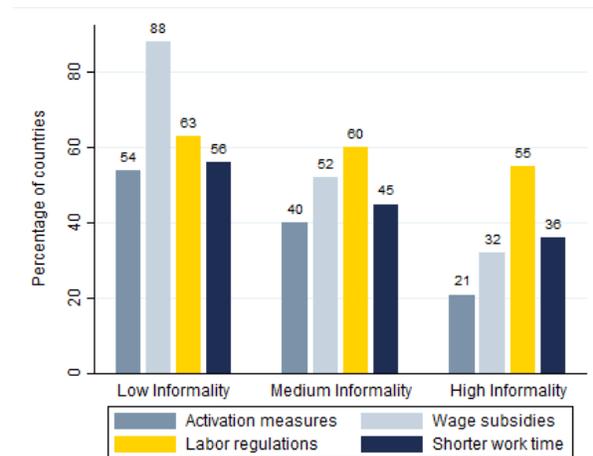


Figure 19. Percentage of countries with at least one of the selected labor policies by level of informality



Note: Graphs based on 554 programs implemented by 122 countries and territories, including 39 low informality countries, 37 medium informality countries, and 46 high informality countries. This includes 90 activation measures; 158 wage subsidies; 206 labor regulations, and 100 shorter work time arrangements.

Wage subsidies, which are mainly aimed at helping formal workers maintain and continue their employment relationships and encourage job creation, were favored by countries with low rates of informality. They were implemented in 88 percent of countries in this tercile (figure 19). For example, Germany introduced a new restart premium to be paid to companies towards personnel costs to bring employees availing short-time work benefits back to work earlier and hire new employees. Through the *Incentivo ATIVAR.PT*, the government of Portugal implemented hiring subsidies of around EUR 5,000 (~USD 6,085) per employee, specifically targeted at young workers and the long-term unemployed. Croatia announced a scheme to support employers organized as sheltered workshops, integrative workshops, and employment units for people with disabilities, which had experienced a decrease in turnover of at least 50 percent, with a monthly allowance of up to HRK 4,000 (~USD 645) per eligible employee.

In countries with high and medium informality levels, wage subsidies were less prevalent, with 32 percent and 52 percent of countries introducing these, respectively (figure 19). This could be explained by the need for large fiscal resources for implementation and the larger share of informal workers in the labor force who are typically not reached through such measures. Such countries usually prefer to use other measures to support workers, like cash transfers which allow them to have a wider reach outside the formal sector, depending on their social protection landscape.

⁶ Out of the 223 countries and territories examined in this paper, 139 countries and territories had informality data available and were categorized into terciles according to their informal employment rate from the latest year available before the pandemic. The informality data mainly used is from ILOSTAT and is supplemented by data from *Women and men in the informal economy: a statistical picture (third edition)* (ILO).

Nonetheless, some countries with both high and medium rates of informality still introduced wage subsidy programs that specifically targeted informal workers. For example, Tonga delivered subsidies to both formal and informal workers who had lost their jobs or faced reduced hours of work due to the pandemic and managed to cover 5,326 workers from 673 businesses (over 13 percent of the labor force). Some wage subsidy programs aimed at informal workers incentivized the formalization of labor and enabled informal workers to receive social security benefits. For instance, Timor-Leste granted a one-time subsidy to informal workers and the self-employed who were not registered with the social security system if they registered themselves and maintained social security contributions for a certain amount of time. Similarly, Jordan launched a wage support program, *Tadamon 2*, which targeted uninsured businesses not registered with the Social Security Corporation, and those who had been contributing for less than a year. Employees of eligible businesses could receive a monthly unemployment allowance for three months on the condition that their employers retained them and partially funded the allowance.

Countries also adapted their labor market regulations and introduced shorter work time arrangements to help firms survive the pandemic and enable employees to retain their jobs. Examples include changes to severance payment obligations, hiring flexibility, dismissal procedures, modifications to leave policies and remuneration, as well as occupational health and safety. These policies were widely implemented by 63 percent of low informality countries, 60 percent of medium informality countries and 55 percent of high informality countries. They constitute the most frequently used policy for medium and high informality countries (figure 19). Shorter work time arrangements have been addressed separately, as they also constitute a widely used regulatory policy during the pandemic. In turn, these have been introduced by 56 percent of low informality countries, 45 percent of medium informality countries, and 36 percent of high informality countries (figure 19).

Out of the selected labor policies, labor market regulations and shorter work time arrangements make up a large share of the policies implemented by the countries in each tercile, particularly in high informality countries where they comprise the majority of the policies (figure 18). Surprisingly, the prevalence of such measures, largely is high in countries with large informal sectors, even though these policies are largely aimed at formal sector workers and might not have the same reach in such contexts. This could represent a commitment to protect formal workers from economic hardship in a situation where allocating fiscal resources through other policies such as wage subsidies could pose budgetary strains, particularly for high informality countries. However, the enforcement and compliance of labor regulations can be challenging in developing countries.

To provide flexibility to workers and firms during the pandemic, shorter work time benefits were extensively used across the globe to allow for alternative arrangements or schedules vis-a-vis the traditional working day and week. For example, Spain announced that workers had the right to a reduction in working hours, up to 100 percent, if they were required to care for dependent relatives due to illness, age or disability. Similarly, Italy granted parents with at least one child under the age of 14 the right to perform agile working.⁷ Even in high and medium informality settings, the policies were largely targeted at formal workers and encouraged firms to adopt flexible arrangements. Due to the nature of their work, it would be difficult for such policies to reach informal workers. Nicaragua allowed firms to adopt teleworking or remote work on the condition that they would not reduce employees' wages and Djibouti also introduced a policy that allowed enterprises to adopt alternative working arrangements to protect their workers' contracts such as teleworking, paid leave, and partial activity in case of inactivity due to the pandemic.

⁷ Agile working enables employees to work without any limitations on location or fixed working hours to provide flexibility and improve productivity.

The other main types of regulatory adjustments implemented involved occupational health and safety in the workplace and remuneration. Measures concerning health and safety regulations in the workplace included the introduction and enforcement of workplace safety protocols to prevent contagion. While these measures were not specifically targeted at informal workers, they were sometimes directed at sectors which have a large share of informal workers. For example, Honduras introduced specific guidelines for a wide range of economic sectors, such as construction, restaurants and tourism, among others. Policies regarding remuneration were aimed at easing business continuity and targeting specific groups through additional pay. In Namibia, the *Stimulus and Relief Package* provided for the relaxation of labor regulations to avoid major retrenchments and business closures by allowing employers to negotiate a temporary reduction of salaries and wages during the crisis period. In Slovenia, frontline workers were rewarded with an increase that ranged between 10 and 200 percent in their basic salary, in the form of hazard pay and bonuses.

Other changes in labor regulations included severance payment obligations, dismissal and hiring procedures, or leave modifications. Due to the nature of these measures, they were primarily directed at the formal sector, even in countries with high rates of informality. Bulgaria allowed employers to hire workers who were on unpaid leave from other firms without the authorization of the previous employer, unless it was expressly prohibited in the original contract. El Salvador announced that workers who were quarantined due to the pandemic or unable to return to the workplace due to migration or health restrictions could not be dismissed or subjected to a reduction in their wages.

Countries have also introduced activation measures to support jobseekers and other groups to search and find jobs or improve their skills and employability. They have adapted or created new programs to train and reskill workers and jobseekers during a time of decreasing economic activity, closure of businesses, and soaring unemployment. They have also adjusted their public employment services (PES) by offering new digital tools for online labor market intermediation, which facilitate job matches between workers and employees. These measures formed a key part of the global response to the pandemic. They were implemented by 54 percent of low informality countries, 40 percent of medium informality countries, and 21 percent of high informality countries (figure 19). They made up 18 percent of policies implemented by both low and medium informality countries and 11 percent of policies introduced by high informality countries (figure 18).

Activation measures, namely training and placement assistance, were primarily targeted at jobseekers which could explain the similarity in the distribution across informality levels as the pandemic impacted employment, albeit to varying degrees, across the globe. The relatively lower proportion of activation measures in high informality countries could be due to budgetary constraints and a preference for other types of policy interventions. Activation measures were used more commonly in countries with low and medium informality. Seychelles established the Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme (SETS) to support workers made redundant following the economic impacts of COVID-19 by aiding their re-entry into the labor market through retraining, up-skilling, and providing temporary work placement services. In the Republic of Korea, the eligibility requirements of the *Job Search Promotion Subsidy* were also relaxed to include non-standard contract employees and freelancers. Belgium set up a platform to facilitate job matching between employers and students working part-time, especially in the hospitality and non-food sectors.

Some countries introduced activation measures which also catered to informal workers. Indonesia adapted the design of the *Kartu Prakerja (Pre-Employment Card)* program on account of the pandemic and doubled the initial budget. The program targets both informal and formal workers affected by the crisis and offers vocational training with monetary benefits in the form of cash and non-cash credit. Some policies were not specifically targeted at

informal workers, however, they were directed at groups such as youth which make up a significant proportion of the informal labor force in emerging and developing economies.

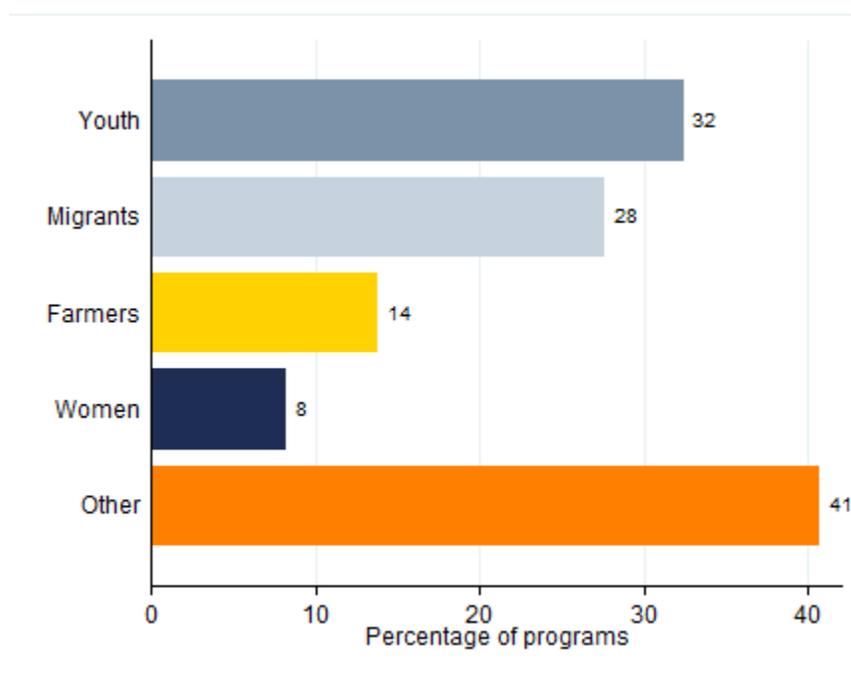
In fact, in addition to targeting both formal and informal workers, countries also allocated resources in targeting other groups who were disproportionately impacted by the pandemic. For example, more than 18 percent of the policies implemented by countries were used to support and protect vulnerable groups. Youth, migrants, and other groups such as jobseekers and parents were among the groups most targeted by these labor market policies. Out of the selected policies, around 32 percent were aimed at youth, 28 percent at migrants, around 8 percent at women, around 14 percent at farmers, and 41 percent have been directed at other vulnerable groups such as parents, people with disabilities, jobseekers, and elderly people, among others (figure 20).⁸

Countries have designed specific new policies to reach these vulnerable groups. The main policies directed at youth were activation measures and wage subsidies. The government of Maldives introduced a training program targeted at the young population, to allow them to develop skills, mainly in the sectors of tourism, construction and ICT. The United Kingdom launched the *Kickstart Scheme*, a financial support program to encourage job placements and hiring of young people by covering 100 percent of the minimum wage. Other groups such as parents, elderly people, jobseekers, and people with disabilities received support from governments mainly in the form of activation measures, wage subsidies, and adjustments in labor regulations. Under the *SGUnited Skills Program*, Singapore aimed to support 30,000 jobseekers with subsidized training courses to help them acquire industry-relevant skills. In Uzbekistan, the government prohibited the termination of the employment contract of employees who had children infected with COVID-19 or quarantined under their care. It also urged employers to transfer workers, especially elderly people, persons with disabilities and chronic diseases to flexible working hours or work-from-home arrangements.

Migrants were the primary group benefiting from labor regulations in the form of work permit adjustments. Luxembourg concluded agreements with France and Belgium to allow cross-border workers from these countries to telework without suffering from financial tax disadvantages during the COVID-19 crisis. The governments of Austria, Cuba, Mauritius, Panama, and Spain among others, extended the duration of employment permits for migrants for up to one year. Farmers were also mainly targeted through labor regulatory adjustments related to occupational health and safety. Turkey put a regulation in place to manage the working conditions and accommodation of seasonal agricultural workers. Women also benefited from targeted wage support in addition to labor regulation measures. In Chile, the *Employment Subsidy program* delivered greater benefits if firms re-hired women with suspended contracts.

⁸ These figures are based on the 145 policies out of the total policies being reviewed which specified the target group.

Figure 20. Distribution of labor market supply-side programs by main target group



Note: Graph based on 145 programs which specified the target population group implemented by 70 countries and territories, including 4 low-income countries, 8 lower-middle-income countries, 21 upper-middle-income countries, and 37 high income countries. This includes 54 activation measures; 35 wage subsidies; 44 labor regulations, and 12 shorter work time arrangements. The 'other' category refers to groups such as jobseekers, parents, people with disabilities, and elderly people.

In sum, countries across the globe have relied on wage subsidies, labor regulatory adjustments, shorter work time arrangements, and activation measures to help their workers during the pandemic. All of these policies have been used by countries irrespective of their income group or level of informality. However, their income group and level of informality has influenced the mix of policies that they have chosen to implement. Countries in the lowest informality tercile have favored wage subsidies, whereas high and medium informality countries have preferred labor regulatory adjustments and shorter work time arrangements. The prevalence of activation measures has been relatively similar across the informality terciles.

Other labor market policies intended to support both workers and firms in the formal and informal sectors have also been implemented by countries over the past two years. Boxes 1 and 2 discuss additional policies aimed at supporting the income of workers and firms. Box 1 briefly looks at how countries' level of informality relates to income support policies aimed at workers such as cash transfers to economically active persons, public works programs, and unemployment benefits and Box 2 briefly summarizes the role of policies that are specifically targeted at supporting firms.

Box 1. Income support policies for economically active persons

Countries implemented a variety of income support policies to help economically active persons cope with the negative economic impact of the pandemic. In addition to wage subsidies, countries relied on cash transfers to economically active persons, unemployment benefits and public works programs to reach out to formal and informal workers, the self-employed, and the unemployed.

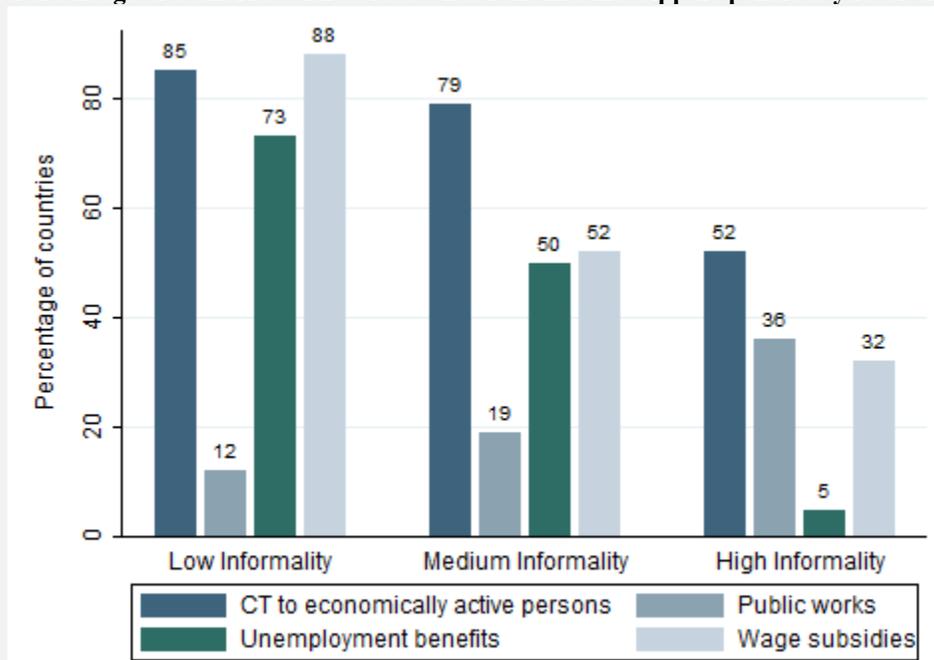
Cash transfers to economically active persons were adopted in countries of all levels of informality and they constituted the most prevalent income support policy in countries of high and medium informality and the second most common income support policy in countries with low informality levels (figure 21). They were mainly aimed at reaching informal workers and non-salaried workers, however, some benefits also targeted formal workers and the unemployed. For example, in Burkina Faso, the government implemented cash transfers targeted at informal sector workers such as fruit and vegetable vendors who had been adversely affected by the pandemic.

Through the *Rao Mai Ting Gun (No One Left Behind)* scheme, Thailand directed monthly cash handouts of 5,000 baht (~USD 166) to informal workers, temporary employees, contractors, and self-employed workers who had lost their jobs due to the pandemic and were not covered by the social security system. Portugal announced a financial support scheme with a monthly allowance of EUR 438 (~USD 533) for the self-employed which was later extended to include workers in the informal sector and those with irregular contracts. Iceland and France extended a one-off bonus to frontline healthcare workers.

Unemployment benefits and wage subsidies traditionally rely on formal channels to reach workers. Not surprisingly, countries with lower informality rates were more likely to utilize unemployment benefits and wage subsidies the most, with 73 and 88 percent of countries implementing at least one of these policies, respectively. They were also adopted by 50 and 52 percent of countries with medium informality, respectively. Within countries with high informality levels, 32 percent introduced wage subsidies, while only 5 percent used unemployment benefits (figure 21). Wage support programs and their adaptations have been examined in detail in the discussion of labor market supply policies. Unemployment benefits were adapted in various ways to address the effects of the pandemic including adjusting the amount and duration of existing benefits and relaxing the eligibility requirements to support those who previously did not qualify. For example, Albania doubled the amount of its unemployment assistance, and Vietnam provided employees without labor contracts or those who were self-employed with financial support.

Public works programs have often been used to reach informal workers. This is consistent with their prevalence in high informality settings, as around 36 percent of countries in the high informality tercile adopted such policies, whereas only 12 and 19 percent of countries in the low and medium informality terciles introduced them (figure 21). Nepal announced that informal workers who had lost their livelihood as a result of the pandemic could participate in the *Prime Minister Employment Program* and receive a subsistence wage. The government of Cambodia implemented a cash-for-work program to create short-term employment opportunities in rural infrastructure and agriculture for people who had lost their jobs due to the economic impact of COVID-19.

Figure 21. Percentage of countries with at least one of the income support policies by level of informality



Box 2. Labor market demand policies

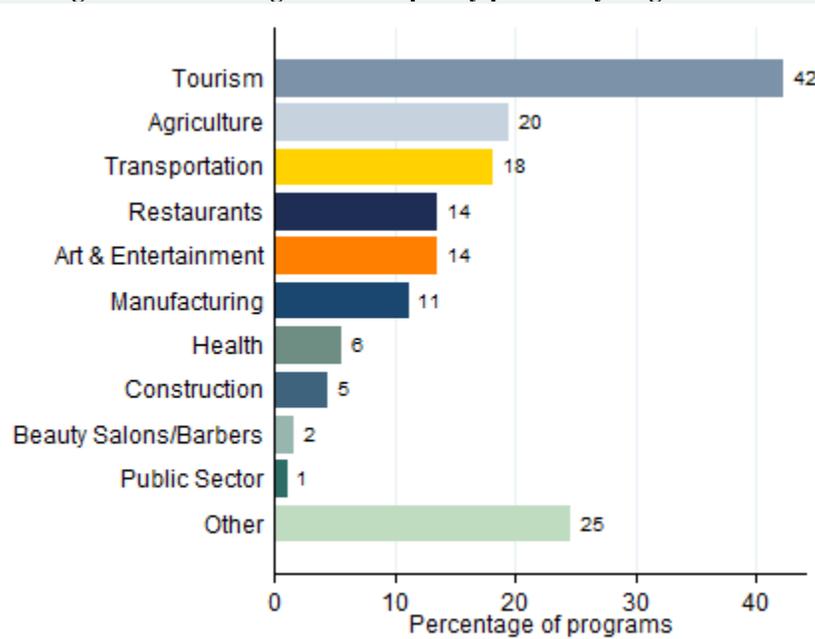
In addition to the selected labor market policies, countries across the world have put in place several initiatives to mitigate the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on firms, micro and small businesses, and entrepreneurs. In the 223 countries reviewed, a total of over 1,700 demand-side policies were implemented globally until May 2021 to alleviate the adverse effects of mandatory closures and lockdowns on firms, ease their burden of financial commitments and keep their business operations active. These measures were introduced in 91 percent of the countries considered.

These policies were aimed at helping businesses stay afloat by providing firms and entrepreneurs with additional liquidity. Tax relief (e.g., deferrals of corporate taxes, VAT and fiscal obligations) and credit facilities (e.g. subsidized loans and lower interest rates) were the two main instruments used worldwide, with 71 and 67 percent of countries implementing these types of policies, respectively. Payment facilities on existing loans (e.g. loan payment deferrals and interest rate reductions) were also offered to companies in around half of the countries. Companies also received assistance for the payment of utilities and rent. Finally, entrepreneurs were also supported with grants, subsidies, access to capital, and other forms of financial support.

Many of these policies were directed at all companies, irrespective of their economic sector. Some policies were aimed at supporting specific sectors that were hit hardest by the pandemic, like tourism, agriculture, transportation, restaurants, and arts and entertainment (figure 22). For each of these sectors, countries implemented tax relief, payment facilities, credit facilities, and utilities and rent support policies. For example, the government of Uzbekistan exempted the payment of land and property taxes paid by firms in the tourism sector, including tour operators, travel agents and those involved in hotel services. The government of Canada provided support to *Farm Credit Canada* to allow for an additional CAD 5 billion (USD 3.9 billion) in lending to producers, agribusinesses, and food processors affected by the pandemic. In Brazil, the *Banco do Brasil* suspended the payment of loan interest for up to four months for airlines. In Equatorial Guinea, the reduction in electricity bills paid by small firms, such as restaurants, discotheques, bars, and casinos, ranged between 25 and 50 percent.

To benefit from the aid provided by governments, firms in many cases were required to fulfil one or more conditions. These included demonstrating a loss of revenue due to COVID-19 over a specific threshold, a commitment to retain their employees, and compliance with tax and social security contribution requirements, among others.

Figure 22. Percentage of firm liquidity policies by target sector



Note: Graph based on 466 firm liquidity support programs implemented by 147 countries and territories, including 13 low-income countries, 32 lower-middle-income countries, 45 upper-middle-income countries and 57 high-income countries, which specified the target economic sector. The 'other' category mostly includes other service sectors.

Annex 1. Social assistance: deep dive by intervention

Cash transfers

Following a stylized lifecycle framework, governments have implemented an array of cash transfer programs. For instance, countries have either newly introduced or vertically expanded the existing programs for new-born children. Governments such as Georgia, North Macedonia, Turkey, Slovenia, and Singapore have targeted parents of new-borns to help them defray the cost of raising a child amidst the pandemic. Singapore, for example, introduced a special one-time “baby bonus”, in addition to their already existing package of benefits to new parents.

Countries have provided childcare allowances and child grants directed at families with children below 18. Myanmar and others 16 countries⁹ have implemented a one-time targeted cash transfers to pregnant women and women with children (below 3 years old.). Eighty-two other countries (such as Argentina, etc.¹⁰) have provided childcare benefits to parents with children below 18, but with different additional criteria. Armenia, China and others 4 economies¹¹ are paying childcare subsidies for parents who need to return to work due to their professional demands (e.g., frontline workers). Next, some governments – such as Bulgaria and Canada, among 12 others¹² – offered cash transfers to parents who experienced income loss or reduction due to additional childcare responsibility during school or childcare facility closure. For example, Malta introduced childcare benefits for private sector employees who took unpaid leave for childcare, which resulted in the reduction of salary. Similarly, Poland provided additional 14 days of childcare allowance to parents with children below 8 years of age. Finally, some governments, such as Cook Island and other 11 countries¹³, provided universal childcare allowances. For example, Iceland, on 21 June 2020 announced a one-off childcare payment to all families with children below 18. Wherein, parents with an average monthly income below ISK 927,000 in 2019 received ISK 40,000 per child, while those with higher income received ISK 20,000 per child.

Students studying in schools and universities (including abroad) received grants, living allowances and scholarships. Countries like Lebanon and Benin have taken steps to prevent dropouts. In Benin, for example, the government and UNICEF supported families with girl child(ren) between 9 and 15 years of age. The program intended to reduce child marriage and continue schooling during pandemic by providing cash transfers with complementary training. Similarly, during school closures, countries provided cash transfers to compensate for the absence of school feeding programs (see section on school meals). For example, the state government of Bihar, India, provided cash transfer for each day of school closure to every child who was receiving a school-based transfer for uniforms. Similarly, in preparation for the new academic year, back-to-school allowances, uniform and school grants and other living allowances were also provided to ensure continuity of children’s

⁹ Such as Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, Egypt, Rwanda, Kenya, Armenia, Sudan, Turkey, Vietnam, Lao PDR, Indonesia, Uganda, Russia, Kosovo, Serbia

¹⁰ Such as Argentina, Angola, Anguilla (UK), Armenia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Canada, Cayman Islands, China, Congo, Cook Island, Costa Rica, Curaçao, Estonia, Eswatini, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Iran, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Jordan, Kenya, Lao PDR, Latvia, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, Netherlands, New Caledonia, North Macedonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Russian, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, South Africa, South Korea, Spain, St. Lucia, Suriname, Sweden, Switzerland, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United States, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (U.S.), West Bank and Gaza, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

¹¹ Guyana, Jordan, Netherlands and Virgin Island

¹² Germany, Italy, Japan, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Poland, Spain, South Korea, Switzerland.

¹³ Such as Georgia, Iceland, Mongolia, Montenegro, Russian

learning (e.g., Bolivia and 16 economies¹⁴). For instance, Malaysia enabled online learning by providing cash assistance to purchase smart devices for families with children belonging to the bottom 40 percent of the income distribution. Uzbekistan gave cash assistances to school-aged children (below 18 years) hailing from poor families to meet their education-related expenses. Next, Botswana continued to provide cash transfers to cover living expenses of students during lockdown. Similarly, several countries have used student relief funds to support their students studying abroad (e.g., Cyprus, Gambia, and other 8 countries¹⁵). Cyprus, for example, paid allowance for affected students studying abroad and could not return home due to suspension of flights.

During lockdowns, border closures, travel bans, and suspension of commercial flights, countries have provided financial assistance to their citizens who were stranded and helped them to return home¹⁶. A few countries, such as Kiribati, Mongolia, and other 7 countries¹⁷, helped their stranded citizens in a foreign land with financial assistance. Similarly, Thailand and Philippines assisted their citizens who were working abroad to return home. Beyond international workers, the sudden lockdown also affected domestic workers within the country, especially migrant labourers. Hence, China, India and 6 others¹⁸ had taken active steps to disperse cash to affected populations. For instance, India's Bihar state¹⁹ transferred money to bank accounts of workers stranded in other states due to lockdown.

Cash transfers were provided to offset the negative impact of pandemic-related closures, which varied across industries and countries, depending on the participation of their workforce in that specific industry. In Myanmar, for example, textile, garments, and footwear industries are the three major export-sectors. Therefore, cash transfers were targeted at informal and self-employed workers from those industries. More generally, 41 and 23 countries²⁰ targeted at people working in "tourism, hospitality and transportation", and "agriculture, fishing and aquaculture" industries, respectively. Workers engaged in cultural and creative industries received cash transfers in 16 countries²¹, mostly in the Europe and Central Asia region.

A large share of cash transfers was directed at informal, self-employed, and unemployed workers in various sectors which were severely impacted by the pandemic. A total 133 (out of 201) countries across the globe have provided cash transfers to informal, self-employed, and unemployed people, which constitutes around 30% of the total 962 cash transfer programs. Cash assistance targeted at self-employed workers was implemented in 77 countries (with 119 programs) covering about 142.6 million self-employed workers (including their family

¹⁴ Botswana, Canada, Fiji, France, Guyana, Hong Kong, Ireland, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Russian, Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France), Singapore, Tonga, Tunisia, Tuvalu, and Uzbekistan

¹⁵ Lesotho, Maldives, Micronesia, St. Kitts and Nevis, Timor-Leste, and Trinidad and Tobago

¹⁶ As discussed in the section of labor market interventions, those social assistance measures should be interpreted within the wider context of international migration. This also includes governments of "sending" countries coordinated with those of "receiving" countries to ensure that international workers received their pending wages and benefits from their employers, and facilitated job search at home.

¹⁷ Micronesia, Senegal, Serbia, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tuvalu

¹⁸ Malaysia, Moldova, Myanmar, Seychelles, Tajikistan and Ukraine

¹⁹ The program was implemented remotely and at scale, and without pre-existing databases. It used a "digital first" identification and payments approach to transfer funds.

²⁰ For tourism, transportation and hospitality: Albania, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Bahamas, Bahrain, Cameroon, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, Gambia, Germany, Greece, Grenada, Hong Kong, Iceland, India, Indonesia, Italy, Korea, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Malaysia, Montenegro, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Poland, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), South Africa, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Tunisia, Turks and Caicos islands, and Vietnam. For agriculture, fishing and aquaculture: Belize, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Dominica, Egypt, Gambia, Ghana, India, Italy, Kosovo, Macao SAR, Mauritius, Montenegro, Netherlands, Northern, Mariana Islands, Philippines, Portugal, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Thailand, and Uzbekistan.

²¹ Culture and creative industry: Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Germany, Italy, Kenya, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Portugal, South Africa, Spain, Turkey, Vietnam, and Zimbabwe.

members). A total of 97 programs was aiming at informal workers, including 28 programs dedicated to such workers and 69 providing them cash transfers alongside other vulnerable groups. In total, 129.5 million informal workers were covered via informality-specific programs and 126.9 million via programs reaching a broader array of people, including informal workers among them.

Informal and self-employed workers belong to wide range of industries. For example, Ghana, Pakistan and Jordan have implemented cash transfers for daily wage workers; Lesotho provided cash transfers for factory workers; Hong Kong, India and Syria have implemented transfers for construction workers; India and other countries²² have provided cash transfers to street Vendors and rickshaw pullers; Argentina and others²³ provided financial assistance to tour operators and guides; Germany and other economies²⁴ provided cash assistance to artists, authors and other freelancers.

Among workers receiving unemployment support²⁵ there are some notable differences. Countries such as Greece and Israel provided unemployment allowances. And some others, such as Canada, Malaysia, and Jamaica, assisted recent graduates who failed to find work due to Covid-19 related reasons. Others provided unemployment support to those who lost their job or income due to lockdown, lay-off, and downsizing. A cash transfer program in Sierra Leone targeted informal and self-employed workers (mainly traders), with the intent to allow them to re-invest in their businesses after the lockdown was lifted.

Cash transfers were also targeted at poor and vulnerable families, who are at risk of falling into poverty. Fifty-eight countries (e.g., Angola, etc.²⁶) have provided cash assistance to poor and vulnerable people. Belize, for example, implemented a temporary cash transfer to poor families who were not covered by any other social assistance programs. Similarly, countries made payments to other vulnerable groups such as people with disabilities²⁷, single parents²⁸, and elderly²⁹. These also includes transfers made to foster families and homes or temporary custody³⁰ that took care of disabled people, orphan children and old-age people during the pandemic. Cash assistance in five countries (Jordan, Kenya, Pakistan, Tajikistan, and Uganda) reached 5.1 million people refugees³¹.

²² Among them, Macao, Malaysia, St. Vincent, and St Maarten.

²³ Grenada, Egypt, North Macedonia, Vietnam, Macao SAR, Czech Republic, Taiwan, etc.

²⁴ Estonia, Finland, etc.

²⁵ These are non-contributory in nature and therefore, fall under social assistance.

²⁶ Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Congo (Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Ecuador, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, France, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guam, Haiti, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iran, Jordan, Kenya, Korea, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Liberia, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, North Macedonia, Pakistan, Palau, Peru, Philippines, Russian Federation, São Tomé and Príncipe, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Spain, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Uganda, United Kingdom, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, and Vietnam.

²⁷ Australia, Austria, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Canada, Costa Rica, Dominica, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malaysia, Malta, Montenegro, Myanmar, Palau, Poland, Portugal, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, West Bank and Gaza, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

²⁸ Curaçao, Egypt, Grenada, Iceland, India, Japan, Kuwait, Malaysia, Malta, New Zealand, North Macedonia and Spain, Turkey. This includes single mother, divorced, widow, etc.

²⁹ Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Colombia, Cook Island, Costa Rica, Egypt, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lesotho, Lithuania, Malaysia, Palau, Rwanda, Seychelles, Sri Lanka, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Tunisia, Uzbekistan, and Zambia.

³⁰ in many countries, such as Anguilla (UK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Czech Republic, Eswatini, India, Kenya, Lithuania, Russian Federation, Sierra Leone, South Africa, St. Lucia, and Tunisia, transfers for managing month expenses.

³¹ Countries often supported refugees as part of a broader set of vulnerable groups (e.g., Tajikistan).

Frontline workers across the globe received cash assistance as a symbol of appreciation for their efforts during these testing times. Healthcare sector workers in many countries³² around the world received honorary payments (either one-time or monthly top-ups). For example, on 13 April 2020, Brunei announced a monthly special allowance of B\$400 for doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance drivers, and hospital cleaners and security guards. Malaysia and Seychelles provided additional transfers to their immigration, customs and related workers. Similarly, Peru, Timor-Leste, Tuvalu and Malaysia rewarded their military, police and civil defence. Some other countries provided bonuses to their civil servants (e.g., Cayman Islands, France, Malaysia, and Zimbabwe).

Cash transfers were also motivated as festive, leisure or recreational bonuses. A few countries granted assistance during festive seasons (e.g., Greece for Easter; Chile, Ireland and Venezuela for Christmas; Algeria and Iran for Ramadan), while others provided for leisure and recreation (e.g., Germany, Iceland, Poland). Such grants were targeted at particular sections of the population, typically using the socioeconomic and demographic condition. Ireland focused on long-term unemployed; Greece targeted people who lost their job in the month before Christmas; Germany, Iceland and Ireland directed assistance to low-income populations; Germany and Ireland targeted children. For example, Germany's "Catch-Up Program" aimed to support low-income families with children by transferring a one-off leisure bonus of 100 euro per child (*Kinderfreizeitbonus*). Prior to this, government also offered subsidized vacation stay at certain accommodation facilities³³.

Governments also provided additional assistance to people with a higher risk of Covid-19 due to comorbidities. As mentioned earlier, countries have provided cash assistance to elderly or senior citizen due to their vulnerability. Governments often had the facility of home delivery of cash for such population (e.g., Grenada). There were other special transfers made to people suffering from diseases such as HIV or tuberculosis (e.g., Myanmar, St Lucia, and Tajikistan), chronic kidney (Sri Lanka), and other diseases (e.g., Cuba³⁴).

During lockdowns, cash assistance was provided to alleviate the burden of staying-at-home orders. Government provided cash assistance to people living in lockdown-imposed areas or regions, e.g., Azerbaijan, Fiji, and other 6 countries³⁵. In Malaysia, for example, the Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council provided advance payment and a one-off top-up to its monthly beneficiaries in response to lockdown measures.

Governments provided financial support to people who were infected by Covid-19. The Philippines and other 9 countries³⁶ compensated for people who were tested positive for Covid-19 while on duty (e.g., frontline works and others). For example, India's Delhi government provided assistance of Rs 5,000 per person (and maximum of 10,000 per family) to Covid-positive construction workers in the city. Similarly, Australia and other 7 countries³⁷ have provided assistance for those who were asked to self-isolate. For example, UK's Test and Trace Support Payment Scheme provided a cash assistance of £500 to low-income individuals who were asked to self-isolate by the NHS and were unable to work from home. Finally, 13 governments³⁸ provided cash transfers to support families with the expenses related to funerals and last rites. Bangladesh, for example, announced that doctors and other health care employees, administration officials, members of armed forces and law enforcement

³² Such as Albania, Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Central African Republic, Colombia, Czech Republic, Egypt, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guyana, Iceland, Latvia, Malaysia, North Macedonia, Peru, Russian Federation, Serbia, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Spain, Tajikistan, Timor-Leste, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uzbekistan, and Vanuatu.

³³ In a way, this was a form of subsidy. In fact, guests were only expected to pay 10% of expenses for accommodation and meals at youth hostels and non-profit vacation homes.

³⁴ Cuba has introduced a special transfer for sick people conditional on medical certificate.

³⁵ Malaysia, Peru, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Turkey, Venezuela

³⁶ Bangladesh, Belarus, Colombia, Fiji, India, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Moldova, and Serbia.

³⁷ Canada, Colombia, Czech Republic, Portugal, Serbia, United Kingdom, and Vietnam.

³⁸ Argentina, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Eritrea, Guam, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Nepal, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines.

agencies, and other employees working during the pandemic, would be compensated if infected with or passed away due to the disease. Box A1 provide a summary of financial incentives for vaccinations.

Box A1. “Cash for jobs”

Governments have provided cash assistance in a variety of forms to incentivize people to take-up vaccination. Our database includes 55 cash-for-job programs in 6 economies, namely Cambodia Japan, Russia, Serbia, United States, and Virgin Islands). Among the schemes, organizing lotteries and cash prizes were the most widely used mechanisms, including 26 programs in 3 countries. For example, New York State announced in May 2021 a new vaccination program that provided free NYS lottery scratch-off tickets to 18 and above individuals with a grand prize of \$5 million³⁹. Next, direct cash was next popular incentive with 13 programs in Cambodia, Serbia, Japan, and US⁴⁰. For example, Japan⁴¹ passed a supplementary budget which included a plan to distribute 1,000 Yen coupons to all its 30,000 residents eligible for vaccination. Similarly, Serbia offered 3,000 dinars (25 euros or \$30) to all those who got their Covid-19 vaccine by May 31, 2021. The US also offered several \$100 incentive programs⁴². Finally, other methods to offer financial nudges include providing scholarships to go to universities (e.g., New York, Ohio, West Virginia); gift cards (e.g., California, Maine, North Carolina, Michigan); \$100 saving bonds (e.g., West Virginia); and discount coupon (e.g., Japan).

In terms of practical delivery of cash transfers, countries used several methods to raise awareness about programs and register potential beneficiaries. Programs were publicly announced through media and community to promote the awareness among potential beneficiaries (e.g., Pakistan and Bhutan). For example, Bhutan’s Druk Gyalpo’s Relief Kidu cash program was provided widespread publicity through television, radio, press and social media. Next stage is the intake and registration, where potential beneficiaries get registered. There are several ways of registration such as digital/online/web portal⁴³; self-registration via mobile platform (e.g., SMS)⁴⁴; manual registration at public local offices⁴⁵; manual registration via outreach/enrolment provided in mobile vans or similar initiatives⁴⁶; or some combination thereof. For example, Pakistan’s Ehsaas Emergency Cash Program asked the potential beneficiaries to send an SMS to be considered for the program). Next, Cape Verde’s *Rendimento Social de Inclusão Emergencial* (RSIE), for example, setup a new digital application and beneficiary management platform to register people who were previously not cover by social registry. Also, Covid-19 induced registration processes have become permanent in some countries (e.g., online application in Kosovo, digital registration in Honduras).

Some countries have retained the need for verification (in the form of home visit or inviting the beneficiary to the government office) for first-time applicants. This included Cook Islands, Kosovo, and San Marino. Others, instead, simplified need assessments for first-time applicants. In case of Jordan (Takaful-3), for instance, verification of new applicants by a social worker was conducted virtually, instead of physical visit as in normal time.

³⁹ Cash drawing or lottery was implemented in 18 US states: Alabama, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Delaware, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Mexico, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oregon, and Washington state.

⁴⁰ 7 states: Arkansas, Colorado, Delaware, Maryland, Michigan, New Mexico, and Ohio

⁴¹ Specifically, in the Town of Miyashiro, Saitama Prefecture.

⁴² For example, Arkansas announced that executive branch state agency employees who get at least one dose of the Covid-19 vaccine by July 1, 2021 would receive a \$100 bonus. Similarly, The New Mexico Department of Health announced a \$100 incentive for New Mexicans who complete their vaccination series or receive a single-shot Johnson & Johnson vaccination before June 17, 2021.

⁴³ Bhutan, Cape Verde, Czech Republic, Guam, Honduras, Hong ong, Iraq, Jordan, Kosovo, South Africa, South Korea, Ukraine, West Bank and Gaza, etc.

⁴⁴ Brazil, Pakistan, India, Togo, Ukraine, etc.

⁴⁵ Bhutan, Hong Kong, Jordan, South Korea, Ukraine, etc.

⁴⁶ Algeria, Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, South Korea, Sudan, etc.

For existing beneficiaries, Kosovo and others⁴⁷ have simplified the process by suspending all the re-application and verification requirements – such as to visit government office, fill out the form, etc – thereby allowing to automatically extend⁴⁸ the social assistance benefits for existing beneficiaries whose benefits got expired. Kosova, for example, has suspended verification process for social assistance (and pensions) benefits of re-applicants until further notice. However, new applicants were required to complete full application process. This measure initially ended in July 2020 but was reactivated recently. Next, Ukraine automated the verification of information that the applicant indicates in the application, and the time taken to complete the registration process through a software is less than 5 minutes.

Countries enriched their social registries with information collected during the pandemic. For example, Colombia's *Bogotá Solidaria en Casa*, in addition to census data and local government data, used data from cell phone operators to identify its potential beneficiaries. Next, Ghana, Indonesia, Mali, Mauritania, and Nigeria have integrated (or planning to integrate) the information collected during Covid -19 into their social registry in an attempt to enrich it. In Indonesia, for example, beneficiary data collected from *Bantuan Sosial Tunai* (an emergency unconditional cash transfer program) has been integrated into the social registry. Brazil created the ExtraCad platform combining different information sources and databases.

Governments relied on socioeconomic criteria with eligibility thresholds and exclusions pertaining to income, assets, and other measures of welfare. Depending on the program, countries have used a variety of assessment criteria or tools for selection. In case of demographic-category programs (such as childcare), demographic status was used. Similarly, for poverty-related programs, countries mostly used thresholds/cut-off (e.g., Belize, Fiji, Georgia, Jordan, Malaysia, and Singapore) and exclusion filters (e.g., Cook Islands, Malta, and Pakistan). For example, Pakistan's Ehsaas Emergency Cash program⁴⁹ used exclusion criteria such as international travel, ownership of a car, and a 6-monthly average phone bill above Rs.1000⁵⁰. Malaysia's Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package targeted individuals with income below certain eligibility threshold. Some other governments (such as El Salvador and Guatemala) used other proxies of welfare – e.g., electricity consumption – to identify beneficiaries. For example, Guatemala introduced the emergency cash transfer Bono Familia to reach 2.7 million households (80% of population) for a duration of 3 months: in such case, 90% of beneficiaries were targeted based on electricity consumption less than 200whz for areas with proper electricity access; the remaining 10% of beneficiaries were selected based on socio-economic characteristics. Togo considered poverty maps developed with innovative approaches, including big data and machine learning.

Government relaxed eligibility criteria or suspended verification of the eligibility criteria enabling more people to benefit from the program. Bulgaria and Uzbekistan have modified demographic criteria of child benefit to enable more poor and vulnerable families. For instance, Uzbekistan increased the age limit of the child grant from 14 to 18 years old. Similarly, Belize and others⁵¹ relaxed the eligibility threshold (by disregarding certain incomes and categories, or increasing the threshold) for registrants to receive allowances. For example, Belize' BOOST cash transfer program relaxed the eligibility threshold to include vulnerable households above the poverty line. And North Macedonia⁵² relaxed the eligibility criteria of guaranteed minimum income (GMI) scheme for materially deprived households, allowing the program to expand horizontally to 15,500 new households from the

⁴⁷ Cuba, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hong Kong, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Qatar, Russian Federation, Serbia, and Ukraine.

⁴⁸ Although many countries have automatically extended the benefits to existing beneficiaries, there are still some countries which did not automatically renew/extend but required reapplication (e.g., Canada)

⁴⁹ A hybrid targeting approach was adopted, combining emergency assistance for the known vulnerable (Ehsaas Kafaalat beneficiaries) with demand-based support for the "new poor".

⁵⁰ The applicant's poverty status was validated by cross-checking their Computerised National Identity Card numbers within the Proxy Mean Test scoring band of 16.18 to 38.

⁵¹ Georgia, Kyrgyz Republic, North Macedonia, Singapore, Uzbekistan and United Kingdom

⁵² This ability to expand horizontally in response to a declaration of emergency has been institutionalized through a change in legislation.

informal economy and 30,000 existing beneficiaries. Similarly, Kyrgyz Republic relaxed their one asset-related eligibility filter which does not respond to transient poverty and prevents registrants from entering the poverty-targeted cash transfer programme for families with children. Next, government have suspended or reduced the eligibility proof requirements (such as reporting of income, wealth, etc.) for their cash assistance. For example, in Germany, parents who lost income due to the pandemic could receive easier access to child grant (*Kinderzuschlag*) with simplified eligibility requirement of one-month income proof instead of 6 months. Similarly, Kyrgyz Republic automatic renewal suspended the requirement to reveal or report income for low-income families and extended the standard one-year enrolment term for the poverty-oriented cash transfer. France waived the quarterly declaration of resources for its GMI.

While determining the benefits amount for the cash transfer, some countries have increased their program benefit size (i.e., vertical expansion); some reverted back to normal, while a few made it permanent. As mentioned before, countries have increased the cash transfer benefit amount, but some reverted back to pre-pandemic levels. For example, Indonesia's *Program Keluarga Harapan* program double the benefit level for 3 months (during April-June 2020), but as reported on Jan 2021, the program benefit level was back to normal. Others, like Brazil, Iceland, Iceland, New Zealand, and Moldova have either made such increase permanent or are planning to do so. Kosovo⁵³ and Albania⁵⁴ have doubled the value of the benefit and have continued to double the benefit on-and-off.

In the enrolment stage, countries have enrolled people who were on waiting lists or were unsuccessful applicants of other programs. Brazil, Egypt, and West Bank and Gaza have enrolled people who were previously on waiting list of social assistance program. For example, West Bank and Gaza enrolled 10,000 new families who were previously on the waiting list of the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP) and notification regarding the payment was sent in the form of a text message. Some other countries have targeted and enrolled previously unsuccessful applicants. Albania, for example, provided cash assistance of 16,000 ALL per person to all unsuccessful applicants of the economic assistance program *Ndihma Ekonomike* since July 2019 (and who did not receive any assistance until April 2020). In other cases, e.g., Colombia's *Familias en Acción*, programs have re-enrolled registrants who previously failed to comply with conditionalities.

In the notification and onboarding stage, countries have notified the registrants regarding their application status; requested them for bank details; and also provided information about payment collection. Belize and others⁵⁵ have used SMS to notify regarding the result of their application and to inform about their onboarding process. The Kuwaiti Zakat House/Fund, for example, sent text messages to all registered families to update their private data through an attached link. Similarly, Egypt notified accepted beneficiaries via a SMS regarding the location and time to collect their first payment and ATM card. This is done to avoid overcrowding and to ensure the safety of beneficiaries (see box A2 to learn about other measures taken at the payment centre).

Countries have delivered cash transfer in a variety of ways. with some countries even incorporating it as a permanent measure. Countries provided cash/cheque in hand at post offices (e.g., Indonesia⁵⁶), banks branches (e.g., Egypt,), home (i.e., door-to-door deliver; Lao PDR, Montenegro); bank transfer (Bolivia, etc.⁵⁷) which can be withdrawn from ATMs. For example, Egypt's Exceptional Cash Transfer provided benefit via post office for the first payment and also provided ATM card to withdraw money from the ATM for 2nd and 3rd payments. Brazil Egypt, Honduras, Rwanda, Togo, and Ukraine have institutionalized digital payments in full or in part. In Togo,

⁵³ Emergency fiscal package provided for doubling of the payments issued to Social Assistance Scheme beneficiaries.

⁵⁴ Economic assistance program *Ndihma Ekonomike*

⁵⁵ Cost Rica, Egypt, India, Kuwait, Tongo, and Venezuela, etc.

⁵⁶ Egypt, Fiji (vouchers to be redeemed at post office), Hong Kong, Montenegro

⁵⁷ Cape Verde, Chile, Dominica, Hong Kong India, Israel, Paraguay, South Africa, Sudan, United States, Uruguay,

for example, before the pandemic payments were made over the counter, but with the pandemic payments were switched to digital payment and this will continue henceforth.

Box A2. Social distancing protocols in cash transfers delivery

In the case of Japan's special cash transfer, beneficiaries were encouraged to fill application online and in person applications were only restricted to only special case in a attempt to avoid the spread of the virus. Also, in Philippines, "Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS)" program processed only limited application every day in order to adherence with the social distancing measures. Egypt sent SMS regarding payment collection details such as location and time of visit to avoid overcrowding and ensure the safety of beneficiaries. WFP, in Egypt, increased the number of distribution stations to avoid overcrowding. *Inua Jamii* beneficiaries, in Kenya, were required to maintain 1.5 meters of social distance, while standing in queue at the payment centers. Yemen's Emergency Cash Transfer beneficiaries were requested to cover their nose and mouth, and maintain social distancing while queuing inside the payment sites. They were also requested to use the provided hand sanitizer before entering and after collecting their cash. Likewise, all project staff were using protective gear (such as masks and gloves). Finally, strong scheduling and crowd management mechanisms were put in place to prevent crowding at the payment sites. Montenegro's Material security program processed the payments through post office and home deliveries, to enforce social distancing. Similarly, Grenada's SEED program provided cash assistance delivery at home for elderly while rest of them had to collect it from allotted payment stations. Some countries such as India and Latvia used a unique way of dispersing money to its beneficiaries. For example, to maintain social distancing, India's Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) program used last digit of the account numbers to provide the delivery of the cash transfer. For account numbers with last digit as 0 and 1 will get the money in their account on 3 April 2020, 2 and 3 will get on 4 April 2020 and so on. Similarly, Latvia's childcare transfer dates for each child varied as the pay-out took place gradually according to the child's year of birth, starting with the oldest children.

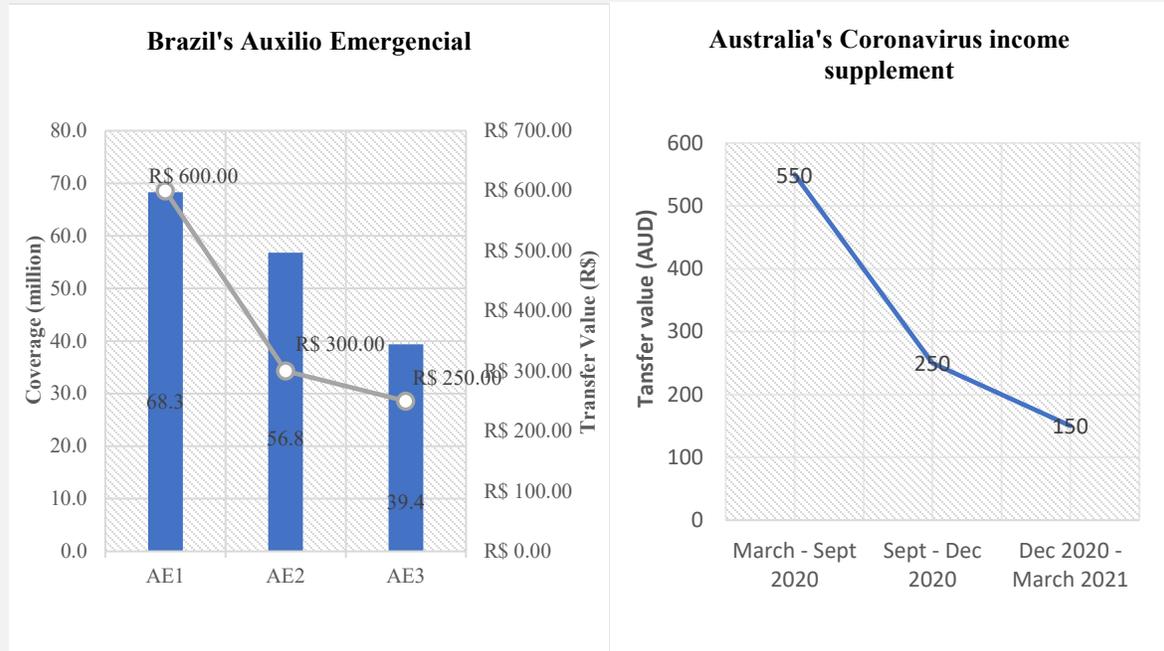
Countries are gradually reinstating previously waived conditionalities. Countries like Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, Indonesia, and Tanzania have waived conditionalities in the first phases of the pandemic. Some of the conditions that were suspended include job search (e.g., Italy), requirement to attend job centre (e.g., UK), and health and education related co-responsibilities (e.g., Honduras). In economies like Brazil, Chile, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Norway, Panama, and Tanzania conditionalities are being reinstated. Some countries, like Argentina and others⁵⁸, have implemented some form of Covid-related conditional cash transfers such as quarantine and no domestic violence (e.g., Colombia), human capital development and economic (e.g., Congo), and training programs (e.g., Benin, Myanmar). There is also an unusual example of conditionality being linked to extension of benefits: Cook Island's Emergency Hardship Fund had extended the eligibility period for support by 3 months, with an option for further extension of 3 additional months conditional on the fact that the recipients would participate in volunteer work or community service for at least 5 hours/week (or 20 hours/month).

Due to the ongoing pandemic situation, there has been numerous extensions with some interesting transfer value and coverage evolution cases. Around 204 cash assistance programs across 108 countries were extended or re-introduced due to the persistent negative impact of Covid-19 on the life and livelihood of people. With these cases, it is observed that the cash transfers were initially decided and implemented for a specific period, but due to increase in the spread of virus and the duration of lockdown, governments have extended or re-introduced the program, which has already ended a while ago. In some countries with such extension, the coverage and/or transfer value evolved over time (see box A3).

⁵⁸ Cayman Islands, Colombia, Cook Island, Eswatini, France, Gambia, Iran, Madagascar, Uganda, United Kingdom.

Box A3. Evolution of benefit size in Brazil and Australia

Brazil's *Auxilio Emergencial* was extended twice, and the benefit amount and coverage were reduced with each extension. The *Auxilio Emergencial-1* (AE1) operated between April 2020 until August 2020 with five instalments of R\$600 to beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer program *Bolsa Familia* (BFP), individuals over 18 years of age in the single registry (*Cadastro Unico*), and self-employed or informal workers who were not in the single registry but were impacted by pandemic. It reached 68.3 million people. This program was re-introduced as *Auxilio Emergencial 2* (AE2) in September 2020 and lasted until December 2020. It introduced a monthly reassessment of the eligibility conditions and reduced the transfer value by 50% (i.e., R\$300). Coverage declined to 56.8 million individuals. In April 2021, the program was re-established: the transfer value was further reduced to R\$250, and additional eligibility criteria reduced coverage to 39.4 million direct beneficiaries.

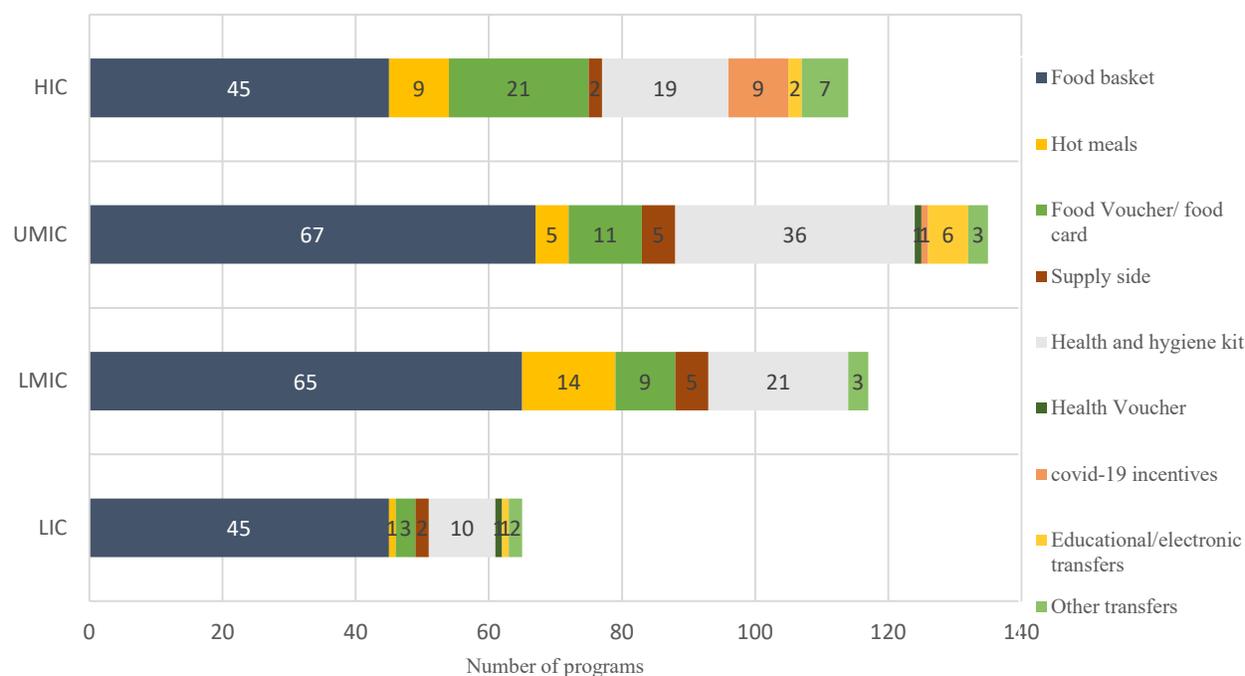


Similarly, Australia's Corona Virus Supplement gradually reduced the benefit amount. In March 2020, Australia announced a time-limited Coronavirus Supplement to be paid at a rate of AUD 550 on a fortnightly basis. The transfer was directed to recipients of the jobseekers payment, parenting payments, youth allowances and other payment types. This supplement was in place for six months (until Sept 2020) at a cost of AUD 14.1B. In July 2020, it was announced that Coronavirus Supplement would be extended from September 2020 until December 2020, but the payment amount would be reduced to AUD 250. On December 10, 2020, the government further extended the duration of the payment, but reduced the payment amount to a rate of AUD 150 until March 31, 2021.

In-kind transfers

Transfers provided in-kind have been provided in a diverse set of modalities and for different goals related to health, food access, food production, education, support during festivities, etc. High income countries tend to display a richer diversity in in-kind provisions, while low-income countries tend to rely relatively more on classic food baskets (figure A1)

Figure A1. Type of in-kind transfers by income groups



Note: HIC stands for High Income Country, UMIC and LMIC represents Upper Middle-Income Country and Lower Middle-Income Country respectively and finally, LIC refers to Low-Income Country.

Out of the total 115 countries that put in-kind transfers in place, three-quarters provided food baskets containing dry rations and other basic food items such as rice, flour, beans, cereals, oil, salt, sugar, dairy products, etc. (table A1). Food baskets were mainly targeted at the elderly, people with disability, pregnant women, children, people from informal sector who have lost their jobs, and unemployed people with children. Cabo Verde, for example, provided immediate food assistance to 22,500 families whose income was below minimum wage or without any source of income, as well as supporting 30,000 children from the most vulnerable households. Similarly, Nomadic people in Djibouti received food support, and Madagascar provided basic food items to people who live on daily wages, such as laundry workers, rickshaw pullers, transactional sex workers, university students, and the elderly.

Table A1. In-kind programs during 2020-2021, (as % of countries implementing in-kind transfers)

Food				Health and hygiene			Other in-kind transfers	
Food basket	Hot meals	Food Voucher	Supply side	Health and hygiene kit	Health voucher	Vaccination-related incentives	education/electronic transfers	Other transfers
75%	16%	20%	9%	42%	2%	3%	6%	8%

One-sixth of countries which distributed in-kind assistance have implemented hot meals as an alternative to food baskets. A total of 24 countries (e.g., Bahamas) have introduced hot meals through community kitchen. Also, there were initiatives from restaurants targeted at people in quarantining sites: for example, Myanmar's Yangon regional government, in collaboration with Italy and WFP, provided daily nutritious meals to over 16,000 people who were receiving medical and quarantine care at Aung Myint Moh treatment centre (see also Jamaica, Kuwait, Lao PDR, and UAE). Other programs reached low-income, homeless, and vulnerable people living in care homes. For Instance, in the Caribbean Netherlands (islands of Bonaire, Sint Eustatius and Saba) hot meals were served at least once a week to vulnerable households through private restaurants. Similar arrangements were established

in the Dominica Republic, Jamaica, Iraq, Kuwait, Liberia, Philippines, St Maarten, and St. Lucia. The Delhi government in India provided free lunch and dinner to those at public shelters.

In some cases, food commodities have been delivered to people's doorstep. For example, Russia had set up hotlines for people above 60 to order medicine and food for home delivery. Comparable initiatives were recorded for Rwanda, Ghana and the Slovak Republic.

Pandemic related logistical challenges have led countries to opt for alternative methods – such as food vouchers, food cards, and other tech-based solutions such as switching to digital vouchers and cash payments. For example, unemployed people in Antigua and Barbuda received food vouchers, which were redeemable in supermarket to buy food and other essential items. Similarly, Bahamas provided food voucher and emergency assistance to people who experienced reduced weeks and for those with disabilities. However, in some other countries (e.g., Gambia, Panama), ration (food transfer) was provided instead of vouchers in regions not presenting conducive implementation conditions.

In-kind transfers were also provided to bolster food production. This occurred in 11 countries (i.e., Bhutan, Costa Rica, Dominica, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, Marshall Islands, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Trinidad and Tobago). For example, Dominica, and Trinidad and Tobago introduced “backyard garden seeding programs” and “national seeding initiatives”, respectively. Similarly, the Philippines provided starter kit with a packet of assorted vegetable seeds to grow pocket garden, container garden and community garden. Haiti, opted for encouraging the plantation of tuber and cereals, and used unplanted arable land for increasing food supplies. Similarly, Costa Rica started “seed donation initiatives” to small farmers.

There were, of course, other activities geared to enhance supply chains and augment the availability of food. Some of these programs go beyond the scope of this tracker, but they are worth mentioning. For example, India introduced special trains to transport food grains from the farmers to the market. Also, Ethiopia's Addis Ababa city government purchased a stockpile of food/other essentials and distributed them to 800 retail shops. Other initiatives are more closely related to enhancing access to food: for instance, the Liberian government purchased excess food grain from farmers and distributed them to schools and other institutions.

Sixty-four countries (42 percent) have provided medical and hygiene kits, making it the second most popular form of in-kind transfers in terms of number of countries implementing the program. These packages were mainly targeted at vulnerable people, including elderly, people with disabilities, low-income, pregnant women, children, and informal sector workers who lost their jobs, and people living at care homes. For example, St Lucia provided hygiene packages, including masks, sanitizers, and sanitary napkins, to 6,000 poor and vulnerable households. Similarly, hygiene kits were distributed to elderly and people with disabilities in West Bank and Gaza. In Belize, Covid-19 safety equipment was provided to fishing communities and the private sector engaged in seafood processing facilities. Syria leveraged trade unions to distribute sanitary baskets to workers at work sites across the country.

To increase the COVID-19 vaccination take-up, governments have provided in-kind transfers as an incentive (e.g., Israel, Japan, Malaysia, Hong Kong, and UK). For example, in the UK 18 to 30-year-olds were offered discounted takeaway meals and free travel to vaccination centers. Similarly, in Japan's Gunma Prefecture, fully vaccinated people between the age 20 and 40 could participate in a lottery for a Subaru vehicle.

Governments have provided education related transfers (e.g., Belize, Botswana, Eritrea, Grenada, Iran, Montenegro, Poland, Singapore, and St. Lucia). For example, Grenada first distributed e-devices, such as laptops, to secondary school students and teachers in October 2020; two months later, it had started expanding its e-device

transfers to primary school teachers. Similarly, Iran provided in-kind support for students during school closures (like wheelchairs, laptops and tablets).

In-kind transfers were also provided to celebrate festivals, such as in Jordan, Kenya, Mauritania, Oman, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom. For example, Bangladesh provided 10 kg rice for free to 1 crore ultra-poor and destitute families⁵⁹ ahead of Eid-ul-azha. Jordan and Mauritania distributed food vouchers and fish, respectively, to vulnerable families during Ramadan. And Sudan provided Ramadan meals and Eid treats to low-income families (e.g., tea and wheelbarrow workers).

A total of 104 programs contains information on source of financing. Out of these, 42 percent are externally financed and 37% are domestically funded. Around, 10% used private sources (such as private individuals, NGO donations, Zakat funds, etc.), while 4% of programs were funded by a combination of sources (only 1 percent of the programs relied on all the three sources).

In terms of coverage, countries have expanded vertically and horizontally. Table A2 presents the top 10 in-kind programs by coverage. In terms of direct actual beneficiaries, the *Banyanihan 1* program in the Philippines reached over 59.7 million people⁶⁰ by providing both food packs and non-food items (table A2). This was followed by Turkey, which covered 20.7 million people⁶¹ through its door-to-door delivery of food and health kits using Vefa Social Support Groups⁶². In terms of share of the population covered, Gambia's National Covid-19 food assistance programs reached 64% of the population. The program planned to be quasi-universal with a target of 84% of the population receiving rice, sugar and oil. Botswana's food hamper program also covers close to 64% the population. Egypt's food program was targeted at lactating, pregnant women and family with children below 2 years of age

Table A2. Coverage of top-10 in-kind programs

Country and program	Number of beneficiaries
Philippines (<i>Banyanihan 1; Emergency Subsidy Program</i>)	59,742,303
Turkey (door-to-door delivery of food and health kits)	20,700,000
Myanmar (food transfer)	16,895,177
Egypt (food package to pregnant, lactating women and families with children <2yrs)	15,697,259
Turkey (free potatoes and onions distribution)	14,249,598
Madagascar (Vatsy Tsinjo)	3,563,470
Colombia (Programa Colombia está contigo)	3,526,852
Afghanistan (National Plan for the Distribution of Baked Bread)	2,501,998
Iraq (National Campaign of NGOs and Volunteering Groups to Respond to COVID-19 Impact)	1,891,976
Gambia (National COVID-19 food assistance)	1,555,624

⁵⁹ Families were required to meet at least four out of 12 criteria, to become eligible for receiving the assistance. The criteria include landless households or those who have only homestead; households dependent on daily wage labour; households dependent on women's income or begging; households with no income-generating assets; households headed by widowed, divorced or separated women; households headed by a freedom fighter with disability, and households without access to two full meals a day for most of the year.

⁶⁰ From families classified as low-income households by their local government units but were not qualified to receive the Social Amelioration Program (SAP)

⁶¹ Primarily consisting of elderly and people with chronic disease, who were ordered to stay-at-home.

⁶² A voluntary group which was formed 11 days after the country reported its first coronavirus case in March 2020.

Country and program	% population
Gambia (National COVID-19 food assistance)	64%
Botswana (Food Hamper Program)	64%
Philippines (<i>Banyanihan 1</i>)	55%
Eswatini (food parcel)	34%
Myanmar (food transfer)	31%
Djibouti (Household food security response to COVID-19)	26%
Turkey (door-to-door delivery of food and health kits)	25%
Gabon (solidarity fund)	23%
Paraguay (<i>Ñangareko</i>)	18%
Egypt (meal program)	15%

Examples of local horizontal expansion include India’s Gujarat government, which expanded free grains even to “APL” families (above poverty line) and Indonesia’s new in-kind assistance program implemented for Greater Jakarta (Jabodetabek) residents. In terms of vertical expansion, examples include India’s Delhi government providing free rations with 50 percent more quantity than normal entitlements. Similarly, Guan increased the value of its food stamp by 15 percent.⁶³

A number of countries are scaling back to pre-covid levels. For example, over May-October 2020 Mongolia expanded its food support grant from a pre-Covid level of MNT 16,000 per adult and MNT 8,000 per child per month to MNT 32,000 (\$11.2) per adult and MNT 16,000 (\$5.6) per child per month. However, the transfer was scaled back vertically for adults to pre-covid level from Jan 1, 2021.

School feeding⁶⁴

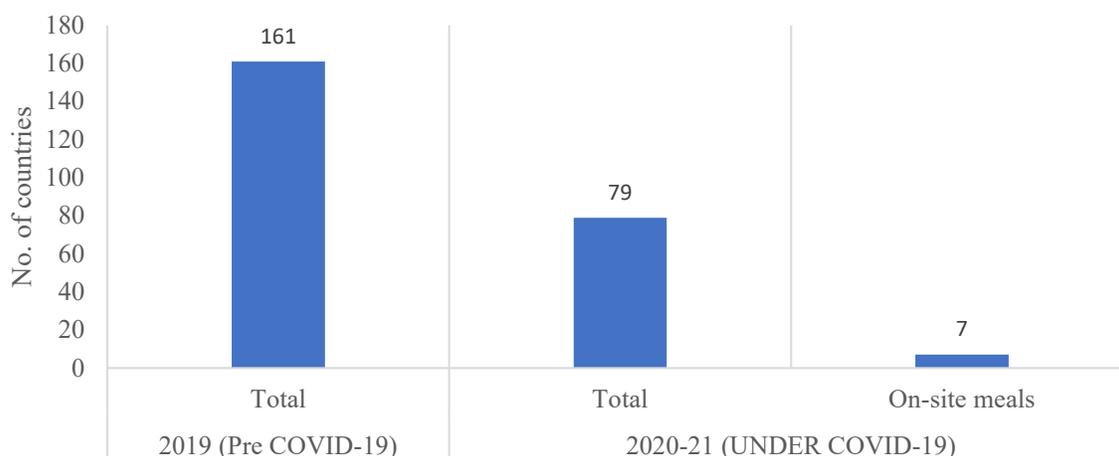
A total of 79 countries have implemented school feeding programs since the spread of pandemic. Albeit a small number, on-site meals have now operated in at least 7 countries.⁶⁵ This includes 5 economies where traditional on-site school feeding resumed (i.e., Ghana, India, Northern Mariana Islands, São Tomé and Príncipe, and Somalia) and 2 countries which continued to provide on-site hot meals without any suspension (i.e., Finland, and Bosnia and Herzegovina) (figure A2).

⁶³ A variant is Argentina, which featured a “vertical adaptation”. The Ministry of Social Development ruled that families who have not yet received the Food Support Card (*Tarjeta de alimentaria*) would receive the value of this amount through the Universal Child Allowance (AUH). The plan was to deliver more than 1,500,000 cards to 2,800,000 recipients. To date the food card has reached 1,100,000 people in 400,000 households. On April 29, 2020, the government announced an extra supplement for holders of the Food Support Card. Those families with one child received an extra bonus of \$4,000 pesos while this extra amount was \$6,000 pesos for families with two or more children \$6,000 pesos. In December 2020 the benefit increased to \$8,000 and \$12,000, respectively.

⁶⁴ The team is grateful to Edward Lloyd Evans and Carmen Burbano at WFP for their precious advice and courtesy in sharing data included in this section.

⁶⁵ This consists of 5 countries which resumed on-site meals and 2 countries (Bosnia and Herzegovina and Finland) which continued to provide on-site hot meals without any suspension.

Figure A2. School feeding program before and during Covid-19 (2020-2021)



In fact, during school closures on-site meals were replaced by alternative modalities, including take-home rations (both dry food and cooked meals), food vouchers, and cash transfers (table A3)⁶⁶.

Table A3. School feeding program modalities during 2020-2021 (% of total countries with those programs in place)

Take-home ration/meals		Food Vouchers and Food stamps	cash or top-up or special allowance	On-site school feeding
Dry/ raw ration or food baskets or nutrition supplements	Cooked/ hot meals			
54 (68.4%)	20 (25.3%)	12 (15.2%)	15 (19.0%)	7 (8.9%)

Note: Modalities are not mutually exclusive, as some countries have offered either multiple school feeding programs with different modalities or multiple modalities within the same program. Therefore, the total exceeds 100%. Out of 79 countries. In the database, 75 countries are classified under School Feeding Program, while 4 are classified under other instruments (e.g., cash transfer, in-kind), reflecting the adaptations introduced under the school feeding program.

While take-home modalities existed prior to the pandemic, their share increased to become the most popular modality during school closure. In fact, these were implemented in over 83% of countries. The take-home-ration of dry/raw ingredients can contain food and nutrition supplements (e.g., Colombia and Virgin Islands); fresh food such as bread, eggs, yogurt, and fruits (e.g., Ireland and Bulgaria); food grains like rice and wheat (e.g., India); micronutrient, and mineral and vitamin-fortified bars and biscuits (e.g., Bangladesh, Libya, and Yemen).

A total of 20 countries and economies have provided take-home hot or cooked meals⁶⁷. For example, Liberia changed from on-site meals to take-home-meals, similarly to the strategy adopted by Sierra Leone and Liberia during Ebola outbreak in 2014-16. Next, Nigeria employed 100,000 cooks to cook and deliver food to school going children at their homes during school closure

In around 30% of countries in our sample, or 25 instances, inkind school feeding programs were converted into cash or vouchers, e.g., Brazil, Egypt, Malawi, Niger, Spain, and UK⁶⁸. Some programs offered amounts

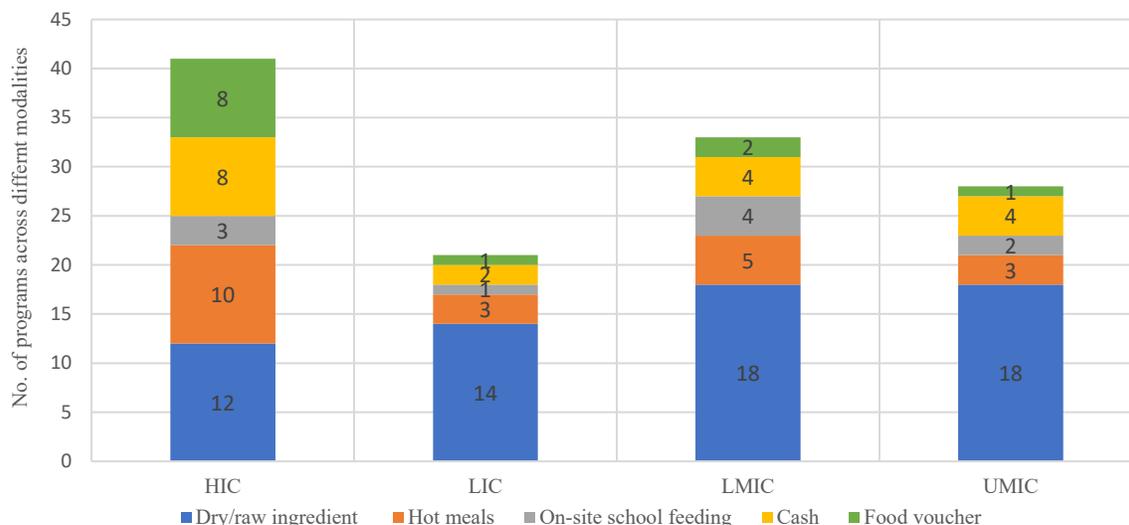
⁶⁶ After a pilot to keep school canteen open amid school closures, the government of Costa Rica switched to take-home-rations.

⁶⁷ Burkina Faso, Cayman Island, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Senegal, South Africa, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Virgin Islands (U.S.).

⁶⁸ Full list includes Anguilla (UK), Bahamas, Bolivia, Brazil, Cayman Islands, Colombia, Congo, Cook Islands, Egypt, Finland, France, Guam, India, Jamaica, Korea, Laos, Malawi, Mauritius, Niger, Spain, Syria, Trinidad and Tobago, United Kingdom, Uruguay, and Zimbabwe.

equivalent to the cost of the meal, while others cash as a top-up to dry ration modality. The provision of cash and vouchers in lieu of in-kind transfers was more prevalent (i.e., 19 out of 28 programs) in high- and upper-middle income countries (figure A3).

Figure A3. School feeding program modalities by country income groups



Alternative solutions – i.e., take-home-meal, food voucher and cash – were not mutually exclusive, and some programs entailed multiple modalities. For example, in Colombia and South Africa schools had the choice of selecting their preferred delivery approach based on prevailing local conditions⁶⁹. The operational shift from school-based provisions to alternative modalities occurred in different ways. While some countries built on existing delivery infrastructure (e.g., Ireland using food parcels), most of countries had to arrange distribution channels afresh. These strategies included increasing distribution points (in addition to schools); using special transportation (e.g., Chile); and door-to-door delivery by mobilizing teachers (e.g., Honduras) and public work participants (e.g., Guam, South Africa). Distributions often involved allotting time slots and marking on floors to avoid overcrowding at pickup locations (e.g., Cambodia).

Broadly, it appears that the eligibility criteria for school feeding programs remained constant in most countries. In fact, less than one-third of the programs in our sample (23 out of 79 countries⁷⁰) have expanded horizontally. For example, Burkina Faso’s school feeding program covered every school age child, both in- and out-of-school. And Guam’s Grab ‘n’ Go (take-home-style) school feeding extended eligibility to all children (less than 18 years of age) irrespective of whether they attended private or public schools.

In several cases, programs provided a higher benefit compared to pre-pandemic levels. For example, India’s Gujarat state provided cash/vouchers alongside take-home, dry-food rations. This was meant to compensate for cooking costs, including gas, spices, and other items. In some cases (e.g., India, Mongolia, Brazil and UK), the amount of vouchers/cash exceeded the cost of on-site school meals. This was because cash/voucher amounts were typically set based on retail price of food items, which were higher than large scale procurement price obtained

⁶⁹ In Colombia, the Ministry of Education allowed for choices based on school food supply service, logistics, conservation and availability aspects of food, habits of the population, and social distancing requirements among others.

⁷⁰ Such as Anguilla (UK), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Croatia, Estonia, Guam, India, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malawi, Mongolia, New Zealand, Peru, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, United Kingdom.

by government agencies for school meals. Other countries (e.g., Gambia and Libya) extended school meals in the form of take-home family ration to also benefit other family members.

Information on sources of financing is available for 20 countries. Among them, 35% relied on external sources and around 30% were domestically funded (through central or state budget, fiscal reserves, etc.). Next, 15% was funded using private sources, while about 20% showed mixed financing arrangements.

The frequency in the delivery of the school feeding program ranged from one-off lumpsum, daily, weekly, monthly and bi-monthly distributions. For example, in April 2020 Uruguay provided one-off top-up of an extra \$424 cash transfer to improve food security, involving 43,000 planned children beneficiaries. This benefit was paid through digital money card, bank accounts or local decentralized networks. The Tallinn government in Estonia scaled-up its program from 1,200 to 11,550 students. Such process involved a shift from on-site hot meals to take-home rations. The change also involved an altered distribution schedule to weekly provisions: the take-home package covered 6 days of lunch, with the menu varying over time. Similarly, Colombia’s monthly prepare-at-home rations contained cereals and fortified flours, milk and dairy products, protein food, fats and sugars designed to last for a month.

Waivers and subsidies in utilities, goods, services, and financial obligations

Governments have implemented a vast array of waivers. These can be classified into six broad categories (table A4). The remainder of the section is organized around those groups, including utility and rental; loans and mortgages; policies on taxes; measures related to food security and access to essential goods; programs related to transportation and digital transaction; and human capital measures.

Table A4. Various waivers and subsidies

Type of measures	Number of countries (%)*
Utility and housing rent	142 (76%)
Loans and mortgages	96 (51%)
Taxes	92 (49%)
Food security and access to essential goods	57 (31%)
Commute and electronic transactions	40 (21%)
Human capital (education and health)	36 (19%)

* Out of 187 countries

Around 142 countries⁷¹ have implement 264 programs related to house rent, water, electricity, heaters, and telecommunication. These policies pertain to waiver or subsidies on bills, postponement of utility bills, no suspension of service or no eviction on default, no penalties on late payment.

⁷¹ Albania, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Caribbean Netherlands, Cayman Islands, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Dem. Rep. of Congo, Rep. of Congo, Cook Island, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guam, Guatemala, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Macao SAR, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Micronesia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Montserrat (UK), Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Portugal, Qatar, Russian Federation, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Taiwan, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Turks and Caicos islands, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, Virgin Islands (U.S.), Yemen, and Zimbabwe.

To assist individuals who are unable to pay utility bills (including housing rent), 46 countries⁷² have waived the bills, and 61 nations (e.g., Germany⁷³) have subsidised it. For example, El Salvador had granted a waiver on utility bill payments to individuals directly affected by the pandemic for a duration of three months, covering electricity, water, telephone, cable, and internet fees. Similarly, in Mauritania, the state subsidized water and electricity bills of low-income families for two months at the outset of the pandemic (from April 2020). Next, Bolivia paid full electricity energy bills of consumers with lower consumption for three months, as well as absorbing half of the cost of potable water and gas bills for all households. Similarly, Greece announced that tenants whose employment contract was suspended were allowed to pay only 60% of their monthly rent for the months of March and April 2020.

The Bahamas and others⁷⁴ provided opportunities to defer payment of utility bills (including housing rent) for a fixed period of time. For example, in March 2020 Sri Lanka extended the deadline of first quarter of electricity and water bills below LKR15,000 to April 2020. Similarly, Saudi Arabia introduced a special provision allowing for delay in rent payments and utility bills on demand by period of 3 months. Such policy was effective from March to September 2020. Taiwan offered coronavirus rent relief where all renters could apply to defer rent payment deadlines to the end of 2020.

Governments have requested utility service providers to charge no penalty for late payment, including no suspension of services and evictions. Antigua and Barbuda, and others⁷⁵ have requested utility service providers to continue service without interruption even if bills were not paid. For example, Argentina has ruled that key utilities such as energy, gas, water, phone, internet, and cable services could be suspended during the crisis even if three consecutive bill payments were missed. Next, countries such as (Kazakhstan and others⁷⁶) have suspended penalties or fine for late payments. For example, Ukraine introduced a moratorium on penalties for consumers who were late on utility payments. Finally, Italy and others⁷⁷ have prohibited eviction of tenants. For example, Guam declared that there would not be evictions or foreclosure actions or proceedings involving real estate or property, whether rental or otherwise, until the public health emergency is over.

About 163 programs across 96 countries (e.g., Cyprus, etc.⁷⁸) have focused on loans and mortgages specifically. These policies include postponement of monthly repayment of loans and interest, provision of loans, reduction of

⁷²Bahrain, Bolivia, British Virgin Islands, Burkina Faso, Chad, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Eritrea, Eswatini, Ghana, Greece, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, India, Kyrgyz Republic, Liberia, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Myanmar, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Qatar, Samoa, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Spain, St. Kitts and Nevis, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turks and Caicos islands, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela.

⁷³ Afghanistan, Armenia, Australia, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Caribbean Netherlands, Colombia, Cook Island, Cyprus, Denmark, Djibouti, Equatorial, Guinea, Eswatini, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Korea, Rep., Kosovo, Lao PDR, Lithuania, Macao SAR, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Micronesia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Palau, Panama, Samoa, Seychelles, Slovenia, Solomon Islands, Spain, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Vietnam, and Virgin Islands (U.S.).

⁷⁴ Albania, Argentina, Bahamas, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Eritrea, Guinea, Ireland, Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Madagascar, Marshall Islands, North Macedonia, Oman, Paraguay, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Zimbabwe.

⁷⁵ Albania, Anguilla (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Benin, Brazil, Comoros, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Ghana, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Montserrat (UK), New Zealand, Peru, Portugal, Russian Federation, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos islands, Uganda, Ukraine, and Venezuela.

⁷⁶ Albania, Armenia, Peru, Suriname, Turks and Caicos islands, and Ukraine.

⁷⁷ Argentina, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Ethiopia, Germany, Guam, Israel, Italy, Netherlands, Paraguay, Saudi Arabia, Uganda, and United States.

⁷⁸ Albania, Andorra, Angola, Anguilla (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Bolivia, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Costa Rica, Dominica, Eswatini, Fiji, Finland, Georgia, Greece, Guam, Guinea, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Indonesia, Iran, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jersey, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Kosovo, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, San Marino, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Slovak Republic, Solomon Islands, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the

interest rate, waiver of penalty, and government guaranteed loans, among others.

Most of these programs pertain to postponement or suspension⁷⁹ of repayment of loans and interest. Seventy-two countries⁸⁰ have postponed the credit payments including mortgages and consumption credit. For example, St. Vincent and the Grenadines provided a six-month moratorium on the payment of principal and interest on various loans (home mortgages, business loans, personal and consumer loans) as well as on credit cards. Financial institutions arranged specific customised packages of financing or refinancing for their clients. Similarly, Morocco provided an option to defer debt payments until June 30, 2020 for formal employees who lose their jobs and are registered with the pension fund.

Governments and financial institutions ensured that postponements of loan repayment would affect the credit history of the borrower. The Slovak Republic and others⁸¹ have not levied any default penalty or late fees during deferral period of the loan repayment. Kosovo and others⁸² have not recorded deferral or suspension of loan and interest repayment as non-performing (bad) loans. Azerbaijan and others⁸³ have not recorded the postponement of repayment into the official debtors register or in the credit history of the borrower. For example, Taiwan announced that individuals may defer payments on principal or interest due on loan statements for three to six months. Default penalties and default interest may be waived during the deferral period. Until the obligation becomes due, such loans would not be handled as a bad debt and an instance of late payment will not be reflected in the debtor's credit record.

Governments have also provided loans, some at subsidised interest rates and some with guarantees, made available to those whose income was affected by the pandemic. Barbados and others⁸⁴ have provided loans to households for education, housing, and other purposes. For example, Namibia provided a loan scheme for tax paying employees and self-employed who lost income. These workers were able to borrow an amount equal to one-twelfth of their tax payment in the previous tax year, to be repaid after one year. Next, Brazil and others⁸⁵ have granted loans at lower than market interest rates. For example, in Suriname commercial banks provided new short-term loans to individuals affected by Covid-19 at a special interest rate of 7.5% per year, which was significantly lower than the market interest rate. Finally, Spain and others⁸⁶ have provided guarantees on loans. For example, the Bulgarian Development Bank provided guarantee to commercial banks for the loans granted by them to individuals and legal entities. Individuals were granted interest-free bank loans up to BGN 1,500 per month for a period of three months.

Nations have implemented wide range of policies pertaining to taxes (both direct and indirect), related to deferral of payment and tax filing, reduction in tax rate, increase in threshold for non-taxable income, encourage voluntary

Grenadines, Suriname, Taiwan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turks and Caicos islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, West Bank and Gaza, and Zimbabwe.

⁷⁹ N.B.: Postponement is used interchangeable with grace period, extension of payment deadline, payment holiday, and moratorium.

⁸⁰ Andorra, Angola, Anguilla (UK), Antigua and Barbuda, Bahrain, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bhutan, Brazil, Brunei, Darussalam, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, Colombia, Comoros, Fiji, Georgia, Guam, Guinea, Honduras, Hong Kong, Hungary, Israel, Italy, Jersey, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, Philippines, Portugal, Russian Federation, Seychelles, Singapore, Sint Maarten (Dutch part), Slovak Republic, Spain, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Taiwan, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turks and Caicos islands, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United States, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, West Bank and Gaza, and Zimbabwe.

⁸¹ Azerbaijan, Dominica, Taiwan and Uruguay.

⁸² New Zealand, Taiwan

⁸³ Kosovo, Slovak Republic, and Taiwan.

⁸⁴ Chile, Kosovo, Mexico, Namibia, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Philippines, San Marino, Suriname, Thailand, and Trinidad and Tobago.

⁸⁵ Cyprus, Nepal, Korea, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago

⁸⁶ Bulgaria, San Marino and Hong Kong

compliance of tax filing, removal of fine for late/non-tax payment. Around 163 programs in 92 countries (e.g., Angola⁸⁷) have implemented such policies.

The majority of programs include postponement or deferral of direct and indirect taxes. Austria and others⁸⁸ have provided the option for deferral of direct (e.g., income, property, land) and indirect taxes (e.g., VAT⁸⁹, sales taxes, import duties). For example, Uzbekistan extended the deadline for the payment of property tax and land tax of individuals. St Kitts and Nevis deferred the property tax for the period of June to Sept 2020. Next, Aruba and others⁹⁰ have suspended penalties on late tax payments. Kosovo, for example, suspended all interest on unpaid property taxes.

Many countries removed or suspended indirect taxes on a variety of essential products, while a few even suspended direct taxes. Angola and others⁹¹ have temporarily removed or suspended VAT or sales tax or import duties on essential goods and services such as food items, medicines, electricity, water, etc. Kosovo removed VAT on imports of wheat and flour. Bosnia and Herzegovina suspended the calculation and payment of indirect taxes on medical items both in the import of equipment and certain assets, as well as in domestic trade. Next, Ghana, Lao PDR and Malawi have even waived direct taxes to targeted groups. For example, Lao PDR exempted employees' income tax for a duration of 3 months for civil servants and employees of the private sector with income less than LAK5 million per month. Similarly, Ghana waived resident taxes for all foreign healthcare workers.

Several governments have also reduced various taxes. Azerbaijan and others⁹² reduced different forms of taxes. For example, Estonia reduced excise duty on some types of fuel, electricity, and gas. Similarly, South Korean announced that a 70% individual consumption tax cut on car purchases. Comoros reduced import taxes on food, medicines, and items related to hygiene by 30% during 2020, but returned to previous levels from the beginning of 2021.

Countries have taken several measures to ensure that citizens file their tax returns through extending the deadline for filing taxes, and encourage online tax filing and voluntary compliance. China and others⁹³ have extended the deadline for filing taxes. Thailand extended the tax filing deadline for individual income tax returns from March 31, 2020 to August 31, 2020. Next, Botswana announced that manual statutory filing was not possible during the lockdown period: to avoid incurring penalty for late payments, taxpayers were encouraged to use online compliance platforms provided by the tax authority. To increase tax filing compliance, Malawi implemented a

⁸⁷ Antigua and Barbuda, Armenia, Aruba, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Canada, Caribbean (Netherlands), Chile, China, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Estonia, Eswatini, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guam, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Hong Kong, Iraq, Israel, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Korea, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Lao PDR, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Montenegro, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Northern Mariana Islands, Norway, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Samoa, San Marino, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Singapore, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, Somalia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Taiwan (China), Tajikistan, Thailand, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam

⁸⁸ Azerbaijan, Belgium, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Caribbean, Netherlands, Chile, Costa Rica, Croatia, Curaçao, Cyprus, Germany, Honduras, Israel, Japan, Kosovo, Kyrgyz Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Malta, Montenegro, Nepal, North Macedonia, San Marino, Senegal, Slovak Republic, Slovenia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Taiwan (China), Tonga, Turkey, United States, and Uzbekistan.

⁸⁹ Value Added Tax

⁹⁰ Belgium, Chile, Curaçao, Jordan, Kosovo, Lebanon, Mongolia, and Nigeria.

⁹¹ Antigua and Barbuda, Aruba, Azerbaijan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, China, Comoros, Cyprus, Eswatini, Ghana, Guyana, Italy, Korea, Kosovo, Lao PDR, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Norway, Pakistan, Qatar, Samoa, Somalia, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, and Uzbekistan.

⁹² Belgium, Bulgaria, Chile, China, Comoros, Curaçao, Cyprus, Estonia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Korea, Mali, North Macedonia, Norway, Senegal, and Thailand.

⁹³ Guatemala, Namibia, Nigeria, Taiwan, Thailand, and Turkey

special window to provide opportunity for individuals to regularize their tax affairs without suffering penalties, interests, and charges.

Other measures related to tax included tax rebate, credit, relief, and many more. Bulgaria and others⁹⁴ have either reduced tax rate (base) or increased the threshold for non-taxable income. For example, Lithuania temporarily increased the threshold for non-taxable income for a duration of 6 months (i.e., the second semester of 2020) from €4,200 to €4,800. Canada and others⁹⁵ have provided tax reliefs and rebates for a variety of reasons. For example, Cyprus implemented tenant support scheme to protect tenants by incentivising landlords to reduce rents. A tax credit was granted to the landowner equal to 50% of the rented reduction provided that the reduced rent is between 30 and 50% for a specific period of months. Similarly, Germany provided tax relief to workers working from home during coronavirus for additional household costs (e.g., heating, metered water bills, home contents insurance, business calls or a new internet connection), provided that they worked from home on a regular basis for all or part of the week.

Governments bolstered access to essential items by providing free or subsidized agriculture inputs and by setting price ceiling on essential food and non-food items. About 57 countries⁹⁶ have implemented around 77 such programs.

Around 23 programs in 21 countries (e.g., Rwanda, etc.⁹⁷) have provided seeds and other agriculture inputs to improve food insecurity and boost farmer livelihood. Guyana and others⁹⁸ have provided free agriculture inputs (tools, seeds, raised seed beds, grow boxes, etc.) to households and small-scale farmers to grow crops in their kitchen or backyard garden and contribute to the collective food supply of their respective nations. For example, Grenada's backyard gardening program provided material support such as seeds and other planting material, small garden tools. Next, other countries (e.g., Belize, etc.⁹⁹) aimed to boost farmer livelihoods by providing agriculture inputs at a subsidized price or for free (e.g., fertilizer, seeds). For example, Lesotho introduced a 60% subsidy on all agricultural seeds. Similarly, Angola subsidized fertilizers up to 35%. Myanmar provided e-vouchers worth 120,000 kyats (US\$ 67.5) to around 300,000 farmers with less than 2-acre of land, female headed households with returning migrants, and households of ethnic minority.

Around 52 programs in 44 countries (e.g., Anguilla (UK)¹⁰⁰) have applied a price ceiling on food and non-food items. About three-fourth (36 countries; Angola, etc.¹⁰¹) of these countries have implemented price ceilings on

⁹⁴ Azerbaijan and Lithuania

⁹⁵ Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Germany, Greece, Malaysia, Northern Mariana Islands, Pakistan, and United Kingdom.

⁹⁶ Angola, Anguilla (UK), Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, China, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guam, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Lesotho, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Micronesia, Myanmar, Niger, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turks and Caicos islands, Tuvalu, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

⁹⁷ Angola, Belize, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Eritrea, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Micronesia, Myanmar, Niger, Solomon Islands, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, and Togo.

⁹⁸ Grenada, Solomon Islands, and St. Kitts and Nevis

⁹⁹ Belize, Cayman Islands, Central African Republic, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Eritrea, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Lesotho, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritius, Micronesia, Myanmar, Niger, Rwanda, and Togo.

¹⁰⁰ Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Eritrea, Gambia, Georgia, Greece, Grenada, Guam, Guinea, Honduras, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Niger, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, St. Lucia, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turks and Caicos, Tuvalu, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

¹⁰¹ Anguilla (UK), Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Belarus, Bhutan, Burkina Faso, China, Comoros, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Curaçao, El Salvador, Gambia, Georgia, Jordan, Kyrgyz Republic, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, North Macedonia, Russian, Federation, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turks and Caicos, Tuvalu, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

food. Similarly, 25 economies¹⁰² also implemented price control on other non-food essentials such as masks, cleaning items, items for sanitizing and disinfecting hands, medicines, etc. Next, governments also ensured price control by monitoring availability of sufficient stock of essential goods (e.g., Georgia¹⁰³), and restricting the margin of profit on essential goods (e.g., Greece). For example, Benin introduced a price ceiling for masks in pharmacies (200 FCFA). Next, Uzbekistan enacted price-fixing for specific products on basic food items (such as rice, pasta, sunflower oil, flour, sugar, wheat, buckwheat, beans, and milk powder and its products) by subsidizing related businesses. Similarly, Argentina maintained prices of basic food baskets, beverages, toiletries, and cleaning items as they were on March 6, 2020. The measure was extended several times, and in November 2020, Covid-19 related drugs were also included in the price control program. The last extension was granted until late January 2021.

To prevent the spread of virus via manual transactions, about 30 programs in 28 countries¹⁰⁴ have waived-off or subsidised transaction fees, and increased transaction limit on digital payments. To promote the use of digital payments, 26 countries¹⁰⁵ have either waived or subsidized transaction fees – on person-to-person payments (e.g., Côte d'Ivoire¹⁰⁶), merchant payments (e.g., Lesotho and Uganda), and transfers from bank accounts to digital wallets (e.g., Zambia¹⁰⁷) – up to a certain amount. For example, Rwanda waived the charges on mobile money transactions as well as charges on services between bank accounts and mobile wallets. Next, some countries (e.g., Tanzania¹⁰⁸) also increased the upper transaction limit for digital and cashless payments. For example, in Netherlands banks have increased transaction limit for contactless cards in an attempt to prevent virus spreading via PIN pads. In Bangladesh, the monthly transaction limit for mobile financial services had been raised from Tk 75,000 to Tk 200,000.

To support safe mobility and reduce transportation costs, about 14 programs across 13 countries¹⁰⁹ have waived-off or subsidized transportation costs, increased frequency of public transport to avoid congestion, and provided special transportation support such as for vaccinations. Ethiopia expanded its bus services to reduce overcrowding in the public transport and provided free public transportation. Similarly, some other countries (e.g., Philippines, etc.¹¹⁰) have provided special transportation services to migrants, frontline workers, and vaccination takers. For example, as an incentive to get vaccinated, Japan's Shizuka city announced that the elderly can avail subsidized taxi rides between their home and vaccination sites. Next, Gabon and Guinea have waived public transportation cost, while other economies (e.g., Hong Kong¹¹¹) introduced or increased the subsidies for public transportation. Gabon started free public transportation for all users in urban areas in April 2020, and the service continued through July 2021. Similarly, Azerbaijan halved the passenger public transportation rate (from 1.8 AZN to 0.9 AZN per person).

¹⁰² Anguilla (UK), Argentina, Aruba, Barbados, Belarus, Benin, China, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Guam, Guinea, Honduras, Jordan, Niger, North Macedonia, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Togo, Turks and Caicos, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan.

¹⁰³ Argentina and Syria.

¹⁰⁴ Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Netherlands, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

¹⁰⁵ Bangladesh, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Congo (Dem. Rep.), Côte d'Ivoire, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mongolia, Mozambique, Niger, Pakistan, Philippines, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Togo, Uganda, and Zambia.

¹⁰⁶ Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Lesotho, Rwanda, Uganda, etc.

¹⁰⁷ Kenya, Lesotho, Zambia, etc.

¹⁰⁸ Bangladesh, Lesotho, Netherlands, Rwanda, Tanzania, and Zambia.

¹⁰⁹ Azerbaijan, Denmark, Ethiopia, Gabon, Guinea, Hong Kong, Japan, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, Russian Federation, Turkey, and Zimbabwe.

¹¹⁰ Japan, Turkey and Zimbabwe.

¹¹¹ Azerbaijan, Malaysia, and Russian Federation.

In terms of human capital, governments of 36 countries¹¹² implemented 46 programs including waivers and deferrals in education and health. Around 28 programs in 24 countries (Armenia, etc.¹¹³) have implemented subsidies and waivers on tuition fees, and deferral on student loans. They pertained mostly to higher education level (e.g., college, vocational studies, university), while lower levels (e.g., secondary) were also covered. For example, Jamaica announced that Covid-19 Student Loan Relief would provide deferral on student loan principal and interest payments for 3 months, until July 2020. Similarly, Fiji and Singapore have suspended the repayment of the loans.

Some countries (e.g., Armenia) have also subsidised interest rate on student loans based on student's performance. In Armenia, for graduating student's fees that were paid through a student loan, the assistance received from the government will be directed to pay the loan. And the support was provided based on the merit: the interest rates on current and new loans for students with a GPA of more than 80 was zeroed for 2020, including for the students at state-accredited universities and Loan interest rates for students with a GPA less than 80 was subsidized by 5 percent and therefore, the loans were available at 4 percent. Next, Countries (e.g., Canada) have also increased the upper limit of the student loan. For example, Canada has increased the maximum weekly loan limit from \$210 to \$350 for the 2020 to 2021 school year. Next, 16 governments¹¹⁴ have implemented 19 programs pertaining to partial or full fee waivers or subsidies. Some of these were targeted at students on tuition fee debt (e.g., Armenia), who have lost their parents working in healthcare sector to Covid-19 (e.g., Sierra Leone), whose parents were unemployed (e.g., Taiwan), and from low-income and vulnerable families (e.g., Georgia). Some countries (e.g., Togo) even exempted registration fees for school and university exams.

A total of 18 programs in 15 countries (e.g., Cape Verde¹¹⁵) have focused on waivers and subsidies related to healthcare, and also dealt with supply side¹¹⁶ of the industry. Six countries¹¹⁷ have subsidised or waived-off medical expenses related to testing (e.g., Algeria); treatment (e.g., Rwanda); medicine (e.g., Russia); hospital and doctor visit (e.g., France, Jersey, and St Kitts and Nevis); and transportation cost (e.g., Malaysia). For example, Algeria used the National Pension Fund to compensate for Covid-19 related analyses and tests. In June 2020, St Kitts and Nevis waived hospital and related fees for Covid infected people. In March 2021, Russia allocated additional 2.7 billion Roubles (equivalent to \$ 35.4 million) for free medicines to patients with coronavirus.

Public works

Pandemic health and safety protocols made public works generally unsuitable in the early phases of the pandemic. Over time, countries implemented those programs with protective equipment¹¹⁸ and organized activities in more

¹¹² Albania, Algeria, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Canada, Cape Verde, Chile, China, Fiji, France, Georgia, Jamaica, Jersey, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Micronesia, Nepal, North Macedonia, Poland, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Singapore, St. Kitts and Nevis, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Taiwan, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Turks and Caicos islands, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

¹¹³ Azerbaijan, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Fiji, Georgia, Jamaica, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Nepal, North Macedonia, Poland, Sierra Leone, Singapore, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, Taiwan, China, Togo, Tonga, Turkey, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu

¹¹⁴ Armenia, Azerbaijan, Barbados, Canada, Chile, Georgia, Kenya, Nepal, North Macedonia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Taiwan, Togo, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

¹¹⁵ Albania, Algeria, Austria, China, France, Georgia, Jersey, Malaysia, Micronesia, Russian Federation, Rwanda, St. Kitts and Nevis, Turkey, and Turks and Caicos islands.

¹¹⁶ A few programs were related to supply side. Cape Verde recruited caregivers to assist elderly in carrying out their daily assistance. Next, France, Malaysia, and Turks and Caicos islands have provided a wide variety of subsidies and waivers for home-based health support (e.g., Albania); psychological support related to mental health for the homeless (e.g., Malaysia) and students (e.g., France); and access to health for the unemployed (e.g., Turks and Caicos Islands). For example, since February 2021, France has been offering free psychological support via the platform (santepsy.etudiants.fr.) to students facing a situation of ill-being. These sessions can last up to 3 meetings of 45 minutes and are completely free of cost.

¹¹⁷ Algeria, Rwanda, Russian Federation, Malaysia, Micronesia, St. Kitts and Nevis, and Jersey

¹¹⁸ Initially, Kenya's Kazi Mtaani program did not provide workers with protective masks and gloves. Eventually, these were made available in August 2020.

Covid-sensitive ways (e.g., reduced crew size and worker rotation in Ghana and Botswana). This section will also discuss different types of public works tasks related to the pandemic. Overall, 48 out of 223 countries/territories have implemented 77 public works programs since March 2020. Most of public works were implemented in lower-middle income countries, with the least number in high income settings; and those programs were mostly featured in Sub Saharan Africa, with the least number appearing in the Middle East and North Africa.

Public works implemented during the pandemic can be broadly classified into two buckets, namely Covid-related and “classic” activities. Among the first cluster are three forms of public works: those with tasks that are indirectly related to Covid, particularly around Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH); activities that rose in salience, such as digital public works; and specific activities directly related to Covid-19. Examples for each of these three forms are hereafter offered.

WASH activities include unclogging drainage, collecting garbage and cleaning streets (e.g., Guinea, Kenya, Madagascar, and Nigeria) as well as constructing borewells and promoting clean drinking water (e.g., Guinea). In terms of digital public works, countries like Mali, Tanzania and Kenya have been piloting new approaches using mobile phones for uploading images helping the geolocation of slum services, identification of solid waste sites, green spaces, etc¹¹⁹.

Among more Covid-specific tasks, public works participants have been assigned to raise awareness about Covid-19 as well as community health and hygiene. For example, Kenya encouraged people from creative industry (such as artists, musicians, performers, other self-employed) to participate in a scheme under which participants produced artwork to entertain and inform about Covid-19. In other cases, participants were engaged in contact tracing (e.g., Ghana); vaccination campaign (e.g., Jordan); preparation of protective equipment (Central African Republic); sanitization and fumigation of public and quarantine sites (e.g., South Africa, Guam, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria and Philippines). Indonesia’s public works program mobilized informal and self-employed workers to disinfect the public spaces in exchange for vouchers. Also, some countries leveraged public works to distribute food parcels during school closure (e.g., Guam, South Africa). Out of 48 countries that have implemented public works, about 12.5% engaged in this first bucket of Covid-related programs.

The other bucket of public works involves more traditional activities. Most countries engaged in this second bucket of programs (68.8%), while about 18.8% presented some combo of Covid-related and classic public works.

Classic activities were conducted in agriculture, irrigation, fishing and aquaculture (e.g., Cambodia, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Mauritius). For example, Zambia, created about 150 permanent skilled or semi-skilled positions and 40 part-time unskilled jobs in agriculture and aquaculture value chains. Other works took place in the care sector: an example is South Africa (and Uzbekistan) where public works participants provided childcare and home-based care to elderly. Other works included construction and renovation (e.g., Bulgaria, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Mexico). An interesting example is Bhutan, where cash/reskill-for-work programmes were conducted to beautify and maintain main touristic attractions. Environmental activities were also present in, among others, Cambodia, Nepal, Pakistan, Palau, and Uzbekistan. For example, Armenia started a reforestation program to protect riverbeds from erosion and floods. Such works were conducted by hiring vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector to plant local willow trees and fencing the planted area.

In terms of implementation, governments have introduced both full-time and part-time public work programs. For example, Cambodia provided short-term work opportunities to people who have lost their jobs and have

¹¹⁹ In Kenya, the program paid \$3.12 for each task completed successfully.

returned to their hometown from both within and outside the country. Taiwan introduced part-time work opportunities in public agencies to foment labor market attachment.

Among main design features and adaptations, countries have waived work requirements (7.8% out of 77 programs), which essentially made public works a cash transfer. This included at least 5 programs in Botswana, Ethiopia (UPSNP), Ghana, Rwanda, and South Sudan; three of those countries recently reinstated work requirements (i.e., Botswana, Ethiopia, Rwanda).

A certain degree of flexibility was accorded to recruitment process. Due to travel and lockdown restrictions, five countries (e.g., Grenada, India, Kenya, Mali, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines) have recruited workers locally or have allotted work in their vicinity – hence avoiding major travel.

Governments have provided advanced payments and have increased the program duration for which the individual is eligible. In Uzbekistan, participants typically had access to temporary jobs between two weeks and three months: during the pandemic, such period was increased to six months. And Ethiopia's UPSNP provided three-month advance payments to its participants.

In at least four cases, gender sensitive public works were implemented (e.g., Grenada, Nepal). For example, West Bank and Gaza's cash-for-work program reserves at least half of its short-term employment opportunities to women. In some cases, flexibility was provided in working hours. For instance, mothers or caregivers of children in Ghana's LIPW program benefitted from reduced working hours.

About 60% of public works were new interventions¹²⁰. This included, for example, measures in areas previously unreached. For example, the Republic of Congo targeted urban areas, while other countries focused on youth, unemployed, or informal workers (Ghana, Kenya, Kyrgyz Republic, Madagascar, and Papua New Guinea). Conversely, 11 programs expanded their scale based on preexisting programs, such as in Azerbaijan, Ethiopia, Ghana, Guam, Kazakhstan, Mexico, and St Vincent and the Grenadines. For example, Nigeria's SPW program extended coverage of an ongoing, small-scale rural pilot nationally¹²¹. Similarly, Uganda's Urban Cash for Work Program was expanded to main urban areas with high concentration of informal sector workers.

Only a few countries increased benefits vertically (e.g., Ethiopia's Rural PSNP, India and Mozambique). For example, in April 2020, India's NREGA increased the average daily wages by around 10%, from Rs.182 to Rs. 202. Wages were further increased in March 2021, but for a lower rate than in 2020. Similarly, Mozambique provided additional payments to Labour Intensive Public Work participants.

Based on data for 31 programs (out of 77 programs) for which financing information is available, over half (55%) were externally funded. Around 39% utilized domestic sources. And 3% of programs relied on private funding, and another 3% on mixed sources.

In terms of coverage, India's NREGA tops the list by reaching 65.1 million beneficiaries (table A5). It is followed by Ethiopia's Rural PSNP covering 2.9 million beneficiaries. The other scheme in Ethiopia, the Urban PSNP, comes in the fifth place covering a little over a million people, and finally, Madagascar's *Argent Contre Travail*

¹²⁰ This was the case in Armenia, Austria, Bhutan, Bulgaria, Cambodia, Congo, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Japan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, South Africa, St. Lucia, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Taiwan, West Bank and Gaza, Zambia, Zimbabwe and Jordan.

¹²¹ The Nigeria SPW program was designed and piloted to mitigate the lack of job opportunities in Nigeria's rural areas through a short-term work for 1,000 unemployed Nigerian youth (aged 18 to 30) from each of the 8 states for a period of 3 months. On April 6th, 2020, government announced the extension of the pilot program to all 36 Nigerian States and the Federal Capital Territory from October to December, 2020 by employing 774,000 people.

Productif supported over 215,000 people. In relative terms, India reached 5% of the population, while Myanmar's cash for work and Ethiopia's Rural PSNP covered 3% each.

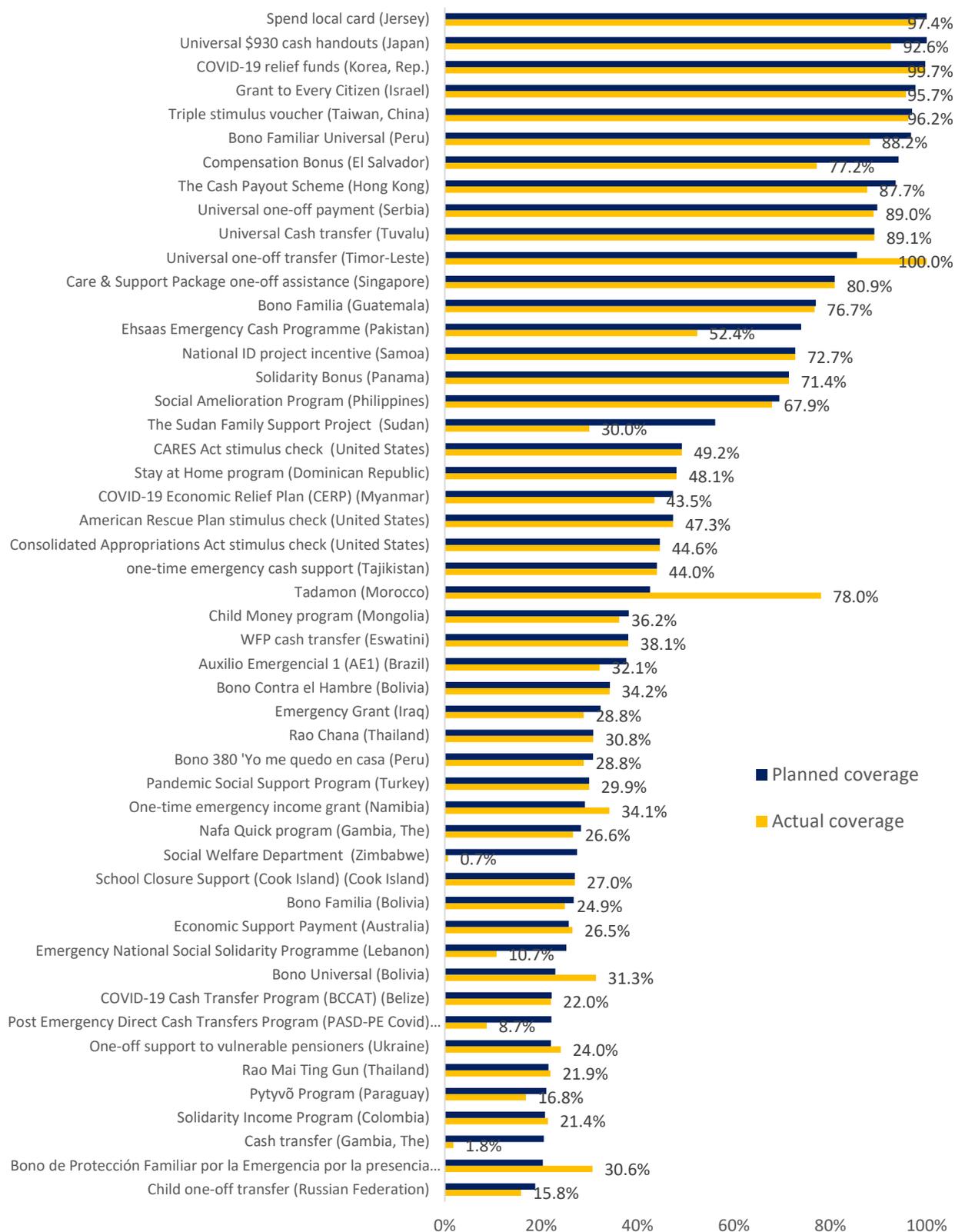
Table A5. Top-10 public works programs by coverage

Country	Program	Number of beneficiaries
India	India's MGNREGA	65,100,000.00
Ethiopia	Ethiopia's Rural PSNP	2,900,000.00
Philippines	Philippines <i>Bayanihan</i> 1	2,600,000.00
Myanmar	Myanmar cash-for-work	1,689,517.71
Ethiopia*	Ethiopia's Urban PSNP	1,015,207.12
Philippines	Philippines's <i>Banyanihan</i> 2	797,222.00
Indonesia	Indonesia's Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing Cash Labour-Intensive program	755,816.00
South Africa	South Africa's Presidential Employment Stimulus	550,000.00
Kenya	Kenya's National hygiene program (<i>Kazi Mtaani</i>)	283,210.00
Madagascar	Madagascar's <i>Argent Contre Travail Productif</i>	217,767.59

Country	Program	% of population
India	India's MGNREGA	5%
Myanmar	Myanmar cash-for-work	3%
Ethiopia	Ethiopia's Rural PSNP	3%
Philippines	Philippines <i>Bayanihan</i> 1	2%
Rwanda*	Rwanda's Vision 2020 <i>Umurenge</i>	2%
South Africa	South Africa's Presidential Employment Stimulus	1%
Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan's public works	1%
Ethiopia*	Ethiopia's Urban PSNP	1%
Madagascar	Madagascar's <i>Argent Contre Travail Productif</i>	1%
Philippines	Philippines's <i>Banyanihan</i> 2	1%

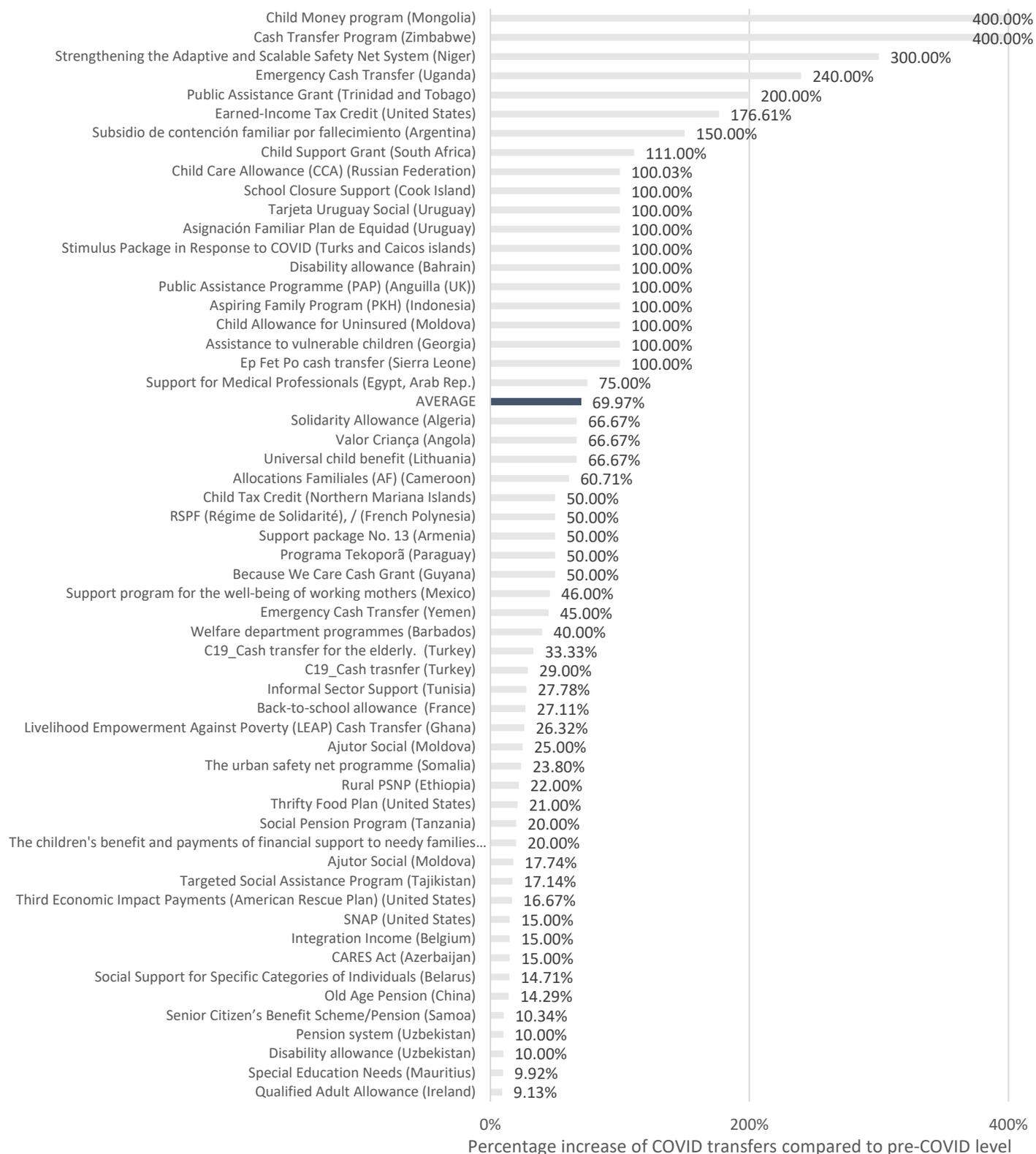
*Countries that have initially waived-off work requirements

Annex 2. Planned versus actual cash transfers coverage rates



Note: The graph only displays numerically actual coverage rates (yellow bars) instead of both to reduce visual noise.

Annex 3. Rate of increase in cash transfer benefit size relative to pre-Covid level



Annex 4. Methodology for estimating social assistance and cash transfers coverage

There are many ways to define “coverage” and what constitutes a “beneficiary”. Various approaches have pros and cons, and it is important to clearly spell out assumptions and methods underpinning estimates. This methodological note, developed in alignment and partnership with the World Bank ASPIRE team, sets out the approach adopted for definitions and estimates by the tracker.

“Coverage”: we define coverage as the number of individuals reached by the highest coverage program in each country. Unless specified differently, estimates refer to actual numbers (not planned beneficiaries). Coverage is defined independently of the duration of programs (i.e., one-off or multiple transfers) reported during the period from March 2020 to January 2022. The indicator includes the horizontal expansion through Covid-related programs, including new measures or extension of existing schemes. The choice of considering only the program with the highest coverage avoids the risk of duplications (counting beneficiaries more than once due to overlapping programs). This approach provides a “minimum” number of beneficiaries covered. However, such approach may be conservative and underestimate program coverage. Note that reported coverage estimates refer to coverage attained during the unfolding of the pandemic, that is, almost two years of Covid-related activities (2020-2021) instead of a single year as coverage numbers are normally reported in pre-Covid times. Programs refer to schemes that were explicitly addressing the Covid crisis among their stated objectives; other programs may have recently been introduced, e.g., for response to displacement crises, energy subsidy reforms or locust response, and these weren’t counted as part of the health pandemic responses.

“Direct” and “indirect” beneficiaries: the former are beneficiaries directly targeted by the program, while the latter includes individuals who live in the same household where at least one member receives the program. Because beneficiary numbers can be expressed in “individuals” or “household” units, we assume that all programs that report beneficiary households are indeed meant to serve the household as a whole. As such, all members are considered direct beneficiaries: in this case, we multiply the number of households by the country average household size to obtain individual direct beneficiaries. If the program already reports individual beneficiaries, we assume they are all direct beneficiaries. To estimate coverage of indirect beneficiaries, we multiply by the household size also programs that reported coverage of “individuals”. Since for programs that target households were already converted using household size, this is kept the same. In other words, for programs that targets households direct and indirect coverage is the same (see example below). Aggregate estimates for “indirect” beneficiaries would more than double the level of coverage relative to the “direct” method: specifically, estimates for the former would be 3,001,962,786 people for social assistance and 2,866,385,112 beneficiaries for cash transfers.

Household size: to calculate the number of household members for each country, we used countries’ average household size acquired from the UN Database on Household Size and Composition¹²². One caveat with this conversion method is that using average household size of the country, and not of the program, can overestimate the indirect coverage. This issue was detected in some countries as converting the highest coverage program led to above 100% coverage of the population. In such cases, we capped the coverage to 100% (i.e., total population).

Example: the below grid illustrates the difference between how we calculate direct and indirect. County A is supporting 300 households and country B is supporting 500 individuals (for Country A has an average household size= 2, while for country B such size = 3).

¹²² United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2019) *Database on Household Size and Composition 2019* (<https://population.un.org/Household/index.html>).

Type of coverage	Calculation	Coverage of individuals
Direct coverage for country A	300 households*2	600 individuals
Indirect coverage for country A	300 households*2	600 individuals
Direct coverage B	500 individuals	500 individuals
Indirect coverage B	500 individuals *3	1,500 individuals

Underestimation of global aggregates¹²³: as mentioned, global aggregates sum the coverage of the largest program per country. Aggregates for both “direct” beneficiaries (which was used in the text) and one for “indirect” beneficiaries may underestimate coverage for the same reasons laid out earlier (i.e., they avoid double counting, but possibly being on the lower bound of coverage estimates). To counter such underestimation, it is possible to identify a factor that would help estimate a realistic, reasonable number of beneficiaries beyond the “minimum” coverage as provided by the program of highest coverage in a country. How should such factor be calculated? Based on most recent survey data available from 113 countries in the ASPIRE database (80% of the information is derived from 2010-2019), we calculated two ratios, namely: (a) the median ratio of the coverage of the largest program to the overall coverage of social assistance in a country, which = 1.2 (i.e., adding 20% of beneficiaries to the “minimum” number of coverage level reported); (b) the same median ratio calculated in reference to overall coverage of social protection and labor, which = 1.7 (an increase of 70%). We opted to report the median ratio, as opposed to a weighted average, because for social protection and labor expansion factors we had four outlier countries with large expansion factors (over 10). These factors are based on pre-Covid surveys, hence generating estimates likely lower than Covid-related measures.

¹²³ We are very thankful to Ana Sofia Martinez Cordova from the WBG ASPIRE team for her excellent analysis for this section.

Annex 5. Coverage of cash transfers

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
PMJDY (India)	200,000,000
CARES Act stimulus check (United States)	162,000,000.00
Universal \$930 cash handouts (Japan)	116,520,000
Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme (Pakistan)	115,680,417
Dibao (China)	83,900,000
Social Amelioration Program (Philippines)	74,379,759
Auxilio Emergencial 1 (Brazil)	68,300,000
COVID-19 relief funds (Korea, Rep.)	51,606,633
Village Funds Unconditional Cash Transfers (Indonesia)	42,453,980
Bono Familiar Universal (Peru)	29,076,779
Tadamon (Morocco)	28,798,915
Pandemic Social Support Program (Turkey)	25,242,145
COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (Myanmar)	23,653,248
Triple stimulus voucher (Taiwan, China)	22,970,000
Child one-off transfer (Russian Federation)	22,800,000
Rao Chana (Thailand)	21,500,000
National Social Safety Net Program (Nigeria)	18,135,286
Poor families cash assistance (Bangladesh)	14,303,085
Universal credit standard allowance (United Kingdom)	13,377,089
The Sudan Family Support Project (Sudan)	13,137,383
Bono Familia (Guatemala)	12,937,068
Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia (Chile)	12,121,438
Emergency Grant (Iraq)	11,580,000
Solidarity Income Program (Colombia)	10,880,293

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
Universal one-off transfer (Timor-Leste)	100%
COVID-19 relief funds (Korea, Rep.)	100%
Spend local card (Jersey)	97%
Triple stimulus voucher (Taiwan, China)	96%
Grant to Every Citizen (Israel)	96%
Universal \$930 cash handouts (Japan)	93%
Universal Cash transfer (Tuvalu)	89%
Universal one-off payment (Serbia)	89%
Bono Familiar Universal (Peru)	88%
The Cash Payout Scheme (Hong Kong)	88%
Care & Support Package one-off assistance (Singapore)	81%
Tadamon (Morocco)	78%
Compensation Bonus (El Salvador)	77%
Bono Familia (Guatemala)	77%
COVID-19 relief package (Guyana)	74%
National ID project incentive (Samoa)	73%
Solidarity Bonus (Panama)	71%
Social Amelioration Program (Philippines)	68%
Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia (Chile)	63%
Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme (Pakistan)	52%
CARES Act stimulus check (United States)	49%
Stay at Home program (Dominican Republic)	48%
One-time emergency cash support (Tajikistan)	44%
COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (Myanmar)	43%

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
One-off support to vulnerable pensioners (Ukraine)	10,600,000
Relaunch Decree (Italy)	9,840,000
Emergency Family Income (Argentina)	9,000,000
Grant to Every Citizen (Israel)	8,820,000
VND 500,000 allowance for poor households (Vietnam)	7,953,060
Tourism voucher for families with children (Poland)	7,000,000
Economic Support Payment (Australia)	6,800,000
The Cash Payout Scheme (Hong Kong)	6,558,910
Universal one-off payment (Serbia)	6,145,529
COVID 19 Social Relief of Distress grants (South Africa)	6,000,000
Bono de Protección Familiar (Ecuador)	5,404,238
Stay at Home program (Dominican Republic)	5,216,900
Loss of Livelihood Program (Sri Lanka)	5,086,080
Compensation Bonus (El Salvador)	5,006,072
National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) (Kenya)	4,730,471
Care & Support Package one-off assistance (Singapore)	4,600,000
One-time emergency cash support (Tajikistan)	4,195,197
Monthly payments of US\$100 (Kazakhstan)	4,000,000
Bono Contra el Hambre (Bolivia)	3,991,179
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme for ID Poor Households (Cambodia)	3,228,290
Solidarity Bonus (Panama)	3,079,571
Corona support package (Iran, Islamic Rep.)	3,000,000
Post Emergency Direct Cash Transfers Program (Mozambique)	2,722,427

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
WFP cash transfer (Eswatini)	38%
Child Money program (Mongolia)	36%
Bono Contra el Hambre (Bolivia)	34%
One-time emergency income grant (Namibia)	34%
Auxilio Emergencial 1 (Brazil)	32%
Covid-19 safety net support (Mauritania)	31%
Rao Chana (Thailand)	31%
Bono de Protección Familiar (Ecuador)	31%
The Sudan Family Support Project (Sudan)	30%
Pandemic Social Support Program (Turkey)	30%
Emergency Grant (Iraq)	29%
School Closure Support (Cook Island)	27%
Nafa Quick program (Gambia, The)	27%
Economic Support Payment (Australia)	26%
One-off support to vulnerable pensioners (Ukraine)	24%
Loss of Livelihood Program (Sri Lanka)	23%
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Program (Belize)	22%
Solidarity Income Program (Colombia)	21%
Monthly payments of US\$100 (Kazakhstan)	21%
Universal credit standard allowance (United Kingdom)	20%
Emergency Family Income (Argentina)	20%
Emergency Social Income for Inclusion (Cape Verde)	20%
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme for ID Poor Households (Cambodia)	19%

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
Exceptional cash assistance (Egypt, Arab Rep.)	1,974,550
Strengthening the Adaptive and Scalable Safety Net System (Niger)	1,843,099
Aide exceptionnelle de 200 dinars (Tunisia)	1,480,000
Covid-19 safety net support (Mauritania)	1,436,400
Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package (Malaysia)	1,400,000
Universal one-off transfer (Timor-Leste)	1,318,442
Pytyvõ Program (Paraguay)	1,200,000
Child Money program (Mongolia)	1,186,289
Temporary Cash transfer (Jordan)	1,118,347
TOSIKA FAMENO (Madagascar)	1,064,552
Cash transfers (Zambia)	1,046,681
Emergency cash transfer (Congo, Rep.)	947,629
One-time emergency income grant (Namibia)	867,281
Novissi (Togo)	819,972
Nutrition Sensitive Direct Support (Rwanda)	814,032
Ingreso Mínimo Vital (Spain)	731,445
Emergency National Social Solidarity Programme (Lebanon)	731,000
Protect Grant (Costa Rica)	723,520
Nafa Quick program (Gambia, The)	641,915
COVID-19 relief package (Guyana)	580,666
Cash transfer (Azerbaijan)	555,000
WFP cash transfer (Eswatini)	441,800
Baxnano program (Somalia)	433,520

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
Tourism voucher for families with children (Poland)	18%
Emergency cash transfer (Congo, Rep.)	17%
Pytyvõ Program (Paraguay)	17%
Relaunch Decree (Italy)	17%
Child one-off transfer (Russian Federation)	16%
Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (Mauritius)	16%
Village Funds Unconditional Cash Transfers (Indonesia)	16%
PMJDY (India)	14%
Protect Grant (Costa Rica)	14%
Social Safety Net Comoros (Comoros)	13%
COVID Allocation of Resources for Employees (Jamaica)	13%
Aide exceptionnelle de 200 dinars (Tunisia)	13%
One-off assistance for worker (Kosovo)	12%
Temporary Cash transfer (Jordan)	11%
Emergency National Social Solidarity Programme (Lebanon)	11%
COVID 19 Social Relief of Distress grants (South Africa)	10%
One-off compensation (Georgia)	10%
Novissi (Togo)	10%
Temporary jobseeker's allowance (Lithuania)	10%
National Social Safety Net Program (Nigeria)	9%
National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) (Kenya)	9%
Post Emergency Direct Cash Transfers Program (Mozambique)	9%
Poor families cash assistance (Bangladesh)	9%

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
Solidarity Fund (Burkina Faso)	413,260
COVID Allocation of Resources for Employees (Jamaica)	378,919
One-off compensation (Georgia)	371,233
Transfert en espèces unique (Haiti)	319,959
Informal workers support (Zimbabwe)	309,146
Temporary jobseeker's allowance (Lithuania)	266,000
Unique Bonus (Honduras)	260,000
Employees benefits (Greece)	246,767
COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfers (Sierra Leone)	211,281
One-off assistance for worker (Kosovo)	206,852
Emergency cash transfer (West Bank and Gaza)	197,573
Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (Mauritius)	197,000
Council of Ministers Decision No. 305 (Albania)	176,000
Child Grants Programme and Old Age Pension (Lesotho)	167,247
Proteccion of self-employed and informal workers (Portugal)	156,313
National ID project incentive (Samoa)	144,275
COVID-19 economic response, April 6 2020 (Guinea)	125,016
Humanitarian Emergency Solidarity and Support Fund (Côte d'Ivoire)	125,000
Social Safety Net Comoros (Comoros)	116,027
Emergency Social Income for Inclusion (Cape Verde)	109,450
Spend local card (Jersey)	105,000
Support program for the well-being of working mothers (Mexico)	102,219
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Program (Belize)	87,584

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
VND 500,000 allowance for poor households (Vietnam)	8%
Child Grants Programme and Old Age Pension (Lesotho)	8%
Strengthening the Adaptive and Scalable Safety Net System (Niger)	8%
Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu (Bhutan)	7%
Nutrition Sensitive Direct Support (Rwanda)	6%
Council of Ministers Decision No. 305 (Albania)	6%
Secondary school students assistance (Tonga)	6%
Dibao (China)	6%
Income Support Grants (Trinidad and Tobago)	6%
Cash transfers (Zambia)	6%
Cash transfer (Azerbaijan)	5%
Programme Nationale de Solidarite Famille (Djibouti)	5%
Prihatin Rakyat Economic Stimulus Package (Malaysia)	4%
COVID-19 Emergency Income Support Project (Maldives)	4%
Emergency cash transfer (West Bank and Gaza)	4%
TOSIKA FAMENO (Madagascar)	4%
Corona support package (Iran, Islamic Rep.)	4%
Barbados Adopt-A-Family programme (Barbados)	3%
Transfert en espèces unique (Haiti)	3%
Unemployment benefit (Montenegro)	3%
Baxnano program (Somalia)	3%
COVID-19 Emergency Cash Transfers (Sierra Leone)	3%
Unique Bonus (Honduras)	3%

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
Income Support Grants (Trinidad and Tobago)	82,500
Family targeted monthly allowance (Bulgaria)	82,110
PACAD (Central African Republic)	77,527
Emergency Cash Transfer (Liberia)	65,362
Child-Sensitive Social Protection (Uganda)	56,200
Programme Nationale de Solidarite Famille (Djibouti)	53,648
Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu (Bhutan)	52,644
Emergency Cash-For-Work (Congo, Dem. Rep.)	50,000
Kwenda (Angola)	27,969
COVID-19 Emergency Income Support Project (Maldives)	22,946
GMI (North Macedonia)	17,534
Unemployment benefit (Montenegro)	17,157
Temporary cash transfer for vulnerable families (Guinea-Bissau)	13,172
Universal Cash transfer (Tuvalu)	10,507
Barbados Adopt-A-Family programme (Barbados)	10,014
Cash assistance to workers in cultural and creative arts sector (Finland)	9,500
Parental Benefit (Malta)	8,360
Tofa (Netherlands)	7,500
Labour Intensive Public Works (Nepal)	7,000
Secondary school students assistance (Tonga)	6,509
School Closure Support (Cook Island)	4,742
Covid unemployed support program (Cyprus)	4,060

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
Employees benefits (Greece)	2%
Informal workers support (Zimbabwe)	2%
Solidarity Fund (Burkina Faso)	2%
Exceptional cash assistance (Egypt, Arab Rep.)	2%
PACAD (Central African Republic)	2%
Parental Benefit (Malta)	2%
Ingreso Mínimo Vital (Spain)	2%
Proteccion of self-employed and informal workers (Portugal)	2%
Social support for vulnerable and affected people (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)	1%
Public Assistance Program (St. Lucia)	1%
Emergency Cash Transfer (Liberia)	1%
Family targeted monthly allowance (Bulgaria)	1%
COVID-19 economic response, April 6 2020 (Guinea)	1%
GMI (North Macedonia)	1%
Temporary cash transfer for vulnerable families (Guinea-Bissau)	1%
Humanitarian Emergency Solidarity and Support Fund (Côte d'Ivoire)	0.47%
Economic Stimulus Package (Micronesia, Fed. Sts.)	0.47%
Covid unemployed support program (Cyprus)	0.34%
Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (Bermuda)	0.20%
Cash assistance to workers in cultural and creative arts sector (Finland)	0.17%
Child-Sensitive Social Protection (Uganda)	0.12%
Parental allowance for disabled children (Estonia)	0.10%

Program name (country/economy)	Number of beneficiaries
Public Assistance Program (St. Lucia)	2,380
Social support for vulnerable and affected people (St. Vincent and the Grenadines)	1,644
Creative sector workers grant (Belgium)	1,572
Parental allowance for disabled children (Estonia)	1,298
Economic Stimulus Package (Micronesia, Fed. Sts.)	535
UNDP cash support (Gabon)	500
Tour guides support (Czech Republic)	404
Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (Bermuda)	127
Public works (Mali)	119

Program name (country/economy)	Beneficiaries as % pop
Kwenda (Angola)	0.09%
Support program for the well-being of working mothers (Mexico)	0.08%
Emergency Cash-For-Work (Congo, Dem. Rep.)	0.06%
Tofa (Netherlands)	0.04%
Labour Intensive Public Works (Nepal)	0.02%
UNDP cash support (Gabon)	0.02%
Creative sector workers grant (Belgium)	0.014%
Tour guides support (Czech Republic)	0.004%
Public works (Mali)	0.001%

Note: all estimates refer to direct and actual beneficiaries; as explained in annex 4, estimates refer to the highest coverage program in the country.

Annex 6. Timeliness of cash transfers

Program	Type of adaptation	Number of days
Programa Tekoporā (Paraguay)	Vertical	0
Cash transfers for positive COVID test individuals (Colombia)	Horizontal	2
Lump-sum payments to families with children (Lithuania)	Vertical	2
Social Assistance to Children of Individual Entrepreneurs (Ukraine)	Horizontal	2
Taka 1,250 crore cash assistance (Bangladesh)	Horizontal	3
Solidarity Income Program (Colombia)	Horizontal	3
Social Security Allowance Scheme one-off support (Hong Kong)	Vertical	3
COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program First Tranche (Philippines)	Horizontal	3
Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong First Tranche (Philippines)	Horizontal	3
COVID Spa programme (Czech Republic)	Horizontal	4
BReST project (Gambia, The)	Vertical	4
Grants for the self-employed (Lithuania)	Horizontal	4
Emergency COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme (Zambia)	Both	4
Pandemic-related parental leave (Luxembourg)	Horizontal	5
Child Money program (Mongolia)	Both	5
Unconditional Cash Transfer for Non-Jabodetabek (BST) (Indonesia)	Horizontal	6
Auxilio Emergencial 1 (Brazil)	Horizontal	7
Nutritional Support Bonus (Ecuador)	Horizontal	7
Temporary cash assistance to casual labour workers (Egypt, Arab Rep.)	Horizontal	7
Student Relief Fund (Gambia, The)	Horizontal	7
Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana Package (India)	Admin	7
Uruguay Social card (Uruguay)	Vertical	7
Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) women account holders (India)	Horizontal	8
Aspiring Family Program (PKH) (Indonesia)	Both	8
Corona support package (Iran, Islamic Rep.)	Horizontal	8
Takaful 2 (Jordan)	Horizontal	8
Wage increase for healthcare workers (Latvia)	Vertical	8
Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme (Pakistan)	Horizontal	8
Relief payment to 900,000 people (Taiwan, China)	Horizontal	8
Compensation Bonus (El Salvador)	Horizontal	9
Permanent Financial Assistance (Cayman Islands)	Vertical	10
Tosika Fameno (Madagascar)	Horizontal	10
Panama Solidarity Plan (Panama)	Horizontal	10

Program	Type of adaptation	Number of days
\$1,000 to frontline cleansing workers, toilet attendants and security workers (Hong Kong)	Horizontal	11
Emergency livelihood assistance (Korea, Rep.)	Horizontal	12
One-off scheme (Sierra Leone)	Horizontal	12
Families in Action Program (Colombia)	Vertical	13
Cash Payout Scheme (Hong Kong)	Horizontal	13
National Social Assistance Program (India)	Vertical	13
Special cash payment (Japan)	Horizontal	14
Youth in Action Program (Colombia)	Both	15
Program for the Elderly Colombia (Colombia)	Vertical	15
Permanent increase in main benefits (New Zealand)	Vertical	15
Tourist guides UCT (Colombia)	Horizontal	16
Myan Ku (Myanmar)	Horizontal	16
Senior Citizens' Allowance (Sri Lanka)	Horizontal	16
Disability Allowance (Sri Lanka)	Horizontal	16
Kidney Disease Allowance (Sri Lanka)	Horizontal	16
Universal credit standard allowance (United Kingdom)	Both	16
Wealth partaking scheme (Macao SAR, China)	Admin	17
Low-income persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic weekly payments (Thailand)	Horizontal	17
Covid-19 financial relief check (Guam)	Horizontal	18
Economic Support Payment (Australia)	Horizontal	19
COVID-19 relief package (Guyana)	Horizontal	19
One-time top-up of SSN (Iraq)	Vertical	20
Pytyvõ Program (Paraguay)	Horizontal	20
Disability interim assistance (Trinidad and Tobago)	Vertical	21
Emergency National Social Solidarity Programme (Lebanon)	Horizontal	22
COVID-19 Pandemic one-off Cash Assistance (Ukraine)	Vertical	22
Self-Employed Person Income Relief Scheme (Singapore)	Horizontal	25
Bolsa Familia (Brazil)	Both	27
Coronavirus relief payments (Korea, Rep.)	Horizontal	27
Cash-for-jobs scheme (Serbia)	Horizontal	27
Childcare allowance (Latvia)	Horizontal	28
Government-issued stimulus vouchers (Taiwan, China)	Horizontal	29
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Programme for ID Poor Households (Cambodia)	Horizontal	31
Emergency Hardship Fund (Cook Island)	Horizontal	31
Vulnerable Family Survival Programme (Barbados)	Horizontal	32
COVID-19 allowance/voucher for civil servants (Zimbabwe)	Horizontal	33

Program	Type of adaptation	Number of days
Cash transfer to 1000 extremely vulnerable households (Gambia)	Horizontal	35
Emergency Grant (Iraq)	Horizontal	35
Top up of cash transfer programs (Ecuador)	Vertical	36
Garment workers emergency income support (Lao PDR)	Horizontal	38
Bono Familia (Guatemala)	Horizontal	40
Special allowance, Income Support Allowance (Maldives)	Horizontal	40
Cash transfer program supporting parents of girls aged 9 to 15 (Benin)	Horizontal	42
COVID-19 economic response (Guinea)	Horizontal	42
Working Family Allowance one-off special allowance (Hong Kong)	Vertical	42
Emergency cash transfer (Sudan)	Horizontal	42
One-off cash transfer (Timor-Leste)	Horizontal	42
Triple stimulus voucher (Taiwan, China)	Horizontal	43
Emergency aid payments for freelance artists (Croatia)	Horizontal	44
Self-employed one-off lump sum subsidy (Hong Kong)	Horizontal	47
Additional subsidy for informal workers (Timor-Leste)	Horizontal	50
Extraordinary bonus for medical staff (Czech Republic)	Horizontal	53
Relief Grants for Athletes (Zimbabwe)	Horizontal	53
Montserrado County cash transfers (Liberia)	Horizontal	56
Spend local card (Jersey)	Horizontal	61
COVID-19 Cash Transfer Program (Belize)	Horizontal	64
School Uniform Voucher Allowance (Guyana)	Vertical	67
One-off universal child benefit (Iceland)	Horizontal	72
Toimeentulotuki temporary compensation (Finland)	Horizontal	80
Takaful 3(Jordan)	Horizontal	80
Relief Grants for Artists (Zimbabwe)	Horizontal	83
Relief fund for artists, athletes and technical personnel (South Africa)	Horizontal	86
Relief Fund for tourist guides (South Africa)	Horizontal	87
Grants for low-income families (Iceland)	Horizontal	102
One-off GST Voucher (Singapore)	Horizontal	119

Annex 7. Overview of social protection measures by component

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Afghanistan	✓		✓	✓			✓			✓		
Albania	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Algeria	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	
American Samoa	✓		✓								✓	✓
Andorra	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓			
Angola	✓		✓	✓							✓	
Anguilla (UK)	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		
Antigua and Barbuda	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	✓
Argentina	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Armenia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓		✓	✓
Aruba			✓	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓
Australia	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Austria	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Azerbaijan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	
Bahamas, the	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					
Bahrain	✓			✓		✓			✓			
Bangladesh	✓		✓	✓		✓			✓		✓	
Barbados	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Belarus	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓			✓
Belgium	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Belize	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Benin	✓			✓					✓		✓	✓

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Bermuda	✓				✓		✓					
Bhutan	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓			
Bolivia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Bosnia and Herzegovina	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Botswana	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓			
Brazil	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓
British Virgin Islands			✓	✓	✓							
Brunei Darussalam	✓			✓			✓	✓	✓	✓		
Bulgaria	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Burkina Faso	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	
Burundi	✓		✓	✓					✓			
Cambodia	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓		
Cameroon	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓				
Canada	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	
Cape Verde	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			
Caribbean Netherlands			✓	✓					✓			
Cayman Islands	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Central African Republic	✓		✓	✓								✓
Chad			✓	✓								
Chile	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
China	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓
Colombia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Comoros	✓			✓					✓			
Congo, Dem. Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
Congo, Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓
Cook Island	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Costa Rica	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
Côte d'Ivoire	✓		✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	
Croatia	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Cuba	✓							✓	✓		✓	✓
Curaçao	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓	✓		
Cyprus	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Czech Republic	✓				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Denmark				✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Djibouti	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Dominica	✓		✓	✓						✓		
Dominican Republic	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓
Ecuador	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
Egypt, Arab Rep.	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	
El Salvador	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	✓
Equatorial Guinea			✓	✓				✓				
Eritrea	✓		✓	✓								
Estonia	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		
Eswatini	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Ethiopia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Faroe Islands									✓			
Fiji	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				
Finland	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓
France	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
French Polynesia	✓		✓									
Gabon	✓		✓	✓					✓		✓	
Gambia, The	✓		✓	✓								✓
Georgia	✓			✓	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓
Germany	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Ghana	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓				✓	
Gibraltar					✓			✓	✓			
Greece	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Greenland									✓			
Grenada	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
Guam	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Guatemala	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Guernsey	✓				✓				✓	✓		
Guinea	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓		✓		
Guinea-Bissau	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Guyana	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓		✓		
Haiti	✓		✓						✓			
Honduras	✓		✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hong Kong	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Hungary				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
Iceland	✓				✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
India	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	
Indonesia	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓	✓	
Iran, Islamic Rep.	✓		✓	✓	✓							
Iraq	✓		✓	✓				✓				
Ireland	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Isle of Man					✓				✓			
Israel	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓			
Italy	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Jamaica	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓		
Japan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Jersey	✓			✓				✓	✓			
Jordan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Kazakhstan	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						
Kenya	✓	✓	✓	✓								✓
Kiribati	✓				✓			✓				
Korea, Rep.	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Kosovo	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Kuwait	✓		✓		✓			✓	✓			
Kyrgyz Republic	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓		✓	✓	✓
Lao PDR	✓		✓	✓					✓			
Latvia	✓	✓			✓				✓			✓
Lebanon	✓			✓	✓			✓				
Lesotho	✓		✓	✓					✓			
Liberia	✓		✓	✓	✓						✓	
Libya			✓	✓								

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Liechtenstein					✓				✓			✓
Lithuania	✓			✓	✓				✓	✓		
Luxembourg	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓
Macao SAR, China	✓		✓	✓						✓		
Madagascar	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓				
Malawi	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	✓
Malaysia	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		
Maldives	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	
Mali	✓	✓	✓	✓							✓	✓
Malta	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓
Marshall Islands			✓	✓								
Mauritania	✓		✓	✓								
Mauritius	✓	✓		✓					✓	✓	✓	✓
Mexico	✓	✓		✓			✓	✓				
Micronesia, Fed. Sts.	✓			✓	✓							
Moldova	✓				✓							
Monaco	✓				✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Mongolia	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓	✓			✓
Montenegro	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	
Montserrat (UK)	✓		✓	✓					✓			✓
Morocco	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	
Mozambique	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓
Myanmar	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				
Namibia	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	✓

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Nepal	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		
Netherlands	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
New Caledonia	✓				✓			✓	✓			
New Zealand	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓	✓		
Nicaragua			✓		✓						✓	✓
Niger	✓	✓	✓	✓								
Nigeria	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		✓	
North Macedonia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Northern Mariana Islands	✓		✓	✓	✓							
Norway	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Oman			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓	
Pakistan	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Palau	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓							
Panama	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓	✓	✓
Papua New Guinea		✓	✓					✓			✓	✓
Paraguay	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓
Peru	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Philippines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Poland	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Portugal	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Puerto Rico	✓		✓		✓						✓	✓
Qatar	✓			✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Réunion (France)	✓		✓									

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Romania	✓				✓				✓			✓
Russian Federation	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	
Rwanda	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓						✓
Saint Martin (French part)	✓											
Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France)	✓											
Samoa	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
San Marino	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓		✓	
São Tomé and Príncipe	✓		✓									
Saudi Arabia	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	
Senegal	✓		✓	✓							✓	✓
Serbia	✓		✓		✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Seychelles	✓			✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	
Sierra Leone	✓		✓	✓		✓					✓	
Singapore	✓		✓	✓					✓	✓	✓	
Sint Maarten (Dutch part)	✓		✓	✓	✓				✓		✓	
Slovak Republic	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Slovenia	✓			✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Solomon Islands			✓	✓				✓		✓		
Somalia	✓		✓	✓			✓					✓
South Africa	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		✓		✓	
South Sudan	✓	✓	✓								✓	✓
Spain	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Sri Lanka	✓		✓	✓			✓				✓	
St. Kitts and Nevis	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		✓
St. Lucia	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓					✓		
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓
Sudan	✓		✓								✓	✓
Suriname	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓	
Sweden	✓				✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Switzerland	✓							✓	✓			
Syrian Arab Republic	✓		✓	✓						✓	✓	
Taiwan, China	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Tajikistan	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓		✓		
Tanzania	✓			✓	✓							
Thailand	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓		✓		
Timor-Leste	✓		✓	✓				✓	✓			
Togo	✓		✓	✓				✓			✓	✓
Tonga	✓			✓				✓	✓			
Trinidad and Tobago	✓		✓	✓	✓							✓
Tunisia	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			
Turkey	✓		✓	✓			✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Turkmenistan	✓							✓			✓	
Turks and Caicos islands	✓			✓								
Tuvalu	✓			✓				✓				

Countries	SOCIAL ASSISTANCE				SOCIAL INSURANCE				LABOR MARKETS			
	Cash-based transfers	Public Works	In-kind (in-kind/school feeding)	Utility and financial support	Paid leave/unemployment	Health insurance support	Pensions and disability benefits	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Wage subsidy	Activation (training)	Labor regulation adjustment	Reduced work time subsidy
Uganda	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓				
Ukraine	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
United Arab Emirates			✓	✓	✓	✓		✓		✓	✓	✓
United Kingdom	✓		✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	
United States	✓		✓	✓	✓			✓			✓	
Uruguay	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Uzbekistan	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓	✓
Vanuatu	✓			✓			✓		✓			
Venezuela, RB	✓		✓	✓					✓		✓	✓
Vietnam	✓			✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Virgin Islands (U.S.)	✓		✓	✓	✓					✓		
West Bank and Gaza	✓	✓	✓	✓				✓	✓			
Yemen	✓		✓	✓								
Zambia	✓	✓	✓	✓			✓				✓	✓
Zimbabwe	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓				✓	✓	

Annex 8. Measures by countries and territories

1. Afghanistan	41. Chad	83. Guatemala	124. Malaysia	166. Russia	205. Turkey
2. Albania	42. Chile	84. Guernsey (UK)	125. Maldives	167. Rwanda	206. Turkmenistan
3. Algeria	43. China	85. Guinea	126. Mali	168. Saint Martin	207. Turks and Caicos Islands (UK)
4. American Samoa	44. Colombia	86. Guinea-Bissau	127. Malta	169. Saint Pierre & Miquelon (France)	208. Tuvalu
5. Andorra	45. Comoros	87. Guyana	128. Marshall Islands	170. Samoa	209. Uganda
6. Angola	46. Congo, Dem. Rep.	88. Haiti	129. Mauritania	171. San Marino	210. Ukraine
7. Anguilla (UK)	47. Congo, Rep.	89. Honduras	130. Mauritius	172. Sao Tome and Principe	211. United Arab Emirates
8. Antigua and Barbuda	48. Cook Island	90. Hong-Kong	131. Mexico	173. Saudi Arabia	212. United Kingdom
9. Argentina	49. Costa Rica	91. Hungary	132. Micronesia	174. Senegal	213. United States
10. Armenia	50. Côte d'Ivoire	92. Iceland	133. Moldova	175. Serbia	214. Uruguay
11. Aruba (Netherlands)	51. Croatia	93. India	134. Mongolia	176. Seychelles	215. Uzbekistan
12. Australia	52. Cuba	94. Indonesia	135. Monaco	177. Sierra Leone	216. Vanuatu
13. Austria	53. Curaçao (Netherlands)	95. Iran	136. Montenegro	178. Singapore	217. Venezuela
14. Azerbaijan	54. Cyprus	96. Iraq	137. Montserrat (UK)	179. Sint Maarten	218. Vietnam
15. Bahamas	55. Czechia	97. Ireland	138. Morocco	180. Slovak Republic	219. Virgin Islands (U.S.)
16. Bahrain	56. Denmark	98. Isle of Man	139. Mozambique	181. Slovenia	220. West Bank & Gaza
17. Bangladesh	57. Djibouti	99. Israel	140. Myanmar	182. Solomon Islands	221. Yemen
18. Barbados	58. Dominica	100. Italy	141. Namibia	183. Somalia	222. Zambia
19. Belarus	59. Dominican Republic	101. Jamaica	142. Nepal	184. South Africa	223. Zimbabwe
20. Belgium	60. Ecuador	102. Japan	143. Netherlands	185. South Sudan	
21. Belize	61. Egypt	103. Jersey	144. New Caledonia (France)	186. Spain	
22. Benin	62. El Salvador	104. Jordan	145. New Zealand	187. Sri Lanka	
23. Bermuda (UK)	63. Equatorial Guinea	105. Kazakhstan	146. Nicaragua	188. St. Kitts and Nevis	
24. Bhutan	64. Eritrea	106. Kenya	147. Niger	189. St. Lucia	
25. Bolivia	65. Estonia	107. Kiribati	148. Nigeria	190. St. Vincent and the Grenadine	
26. Bosnia & Herzegovina	66. Eswatini	108. Korea, Rep.	149. North Macedonia	191. Sudan	
27. Botswana	67. Ethiopia	109. Kosovo	150. Northern Mariana Islands (U.S.)	192. Suriname	
28. Brazil	68. Faroe Islands (Denmark)	110. Kuwait	151. Norway	193. Sweden	
29. British Virgin Islands (UK)	69. Fiji	111. Kyrgyz Republic	152. Oman	194. Switzerland	
30. Brunei Darussalam	70. Finland	112. Lao PDR	153. Pakistan	195. Syria	
31. Bulgaria	71. France	113. Latvia	154. Palau	196. Taiwan	
32. Burkina Faso	72. French Polynesia	114. Lebanon	155. Panama	197. Tajikistan	
33. Burundi	73. Gabon	115. Lesotho	156. Papua New Guinea	198. Tanzania	
34. Cabo Verde	74. Gambia, The	116. Liberia	157. Paraguay	199. Thailand	
35. Cambodia	75. Georgia	117. Libya	158. Peru	200. Timor Leste	
36. Cameroon	76. Germany	118. Liechtenstein	159. Philippines	201. Togo	
37. Canada	77. Ghana	119. Lithuania	160. Poland	202. Tonga	
38. Caribbean (Netherlands)	78. Gibraltar (UK)	120. Luxembourg	161. Portugal	203. Trinidad and Tobago	
39. Cayman Islands (UK)	79. Greece	121. Macao, SAR China	162. Puerto Rico	204. Tunisia	
40. Central African Republic	80. Greenland	122. Madagascar	163. Qatar		
	81. Grenada	123. Malawi	164. Réunion (France)		
	82. Guam		165. Romania		

Afghanistan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Under the REACH program, households in urban areas receive a combination of cash and in-kind equivalent to US\$100.</p> <p>The World Bank plans to repurpose USD100 millions of its Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project for COVID-19 relief efforts, aiming to cover 90 per cent of households under the project. In the context of the overall World Bank's COVID-19 relief response in Afghanistan, \$100 million of the Citizens' Charter program resources were redeployed in May 2020 to provide emergency household assistance in the form of food/cash in CCAP participating communities.</p> <p>The government, on 18 July 2020, announced a new program "Dastarkhan-e-Milli", which combines two World Bank projects - Citizens' Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP) and Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households (REACH). It provides a relief package to Afghan households with incomes of US\$2 per day or lower, comprising of essential food staples and hygiene products for rural households (reason: (a) security concerns with carrying large amounts of physical cash in rural areas; (b) higher fiduciary and corruption risks with cash; and (c) gender and usage considerations - it is highly likely that men will be the ones who decide how to use the cash in the household, and women may not benefit. The early experience under CCAP of transferring the social inclusion grants in cash showed that these risks did materialize. Therefore, the rural transfers will be done in a single in-kind tranche and a combination of cash and food to urban households, in two tranches). Both projects (REACH and CCAP) are covering 90 percent of households in the country under the government's "Dastarkhan-e-Milli" program, benefitting an estimated 4.1 million households with incomes of \$2 a day or less. Based on the program (total program expenditure \$244 million), in the first stage, the government will allocate \$86 million and then \$158 million in the second phase to provide food to people across the country. Each recipient will be receiving AFN 4000 (\$50 USD equivalent in food or cash).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	<p>\$280 million grant to fund the COVID-19 Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households (REACH) Project. The total grant amount is comprised of \$155 million from IDA—the World Bank Group’s fund for the poorest countries—and will be complemented by \$125 million from the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund (ARTF), managed by the World Bank on behalf of 34 donors. The project will benefit some 2.9 million households across Afghanistan. The REACH project will complement a parallel relief effort organized under the Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project. Together, both will cover 90 percent of households in the country under the government’s “Dastarkhan-e-Milli” program, benefitting an estimated 4.1 million households with incomes of \$2 a day or less. The authorities have recently rolled out a relief package, amounting to 1.6 percent of GDP, to Afghan households with incomes of US\$2 per day or lower (twice the national poverty line). With its broad coverage, about 90 percent of all households, the program will be near universal in scope. Households in rural areas will receive an equivalent of US\$50 in essential food staples and hygiene products in two tranches. The new package will cover 90 per cent of households. Based on the program, in the first stage, the government will allocate \$86 million and then \$158 million in the second phase to provide food to people across the country. On April 29, 2020, the government started providing free bread to about 2.5 million needy and poor people in Kabul, and plans to extend to other cities. According to the Ministry of Finance, the bread distribution process in the first phase cost Afs2.8 billion (\$36 million), of which Afs1.15 billion (\$14.8 million) was spent in Kabul.</p> <p>The World Bank plans to repurpose USD100 million of its Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project for COVID-19 relief efforts, aiming to cover 90 per cent of households under the project. In the context of the overall World Bank’s COVID-19 relief response in Afghanistan, \$100 million of the Citizens’ Charter program resources were redeployed in May 2020 to provide emergency household assistance in the form of food/cash in CCAP participating communities.</p> <p>According to the Ministry of Finance, the bread distribution process started on 29 April 2020 in Kabul (and extended to other cities). The first phase cost Afs 2.8 billion (\$36 million), of which Afs 1.15 billion (\$14.8 million) was spent in Kabul. But this program was stopped after 40 days (i.e., 10 June 2020). The delivery happened through bakeries (at least in Kabul), where beneficiaries would go to the bakeries to collect their breads, using a card that has been distributed to them for a month to take ten loaves of dry bread a day. Around 250,000 needy and poor families benefited from the program. The President instructed the relevant institutions to establish a database of deserving and poor people in the country and the government did a survey on needy people. It used state budget to finance this program, however, this was stopped due to widespread corruption.</p>
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		<p>The Afghan government provided four and a half kilograms of wheat to at least 1,000 needy families in Kabul. People complained that wheat transfers were insufficient to feed an entire family. The wheat was delivered to their homes.</p> <p>The government, on 18 July 2020, announced a new program “Dastarkhan-e-Milli”, which combines two World Bank projects - Citizens’ Charter Afghanistan Project (CCAP) and Relief Effort for Afghan Communities and Households (REACH). It provides a relief package to Afghan households with incomes of US\$2 per day or lower, comprising of essential food staples and hygiene products for rural households (reason: (a) security concerns with carrying large amounts of physical cash in rural areas; (b) higher fiduciary and corruption risks with cash; and (c) gender and usage considerations - it is highly likely that men will be the ones who decide how to use the cash in the household, and women may not benefit. The early experience under CCAP of transferring the social inclusion grants in cash showed that these risks did materialize. Therefore, the rural transfers will be done in a single in-kind tranche and a combination of cash and food to urban households, in two tranches). Both projects (REACH and CCAP) are covering 90 percent of households in the country under the government’s “Dastarkhan-e-Milli” program, benefitting an estimated 4.1 million households with incomes of \$2 a day or less. Based on the program (total program expenditure \$244 million), in the first stage, the government will allocate \$86 million and then \$158 million in the second phase to provide food to people across the country. Each recipient will be receiving AFN 4000 (\$50 USD equivalent in food or cash).</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	In May, 2020, the government waived electricity bills of less than Af 1,000 (US\$13) for a family residence in Kabul for two months and paid utility bills of the past two months for 50 percent of households in Kabul. The decision benefited more than 1.5 million Kabul residents
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>The program was adapted as part of the response to COVID-19: the Martyrs and Disabled Pension. The program was expanded to cover descendants of deceased health professionals.</p> <p>To support the retirees during the Covid 19 pandemic, the Ministry of Finance will pay retirees’ pensions for the current fiscal year without the new biometric process on the basis of previous cards. The purpose of paying these pensions without the new biometric process is to help them deal with their problems in the current situation, since these pensions might be their only source of income. MoF transferred pensions in the following three categories:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirees with an annual salary of 75,000 Afghanis got 12 months' salary, or one whole year. • Retirees with an annual salary of 75,000 to 150,000 Afghanis got 75 percent, or 9 months' salary. • Retirees whose annual salary amounts to more than 150,000 Afghanis will get 50%, or 6 months' salary. • The retirees whose 25% or 50% pensions remain will get it by the end of the current fiscal year.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[December 2020] The ADB-funded COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support Program includes vocational training to support MSMEs.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Albania

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Economic assistance (Ndhma Ekonomike) received by eligible individuals was doubled in amount during the immediate COVID-19 situation in 2020 for three months. Individuals with an annual personal income of over 2 million are not eligible to receive such support. This measure was reintroduced in 2021, as the COVID-19 situation has not abated, and the government hopes to make the measure permanent.</p> <p>Through the Council of Ministers Decision, No 13, date 22.4.2020, 'On amendments to Council of Ministers Decision No. 305, April 16th, 2020, 'On the procedures for the financial support to the actual employees and the unemployed due to Covid-19', the government introduced a lump sum amount of 40.000 ALL for every employee of the Ballsh Refinery.</p> <p>Ndhma ekonomike: Economic assistance by 16.000 ALL per person for all the applicants of the economic assistance (NE) since July 2019, which have not received any economic assistance until April 2020.</p> <p>Self-employed families received a special benefit equivalent to a state-set monthly salary starting in March 2020.</p> <p>Through the Decision No 236, March 18th, 2020, the government decided that the retired persons as well as individuals and families benefitting from various social protection public services/programs will be provided home based assistance (monetary assistance) by the local authorities and relevant institutions.</p> <p>Through the Decision 305, "Support for employees in accommodations" of April 13, 2020, a 40,000 ALL lump-sum payment to formal employees in all accommodation structures which were active at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic was provided. 176,000 workers received the payment: 66,000 employees from big businesses, 100,000 employees from small businesses and 10,0000 employees from the tourism sector. The total cost of the program was 70.4 million USD.</p> <p>Welfare benefits and other support to individuals, including sick pay, cash transfers, housing relief Pursuant to Decision No. 254 of the Council of Ministers of March 27th, 2020, which entered into force on April 1st, 2020, beneficiaries of financial assistance equal to the minimum wage at the</p>

		<p>national level of ALL 26,000 per month include unpaid family employees who work in person; employees in general who work in person; employees in legal entities, with an annual income of up to ALL 14 million.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 16th, the government announced the second support package which provides financial support to employees of businesses affected by the Covid-19 crisis who were not covered by the first financial package. The financial aid consists of a one-off payment of ALL 40,000 (roughly \$350) per person for the entire period April - June 2020 for employees of medium and large businesses closed due to COVID restrictions. In addition to laid-off workers and employees of small businesses that were allowed to operate and thus could not benefit from the first financial aid package, excluding food and groceries stores, drugstores and liberal professionals.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Through the Decision No 236, March 18th, 2020, the government decided that the retired persons as well as individuals and families benefitting from various social protection public services/programs will be provided home based assistance (food and health assistance) by the local authorities and relevant institutions.</p> <p>Free flu vaccines have been provided through October 2020 for the groups of population most in need such as the elderly to protect against the compounding effects of COVID-19.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Loan installments payments were postponed to May 31st, 2020, as per the joint Order of the Government of Albania and the National Bank of Albania.</p> <p>This benefit was extended until the end of August 2020.</p> <p>Through Decision No. 58 of the Energy Regulatory Authority, March 26th, 2020, the government relaxed and provided exceptional procedures on metering the consumed electricity during the Covid-19 emergency.</p> <p>Through the Normative Act No. 3, March 15th, 2020, 'On special administrative measures during the Covid-19 infection period' the government allowed individuals (including students) and businesses with up to \$14 million ALL turnover to postpone the property, premises and house rental payments for two months in the period of April and May 2020.</p>

		<p>The government adopted two support packages in 2020 for people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic of a combined size of Lek 45 billion (2.8 percent of GDP) consisting of budget spending, sovereign guarantees and tax deferrals.</p> <p>Through the Decision No 236, March 18th, 2020, the government decided that the retired persons as well as individuals and families benefitting from various social protection public services/programs will be provided home based assistance (monetary assistance) by the local authorities and relevant institutions.</p> <p>In announcing the measures to fight the economic impact of COVID-19 in March 2020, the government said it would write off penalties on delayed electricity bill payments worth some \$150 million, which would benefit 211,024 families.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Through the Council of Ministers Decision, No 263, March 30 th , 2020, 'On indexing of pensions', the government increased (indexing) by 2.3 percent the pensions, establishing also new limits – minimum of 14 thousand ALL and maximum of 28 thousand ALL per month, plus compensations for the lower levels. This measure involved an estimated budget of 2.1 billion ALL.
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] As part of the first economic package announced on March 27, unemployment assistance received by the eligible individuals was doubled during the period March-May 2020.</p> <p>The 2021 budget adopted by parliament on November 16th, 2020, allocated Lek 2.5 billion to a temporary increase in the payments for unemployment benefits.</p> <p>The Government of Albania Anti-COVID-19 Financial Package, launched by Decision No. 6 March 21st, 2020 "On Some Changes to the 2020 Budget Law No. 88/2019", allocated part of 65 million to unemployment benefits for three months.</p>
	Social security contributions	Informal sector employees who lost their jobs during the lockdown will have the full cost of social contributions (employees and employers share) covered for one year if they formalize.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[November 2020] On November 16, the Parliament adopted the 2021 budget which allocated ALL 4.5 billion for a 40% wage increase for the health sector.</p> <p>The Normative Act Nr. 2, March 11th 2020, "On Some changes to the Law No. 15 on The Prevention and Combatting of the Infections and Infective Diseases" provided for new penalties on employers noncomplying with measures and protocols related occupational safety and health during COVID-19 pandemic.</p>

		<p>[March 2020] On March 18, the Government issued the Decision Nr.231 where public administration institutions were instructed to take March 20 as a day off, and to use teleworking for carrying out various tasks as instructed by their supervisors.</p> <p>[August 2020] On August 13, the Government adopted a third support package which provided an additional minimum wage to public transport workers who resumed work one month later than the rest. This measure involved an extra transport budget of ALL 135 million.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>March 2020] On March 27, the Government introduced a support package, totaling ALL 6.4 billion, part of which covers the monthly salary equal to the minimum wage (ALL 26,000) to employees of businesses closed down as a result of the imposed restrictions by the government. This measure targeted 30,000+ business with annual turnover up to ALL 14 million, and it also include self-employed, informal sector employees (including rural farmers), and unpaid family members who would not otherwise benefit from unemployment benefits.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>Through the Council of Ministers Decision No 254, amended on March 27th, 2020, 'On the procedures for the financial support to the employees of businesses with turnover up to 14 million ALL, economic support and unemployment benefits due to the Covid-19' the government introduced part of the financial package of \$6.4 billion ALL to support businesses who were imposed to close. This included receiving a payment equal to the minimal wage (26,000 ALL) per employee. Individuals with an annual personal income over 2 million ALL were not eligible to receive such support</p> <p>In September, the government launched an employment promotion program, that aims to cover part of reemployment costs of those who lost their jobs during the lockdown. For formal sector employees the government will cover half of the wages (at the legal minimum level) and the full employers' share of social contributions for the duration of the program (4 or 8 months).</p> <p>The Government of Albania Anti-COVID-19 Financial Package, launched by Decision No. 6 March 21st, 2020 "On Some Changes to the 2020 Budget Law No. 88/2019", allocated part of 65 million to salaries for small business' workers.</p> <p>[September 2020] On September 23, the finance minister introduced 3 Employment Incentive Programs for integrating job seekers into the labor market. The programs are divided based on the duration of employment (4, 8, or 12 months). For those formally employed (with mandatory social contributions) for 4 and 8 months, the government will fund 100% of the salary (the national minimum wage) for half of the duration of employment. For those employed for 12 months, the government will subsidize 100% of the compulsory insurance contributions (for the employer and employee) calculated on the minimum wage, during the 12 months of employment. The program was</p>

		still active as of July 2021, when the finance minister announced that 2827 have benefited from the employment incentive programs in the first six months of 2021. According to the minister, USD 570 million is projected in the state budget for 2021 for employment promotion program.
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Algeria

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) A transfer of DZD10,000 (approx. USD80) was announced on 13 April 2020 to top up the DZD6,000 (USD47) for needy families impacted by COVID-19 measures. The transfer is a 'solidarity transfer' for Ramadan. A budgeted financial envelope of DZD1,393 billion (EUR12 million), would be deposited into the postal accounts of families through community-based targeting. 319,983 out of the planned 322,000 beneficiaries received the cash assistance for the year 2020, totaling DZD 22 billion. The Solidarity transfer given to some vulnerable households before Ramadan. The solidarity transfer is a yearly in-kind assistance measure given to poor and vulnerable families. In 2019, the Ramadan aid to vulnerable households changed from an in-kind transfer to a 6000 DA cash transfer.</p> <p>(March 2020) Bonus payment to public workers in the health sector, mobilized within the framework of the prevention and the fight against the spread of the coronavirus. (16.5bn dinars). The premium is paid monthly in lump sums ranging from 10,000 DA for the benefit of administrative and support staff, 20,000 DA for paramedical staff and 40,000 DA for medical staff. It is served for a renewable period of three (3) months. This measure began on February 15, 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	To reduce exposition risk for elderly people, a proxy letter can be delivered to another person to receive pensions/benefits in place of the beneficiary (for retirees, old people receiving cash transfers, etc.).
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(April 2020) In-kind distribution campaign of food and hygiene items to the most vulnerable families, including those living in isolated areas and impacted by the lockdown. This distribution is being carried out, for the most vulnerable regions, through a 'solidarity caravan'
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(December 2020) National Pension Fund will start compensation for Covid-19 analyses and tests. The government will support pharmacies in order to sell the generic medicine with a view to encouraging its use. The compensation, beginning in January 2021, for the scanner will stand at 5000 dinars and 3000 dinars for PCR.
	Paid sick leave	As of 22 March, 2020, at least 50 per cent of the public administration workforce at the central

Social Insurance		<p>level as well as in local authorities, whose presence in the workplace is not considered essential for the continuity of service, are being placed on paid leave, excluding staff from certain sectors that require continuity. Pregnant women and women raising children, as well as people with chronic illnesses and those with medical vulnerabilities, are considered a priority for exceptional leave. This decision is also applicable to workers in the private sector.</p> <p>Extension of conditions for paid leave for parents of children with disabilities.</p>
	Health insurance	Expanded coverage of social security to deliveries in private maternal health facilities (permanent)
	Pensions	<p>Waiver of a need for a medical revision check-up for disability pensions and pensions for accidents at work. The need for a medical revision check-up for this benefit has been waived, in order to allow beneficiaries to respect lockdown measures.</p> <p>To reduce exposition risk for elderly people, a proxy letter can be delivered to another person to receive pensions/benefits in place of the beneficiary (for retirees, old persons receiving cash transfers, etc.).</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The National Social Insurance fund (CNAS) has extended the deadline for the payment of employers and independent contributions until the end of May and September, respectively, while still covering paid leave and unemployment benefits for some. Penalties from previous late payments not made on time have also been suspended for six months starting from April 2020.</p> <p>Suspending the obligation of contribution of the national social protection funds for employees with disabilities.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>The national minimum wage will be raised from 18,000 DZD (139 USD) to 20,000 DZD (155 USD)</p> <p>Anticipation of annual holiday payments by the Caisse Nationale des Congés Payés et du Chômage intempéries des secteurs du BTPH (CACOBATPH), in proportion to the number of months contributed during the period from July 2019 to February 2020</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	Allocation of financial aid for small trades (taxis, hairdressers, etc.) to the value of 30,000 Dinars, for a period of 3 months, on the basis of a rigorous evaluation of the situation of each

		corporation during the last 4 months. This measure should be ratified by an executive decree to be issued before the end of the month
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American Samoa

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	On May 22, 2020, it was reported that American Samoans will receive USD 24 million in stimulus from the US Government as part of the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security or CARES Act. The money would cover 9,300 taxpayers and their qualified dependents who filed their 2019 taxes up to May 13. Single filers will receive \$1,200. Couples who file jointly will get double that plus \$500 for every child under their care.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On July 30, 2020, it is reported that as students get back to school in American Samoa, the Department of Health would supply 45,000 face masks to the students. The 15,900 children enrolled in school were expected to be issued with at least two, and in some cases three masks, after which parents would provide the rest.</p> <p>On 15 June 2020, the Government of American Samoa announced that it is accepting applications for food assistance under the American Samoa COVID-19 Nutrition Assistance Program (COVID NAP). The COVID NAP provides \$139 per person per month for a duration of up to 6 months for American Samoa's low-income individuals (18 and above) who are experiencing economic impacts from the COVID-19. The costs for COVID NAP is \$300 million which will remain available through September 30, 2021. This policy is authorized by USDA through the Families FIRST Coronavirus Response Act of 2020 (FFCRA) and the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act of 2020 (CARES Act). It is reported on 29 March 2021 that USDA and FNS have approved an increase in monthly vouchers for recipients of the ASNAP (Food Stamp Program) and the COVID-19 Nutrition Assistance Program (COVID NAP) from March 1st to September 30th, 2021. COVID- SNAP will temporarily increase by 34.5% the maximum monthly benefit allotment, from \$139 to \$187. ASNAP, COVID NAP and COVID-SNAP benefits will be distributed starting Thursday, April 1, 2021, by alphabetical order for ease of distribution.</p> <p>On August 18, 2021, American Samoa announced that children whose access to school meals was disrupted during the last school year will receive food coupons from the American Samoa's Department of Human and Social Services. US Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service has approved American Samoa's State Plan to operate a Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transfer (P-EBT) Program, for children who lost access to free meals at school due to closure of or reduced attendance in school year 2020/21. The benefits will also extend to children who were eligible to</p>

		receive free meals from the National School Lunch Program as of the end of SY 2020-21. DHSS estimates issuing \$1.3 million in P-EBT food coupons to approximately 11,100 children who lost access to free meals at school when they were scheduled for virtual learning and an additional \$6.1 million in P-EBT food coupons to about 14,000 school children who lost access to free meals this summer. DHSS has established that children who attended the 22 public schools that had virtual days from August 31, 2020, to October 9, 2020, qualify for 12 or 17 days of P-EBT benefits or \$96 and \$135 in food coupons respectively. Children who attended St. For the second part of the P-EBT Program, children who were eligible to receive free meals at school from school lunch as of the end of the school year 2020-2021 qualify for the U.S. standard benefit of \$438 in food coupons for the 55 covered days of the summer of 2021. Households are required to complete an application to provide basic information for their children for them to receive P-EBT benefits.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
		Government employees making \$50,000 or less a year will be entitled to overtime pay for work outside of their usual 40-hours per week for work involving the coronavirus declaration. American Samoa's governor has ordered cut hours and pay to be restored for government employees stranded off island because of the Covid-19 pandemic.
	Labor market regulations	In accordance with ASCA § 26.010S(g)(l), the restrictions on "Hazard Pay" in ASAC §4.041 l(b) are suspended. The Director of the Department of Human Resources is tasked with developing a policy to compensate medical personnel, first responders, and all ASG employees that face increased risk and exposure associated with their duties In accordance with ASCA § 26.010S(g)(l), the maximum grant of four (4) hours for "Excused Absences" in ASCA § 4.05 l(a)(10) is suspended. The Director of Department of Human Resources is tasked with developing a policy to compensate all ASG personnel that are under quarantine or unable to attend work for reasons related to the restrictions imposed.
	Reduced work time	State of Emergency (SoE) has been amended (1/6/2020), all government workers can return to full working hours. Businesses will only be allowed to trade between 5am-9pm, with some exceptions.

		American Samoan authorities have said that quarantine will be imposed on COVID-19 related workers, including US Federal Emergency Management Agency personnel entering the territory.
	Wage subsidies	

Andorra

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The government of Andorra announced an extraordinary benefit for self-employed workers affected by economic activity suspension worth €8.6 million.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>The Andorran government approved a legislative moratorium on April 18th, 2020, to provide repayment relief—and also extension of the repayment period in the case of mortgages—until December 31st, 2020, to households affected by the pandemic, which meet the requirements established by the law. This moratorium applied to mortgages and personal loans to finance housing or vehicles in the case of individuals.</p> <p>On June 11th, 2020, the Andorran Banking Association (ABA) adopted a non-legislative sector-wide moratorium to provide repayment relief to households, for 6-12 months depending upon the types of loan and borrower. This private moratorium scheme complemented the one approved by the government and could not be applied simultaneously. In mid-December 2020, ABA extended until March 31st, 2021, the application deadline for the moratorium.</p> <p>The government of Andorra has relaxed the requirements to accessing rental housing aid for individuals whose economic and social situation worsened due to the health crisis.</p>	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The government introduced prophylactic/care leave: workers with children can have access to paid leave while the educational and extracurricular leisure centers are compulsorily closed.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[April 2020] On April 1, the government approved Law 3/2020 which relaxed the requirements to access unemployment benefits and rental housing aid for individuals whose economic and social

		<p>situation worsened due to the health crisis. The law will be in force for up to a maximum of two months starting April 1, 2020.</p> <p>[December 2020] On December 16, the government created a new temporary and exceptional involuntary unemployment benefit to support Andorran workers directly affected by the delayed opening of the ski stations. 65 applications were received, amounting to €45,515 in December. The benefit will remain in place until the affected companies are able to resume their normal activities in the 2020-21 ski season.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] On April 18, the Temporary Suspension of Employment Contracts and the Reduction of Working Hours, Law 5/2020 was approved. The law allows companies interested in temporary suspending contracts or reducing working hours (not exceeding 75%) to cover 25% of the salary of suspended employees, while the government will assume 75% of the salary. While employees will receive reduced salaries, those with lower earnings will have the least reduction, in comparison with higher salaries. The calculation of salaries is based on a formula set by the government. Benefitting companies must have either suspended activity or, have a reduced turnover by at least 50%. The support measure is expected to cost around EUR 100 million and its duration will be limited to the period between May 1, 2020 and up to 180 days, and should not last beyond December 31, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - February 2021] On February 26, the government approved the extension of the program until March 31. [Extended - March 2021] On March 24, the government approved the extension of the program until April 30. [Extended - April 2021] On April 22, the government approved the extension of the program until May 31. [Extended - July 2021] On July 1, the government announced the extension of the program until December 31. However, the criteria for company selection have changed and became more selective.</p>

Angola

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(May 2020) The Ministry of Social Affairs, Family, and Women's Promotion (MASFAMU) announced that the Child Grant implemented in Bie, Moxico, and Uige provinces was topped up (from 3,000 to 5,000 Kwanzas, or approximately US\$6 to US\$10 monthly), including double payment. The program has already benefited 18,399 children under the age of five, in a universe of 9,989 families. The government has also adapted the payment procedures to ensure adequate sanitation and worker protection during the transfers.</p> <p>(August 2020) The provincial Government of Luanda is implementing an emergency cash transfer program. The benefit of 5,000 Kwanzas, or approximately US\$10 monthly per child is being implemented using mobile payments. The program benefited 1,404 children under the age of five, in a universe of 786 families.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Angola Strengthening the National Social Protection System (Cash Transfer) Project supports the cash transfer program "Kwenda". The first phase of the cash program started in May 2020 to provide temporary income support to poor and vulnerable families including those affected by the economic crisis. The program aims to reach 1.6 million families in the country with a benefit amount of 25,500 kz quarterly per family for one year.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) In order to guarantee the consumption of food in the basic basket for the most vulnerable families, the Ministry of Social Action, Family and Promotion of Women, the Ministry of Commerce and the Provincial Governments developed campaigns to distribute goods in the basic basket to the most vulnerable populations, targeting more than 17,000 children.</p> <p>(December 2020) The provincial authorities (with the support of WFP) will distribute highly nutritious food supplements to at least 37,000 malnourished children under five.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(April 2020) In order to alleviate family financial expenses / obligations, a 180-day moratorium is granted to families that have difficulties in paying their home's IPU.

		<p>(April 2020) In order to alleviate family financial expenses / obligations, a 180-day moratorium is granted to families that have difficulties in paying electricity and water supply bills.</p> <p>(November 2020) As part of the 2021 tax reform, limit to transport and food subsidies will be raised to 30,000 kwanza for eligible workers.</p> <p>(September 2021) Executive suspends payment of customs duties on essential goods. The prices of rice, pork, dried beef, chicken leg, corn grain, edible oil and powdered milk may decrease in the domestic market due to the suspension of payment of customs duties for these essential goods.</p> <p>(June 2021) The Government will subsidize the price of fertilizers up to 35 percent, so that it can be sold at a more affordable price.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] The Minister of Public Administration, Labor and Social Security said that General Labor Inspectorate must control breaches of the General Labor Law, particularly in cases where employers are not paying wages or suspending legal employment relationships. Companies would not be penalized though, however, compliance will be ensured.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Anguilla (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) For those that do not qualify for the Unemployment Benefit offered by the social security system, the Government provided direct financial support of up to XCD \$800 (US\$296) per month. In order to be beneficiary, people need to fulfill one of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Be unemployed, either temporarily or permanently laid off, as a result of COVID-19 after February 1st, 2020; 2) Be underemployed as a result of COVID-19 after February 1st, 2020, with a wage less than XCD \$800 a month; or 3) Closed business or having an earning less than XCD \$800 as a result of COVID-19 after February 1st, 2020. <p>Payments were made directly to bank accounts and first payments were scheduled to reach accounts on or before May 15th, 2020. Unemployed persons received payments of XCD \$800 for the period during which they remained unemployed up to a period of three months, if their previous monthly earnings were XCD \$ 800 or more. Persons who earned less than XCD \$ 800 received XCD \$800. Underemployed persons received the difference between their current earnings and their pre-COVID 19 monthly earnings up to a maximum of XCD \$800 (i.e. an earnings top-up) for the period during which they remain underemployed up to a period of three months.</p> <p>(April 2020) A one-off payment of 100% to those persons currently receiving cash transfer public assistance.</p> <p>(April 2020) Provision of EC\$400 per month for three (3) months for each child in foster care.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	(April 2020) Provision of ECD\$200 per month per child for children in the school feeding program, until schools reopen, and coverage expansion of the program to all poor students.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) The government introduced a maximum price regime for goods (sold by retail or wholesale). These included, but not restricted to, items for sanitizing and disinfecting hands and surfaces as recommended by the Ministry of Health. Penalties up to \$25,000 or imprisonment of up to 2 years were suggested in case of breach.

		<p>The Water Corporation of Anguilla (WCA) has delayed disconnection for people who have defaulted on their bills. WCA is extending payment plan options to individuals who may have challenges making bill payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure was extended until January 15th, 2021.</p> <p>(March 2020) The National Commercial Bank of Anguilla (NCBA) implemented a moratorium on loan repayments for an initial period of three (3) months, with the possibility of an additional three (3) months extension to be granted. The moratorium was offered to both individual and commercial customers affected by the COVID-19 crisis.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The government announced the reintroduction of a temporary unemployment benefit to cater to the unemployed and underemployed through the social security system. The temporary unemployment assistance benefit through the Social Security Board provided financial assistance of up to EC\$1,000.00 (US\$370) per month, to contributors to the fund whose jobs and wages have been severely impacted by the pandemic. All payments were sent directly to the bank accounts provided at the moment of application. The target date for the commencement of payments was April 30th, 2020, and were set to be disbursed for 3 months. [Extension - July 2020] The government approved the extension of the benefit for an additional six months until December 2020. [Extension] According to the Social Security Board, payments would be operational until March 31st, 2021.</p> <p>[October 2021] The Social Security Board issued an announcement to inform the general public that October 31st, 2021, was the final date for acceptance of the Unemployment Assistance Benefit (UAB) applications for the closing period September 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The government proposed that companies which continue to pay workers that are “sheltered in place” or required to stay at home will be considered for a waiver of Social Security and Internal Stabilization Levy (ISL) payments for up to three months.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[November 2020] In preparation for the Phase Two reopening, the government has offered free training courses to over 500 tourism employers – from housekeepers to ground transportation and charter boat operators from November 2020 onwards.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

Wage subsidies

Antigua and Barbuda

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>In April 2020, a decision was made by the Government of Antigua & Barbuda to offer an honorarium to nurses on the frontline caring for COVID-19 patients. The payment criteria put in place by Mount St. John's Medical Centre—the only public hospital in the country—required a nurse to work a minimum of 32 (thirty-two) hours in order to receive the allotment of \$1000 (monthly).</p> <p>(April 2020) The Antigua and Barbuda Hotels and Tourism Association and the Antigua and Barbuda Workers Union have joined forces in ensuing a fortnightly cash relief payment to employees working at hotels which contribute to the ABHTA/ABWU Thrift Fund. Starting on April 10th, 2020, employees received EC\$640 fortnightly for three months, through electronic transfers.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) The Ministry of Social Transformation provided relief packages of food and medication to elderly living alone, persons with disabilities, and unemployed adults with children.</p> <p>(January 2021) Through the Emergency Food Assistance Program, the government provided for the well-being of the elderly, disabled, single mothers, and other needy persons. Between April to December 2020: 50,664 packages were delivered, and several thousand persons benefitted from this program by January 2021.</p> <p>(April 2020) The government provided food vouchers distribution to unemployed persons (who can prove unemployment from 31st January 2020 due to COVID-19) with children, redeemable at supermarkets. In June 2020 the government announced it would increase the program. This enabled recipients to purchase other essential items they needed which were not initially included in the packages. Vouchers ranged from EC \$150 to EC \$250 (USD \$56 – USD \$93). Between April and December 2020, the government distributed \$1,250,000 worth of vouchers under the Government Voucher Program.</p> <p>Government Assistance Program (GAP) under which beneficiaries received vouchers for redemption</p>

		<p>at supermarkets, to ensure that people and their families do not go hungry.</p> <p>In June 2020 the Board of Guardian, Petro Caribe provided cash support to the vulnerable through cash and food grant programs operated by the Ministry of Social Transformation, Human Resource Development and the Blue Economy. No further details provided.</p>
	School feeding	<p>From May 25th, 2020, the National School Meals program provided lunches for teachers and students involved in the preparation for CSEC examinations.</p> <p>(March 2020) The School Meals Program continues to ensure that most economically vulnerable students receive meals during indefinite school closures as the nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic. As of March 31, care packages of dried goods and produce were prepared for distribution to selected vulnerable students and their families.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Antigua Public Utilities Authority (APUA) ceased all disconnections of APUA water and electricity to households for 3 months, re-connected customers who have been disconnected, and reduced by 20% the cost of electricity to households for a period of 3 months (April, May, June 2020). In June 2020, APUA decided to increase the discount up to 25%. The suspension of disconnections of water, and electricity accounts has been extended until late September and the reduction in the electricity bills, currently at 15 percent, has been extended until November 2020.</p> <p>Through the Pandemic Relief Barrel Initiative barrels containing foodstuff and sanitizing materials were allowed to enter Antigua and Barbuda from April 1st, 2020, until June 30th 2020, without having any duties and other taxes imposed, except for a \$10.00 processing fee and the Revenue Recovery Charge calculated at 10% of the value of the items.</p> <p>(March 2020) Temporary removal of Antigua and Barbuda Sales Tax (ABST) on antiseptics, wipes, sanitizers, toilet paper and paper towels, aloe vera gel, and vitamins were introduced to keep items affordable for consumers and mitigate disease spread. The removal of the 15 percent tax would allow these items to be purchased at an affordable price so that consumers can play their part to mitigate the spread of the virus.</p> <p>(March 2020) The Eastern Caribbean Central Bank and ECCU Bankers Association agreed on a loan repayment moratorium support program that will be implemented by all member banks in the ECCU. The program will facilitate a loan repayment moratorium for an initial period of up to six (6) months with a possible extension upon review. In addition to the deferral of loan repayments, a waiver of late fees and charges will be applicable to eligible customers during this period.</p> <p>Moratorium on mortgage debt repayments, which was extended in September 2020 for a further six</p>

		months. National Student Loan Fund removed all late fees and penalties for students who are able to demonstrate their inability to service their loans.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Extension of deadline to July 31 st 2020 for filing of claims under the Medical Benefits Scheme for receipts between January to April 2020.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[January 2021] The government offered scholarships to the University of the West Indies (UWI) Fourth Landed Campus to nationals who once worked for an air transport company, in order to enable them to re-tool.
	Labor market regulations	[May 2020] The government committed to not laying off public service workers in dealing with the economic fallout from the crisis. [May 2020] Industry-specific guidelines have been put forth in some cases (e.g., fishing industry, barbershops, beauty shops and nail salons) to operate in safe conditions. [June 2020] The Ministry of Health introduced health and safety protocols to business sectors, including food services, fitness centers, casinos, public transportation.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] Business owners were encouraged to prevent layoffs and termination by taking certain steps such as adopting austerity measures like a reduction in working hours and/or days worked, a reduction in number of days an employee is required to work in a week or the introduction of certain measures outlined in section C42 (2) of the Labor Code, Cap 27, as amended.
	Wage subsidies	[August 2020] The government decided to pay salaries to workers of an air transport company in July 2020. The initiative was aimed at restructuring and recapitalizing the company (EC \$3 million – USD \$1.1 million).

Argentina

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government introduced the Emergency Family Income (Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia), a non-contributory program that delivers a lump sum payment of \$10,000 (US\$155) to one member of the family. Informal workers, "Monotributistas" of category A and B and domestic workers were eligible beneficiaries. Initially, this transfer was provided during April 2020 to 3.6 million families. This was later extended in June and August for a second and third round, covering 9 million people.</p> <p>The government launched the Extraordinary Bonus of \$3,000 for beneficiaries of Universal Child Allowance and Universal Pregnancy Allowance. This involved more than 5.2 M beneficiaries (Universal Child Allowance 4.394.376 people as of April 2020 and Universal Pregnancy Allowance 0,8M people as of June 2019).</p> <p>The government launched the Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production (ATP), which included the existing program Productive Recovery Program (REPRO). This consists of delivering non-contributive cash transfers to workers in firms in a crisis situation.</p> <p>Later, the government launched a second version of REPRO within the Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production (ATP). This version implied a more agile and abbreviated procedure according to the existing situation in the framework of the Covid-19 pandemic. REPRO II consists of delivering individual cash transfers to workers in firms in a crisis situation. The program is incompatible with the following benefits of the ATP: Complementary Wage and Zero rate credit.</p> <p>The government implemented the Assistance, Training and Infrastructure Plan for Tourism (PACIT), an emergency program to assist the tourism sector. The measure involves financial aid (\$50,000) to independent workers, such as tour guides and small operators who are Monotributistas, Monotributistas sociales or self-employed. In order to be beneficiaries, recipients must attend hygiene and tourism-related training offered by the Ministry of Tourism and Sports. The program had an initial budget of 100 million pesos. According to the government's website, there was ARS\$ 300 M allocated to this program, involving 6,500 self-employed beneficiaries.</p> <p>The government implemented cash transfers in order to strengthen the health care capacity. These cash transfers are aimed at residents and heads of residents in the health sector. Initially, this was granted for a couple of months, but it was extended until December 2020.</p>

		<p>The government extended and increased the Family support allowance for deceased people Program, which supports families when one of the members passes away. COVID 19-related deceases were included as a cause of death. This transfer is delivered to the unemployed, informal workers, monotributistas sociales, cleaning workers, and for those beneficiaries of other social programs (Universal Child Allowance, Universal Pregnancy Allowance, among others). The cash transfer was increased to \$15,000.</p> <p>The government extended a bonus to health personnel and primary care workers. The program consisted of delivering a cash transfer of \$5,000. Initially, this benefit was implemented during four months (April to July 2020), but later was extended for 3 further months, until October 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The government launched the Extraordinary Bonus of \$3,000 for beneficiaries of the non-contributory system, which involved recipients of the following programs: Pension Universal para el Adulto Mayor (PUAM), pensions for the elderly, pensions for disabled people, pensions for mothers of seven or more children, and ex gratia pensions. As of March 2020, there were 1,431,189 non-contributory pensioners and 167,596 PUAM, according to the Boletín de Seguridad Social, involving an estimated cost of 4.7B pesos.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Ministry of Social Development ruled that families who have not yet received the Food Support Card (Tarjeta de alimentar) would receive the value of this amount through the Universal Child Allowance (AUH). This meant a temporary adaptation measure to strengthen food policies during COVID-19 pandemic. The plan is to deliver more than 1,500,000 cards to 2,800,000 recipients. To date the food card has reached 1,100,000 people in 400,000 households. On April 29th, 2020, the government announced an extraordinary reinforcement for holders of the Food Support Card. Those families with one child received an extra bonus of \$4,000 pesos while this extra amount was \$6,000 pesos for families with two or more children. In December 2020 the benefit increased to \$8,000 and \$12,000, respectively.</p>
	School feeding	<p>The government distributed the remaining school feeding food stocks as take-home rations.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>In order to guarantee supply and control the increase in prices during the health emergency, the Ministry of Productive Development re-introduced a price control system from March 20th, 2020, and for 30 days, initially. This involved maintaining prices of the basic food basket, beverages, toiletries and cleaning as they were on March 6th, 2020. The measure covered hypermarkets, retail and wholesale supermarkets, mini-markets, warehouses and self-services. This measure was extended several times. The last extension was granted until late January 2021. In November 2020 covid-related drugs were included in the price control program.</p> <p>The government has prohibited the eviction of people renting accommodation until September 30th,</p>

		<p>2020. Simultaneously, all rental contracts were automatically extended until the same date, regardless of current expiration date. In turn, the government froze rental contracts and deferred the rent repayment corresponding to the month of March 2020 until September 30th, 2020, which was later extended until January 2021.</p> <p>The government has ruled that key utilities such as energy, gas and water - as well as telecommunication, internet and Television services cannot be suspended during the crisis even if 3 consecutive or alternate bill payments are missed. Initially, the measure was in place for 180 days and included users who were beneficiaries of Universal Child Allowance, Universal Pregnancy Allowance, retirees and pensioners, those who receive unemployment insurance, and other groups. This was later extended for the entire population until late December 2020.</p> <p>On May 18th, 2020, the government announced that fixed and mobile telephony, internet and pay TV services were considered as essential public services. With the aim of containing the situation of affected people and guaranteeing connectivity and full access to services, the government established the suspension of price increases until August 31st, 2020, for these services. At the same time, the provision of inclusive postpaid, mobile prepaid and fixed internet mobile phone plans for all people requesting the benefit was agreed, with a fixed price until October 31st, 2020. The measure included the commitment of provider companies not to lay off workers during the term of the agreement.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>The National Government establishes that COVID-19 will be considered a presumptive disease of professional nature, so that the Aseguradoras de Riesgo de Trabajo must adapt their coverage so that the affected workers receive, immediately, the corresponding benefits.</p> <p>Children of members of Health Insurance Agents or Prepaid Medicine Entities, born as of February 20, 2020, and for whom the DNI process has not been completed, are temporarily incorporated and for a term of up to 45 calendar days after the end date of the period of social, preventive and compulsory isolation, with only proof of birth.</p>
	Pensions	<p>The government launched the Extraordinary Bonus of \$3,000 for beneficiaries of the contributory system, including those who receive the minimum pension (15,892 pesos). As of March 2020, this concerned 4,340,845 beneficiaries, according to the Boletín de Seguridad Social, with an estimated expenditure of ARG\$13,022,535,000. This measure also reached those who received a pension between \$15,892 pesos and \$18,892 pesos, although these beneficiaries received a benefit equals to the difference that allowed them a total pension of \$18,892 pesos. According to the Boletín Seguridad Social, this concerned 467,944 beneficiaries as of March 2020.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	<p>[July 2020] The government implemented a program to assist firms in the pear and apple production sector of the provinces of Neuquén, Río Negro, Mendoza, San Juan y La Pampa. The assistance consists of granting an extension period for the payment of social security obligations between 1st of June 2020 and 31st of December 2020.[December 2020] This measure was extended until June 30, 2021 and it was announced that it could be further extended to December 31, 2021, after an evaluation and report on the impact of the program.</p> <p>[April 2020] Under the Emergency Assistance Program for Work and Production, the payment of contributions by employers to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System was postponed or reduced by 95 percent. This initiative only applied to those economic activities that: 1) were affected by the pandemic; or 2) employed a certain number of workers infected with COVID-19 with high-risk diseases, or were told to isolate; or 3) experienced a sharp reduction in sales by the 20th of March 2020. Originally, this applied automatically to those firms with 60 or less employees. Firms with more than 60 employees were required to be legally categorized as "firm in economic crisis" to be beneficiaries. This last requirement was removed in late April. Subsequently, another requirement was introduced: those firms that were considered as in a "critical situation" received the benefit automatically; for those considered as in a "non-critical situation" needed to fulfill the requirements to get a postponement.</p> <p>[May 2020] According to Administrative Decision 747/2020, the program was extended until May 31st, 2020. [June 2020] Under Administrative Decision 1133/2020, the program was extended for the month of June. [August 2020] Under Administrative Decision 1581/2020, the program was extended until the end of September 2020. [October 2020] Under Administrative Decision 1954/2020, the program was extended until the end of October 2020. [November 2020] Under Administrative Decision 2086/2020, the program was extended until the end of November 2020. [December 2020] Under Administrative Decision 2181/2020, the program was extended until the end of December 31st, 2020.</p> <p>[May 2021] The National Government expanded the assistance provided by the REPRO 2 Program, establishing a 100% reduction in employer contributions. According to Decree 323/2021, this program is expected to end by December 31st, 2021.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[June 2020] The government extended the period of the double redundancy payment introduced in December 2019. Initially, this was extended until the 13th of December 2020, but the government delayed it until the 25th of January 2021.</p> <p>[January 2021] The government extended the double redundancy payment until December 31st, 2021, due to the state of emergency.</p>

		<p>[July 2020] The government extended the period of prohibition of dismissals and suspensions, which was first introduced in 2019.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2021] Decree 266/2021 extended the prohibition on dismissals: (i) without justified cause; or (ii) due to lack or reduction of work and force majeure until 31 May 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] Decree 413/2021 extended until 31 December 2021 the prohibition to dismiss without just cause and/or due to lack or reduction of work and force majeure, as long as the occupational emergency continues.</p> <p>[March 2020] Remote work was advised for workers in the national public sector, except for those who were involved in the provision of essential services, and private companies were recommended to work with a minimum number of employees and adopt remote work.</p> <p>[August 2021] Employers were allowed to summon their employees who have received at least the first dose of any of the COVID-19 vaccines to return to work in person 14 days after inoculation.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] The Emergency Assistance to Work and Production (Asistencia al Trabajo y la Producción - ATP) consisted of a wage subsidy for formal workers, paid directly by ANSES (social security administration of Argentina) to the employee bank account. By late April 2020, the allocation amount was equal to 50% of worker's net salary, and this could not be less than the current minimum wage. The average transfer per worker was on average AR\$ 20.000. The number of firms that applied and that were allowed in the program in each round varies (decreases over time). The last update on October 28th, 2020, determined that the benefit must range between 1.25 and 2 minimum wages. The sectors considered critical are health, culture, entertainment, tourism, gastronomy, long-distance transport, hairdressers, beauty centers, nursery schools and artistic education. In special cases, the following activities may also be considered critical: education, industry, commerce, services related to oil or mining, non-metallic mining, transportation, and business and professional services.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Tourist Assistance and Training Fund (FACT) under the Assistance, Training and Infrastructure Plan for Tourism (PACIT) is a program aimed at Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) in the tourism sector (tourist agencies, tourist accommodations, gastronomic establishments and tourist recreation services), sharply affected by COVID 19 pandemic. The government delivers cash transfers equal to the minimum wage for a period of 6 months. 50% of this aid must be used in wages, and the remaining 50% can be used in other expenses. In return, firms must maintain their payroll of employees, who must at the same time comply with safety and hygiene adaptations</p>

		<p>training. According to the government's website, this involved a total budget of ARS\$ 3,000M and benefited 2,500 MSMEs.</p> <p>[July 2020] The Ministry of Tourism and Sports doubled the number of beneficiaries with the Assistance Program for Tourist Providers (APTUR) II so that all the firms which applied and fulfilled the requirements of the first stage are granted access to the benefit. [August 2020] The government decided to continue to support those whose income was affected by creating APTUR III. [March 2021] The government announced a new edition of the program called APTUR IV. [June 2021] For the fifth edition of APTUR, the government decided to grant a non-refundable contribution of \$ 50,000 to travel agencies and passenger tourist motor transport services. [June 2021] The sixth edition of the program was aimed at guides and other providers of tourist services who were to be granted a non-refundable contribution of \$ 22 thousand per month from August to December 2021. [July 2021] The government continued its support through the seventh edition of the program.</p>
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Armenia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Lump-sum transfers to the vulnerable including individuals who were unemployed after the COVID-19 outbreak</p> <p>On March 25th and 30th 2020, the government approved a comprehensive action plan to counter the adverse coronavirus impact and several measures to offset its economic and social consequences with a total budget of at least US\$300M. These included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Support package No. 4: Assistance to families with children up to 14 years old where the formally employed parents were laid off. This support amounted to AMD 100,000 (US\$201) lump sum payment per child and did not apply to public servants or those who had monthly salary higher than AMD 500,000 for the previous 2 months. The payments started from April 1st 2020 and expired at the end of April.- Support package No. 6: Support to persons in formal employment (receiving less than AMD 500,000 for the past two months) who were laid off in the period of March 13th to 30th 2020 in the amount of monthly minimum wage. Payments were processed from April 2nd, 2020. The support under this package is now over.- Support package No. 7: Support to pregnant women who are not employed until March 30th, 2020, and whose husband and were laid off in the period of March 13th to 30th 2020 in the amount of AMD 100,000 (US\$201) lump sum payment. Payments were processed from April 2nd, 2020. The support under this package is now over.- Support package No. 8: Support to hired workers and individual entrepreneurs (formal employment) in Armenia's private sector most affected by the spread of coronavirus, specifically, in hotel and hostel, public catering, tourism, barber shops and beauty parlors, retail trade. This was expanded to cover also hired workers and individual entrepreneurs from the following sectors: ground transport operations (route transport); preschool institutions (private kindergartens); sporting activities (sports clubs, swimming pools); entertainment and other leisure activities. The amounts ranged between

		<p>AMD 68,000 and AMD 136,000 (US\$137-274).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support package No. 9: The government supported families with children aged 0-18 years old, where both parents did not have a registered job (part-time or full-time work). This was expanded to cover parents in childcare leave for children under the age of 3. The support consisted of a lump-sum of AMD 26,500 (about US\$55) per child. - Support package No. 13: One-time assistance at the rate of 50% of the amount of the social benefit or family benefit for those families enrolled in the Family Benefit system and eligible as of April 2020. 70% of the assistance was available as a cash payment in addition to the amount of the family allowance for April; the balance of 30% will be transferred to the utility operator on behalf of the electricity subscriber. - Support package No. 22: adopted on June 25th, 2020, it supported employees who were employed from January 1st to March 31st, 2020, and lost their jobs. Beneficiaries received a one-time payment equal to the minimum wage of AMD 68,000 (US\$140). Those who were employed in financial sector (credit organizations, insurance companies, etc.) and those who had an average monthly salary (calculated based on the 2 months' average before they were laid-off) of more than AMD 500,000 (approximately US\$1,030) were not eligible for this support package. It was reported that in April 2020 about 71,000 citizens lost their job and in May 2020 about 50,000 of them returned to the job market, with about 20,000 still laid-off. <p>As of June 2021, family and social benefits can also be paid through banks (as opposed to delivery by HayPost), if the beneficiaries submit applications to the Unified Social Service.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA), in collaboration with the Armenian Red Cross, provided between one and three food and hygiene packages to 1,400 citizens. The packages were aimed at elderly people living alone and people with disabilities, including Syrian-Armenian refugees and people in social housing. Also, MLSA announced the provision of food packages and other protective measures for 2 months to about 90,000 households (including 50+ year old unemployed and people with disabilities).</p> <p>The United Nations World Food Program (WFP), in partnership with the Armenian Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs (MLSA), distributed a one-off food ration for 44,000 vulnerable people who have been affected by the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP has identified people receiving assistance based on the findings of a Food Security Assessment WFP conducted in July and August 2020 amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. WFP and MLSA are prioritizing the poorest families</p>

		especially those who have at least 3 children or children with special needs, as well as pregnant women and children under five.
	School feeding	<p>World Food Program (WFP) and the Government of Republic of Armenia (GoA) will jointly provide take-home rations for around 100,000 primary children while school canteens remain closed as part of the COVID-19 pandemic safety regulations. WFP in partnership with the GoA adjusted the operations of the school feeding program to ensure children from the most vulnerable families will still benefit from daily nutritious meals at home until school kitchens reopen and resume the provision of in-school meals.</p> <p>WFP will provide nutritionally diversified food packages to some 50,000 primary school children across Armenia as part of its School Feeding program that is funded by the Russian Federation. As part of the gradual nationalization of the program, the Government of Armenia will in parallel support around 50,000 additional school children. This one-off distribution supports the food needs of children and their families for 80 days during the first semester of the 2020/2021 school year. The food packages provided both by WFP and the Government include basic staples like buckwheat, lentils, pasta, rice, oil and wheat flour.</p>
	Public works	Support package No. 15: The program aimed at creating temporary jobs for socially vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector while tackling environmental problems through a reforestation program protecting the riverbed from erosion and floods. The minimum daily salary consisted of AMD 10,000 (US\$21).
	Utility waivers	<p>The government introduced a support package (No. 14) to assist students during the pandemic, which includes three different options of assistance for students: 1) semester tuition fees for Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students with a GPA of 90 or more and in graduate course of the existing system of state universities will be 100% paid by the Government. Semester tuition fees for non-graduate students with a GPA of 90 or more will be paid 75 percent. Graduate students who do not have a tuition fee debt may turn down the assistance or receive the amount if it has been paid by an individual. And if the graduating student's fee is paid through a student loan, the money will be directed to pay the loan. 2) the procedure for providing student loans will be simplified. Interest rates on current and new loans for students with a GPA of more than 80 will be zeroed for 2020, including for the students at state-accredited universities; 3) Loan interest rates for students with a GPA less than 80 will be subsidized by 5%; that is, loans will be available at 4%.</p> <p>The government passed a decision with a view to reimbursing tuition fees for one semester for those students who participated in the war of September 2020. The benefit was originally intended for the first semester of the academic year 2020-2021 but was later amended so that the tuition could be reimbursed for one semester in general, considering that there are students who still continue their military service. Such students will regain their status of student in the academic year 2021-2022, yet they will remain eligible, which means that the decision is not time-bound.</p>

As of June 2021, families and social benefits can also be paid through banks (as opposed to delivery by Haypost), if the beneficiaries submit application to the unified social service

Support package No. 12: The government reimbursed 50% of February 2020 expenditures on natural gas and electricity for those consumers whose gas and electricity bills did not exceed AMD 10,000 (about US\$21) and AMD 5,000 (about US\$10), respectively and 30% of February 2020 expenditures on natural gas and electricity for those consumers whose gas and electricity bills were from AMD 10,001-30,000 (about US\$21-62) and from AMD 5,001-10,000 (about US\$10-21) respectively. These transfers were automatic and universal, with no obligation to apply. Beneficiaries: 280,000 households.

Support package No. 13: One-time assistance at the rate of 50% of the amount of the social benefit or family benefit for those families enrolled in the Family Benefit system and eligible as of April 2020. 70% of the assistance will be available as a cash payment in addition to the amount of the family allowance for April; the balance of 30% will be transferred to the utility operator on behalf of the electricity subscriber.

Support package No. 14: The government introduced three different options of assistance for students: semester tuition fees for Bachelor's, Master's, and PhD students, simplification of student loans and subsidized loan interest rates for students.

Support package No. 16: lump-sum assistance to beneficiaries for utilities.

1. 30% compensation for electricity consumption to 207,837 service subscriber residents, and for gas consumption – to 81,697 service subscriber residents, if they consumed from AMD 10,001 to 25,000 worth of electricity, and from AMD 30,001 to 40,000 worth of gas, for February 2020.

2. 50% compensation for electricity consumption to service subscriber residents in 310 villages (rural communities), which do not have gas. The support was provided to those subscriber residents who consumed up to AMD 25,000 worth of electricity in February 2020.

3. 50% compensation for water consumption to those service subscriber residents who consumed up to AMD 3,000 worth of water in March 2020.

The total number of beneficiaries for this package was 424,972 people.

The Public Services Regulatory Commission allowed the delay of electricity, water or gas outages payment during the period of March 15th and May 15th, 2020. Utility bills could be paid in June 2020 with no disruption risks.

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	All pensioners who received their pensions in cash did not need to go to the post office and have their pensions delivered to them by HayPost (Nationwide Postal Office) employees. Arrangement of delivery of pensions and social benefit packages, so that beneficiaries could receive them without leaving home. The Government has shifted to bank payments for pensions. Pensions are paid through banks primarily in Yerevan, Gyumri and Vanadzor (bigger cities), except for persons with 1 st and 2 nd disability and those above 75 years of age (as of July 2021).
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	Enterprises and companies which have resumed operation since April 17th, 2020, are obligated to ensure preventive/anti-epidemiological measures inside organizations and to ensure safe transfer of workers to and from their workplaces. The government set up a hotline and provided instructions on preventive actions for citizens and employers in terms of organizing remote work.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] Through Support Package No. 5, the government announced this measure to support separate business entities facing issues related to the maintenance of productive workforce resulted by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was created to support businesses which had consistently had between 2 to 50 employees within the period from 1 January 2020 to 1 April 2020 and no change in the actual payroll during the mentioned period. It was aimed at business entities with the exception of banks, credit organizations, pawnshops and insurance companies, currency exchange points, organizations dealing with the purchase and sales of securities, investment organizations, investment funds, gambling businesses and other similar organizations. A lump-sum grant was to be provided to the potential 12,000 beneficiaries of the measure. [May 2020] Through Support Package 18, it was modified to include business entities registered in the Republic of Armenia that had between 2 to 100 employees in the period from February 1, 2020, to April 30, 2020. [June 2020] Through Support Package 21, this measure was aimed at business entities with 2 to 100 employees as of March 1, 2020, through May 31, 2020, in the form of a one-time grant, in the amount of the salary of every 5th employee.

Aruba (Netherlands)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(July 2020) Distribution of 800 food packages to people in need, upon Super Food donations.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Fiscal emergency plan 2020. On March 27th, 2020, the government presented the Fiscal Emergency Plan 2020 (Plan di Alivio Fiscal 2020). The plan was to alleviate the tax burden for the sole purpose of solidarity and the recovery of the economy following the COVID-19 outbreak. This included the following measures:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Extension of the legal payment term of the monthly tax resources: taxpayers with a turnover of less than AWF \$1 M per month affected by COVID-19 engaged in tourism activities, transportation, commerce, cleaning sector and construction can be given extra time on request to pay the tax due for the months of April, May and June 2020.2) No payment of the employer's contribution AOV / AWW for the months of April, May and June 2020 for tourism activities.3) Extension of the statutory declaration and payment term of the 2019 profit tax due, with the exception of financial institutions for 6 months (until November 30th, 2020).4) Postponement of payment arrangements already concluded for 3 months, since April 2020.5) Default fines for non, partial or late payment of the tax due were suspended for the months of April, May and June 2020.6) The interest collection in the event of non-payment or partial non-payment of outstanding (tax) debts were suspended for three (3) months from April 2020 on the condition that the taxpayer concluded a (new) payment arrangement.7) Affected taxpayers were granted easier access to new flexible payment arrangements for all tax and non-tax means such as income tax, national insurance contributions, profit tax, land tax and

		<p>leasehold.</p> <p>8) When paying outstanding old (tax) debts all at once, the taxpayer can appeal to the following discounts.</p> <p>(May 2020) In accordance with the Price Regulation for special and temporary maximum prices COVID-19), the government, through the Department of Economic Affairs, introduced a maximum prices system for the crisis package as of May 14th, 2020. This included controlling prices of food as well as health items.</p> <p>(December 2020) The government implemented the Fiscal Emergency Plan part 2, which took effect on November 1st, 2020, including the following measures for individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Broadening of the beneficial policy concerning the savings and provident fund scheme for the years 2020 and 2021, approved to allow employees to withdraw the amount saved untaxed during the years 2020 and 2021. This applies in the case of funerals, home purchases, children's studies, and other emergencies. - Abolition of Special tax on rental cars and rental motorcycles (BBVAM). - Flex payment arrangements for businesses, individuals, and retirees non-entrepreneurs. To make the taxes payable, the new flexible payment arrangements imply the choice of payment in 6, 12, or 18 months with a minimum repayment amount of Afl. 100. For retired non-entrepreneurs: choice of payment in 12, 18, or 24 months with a minimum redemption amount of Afl. 75,00. - Taxpayers are entitled to a 30% discount on the payment of a lump sum of outstanding old (tax) debts. The remediation policy is valid until June 30, 2021.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>Fiscal emergency plan 2020. On March 27th, 2020, the government presented the Fiscal Emergency Plan 2020 (Plan di Alivio Fiscal 2020). The plan was to alleviate the tax burden for the sole purpose of solidarity and the recovery of the economy following the COVID-19 outbreak. This included the following measures related to social security contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No payment of the employer's contribution AOV / AWW for the months of April, May and June 2020 for tourism activities - Affected taxpayers were granted easier access to new flexible payment arrangements for all tax and non-tax means such as income tax, national insurance contributions, profit tax, land tax and leasehold: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Maximum 24 months for individual taxpayers with a minimum amount of AWG \$100. - Maximum 24 months for entrepreneurs with a minimum amount of AWG \$500. - Maximum 36 months for 60+ with a minimum amount of AWG \$75.

Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	The government decided to cut salaries of ministers, civil servants and pensioners for the period May-December 2020 as follows: Ministers, officeholders, advisers, and directors of government entities are surrendering 20%. Officials and employees of subsidized foundations and government entities contribute 12.6%. Pensioners of the APFA will give 4.5%. This implied an estimated cost of AWG \$91 M.
	Reduced work time	The Government has introduced a flexibility package for 3 months to provide relief for all the economic turmoil caused by the Coronavirus, effective from April 1st, 2020. This included the following: 1) Opportunity for businesses and employees to apply for compensation from the Emergency Social Assistance Funds (FASE) to help cover the loss of income of employees due to the reduction of working hours, causing them to earn less than AWG \$950 monthly. Initially, FASE was launched on March 19 th , 2020, for a duration of 3 months. It was extended until September 2020. 2) Labor Law: Flexibility on the working hours of employees. Employees retain the right to receive payment for the hours they have worked, in mutual agreement with their employer. The government urged companies to maintain working agreements active; it was recommended to grant paid vacation before reducing working hours while still keeping five vacation days as a buffer.
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] As part of the flexibility package to provide relief for all the economic turmoil caused by the Coronavirus, the government launched the Emergency Social Assistance Funds (FASE) effective from April 1st, 2020. The fund allowed businesses and employees to apply for compensation from to help cover the loss of income of employees due to the reduction of working hours, causing them to earn less than AWG \$950 monthly. Initially, FASE was announced on March 19th 2020 for a duration of 3 months. It was extended until September 2020. The government introduced salary subsidies in June 2020. The salary subsidy was a financial support for local businesses that have been financially affected by the Covid-19 pandemic in the form of revenue loss of more than 25%. The government gave each employer subsidy based on their monthly loss of revenue, to pay their employees a maximum of 60% of their salary and up to the limited amount of monthly AWG \$5,850. The financial aid given to employers was exclusively for payments of employee's salaries and associated fees, such as taxes and social contributions that employers are responsible for.

Australia

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Australian Government is providing two separate one-off \$750 payments to social security, veteran and other income support recipients and eligible concession card holders. The first payment was announced on March 12, 2020, as part of the \$17.6 billion stimulus package and the payment were made from 31 March 2020 and the second payment was announced as on 22 March 2020 and the payment was from 13 July 2020. Around half of those that benefit are pensioners. Eligibility for the payment include beneficiaries of Age Pension, Carer Allowance, Carer Payment, Commonwealth Seniors Health Card, Disability Support Pension, Double Orphan Pension, Family Tax Benefit, Pensioner Concession Card. These payments helped support confidence and domestic demand in the economy. As part of the Federal Budget on 6 October 2020, the Australian Government announced 2 additional Economic Support Payments of \$250 to continue its support of the Australian community through the pandemic. One was made in December 2020 and another one was made in March 2021. The second, third and fourth payment was not available to those eligible for the Coronavirus supplement (i.e., JobSeeker Payment, Youth Allowance or ABSTUDY from Services Australia; Education Allowance from DVA). For the first round 6.6 million people were planned to be covered and for the rest of the rounds around 5 million people were planned to be covered. The first 2 rounds of payments are expected to cost 8.33 billion AUD while the third and fourth together cost 2.6 billion AUD.</p> <p>On 22 March 2020, as part of the second economic stimulus package, the government of Australia announced a time-limited Coronavirus Supplement to be paid at a rate of AUD 550 per fortnight (around USD 330) to recipients of Jobseeker payment, parenting payment, youth allowances and other payment types. This supplement was placed for six months at a cost of AUD 14.133bn (USD 8.5bn). The Coronavirus Supplement of \$550 per fortnight was available until September 24, 2020. It is reported on 21 July 2021, that the Coronavirus Supplement has been extended from September 25, 2020, but the payment amount would be reduced to \$250 per fortnight until December 31, 2020. On December 10, 2020, the government further extended the duration of the payment but further reduced the payment amount to a rate of \$150 per fortnight until March 31, 2021.</p> <p>On 17 March 2021, the Tasmanian State Government of Australia will provide a one-off emergency relief payment of \$250 for individuals and up to \$1,000 for families who are required to self-quarantine. This will be available to low-income persons, casual workers and self-employed persons who are required to self-isolate due to COVID-19 risk.</p>
	Social pensions	

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Australian Government, on 2 April 2020, announced the Early Childhood Education and Care (ECEC) Relief Package as a temporary measure to ensure the viability of the ECEC Sector and the continued provision of care for children of essential workers and vulnerable children (for the period 6 April to 28 June 2020). The government is providing \$1.6 billion to support childcare services to remain open in the wake of COVID-19 and to provide families who need it with access to care. To receive these payments childcare services must prioritize care to essential workers, vulnerable, disadvantaged and previously enrolled children, and must not charge families any fees for sessions of care provided.</p> <p>On 17 August 2020, it is reported that the Australian Government has extended the utilities concession to eligible asylum seekers, giving them access to the annual \$700 utilities concession and an additional one-off \$200 rebate for the year 2020-21. In 2021, the Government has permanently extended the assistance provided under the Utilities Concession to eligible asylum seekers who hold an ACT Service Access Card from 1 July 2020. From 1 July 2021, the annual concession amount will permanently increase by \$50 to \$750. In the 2021-22 financial year, an additional one-off \$50 increase will be provided to the utility concession in light of the electricity prices increases. As part of the COVID-19 measure, a one-off \$200 rebate will also be provided to eligible households, resulting in a total concession of \$1,000. N.B. the Utilities Concession covers electricity, natural gas, water and sewerage and is calculated on a daily basis, with rates depending on the season. The concession is available on the principal place of residence only and the account must be in the cardholder's name. Only one Utilities Concession per eligible household can be claimed. The Utilities Concession is also available to eligible residents of ACT caravan parks and retirement villages with embedded electricity networks. The Concession will be paid directly to eligible residents rather than as a reduction applied to utility bills. Please contact the ACT Revenue Office directly.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Sole traders, self-employed, casual workers and contract workers are entitled to the Job Seeker Payment & Coronavirus Supplement in case of sickness or mandatory quarantine, if they meet the required criteria.</p> <p>Paid pandemic leave has been available to eligible residential aged care employees covered by the Aged Care Award, Nurses Award and Health Services Award. This entitlement ended on 29 March 2021.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	<p>The government is allowing individuals affected by the Coronavirus early access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. Eligible individuals were able to apply online to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation before 1 July 2020. They were also able to access up to a further tax free \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 for approximately 3 months. The withdrawals were available to those in financial distress due to coronavirus as well as sole traders whose hours or income had fallen 20 percent or more due to coronavirus. The COVID-19 early release of super program closed on 31 December 2020. Nearly 2.45m Australians have applied to get early release of their superannuation and 2.45m applications were approved for FY 2019-20.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>The new Apprentice and Trainee Re-engagement Register will support displaced apprentices and trainees displaced as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, by connecting them with a network of employers across the country. The register enables eligible apprentices and trainees who were in a training contract with a small business on March 1 to upload details such as qualifications, work experience and resumes to help them connect with employers. Employers of any size, including group training organizations, are able to register their details and post a vacancy for an apprentice or trainee. Employers who re-engage an apprentice or trainees displaced from a small business may be eligible for a wage subsidy of 50 per cent of the apprentice's or trainee's wage, under the government's Supporting Apprentices and Trainees initiative. The register is hosted by the National Apprentice Employment Network (NAEN) and supported by the Australian Government, as part of the economic response to COVID-19. Who can register:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Apprentices and trainees from small businesses who were in a training contract on 1 March 2020 or 1 July 2020 and have since lost their jobs - Apprentices and trainees from medium businesses who were in a training contract on 1 July 2020 and have since lost their jobs - Employers of any size, including Group Training Organizations, who wish to register their details and post a vacancy for an apprentice or trainee
	Labor market regulations	<p>Employees who are employed under one of the affected awards can access up to 2 weeks' unpaid pandemic leave (or more by agreement with their employer) if they're prevented from working:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - as a result of being required to self-isolate by government or medical authorities, or acting on the advice of a medical practitioner, or - by measures taken by government or medical authorities in response to the pandemic (for example, an enforceable government direction restricting non-essential businesses). <p>The leave is available in full immediately to full-time, part-time and casual employees – they don't have to accrue it.</p> <p>Employees don't have to use all their paid leave before accessing unpaid pandemic leave.</p> <p>The leave needs to start before, but can finish after, the date when the unpaid pandemic leave provisions in the relevant award stop applying.</p> <p>All eligible employees can take the 2 weeks' leave. It is not pro-rated for employees who don't work full-time.</p>

		<p>Unpaid pandemic leave doesn't affect other paid or unpaid leave entitlements and counts as a service for entitlements under awards and the National Employment Standards.</p> <p>Under Schedule X, employees can take their annual leave at half pay, and double their time off work, if their employer agrees. This means an employee can get 1 week of annual leave (including annual leave loading if applicable) for every 2 weeks of annual leave they take.</p> <p>The agreement has to be in writing and the employer needs to keep it as a record.</p> <p>The leave needs to start before the date Schedule X stops operating in the relevant award but can finish after that date.</p> <p>An employee on leave at half pay accumulates annual leave and sick and carer's leave as if they were on leave at full pay.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>Under Australia's Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws employers have a duty of care for the health and safety of their workers and others at the workplace. This includes providing and maintaining a work environment that is without risk to health and safety and providing adequate facilities for workers in carrying out their work. COVID-19 work health and safety (WHS) guidance varies by industry</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>The Australian government injected A\$1.5 billion (\$1.1 billion) into a wage subsidy program to counter rising unemployment, Boosting Apprenticeship Commencements (BAC) wage subsidy, which involved the payment of 50% of the wage of commence apprentices or trainees: apprentices and trainees, initially, from January to September 2020. The subsidy amounted to AUD 21,000 and for a total cost of AUD 1.3 billion. Through the subsidy, any business or Group Training Organization that engages an Australian Apprentice between October 5th, 2020, and September 30th, 2021, may be eligible for this subsidy per new or recommencing apprentice or trainee for a 12-month period from the date of commencement to a maximum of \$7,000 per quarter. There is no cap on the number of eligible trainees/ apprentices. After 12 months of this support, employers will be eligible to transition to the time-limited Completing Apprenticeship Commencements (CAC) wage subsidy for the second and third years of an apprenticeship. The BAC and CAC are available to employers of any size, industry or geographic location.</p> <p>The Supporting Apprentices and Trainees wage subsidy to retain existing apprentices and trainees ran from 1 January 2020 through to 31 March 2021. Eligible employers are able to claim 50 per cent of an Australian Apprentice's gross wage up to \$7,000 per quarter, per eligible apprentice or trainee. Employers have until 30 June 2021 to submit claims in arrears of wages paid and can potentially do so for the life of the subsidy.</p> <p>Your small business may be eligible if: you employ fewer than 20 people; or you are a small business with fewer than 20 people, using a Group Training Organization; and the apprentice or trainee was undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with you on 1 July 2020 for claims after this date. Claims prior to 1 July 2020, will continue to be based on the 1 March 2020 eligibility date.</p>

Your medium-sized business may be eligible if: you employ fewer than 200 people; or you are a medium business with fewer than 200 people, using a Group Training Organization; and the apprentice or trainee was undertaking an Australian Apprenticeship with you on 1 July 2020. Any employer (including all small, medium or large businesses and Group Training Organization) who re-engages an apprentice or trainee displaced from an eligible small or medium business may also be eligible for the subsidy.

[March 2020] Australia is providing a wage subsidy (so-called "JobKeeper payment") for all permanent, part-time and casual workers who have worked for at least a year with their employer and were employed as of March 1, 2020. It is up to AUD 1,500 (USD 909) per two weeks for a period of six months, which is around 70 percent of the national median wage. Firms must show major reductions in turnover to qualify, which is a 50 percent reduction in turnover for large firms and 30 percent for smaller firms. This is expected to cover around 6 million of the 13 million strong workforces. In the first phase of JobKeeper (30 March to 27 September 2020) eligible businesses and not-for-profits were able to receive \$1,500 (before tax) per fortnight per employee to cover the cost of wages. [September 2020] In the extension phase the Payment was reduced and paid at two rates: from 28 September 2020 to 3 January 2021, the payment rate was \$1200 per fortnight for employees who worked 20 hours or more a week on average in the reference period and \$750 for employees who worked less than 20 hours a week on average in the reference period. From 4 January 2021 to 28 March 2021, the payment rate was \$1000 per fortnight for employees who worked 20 hours or more a week on average in the reference period and \$650 for employees who worked less than 20 hours a week on average in the reference period.

The JobMaker Hiring Credit scheme is an incentive for businesses to employ additional young job seekers aged 16–35 years.

Eligible employers can access the JobMaker Hiring Credit for each eligible additional employee they hire between 7 October 2020 and 6 October 2021.

The credit provides:

\$200 per week for new employees between 16 to 29 years of age, and

\$100 a week for new employees between 30 to 35 years of age.

Payment is from the start date of the employee for 12 months.

The time-limited \$716 million Completing Apprenticeship Commencements (CAC) wage subsidy for the second and third years of an apprenticeship: under the CAC, eligible employers will receive a 10 per cent wage subsidy in the second year of an eligible apprenticeship, up to a maximum of \$1,500 per quarter per apprentice, and a 5 per cent wage subsidy in the third year of their apprenticeship, to a maximum of \$750 per quarter per apprentice. The CAC is available to employers of any size, industry or geographic location. As per the current process with BAC claims, a CAC claim form will be

automatically issued to eligible employers as the CAC claim period falls due, the first being 1 January 2022. Final claims for payment must be lodged by 30 June 2025.

Austria

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Cash assistance for one-person companies and freelancers affected by the crisis (e.g. service providers, artists, etc.) through a hardship fund, implemented by the Austrian Economic Chamber. The maximum amount of compensation for the net loss of income per observation period was € 2,000 per month, with a minimum of € 500 if eligibility requirements were met for a period of three months. This was later increased to six months.</p> <p>To support families, the federal government is providing 650 million euros for families with children with the child bonus. Every child who was eligible for family allowance of 360 euros in September 2020. Payment was made automatically and without an application. This also applied to people who receive increased family allowances, for example people with disabilities.</p> <p>Support for job seeker: The government introduced unemployment benefits for anyone who was unemployed for 60 days between May and August 2020. This implied receiving a one-off payment of 450 euros. This measure involved a planned budget of 200 million euros and was implemented in July 2020.</p> <p>Corona hazard bonus of €500 for workers in the social and healthcare sectors for those directly dealing with COVID-19 patients between March 16th 2020 and June 30th 2020 was agreed upon in July 2020.</p> <p>The government implemented a Corona-bonus of €150 for workers in the electrical and electronics industry, in the chemical industry, and in the shoe and textile industries in May 2020. Payments were expected to be completed by the end of October 2020.</p> <p>A so-called temporary "Corona Family Hardship Fund" (Corona Familienhärtefonds) was introduced in April 2020, with an earmarked budget of €60 million. Families with children are eligible for a payment of up to €1,200 per month (depending on the household composition) in cases where, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, at least one parent became unemployed, or is on CSTW, or is self-employed and has financial difficulties because of the pandemic. This transfer may be granted for a maximum of three months and is subject to means testing.</p>

		The Family Bonus program was increased to EUR 2,000 per child as part of the tax reform of October 2021. The increase in the family bonus by 500 euros per child and the increase in the additional child amount to 450 euros compared to the previous regulation are important steps to relieve the families in the country in light of the past few months of the corona pandemic.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	In October 2020, the Public Employment service in lower Austria known as AMS NO along with the support of the private employment service provider "itworks" started implementing the Jobs Guarantee scheme that aims to "eradicate long term unemployment and improve social, health, and well-being outcomes for people in long-term unemployment." The program will be implemented in the town of Gramatneusiedl. The program has a budget of 7.4 million EUR and will create 250 jobs for 3 years.
	Utility waivers	<p>The government approved a deferral of personal and corporate income taxes (for 2020), social security contributions (3 months), and VAT payments (until end-September 2020). This meant a total 10 billion euros. The deferral of tax payments was reintroduced from March 31st, 2021 to June 30th, 2021 with no interest charges.</p> <p>The government prohibited electricity, gas or heat disconnections until May 1st 2020. The government also discussed the possibility of deferring utility payments or an installment plan. The ban on shutdowns was extended for a further two months on April 30th, 2020.</p> <p>Several alleviations for tenants of rented apartments have been made, for those who suffer from the pandemic with income losses, disabling them from paying the monthly rent in part or fully.</p> <p>Measures included</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * the prohibition of the termination of a rental contract due to such financial problems; * the temporary exclusion of the enforceability of rent arrears; * reliefs with regard to the extension of fixed-term residential rental contracts; and * the statutory deferment of eviction for dwellings. <p>The date until which the landlord may not claim the arrears of payment in court or cover them from a deposit handed over by the tenant was postponed from 31 December 2020 to 31 March 2021. The regulation that non-payment of the rent for the time period April to June 2020 will not result in the possibility of being sued for eviction until July 2022 remains in place.</p> <p>The government announced the provision of a specific COVID-Fund worth €100 million for the 460,000 persons in need of nursing care in March 2020, to be distributed among Austria's nine</p>

		federal states (as nursing care lies within their competencies). It lies within the regional states' responsibility on how to invest this money. For example, some federal states have made exceptions to travel bans for care workers from Romania and Slovakia.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Employees with care responsibilities for one or more children under the age of 14 can take up to 3 weeks of care leave (Sonderbetreuungszeit) with full wage replacement, being 33% of it reimbursed to the employer by the government.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>(March 2020) Temporary waiving of the conditionality to regularly meet the case worker at the labor market service to receive unemployment benefits</p> <p>(March 2020) Increase in unemployment assistance: income support to unemployed workers who have exhausted their entitlement to unemployment benefit raised to the level of unemployment benefits</p> <p>[Extension - September 2020] The topped up emergency assistance (see content of measure), which has been increased to the amount of unemployment benefit for the 'duration of the pandemic' has been extended to 31 December 2020</p> <p>[Extension- February 2021] The top-up of the emergency assistance to the amount of the unemployment benefit has been extended retroactively to 31 March 2021.</p> <p>[Extension- May 2021] The top-up of the emergency assistance was once more prolonged until 30 September 2021.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] The increased emergency assistance (to the level of unemployment benefits) which has been extended several times to 30 September 2021, has not been prolonged due to decreasing unemployment figures.</p> <p>Applications for unemployment benefits and unemployment assistance could be made without a personal visit</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>The government approved a deferral of personal and corporate income taxes (for 2020), social security contributions (3 months), and VAT payments (until end-September 2020). This meant a total 10 billion euros</p> <p>[March 2020] The government approved a deferral of social security contributions (3 months).</p> <p>Deferral of social security contributions for self-employed. Those self-employed who were financially affected by measures which had been implemented and had difficulties providing the social security contributions, should contact the insurance. All insured were offered the following options:</p> <p>* Deferral of contributions;</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Payment of contributions in installments * Reduction of the provisional contribution base * Total or partial leniency of interest on late payments
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>[June 2020] The re-start bonus is intended for people who are currently unemployed, who are registered with the public employment service (PES) and who are willing to take up a new position (job offer registered with the PES) where they would earn less than in their previous job. The minimum number of working hours of the newly taken up are 20 hours per week. The PES then increases this income from part-time work to 80% of the person's full-time net income before unemployment (the PES pays the difference up to an amount of €950 net). The duration of the allowance is limited to a maximum of 28 weeks and concerns fully insured employment relationships that are taken up between 15 June 2020 and 30 June 2021. [December 2020] - Since 1 December 2020, it is not a prerequisite anymore that the newly taken up employment relationship must have been previously registered as a vacancy with the PES. [Extension - May 2021] - The deadline for take-up of employment in order to qualify for the re-start bonus has been extended from 30 June to 31 December 2021..</p> <p>[March 2020] As part of the apprenticeship bonus, apprentices are provided training. The government implemented an apprentice bonus for companies creating apprenticeships, which amounted €2,000 for every apprentice hired between March 16th and October 31st 2020. The money was paid in two tranches: €1,000 at the start of the apprenticeship and €1,000 if retained after the probationary period (usually three months). Funding was also provided for taking over apprentices in the first year of training from an inter-company apprenticeship scheme until March 31st 2021. In total, €62.7 million were budgeted for the measure</p> <p>[October 2020] The education bonus is provided for taking part in a training measure which lasts at least four months and is agreed upon with the PES. It lies at €4 per day (i.e. cumulating to around €120 per month) and is provided for training measures which start from 1 October 2020 to 31 December 2021. The bonus is provided in addition to the unemployment benefit or unemployment assistance and the pre-existing training allowance (which lies at around €60 per month). It is supposed to partially compensate for any additional training-related expenses which arise. It is not paid if the training provider pays a grant to the student. The bonus does not need to be specifically applied for, it is paid automatically together with the unemployment benefit or assistance. In total, €58 million are budgeted until 2022. The funding agency is the Federal Ministry of Labour, Family and Youth.</p> <p>[October 2020] With the "Corona job offensive", the federal government is creating the largest labor market policy offensive in the history of the Second Republic to create sustainable employment prospects and to support future-oriented economic development. People who complete a</p>

		<p>qualification measure or (re) training as part of the job offensive that lasts longer than four months receive an education bonus of 180 euros per education bonus in addition to their normal unemployment insurance benefits. The education bonus is automatically paid out with the unemployment benefit after participation in the training. An application is not required. With a total budget of around 700 million euros, the Corona Job Offensive is designed for participation by up to 100,000 people and funds training courses that are started by 31 December 2021.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>[March 2020] The government decided to extend the employment permit up to twelve months for seasonal workers who were already employed and have been granted a permit before. In order to counteract the impending labour shortage, the permitted duration of employment is extended for those third-country seasonal workers who are already employed in the country and have been granted a permit and are needed for urgent work. The current maximum duration of employment for one and the same seasonal worker is extended from nine months to twelve months. On 11 March 2020, this regulation came first into force concerning commuters entering from Italy. [Extension - March 2020] It was updated on 22 March 2020 to include commuters entering from Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Hungary and Slovenia.</p> <p>[March 2020] New type of short-time working scheme, called "Corona Kurzarbeit": in the case of "temporary, non-seasonal" economic difficulties due to Covid-19, company employees in all sectors have the option of reducing their working hours by 10-90 percent for six months, but a social partner agreement is a prerequisite for use of the scheme and the employment level must be maintained during the scheme and one month beyond. [Extension - May 2020] The Austrian social partners negotiated a new agreement which extends the Corona short-time work measure for another three months ("phase II"). [Extension- July 2020] On 29 July 2020, the social partners agreed with the federal government on the extension of short-time work for a further six months ("phase III"). [Extension - November 2020] Additions to the existing phase III of the short-time work scheme were added in November 2020. [Extension- February 2021] starting on 1 October 2020 until 31 March 2021. Phase III foresees several changes to the previous regulation for phase I (1 March until 31 May 2020) and phase II (1 June until 30 September 2020). [Extension - June 2021] Upon the expiration of the short-time work scheme "phase IV" the social partners and government negotiated the extension into "phase V" via two different models. The Corona short-time work phase 5 applies from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022 for short-time work projects of a maximum of 6 months each. What is new is that there are 2 lines of short-time work, one for particularly affected companies (limited to December 31, 2021) and the other for the other companies.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	

	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] The federal government pays companies a bonus of €2,000 for every apprentice hired between 16 March and 31 October 2020. The money is to be paid in two tranches: €1,000 at the start of the apprenticeship and €1,000 if retained after the probationary period (usually three months). Funding will also be provided for taking over apprentices in the first year of training from an inter-company apprenticeship scheme until 31 March 2021. If the apprenticeship is terminated during the probationary period, the first instalment will have to be paid back. This bonus is in addition to a pre-existing basic subsidy that is being paid to all companies training apprentices in the amount of three gross monthly apprenticeship payments in the first apprenticeship year. In total, €62.7 million are budgeted for the measure.</p> <p>[October 2020] October 1st 2020, an additional bonus of €500 for micro enterprises (i.e. companies with fewer than ten employees) and €1,000 for small enterprises (i.e. companies with between ten and 49 employees) was implemented.</p> <p>[March 2020] The federal government pays companies a bonus of €2,000 for every apprentice hired between 16 March and 31 October 2020. The money is to be paid in two tranches: €1,000 at the start of the apprenticeship and €1,000 if retained after the probationary period (usually three months). Funding will also be provided for taking over apprentices in the first year of training from an inter-company apprenticeship scheme until 31 March 2021. If the apprenticeship is terminated during the probationary period, the first instalment will have to be paid back. This bonus is in addition to a pre-existing basic subsidy that is being paid to all companies training apprentices in the amount of three gross monthly apprenticeship payments in the first apprenticeship year. In total, €62.7 million are budgeted for the measure. [October 2020] October 1st 2020, an additional bonus of €500 for micro enterprises (i.e. companies with fewer than ten employees) and €1,000 for small enterprises (i.e. companies with between ten and 49 employees) was implemented.</p>
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Azerbaijan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government introduced an additional lump-sum payment of AzN 190 to individuals who received social assistance under the April 4th, 2020, relief package. This temporary assistance was provided for 600,000 persons registered as unemployed in the State Employment Service and informally employed low-income people who lost their jobs due to the special quarantine regime.</p> <p>The government provided for the payment of allowances/benefits to medical workers taking part in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. (AzN 0.1 bn). Originally scheduled to end in January 2021, the program was extended to March 31st, 2021.</p> <p>As one of the measures to increase government support for low-income families in Azerbaijan, the coverage of the targeted state social assistance program is expanding. According to the ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population, from April 1 to date, the number of citizens receiving targeted social assistance has grown by 12,000 families and reached 82,000. Meanwhile, the number of family members receiving social assistance this month increased by 50,000 and currently stands at 340,000 people. The average monthly amount of social assistance for each family continues to grow, reaching 222 manat (\$130.5). As the ministry noted, the support was also provided to low-income families whose term for receiving targeted state social assistance during the special quarantine regime has expired. The term for the provision of this assistance to them has been extended to one month following the end of the quarantine regime.</p> <p>During the month of June 2020, when a strict quarantine regime was in force in only certain cities and regions, the one-off cash payment covered 283,000 individuals, totaling about AZN 55 million. In the fourth installment completed on August 21st, 2020 (after skipping the month of July), 272,000 persons received cash totaling AZN 52 million. The grand total of cash payments during the quarantine period thus amounted to AZN 333 million.</p> <p>As part of the Republic of Azerbaijan COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program which will be rolled out in 2021, the government will increase the number of low-income households receiving support to at least 80,000, covering 335,000 individuals, of which 50% are women.</p>

	Social pensions	<p>Extension of the term of disability of persons with disabilities (including children) that expired on March 1st, 2020 until the 1st day of the month following the end of the quarantine regime. This measure covered 14,000 people, and AZN 2.6 million were allocated for this purpose.</p> <p>As part of the Republic of Azerbaijan COVID-19 Active Response and Expenditure Support (CARES) Program which will be rolled out in 2021, the government will increase the average monthly old-age pension payments by at least 15% and provide continuous provision of pensions to more than 742,000 old-age pensioners, of which at least 63% are women.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Social services have been provided to more than 15,000 single people over the age of 65 and to people with special needs in social service institutions and facilities. Through social partners, about 100,000 food packages have been distributed..</p> <p>The United States has provided, as of August 2020, over \$5 million to support Azerbaijan's response to the immediate and longer-term health and economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. These funds have contributed to the provision of food and hygiene supplies to over 3,600 vulnerable individuals across the country.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>The government ensured public works participation for 50,000 new beneficiaries in June 2020. This number was later increased to reach a total of 90,000 beneficiaries.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The amount of funds allocated for preferential/privileged mortgage loans has been increased to AZN 90 million (USD 52 million).</p> <p>The government provided social assistance to support the payment of utility bills on electricity consumption for the population.</p> <p>A certain period of exemption from VAT on goods necessary to meet the food and medical needs of the population was enacted in June 2020. Exemption from VAT on imports of raw materials and supplies related to production to meet the population's needs in terms of food, medicine and other necessary products was provided for in the short term.</p> <p>In case of full or partial delay in business and consumer loans (principal or interest-bearing debt), credit organizations were advised not to levy a fine, penalty and other payments from the borrowers and not worsen their credit history until September 30th, 2020.</p>

		<p>The reform to the tax code provided for a reduction of the withholding tax rate on real estate lease from individuals from 14% to 7%.</p> <p>Scholarships were given to students who have had breaks in vocational training courses.</p> <p>Depending on the method of taxation chosen, individual taxpayers will be provided with several tax benefits for a period of 1 year from January 1st, 2020: exemption from current tax payments and issuance of certificates related to current tax payments for a period of 1 year; extension of the deadline for payment of the taxes for 2019 until September 1st, 2020; provision of extension of deadlines for submission of simplified tax returns for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020 and reports on profit and property taxes as well as payment of accrued tax to the budget until September 1st 2020.</p> <p>The passenger transportation rate (except taxis) was reduced for each seat to cost 0.9 AZN instead of the current rate of 1.8 AZN.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	To protect workers, the government has announced that people who were forced to stay at home or not work at full capacity were able to receive a salary. Paid leave was maintained to take care of children under 14 years of age or with disabilities who did not have relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity who can care for them (except grandparents). Both parents must be in this situation and be single-parent families.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>Reserves of Social Security Fund for 2019 were used to ensure the sustainability of pension and benefits during April-December of 2020.</p> <p>The rescue of private pension plans is also allowed for a maximum of the amount of the minimum wage on a monthly basis.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	The government decided to expand the coverage of unemployment insurance payments and create a proactive appointment mechanism. Continue to pay insurance payments and stipends during the special quarantine regime for persons whose unemployment insurance payments have expired but are not employed, and students who are in break from vocational training courses. Expansion of unemployment insurance coverage to 20,000 people until December 2020 (20 million manat/\$11.7 million were allocated).
	Social security contributions	[June 2020] On June 2, the government announced that interest accrued on unpaid taxes, the social insurance pension fund and the amount of unemployment insurance is postponed from April 1, 2020, to January 1, 2021.

		<p>From April 1, 2020, to January 1, 2021, the rate of contributions to compulsory social insurance for individuals engaged in self-employed activities in construction and trade sectors will be 25% of the minimum wage and 15% of the minimum wage in other areas (decreased from 50% and 25%, respectively). From 2021 to 2026, the rates will be 50% of the minimum wage and 25% in other areas.</p> <p>For persons engaged in entrepreneurship individually who do not have employees, the following rates will apply until January 1, 2026: For businesses involved in entertaining events – 5% of the minimum wage; for tailors or persons engaged in the repair of household appliances, providing services at home etc. – 3% of the minimum wage.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 13, amendments to the social insurance law provides deductions in mandatory social insurance contributions, with privileges for business entities engaged in individual entrepreneurship under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The rate of 50% of the minimum wage in construction and trade was reduced to 25%, and the rate of 25% of the minimum wage in other areas was reduced to 15%, from April 1, 2020 to January 1, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] Article 14.5.1 of the law on Social Insurance has been changed. This provision will be effective from January 1, 2021 and will remain for the next five years until January 1, 2026</p> <p>Agriculture sector Mandatory state social insurance contributions for each family member of individuals using agricultural lands owned by them, depending on the area of land calculated by the amount of the minimum monthly wage (250 AZN): up to 5 hectares - in the amount of 2%. from 5 to 10 hectares - in the amount of 6%. more than 10 hectares - in the amount of 10%. It is also planned to replace the submission of social insurance reports by landowners with a fixed receipt.</p> <p>Mandatory state social insurance fees for members of the bar association (attorneys), independent auditors and independent accountants were paid in the amount of 20% of gross income.</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>In case of full or partial delay in business and consumer loans (principal or interest-bearing debt), credit organizations were advised not to levy a fine, penalty and other payments from the borrowers and not worsen their' credit history until September 30, 2020.</p> <p>For taxpayers engaged in public catering and passenger transportation, which are payers of the</p>

		<p>simplified tax, It is planned to provide a 50% discount on the simplified tax amount.</p> <p>Reduction of the withholding tax rate on real estate lease from individuals from 14% to 7%.</p> <p>The rental property tax in the COVID-affected areas is reduced from 14 percent to 7 percent.</p> <p>Extension of the deadlines for paying personal income tax for 2019</p> <p>Subsidization of interest rates and improvement of credit guarantee instruments by the Mortgage and Credit Guarantee Fund, including increasing the ceiling amount of the warranty-to-loan ratio, eliminating guarantee fees, applicable penalties and other restrictions, reducing annual interest rates on loans with subsidy interest, increasing the limit on guaranteed payments and reducing commissions on guarantees.</p> <p>Private business entities, including individuals engaged in entrepreneurship were provided with the opportunity to restructure loans (of satisfactory quality, and with interests subsidized by the government) issued to them until March 1st, 2020, without deteriorating their quality.</p> <p>Depending on the method of taxation chosen, taxpayers will be provided with several tax benefits for a period of 1 year from January 1, 2020. Exemption from current tax payments and issuance of certificates related to current tax payments for a period of 1 year. Extension of the deadline for payment of the taxes for 2019 until September 1, 2020; Provision of extension of deadlines for submission of simplified tax returns for the 1st and 2nd quarters of 2020 and reports on profit and property taxes as well as payment of accrued tax to the budget until September 1 of the current year.</p> <p>A certain period of exemption from VAT on goods necessary to meet the food and medical needs of the population. Exemption from VAT on imports of raw materials and supplies related to production to meet the population's needs in terms of food, medicine and other necessary products in the short term.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>From April to May 2020, the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection of the Population conducted legislative work on employers and ensured daily controls in order to prevent unjustified dismissals and layoffs of employees in the private sector. Such terminations in the public sector are prevented, and salaries of employees on leave are being maintained.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 18, in accordance with the decree of the President of Azerbaijan No. 1974,</p>

		<p>the State Agency for Compulsory Medical Insurance paid urgent allowances/salary increases up to 5 times the reference wage for frontline medical staff during the period of the pandemic.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] On January 8, according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 2, the payment of urgent allowances to the salaries of medical workers has been extended until March 31, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - July 2021] On July 9, according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 198, the payment of urgent allowances to the salaries of medical workers has been extended until August 1, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - August 2021] On August 23, according to the Resolution of the Cabinet of Ministers of the Republic of Azerbaijan No. 238, the payment of urgent allowances to the salaries of medical workers has been extended until September 1, 2021.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Prime Minister signed a decree on "Strengthening the Social Protection of Workers Participating in the Provision of Social Services during the Special Quarantine Regime." which encourages the provision of social services during the special quarantine by providing a one-month salary for workers in the regional (city) departments of the State Social Protection Fund and in the subordinate social services. On May 16, the Prime Minister signed a decree on the duration of payment of the supplement, which was determined to be paid in accordance with the working time in the period between April 1, to June 1, 2020.</p> <p>Daily monitoring is carried out through an electronic system to protect the jobs and salaries of employees in various sectors.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>State employees are on paid compulsory leave and have been encouraged to work from home. Their long-term job security has been ensured.</p> <p>The Government has advised against small- and medium-sized enterprises laying off staff during the 2020.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>On April 4th 2020, the authorities announced a support to the affected businesses and individuals in the amount of AzN 3.3 billion (4.85 percent of GDP). Measures aimed at redressing damage to entrepreneurs and supporting incomes include: partial coverage of salaries (AzN 215 million). The program, which costs AZN 215 million, covers part of the salaries of existing employees, paid in two disbursements in April and May, with a maximum of AZN 712. The program will cover 300,000 employees and 42,000 employers, and about 300,000 private or micro-entrepreneurs in sectors affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>Allocation of AZN 71.6 million to 22,913 taxpayers for their wage payments to staff working in affected areas and of AZN 56.9 million to 97,379 individual (micro) entrepreneurs operating in such areas (as of 21 May 2020).</p>

Bahamas, The

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On April 6th, 2020, the government introduced the Government Funded Unemployment Assistance for COVID-19 that provided weekly payments of \$200 to self-employed people and workers in the tourism sector for a period of up to eight weeks. The delivery of the transfer was managed by the National Insurance Board (NIB). This fund was extended with an extra allocation of \$45 million from July 2020 until December 2020, expanding its coverage to the following groups:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Self-employed tourism workers who remain unemployed and were receiving assistance prior to July 1 o Hurricane Dorian survivors who remain unemployed and were receiving unemployment assistance prior to July 1 o Youth - NIB contributors who are under 35 years old, who were unemployed during the COVID-19 shutdown but did not meet the contribution threshold to receive a benefit o Individuals who maxed out their 13-weeks of eligibility under the ordinary National Insurance unemployment benefit scheme o NIB beneficiaries who were eligible to receive BSD \$150 per week in government assistance for a maximum of 13-weeks of unemployment up and until March 23, 2021 <p>In February 2021, it was announced that the Unemployment Benefit Program was extended again, with the potential for another extension.</p> <p>As of December 2020, the government provided an estimated \$90 million in direct cash assistance and income replacement to nearly 38,000 unemployed Bahamians since March.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>Persons with disabilities under the age of 16 who normally receive their services every two months, had their April 2020 assistance advanced in March 2020. Similar arrangements were also made for people receiving foster care subsistence.</p> <p>(May 2020) Temporary monthly increase in the Old Age Pension, to aid the elderly who may be dependent on other family members that are unemployed.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government delivered food vouchers of B\$100 and other forms of social support to workers who were affected by reduced weeks. As of April 6th, 2020, this involved a total budget of B\$4 million (USD 2 million), reaching 10,000 beneficiaries. Beneficiaries needed to present a copy of the NIB card.</p> <p>(May 2020) Emergency Food Assistance vouchers of BSD 50 (USD 50) also provided to walk-ins at</p>

		<p>the Department of Social Services Centers pending thorough assessment for longer term assistance via the Temporary Food Assistance Program. This emergency assistance was extended to persons with disabilities who are not existing recipients of the department.</p> <p>(March 2020) Ministry of Education's school feeding program continues via the distribution of food vouchers to the 4,300 students who depend on the initiative during the school year.</p> <p>(May 2020) The National Food Distribution Task Force is a public/private group that provide emergency food assistance (through food parcels) for vulnerable Bahamians and residents affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, until December 31st. The task force delivers emergency food relief through the distribution of food parcels and food vouchers. To coordinate outreach and food distribution, the NFDTF divided The Bahamas into zones. People who register are placed in 3 needs categories: most vulnerable, moderately vulnerable and least vulnerable. Assistance to these groups is weekly, every other week, and once a month, respectively</p>
	School feeding	(March 2020) Ministry of Education's school feeding program continues via the distribution of food vouchers to the 4,300 students who depend on the initiative during the school year.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Utilities companies to defer payment of residential customers diagnosed with the COVID-19, in quarantine, or laid off. The government has increased subventions to the utility companies to assist with this.</p> <p>In July 2020, Bahamas Power and Light introduced a fuel hedge facility to lock in low energy prices for 18 months.</p> <p>(April 27, 2020) A rental referral system was announced allowing the renter to defer 40 percent of their rent over a three-month period, effective from April 1st, 2020. The program was limited to residential rentals and was only for those whose employment or income has been affected by COVID-19. Rent cost must be BSD \$2000 or less.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The National Insurance Act and Regulations provided for the payment of Sickness Benefit when a worker is quarantined. Employees with at least 40 contributions to the NIB, who have a doctor's certificate and the employer's confirmation are eligible for this benefit. The benefit is 60% of the worker's average insured income and is payable for 14 days.
	Health insurance	Payment of premiums related to health, medical and life insurance have been suspended until 60 days after the removal of the state of emergency.
	Pensions	Temporary incremental monthly increase of BSD \$50.00 at the Old Age Pension administered by the National Insurance Board, to aid the elderly.
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Bahrain

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Tamkeen launched financial packages to support registered taxi and bus drivers and driving instructors, with the payment of BHD 300 monthly. Furthermore, Tamkeen paid the full salary of kindergarten and nursery employees not insured by the Social Insurance Organization. Funds allocated: BHD 856,000. April - June 2020 (3 months).
	Social pensions	(April 2020) The GoB also planned to double the value of the disability pension, which benefits 12,000 persons with disabilities who are registered in the lists of Labor and Social Development Ministry. They received BHD200 instead of BHD101
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>At end-July 2020 the authorities approved the exempting households from paying municipality fees on their first residence for three months Funds allocated: exemptions valued at BHD 25 million. April - June 2020 (3 months). The program was extended in July for 6 months with BHD 1.2 million budget.</p> <p>The Labour Market Regulatory Authority (LMRA) terminated monthly work fees and fees for issuing and renewing work permits. Funds allocated: exemptions valued at BHD 56 million. April - June 2020 (3 months).</p> <p>Postponed housing mortgage installments collected by Eskan Bank. Funds allocated: exemptions valued at BHD 25 million. March - August 2020 (6 months).</p> <p>(April 2020) The government provided direct aid to families in need and doubling the monthly assistance for those registered in social affairs and the Royal Foundation for Humanitarian Action. A budget of BHD5.5 million was allocated to double the value of social security benefits, which cover 17,000 Bahraini families. They received BHD200 instead of BHD100. This is a subsidy on utility bills for households with no sources of income, including widows, divorced women, families of those imprisoned, those unable to work, unmarried daughters, orphans.</p>

		(April 2020) The Electricity and Water Authority will pay individuals and businesses' utility bills for 3 months from April 2020 (up to the costs incurred during the same period in 2019). This measure was extended for a further 6 months effective July 2020 until Dec 2020. Funds allocated for April - June: BHD 90 million. Funds for the extension was BHD 24 million
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	The King of Bahrain ordered the Ministry of Health to cover the treatment expenses of COVID-19 patients, including testing and quarantine services, for all citizens and residents
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] As part of the economic stimulus package, the salaries of all Bahraini employees in the private sector will be paid for three months (starting April 2020) through the unemployment insurance fund. It will cover 100,000 of Bahrain's private sector employees (total cost of BHD215 million).</p> <p>[Extended - June 2020] In June, the Cabinet agreed to pay 50% of Bahrainis' wages in the private sector in the most COVID-19 affected sectors for an additional three months from July to September 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2020] In September, the government announced that it will continue to pay 50% of all Bahrainis wages in the private sector's most affected sectors from October to December.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] In June, the Labour and Social Development Minister announced the extension of part of economic stimulus package. The Government will provide insured Bahrainis' salaries in affected private sector companies for three months, paying full (100%) salaries for June, and 50% for July and August. The support package would benefit 10,880 companies and 58,298 citizens, and costing up to BHD 60 million.</p>
		<p>[May 2020] In May, the Chief Executive Officer of Tamkeen announced the the decision to pay the full salary of 422 kindergarten and 102 nursery employees not insured by the Social Insurance Organization.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] On June 23, the government announced the extension of Tamkeen support of kindergarten and nursery employees for three months starting June 2021 until August 2021.</p>

Bangladesh

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Bangladesh on 13 May 2020 announced the disbursement of Taka 12.50 billion cash assistance among 5 million poor families hit hard amid the COVID-19. The disbursement will start on 14 October 2020 and end on 18 October 2020 and each household will get Taka 2,500 through the mobile financial services (MFSs) – bKash, Rocket, Nagad and SureCash. The list has been prepared with the poorest 50 lakh families of the 1.25 crore vulnerable families who are now getting the government's relief assistance. According to Finance Division officials, Taka 627 crore was disbursed for the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) from the Budget-1 wing while Taka 630 crore also for the PMO from Budget-3 wing. The PMO is supervising the operations of this initiative. Nagad, a joint venture of the postal division and a private firm, will distribute the highest amount of Tk 425 crore, while market leader bKash will disburse Tk 375 crore, Rocket Tk 250 crore and SureCash Tk 200 crore, sources at the Disaster Management and Relief Ministry said.</p> <p>April 13, 2020, the government has announced that Tk 1 billion was being allocated to provide bonus/ special pay for frontline workers. This package includes two months' basic salary as incentive for doctors and other health workers to around 50,000-55,000 people, who are on the front line in the war against the Covid-19 pandemic. On April 15, Bangladesh Bank announced that bankers will get a month's basic salary if they work at least 10 days during the ongoing shutdown. The central bank order also said that contractual staffers at banks will get 65 percent of their salaries as special incentive, which will range from a minimum of Tk 30,000 to a maximum of Tk 100,000. However, as of Nov 29, 2020, it is reported</p> <p>The government on April 23, 2020 announced that doctors, nurses, and other health care employees, administration officials, members of armed forces and law enforcement agencies, and other employees working during the pandemic, would be compensated, if they get infected with coronavirus or died from the disease. A grade 1-9 government employee infected with Covid-19 was supposed to get Tk 10 lakh, grade 10-14 employee Tk 7.5 lakh, and grade 15-20 employee Tk 5 lakh in compensation. The amount was supposed to be five times higher in case the employee died with the disease. For the purpose, the government allocated Tk 7.5 billions, of which Tk 162.5 Million have been disbursed. At least 42 government healthcare employees died of Covid-19 and 10,888 others got infected as of November 15, 2020 according to the Directorate General of Health Services (DGHS). However, DGHS officials said the family of only one dead doctor got compensation. As of</p>

		<p>November 26, 2020 to date, from the police headquarters, 16,025 police and 2,453 Rab personnel tested positive and 75 police and five Rab members died.</p> <p>It was reported on 10 December 2020, that the European Union and Germany are joining forces with the Government of Bangladesh and will provide €113 million to safeguard the livelihoods of vulnerable workers in the garment and leather export-oriented industries. This grant will be channeled through the EU sector budget program on National Social Security Strategy reforms in Bangladesh. This support will allow these workers to transit over a specific critical period, without major disruptions in their lives and consumption levels. According to the Ministry of Labor and Employment of Bangladesh guidelines, temporary cash assistance will be provided to workers who suffered income losses and who lost their jobs because of reduced worldwide demand or due to health and safety precautionary measures. Eligible workers will receive 3,000 taka per month for a period of three months.</p> <p>As part of the budget, on June 30, 2020, the Bangladesh government's Ministry of Social Welfare announced that 1.75 million deserted and destitute women of 112 poverty-prone upazilas will receive Taka 500 each. The number of beneficiaries has increased by 350,000 (i.e., horizontal expansion) and the total expected expenditure for 2020-21 is Taka 12.3 billion. As part of the budget 2021-22, government on June 30, 2021, announced that the program has been extended to 400,000 new beneficiaries making it 2.15 million beneficiaries in total for financial year 2021-22. Again each of them will receive Taka 500 per individual and this will cost 14.954 billion.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The old age allowance is an unconditional cash transfer program administered by the Department of Social Services (DSS) under the Ministry of Social Welfare. The program aims to target poor and vulnerable elderly (62 years and older for women; 65 years and older for men). As part of the budget, it is announced on June 30, 2020 that the Bangladesh government has allocated 29,400.00 million to 4.9 million beneficiaries, that is a horizontal increase in the number of beneficiaries of 500,000 individuals. Each beneficiary in the program will obtain 500 monthly per head payable every 3 months. For financial year 2021-22, it is announced on 30 June 2021 that the government has allocated 34,445.40 million Taka in this financial year 2021-22. The total Beneficiary was further increased by 801,000 individuals making the total beneficiaries as 5.701million and each beneficiary gets the same benefit amount as last year and at the same intervals as well.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 7 July 2020, the disaster management and relief ministry of the Bangladesh government is set to distribute 10-kilogramme of rice for free to each of over 10 million "ultra-poor and destitute families" ahead of Eid-ul-Azha. These ultra-poor and destitute people, especially those belonging to women-headed households, are at risk of starvation and malnutrition amid this pandemic. The food aid of 1,00,068 tonnes of rice for the all the 1,00,06,869 vulnerable group feeding (VGF) card holders across the country aims to mitigate the consequences of disasters like flood and coronavirus</p>

		<p>outbreak. According to the letter sent by the disaster management and relief ministry, the ultra-poor and destitute families will need to meet at least four out of 12 criteria, to become eligible for receiving the assistance. The criteria include landless households or those who have only homestead; households dependent on daily wage labour; households dependent on women's income or begging; households with no income-generating assets; households headed by widowed, divorced or separated women; households headed by a freedom fighter with disability, and households without access to two full meals a day for most of the year. Only one beneficiary per household can receive the food aid, which will be distributed by local public representatives. It was announced again on July 6, 2021 for to distribute 10-kilogramme of rice for free to each of over 10 million "ultra-poor and destitute families" ahead of Eid-ul-Azha.</p>
	School feeding	<p>It is reported on 13 May 2020 that the Bangladesh Government is distributing fortified biscuits to houses of over 3.16 million primary school students to nearly 15,800 primary schools in 104 upazilas to ensure their nutrition while schools are closed due to COVID-19. Prior to the pandemic, children were given cooked meals only in 14 upazilas while vitamin-enriched biscuits weighing 75 grams with 300 calories were served in other upazilas assisted by the World Food Programme. During the pandemic, they started providing 30-50 packets of biscuits bi-monthly at a time for each student at their homes. It was mentioned that the biscuit distribution program had been on hold since March 17, 2020 when the government closed down all schools in a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19. This new adaptation (i.e., take-home-biscuits) covered all prior recipients.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Food subsidies would include selling rice at Tk5/kg through OMS, down from Tk30/kg.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bank on 19 March 2020 instructed Mobile Financial Service (MFS) providers to offer free cash-out for a maximum of 1000 Taka (11.86 USD) daily. For essentials/medicines trade - MDR or Interchange Reimbursement Rate (IRF) fee will not be applied if these goods are bought through credit/debit card up to a daily limit of 15,000 Takas and a monthly limit of 100,000 Takas. However, the bank has ended the fee waiver on MFS on 25 Aug 2021.</p> <p>Bangladesh Bank on 19 March 2020 announced that MFS users (P-to-P) also would not have to pay any charges on transactions for urgent shopping. Also, the ceiling for this transaction has been raised from Tk 75,000 to Tk 200,000 monthly. In addition, no charge would be required for cash-out of Tk 1,000 daily at a time. As of Aug 25, 2021, the government announced that the MFS monthly transaction limit remains unchanged at Tk 200,000 monthly.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Taka 7.5 billion was announced to provide health insurance for government employees.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[June 2020] The World Bank announced that the \$250 million Second Programmatic Jobs Development Policy Credit will create fiscal space to support the government's response to the COVID-19 crisis, while helping recovery and building resiliency of the economy, of workers and of vulnerable populations to future shocks. Pillar B aims to support increased job quality through targeted reforms and enhanced implementation of existing laws and standards, through the following actions: (i) following the passage of the Labor Act (Amendment) 2018, the second operation will focus on strengthening capacity for enforcement of labor and safety regulations, through the roll-out of a Labor Inspection Management System (LIMA) including mechanisms for feedback from workers and employers. Actions under Pillar C aim to strengthen existing institutions and programs that facilitate access to quality jobs for women, youth, and migrants, including: (i) adoption of key rules and regulations to close legal gaps in the migration management system in order to support accessible, safe, and lower cost migration; (ii) Enactment of the Child Daycare Act to support efforts to improve women's access to labor markets.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 25, 2020] Taka 50 billion (about US\$ 588 million) stimulus package for exporting industries was declared as worker's salary support and was disbursed through mobile financial services and bank accounts.

Barbados

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) The government established the “Household Survival Program” (BBD 20 million or USD 10 million) including Barbados Vulnerable Family Survival Program assisting 1,500 vulnerable families identified by the Welfare Department and the Household Mitigation Unit with BBD 600 monthly (total of BBD10 million) for 3 months.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government aimed at benefiting over 200 licensed beach vendors with the opportunity to register with the National Conservation Commission and benefit from the \$600 per month under the Household Mitigation Unit.</p> <p>(March 2020) Adopt a Family Program: households with an income of more than BD 100,000 asked to adopt a vulnerable family providing support in excess of welfare payments or to contribute to “Adopt a Family Fund”. The program aims to assist the most vulnerable families in Barbados with \$600 a month stipend. The goal was to reach up to 2,500 families. The government provided for the first 1,500 families. Funds were issued by E-cheque, to allow the government to issue payment cards to the families allowing them to access their funds using ATMs and Point of Sale terminals island-wide. Initially, the program was placed for three months only, but was extended in July 2020. As of July 2020, the program benefited 3,453 families. (November 2020) The Government of Barbados is investing another BD \$10 million (USD 4.95 million) into its Adopt-A-Family Program that will extend its life until March 31, 2021, the end of the fiscal year.</p> <p>(April 2020) Part of the “Household Survival Program” was an increase of 40 per cent in all rates and fees paid by the Welfare Department to its beneficiaries that served on annual basis (up to BBD 10 million).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The government has distributed 4,000 care packages, comprising a 14-day supply of basic food and sanitary items, to vulnerable groups, such as the elderly, the disabled and the impoverished in the community, as identified by social service agencies, including the National Assistance Board, the National Disabilities Unit, Barbados Council for the Disabled, the Welfare Department, Salvation Army, Jabez House, Prison Fellowship. In February 2021, the GoB did another round of distribution of care packages to vulnerable persons during COVID-19 restriction measures.</p>

		<p>(September 2020) The Ministry of Education, Technological and Vocational Training (METVT), in collaboration with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Barbados Defence Force (BDF), has distributed approximately 921 hygiene packs to vulnerable and special needs students. These packages included the following items: one bottle of liquid hand soap, one bottle of hand sanitizer, two disposable masks and one roll of toilet paper.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The government implemented a six-month payment moratorium on all existing loans and mortgages for persons and businesses who were directly affected and impacted by COVID-19.</p> <p>(March 2020) The Barbados government has announced that 48 items would fall under the new COVID-19 basket of goods to ensure they were protected from price gouging or shortages. This included the following items: baby food, luncheon meat, tuna, sardines, red herring, pasta, rice, corn meal flour, potatoes, sugar, biscuits, bread, vitamin C, oranges, sanitary items such as adult, baby diapers and toilet paper as well as antibacterial and disinfectant items.</p> <p>(March 2020) The Student Revolving Loan Fund (SRLF) offered borrowers several repayment options to help them cope with the COVID-19 outbreak. The measures intended to cushion the financial impact of the crisis on families. This included reduced monthly payment; deferral of payment for up to six months; suspension of interest for up to three months; and a waiver of late fees.</p> <p>Customers of Digicel and FLOW who were unable to pay their financial commitments due to the negative impact of the pandemic could be placed on an agreed basic package for three (3) months (May – July 2020) where they were expected to pay their current charges each month while they cleared any outstanding debt over the three (3) month period.</p> <p>(May 2020) The Barbados Light & Power Co. Limited (BL&P), Barbados Water Authority (BWA) and National Petroleum Corporation (NPC) have agreed to allow customers to take a payment plan facility. Those customers were expected to pay their current charges monthly while they cleared any outstanding debt over the three (3) month period.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Homes for All Program is a proposed measure to assist with the recovery of the country’s economy, from the COVID-19 pandemic. Its objective is to enable low-income households to offer collateral for a construction mortgage to own their own homes. The aim of this policy was the development of about 1,400 affordable homes, involving BBD \$40 M from the Housing Credit Fund.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] Persons who were laid off had the opportunity to get their unemployment benefits, guaranteeing them 60 per cent of their insurable earnings, up to a limit of 26 weeks. The National Insurance Board has agreed to relax the requirement to visit the employment exchange at Warrens.</p> <p>[April 2020] As part of the economic package introduced on April 29th, 2020, the government implemented the Business Cessation Benefit. This measure consisted of delivering BDD \$1,500 per month to self-employed who made contributions to the National Insurance Scheme. This measure was in place on April and May 2020.</p>
Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] For those employers who were prepared to retain three quarters of their workforce, even if some on short week, the government deferred their obligation to pay the employer's contributions for three months, in the first instance, with the preparation to extend it for another three months if the crisis continues beyond that period.</p>	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[September 2020] The government, in conjunction with ILO, introduced an online upskilling program for unemployed workers commencing with Core Skills module. To be followed by training in OSH and Entrepreneurship. Each course was 8 hours in duration and participants had 2 weeks to complete it. Available during pilot until September 2020.</p> <p>[September 2020] This program was extended, including courses related to entrepreneurship.</p> <p>[August 2020] The government, in support of the Commonwealth of Learning, launched the Coursera Workforce Recovery Program. The program aimed at reaching 1,500 unemployed people as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The training involved various free tertiary-level courses between August 31 – December 31, 2020, administered by the Ministry of Labor.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[May 2020] The Barbados Optional Savings Scheme (BOSS) consisted of public sector workers opting in or out to receive portion of their salaries in the form of government bonds to be cashed in later with interest accruing at 5% per year. Principal to be repaid in four years. The program proposed that people working for less than \$36,000 annually would not be asked to participate, however, they could volunteer if they chose it. As of September 30, 2021, public sector workers held about 18 million of the BOSS bonds.</p> <p>[July 2020] The government introduced a program that allows visitors to work remotely from Barbados for a year at a time as a creative solution to the challenge of short-term travel in the context of COVID.</p> <p>[July 2020] The government launched an Occupational Safety and Health training for workers in the</p>

		<p>tourism and transport sectors. Over 700 workers attended these trainings.</p> <p>[March 2020] With respect of the Holidays with Pay Act 2017, the Ministry has advised employers, that while they may determine the date on which an employee starts his/her annual holiday, they must be mindful that Sub Section 4(5) of the Act states that an employee is entitled to at least 14 days' notice prior to the commencement of the holiday.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] As part of the economic package introduced on April 29th, 2020, the government implemented the Small Business Wage Fund. This consisted of delivering BDD\$500 per month per employee up to 5 employees for those firms which could not be eligible for VAT Loan Fund, were registered at Barbados Revenue Authority (BRA) and National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and committed to holding 75% of their staff. This measure was initially in place from April to May 2020. This measure involved a planned budget of BDD \$20 million.</p>

Belarus

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	On 24th April 2020, the President issued the Decree No. 143 "On Support of the Economy" (amended on 31st December 2020), which stipulated additional disability benefits to persons actually caring for a child under 10 years of age attending a preschool or schools if this child has a contact with persons with COVID-19 infection.
	Social pensions	On March 25, 2020, "Belpochta" (Belarusian Post Office) announced that it would provide pensions home-delivery service by post worker due to COVID-19 pandemic. Pensioners could also pay their communal services when they received pensions/benefits.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On April 6 th 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection informed that the social services were ready to provide support to elderly people and people with disabilities and to deliver foods and medicines. This support was provided by social workers and volunteers through the 146 territorial centers of social protection of population, located in every district of the country. The number of people living alone and people with disabilities is about 830,000, including almost 160,000 people who have no close relatives.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Ministry of Anti-Monopoly Regulation and Trade introduced state regulation of prices on medical masks and disinfectants (antibacterial and decontaminating agents).</p> <p>The National Bank of Belarus asked banks of the country to announce payment holidays for their clients, who were natural persons. These measures were extended throughout 2021.</p> <p>The Ministry of Anti-monopoly Regulation and Trade of the Republic of Belarus decided to extend state regulation of the prices of socially important goods in the territory until December 31st, 2021. The list of "socially important goods" includes foodstuffs such as baby food, flour products, canned meats, and fruits/vegetables.</p> <p>On May 18th, 2020, the President signed the Decree No. 169 "On Financial Incentives for Staff Members of the Organizations Providing Social Services", which provides for social service workers who work according to the rotating scheme with living accommodations in such organizations.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Through the Ordinance of the Council of Ministers no. 208 “On Self-Isolation Measures”, the government decided that people who had COVID-19 or were first-level contact should self-isolate for 14 days, whereas second-level contacts should self-isolate for the same period if they manifest respiratory symptoms only. This Ordinance stated that people who worked and paid fees to the Social Protection Fund (or by their employers) were eligible for sick-leave benefits during the period of self-isolation. This involved the payment of 50 percent of the benefit calculated according to the legislation. Non-compliance with the self-isolation behavior rules or other sanitary and epidemiological requirements entailed administrative liability (a fine up to 50 base rates, where 1 base rate equals to 27 Belarusian rubles or administrative arrest) or criminal liability (including deprivation of freedom).</p> <p>Later, starting from 17 July 2021, the conditions for self-isolation were weakened, e.g., the self-isolation term was reduced to 7 days, adolescents were exempted, more activities for infected persons were allowed, etc. Also uncertified sick leave was allowed for students and pupils for up to 5 days.</p> <p>Sickness benefits are granted out of the state social insurance funds for persons taking care of a child under 10 years of age, who attends an education institution and is in contact with persons with COVID-19 infection.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	(April 2020) In order to maintain employment and increase labor mobility, the minimum period for warning workers about changes in essential working conditions by the employer has been reduced (without reducing wages).
	Wage subsidies	<p>Through the Decree No. 178 of May 28th 2020, the government provided the possibility to employers of receiving subsidies up to the minimum wage to pay additional payments to their employees in the event of their involuntary underemployment or announcement of inactive period from May 1st to July 31st 2020.</p> <p>The government has mandated that public sector salaries are kept at least at the legislated minimum and provided subsidies to public sector organizations which have ceased their operations for a period of time due to the pandemic or are forced into part-time employment.</p>

On 16th April 2020, the President issued the Decree No. 131 "On material incentives to the health care sector staff" introduced the monthly salary increase for hospitals staff dealing with COVID-19 in the range from 1500 Belarusian rubles (612 USD) for doctors, and 1300 Belarusian rubles (530 USD) for nursing staff, to 900 Belarusian rubles (367 USD) for hospitals other staff.

The Ministry of Health Order No. 892 of 20th July 2021 amended the rules of how the salary increase is computed. Thus, more strict approach was applied from 1st August 2021 to the time of medical staff working in contact with COVID-19 patients in order to reduce subsidy amounts. Belarus Prime Minister mentioned on 19th October 2021 that public budget expenditure for the hospital staff salary increase subsidies have amounted about 1.3 bln Belarusian rubles (530 mln USD) during the COVID-19 pandemic time.

Belgium

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Temporary parental allowance for self-employed workers with a monthly allowance of 532.24 euros (875 euros for single-parent families) for the months of May and / or June 2020 for parents of a child under 12 or disabled.</p> <p>A grant was introduced for people working in the creative sector. That support was renewed and increased in November 2020. Any worker in the cultural sector can apply for a maximum of €2,000 in aid if they have received a net income of €3,000 between 1 June and 30 September 2020. If their income between June and September reaches €4,000 net, they may apply for support of up to €1,500. If they had a net income of €5,000 during that period, the amount will be up to €1,000. People who did not receive financial support between 13 March and 31 May can apply for the grant for both periods.</p> <p>In March 2020, the government approved measures to support persons who are self-employed as their main activity and were forced to stop work due to the coronavirus crisis, as long as this interruption lasted longer than one week. The financial support amounted to EUR 1,266.37 per month if they do not have dependent family members and EUR 1,582.46 if they do. The "droit passerelle" was raised to 1,614.10 euros (with dependents) or 1,291.69 euros (w/o dependents) for the months of March and April 2020. This elevated rate and expanded coverage were extended until the 31st of December 2020 in October 2020.</p> <p>A draft law was passed in October 2020 amending the law of March 23, 2020 establishing a gateway right in favor of self-employed workers and introducing temporary measures in the COVID-19 framework in favor of self-employed workers. The "crisis gateway" was doubled for impacted self-employed workers, with amounts now amounting to 2,583.38 euros (single self-employed) or 3,228.20 euros (self-employed with family). The measure targets all self-employed workers, carers and assisting spouses working in sectors that have had to completely or partially interrupt their self-employed activity due to COVID measures. In addition, self-employed workers, carers and assisting spouses who are active in sectors dependent on the aforementioned sectors and who have had to completely interrupt their self-employed activity are taken into account. The law was further expanded in January 2021 until June 2021 to remain at the increased rate and cover families impacted by quarantines and sectors who have had at least 40% of turnover impacted by COVID.</p>

		<p>Supplementary allowance for incapacity for work so that self-employed cohabiting workers who are sick also benefit from an allowance as high as the droit de passerelle (this is already the case for single self-employed workers and self-employed workers with family responsibilities). Concretely, this is a premium of more than 300 euros per month. Extended Nov 6th, 2020.</p> <p>As part of the economic stimulus package of November 2020, the government announced a premium of 50 euros per month for beneficiaries of the integration income, the income guarantee for the elderly (GRAPA) and the income replacement allowance (ARR).</p> <p>As part of the economic stimulus package of November 2020, the government increased the reimbursement percentage (up to 15%) to the CPAS for the payment of integration income.</p> <p>The government introduced a single premium for the self-employed, helpers and assisting spouses whose self-employed activity has been severely affected by the sanitary crisis and who were able to benefit from temporary crisis measures over a certain period. This measure is therefore aimed at the self-employed, regardless of their sector of activity, who have been severely affected by the corona crisis and who actually need additional support due to this unprecedented sanitary and socio-economic crisis. In concrete terms, the measure provides for a single premium and an additional bridging right for a gross amount of EUR 598.80 if the self-employed person meets the condition of having enjoyed the bridging right for at least six months between 1 October 2020 and 30 April 2021.</p> <p>Workers in temporary unemployment will receive an advance of €1450 while their dossier is being processed by the RVA/ONEM (the National Employment Office of Belgium).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Evictions from housing were suspended in Wallonia, Brussels, and Flanders in March 2020. Initially intended to last for a period of 30 days, the measure was extended to last until June 30th, 2020. It was later reintroduced during the second lockdown in November 2020, lasting until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Vivaqua decided on March 13 2020 to no longer cut water for households and businesses "until a return to a normal situation", for health reasons linked to the coronavirus. This measure was extended in July 2020 until March 2021, and was later extended to last indefinitely until the end of the health crisis. In Brussels, it was announced that water cuts for under-privileged individuals</p>

would be banned starting in 2022.

In 2020, the Brussels government extended by one month - until April 30 2020 inclusive - the period of prohibition on gas and electricity cuts in order to cushion the social consequences of the measures taken to combat the spread of the coronavirus. This ban normally applies during the so-called winter period, from October 1 to March 31. Its extension concerns 546 electricity customers and 465 gas customers (figures as of January 31, 2020). In Wallonie, a ban on cuts had been enacted between December 2020 and June 2021.

The financial sector undertakes to grant viable, non-financial businesses and the self-employed, as well as mortgage borrowers with payment problems as a result of the corona crisis, postponement of payment until 30 September 2020 without charge. This has been extended twice since initiated and will now run until 30 June 2021. The first "charter" covered 2020, the second "charter" does run until 31 March 2021 and the third charter will run until 30 June 2021). It includes the payment of mortgages/credits and premiums for fire insurance and outstanding balance insurance for families, viable firms and the self-employed.

Grants a tax reduction to taxpayers and companies who have acquired, by December 31, 2020, new shares or shares of companies showing a sharp drop in their turnover and who need resources.

Households received a two-month deferral of deadlines for payment of VAT for March and April 2020..

Consumption Check is a paper-based check aimed at offering additional purchasing power to Belgian workers while jointly supporting the revival of the sectors hardest hit by the Coronavirus crisis, such as restaurants, brasseries and cultural and sporting activities. Employers can grant his workers checks with a maximum value of € 10, without exceeding the sum of € 300 per worker. These checks are deductible by the employer and fully exempt from social contributions and personal income tax. The measure was reintroduced in June 2021 to last until the end of 2021 at a higher maximum amount 500 euros per worker.

The rate of interest on late payments of VAT is temporarily reduced for the months April, May, and June 2021 and also for the months in the third calendar quarter of 2021 (July, August, and September).

People on a low income finding it difficult to pay their rent on the private housing market in Brussels-Capital Region may receive financial support through a rent subsidy, whereas the Walloon Region introduced an exceptional temporary zero-percent loan, covering a maximum of six months rent, to be paid back over a maximum of 36 months.

		<p>A temporary extension of the status of "protected client" has been provided for those eligible for the lower social tariff, to all households under a certain income threshold, and not only to people on minimum income benefits in order to maintain gas and electricity consumption during the health crisis. The measure has been extended to last through December 2021.</p>
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>Self-employed workers who are incapacitated for work for at least 8 days are entitled to an incapacity for work benefit payable by the health insurance scheme from the first day.</p> <p>New parental leave. The purpose of this leave is to help workers balance their work with the time needed to care for their child (ren) during the coronavirus crisis. This new parental leave coexists with the already existing ordinary parental leave.</p> <p>The new formula provides for more flexible access conditions, a higher allowance and a fast application procedure than the ordinary parental leave.</p> <p>There are 3 possibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The interruption of a fifth, to reduce benefits and continue working 80% of full time; • The half-time break, to reduce benefits and continue working 50% of full time. • Complete interruption. This allows individuals to interrupt their benefits in order to stop working. From July 1, 2020, the complete interruption is only possible for the single parent and for the parent of a disabled child. Other workers cannot take corona parental leave in the form of a complete interruption. <p>Note: Corona parental leave does not provide for the possibility of obtaining a 1/10 interruption. If individuals want a 1/10 break, they can request ordinary parental leave according to the usual rules.</p> <p>Who can take corona parental leave?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Parents of at least one child under 12 or under 21 if that child has a disability; • The adoptive parents of a child under 12 or under 21 if this child has a disability, who is entered in the population register or in the foreigners register as a member of their household; • Foster parents of a child under 12 or under 21 if that child has a disability that has been placed with their family by the court or by a community approved placement service; • Parents who take care of a child suffering from a disability without age limit, if he or she benefits from a service or treatment in a hospital setting or outside a hospital setting, organized or recognized by the Communities. In this case, corona parental leave can therefore also concern adults. <p>Corona parental leave can be obtained from May 1st, 2020. From July 1st, 2020: Corona parental leave is extended until September 30, 2020.</p> <p>Other changes from July 1:</p>

		<p>Single parents (living only with one or more dependent children) and parents of children with disabilities will be able to take corona parental leave in the form of a full suspension in addition to the ½-time and ¼-time reductions.</p> <p>The amount of the break allowance for single parents and parents of disabled children is increased by 50% compared to the allowance for ordinary parental leave. The amount of this increased interruption allowance will be capped to ensure that the interruption allowance does not exceed the gross salary lost.</p> <p>The law of May 17, 2019 establishing the recognition of informal caregivers (entered into force on October 1, 2019) makes changes to the recovery law of January 22, 1985 containing social provisions and introduces a new thematic leave, namely leave for caregivers recognized relatives.</p> <p>The worker who wishes to take this new leave for informal caregivers must meet a certain number of conditions. The worker must be recognized as an informal caregiver as provided for in the Royal Decree of June 16, 2020 (*). To find out about these conditions, see info sheet T164.</p> <p>From September 1, 2020, workers recognized as informal caregivers can request this new thematic leave from their employer and apply to the ONEM to obtain the allowance to which they are entitled.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>A royal decree provides for the “Corona end of career time credit”. It allows workers of at least 55 years of age who have at least 25 years of salaried professional experience to obtain interruption allowances if the start date of their reduction in benefits is during a period of recognition of the business as a business in restructuring or in difficulty. The aim is, among other things, that pensioners who have an activity as an employee or self-employed can combine their pension with compensation for temporary unemployment or bridging rights. In addition, the constitution of pensions for temporarily unemployed people will be preserved, including the constitution of the second pillar. It is also necessary to prevent pensioners who temporarily resume an activity, for example in the care or education sector, from losing part of their pension. These measures were extended on Nov. 6th, 2020.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[July 2020] The law of July 15, 2020 provides for temporary relaxed eligibility for full unemployment benefits. Under certain relaxed conditions, the worker who has carried out sufficient artistic or technical activities in the artistic sector during the period from March 13, 2019 to March 13, 2020 can benefit from full unemployment benefits for a limited period of from April 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020.</p> <p>[Extension] This policy was later extended to September 30, 2021.</p> <p>[March 2020] A worker has the right to take time off work to look after a child who cannot go to nursery, school or reception center for disabled people in due to a measure to limit the spread of the coronavirus, and worker would be entitled to a temporary unemployment benefit due to force</p>

majeure corona. The benefit amounted to a maximum of 70% of workers' remuneration (capped). A professional withholding tax of 15% is withheld from this amount. In addition, worker still received a supplement of 5.63 euros per day in addition to the unemployment benefit.

[Extension] This measure was extended to the 31st of December, 2021.

Legal basis: the law of 23 October 2020. March 19 and 24, 2021 decisions: All schools, except nursery schools, are closed during the week of March 29 until April 3, 2021. Following the complete or partial cancellation of a summer camp or an organized out-of-school reception, the worker who has to take care of a minor child with whom he cohabits during the Easter holidays, may be entitled to temporary unemployment benefits for force majeure corona for the days when he takes care of the child.

By partial cancellation, we mean that, before the March 19 decision of the Concertation Committee, more children were registered than currently allowed, thus causing the cancellation of the registration of some children. The worker can only claim this right if the child was already registered by March 18, 2021 at the latest for the colony or organized out-of-school care.

[March 2020] The National Employment Office announced on March 17 2020 that it would extend the scope of force majeure to companies that voluntarily close down (although this would not constitute force majeure under normal circumstances).

[April 2020] Temporary unemployment available and the associated benefits were increased from 65% of wages to 70% (the ceiling being set at € 2,754.76 per month). The employer was required to submit a file at the National Employment Office (RVA/ONEM) to prove the situation of force majeure

[November 2020] All temporary unemployment due to the coronavirus were reopened from the 1st of October, 2020. It was allowed to be considered temporary unemployment due to force majeure corona, regardless of whether or not the employer was recognized as being affected by the crisis or whether or not it belonged to a particularly affected sector.

[Extension - September 2021] This measure was extended until December 31st, 2021.

The following instances can be qualified as force majeure:

For workers whose company is forced to close by the government (e.g. the mandatory closing of all bars, restaurants, clubs and non-essential stores).

For workers who cannot be employed due to the abolition of events, cultural activities, sports activities, closure of cinemas, etc.

For workers whose company must close down the workplace in order to stop the spread of the virus (e.g. in case employees got contaminated).

For workers who are forced in quarantine in another country which makes it impossible for him to work.

For workers from suppliers of companies affected by an imposed closure, to the extent that this renders them unable to work at all.

For workers of Belgian companies affected by the effects of the Corona virus in other areas – for example, because they are dependent on suppliers from the affected region, if, as a result of production stoppages, it is no longer possible for the company to continue to employ staff. On April 6 2020, temporary unemployment due to force majeure will be extended by 3 months, until 30 June 2020. Temporary unemployment due to force majeure may also be invoked pending recognition of the status of a “company in difficulty”. Companies need to obtain this status to be able to make their employees temporarily unemployed for economic reasons. Obtaining temporary unemployment due to force majeure is possible within three to four days.

The system has been extended as well as adapted (starting September 2020). From that date, two systems will apply (one for companies or sectors that are considered to be very badly hit and one for companies that are less impacted but still require the measure. The sectors that are badly hit are: the audiovisual sector, the entertainment companies, the socio-cultural sector, the taxi sector, the hotel industry, the tourist attractions sector. These are automatically recognized due to a second wave of the pandemic.

On November 6, 2020: Reopening of temporary unemployment due to force majeure for all companies. During this period, the temporarily unemployed salaried worker receives compensation equal to 70% of his gross monthly salary (capped at 2,754.76 euros). In addition, the salaried worker receives an allowance from the ONEM of 5.63 euros per day of temporary unemployment. This measure will apply until March 31, 2021, with the possibility of extension.

[December 2020] The federal government announced a bonus for people who have been on temporary unemployment benefits for more than two months.

This premium amounts to 10 euros per allowance, with a minimum of 150 euros. If an individual has received half allowances as a voluntary part-time worker, the premium is 5 euros per half allowance, with a minimum of 75 euros. First part of the premium was planned to be delivered in December 2020.

[Extension - September 2021] This measure was extended to the 31st of December, 2021. The amount of the premium is obtained by carrying out the following calculation: $(X - 52) \times 10$ (or $\times 5$ if individuals have received half allowances). X = the total number of allowances or half-allowances received as a temporary unemployed person for force majeure due to the coronavirus or for economic reasons, in the period from March 2020 to November 2020 inclusive.

In summary :

If, in the period from March 2020 to November 2020 inclusive, individuals received less than 53 temporary unemployment benefits, individuals are not entitled to the premium.

If individuals have received between 53 and 67 allowances, individuals are entitled to 150 € gross.

From 68 benefits received, individuals are entitled to the minimum amount of 150 € and to 10 € per benefit received beyond the limit of 67 days.

The premium is paid automatically by your payment organization. Individuals do not have to take

		<p>any action.</p> <p>Individuals may already receive in December 2020 a first part of the premium, calculated on the basis of the temporary unemployment benefits that have already been paid to individuals for the months of March 2020 to October 2020 inclusive.</p> <p>When the ONEM has verified all the payments of the paying agency for the months of March 2020 to November 2020 inclusive, individuals will receive a second part as long as a balance has not yet been paid. This second payment can be made, at the earliest, during the months of May / June 2021.</p> <p>(April 2020) The amount of unemployment benefits decreases over time.</p> <p>The Government has decided to freeze the degression of unemployment benefits during the period from April 1 to June 30, 2020.</p> <p>This measure only concerns fully unemployed people receiving benefits.</p> <p>The situation in which the fully unemployed person finds himself on April 1, 2020 is therefore extended by 3 months. There is neutralization of the months of April, May and June 2020.</p> <p>The freeze also targets the determination of the reference period of 12 and 18 months to establish the entitlement to unemployment benefits for artists.</p> <p>Royal Decree of September 27, 2020: A new extension of the freezing period for the degression of unemployment benefits for fully unemployed people receiving benefits has just been adopted: The period of freezing of degression of unemployment benefits, initially scheduled until June 30 then until August 31, 2020 is now extended until September 30, 2020. The situation in which the fully unemployed person finds himself on April 1, 2020 is extended by 6 months (instead of the 3-month period initially planned and then extended at 5 months). The months of April, May, June, July, and August 2020 were neutralized. September 2020 is now also neutralized.</p> <p>The benefit was then extended until Dec 31 2020.</p> <p>February 12 2021 the extension of the freeze on the degression of unemployment benefits until June 2021.</p>
	<p>Social security contributions</p>	<p>"[March 2020] If companies suffer from payment difficulties and want to avoid the recovery of their debt by injunction, the Belgian National Social Security Office may allow them amicable repayment terms.</p> <p>The measure shall apply to the following contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - the contributions for the holiday allowance for the financial year 2019, and the financial year 2020 - social contributions for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 and the 1st and 2nd quarter 2021 - certain changes in contributions."

"[March 2020] On March 20, 2020, the postponement of payment of sums due to the Belgian National Social Security Office (ONSS) until December 15, 2020 was announced. The hospitality, recreational and cultural sectors, as well as any business affected by the compulsory closure automatically benefited from this postponement.

Companies that were not affected by a mandatory closure but which had to close because they were unable to comply with health measures could obtain a postponement on the basis of a declaration on honor.

Companies that were not obliged to close and which, for reasons other than not being able to comply with sanitary measures, decided to close completely.

Companies, which were not required to close but closed for reasons other than non-compliance with sanitary measures, because they had to stop production and sales. These companies were therefore also completely closed.

These companies can also benefit from the postponement until December 15 on the basis of a declaration on their honor. "

Self-employed workers who are affected by the consequences of the coronavirus can submit a written request to their social insurance fund to request a 1-year deferral of the payment of provisional social contributions, without being charged any increases and with no effect on benefits.

Payment plans for self-employed workers who have obtained a deferral of payment of social contributions, while retaining the right to reimbursement of health care costs. Until December 31, 2021.

Assimilation: individuals no longer have to pay social contributions for a maximum of 4 quarters, but individuals keep their rights to medical care, family allowances and incapacity for work indemnities. During the period of bridging rights, individuals do not in principle build up any pension rights. Do individuals benefit from classic footbridge rights following an event that occurred between April 1, 2020 and June 30, 2021? From the fourth quarter, the quarters of bridging rights can be assimilated to quarters of activity for the calculation of the pension, for a maximum of four quarters. This extension was introduced as a temporary measure following the crisis.

Assimilation can be granted from the quarter following the one in which the event occurred, but only if individuals have ceased their activities for at least one full calendar month. To be entitled to it, individuals must also meet the conditions of the gateway right at least during the entire first calendar month of the quarter following that in which the event occurred.

In the context of the crisis gateway law, no assimilation is possible. In this case individuals are only

entitled to compensation.

If companies suffer from payment difficulties and want to avoid the recovery of your debt by injunction, the NSSO may allow individuals amicable repayment terms.

The measure shall apply to the following contributions:

the contributions for the holiday allowance for the financial year 2019, and the financial year 2020 social contributions for the 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th quarters of 2020 and the 1st and 2nd quarter 2021 certain changes in contributions.

For the social security contributions in the first two quarters of the year 2020, one year's postponement without interest on arrears or exemption from payment of social security contributions shall be granted. Again, this is provided that there is a demonstrable link with Covid-19. Additional postponement for the payment of the contribution payable by companies until the end of 2020. A postponement was already planned until October 31, 2020; it is now extended until December 31, 2020.

Nov 6, 2020: Widening of the scope of the exemption from social security contributions for the third quarter of 2020 to other sectors (than the hotel and catering industry and the events sector) which have been forced to close. Suppliers in sectors that have had to shut down may also resort to this measure if they can provide evidence of a loss of sales of at least 65%. A ceiling will be applied per company with regard to the total amount of this exemption.

Due to the Corona outbreak, the government has taken several measures. One of these measures taken on March 20, 2020 is the postponement of payment of sums due to the ONSS until December 15, 2020.

The hospitality, recreational and cultural sectors, as well as any business affected by the compulsory closure (in accordance with the provisions of the ministerial decrees of March 13, 18, 23 and 24, 2020) will automatically benefit from this postponement.

Companies that are not affected by a mandatory closure (as referred to in the ministerial decrees of March 13, 18, 23 and 24, 2020) but which are closed because they are unable to comply with health measures can obtain a postponement on the basis of a declaration on honor.

Other companies that can also benefit from the postponement until December 15 on the basis of a declaration on their honor are:

- Companies that are not obliged to close and which, for reasons other than not being able to comply with sanitary measures, have themselves decided to close completely.
- Companies, which are not required to close but are closed for reasons other than non-compliance with sanitary measures, because they had to stop production and sales. These companies are therefore also completely closed. An example is the closure of suppliers or the closure as a result of clients being closed.

Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>(April 2020) A platform will be set up in cooperation with regional ministers to better match the supply and demand of student temporary workers, especially now that the jobs for student in the hospitality and non-food sector have faded away.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>Employers could submit a request for temporary unemployment for their workers due to lack of work, because of economic reasons. The procedure and conditions for this form of unemployment are stricter than for force majeure. Nov 6, 2020: The federal government has decided to reintroduce the simplified temporary unemployment procedure for all employers and workers (workers and employees) from October 1 2020 until June 30 2021 inclusive. Consequently, all temporary unemployment due to the coronavirus can again, from October 1, 2020, be considered temporary unemployment due to force majeure corona, regardless of whether the employer is recognized as particularly affected by the crisis or whether it belongs to a particularly affected sector. It can therefore be a complete suspension of the performance of the employment contract (for example, following an imposed closure) or a partial suspension of the performance of the employment contract, where the worker can still work certain days a week. This is again a departure from the strict definition of force majeure.</p> <p>The Ministerial Decree of October 28, 2020, Article 3, which concerns salaried (or self-employed) workers living or residing abroad who are temporarily employed in Belgium. Employers or users who call on these persons are required, in the context of contact tracing, to keep a register containing a number of data on these persons (identification, place of residence, telephone number and the persons with whom the employee or the self-employed person worked during his work in Belgium). This obligation applies to 5 specific sectors (construction, cleaning, agriculture, horticulture and the meat sector). The Ministerial Decree of January 12, 2021 extended Art. 3 of AM Oct 28,2020 to all sectors: all employers who temporarily employ salaried workers or the self-employed foreigners in Belgium (with the exception of employers who are natural persons) must therefore keep such a register. This obligation does not apply to frontier workers or when the stay in Belgium does not exceed 48 hours. The register can be requested by the contact tracing services and by the inspection services (art. 3, §1 MB).</p> <p>Implementation of the agreement of the social partners by which the State partially intervenes in the financing of the holiday pay for the temporarily unemployed. In the calculation of this holiday pay, days of temporary unemployment are assimilated to days worked.</p> <p>In critical sectors, employers and workers may enter successive fixed-term employment contracts without limitation, without this resulting in the conclusion of an employment contract of indefinite duration. This will allow workers, including those who are temporarily unemployed, to enter fixed term contracts of short duration and therefore to offer more labor in the sector where there is a high demand. Fixed-term contracts must have a duration minimum of 7 days. Extended Nov 6, 2020.</p>

		<p>Employers may temporarily place their workers at the disposal of employers in critical sectors, with a certain flexibility. The workers will have to give their consent. The conditions and duration of this provision must be specified in a document signed by the three parties. The user must ensure that workers can work in safe conditions. The mechanisms of workers' protection against social dumping, such as the principle of equal pay for equal work, will continue to apply. Extended Nov 6, 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) Mobilize asylum seekers: Given the current crisis and the lack of seasonal workers due to border closures, there is a great need for additional labor. People awaiting a decision on their application of international protection will be authorized to work (Directive 2013/33 / EU).</p> <p>(March 2020) Employers pay 20 euros / month for the professional use of your own computer system (PC / laptop, printer ...) and for the professional use of your own internet connection.</p> <p>[March 2020] Temporary office allowance of €126.94 per month for teleworking to cover the costs of heating, electricity, small office equipment or other necessary facilities at home was granted free of social security contributions to all employees who work from home, including those who did not work from home prior to the pandemic situation, and therefore without the employer and employee having concluded a formal telework contract beforehand. This was paid by the employer.</p> <p>[January 2021] It was announced that the work-from-home allowance would increase to €144.3 for the second and third quarters of 2021 for employees and business leaders and it would decrease to €126.94 starting from October 1, 2021.</p> <p>[April 2020] There is an increased quota of voluntary overtime up to 220 hours in the care sector, other crucial sectors and essential services. This additional overtime will be tax and parafiscal exempt; no additional salary will be applied.</p> <p>[Extension - November 2020] This measure was extended on November 6th, 2020.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>The consultation committee decided on Wednesday March 25 to strengthen checks on compliance with the obligation to work from home. It applies to the staff of each company, association and service, unless the nature of the function or the continuity of the management of companies and organizations, services and activities prevent it. Employers will therefore have to keep a register specifying who is present at the workplace and when.</p> <p>Therefore, in order to strengthen the control of this measure, any employer will be required to communicate to the ONSS, each month and from the month of April, the number of workers in service on the 1st working day of the month and the number of workers on duty the 1st working day of the month who do not perform a function that can be performed by teleworking.</p> <p>When a company has several establishment units, it will have to indicate the number of workers per</p>

		<p>establishment unit, specifies the administration. The social inspection services will use this data as a point of reference to monitor compliance with the measure. "Any worker who occupies an executable function in teleworking but who will be present in the company will have to justify his presence", warns the ONSS. This declaration will also serve as a point of reference when it comes to gradually lifting the measure of compulsory teleworking. The ministerial decree of October 28, 2020 "COVID-19 urgent measures" puts this norm into enforcement.</p> <p>Increased quota of voluntary overtime up to 220 hours in the care sector, other crucial sectors, and essential services. This additional overtime will be tax and parafiscal exempt; no additional salary will be applied. Extended Nov 6, 2020.</p> <p>[April 2020] Students were able to perform student work without restrictions during the period from April 1st to June 30th, 2020 and these hours were not be counted towards the annual quota of 475 hours. They could also work these overtime hours while benefiting from a reduction in Social Security.</p> <p>[Extension] This was extended to the fourth quarter of 2020 and the first quarter of 2021 and subsequently, to the end of the second quarter of 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - August 2021] A Royal Decree was published which extended this measure until September 30th, 2021 for students in all sectors of activity.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>From July 1st, 2020, this decree (L'Arrêté royal n° 46,) allows individuals to obtain a corona time credit, for a period of 1 to 6 months with employers in the private sector.</p> <p>This is a new time credit that coexists with the ordinary time credit that already exists.</p> <p>In the context of the economic difficulties that may arise from the coronavirus crisis, the corona time credit allows employers of companies recognized as restructuring or in difficulty to offer workers a partial half-time or a fifth break in order to, temporarily, reduce their benefits.</p> <p>Interruption periods taken within the framework of the corona time credit are not deducted from the maximum duration of the ordinary time credit.</p> <p>During the corona time credit period, when all the conditions are met, the worker is entitled to an interruption allowance, in order to mitigate the reduction in his remuneration. This allowance is the same as that provided for under ordinary time credit.</p>

Belize

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>As a complement for when the Unemployment Relief Program will be discontinued and for those who do not qualify for it, the GoB is planning an expansion (of the number of beneficiaries and value of the transfer) of the Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST) cash transfer program. BOOST targets poor households through the application of a proxy means test. Its cash transfer varies by household structure and averages between US\$25 to US\$30 per month. The Government is considering a temporary expansion of the program, based on: (i) the relaxation of the eligibility threshold, aimed at including also vulnerable households above the poverty line; (ii) an increased value of the transfer for six months, to match that of the Unemployment Relief Program (BZ\$150 every 2 weeks).</p> <p>The government launched direct support to farmers and agricultural households suffering from the effects of two-year drought and the pandemic through reallocation of World Bank funds from other projects. (September/October 2020)</p> <p>(December 2020) the Gov of Belize announced a new temporary cash transfer program to assist poor and vulnerable households that are not receiving support from any other social assistance program, such as, BOOST, Food Pantry, Unemployment Relief Program and any contributory or non-contributory pension scheme. COVID-19 Cash Transfer Program (BCCAT) will support 21500 households with a series of 3 payments over 6 months (February-August 2021) at a cost of US\$9.7 million. The program started on 15 February 2021 and ended on 31 Aug 2021. It covered 21,362 households with a total cost of 11.4 million.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>39,129 households have received, and continue to receive, packages under the food assistance program. This has been at a cost of 20 million dollars; and with another 20 million coming from OFID. The government is now doubling the amount of beneficiary families</p> <p>Through the Fiscal policy, the government allocated BZD 29 million in Direct Food Assistance.</p>

		<p>The Fisheries Department handed over COVID-19 safety equipment for the Fishing Cooperatives and private sector seafood processing facilities. The equipment included seven COVID-19 testing units, sanitizing supplies, and two laptops.</p> <p>Through the nationwide Emergency Food Assistance Programme, the government provided food hampers (2-week supply) to those affected by the crisis. Public officers, teachers, and members of the security forces were not eligible, nor were recipients of the Unemployment Relief Programme, non-contributory pensions, and the pre-existing cash transfer program for the needy (BOOST) and food pantry programs (program offering food items at a lower cost).</p>
	School feeding	Children on national school meal programs got take-home hampers and high schools were encouraged to do same
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Agriculture: funds for the purchase of eligible agricultural inputs.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Access to paid leave: employers must give 16 working days with full pay to all those who have worked in the same center for 60 days or more. The Labor Act does not provide for furlough (temporary leave due to special circumstances initiated by the employer).
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Advancing one month of pension payment.
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The COVID-19 Unemployment Relief Program provides temporary benefits to the unemployed and persons who directly lost their job as a result of the crisis. Employed and self-employed who lost their jobs directly as a result of the COVID19 crisis received BZ\$150 every 2 weeks for 12 weeks (US\$450). Persons who were unemployed prior to the crisis received BZ\$100 every 2 weeks for 12 weeks (US\$300). Applications were processed online.</p> <p>[Extesnion- August 2020] The government extended the program to end of October 2020.</p>
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] The government allowed the delay in payment of contributions to the Social Security Fund without penalties but with the condition of employers keep on filing returns with information about employees and contributions.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[July 2020] As part of the recovery strategy for the agriculture sector Belize introduced the automatic extension on all licenses for 12 months.</p> <p>[August 2020] As part of the Labor (Amendment) Act,2020 the government allowed employers to reduce the wages of workers, conditional on the employees' agreement.</p> <p>[August 2020] As part of the Labor (Amendment) Act,2020 the government allowed employers to place employees on leave without pay, with the agreement of said employees.</p>

	Reduced work time	<p>[December 2020] The Ministry of Rural Transformation, Community Development, Labor and Local Government announced plans to transition the Temporary Employment Permit (TEP) System online. Effective from January 14th, 2021, all TEP Applications were processed online only. The measure aimed at increasing the quality and efficiency of the Ministry's service and mitigating against the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>August 2020] As part of the Labor (Amendment) Act,2020 the government allowed employers to reduce the maximum number of working hours, conditional on the employees' agreement.</p> <p>[November 2020] Work from home orders and/or staff shift rotation mandated for employees at all organizations as part of new Covid-19 measures.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[July 2020] As part of the MSME Support program the government allocated BZD\$7 million on wage subsidies to promote employee retention on the condition that these businesses keep their employees' Social Security contributions current.</p>

Benin

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On August 26th, 2021, the Beninese government announced further measures to assist enterprises and their workers cope with the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The objective of the measure is to support the employees of vulnerable micro and small businesses affected by the health crisis. It concerns businesses in all sectors of activity and extends to both formal and informal businesses. Salaried employees will be given cash transfers.</p> <p>Cash transfer program implemented by Ministry of Social affairs and Microfinance together with UNICEF, the Embassy of the Netherlands and Care Project aims to alleviate household poverty, fight against child marriage and keep girls in school in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic by supporting parents of girls aged 9 to 15 who face economic difficulties due to the pandemic. The project also entails different training components</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>To promote the use of electronic payment tools, the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money free.</p> <p>On March 30th, 2020, the national electricity company suspended disconnections for non-payment of bills to ensure the continuity of the electricity supply during COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The government introduced a price control system for the purchase of face masks. On April 09th 2020, the government announced that there should no longer be masks in pharmacies that would cost more than 200 FCFA, under penalty of criminal penalties</p> <p>The government launched a general grant to all citizens who benefitted from a reduction in electricity and water tariffs, which involved a total expenditure of 5.76 billion CFA francs.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>The government introduced the obligation for employers to install the hand washing device in the workplace and to ensure that the minimum distance of one (1) meter between people is respected. The National Board of Benin (CNP Benin) published a Communiqué on March 17th, 2020, with guidelines against the COVID-19 pandemic to employers and workers, to make them aware of the sanitary measures to be taken.</p> <p>(April 2020) Labor inspectors were subject to a weekly rotation schedule from April 6th, 2020, in order to allow them to better observe the containment measures.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>The government introduced financial support over a period of three months. This meant subsidizing 70% of the gross salary of the declared employees.</p> <p>The government delivered cash to 55,000 craftsmen for a period of 3 months of lost earnings. This included hairdressers, dressmakers, welders, carpenters, small saleswomen, among others. This measure involved a planned expenditure of 4.98 billion CFA francs, distributed as follows: 2.1 billion CFA francs to formal sector enterprises, 1.6 billion to those in the identified informal sector, and 1.2 billion to the unidentified informal sector.</p>

Bermuda (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	As the 16-week unemployment benefit came to an end in 2021, the Government was cognizant that many people within the community were still in need of assistance. To address this, the Government introduced the Supplemental Unemployment Benefit (SUB) and allocated funds to support families and individuals who remained in need of assistance. The Supplementary Unemployment Benefit is only for Bermudians and Spouses of Bermudians who do not qualify for support through the Department of Financial Assistance yet still require financial support. Originally scheduled to run until March 31, 2021, the SUB was extended to June 30, 2021. It has been further extended until March 31, 2022. All Supplementary Unemployment Benefit recipients will receive monthly payments. Those recipients who already have health insurance will receive a flat monthly stipend, and persons without health insurance will receive coverage by the Health Insurance Department in addition to their flat monthly payment. Recipients will receive a monthly flat rate of \$1,520 deposited directly into the individual's bank account or funds can be directly paid to vendors on behalf of clients.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The government implemented a one-time withdrawal for members from certain occupational pension plans that are younger than age 65 (the normal retirement age) and who are not yet retired. Eligible beneficiaries may request withdrawals of up to B\$12,000 (US\$12,000) from their account balances. The deadline for requests is June 30 th 2021, and pension plan administrators must process the withdrawals within 20 business days after approving a request. This measure is part of an economic relief package for persons affected by the COVID-19.
	Unemployment benefits	(March 2020) The government introduced an unemployment benefit for laid-off employees who were not on financial assistance. The transfer amount was set at 60% of gross earnings up to a maximum of \$500 a week. The benefit is less than \$500 per week when the eligible applicant receives a percentage of their salary from their employer. To be eligible, applicants must meet the

		definition of an employee under employment legislation, and be Bermudian, the spouse of a Bermudian, a permanent resident's certificate holder, or a work-permit holder unable to leave Bermuda because of travel restrictions. They must have been in full-time employment and have been laid off or had their employment terminated because of the Covid-19 pandemic, put on mandatory medical quarantine without compensation from their employer, or be self-employed and no longer at work because of the illness
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Bhutan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The Druk Gyalpo's Relief Kidu (DGRK) launched on April 14th, 2020, for a duration of 3 months from April 2020 until end of June 2020. It was extended twice: once from 1 July 2020 to end of March 2021 (phase 2) and next from April 2021 to July 2022 (phase 3, announced on 22 April 2021). The DGRK provides immediate financial support for people who have been laid off or placed on reduced salaries, or those whose livelihood was negatively impacted. Eligibility was based on an application. Eligible beneficiaries include individuals laid off, placed on unpaid leave or on reduced pay from businesses, as well as self-employed individuals who lost their earnings either partially or completely. The Kidu amount was revised from Nu. 12,000 per month for full amount beneficiary and Nu. 8,000 per month for partial amount in Phase I to Nu. 10,000 and Nu. 7,000 respectively in Phase II. Kidu will continue to be granted at Nu. 10,000 and Nu. 7,000 for Phase III. It is reported 52,644 individuals who were granted income support relief kidu amounting to Nu 2.25 billion over the last one year from April 2020 to March 2021. The Relief Kidu application process is designed to ensure accessibility and transparency with simultaneous application through online processes as well as through walk-in centers across the 20 Dzongkhags and a toll-free line (1188) to respond to queries from the people. Furthermore, the committee also ensured widespread publicity through television, radio, newsprint and social media. Government officials in the Dzongkhags also provided valuable support to spread the message as well as assist applicants.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On 25th April 2020, the government has stocked essential items enough to last for four months—worth Nu 104 million. By mid-May, the country will have stocked essential items to last for six months. Besides Food Corporation of Bhutan Limited (FCB), 16 wholesalers and large retailers were provided concessional working capital to stockpile essential and other commodities for six months. The country will require 17,000 metric tons (MT) of rice in the next six months. Within this month, 14,000 MT of rice would be procured from the SAARC food security reserve. FCB has stockpiled 972 MT of cooking oil and 530 MT of legumes and grains. The government is stocking at the dzongkhag headquarters, but the stocks will be distributed later to towns and villages.
School feeding	The education ministry in collaboration with WFP and UNICEF will cater dry ration to more than 10,000 vulnerable children identified by the government across the country from May 2020. The ration will consist of fortified rice, fortified cooking oil, chickpeas, and pulses along with toiletries and menstrual hygiene. It will be distributed through the program called "Take-Home Ration" which will be formally launched 28 May 2021. It is to ensure that the children meet their daily dietary and	

		<p>nutritional requirements and in response to Covid-19. They will supply the ration that will last for a month from the stock left with the school feeding program to each student in the family. The identified students are mostly from economically backward backgrounds??, displaced students, single parent, those with disabilities, landless farmers, and divorced parents, including students depending on Kidu, among many. Each student will receive Nu 905 worth of ration: 12kg of rice, 1.5 liters of cooking oil, half a kg of chickpeas, and 2kg of pulses. The National School Feeding Program spend around Nu 9 million on this project.</p>
	<p>Public works</p>	<p>On July 01, 2020, the Prime Minister of Bhutan launched the Build Bhutan project with the aim to engage around 7000 individuals over a period of two years of which 2000 will be provided with skilling, reskilling and upskilling opportunities in construction trades leading to national certification. The individuals engaged under the program will be paid an engagement top-up and skilling stipend. The benefit ranges from 12,000 to 20,000 Nu depending on your qualification. The project will also facilitate the formation of specialized groups in construction occupations and provide support such as tools and equipment, wage top-up, outsourcing work and also facilitate the creation of a conducive policy environment. The eligibility criteria is a Bhutanese citizen who has completed minimum of class VI and attained minimum of 18 years and who is either: laid-off and/or on unpaid leave due to COVID-19, overseas returnees or job seekers registered in MoLHR job portal.</p> <p>The Tourism Stimulus Package was reported on April 17, 2020. The program will cover 2,436 people formally affiliated with the tourism sector and will provide support to them through cash-for-work and cash-for-reskilling style programs. Work provided under this program includes beautification of the main tourist attractions, maintenance of relevant infrastructure, hotel assessments, support to carrying out of survey and studies aimed to improve performance of the sector, as well as waste management. Those eligible will be provided Nu 6,000 (~USD 80) per month in case of selecting in training, and Nu 15,000 (~USD 200) per month in case of opting out for construction and development work. The duration of the program was not specified. Total budget of the programs is Nu 286 million (~USD 3.8 million).</p>
	<p>Utility waivers</p>	<p>As per the official press release on 11 April 2020, the Interest payment relief includes deferment of loan repayment and 100 percent interest waiver for three months from April 2020 to end of June 2020. As per the official press release on June 26, 2020, the deferment of loan repayment was further extended from 1 July 2020 to 31 March 2021, and 100 percent interest waiver was extended from 1 July 2020 until 31 September 2020 and the rate of interest was reduced by 50 percent from 1 October 2020 to March 2021. On 22 April 2021, the government announced further extension for 15 months starting from April 2021 until June 2022. However, for the latest expansion, only the loans sanctioned as of June 30, 2020, shall be eligible for the deferment of loan repayment for another one year until June 2022. It is reported that 60,002 salaried individuals benefited from the interest payment relief support from April 2020 to March 2021 and it cost 1.15 billion.</p>

		On 20 August 2020, the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests of Bhutan in Thimphu Thromde, published that with the opening of shops in different zones, we have started with the delivery of vegetables to these shops in bulk. With issuing this notification, shops in Babesa and Lungtenphu areas have been supplied with cabbage, potatoes, carrots, and chillies (large and small). To ensure that shopkeepers do not take advantage of the lockdown situation and inflate the price of vegetables, the Ministry has fixed the selling price of vegetables. Prices for other types of vegetables will be announced as and when they are sourced and supplied to the shops.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[July 2020] The Build Bhutan Project (BBP) includes a wage top-up for employees in the construction sector to attract workers. This involves a monthly wage top-up of 15% beyond the wage paid by the employer, depending on the workers' level of skills. However, if the engagement duration is less than a month, the wage top-up will be provided on a pro rata basis.</p> <p>[January 2021] The project announced that individuals will be paid a minimum of Nu 25,000 a month as wages. The project aims to employ 7,000 unemployed, laid off and workers returning from overseas in the construction sector.</p> <p>[March 2021] This provision was cancelled as the government said it was "halted because of changes in the policy and plans of the Labor Ministry."</p>

Bolivia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>March 2020): The GoB has created three new temporary cash transfer programs: Bono Familia (BF), Bono Canasta Familiar (BFC) and Bono Universal (BU) that together provide economic support for households impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially two cash transfer programs were designed – BF and BCF – that relied on a temporary increase of the value of existing social protection interventions to meet the additional needs of the current beneficiaries (vertical expansion). Together, BF, BCF and BU are expected to reach 3.3 million households and their 11.1 million members (comprising both direct recipients and indirect beneficiaries, who are other household members), or 97.9 percent of the entire population.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bono Familia is a one-time only transfer of Bs500 (US\$72) for each child enrolled in elementary, primary and secondary schools (public or private). <p>(March 2020): The Bono Canasta Familiar (BCF) is a one-time payment Bs400 (US\$58) transfer to low-income households in rural and urban areas to cover the cost of a monthly basic food basket. By design, it mostly reaches the elderly (86.2 percent of the population 65 years or older), but also pregnant women, mothers of children below 2 years old, and people with disabilities who are beneficiaries of existing social assistance programs.</p> <p>(April 2020): The Bono Universal's (BU) purpose is to minimize the exclusion of informal workers and self-employed. Bono Universal is estimated to directly and indirectly cover 46.5 percent of the population and the transfer amount is Bs \$ 500.</p> <p>(September 2020): The government created a new temporary cash transfer program called Bono Contra el Hambre (BCH) for all individuals eligible for the BU as well as pregnant women, mothers of children aged 2 years old or less and people with disabilities who are beneficiaries of existing social assistance programs. Benefits were paid between January and March 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(April 2020): The government plans to deliver food to 1.5 million families (\$US 58 per family) .
	School feeding	In Bolivia, the Jacinto Pinto Voucher, which has existed since 2016 and is awarded at the end of the year to students in the school, primary and secondary cycle, was advanced to compensate for the lack of school feeding.

	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Families and companies that cannot meet financial obligations are exempt from paying their mortgages and credits. This relief applied for 2 months. (April 2020): The government plans to pay the electric energy bills for three months for the consumers with lower consumption and pay 50 percent of the potable water and gas for all households.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	As part of revised paid leave requirements, Bolivia is permitting reduction of working hours; paid leave for older adults, pregnant women and people with health conditions; paid leave for workers with dependent children and who must meet care needs due to the emergency; and paid leave for all workers, public and private, that are suspected cases of having contracted COVID-19.
	Health insurance	Collective annual insurance for total and permanent disability or death for a period of one (1) year, for professionals and health workers, infected by the care or provision of services related to patients infected by the Coronavirus (COVID-19). The government created insurance for death and permanent disability for police officers, which includes death from COVID-19.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] On April 1, and as part of Supreme Decree No. 4206, the government extended the time limits for the payment of long-term social security contributions that are due during the “lockdown” quarantine period. In addition, the deadline for the payment of short-term social security contributions period for February, March, and April 2020, was extended until June 30, 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] Suspension of the filing requirements of salary, wages and work-related accident payroll from March 2020, and their presentation is deferred for months of March and April until May 30th, 2020, without penalties.
	Reduced work time	[April 2020] Through Supreme Decree 4218, the government introduced telework in the labor code as a special modality of service provision in the public and private sectors. [January 2021] Through Supreme Decree 4451, the government authorizes teleworking during COVID-19 second wave. The policy is expected to last from January 16, 2021, until February 28, 2021. [August 2021] The government repealed Supreme Decree 4218 and introduced Supreme Decree 4570 which provides updated regulations on the application of special working conditions in labor relations, including teleworking.

Wage subsidies

Bosnia and Herzegovina

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Individual local governments provided significant sums to assist the elderly and families with low or no income (\$250,000 thus far from Sarajevo municipality Stari Grad). Both entities, RS and FBH, introduced top-ups and one-off payments for Permanent Social Assistance beneficiaries, recipients of disability allowance and those in need of permanent home care ranging between one to six months. The top-ups for the permanent social assistance beneficiaries were in place for 6 months. The amount was on average 65-80 US\$ per month. The one-off payment was around 110 US\$.</p> <p>In addition, coverage of PSA is expected to be expanded to new beneficiaries--approximately 6,000.</p> <p>It is reported on 15 April 2020 in the official Gazette of Republika Srpska (Bosnia and Herzegovina) 37/2020 and 41/2020 that all employees of public health institutions who have worked for a minimum of three weeks from March 15 to April 15 will be paid tax and contribution free one-off amount of 1000 KM (i.e., US\$ 560) from the Solidarity Fund for the Reconstruction of the Republika Srpska. The aid will be paid in addition to the salary for March 2020.</p> <p>Municipality of Novo Sarajevo (in Bosnia and Herzegovina) gave support to vulnerable categories of pensioners who were selected by the Association of Pensioners of Novo Sarajevo (eligible were pensioners with a disability, those in need of care assistance, recipients of a minimum pension who support other members of the family, and similar categories). The funds were distributed through the FBiH Pension and Disability Insurance Fund on two occasions. The first group of 4,000 pensioners was supported with KM 50 in May, while the second group of 2,400 pensioners received the same amount of assistance in June. The total envisage cost is KM 350,000. The program has been running since 2007, but this year the municipality of Novo Sarajevo allocated more funding for this purpose.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Based on Assessments of COVID-19 impacts in social protection sector conducted in 5 Cantons in FBiH and assessment for RS Entity, results indicated that various Local Government Units through Centers for Social Welfare administered distribution of basic care packages ((consisting of food items, personal and

		household hygiene products) to social protection beneficiaries, particularly from vulnerable groups, i.e., elderly and vulnerable who need permanent care in specialized institutions, families with children, low-income households, families with people/children with disabilities, etc.
	School feeding	In October 2020, Gobaal giving in Bosnia and Herzegovina had funds (54,165 EUR) to provide daily lunch for 256 children at school during the school year 2020-21, although it had expected to reach 321 students. For € 9 per month, one child receives lunch at school for a whole month. In some schools, the lessons were given in combined groups. To reduce the risk of contamination, older children received online lessons, which ultimately resulted in fewer lunches being delivered. These lunches will be delivered in the new school year (2021-22). As of August 2021, it is reported that for 2021-22, they have sufficient funds for 394 children and expect to reach 394 children to deliver daily school meals. The delivery process is expected to start in September 2021.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	On 16 April 2020, the government of Bosnia and Herzegovina has started exemption on calculation and payment of indirect taxes on medical both in the import of equipment and certain assets, as well as in domestic trade. According to the Official Gazette OG 24/2020, it has extended the exempted items list to include medical and personal protective products (masks, gloves, disinfectants, protective suits, mechanical medical ventilators), which initially only included medicines and ambulances. As of March 2021, the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina took a decision to supplement a decision on waiving from indirect tax paid for equipment and means direct of procurement of countermeasures for COVID-19 (i.e., immunization against COVID-19).
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Through the Official Gazette of the Republic of Srpska RS OG 44/20 (Decree-Law on Amendments to the Health Insurance Law), the government established that the RS Health Insurance Fund would provide health care funds for citizens with no status of an insured person in the compulsory health insurance.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	A total of EUR 5.5 million was allocated for unemployment benefits for 2020, but this could increase to another EUR 10 million to support job retention and/or increase unemployment benefits.
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] The Solidarity Fund is used to social security contributions of employers of business firms and entrepreneurs who were banned to keep on carrying out their activities during the pandemic. [May 2020] Business entities were entitled to the subsidy of social security contributions, in the amount prescribed by the Law on Mitigation of Negative Economic Consequences. To be eligible, businesses must show turnovers of 20% or more in the month for which the payroll is calculated, compared to the realized turnover in the same month in 2019. The entity would be entitled to a right to subsidy under the condition that it has settled contributions and personal income tax payable, conclusively with February 2020.

Labor Markets	Activation measures	The government has allocated EUR 33 million for 2020 for activation programs which may be reallocated for immediate assistance to unemployed individuals.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[May 2020] The minimum salary contributions will be paid from the state budget.

Botswana

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The Tertiary Sponsorships and Scholarships Programme (living allowances for students) continued uninterrupted, and in some cases did provide genuine social assistance during lockdown.
	Social pensions	Two pension programs, including the Old Age Pension and the World War Veterans' Pension continued to be paid despite some delays in payment. The Old Age Pension, which is universal for all citizens over 65 years, continued to be paid at post offices and community pay-points, but to only 50 people per pay-point each day instead of the usual 300 on average, to ensure COVID-19 compliance in 2020.
	In-kind transfers	The Vulnerable Groups Feeding Programme (VGFP) - monthly food transfers, through clinics, to all under-5 children or under-6 if not yet in school, to malnourished pregnant women and nursing mothers, and to tuberculosis patients – is in place. The Orphan Care Programme (a monthly food basket, school uniform, clothing, transport and psychosocial support to all orphans and some other vulnerable children, up to the age of 18 years) continued to be delivered to beneficiaries, even during lockdown, albeit with some disruption and delay. Food transfers within the Community Home-Based Care Programme (CHBC) continued operating after the advent of COVID-19 and throughout the lockdown period. The government approved P114,839,250 for the Food Hampers program for the month of April, 2020, assisting households with food packages which included agricultural products. As of May 2020, 405,017 households had received assistance. Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) distributed food parcels to 1,000 families in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, to combat COVID-19 in July 2020. COVID-19 Food Relief Programme: The government disbursed P431 million for Food Hampers as of March 2021, assisting 429,555 households with food packages which included agricultural products. The government approved P114,839,250 for Food Hampers for the month of April, 2020, assisting 393 households with food packages which included agricultural products.
	Food, vouchers, others	COVID-19 Food Relief Programme: The government disbursed P431 million for Food Hampers as of March 2021, assisting 429,555 households with food packages which included agricultural products.

		Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA) distributed food parcels to 1,000 families in Gaborone, the capital of Botswana, to combat COVID-19 in July 2020.
	School feeding	School feeding in Botswana stopped when schools were closed during April and May 2020. The government tried to protect children's nutritional status by delivering food parcels to their homes, in line with WFP guidelines for 'school feeding at home'. The Primary School Feeding Programme (PSFP) has been operational since re-opening schools in June 2020.
	Public works	The national public works program, Ipelegeng, suspended most operations in April and May 2020 and resumed activities but with fewer participants in June, when the lockdown was partially lifted. Participants did continue receiving payments they would have received, but with no work requirement. Ipelegeng provides a month of work at 6 hours per day, paying 567 pula/month reaches over 70,000 beneficiaries per month.
	Utility waivers	<p>The government announced that manual statutory filing was not possible during the lockdown period. To avoid incurring late payment and / or late filing penalties, taxpayers were encouraged to use the online compliance platforms provided by the tax authority. Where it was not possible to comply with tax obligations because of failure in the electronic platforms or the impossibility to submit returns because of the lockdown, taxpayers should request tax authority to waive any interest or penalties that may be levied.</p> <p>The government introduced the following tax relief during the lockdown:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Deferral of 75% of any two self-assessment tax quarterly payments due between March and September 2020, with payment of the deferrals to begin from March 2021 - Expedited refunds of value added tax (VAT), with refunds to be made within 21 days from the date of filing the VAT return (instead of the 60 day period for a refund)
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	New work arrangements: The Government is preparing the economy for post COVID-19, developing an economic stimulus package that will buffer the impact we foresee on our economy, including access to paid leave and to health care.
	Health insurance	New work arrangements: The Government is preparing the economy for post COVID-19, developing an economic stimulus package that will buffer the impact we foresee on our economy, including access to paid leave and to health care.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	Currently, there is no unemployment insurance. The work on establishing an unemployment insurance fund is ongoing.
	Social security contributions	Botswana currently has very limited social insurance: essentially limited to a non-contributory, defined benefit pension scheme for public officers (civil servants) financed directly from the State budget.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>(March 2020) Businesses that are registered for tax were eligible for COVID-19 wage subsidies, regardless of whether they owe taxes. The government subsidized 50% of basic salary of employees of affected businesses by delivering subsidies that ranged between P1000 – P2500 per month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020). This measure reached 165,681 beneficiaries in April 2020, involving a total budget allocation of P1 billion. Unless specifically exempted, subsidies were taxable.</p> <p>Implementation of a Covid-19 Wage Support Scheme to provide financial support to employees in the travel and tourism sector, export-oriented enterprises, ICT/BPO sector, SMEs and other sectors of the economy, who become technically unemployed on a temporary basis due to the impact of the Coronavirus.</p>

Brazil

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Considered one of the fastest and most comprehensive responses in the world to the Covid-19 crisis, the Auxilio Emergencial (AE1) started in April 2020 with five installments of R\$600.00 to beneficiaries of the conditional cash transfer program Bolsa Família (PBF), individuals over 18 years of age in the single registry (Cadastro Unico) and self-employed or informal workers who were not in the single registry but impacted by Covid (could apply to the program via a cell phone application). Beneficiaries in the BFP were automatically enrolled while individuals in the single registry as well as informal or self-employed were evaluated based on different eligibility criteria (declared income etc). This gave rise to a new social registry called ExtraCad. The limit of two benefits per family was established. In single-parent family arrangements headed by women, the amount of aid was R\$1,200.00, and it could reach R\$1,800.00 if this arrangement had a second eligible member.</p> <p>A new extension was carried out in September 2020 which authorized the payment of residual installments (AE2) until the month of December 2020. AE2 introduced a monthly reassessment of the eligibility condition and reduced the reference value of the benefit by 50%. The number of direct beneficiaries dropped to 56.8 million individuals.</p> <p>After three months of interruption (between January and March 2021), given the persistence of Covid-19 and the deterioration of socioeconomic conditions in Brazil, AE was resumed in April 2021 (AE3). The value of the installments was further reduced, and more restrictive eligibility criteria were implemented which resulted in a coverage of 39.4 million direct beneficiaries. AE 2021 established the limit of only one beneficiary per family, which, in practice, implied changing the program's reference unit, which until then was the individual, to the family.</p> <p>In order to face the COVID-19 pandemic, 4 measures were adopted that affect the BPC: i) the possibility of discounting social benefits of up to 1 minimum wage from the per capita family income calculation to access the BPC; ii) the relaxation of the family income limit per capita from one quarter to half a MW, depending on the assessment of additional vulnerability criteria; iii) the possibility of early withdrawal, in the amount of BRL 600, for applicants who have not yet had their requests analyzed by the INSS; and iv) the maintenance of the benefit payment for those not enrolled in the Single Registry, reversing measures to suspend benefits for this group. The anticipation of payments of BPC were made on March 19th, 2020, and will remain active until December 31st, at least. It is paid for up to 3 months. Impact of R\$ 5 billion (US\$ 1 billion).</p>

		<p>(March 2020) The government allocated BRL 3 billion for the Bolsa Familia program to add 1.2 million families (2.8 million individuals) and vertically expanding Bolsa Familia program in March 2020.</p> <p>(October 2020) The WB is supporting the GoB to keep the new beneficiaries. The proposed project, for US\$1 billion, would finance CCTs for a minimum of 1.2 million families living in poverty added to the BF in response to the crisis. This group comprises a minimum of 2.9 million people who were eligible for the program before the pandemic but had not yet been enrolled due to budget limitations of the program. The BF is executed by the MoC. Financing will last 23 months through 2022 to ensure that the program's countercyclical expansion lasts during the economic recovery.</p>
	Social pensions	The 13th salary for retirees, salary bonus allowances and benefits for people with disabilities as well as sickness benefits was anticipated, involving a planned budget of R\$ 46 billion, or US\$ 9.2 billion.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	A law allowing mayors to use FNDE (Federal fund for school feeding) resources to purchase and distribute food baskets to students was signed on April 7 th 2020. In advance of the signing of the law, mayors and governors began distributing food baskets or topping up Bolsa Familia with the value of the school meal or more. Valid during school suspension period.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The term of payroll credit loans was extended to 84 months and the maximum interest was reduced. Furthermore, debt collection was suspended, and the terms were easier to renegotiate.</p> <p>Postponement of real estate financing payment of installments, for three months, benefiting 800 thousand families</p> <p>Debt collection suspension and easier conditions for debt renegotiation by the Attorney General's Office.</p> <p>The Electric Energy Agency (Aneel) suspended energy supply cuts due to non-payment for 90 days.</p> <p>The low-income population registered for lower tariffs (the Social Tarriff program) with Electric Energy Agency (Aneel) was not subjected to the periodic checks for three months, and therefore did not lose the benefit.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Workers with Covid-19: the government will pay for the first 15 days of leave of that sick in relation to the virus.
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	<p>The government is allowing the possibility of withdrawal from the FGTS for formal workers (21,500 million Brazilian reais or US\$4 billion); an advance of the salary payment for formal workers (12.8 billion Brazilian reais or US\$2.5 billion); and an advance of the end of year payment (thirteenth month) for pensioners (23 billion Brazilian reais or US\$4.5 billion).</p> <p>Anticipated payments for pensioners (13th salary of INSS pensioners). The payment of the 13th salary of INSS retirees, usually paid in the end of the year, was paid in 2 installments in 2020.</p> <p>“Portaria Normativa No 30” suspends any payment blockades of pensions for retired military for 120 days. “Portaria No. 373” lifts for 120 days a series of limitations to pension payment, such as proof of life. This measure helps avoid exposure of the elderly to the virus, while guaranteeing a source of income. “Portaria No. 244” of 17/06/2020 simplifies proof of life procedures to over 700 thousand beneficiaries of INSS. New technologies such as life proof using bio-metrics on mobile apps and self-service banking terminals are now allowed. “Portaria No. 680” of 18/06/2020 extended the interruptions to the routines for updating and maintaining benefits administered by the INSS for another 60 days. As a result, benefits will not be denied to those who are unable to authenticate and present documents in person, since direct service at branches was suspended in March this year.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>The introduction of the program “Beneficio Emergencial de Manutenção do Emprego e Renda” did not affect the unemployment insurance value of workers.</p> <p>The government implemented an anticipation of 25% of the unemployment insurance amount for those who earn up to two minimum wages and have wages reduced. This involved a planned budget of R\$ 10 billion (US\$ 2 billion).</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>Postponement of Social Security Contributions, PIS/PASEP, Cofins and FGTS (FGTS payments for March – May 2020 were collected from July 2020 onwards).</p> <p>Reduction of 50% of “Sistema S” contributions for 3 months (R\$ 2.2 billion, or US\$ 0.4 billion).</p> <p>Deferral payment term for 4 months (impact of R\$ 30 billion, or US\$ 6 billion).</p> <p>Advanced withdraw of FGTS (unemployment savings account) up to 1 MW.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] Relaxing or suspending eligibility criteria or conditionalities by allowing companies to rehire employees before the 90 days period.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2021] Relunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p>

[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to inform employees about the anticipation of their vacation at least forty-eight hours in advance. Employers were also allowed to suspend vacations or unpaid leave of health professionals or those who perform essential functions.

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[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to choose to make the payment of the additional one-third vacation after granting employees' holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic. In case employees preferred to convert a third of their vacation into a cash bonus, the government determined that this had to be done in agreement with employers. In the event of the employee's dismissal, the government stated that employers must pay the amount of paid vacations, together with the payment of severance pay.

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[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to grant, at its discretion, collective vacations and must notify the group of employees affected at least forty-eight hours in advance, the maximum annual period limit and the minimum number of calendar days provided for in the Consolidation of Labor Laws, approved by Decree-Law No. 5,452, of 1943.

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[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government suspended:

- the administrative requirement of medical examinations connected to employment, except for dismissal examinations.
- periodic and occasional trainings of employees, to allow for safety and health at the workplace.
- the maintenance of the internal accident prevention commissions, although electoral processes in progress were suspended.

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		<p>employers granting monthly compensatory aid to employees, without a salary nature. The amount of this would be defined in agreement between employees and employers, through individual negotiation.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2021] Relunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>Through the Constitutional Amendment No. 106, the government simplified the personnel hiring processes, on a temporary and emergency basis.</p> <p>Through the SEPRT/MS Joint Ordinance No. 20, the government introduced measures aiming at the prevention, control and mitigation of transmission risks of COVID-19 in work environments (general guidelines).</p> <p>Through the Uncomplicated Labor Program, the government guaranteed more safety and health for workers, enabling an effective reduction in the number of occupational accidents with more risk management in a customized way and less plastering and bureaucracy.</p> <p>Specific guidelines were developed for the areas of civil construction; pharmacies and drugstores; meat-packing companies; gas stations; rural sector; health services; supermarkets; teleservices; domestic work and use of PFF1 masks.</p> <p>The government launched a free labor self-diagnostic tool service for employers who want to check if they comply with labor legislation. It has been developed, especially for small entrepreneurs. It is a self-assessment carried out by the user that enables the creation of an improvement plan for the company.</p> <p>The government launched the "Programa Descomplica Trabalhista" (Labor Decomplications Program) to eliminate bureaucracies and provide a more favorable business environment to create jobs and opportunities. 48 obsolete acts of the Ministry of Economy were revoked, a modernized agribusiness labor standard was signed and a simplified eSocial module shared. Overall, two thousand documents from the former Ministry of Labor were reviewed and consolidated in less than ten documents.</p> <p>The "Programa Descomplica Trabalhista" also included the introduction of a Simplified Digital Bookkeeping System for Social Security, Labor and Tax Liabilities - Simplified eSocial is a major advance in the productive sector.</p>
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	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>[March 2020] Relaxing or suspending eligibility criteria or conditionalities by allowing companies to rehire employees before the 90 days period. [Extension - April 2021] Relaunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days. [Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to inform employees about the anticipation of their vacation at least forty-eight hours in advance. Employers were also allowed to suspend vacations or unpaid leave of health professionals or those who perform essential functions. [Extension - April 2021] Relaunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days. [Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to choose to make the payment of the additional one-third vacation after granting employees' holidays during the COVID-19 pandemic. In case employees preferred to convert a third of their vacation into a cash bonus, the government determined that this had to be done in agreement with employers. In the event of the employee's dismissal, the government stated that employers must pay the amount of paid vacations, together with the payment of severance pay. [Extension - April 2021] Relaunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days. [Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to grant, at its discretion, collective vacations and must notify the group of employees affected at least forty-eight hours in advance, the maximum annual period limit and the minimum number of</p>

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Through the Constitutional Amendment No. 106, the government simplified the personnel hiring processes, on a temporary and emergency basis.

Through the SEPRT/MS Joint Ordinance No. 20, the government introduced measures aiming at the prevention, control and mitigation of transmission risks of COVID-19 in work environments (general guidelines).

Through the Uncomplicated Labor Program the government guaranteed more safety and health for workers, enabling an effective reduction in the number of occupational accidents with more risk management in a customized way and less plastering and bureaucracy.

Specific guidelines were developed for the areas of civil construction; pharmacies and drugstores; meat-packing companies; gas stations; rural sector; health services; supermarkets; teleservices; domestic work and use of PFF1 masks.

		<p>The government launched a free labor self-diagnostic tool service for employers who want to check if they comply with labor legislation. It has been developed, especially for small entrepreneurs. It is a self-assessment carried out by the user that enables the creation of an improvement plan for the company.</p> <p>The government launched the “Programa Descomplica Trabalhista” (Labor Decomplications Program) to eliminate bureaucracies and provide a more favorable business environment to create jobs and opportunities. 48 obsolete acts of the Ministry of Economy were revoked, a modernized agribusiness labor standard was signed and a simplified eSocial module shared. Overall, two thousand documents from the former Ministry of Labor were reviewed and consolidated in less than ten documents.</p> <p>The “Programa Descomplica Trabalhista” also included the introduction of a Simplified Digital Bookkeeping System for Social Security, Labor and Tax Liabilities - Simplified eSocial is a major advance in the productive sector.</p> <p>Changes to the layout simplify filling and eliminate fields that used to take unnecessary time to fill. The lighter form meets the demands of the country’s productive sector, without prejudice to the maintenance of important information for the continuity of public labor and social security policies. The CPF will become the employee’s only identification number, dispensing with reference to other registration numbers, such as, for example, PIS and Pasep. Requests for information already included in government bases, such as the RG number and CNH, were also excluded.</p> <p>Through the EPRT/MS Joint Ordinance No. 19, the government established measures aimed at the prevention, control and mitigation of the transmission risks of COVID-19 in the activities developed in the slaughter and processing industry of meat and meat products intended for human consumption and dairy products.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The government, through Banco de Horas, allowed the interruption of working hours and compensate at a later stage by working up to 45 hours per week (work outs could be compensated 18 months after the COVID-19 pandemic).</p> <p>[Extension - April 2021] Relaunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through the Provisional Measure No. 927, 2020, the government allowed employers to change the face-to-face work regime for teleworking, remote work or other type of distance work and determine the return to the face-to-face work regime, regardless of the existence of individual or collective agreements, waived prior registration of the change in the individual employment contract.</p>

		<p>[Extension - April 2021] Relaunched through Provisional Measure 1046 for 120 days.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] Through the Act of the President of the Board of National Congress No. 42 of 2021, it was extended for 60 days.</p> <p>[August 2020] Entities qualified in methodical technical-professional training together with establishments complying with the apprenticeship quota must ensure that apprentices have access to the necessary and adequate technological equipment and infrastructure for the execution of theoretical and practical activities of the apprenticeship programs in the distance mode.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

British Virgin Islands (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Assistance with food supplies delivered to over 800 families' homes during the 24h curfew period, jointly organized by the Social Development Department, BVI Red Cross and the Family Support Network. It prioritized the needs of the most vulnerable, including the elderly, people with chronic illnesses and with children first, then the unemployed or those with reduced incomes. Items included in each package were basic and essential products, such as flour, rice, beans, water and fruits and vegetables.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) Water and Sewerage customers across the territory have been given a month's suspension in payment of their water charges.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[June 2020] As part of the government's \$62.9 million stimulus package, \$10 million were allocated to the Covid-19 Unemployment Relief Fund, which supported residents affected by the pandemic for a period of up to three months. Compensation was on a case-by-case basis, and individuals had to provide the relevant information on how they were affected by the pandemic. The SSB administered and monitored the initiative. Those who applied must have paid at least 13 out of 20 weeks of SSB contributions before March 30 th , 2020; be financially impacted by Covid-19; and be actively seeking employment. The benefit was calculated at a rate of 50 percent of insurable earnings up to a maximum of \$1,000 and a minimum of \$500 a month.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Brunei Darussalam

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	On 13 April 2020, Brunei Darussalam announced a monthly special allowance of B\$400 (Four Hundred Dollars), specifically for doctors, nurses, paramedics, ambulance drivers, volunteers, hospital cleaners, security guards and all staff under the Ministry of Health, especially those working at the Raja Isteri Pengiran Anak Saleha Hospital, National Isolation Centre in Tutong and quarantine centers. This monthly allowance started in March 2020 and will be extended until the eradication of COVID-19 in Brunei Darussalam.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 1, 2020, Brunei Darussalam government announced provision of deferment of the principal amount or financing for real estate, restructuring the outstanding credit card balance to loans for a period of not more than three years for individuals affected in the private sector only including the self-employed. Individuals may apply for Suspension and Restructuring at their banks or financial institutions between April 1 and December 30, 2020.</p> <p>On April 1, 2020, Brunei Darussalam government announced restructuring and deferring principal amounts on personal loans and hire purchase facilities such as car loans or financing for not more than 10 years. Individuals may apply for Suspension and Restructuring at their banks or financial institutions between April 1 and December 30, 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>To avoid crowds, delivery of the Service Pension and the Descendant's Pension were made using drive through.</p> <p>The Old Age Pension could also be delivered via bank transfer in addition to the previous method via Penghulu and Village Heads.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	[April 2020] The government introduced fiscal measures, which included the deferment of payments on Employees Trust Fund (TAP) and Supplementary Contributory Pension (SCP) contributions for local employees earning less than \$1,500 per month working in Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) with less than 100 employees.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[March 2020] Companies were encouraged to support the upskilling and reskilling of their staff with the help of the trainings provided by the Manpower Planning and Employment Council (MPEC). [March 2020] The government announced the revamping of the Job Centre Brunei (JCB) website and planned to include job matching, real-time notifications for job matches, and talent profiles for companies.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] The government introduced a wage subsidy of 25 percent for Bruneian employees working in MSMEs with less than 100 employees.

Bulgaria

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy is introducing a one-off cash transfer of BGN 375 (EUR 192) to parents of children under 12 who are on unpaid leave for at least 20 days due to inability to work from home during the state of emergency. The government decided to expand the coverage to parents of children up to 14 years as well as families in which one or both parents have lost their jobs but were not entitled to unemployment benefits. It was also granted to foster families and families of relatives, in which the child is placed under the Child Protection Act.</p> <p>The Government introduced a targeted monthly allowance of BGN 610 for families with children under 14 who study online from home and if the income per family member is equal to or less than 150 per cent of the minimum wage. 35,700 families with children under 14-years have received targeted cash assistance until end January 2021 for a total amount of BGN 30 million. The average assistance per family was BGN 900. The allocation of BGN 73 million is provided for targeted assistance to families with children in 2021.</p> <p>Support of personnel on the frontline of the fight with COVID-19, involving a total budget of BGN 192 million</p> <p>Parental support package of BGN (180 mn)</p> <p>The disability certificates that are due for renewal will be renewed automatically during the period of emergency and 2 months after that, thereby allowing access to the disability pension.</p> <p>Freelance artists will be entitled to one minimum wage, together with social security contributions, for the period of emergency plus one month thereafter - that is, for 3 months. The money will be donated through the Culture Fund and will be applied for online and by mail. Acceptance of applications and then disbursements should start by April 15th, 2020. Artists who had monthly incomes of less than BGN 1,000 (€500) last year could benefit from the support. The measure will cost BGN 2,7 million (€1,35 million) to the budget of the Ministry of Culture.</p> <p>Agricultural producers were provided support, involving an initial total budget of BGN 85 million. Starting in May 2021, COVID-related aid for agriculture was offered for the second consecutive year.</p>

		<p>approving up to 7000 euros (about \$8500) for each applicant. The support hinged on specific conditions set by the Ministry of Agriculture, including a condition that applicants must have applied for subsidies in 2019 and 2020, unless they're beekeepers or beneficiaries of a valid contract under the Rural Development 2014-2020.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>Expenditures for household support including bonuses to pensions and minimum pension increase (BGN 1322 mn)</p> <p>The disability certificates that are due for renewal will be renewed automatically during the period of emergency and 2 months after that, thereby allowing access to the disability pension.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>More than 30,000 hygiene kits containing personal protective equipment, as well as 2,500 activity kits for socially disadvantaged children, have been provided as part of the "Do it for the ones you love" COVID-prevention campaign as of January 6th, 2021.</p> <p>The coverage and scope of in-kind support for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people living under the poverty line was expanded. This included the provision of individual food packages by the Bulgarian Red Cross to an additional 41,000 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The coverage and scope of in-kind support for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people living under the poverty line was expanded. This included the provision of hot meals through municipalities to 50,000 additional recipients.</p> <p>Expanding the coverage and scope of in-kind support for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people living under the poverty line. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - provision of individual food packages by the Bulgarian Red Cross to an additional 41,000 beneficiaries - provision of hot meals through municipalities to 50,000 additional recipients. <p>The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy reallocated BGN 45 million (US\$ 24.8 million) under Operational Program Human Resources Development for expanding the coverage and scope of the home visiting services provided to elderly people and other vulnerable groups (people with disabilities), including the delivery of food and medicines. The services are provided by the municipalities.</p> <p>The Bulgarian Red Cross continued its other work supporting some of the most vulnerable groups in society at the beginning of 2021. Among the projects undertaken is the Hot Meal Program, through</p>

		<p>which 1,473 children from socially disadvantaged families received free meals in the winter months and the distribution of food packages to 470,000 socially disadvantaged citizens under the Operational Program for Food and/or Basic Material Assistance.</p> <p>The European Commission announced on May 12th, 2021 that it has approved the modification of operational program under the REACT-EU funding initiative to provide additional funding to Bulgaria to help tackle the effects of the Covid-19 pandemic. The Bulgarian program for the Fund for European Aid to the Most Deprived (FEAD) will receive an extra 19.9 million euro in 2021 to provide daily warm meals to 50,000 people from vulnerable groups living in poverty. This is the first amendment of a FEAD operational program under REACT-EU, the Commission said in a statement.</p>
	School feeding	<p>Over 420,000 children and students from more than 3,200 schools received their products under the food schemes "School fruit" and "School milk" in their homes. Fruit and dairy products were delivered to schools and after that were distributed to families through the home visiting services of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. The measure was valid for the entire period of the emergency situation and deliveries were made on a weekly basis</p>
	Public works	<p>Over 169,000 citizens will receive better services and nearly 2,000 employees will receive better working conditions by improving the public environment and social infrastructure of 53 buildings approved for funding in 2021 under the Beautiful Bulgaria public works project of the Ministry of Labor and Social Policy. The total value of the approved projects is BGN 11.9 million. The funds will be used to renovate and repair buildings in the field of education, administrative services, culture, healthcare, social services and sports activities. More than 625 people will be employed during this implementation, of which at least 235 will be registered as unemployed at the labor offices.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The Bulgarian Development Bank (BDB) provided guarantee to commercial banks for the loans granted by them to individuals and legal entities. Individuals were granted Interest-free bank loans up to BGN 1,500 per month for a period of three months. On July 20th, 2021, the BDB said it would extend the application deadlines under its interest-free loan guarantee programme for individuals temporarily unemployed due to the pandemic. Individuals will be able to apply for interest-free loans until August 31st, 2021 or until the guarantee limits for financing by partner commercial banks are exhausted.</p> <p>The Ministry of Energy introduced a deferral for the payment of utility bills for electricity for up to 30 days. At the same time the possibility for each client to negotiate and reschedule the amounts due for electricity is preserved.</p> <p>The key fiscal policy responses cumulative for 2020 and planned for 2021 include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) tax relief for households with children with disabilities (BGN 143 mn) (ii) reduced VAT rate of 9 percent for restaurant services, books, baby food, wine, beer, tour operators and tourist trips, gyms and sports facilities and food delivery until end-2021 (BGN 343

		<p>mn) and (iii) additional financing of medical activities (BGN 748 mn)</p> <p>The government will allocate BGN 200 million (USD 110 million) to the Bulgarian Development Bank (BDB) for guaranteeing non-interest consumer loans up to BGN 1500 (USD 829) for all workers who are on unpaid leave due to the state of emergency.</p> <p>On 10 April 2020 the Bulgarian National Bank announced the long-awaited rules for deferral and settlement of credit obligations of individuals and legal entities towards banks and their subsidiaries in relation to the state of emergency declared on 13 March 2020 in Bulgaria.</p> <p>Deferral of payments under bank loans for a period of up to six months, but no later than 31 December 2020. Subject to deferring may be all amounts due, or the principal only. The scope of the Moratoria covers the widest possible range of borrowers, both individuals and legal entities.</p> <p>A discount of 5% was granted to persons who have paid the real estate tax or the vehicle tax for the whole 2020 up to 30 June 2020. The Act did not contain specific provisions regarding the payment of the garbage collection fees for 2020.</p> <p>The government will provide for an increase in tax incentives for families with children in 2021. The following amounts are increased for 2021 as follows: BGN 4,500 in case of one child (i.e. BGN 450 tax savings per year), BGN 9,000 in case of two children (i.e. BGN 900 tax savings per year), and BGN 13,500 in case of three and more children (i.e. BGN 1,350 tax savings per year).</p>
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>"Access to paid leave During the state of emergency: The employer is obliged to allow the use of paid annual leave or unpaid leave at the request of: An employee who is under 18 years of age; An employee with a permanent disability of 50 and more than 50 percent; An employee with the right to protection upon dismissal (employed or suffering from tuberculosis, diabetes, ischemic disease, cancer, mental and occupational disease). • The employer has the right to grant paid annual leave to the worker and the employee without his or her consent when the work of the enterprise, part of it, or of individual workers or employees is suspended. The employer may, at its sole discretion, provide to workers or employees half of the annual paid leave, if there is no suspension of the work of the enterprise."</p> <p>"Access to paid leave During the state of emergency:</p>

		<p>The employer is obliged to allow the use of paid annual leave or unpaid leave at the request of:</p> <p>A pregnant employee, as well as an employee in an advanced stage of in vitro treatment.</p> <p>Mother or adoptive mother of a child under the age of 12 or a disabled child, regardless of its age;</p> <p>An employee who is a single father or adoptive father of a child under the age of 12 or a disabled child, regardless of its age;</p> <p>"</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>All medical certificates determining the degree of lost working capacity (the validity of these documents for people below standard retirement age is between 1 and 3 years; working capacity of people above standard retirement age doesn't need to be reassessed) which expire during the period of the state of emergency and have to be renewed, were automatically renewed for the whole period of the state of emergency + 2 months after that. Approximately 75,000 disability pensioners benefited from that measure</p> <p>All pensions of working pensioners will be recalculated officially as of April 1st 2020 on the basis of the data in the administrative registers. Pensioners are not required to submit any documents and to contact the NSSI's staff, in order to limit the number of visitors of the NSSI's. Approximately 258,000 pensioners will benefit from that measure</p> <p>Increase in pensions with 50 leva a month for a period of three consecutive months. (318 million leva)</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Unemployment benefit claims shall be submitted by the claimants through the local employment offices at the same time when they get registered as jobseekers. National Employment Agency (a structure to the Minister of Labour and Social Policy) will inform NSSI through the means of electronic data exchange about the submitted claims.</p> <p>The government increased unemployment benefits and other social support, involving a total budget of BGN 297 million.</p> <p>[June 2020] 'Employment for you': subsidised employment for hiring unemployed. Unemployed persons can be employed on a full-time or part-time contract for a period of up to three months, during which they will receive funds in the amount of the minimum wage and social security contributions at the expense of the employer.</p> <p>[Extension - October 2021] The Employment Agency has upgraded its webpage information concerning the measure. Currently the total budget allocated to the measure is BGN 210 million (€107 million). At least 45,000 unemployed are expected to be supported through the measure. The</p>

		<p>duration of the measure has also been extended until 31 Dec 2022. Furthermore the contract period is prolonged to up to 6 months with the obligation for employers to keep 75% of the employed workers for a further period equivalent to half of the period of subsidized employment.</p> <p>[April 2020] A new opportunity for registered unemployed individuals to sign temporary labour contracts with agriculture producers without losing their unemployment benefits has been approved by the Bulgarian government. The new amendment gives a legal right to an unemployed person to receive unemployment benefits from the state and at the same time work at a rural stop and take a salary from there.</p> <p>[October 2020] The minimum unemployment benefit will increase from BGN 9 to BGN 12 from October 1 for a period of 4 months. The measure is expected to affect between 30,000 and 33,000 people. The necessary funds are BGN 12 million for this measure.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>Coverage of 60% of the social security income for January 2020 and of social contributions payable by the employers for workers and employees in affected sectors that would have been otherwise laid off;</p> <p>Enforcement proceedings under the Tax and Social Security Procedures Code will not be initiated except in special cases to which this prohibition does not apply (no prohibition is provided for the imposition of preliminary security measures in the course of tax control proceedings and for securing evidence in fiscal control).</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>Provisions allowing employers to hire workers who are on unpaid leave from other companies without the authorization of the first employer unless there is an explicit prohibition in the main labor contract of the worker. There are no restrictions on the time that employees can work under the second employment contract while on unpaid leave. The only requirement is for the second employer to ensure observance of daily and weekly rest periods</p> <p>Additional remunerations in the ministries of health, interior, and defense, the Social Assistance Agency, the Employment Agency and the General Labour Inspectorate, involving a total budget of BGN 237 million</p> <p>Doctors and nurses working in the frontline received an additional payment of BGN 1000 a month (USD 566).</p>
	Reduced work time	All employers are obligated to introduce remote work. Where it is not possible due to the nature and specifics of the work performed, employers are obliged to implement all anti-epidemic measures.

	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] On March 23rd 2020, the National Assembly adopted an Emergency Measures and Actions Act. Unemployment Fund paid 60% of the income of the employees from sectors most heavily influenced by the COVID-19 crisis for up to three months. The Council of Ministers have adopted the criteria and procedures according to which employers were able to receive support. This measure involved a total budget of BGN 1,019 million.</p> <p>[Extension - July 2020] The 60/40 wage subsidy program allows Bulgarian authorities to finance 60% of the wage costs (including the employers' social security contributions) of businesses that, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, would otherwise lay off workers. The relief generally is available for businesses in sectors that have been most affected by the health crisis including retail, tourism, passenger transport, culture, sports activities, amusement and recreation activities, and others. The 60/40 wage subsidy was scheduled to expire 1 July 2020, but has been extended by a Council of Ministers' Decree No. 151 (3 July 2020). The payment of funds under the new decree will commence once the European Commission issues a resolution stating that the extension is compatible with EU rules.</p> <p>[Extension -October 2020] Bulgaria has extended the 60/40 wage subsidy—a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic—through 31 December 2020.</p> <p>[Extension- January 2021] The Council of Ministers adopted amendments to the “60/40 wage subsidy”—a response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic—concerning the conditions and procedures for paying funds to employers for the purpose of maintaining employment.</p> <p>[Extension- October 2021] The amendments were published in the official gazette (No. 85 dated 12 October 2021) and are effective retroactively as of 1 August 2021. The funding of employers under the 60/40 mechanism will continue for the period from 1 August through 31 December 2021 (provided that the European Commission resolves to extend the term of the temporary framework for state aid measures to support the economy in the current COVID-19 pandemic for the period following 31 December 2021).</p>
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Burkina Faso

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Cash transfers to informal sector workers (fruits and vegetable sellers). Total cost of US\$10 million (5 billion CFA) to help the fruits and vegetable informal retailers affected by the situation, particularly women.</p> <p>Around 2.85 billion CFA francs will be paid to 43,000 direct beneficiaries, or 301,000 indirect beneficiaries in the cities of Ouagadougou and Bobo-Dioulasso (on average 7 people per household). This comes as part of the emergency cash transfer operation for the benefit of poor and vulnerable people affected by COVID-19. This initiative, which is part of Component 5 "Intervention and possible emergency component" of the World Bank-funded "Burkin naong saya" Social Safety Net Project, was officially launched on Tuesday, May 26th, 2020, in Ouagadougou.</p> <p>This project applies a rigorous and fair method to identify the poorest, pays them regular cash transfers during three years and accompanies them through social work to improve their access to health, good nutrition and education. The project has recently included enhancements to reach the refugees and host population of the Sahel, through public works, intensified accompanying measures to prevent GBV, child marriage and forced labor and radio based primary schooling in areas where schools had to close under terrorist threats.</p> <p>For 3 years as of August 2021, the ministry in charge of women, in its policy of removing women carrying children from the streets, has been providing support to those who have joined the program. This support consists of food products and development funds that will allow these women to engage in entrepreneurship in Burkina Faso.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>In-kind transfers to market vendors. This aimed at the most vulnerable people of the markets that have been closed due to the outbreak.</p> <p>2 million people will benefit from government support to deal with the coronavirus pandemic. This support will be through a distribution of food and a financial contribution called cash transfer.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	<p>Price controls for staple foods. Type of food included in this measure are cereals (rice, millets, sorghum, maize, beans) and others food items (sugar, oil) but also gasoline and cooking gas</p> <p>To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money free</p> <p>Postponement of the vehicle tax payment deadline to the end of June 2020</p> <p>Several utilities support including: subsidies for water bills and water points, subsidies for electricity bills (100% for certain types of connections, 50% for others), removal of penalties on water and electricity bills, reduction of costs of solar panel kits by 50% for poor households, and finally, subsidies on water and electricity costs for market vendors.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	From April to June 2020, the exemption from the contribution of micro-enterprises in the informal sector;
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	From April to June 2020, the suspension of on-site control operations except for proven cases of fraud.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Burundi

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>A horizontal extension had been planned to target 80,000 more households. The potential beneficiaries had been registered, but the funds was not available and the extension has been cancelled.</p> <p>The beneficiaries of the national safety net project received 2 Tribert earlier than scheduled in 2020 to respect restrictions measures and social distance and to help them face with some probable shortages.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	School feeding has been suspended for a short period, and no alternative measures have been set up.
	Utility waivers	The government reduced the price at public water fountains in all of Burundi (rural and urban) by 50%.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	Subsidies were planned to help pay salaries in some sectors and avoid massive layoffs. Salaries for suspended services, such as those provided at the Melchior Ndadaye International Airport, were subsidized with government support.

Cabo Verde

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(December 2020) In response to COVID, the GoC announced extra support to the Social Income for Inclusion Program (RSI) by increasing coverage of the ERSI in response to COVID-19, supporting an approximate additional (new) 20,000 households for a period of six months. As of October 2021, a total of 21,048 emergency cash transfer beneficiary households received cash transfers</p> <p>(April 2020) Support for workers in micro and small enterprises and self-employed in the informal sector, including sellers of informal commerce and municipal markets. These workers were guaranteed a value of 10,000 escudos (US\$100) for one month. The government expected to reach 30,000 workers. Benefit was deposited through bank transfers by INPS for REMPE workers. The Ministry of Family and Social Inclusion / Treasury deposited the transfers for non-REMPE workers, to whom vulnerability prioritization criteria applied. Enrollment in the Single Social Register was considered as a first and mandatory condition for obtaining these benefits.</p> <p>(May 2020) UNICEF supported 1,000 families in vulnerable situations with the Emerging Inclusion Income (Cash transfer).</p>
	Social pensions	The Government of Cape Verde is going to extend the Social Pension to all elderly people in a vulnerable situation and who do not have access to the Contributory Social Security scheme.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(March 2020) Immediate Food Assistance to 22,500 families, totaling around 90,000 people, whose income is below the minimum wage or without any source of income. It represents an investment of 21 thousand Contos. This assistance covered around 30,000 vulnerable children.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Individuals and entrepreneurs whose incomes had been negatively affected by the pandemic and who had active loans with commercial banks could apply for a moratorium on their monthly payments for a period of up to 3 months. The application and administration process were handled by individual banks.</p> <p>(April 2020) Home care service to be provided for the elderly and the dependent who live in isolation; for this purpose, social workers, caregivers and volunteers should be recruited; the program aims to guarantee social protection for the elderly, the recruited caregivers should assist the elderly in carrying out their daily tasks (specifically for individuals without family network, with low income and</p>

		in a situation of light and moderate dependence)
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Extraordinary subsidy to prophylactic isolation of 14 days, paid at 70% of the reference remuneration/salary (warranty period of 60 days)
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Unemployment conditions to have access to the benefit were simplified to facilitate access: Exceptional measures for unemployment subsidy - reduction of the warranty period; formalities of an inscription in the CEFP removed; and application of age constraints removed.</p> <p>Reduction of the guarantee period in the period considered for the purpose of awarding unemployment benefit from 180 to 60 days in the period from 1 April to 30 June, at the date of filing the application. In the above period, the age of the insured is not taken into account for the purpose of awarding unemployment benefit.</p>
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] The government decided to exempt companies from paying contributions to Pension Fund for the three months of April, May, and June 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The Prime Minister announced that workers whose contracts are suspended due to COVID-19 will be entitled to a subsidy of 70% of the gross salary (35% paid by the National Institute of Social Security (INPS), and 35% by the employer). This policy was in effect until December 31, 2020. It was later re-introduced in January 2021, with the adjustment of lowering employers' contribution from 35% to 25%. This policy was later extended 5 times, and should end in December 31, 2021.

Cambodia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 29 June 2021, the government of Cambodia announced to continue to provide cash assistance to nearly 700,000 poor and vulnerable households from July to September 2021. Since June 2020, the program was extended 5 times and the government has disbursed over US\$320 million in financial aid, benefiting 2.7 million people. The cash transfers is targeted at households identified using the IDPoor database. According to the program documents, rural IDPoor households will get 80,000 riels (i.e., around \$20) for each family, with each family member of “very poor” families getting \$6, who are classified IDPoor1. For IDPoor households on the outskirts of Phnom Penh, a family will get around \$30, with each family member of IDPoor1 families given an additional \$10. In Phnom Penh, families will receive \$30, with IDPoor1 family members getting an additional \$13 each. Similarly, children under 5, disabled people, citizens with HIV or citizens 60-years-of-age or older will receive between US\$4 and US\$10, also depending on the areas in which they reside.</p> <p>On 29 June 2021, the Government of Cambodia announced that the workers in the Garment, Textile and Footwear (GTF) industries that have been suspended from their employment will continue to receive financial aid of up to US\$40 until the end of September 2021. This financial aid for suspended workers has been extended 5 times already since its first extension announced as part of the 4th stimulus package on July 31, 2020. The available financial aid is distributed as follows:</p> <p>US\$15 for 7-10 days of employment suspension. US\$30 for 11-20 days of employment suspension; and US\$40 for 21 days to one month of employment suspension.</p> <p>Workers in the GTF industries will receive an additional US\$30 per month contributed by their employers besides the aforementioned financial aid. Thus, workers in the GTF industries can receive up to US\$70 per month.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	<p>On 1 July 2020, it was reported that the World Food Program (WFP), in collaboration with the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports (MoEYS), has been distributing food to poor households in Cambodia who have been acutely impacted by the COVID-19 outbreak. Some 92,787 children and 2,109 cooks from 1,113 primary schools in 10 provinces participating in the school meals program will</p>

		receive 15 kg of rice each from June 29 to July 10, along with one liter of vegetable oil. The school feeding transfer is for eligible students from poor families holding IDPoor 1, IDPoor 2 or other equity cards.
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>On 26 May 2020, The Government of Cambodia announced to implement cash-for-work program to provide short-term employment opportunities with income to meet the daily needs of nearly 1 million people who have lost their jobs and returned to their homeland (both inside and outside the country) as well as people living in the communities. The scheme will also improve community infrastructure: supporting the development and increased productivity for the agricultural and rural economy. It has been expanded to 18 targeted provinces and will operate until 2022. For 2020, the government has decided to increase the budget for the project from nearly USD 38 million to approximately USD 100 million.</p> <p>On 20 October 2020, the Embassy of Sweden announced a COVID-19 response package of SEK 4,300,000 (or 500,000 USD) to financially support rural communities through tree planting activities. The initiative aims to engage over 1,600 rural households in Pursat and Siem Reap provinces to plant local trees, establish nurseries, and participate in other conservation activities across the country and this project is expected to run until June 2021. Across Cambodia, tens of thousands of people have lost their jobs and over 100,000 migrant Cambodians have returned from neighboring countries to their hometowns in rural areas. For some, the search for money and food is becoming desperate. As a coping livelihood strategy during the crisis, an increasing number of people enter the forests to cut trees, hunt animals, and fish, causing additional pressure on already fragile ecosystems</p>
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	(April 2020) Suspension of monthly contributions to National Social Security Fund for enterprises in the garment and tourism sectors.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[April 2020] On April 2, the Government announced the allocation of USD 64 million for wage subsidies and skill training program for suspended workers/employees in the garments and tourism industries.

		The Minister of Labor and Vocational Training Ith Sam Heng said more than 6,000 workers who were suspended or lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic had now attended a four-month special training course.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] On April 2, the Government announced the allocation of USD 64 million for wage subsidies and skill training program for suspended workers/employees in the garments and tourism industries. The government announced a measure to assist minimum wage workers employed in the tourism sector amid COVID-19 fears. This involved paying 20 percent of the workers' minimum wages of those suspended from their jobs at hotels, guesthouses, restaurants and travel agencies.</p> <p>[Extended - October 2020] On October 28, the Government announced the extension of the wage subsidy program until the end of December 2020. Garment workers will receive USD 70 per month with the Government paying USD 40 and employers paying USD 30. Tourism workers will also receive USD 40; however, the employer's contribution is voluntary.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 24, the Government announced the extension of the wage subsidy program until the end of March 2021, with the same benefits.</p>

Cameroon

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government implemented an increase in family allowance from CFAF 2,800 to CFAF 4,500.</p> <p>(May 2020) The Government of Cameroon announced that it will continue to support the Allocations Familiales (AF) program from May to July 2020 for the staff of companies who cannot pay social contributions or who were put on technical leave due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. In particular, this administrative change will impact those working in the catering, hotel, transport industries. The GoC also announced and implemented an increase in the Family Allowance (AF) transfer amount from CFAF 2,800 to CFAF 4,500.</p> <p>The government designed and planned for the provision of a 3-month period cash transfer (Transfer Monetaires Urgence-Covid 19), targeted to the most vulnerable population living in poverty.</p> <p>(July 2020) Under its socio-economic response plan to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19, the GoC will increase spending on its social safety nets program "Filets Sociaux". An additional financing for the project provided by the World Bank, GoC, and AFD aims to increase the program coverage by 60,500 households. Many of these families were impacted by the COVID-19 economic crisis.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	<p>School teachers are working with the WFP to provide vulnerable children with critical dry ration such as rice, pulses, salt and vegetable oil under its school feeding program. Teachers ensure that everyone washes their hands at the entry point at the dry ration distribution point. This is the first time schools are providing dry ration. Usually during the pre-covid-19 days, schools provided cooked meals to students. In Cameroon, WFP is supporting over 52,300 primary school children through its school feeding program.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 20th, 2020, MTN Cameroon announced the payment suspension of fees on money transfers between MTN Mobile Money accounts. This measure, which concerned money transfers of up to 20,000 FCFA, was limited to 3 transactions per day, per account, and was valid for a period of 30 days. The aim of this policy was to reduce the use of cash as much as possible, favoring distance payments.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The government introduced a 20% increase in pensions for those that did not benefit from the revaluation following the 2016 reform. The first payment began by the end of May 2020.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	Rearranging the payment of the social security contributions for the second quarter over three instalments and cancellation of late fees. [April 2020] Rearranging the payment of the debt of social security contributions over April, May and June 2020, on justified request. [April 2020] Cancellation of penalties for late payment of social contributions due to the CNPS, on justified request
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Canada

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Launched on Monday April 6, 2020, the Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) provides \$2,000 every four weeks to Canadians who've lost their income because of the economic repercussions of the pandemic or because they are sick with COVID-19, quarantined, looking after someone who is sick or caring for their children who are home from school. CERB gives financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19. Beneficiaries receive \$2,000 for a 4-week period (the same as \$500 a week). The Benefit is available to workers: Residing in Canada, who are at least 15 years old; Who have stopped working because of reasons related to COVID-19 or are eligible for Employment Insurance regular or sickness benefits or have exhausted their Employment Insurance regular benefits or Employment Insurance fishing benefits between December 29, 2019 and October 3, 2020; Who had employment and/or self-employment income of at least \$5,000 in 2019 or in the 12 months prior to the date of their application; and, Who have not quit their job voluntarily.</p> <p>Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB): The CRB provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks, to workers who have stopped working or had their employment/self-employment income reduced by at least 50% due to COVID-19 and who are not eligible for EI. The application opened in October 2020. Each Canada Recovery Benefit (CRB) eligibility period is a specific 2-week period. When an individual applies, they will receive a \$1,000 (\$900 after taxes withheld) payment for the period that they applied for. The CRB does not renew automatically. An individual must apply for each period separately. One can apply for a maximum of 19 periods out of the total 26 periods available. The 19 periods do not have to be taken consecutively. The benefit ended on October 31st, 2021.</p> <p>The Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit provides \$500 per week for up to two weeks, for workers who are sick or must self-isolate for reasons related to COVID-19 or have underlying conditions that would make them more susceptible to COVID-19 (application opens in October 2020).</p> <p>The Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit provides \$500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household, for eligible people unable to work because they must care for a child under 12 years old or other family members requiring supervised care, who is unable to attend their school or regular care facility, due to COVID-19 (application opens in October 2020). Only one eligible individual in the same household (living as a family at the same address) can apply for the benefit per week.</p>

		<p>(July 2020) Seniors to receive up to \$500 in a one-time payment to offset added costs due to COVID-19. The payment for seniors provides support through a one-time payment: \$300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security pension, and an additional \$200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement. This measure will give a total of \$500 to seniors who receive both the Old Age Security pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement and will help them cover increased costs caused by COVID-19.</p> <p>CESB provides emergency financial relief to students and recent graduates who are unable to work, or unable to find work, due to reasons related to COVID-19. It is also available for those who are working but not making more than \$1,000 (before taxes) over the four-week period for which they are applying. Eligible students can receive \$1,250 per month, plus an additional \$750 per month if they have dependents or a disability for a maximum of \$2,000 per month. Students are only eligible to receive one top-up of \$750 per month.</p> <p>CESB is available for four months from May 2020 to August 2020, but students will be able to retroactively apply for this benefit until September 30, 2020.</p> <p>One-time increase to CCB payment in May 2020. Eligible individuals received up to \$300 more per child with their CCB payment in May 2020.</p> <p>(March 2020) A distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund (305 million CAD) was launched to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities. These funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to support for elders and vulnerable community members; measures to address food insecurity; educational and other support for children; mental health assistance and emergency response services; and preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Eligible wages period extension for the Wage Earner Protection Program (new as of September 11, 2020): In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the eligible wages period for the Wage Earner Protection Program (WEPP) was temporarily extended by up to 6 months.</p> <p>The WEPP is a Government of Canada's program that provides financial support to workers who are owed eligible wages when their employer files for bankruptcy or becomes subject to receivership. Eligible wages include wages, vacation pay, disbursements, severance and termination.</p> <p>The Fish Harvester Benefit to provide income support to eligible self-employed fish harvesters and sharespersons crew who cannot access the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy.</p>
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		The Government of Canada is proposing to introduce legislation for the new Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit, which would provide income support to workers whose employment is interrupted by specific government-imposed public health lockdown scenarios and who are unable to work due to such restrictions. The new benefit would be: \$300 a week, strictly available to workers whose work interruption is a direct result of a government-imposed public health lockdown, available until May 7, 2022, with retroactive application to October 24, 2021. Should the situation warrant it, it is accessible for the entire duration of a government-imposed public health lockdown (up until May 7, 2022), available to workers who are ineligible for Employment Insurance (EI) and those who are eligible for EI, as long as they are not paid benefits through EI for the same period. Individuals whose loss of income or employment is due to their refusal to adhere to a vaccine mandate would not be able to access the benefit.
	Social pensions	<p>Extension of the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance payments if seniors' 2019 income information had not been assessed.</p> <p>A one-time, tax-free, non-reportable payment of up to \$600 was provided to help Canadians with disabilities.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>A distinctions-based Indigenous Community Support Fund (305 million CAD) was launched to address immediate needs in First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Nation communities. These funds could be used for measures including, but not limited to: support for elders and vulnerable community members; measures to address food insecurity; educational and other support for children; mental health assistance and emergency response services; and preparedness measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>(2020) In Canada, the Breakfast Club of Canada created an emergency fund to support community organizations who are providing services and meals to children and families, applying processes and resources in accordance with best health practices and where it is most needed.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) Introduction of a pause on the repayments of Canada Student Loans in the Canada Student Financial Assistance Act, the Canada Student Loans Act, and the Apprenticeship Loans Act in order to introduce a 6-month moratorium on the repayment of Canada Student Loans for all borrowers currently in repayment. The government also waived the interest for full-time and part-time students on the federal portion of Canada Student Loans and Canada Apprentice Loans until March 31, 2023.

		<p>Funding to support a one-semester extension for students whose research scholarships or fellowships ended between March and August 2020 and who intend to continue their studies.</p> <p>One-time additional GST/HST credit payment in April 2020. Individuals who were entitled to the GST/HST credit for the period from July 2019 to June 2020 automatically received the one-time additional GST/HST credit payment in April 2020. This amount was calculated based on the information from 2018 tax return.</p> <p>In Canada rental housing falls under provincial jurisdiction. Many provinces have announced measures to suspend evictions in their respective regions.</p> <p>Homeowners facing financial stress may be eligible for a mortgage payment deferral up to 6 months to help ease the financial burden (includes insured mortgages). The deferral is an agreement between the individuals and the lender. The program was ongoing as of November 2021.</p> <p>Changes to Canada Student Grants and Loans have been introduced so students facing financial challenges from COVID-19 can access and afford post-secondary education. Pending government approvals, the new measures will come into effect on August 1, 2020 and will be available to students for 1 year.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Doubling of Canada Student Grant amounts: In response to increased need for the coming 2020 to 2021 school year, the maximum amount of Canada Student Grants will be doubled. The Canada Student Grant for full-time Students will increase up to a maximum of \$6,000 and the grant for part-time studies to \$3,600. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents will also be doubled. -Exemption from student and spousal contribution: For the 2020 to 2021 school year, students will not be required to make their fixed student contribution; no spousal contribution would be required either. This will ensure that more students with need can qualify for more financial support. -Increasing the cap on Canada Student Loans: For the 2020 to 2021 school year, the weekly maximum loan limit will increase from \$210 to \$350.
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>The usual one-week waiting period will be waived for people who are in quarantine or have been directed to self-isolate and are claiming for Employment Insurance (EI) sickness benefits (estimated cost of \$5M).</p> <p>Eligible workers with no or limited paid-leave benefits through their employers can apply for up to 15 weeks of employment insurance if they cannot work for medical reasons such as cancer, a broken leg, or in this case, being quarantined in a public-health threat. The current EI payment is 55% of earnings up to a maximum of \$573 a week.</p> <p>Self-employed have access to new temporary sickness benefit for sickness absence due to COVID-</p>

		<p>19 or quarantine.</p> <p>Temporary removal of medical certificate requirements (effective October 14, 2020): in response to the COVID-19 emergency, as a temporary measure, employees are not required to provide a medical certificate to take medical leave. For the complete information, consult: Medical leave (unpaid). On September 25, 2021, medical certificate requirements will be reinstated.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>OSFI freezes defined benefit transfers and annuity purchases, extends regulatory deadlines – The Office of the Superintendent of Financial Institutions (OSFI) has announced that it would implement certain regulatory adjustments in light of the extraordinary circumstances posed by the COVID-19 crisis. OSFI has announced a temporary freeze on portability transfers and annuity purchases relating to defined benefit provisions of pension plans. Additionally, the deadlines for certain actions and filing requirements under federal pension legislation have been extended.</p> <p>In their economic response plan, the Canadian Government reduced required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020, in recognition of volatile market conditions and their impact on many seniors' retirement savings. This will provide flexibility to seniors that are concerned that they may be required to liquidate their RRIF assets to meet minimum withdrawal requirements.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[September 2020] On August 20, 2020 the government announced that employment insurance will now be available to more workers in Canada, including those who would not have qualified for EI in the past. These changes to the employment insurance program will be in place for one year, starting on September 27, 2020.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>For the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2020, the Department introduced temporary flexibilities to respond to the needs of employers and youth in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which will continue for 2021 in order to continue to support employers and youth. The following temporary flexibilities for CSJ 2021 include part-time employment. All funded employers may offer part-time placements (for example, fewer than 30 hours per week). In addition, all funded employers may offer job placements between April 26, 2021 and February 26, 2022 and they may amend project and job activities if the proposed project is impacted by COVID-19 restrictions after an agreement is signed. In such cases, the employer should contact Service Canada to discuss potential amendments. All changes must be approved by Service Canada.</p> <p>[February 2021] This program ended on February 3rd, 2021.</p>

	Labor market regulations	<p>(April 2020) The government removed the restriction that allowed international students to work only a maximum of 20 hours per week. This applied to those working in an essential services, such as healthcare, critical infrastructure, or the supply of food or other critical goods.</p> <p>[March 2021] Employees working in a federally regulated workplace may be entitled to two types of unpaid leaves related to COVID-19: Leave related to COVID-19 for up to 4 weeks, and leave related to COVID-19 for up to 38 weeks. The Code does not provide for paid leave related to COVID-19. However, while employees are on leave, they may have access to certain benefits such as the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit, and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.</p> <p>[June 2021] On June 19, 2021, it was changed to: Leave related to COVID-19 for up to 4 weeks, and leave related to COVID-19 for up to 42 weeks.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] Eligible employers are granted 75% wage subsidy up to CAD 847 per week or CAD 58,700 per employee for up to 12 weeks, retroactive to 15 March to prevent job losses and allow for rehiring workers. The subsidy is available for a subset of employers, excluding public bodies, experiencing a drop of at least 15% of their revenues (for period 1), 30% of their revenues (periods 2-4). CEWS is administered by the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) on a period-by-period basis, with each period spanning 4 weeks (with period 1 starting March 15, 2020). The wage subsidy program was put in place for an initial 12-week period from March 15 to June 6, 2020, providing a 75 per cent wage subsidy to eligible employers.</p> <p>[May 2020] On May 15, 2020, the government announced a 12-week extension, to August 29, 2020.</p> <p>[July 2020] On July 17, 2020, the government unveiled a redesign allowing more employers to access wage subsidy support while ensuring that support is better targeted to their needs, and proposed a further extension to December 19, 2020. This redesign also stated that the subsidy rate would vary depending on the revenue loss. Another extension was announced until June 2021 and other enhancements were implemented to the program to better respond to the evolving economic and health situation. These proposed changes will make the program more flexible and more generous, and ensure that the program provides continued support to employers.</p> <p>As of October 21, 2021 the CEWS had helped 5.3 million Canadians with over \$95 billion value of subsidies paid out.</p> <p>[March 2020] A wage subsidy was granted to increase liquidity for eligible businesses by reducing the amount of payroll deductions given to Revenue Canada.</p>

[March 2020] Work-Sharing (WS) is a program that helps employers and employees avoid layoffs when there is a temporary decrease in business activity beyond the control of the employer. The program provides Employment Insurance (EI) benefits to eligible employees who agree to reduce their normal working hours and share the available work while their employer recovers. Effective March 15, 2020 and extended to September 26, 2021, and not limited to one specific sector or industry, the government of Canada is introducing temporary special measures which extend the maximum possible duration of an agreement from 38 weeks to 76 weeks, waive the mandatory cooling off period for employers who have already used the Work-Sharing program, reduce the application requirements, expand eligibility to employers affected by accepting business who have been in business for only 1 year rather than 2, eliminate the burden of having to provide sales/production figures at the same time, and expand eligibility for staff who are essential to recovery, Government Business Enterprises (GBEs) and non-for-profit organization employers.

The Government of Canada has extended these measures to September 24, 2022.

For the Canada Summer Jobs program in 2020, the Department introduced temporary flexibilities to respond to the needs of employers and youth in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which will continue for 2021 in order to continue to support employers and youth. The following temporary flexibilities for CSJ 2021 include wage subsidies. Funded public and private sector employers will be eligible to receive a wage subsidy reimbursement of up to 75% of the provincial or territorial minimum hourly wage.

[February 2021] This program ended on February 3rd, 2021.

[June 2021] The Canada Recovery Hiring Program (CRHP) was the second pandemic-related wage subsidy introduced. It is designed such that, as support from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program declines, eligible employers can benefit from the CRHP as they reopen. It started on June 6th, 2021 and was planned to run until November 20, 2021. Most types of employers who are eligible for the CEWS will also be eligible for the CRHP, however, for-profit corporations may only be eligible if they are Canadian-controlled private corporations or cooperative corporations that are eligible for the small business deduction. Partnerships may be eligible if at least half of the interest in the partnership is held by employers who are eligible for the CRHP. The CRHP uses the employer's revenue drop percentage to determine if they are eligible for the subsidy.

[October 2021] On October 21st, 2021, the government proposed to extend the program until May 2022.

Caribbean (Netherlands)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(April 2020) The government launched a Food Package Support for households who do not have enough money for food. Around 680 households suffering from food shortages as a result of poverty were supported in Bonaire. This concerned approximately 480 families with children and 200 households without children. The benefit included the following: (1) 400 hygiene packages with information material for low-literate persons, (2) monthly food package for all households in need, with basic supplies such as rice, pasta, oil, canned vegetables and sometimes fresh vegetables, (3) weekly breakfast package for families with children, who previously received this through school, and (4) hot meals at least once a week for the most urgent households, provided through many private initiatives and actions by restaurants.
	School feeding	(April 2020) The government launched a Food Package Support for households who do not have enough money for food. Around 680 households suffering from food shortages as a result of poverty were supported in Bonaire. This concerned approximately 480 families with children and 200 households without children. The benefit included the weekly breakfast package for families with children, who previously received this through school.
	Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>The government reduced the costs of electricity and water bills of households and companies by nearly USD 60.00 per month as of May 1st until the end of 2020. This measure involved a total budget of EUR\$ 7.8 million, which were raised by the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy (for electricity) and the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management (for drinking water). The measure was implemented from May to December 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) Households in need could qualify for support when paying fixed costs such as rent, WEB or internet bills.</p> <p>(March 2020) The Belastingdiens / CN took measures to mitigate the consequences of the Corona virus for entrepreneurs and private individuals by applying a special deferral of tax payments, as well</p>	

		as giving special extensions for all assessment and tax returns for a period of three months. This included General Spending Tax (ABB), Wage Tax (LH), Income Tax (IB), Gaming Tax, Proceeds Tax and Property Tax.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>March 2020] To prevent employers from having to dismiss employees, the government launched a temporary emergency regulation for employers and independent entrepreneurs faced with a loss of turnover (at least 20%) on Bonaire, Saba and St. Eustatius. Employers received a contribution towards labor costs, which also covered independent entrepreneurs or people who were employees, but no longer have an employer because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, the arrangement was put in place for a period of three months, until June 12th 2020. It was later extended until July 12th 2021. To be eligible for the 80% compensation of daily wages, entrepreneurs must have faced a loss of turnover of at least 20% and keep staff working.</p> <p>Employers making use of this emergency measure are obliged to keep their staff in service and to continue to pay them in full, for which they are therefore compensated to a considerable extent.</p> <p>[Extension-May 2021] The deadline for the measure was extended until October 2021 and for the fifth time, entrepreneurs in the Caribbean Netherlands can receive a fixed-cost compensation from the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate (EZK). The amount of support can range from \$500 to \$400.000 and is calculated based on turnover figures. An application can be made starting on the 3rd of May 2021</p>

Cayman Islands (UK)

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Seafarers, Veterans & persons on Permanent Financial Assistance were provided a one-time payment of KYD \$425 on Friday, 27 March 2020 in recognition of the extra and anticipated expenses that are likely to be incurred by these individuals and their families in buying additional supplies due to the rapidly evolving COVID-19 situation.</p> <p>(June 2020) For Caymanian individuals impacted negatively by the tourism industry downturn, the government has provided cash transfers of \$1,000 each for three months.</p> <p>(July 2020) The National Gallery, in partnership with the Ministry of Culture and the private sector, are offering one-time artist grants of \$1,000 per artist. Initially, 20 grants were available on a first come, first served basis. To qualify, artists should be reliant on their artwork as their primary source of income and should be experiencing significant loss of income due to the pandemic.</p> <p>(June 2020) The government relaunched the Ready2work program due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The program was designed to provide industry-specific training and re-tooling of Caymanian workers to better prepare them for the workforce. This included: paid internships (by employer and/or by the government when required); support for childcare if applicable and counselling and coaching. Benefits include:</p> <p>1) For the job seeker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stipend provided along with support services such as childcare, counselling and career coaching.- Experienced and knowledgeable facilitators to deliver an establish Employability 101 training program.- Provides a structured pathway to employment whilst addressing barriers to employment.- Opportunity for full-time employment that aligns with the needs of both participants.- Dedicated Officer and HR Support to ensure they are provided with the tools and support to ensure a successful connection with employment. <p>2) For the employer:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Subsidy offered for 6 months.- Potential candidates are provided with training and development of employability and soft skills to better prepare them for accessing employment.- Opportunity to fill job vacancies with Caymanians.- Make a contribution to the development of Caymanians ensuring a vibrant economy.

		<p>- HR support and a dedicated officer to support with any performance issues or barriers to employment that would impact the ability to be successful.</p> <p>(June 2020) The government implemented a one-time honorarium payment of \$1,000 for those public servants delivering essential services during the COVID-response. This stipend was paid by participating agencies and within the civil service.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) Work permit holders who urgently required food supplies and who had insufficient income or savings to sustain themselves were eligible for a KY\$150 (US\$180) food voucher from April 1st, 2020. The voucher provided support over a two-week period to those who qualified until the airport reopened or they could resume their jobs.</p> <p>As of May 21st, 2020, nearly 24,000 reusable cloth masks had been distributed across the Cayman Islands by the Community Policing Branch of the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service. This included some 21,500 on Grand Cayman, 2,300 on Cayman Brac and 87 on Little Cayman.</p>
	School feeding	<p>The Cayman Islands government will organize the voucher and daily lunch program with distribution through school cafeteria providers and NGO partners. The Department of Education has support from Kiwanis and Feed Our Future (FOF) to run the voucher and daily lunch program. At the Government Primary school level, Feed our Future will continue to work through school canteens to prepare hot meals for delivery through the help of their dedicated bus services provider from the week of March 23rd 2020. At the Government Secondary school level, Feed our Future will be working with school counsellors to distribute supermarket food vouchers in staged intervals across the period of school closure to families in order to ensure access to food.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Support for Rent and Utilities was provided to Needs Assessment Unit program. This was extended from three to six months. Beneficiaries must have had a household income lower than KYD \$3,000 per month to be eligible. According to the press, 1,653 families have benefited from this policy.</p> <p>The government launched the COVID 19 Farmers' Assistance Program to increase farmers' capacity to yield greater quantities of high-quality produce and livestock. Each successful applicant received a voucher card to purchase seeds, fertilizers, and other essential agricultural inputs from the Department of Agriculture. The program, which began in December 2020, was developed to stimulate increased agricultural activity by providing USD \$1 million in funding for farmers to use towards the purchase of products and services from the Department of Agriculture.</p>
	Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	From April until June 2020, the Ministry of Health in conjunction with the Health Insurance Commission offered an initial assistance program to those persons who needed help paying their health insurance premiums. During that period, 1,250 people received assistance at a cost of approximately \$400,000.
	Pensions	The government allowed an emergency withdrawal of pensions, subject to certain provisions. Through the National Pensions (Amendment) Law, 2020 on April 23 rd , 2020, eligible persons could withdraw a single lump sum of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 100% of the balance up to KYD \$10,000; and - In cases where the balance exceeds KYD \$10,000, up to KYD \$10,000 plus up to 25% of the remaining balance. There was no requirement to repay the withdrawal amount.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] On April 20, a six-month temporary suspension of pension contributions was announced for employers. The pension holiday commenced on April 1st, 2020, and it is automatic for all employers and employees, including self-employed persons. [Extended - September 2020] The pension holiday, which should have expired on September 30, has been extended to December 31. [Extended - December 2020] The cabinet has approved a six-month extension of the pension holiday until June 30, 2021. [Extended - June 2021] On June 17, the Hon. Deputy Premier announced the extension of the national pension holiday until December 31, 2021.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[June 2020] On June 12, the Ready2work program relaunched due to the COVID 19 pandemic. As part of the program, job seekers receive labor market employment services and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A structured pathway to employment whilst addressing barriers to employment. - Opportunity for full-time employment that aligns with the needs of both participants. - Dedicated Officer and HR Support to ensure they are provided with the tools and support to ensure a successful connection with employment.
		[June 2020] As part of the Ready2work program, workers receive industry-specific training and re-tooling to better prepare them for the workforce. The program provides job seekers with training and development of employability and soft skills to better prepare them for accessing employment. [June 2020] The Passport2Success (P2S) program, which is a 16-week soft skills training program that bridges the gap between high school and the world of work for young people aged 17 to 24 years, will be moved online. As of June 2020, more than 500 young people have participated in the 10-year-old program. Cohort#31 starts on June 22, 2020 via Zoom. The program aims to increase employment skills for Caymanians, while addressing barriers to employment such as attitude and behavior. It develops workplace readiness skills and addresses psycho-social-emotional issues.

	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 27, the government introduced a guideline related to labor rights. Employers terminating or temporarily laying off workers as a result of the coronavirus pandemic must upon termination pay severance pay of one week's wage, at the employee's latest basic wage, for each completed twelve-month period of employment. The employment period is to reflect any time during which the employee worked for any previous owners of the same business. Employees are also entitled to any earned vacation leave, sales commission owed, as well as gratuities earned. In the cases of temporary termination, employers do not need to pay severance to their employees.</p> <p>[Extended - April 2020] Under the Labor (Extension of Severance Pay Period) Regulations 2020, the current 30-day layoff period where severance pay is not required by the employer, has been extended to 60 days.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 21, the Immigration (Transition) (Work Permit Exemptions) Regulations 2020 were passed by the Cabinet to permit non-Caymanians recruited by the Health Services Authority or by any private hospital to the posts of medical personnel to be temporarily exempt from certain provisions of the Immigration (Transition) Law 2018.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[June 2020] As part of the Ready2work program, designed to provide industry specific training and re-tooling of Caymanian workers to better prepare them for the workforce and relaunched on June 12, 2020, due to COVID 19 pandemic, job seekers receive a 6-month placement with a business and a stipend provided along with support services such as childcare, counselling and career coaching. Employers, on the other hand, are provided with a wage subsidy for one new employee for 6 months.</p>

Central African Republic

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The World Bank is supporting additional financing to the ongoing Projet d'Appui Aux Communautés Affectées Par Le Déplacement (PACAD), which currently supports communities affected by displacement. This additional financing will support cash transfers to those impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The project is designed in close collaboration with partners to maximize synergies with efforts by UN Agencies such as WFP, United National Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP).</p> <p>Premiums of 1 billion to health personnel involved in the fight against the pandemic. A delay in payment until November 2nd, 2020 had caused a strike amongst healthcare workers.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The Programme d'appui en réponse à la pandémie de Covid-19 (PABRC-RCA) provides direct support to the most vulnerable households. About 1,000 households, with 50% women at the head, will receive food kits.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers	Direct support to the most vulnerable households. About 500 farms, half of which are headed by women, benefited from sustainable agricultural inputs.	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	The government introduced intermittent work for civil servants in the public and private sectors.
	Wage subsidies	

Chad

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Vulnerable households in the capital N'Djamena were selected to receive food aid through NGOs and local community structures, starting in May 2020. Each food parcel was composed of oil, rice, beans and sugar. The program is coordinated by the National Food Security Office (ONASA) and plans to roll out food distribution to other parts of the country as well.</p> <p>The National Solidarity and Support Fund was established to close geographic and coverage gaps in the provision of existing social protection programs and to provide emergency aid to vulnerable individuals across the country. The Fund collects donations from the government, private sector, and NGOs and is envisaged to fund a variety of social protection and relief measures. The Fund will aid vulnerable populations across the country and it will reach out to provinces not covered by existing projects.</p>
	School feeding	Take home ration to 120,000 vulnerable students covering 3 months. This will begin in the week of March 23, 2021.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Electricity and water bill of vulnerable households will be paid by the State throughout the territory for six months for water and three months for electricity.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Chile

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(May 2020) The Ministry of Social Development has introduced the Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia – a new, transitory transfer program intended for households that depend on informal work for their livelihood. Nearly 2 million households are expected to receive the transfer which will be granted for a maximum of three months. The first payout corresponds to 100 percent of the full transfer amount, the second payout 85 percent and the third 65 percent. The transfer amount depends on household type (whether the household is exclusively informal, or whether the household is vulnerable and partially informal) and size of the household.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The policy was extended from the second payment onwards. Households which do not fulfil the requirement of earning informal incomes but have at least one member older than 65 years who is also beneficiary of other benefits (Pensión Básica Solidaria de Vejez (PBSV) or Aporte Previsional Solidario (APS) or with a total pension less than PBSV) or one member beneficiary of Pensión Básica Solidaria de Invalidez received the cash transfer from the second payment onwards. • There were up to 6 payments • According to the government’s website, as of February 25th, 2021, the government spent \$3,140,403,000M, which involved an average of 2,556,915 households and 6,670,811 individuals between May 2020 and February 2021. • According to the government’s website, as of April 2021, the government spent \$4,982 billion, involving 12,121,438 individuals. <p>(November 2020) Covid Christmas Bonus: a monetary support for households whose sources of income were affected by the pandemic generated by the Covid-19 virus. This benefit was automatically delivered to families who received the sixth payment of the Family Emergency Income (IFE). The amount of the bonus varied according to the phase in which the commune of residence was from November 24th to November 30th, 2020. Each member of households in communes in phase 1 received \$ 55,000, while this was reduced to \$25,000 for those living in communes on phases 2, 3 or 4. The payment of this benefit started on December 21st, 2020. According to the presidency’s website, the measure aimed to reach 3.3 M households, involving 8.2 M individuals.</p> <p>(August 2020) Covid Transport Bonus: this benefit consists of a one-off bonus of \$ 350,000 that can be requested by micro-entrepreneurs and drivers of passenger transport (both for drivers and vehicle owners). More precisely, this measure involved taxi drivers, urban and rural groups, executive</p>

taxis, tourism, urban and rural buses and minibuses, and school transport vehicles. This payment will be made within a maximum period of 20 business days after the start of the process. According to the General Treasury's website, the measure planned to reach 74,159 drivers and 107,146 vehicle owners from September 12 to November 12, 2020. (April 2021) The program was reintroduced with a one-time CLP 500,000 cash benefit that is given to vehicle owners and holders, or drivers.

(April 2020) Bono de Emergencia COVID-19: this grant was awarded to those families that belong to the Chile Seguridades y Oportunidades program and the Family Subsidy, and to those households in extreme poverty (60% more poorer, according to the Registro Social de Hogares (RSH)). This one-off bonus implied a cash transfer of CLP\$ 50,000 per household which is paid through RUT account of BancoEstado RUT Account, deposited into that account. Beneficiaries are automatically subscribed to this program, but in case they do not receive it, they can claim the transfer within one year from April 2, 2020. According to the government's website, the measure implied a total actual budget of CLP\$ 132,993 M and 1,528,459 households.

(March 2020) The government introduced a monthly subsidy aimed at formal workers aged between 18 and 65 years old. The Guaranteed Minimum Income (IMG) allows guaranteeing a minimum wage for those who receive less than CLP\$ 380,000 (gross wage) or equivalent to a net salary of CLP\$ 300,000. To be beneficiary of this policy, workers must not be within the richest 10%. The subsidy will be CLP\$41,092 for those who earn a salary of CLP\$326,000 (maximum subsidy). The subsidy is paid in the bank account indicated by the beneficiary or in person at the BancoEstado and ServiEstado branches. According to IPC-IG, this measure involved a total planned budget of USD 200,000,000.

(April 2020) The government launched a bonus equivalent to the Unique Family Subsidy (SUF) bonus, which aimed at benefitting 2 million people without formal work. The benefit involved a monthly transfer of \$50,000 per household. The one-off bonus is paid through the Instituto de Previsión Social.

(August 2020) Middle-class protection plan: this program is aimed at supporting the middle-class families that have suffered a reduction in their incomes as a result of the COVID 19 pandemic. This is a one-off benefit which consists of a maximum bonus of \$ 500,000 to all workers who have gross formal income between \$ 400,000 and \$ 1,500,000 per month, and who have experienced a decrease of at least 30%. When income is greater than \$1,500,000, the benefit amount will be as follows: \$400,000 for incomes between \$1,500,000 and \$1,600,000, \$300,000 for incomes between \$1,600,000 and \$1,700,000, \$200,000 for incomes between \$1,700,000 and \$1,800,000, and \$100,000 for incomes between \$1,900,000 and \$2,000,000. On May 27, 2021, the middle-class bonus was extended until August and more vulnerable households became eligible (with a cost of 3.3 percent of GDP).

	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The government announced the program “Alimentos Para Chile”, a new program that delivered food baskets to vulnerable families in May 2020. Approximately 2.5 million baskets of nonperishable food and hygiene products were delivered directly to the homes of the beneficiaries. The government planned to reach 70 % of the most vulnerable through this program. A second round was announced, aiming the distribution of 3 million boxes of food (1 million and a half to the regions of the country and 1 million and a half to the Metropolitan Region), totalling nearly 5.6 million boxes (3 million families)
	School feeding	(March 2020) Distribution of food packages out of special buses, at schools or from alternative distribution sites. Some schools remained open only for the food distribution. The government has designed a food delivery system to continue to benefit 1,600,000 children and adolescents. Individual baskets were delivered, containing breakfasts and lunches for ten (10) business days
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Postponement of payment of the first installment of contributions. The payment of the first contribution installment for April 2020 was extended for three months, with no fees nor interest, together with the second (June), third (September) and fourth (November) contribution installments. Real estate owners who have a tax assessment that did not exceed \$ 133 million as of March 2020 were considered beneficiaries of this measure.</p> <p>Forgiveness of interest and fines for taxes and late declarations and facilities to enter into payment agreements in the Treasury. The government provided these measures to dependent and independent workers whose annual income did not exceed \$90 annual tax units (CLP\$ 4,400,000 per month) for April, May and June of 2020.</p> <p>Reduction to 0% of the Stamp Tax for 6 months, starting on April 1st, 2020.</p> <p>For all workers with monthly income over \$ 400,000, who have experienced a decrease in their income of 30% or more, a soft loan granted by the government will be offered, on a voluntary basis. For each month of reduction in income and up to a maximum of three months, the loan may be requested within a period of five months following August 8, 2020. Exceptionally, those who do not have access to the state contribution directly (bonus for middle class families), they may request a solidarity loan for an additional month (that is, for up to four months in total). The loan will cover up to 70% of the decrease in people’s formal income, obtaining up to \$ 650,000 per month. The loan must be requested from the Internal Revenue Service (SII) 100% online. It does not have an interest rate (it is only readjusted by inflation) and will have a term of four years to be paid, with a one-year grace period. The first installment will be paid in April 2022 and will correspond to 10% of the total</p>

		<p>requested. The three remaining installments, corresponding to April 2023, 2024 and 2025 will be 30% each. To facilitate the payment of fees, a 3% payroll discount is established as of September 2021 for dependent workers; an additional withholding of 3% on the fee slip; and an increase in the payment of Provisional Monthly Payments, of 3%, for individual businessmen and women (own account). These amounts will be used exclusively to pay the solidarity loan payment. The loan will be repaid by people only if they earn income to pay each installment. The maximum amount of each installment will be up to 5% of the annual income. Meanwhile, if at the end of the four years the person did not obtain enough money to pay the loan, the balance that remains pending will be forgiven.</p> <p>(August 2020) The measure Middle-class protection plan also included a postponement of mortgage loans, incorporating state guarantees on deferred installments through an agreement with the banks.</p> <p>(August 2020) The Middle-class protection plan also involved having access to financial aid of up to \$ 250,000 per month, for three months, to pay part of the rental value of a home. Beneficiaries of this initiative were families who rent a home, who proved the loss of employment or decrease of more than 30% in the income amounts and who have a lease contract for a maximum amount of \$ 600,000 per month.</p> <p>(August 2020) An exceptional application process was opened for higher education students who need to finance their studies through State Guaranteed Credit (CAE), and who meet the following requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • They do not have other student benefits (either gratuity, scholarship and/or credit). • Financial situation has been affected after the last application process for student benefits in March 2020.
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>Leave with pay (guaranteed through the Solidarity Unemployment Fund) for all workers, public and private, who due to emergency reasons must remain at home without the possibility of remote work (USD \$ 2 billion).</p> <p>Within the Protected Parenting Law, a regulation that supports mothers, fathers and caregivers during the COVID-19 pandemic, two benefits were given related to care and upbringing of both newborn babies and children born after 2013:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) COVID-19 parental preventive medical leave: This is an extension of the paid leave for those who have received the common parental postnatal leave. 2) Unemployment benefit: On the other hand, mothers, fathers and caregivers of children born since January 1st, 2013, are allowed to benefit from the Unemployment Insurance payment. To be

		beneficiary of this measure, people must have contributed for three continuous months prior to suspension or for six continuous or discontinuous months. Initially, this measure was in place until September 14 th , 2020. It was extended for a period of 90 days.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Early withdrawal - It offers the possibility to citizens who have pension savings in the AFPs (Pension Fund Administration institutions), to withdraw up to 10% of their savings, up to a maximum amount of approximately 4,300,000. This measure has been active since July 30, 2020, and there have been 3 withdrawal cycles as of October 2021, with a 4th one that is currently in the Senate.
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[July 2020] Within the Protected Parenting Law, mothers, fathers and caregivers of children born since January 1st, 2013, were allowed to benefit from Unemployment Insurance payments. To be a beneficiary of this measure, people must have contributed for three continuous months prior to the suspension or for six consecutive or non-consecutive months. [September 2020] Initially, this measure was in place until September 14th, 2020. It was extended for a period of 90 days.[October 2020] This measure ended on October 6, 2021.</p> <p>[July 2020] People are permitted to perform a withdrawal of 10% of AFC (Administradora de Fondos de Cesantía). It is a benefit for people who have contributed to the AFC, but do not meet the requirements to access Unemployment Insurance. The benefit application began on July 30th, 2020 and allowed people to withdraw the total balance without showing documents of the termination of the employment relationship.</p> <p>[April 2020] As per the Employment Protection Law, if an employment contract has been suspended by act of authority or by mutual agreement, the worker will receive income through Unemployment Insurance, funded by his/her Individual Account or, in case of insufficient funds, by the Solidarity Unemployment Fund. The company must continue to pay workers' pensions and health contributions, excluding contributions for work-related accidents. The validity of the employment protection law is until October 6, 2021, in the case of contract suspension.</p> <p>[September 2020] Through (Law 21,269), private household workers became eligible for unemployment insurance.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[June 2020] Through Law 21,232, the government introduced a change in the social security contributions, which from June 2020 were fully paid by the employer. This meant that employees were exempted from contributing to the Social Security system.</p> <p>Through Law 21,232, the government introduced a changed in the social security contributions, which from June 2020 were 100% paid by the employer. This means that employees are exempted from contributing to the Social Security system.</p>

Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>Servicio Nacional de Capacitación y Empleo (SENCE) has 46 free virtual courses related to ICT, entrepreneurship generation, and soft skills. A platform was offered to organizations to connect their courses, which have an average attendance of 75%. Through an agreement with the Family Foundation, access to computers and Wi-Fi in 84 Digital Family Centers nationwide was provided to those who needed it.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[July 2020] The government introduced different protocols and recommendations that economic sectors must follow to reduce the risk of contagion of COVID-19 in the workplace. This includes Protocolo Nacional Modo Covid de Vida, Step-by-Step protocol, protocols for restaurants, cafes, fishing, wine cellars, cinemas, construction businesses, delivery service, grocery stores, tourism businesses, gyms and casinos.</p> <p>[June 2020] Through Law 21,240, the government announced sanctions for employers who order their employees to go to their place of work while they are in quarantine or mandatory sanitary isolation decreed by the health authority.</p> <p>[January 2021] Through Resolution 66, the government introduced sanitary measures for the agriculture sector, involving modes of transport and use of face masks, among others.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] The Employment Protection Law allows for the temporary suspension of employment contracts either by an act of authority or by mutual agreement. Under the provision for the temporary suspension of the employment contract by an act of authority, if the government decides to close the economic activity, individual work contracts will be suspended temporarily. Workers who must remain at home without the possibility of carrying out their work, may suspend the employment contract while maintaining the contractual link with the company, but will receive income through Unemployment Insurance, funded by their Individual Account or, in case of insufficient funds, by the Solidarity Unemployment Fund. The company must continue to pay workers' pensions and health contributions, excluding contributions for work-related accidents. Under the temporary suspension of the contract by mutual agreement, employers whose activity is totally or partially affected by the crisis generated by the Covid-19 pandemic, outside the validity of the act or declaration of the authority, can individually or collectively agree with their workers affiliated to Unemployment Insurance a pact of temporary suspension of the employment contract. This agreement will have the same effects and will be requested in the same way as the suspension of the contract by act of the authority. The agreements may have a maximum extension of 6 months as indicated in the Employment Protection Law.</p> <p>The validity of the employment protection law is until October 6, 2021, in the case of contract suspension.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Employment Protection Law includes a provision for the reduction of working hours by mutual agreement. Employers may agree with the worker individually or collectively to reduce the working day by up to 50%. In this case, the employer must continue to pay the remuneration and</p>

		<p>social security contributions proportional to the day agreed with the worker. Therefore, the worker will receive, in addition to their remuneration and contributions, a supplement charged to their Individual Unemployment Insurance Account and, once exhausted, against the Solidarity Unemployment Fund that will be up to 25% of their remuneration, if the reduction in working hours is 50% (with a ceiling of \$ 225,000 per month). In addition, they will keep benefits such as bonuses, allowances and other exceptional or sporadic items. The validity of the employment protection law is until December 31, 2021, in the case of temporary reduction of working hours.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through Law 21,220, the government modified the Labor Code to introduce the option of telework, including the right to disconnect and to have elements of personal protection and adequate management of occupational risks.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[September 2020] Return benefit: aimed at companies with at least 20% decrease in their sales that had suspended workers and have returned to work. Workers must have a gross monthly remuneration equal to or less than 3 minimum monthly income (\$ 979,500). The subsidy involved delivering \$160,000 pesos per month for each worker, with a maximum limit of 6 months. In the case of women, young people between 18 and 24 years old, people with disabilities and beneficiaries of a disability pension, the amount of the benefit is \$ 200,000 per month. This measure is set to end on December 31, 2021.</p> <p>[September 2020] Hiring benefit: subsidy was delivered as a percentage of the worker's gross monthly remuneration, for up to 8 or 10 months, depending on the size of the firm and the type of subsidy benefit. The subsidy was equal to 65% of the gross monthly remuneration for women over 18 years of age, people with disabilities, men from 18 years to 23 years with income less than \$450,000, and \$290,000 for the same group of beneficiaries with income between \$ 450,000 and \$ 979,500. The subsidy was equal to 50% of the gross monthly remuneration for men aged 24 years old or more with a gross monthly remuneration less than \$ 500,000, and \$250,000 for the same group of beneficiaries with an income between \$500,000 and \$979,000. This measure is set to end on December 31, 2021.</p>

China

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>A government policy directive (6 March 2020) instructed local governments to extend coverage of "dibao" (Minimum Livelihood Guarantee Scheme) and temporary assistance programs, simplify the application and approval process, and increase the benefit level to cover the families who are affected by the epidemic (both directly through infection and indirectly through economic impacts). Examples are available at local level (information collected by WBG): i) In Hubei province, RMB 500 for urban Dibao recipients and RMB 300 for rural Dibao recipients were transferred as temporary living allowance subsidies. Temporary assistance (emergency help in nature) supported more than 13000 people with cash transfer of RMB 30 million and provided temporary resettlement for more than 6000 people in 69 sites. ii) In Chongqing, a transfer of twice the monthly Dibao amount was introduced as temporary assistance to some recipients if they were infected. iii) In Shenzhen, the amount of cash transfer as temporary assistance could range between 2-18 times of the local Dibao threshold based on the individual recipient's situation. The total top up was RMB 156 billion (\$22 billion) by June 2020 and total new beneficiaries totaled 62 million by March 2020.</p> <p>A one-off cash transfer for retention migrant population in Wuhan was provided in the amount of RMB 3000.</p> <p>Unemployment social assistance was provided for up to 6 months for the unemployed not eligible for unemployment social insurance benefits (covered 2.38 million workers by March 2020).</p> <p>The government provided emergency income support to the stranded population. The emergency assistance cost RMB 37.6 million (\$5.3 million) by March 2020 and benefited 15,000 who received cash transfers and 6,000 who received temporary resettlement by March 2020.</p> <p>The central government announced multiple measures in January 2021 to continue to support populations impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, including: "...subsistence allowance recipients, extremely poor people, and low-income family members suffering from COVID-19, temporary assistance will be provided in a timely manner as required, and the assistance can be increased on a case-by-case basis. For urban and rural residents who are unable to go out for work, business or employment due to the impact of the epidemic, resulting in a decline in income and difficulties in basic living conditions, the government will simplify confirmation procedures for subsistence</p>

		<p>allowance. In areas severely affected by the epidemic, additional aid payments, temporary living allowances and living supplies, and withdrawal from the subsistence allowance can be postponed."</p> <p>The government announced that uninsured and unemployed migrant workers, such as unemployed migrant workers, who meet the conditions, will be granted a one-time temporary relief fund from the place of employment or usual residence.</p> <p>Children left unattended due to parents or guardians in quarantine or anti-epidemic work were offered cash transfers, care and health services.</p>
	Social pensions	The government increased the inter-provincial allocation reserve of the basic old-age pension fund from 3.5% to 4% to better support low-income regions.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The government provided emergency income support to the stranded population. The emergency assistance cost RMB 37.6 million (\$5.3 million) by March 2020 and benefited 15,000 who received cash transfers and 6,000 who received temporary resettlement by March 2020.
	School feeding	The government increased the inter-provincial allocation reserve of the basic old-age pension fund from 3.5% to 4% to better support low-income regions.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Circular 19 extends the February 2020 statutory tax filing deadline to February 24, 2020. This can be further extended by local tax authorities where the outbreak is identified as serious (such as in Hubei province). Affected taxpayers and withholding agents can apply for further extension. Circular 19 also encourages local tax authorities and taxpayers to deal with tax matters online or via mobile application.</p> <p>Full tax deductibility of the following types of donations made by individuals: (1) donations in cash or in kind, made by individuals through non-profit social organizations or governmental authorities at the county level or above or their subordinate departments; and (2) donations in kind, made directly by individuals to designated hospitals undertaking the tasks of the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.</p> <p>Exemption of Value-Added Tax for a wide range of consumer services ("lifestyle services"), including medical services, catering, accommodation services, and sundry personal services (e.g., hairdressing, laundry).</p> <p>VAT exemption for small-scaled taxpayers in Hubei and VAT collection rate reduction (from 3% to 1%) for small-scaled taxpayers in other areas. The exemption/reduction was valid between March 1st and May 31st, 2020.</p>

		<p>The government continued to implement price controls to ensure food security as of January 2021. Ministries are mandated to maintain the price stability of important commodities, strengthen price monitoring and market supervision, and ensure the production of daily necessities such as rice, noodles, oil, vegetables, meat, eggs, and milk during the Spring Festival Normal, unimpeded transportation, adequate supply, stable prices, and reliable quality, and guarantee the needs of urban and rural residents for materials during the festival.</p> <p>Reimbursement of online consultations for chronic and common diseases from the national medical insurance fund.</p> <p>CNY 3.71billion (USD 525 million) of price subsidies offered to people in need.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>The 2020 Government Work Report urges a series of measures to meet people's basic living needs. Those include raising government subsidies for basic medical insurance for rural and non-working urban residents. Government subsidies per capita will be increased by 30 yuan to no less than 550 yuan per person per year.</p> <p>Delivery fees of internet-based medical services were included in the scope of the Medical Insurance payments.</p> <p>The payment of employees' medical insurance can be reduced by half in the provinces, for a maximum period of 5 months.</p> <p>Medical, nursing and related staff not previously covered by work-related injury insurance were also eligible to receive work-related injury benefits and treatment.</p>
	Pensions	Basic pension increases for retirees. Starting January 1, 2020, the basic pension level is adjusted by 5 percent of the 2019 monthly basic pension for retirees. Nearly 300 million people in the country receive pensions.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The finance ministry cut social insurance payments by RMB 1 trillion to incentivize companies to retain employees.</p> <p>Between February and June 2020, all enterprises enrolled in China's Social Security Schemes are exempt from making employer contributions to pension, unemployment, and work-related injury insurance schemes. For instance, this is the case of the Hubei province. For other provinces and cities (except Hubei), micro, small, and medium-sized enterprises are exempt from making employer contributions to pension, unemployment, and work-related injury insurance schemes. Large</p>

		<p>enterprises may reduce employer contributions to pension, unemployment, and work-related injury insurance schemes by 50%. (RMB 600 billion (\$84.6 billion) by June 2020)</p> <p>The conditions to receive UI contribution refunds were relaxed to allow extended coverage of the benefits. Governments encouraged using UI refunds for wage subsidies or worker retention, for SMEs, so that these funds will also benefit workers, which reflects the objective of protecting jobs rather than firms. By the end of March, it was reported that 1.46 million enterprises received RMB 22.2 billion (USD 3.2 billion) refunds from the unemployment insurance funds, covering 49.51 million workers. The government has opened access to online platforms or APPs for firms and workers to seek various UI subsidies. The amount varies by locality, but for example in Nanjing, it has been 100 yuan per worker per day.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost: RMB 5.6 billion (\$790 million) by May 2020 • Beneficiaries: 5.9 million migrant workers by March 2020 <p>In China's major cities (Beijing / Shanghai / Guangdong), companies that are found to be in temporary difficulties owing to the coronavirus outbreak and do not lay off employees or minimize the layoffs can get a refund of unemployment insurance premiums.</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>Promotion of online recruitment and training, vocational training subsidy.</p> <p>New vocational skill training program launched to stabilize employment for migrant workers - enterprises subsidized to train migrant workers especially from impoverished counties.</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security pilots an electronic vocational skills training coupons system.</p> <p>In addition, a wide range of policy measures have been announced for SMEs at the regional level in China. These include subsidies for training and purchasing teleworking services.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government launched a new vocational skills training program to stabilize employment for migrant workers returning to their hometowns. This included professional online training courses in accordance with employment intentions, regional characteristics and industrial needs.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>[July 2020] The State Council of China issued a policy supporting flexible employment arrangements including part-time employment opportunities.</p>

		In addition, a wide range of policy measures have been announced for SMEs at the regional level in China. These include subsidies for training and purchasing teleworking services.
	Wage subsidies	

Colombia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>New cash transfer program, “solidarity income”, included monthly payments of COP 160,000 (\$108) for informal workers and their families. This involved 3 million households identified via SISBEN and tax collection databases. Since its creation in April 2020, the program has progressively increased coverage until reaching the initial goal of 3 million households (April 2020 - March 2021). The government announced the extension of the program until June 2021. In June 2021, it was announced that the benefit would be granted until August 2021 and then the program has been extended until December 2023. The government will reassess then if it continues or drops.</p> <p>(Familias en Acción): Through Decree 417/20 on March 17th, 2020, Familias en Acción has made bi-monthly additional cash payments to 2.6M households (10,548,119 individuals) since May 2020 until February 2021. The program will continue to make additional cash transfers until June 2021. The transfer is of COP 145,000 (\$98 in 2011 PPP). The program also horizontally expanded to include households previously excluded due to conditionality non-compliance.</p> <p>(Jóvenes en Acción): Through Decree 417/20 on March 17th, 2020, Jóvenes en Acción has made bi-monthly additional cash payment from May 2020 until February 2021 (COP 356,000, or \$240). The program also horizontally expanded to 296,222 beneficiaries (208,430 people were benefiting from the program prior to Covid). The program will continue to make additional cash transfers until June 2021.</p> <p>The program “Bogotá Solidaria en Casa”, now “Ingreso Mínimo Garantizado”, has provided poor and vulnerable households of the district with a transfer that was estimated to cover 70% of their expenditure. Conditions and requirements include comply with quarantine and not having been reported of domestic violence. The benefit was COP 423,000 (\$286) for the poor and COP 178,000 for the vulnerable (\$120), delivered through bank operators and operators with mechanisms for dispersing payments through cell phones. This program involved the distribution of vouchers through cards to the population which could be used to make withdrawals or purchases. As of September 2020, this measure has benefited 402,620 households identified via the 2018 Census, SISBEN, and District’s own data (plus data from cell phone operators).</p> <p>Through Decree 486 of March 27th, 2020, the government launched economic support for those workers and producers within the agriculture sector. This benefit only applies for the elderly who</p>

needed to self-isolate and were not beneficiaries of other social programs. According to the press, the aim of this measure was to benefit nearly 500,000 elderly in vulnerable conditions, through monetary support for COP\$ 80,000 for two months. The budget allocated to this policy was COP \$ 80,000 M.

Through Decree 557 of April 15th 2020, the government introduced an unconditional cash transfer of COP\$ 585,000 per month for tourist guides registered in the National Tourism Registry, not receiving other social programs (Familias en Acción, Colombia Mayor, Jóvenes en Acción, Ingreso Solidario or Devolución del IVA). This measure, which was in place for three months only, pretended to reach 1,500 tourist guides. The benefit was delivered through bank accounts (for those who were in the banking system) or in person at Banco Agrario.

Through Decree 770 of June 3rd, 2020, the government launched the Asistane program for workers in contractual suspension, which consisted of unconditional cash transfers of COP \$160,000 to suspended workers. To be eligible, beneficiaries must 1) have earnings up to four times the minimum wage, 2) have been suspended or in unpaid leave, and 3) not be beneficiary of other social programs (Colombia Mayor, Jóvenes en Acción, Familias en Acción, Ingreso Solidario and Devolución de IVA). The benefit was delivered for 3 months through bank accounts. As of December 2020, there were 188,000 beneficiaries which involved an expenditure of COP \$45,047 M.

Through Decree 538 and Resolution 1774 of 2020, the government has issued COP \$ 364,742 million in temporary, one-off cash transfers to health personnel that provided services during the pandemic. This measure involved 239,841 workers in the health sector, such as doctors, nurses, bacteriologists, nursing assistants, among others. The benefit amount ranged between 1 and 4.5 minimum wages.

The government launched economic support for those who tested positive for COVID 19 and required self-isolation from August 2020. The cash transfer was equivalent to 7 days of the minimum wage, which approximately was COP\$204,000. As of October 2020, the program reached 61,288 beneficiaries, which consisted of COP\$ 94,781 M.

Another special measure was to anticipate the implementation of the VAT Refund (Devolución del IVA) to the poorest households. The program was scheduled to start on January 2021, with a pilot of 100,000 families; however, due to the pandemic, the program started to operate on April 2020, and has made bi-monthly cash payments (COP 75.000 each from April 2020 to February 2021) to the 700,000 most vulnerable families from FA and 300,000 households from Colombia Mayor. The policy document that created the program (CONPES 3986) establishes that the VAT Refund will be implemented until December 2022 (CONPES 3986). The head of the Department of Social Prosperity recently announced that, during the second semester of 2021, the government will

		horizontally expand the coverage of the program to 2M households (the extra 1M will be the poorest households targeted in Sisben not covered by any social assistance program, and the most vulnerable households among the beneficiaries of “solidary income”)
	Social pensions	Throughout the non-contributory pension benefits program Colombia Mayor (this is the old-age subsidy program for the poor and extreme poor over 60+ years old population), the government has made monthly additional cash payments (COP 80.000 each) to the program’s 1.7 million beneficiaries since May 2020 until February 2021. Additional cash payments of Colombia Mayor will be extended until June 2021.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Food baskets were delivered to vulnerable groups</p> <p>Voucher of \$100,000 for food basket delivered by the Red Cross and including in-kind donations from supermarket chains (people and firms can donate through a new platform: bogotasolidariaencasa.gov.co).</p> <p>Within the School Feeding Program, the government implemented a Food Voucher which consisted of a monthly card of \$ 50,000. This voucher could be exchanged for certain foods and at the points established by the Territorial Entity.</p> <p>Within Bogotá Solidaria en Casa program, the government delivered in-kind rations directly to each household, especially for those that could not access to cash-transfers or vouchers due to their living conditions or geographic location.</p>
	School feeding	<p>1) Industrialized Ration: it is defined as the food supplement ready for consumption, composed of processed and unprocessed foods such as fruits. Must be delivered individually and in the primary packaging that guarantees compliance with the grammage established in the standard minutes defined by the Ministry of Education and the other conditions and required characteristics, as well as current packaging and labeling regulations. These food supplements are delivered weekly, biweekly or monthly, depending on the expiration times of the products to be delivered and the logistics available, and must include 5, 10 or 20 days of supply respectively.</p> <p>2) Prepared-at-home rations: it is defined as a basic food basket equivalent to one mealtime per day for a month. This includes food items such as cereals and fortified flour, milk and dairy products, protein food, fats and sugars, so that the preparation and consumption at home can be carried out. These food packages are delivered per month with distribution for 4 weeks for 5 days.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Water services were provided free of charge for low-income families (strata 1 and 2). Also, financial relief measures were provided to individuals and firms that were not able to pay their financial obligations for two months. The measure included the possibility to freeze all credit payments,

		<p>including mortgages, car loans, credit cards, etc.</p> <p>During April and May 2020 billing period, in the Municipality of Bogotá vulnerable people in strata 1 to 4 received discount on energy, natural gas, water and toilet, depending on the socioeconomic stratum to which they belong: 20% discount for people in strata 1 and 2 and 10% discount for those in strata 3 and 4. To achieve this reduction, COP \$94 billion was invested from the budget of the District Government and the companies that provide public services.</p> <p>In addition, large financial institutions, such as Bancolombia, Grupo Aval and Davivienda froze for three months all credit payments including mortgages and consumption credits for individuals, and microcredits for SMEs.</p> <p>Through Decree 540 of April 13th, 2020, the government aimed to guarantee access to telecommunications. This measure allowed the affordability of internet service for four months.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	COVID-19 as an occupational disease: it includes COVID-19 as a direct occupational disease, with respect to workers in the health sector. The Occupational Risk Management entities (ARL) must recognize all the assistance and economic benefits derived from the incapacity of labor due to this disease.
	Health insurance	Health insurance for people who lost their job: It guarantees health insurance for those people who, in the Health Emergency derived from COVID-19, lost their job and consequently the ability to pay the General Social Security System in Health.
	Pensions	Colombia may allow partial withdrawals from pensions during crisis.
	Unemployment benefits	The Ministry of Labor issued the Decree 488, allowing formal workers affected by the COVID-19 to request an advance from their Unemployment Mandatory Saving (Cesantías) to cover any labor income gap caused by the COVID-19. Through the Cajas de Compensaciones, the government provided three monthly unemployment payments equivalent to 2 monthly minimum wages in total (COP \$1,961,314 in two installments).
	Social security contributions	Through Decree 588 of April 15 th , 2020, the government implemented a reduction of pension contributions to 3%, which should be paid 75% by the employee and 25% by the employer. Independent workers' pay 100% of this 3%. This measure was non-mandatory and placed for May and June 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>Through Decree 771 of June 3rd, 2020, the government indicated that employers must recognize the value established for transportation assistance as an aid to digital connectivity for those employees working from home and whose wage is up to two minimum wages.</p> <p>Through Decree 488 of March 27th, 2020, the government allowed employers to release workers</p>

		<p>with at least one day in advance, the date from which they must grant anticipated, collective or accumulated paid vacations. Similarly, workers had the right to request within the same period that paid vacation. By this way, the government suspended the 15-day notice period.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>Through Decree 770 of June 3rd, 2020, the government implemented changes in the working conditions of workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Through consultation between employers and workers, successive work shifts can be organized so they do not exceed 8 hours a day and with a maximum of 36 hours a week. - With prior agreement between employers and workers, working hours can be distributed over 4-week days with a daily working day of a maximum of 12 hours. <p>Through the Circular 0041 of 2020, the Ministry of Labor defined the framework of the new modality of 'working at home'.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>Through Decree 805 of June 4th, 2020, the government introduced economic support for firms in the notary activity. The benefit amount was 40% of the minimum wage per worker. This measure, which began on June 2020, lasted four months only.</p> <p>The government launched the Support Program for formal employment (PAEF), which was aimed at granting a wage subsidy up to four times, in order to support and protect formal employment during the COVID-19 pandemic. This subsidy was equivalent to 40% of the minimum wage per worker. In order to be beneficiary, firms must show at least a 20% reduction of their revenues due to the COVID 19 pandemic, as well as being registered in the commercial register. This program, which was initially in place during May and August 2020, was extended until March 2021. For specific economic activities (tourism, hotel, restaurants and artistic and entertainment sectors), firms received a subsidy equivalent to 50% of the minimum wage per worker. Also, if firms employed women, the subsidy was equivalent to 50% of the minimum wage per working woman, irrespective of the economic sector.</p> <p>Through Law 2155, the government launched an incentive for the creation of new jobs which is aimed at financing labor costs of firms. The incentive depends on the type of worker:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If firms hire young people aged between 18 and 28 years, they receive 25% of the legal monthly minimum wage per new worker. - If firms hire people aged 28 years or more with wages up to three legal monthly minimum wages, they receive 10% of the legal monthly minimum wage per new worker. - If firms hire women aged 28 years or more with wages up to three legal monthly minimum wages, they receive 15% of the legal monthly minimum wage per new worker. <p>This measure is aimed to last until August 2023. The employer may only receive, within the term of this incentive, a maximum of twelve payments.</p>

		<p>Through Law 2155, the government granted employers economic support aimed at paying wages of May and June 2021. The amount of the wage subsidy was up to 20% of the legal monthly minimum wage. To be beneficiary, firms must show a decline in revenue of at least 20% in March 2021.</p>
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Comoros

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(February 2021) The Government plans to provide emergency support to the vulnerable in need, through social cash transfers. The number of beneficiaries is estimated to be equal to 23.5 percent of the total population, involving 160,000 people. The Unconditional cash transfers (UCT) in response to COVID-19 are intended for 20,000 households in urban and suburban areas. The project has completed the launch of targeting 21,600 COVID-19 response beneficiaries across the urban/peri-urban areas of the three islands.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Prohibition on the National Company of Exploitation and Distribution of Water (SONEDE) and the National Company of Electricity of Comoros (SONELEC) to cut water and electricity to households.</p> <p>Establishment of a system of price controls for necessities supervised by the Ministry of the Economy to monitor price increases and prevent unjustified inflation</p> <p>(March 2020) The Central Bank will authorize the rescheduling of debts and the freezing of agios, for loans affected by this epidemic</p> <p>(March 2020) Import taxes on food, medicines, and items related to hygiene were reduced by 30 percent during 2020 but returned to previous levels from the beginning of 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	The government allocated CF100 million per month to public companies in the aviation sector (Com'Air Assistance, Anacm and ADC) to support the payment of salaries whose activity has been interrupted by the closure of the airports

Congo, Dem. Rep.

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Solidarité par Transferts Economiques contre la Pauvreté à Kinshasa (STEP-KIN) program identified vulnerable individuals impacted by the coronavirus pandemic and paid them cash transfers. In three months, STEP-KIN identified, registered, and paid more than 100,000 individuals in 50 poor neighborhoods, becoming the largest cash-based operation in Kinshasa. The program is now expanding to 250,000 recipients for a total of \$37.5 million to be transferred in monthly payments of \$25.</p> <p>A third additional financing has been approved for the DRC Eastern Recovery Project. Component 2, called "Livelihoods and Employment Generation" (US\$215 million equivalent) provides social safety net options. Part of this component entails unconditional cash transfers (UCT) in rural areas, complemented by accompanying measures (AM) to promote human development and economic inclusion.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The Republic of Congo has donated 84 tons of food for the displaced people of Nyiragongo in the DRC
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>A third additional financing has been approved for the DRC Eastern Recovery Project. Component 2, called "Livelihoods and Employment Generation" (US\$215 million equivalent) provides social safety net options. One aspect involves labor intensive public works (LIPW) carried out in urban centers.</p> <p>Building on its previous experience in the region, FSRDC designed an emergency Cash-For-Work (CFW) program to sustain the resilience of communities, support the local economy, maintain priority infrastructure, and strengthen social cohesion.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The government granted 2 months of free of charge supply of water and electricity to households, hospitals as well as micro & small and medium-sized enterprises which are affected by the closure measure as part of the response against COVID-19.</p> <p>Suspension of the collection of VAT on the import and sale of basic necessities and mass consumption products from March 20th 2020, for a period of 3 months.</p>

		<p>Ban on eviction of tenants who have not honored their commitment only for the period from March to June 2020.</p> <p>Prime Minister Ilunga Ilunkamba instructed the Ministry of Economy to control and stabilize prices in the markets, and the Minister of Foreign Trade to organize a large market which will be supplied directly by wholesalers for the benefit of the population.</p> <p>Elimination of fees on electronic money transactions and variable fees on transactions below CDF2,500,000, until the end of December 2020.</p> <p>(June 2020) Under the DRC Eastern Recovery Project a new intervention called "Livelihoods and Employment Generation" (US\$215 million equivalent) to provide social safety net options was announced. The project has supported agropastoral activities to increase resilience in rural areas by boosting production and productivity with almost 43,000 rural households assisted with in-kind transfers (seeds, tools, etc.) and technical assistance.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Coverage at the expense of the Government for all cases tested positive throughout the country
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The government suspended any massive layoffs based on the measures of containment.
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The possibility of implementing staff rotation in the event of a proven decline in activity and minimum service was introduced.</p> <p>[March 2020] The minimum service within companies and public administration, provided by essential staff, was established. No office was allowed to accommodate more than 5 agents.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Congo, Rep.

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(May 2020) Emergency cash transfer to vulnerable people in the outlying arrondissements of Brazzaville; this allowed them to buy food in an identified shopkeepers network.</p> <p>(April 2020) 100,000 families affected by COVID-19 to receive around 50,000 CFA each (around 5 billion CFA)</p> <p>(June 2020) The minimum CCT benefit level per household was set at CFAF 5,000 (US\$8.2) per month. Child benefit was set at CFAF 5,000 per child per month for a maximum of three children, while elderly benefit was set at CFAF 10,000 (US\$16.4) per elderly per month. Due to the multigenerational nature of households, the maximum transfer per household was CFAF 40,000 (US\$66), representing a household with three children and two elders. This transfer is aligned with the current Lisungi Program that transfers on average CFAF 23,500 a month per household due to different household composition and multigeneration households. The transfer was paid over a period of 12 months.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) The “Telema” project was reoriented in favor of 5,000 people in the humanitarian care of Covid-19, which included the distribution of food kits and Covid-19 awareness equipment. The food kit received by the Minister consisted of 2,000 bags of rice, 1,200 boxes of salted fish, among other things. The food kits are distributed in the departments of Brazzaville, Pointe-Noire and Pool while the awareness kits concern the twelve departments of the country. According to the Agence Francaise de Development, the third agreement was concluded to provide assistance of 200 million FCFA to the food support.</p> <p>(May 2020) 16,000 people chiefly elderly, children and student looked down to receive food and hygiene packages</p> <p>(April 2021) Nearly 80,000 coronavirus victims will receive a donation from France through the World Food Program (WFP). This donation aims to provide concrete answers to the problems of these people living along the Oubangui River, victims of the floods that occurred last November. This assistance from France should make it possible to strengthen the subsistence conditions of populations in a situation of food insecurity and to meet the nutritional needs of populations which</p>

		<p>are essential for the proper development of individuals, especially children.</p> <p>(March 2020) For the entire 12 administrative regions of the country, communication packages on covid-19 and hygiene materials have been distributed (the cost is over 200 million CFA)</p> <p>(June 2021) Households in the eleven districts of the municipality of Nkayi, in the department of Bouenza, will benefit from modern latrines. This will be within the framework of the “resilient cities” program, and financed by the European Union to the tune of approximately CFAF 21 billion through the 11th European Development Fund.</p>
	School feeding	<p>Before the outbreak, 80,000 children were benefiting from the school feeding program in Congo. The take-home rations initiative is now reaching 61,000 of them, while some others are receiving cash transfers. As school activities were replaced by radio and TV programs under the ‘education at home’ slogan, WFP launched its ‘school feeding at home’ initiative through the provision of take-home rations consisting of rice, peas, vegetable oil, salt and sardines.</p>
	Public works	<p>(September 2021) The activities of the “Bissalu bia kidzunu” project have just been launched. It aims to finance a set of income-generating activities and providing financial autonomy to ex-combatants and their families. The “Bissalu bia kidzunu” project is intended for ex-combatants, young people, wives of ex-combatants as well as households in targeted villages, and it aims to strengthen peace, security, cohesion, community resilience, through income-generating activities, in order to reduce idleness, fertile ground for renewed violence. It will run for two years, the time for families to have a comfortable seat, for their long-term care.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020) Free water and electricity for all households during the confinement period</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>The government called for the strengthening of hygiene measures in public administrations and private companies.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>The government announced the establishment of the minimum service in public administration and in companies producing essential goods.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

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Cook Islands

<p style="text-align: center;">Social Assistance</p>	<p>Cash-based transfers</p>	
	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p>	<p>On 18 March 2020, the Cook Island Government announced the COVID-19 Economic Response Package which also included one-off welfare support. This one-off support is to assist the most vulnerable as they are not only at health risk from the COVID19 but also likely to be exposed to its economic impact. A one-off welfare payment of \$400 will be made to all current individuals registered in the welfare system for the old age pension, care givers allowance and the infirm and destitute allowance on top of their regular payments. People who are on foreign pension funds already and any new applicants are excluded. N.B. 0.87 million NZD is spent on one-off welfare support. Payments were planned to be administered in April 2020 by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. No application is required to access the one-off payment. A NZ\$400 payment was made to those who access existing support, comprising pensions for residents above the age of 60 (1,809 beneficiaries, 51.8% of whom are women), and to infirm and destitute people and caregivers (362 beneficiaries, 60.2% of whom are women).</p> <p>On 18 March 2020, the Cook Island Government announced the COVID-19 Economic Response Package which also included School Closure Support. School closure support will assist parents in their duty of care and will be available to all the children currently residing in the Cook Islands, between the age of 0-16 years, with no exception, until the school reopens. For each child, currently on the child benefit, an additional \$100 on top of the current \$50 will be allocated for every fortnight during closure of school outside of the school holidays. An application process is not required. For each child, currently not on the child benefit, an allocation of \$100 will be allocated for every fortnight during closure of school outside of the school holidays. An application process is required. N.B. the measure is expected to cost 1 million NZD. In April 2020, 4,742 children received the payment, of which 4.4% (209) were made to families of non-Cook Islanders and 47.8% (2,265) were made to families of girls. In the pre-covid-19 days, 3,388 children (in 2017) received the childcare benefit.</p> <p>On July 1, 2020, the Cook Island Government announced the second phase of the COVID-19 Economic Response Package (ERP) which also included the Emergency Hardship Fund. This measure commenced on 24 June 2020 and will conclude on 30 June 2021. The purpose of the fund is to provide essential relief for families and individuals during emergency situations that cannot be supported through other available benefits, subsidies or grants. The Emergency Hardship Fund has two levels of support. A one-off payment to help recipients get back on track, or a fortnightly payment for a period of one month. Applicants are required to answer questions about their circumstances and provide supporting documents to be assessed. This fund requires applicants to</p>

		visit the Ministry of Internal Affairs office to complete the application and also to answer necessary questions to assess eligibility. The one-off payment is for immediate relief needed to support recipients in quickly getting on their feet. While the fortnightly payment is for ongoing assistance where recipients may need sustained support and guidance in order to get back on track. The fortnightly payment will be paid for an eligible period of one month. A monthly extension is available for up to 3 months for cases where applicants are unable to work due to medical reasons, and due to a situation made worse by COVID-19. The payment amount is determined by the number of family members in a household, and whether or not other family members are receiving an income or benefits. Individual applicants will receive a fortnightly payment of \$150 for up to 2 months, or a one-off payment of \$600 depending on the circumstances being faced. As updated on January 2021, due to the prolonged border closure continuing to impact those facing hardship, in Phase III of the ERP, the eligibility period for the Fund has been extended to provide 3 months of support, with a 3-month extension available on the condition that recipients participate in volunteer work or community service for at least 5 hours per week (or 20 hours per month). An extension of up to 6 months is available for those unable to work for medical reasons. Individual applicants who meet the eligibility criteria will receive a fortnightly payment of \$150 for up to 3 months, or a one-off payment equivalent to 1-3 months of support, depending on the circumstances being faced. For families, \$25 per fortnight is added for each eligible family member.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	<p>The School Closure Support will assist parents in their duty of care given the mandatory closure of schools and will be available to all the children currently residing in the Cook Islands, between the age of 0-16 years, with no exception.</p> <p>For each child, currently already on the child benefit, an additional \$100 on top of the current \$50 will be allocated for every fortnight during closure of school outside of the school holidays. An application process is not required.</p> <p>For each child, currently not on the child benefit, an allocation of \$100 will be allocated for every fortnight during closure of school outside of the school holidays. An application process is required</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	On 18 March 2020, the Cook Island Government announced the COVID-19 Economic Response Package which also included an electricity subsidy. Electricity subsidy of 100 per cent for households on Rarotonga and Aitutaki for 3 months starting from the 19th of March 2020 meter reading. Monthly electricity bills will be 100 per cent discounted to all domestic customers on Rarotonga and Aitutaki by Te Aponga Uira (TAU) and Te Mana Uira o Araura respectively for a 3-month period,

		<p>which will be reviewed every month. Customer bills will be adjusted by the two electricity companies. No application is required to access the subsidy. N.B. 1 million NZD was expected to be spent on the electricity subsidy. On May 30, 2020, the government announced details of the support to be provided by Te Aponga Uira under Phase 2 of the Economic Response Plan which will be effective from the middle of June 2020 meter reading. Every household will be credited for their electricity costs up to \$100 each month for 3 months. On January 13, 2021, the Te Aponga Uira in Rarotonga provided electricity subsidy (as part of ESP phase 3). Support involves every household connection being credited for their electricity costs up to \$80 each month, for a further 3-month period. The Phase 3 electricity discounts from Te Aponga Uira will come into effective from January 2021 meter reading, until March 2021 meter reading (expected to be completed on 21 March 2021). The Phase 3 electricity discounts from Te Aponga Uira will be effective for April 2021 meter reading and has been formalized by the TAU Board of Directors. The discounting will be reviewed again during April 2021. On June 2, 2021, the Government of Cook Islands has re-introduced the electricity subsidy. This time, Te Aponga Uira board in Rarotonga has approved a new June discount rate of up to \$30 off every domestic household power bill. The new discount rates will be applied to power meter readings from 8 June 2021 and will continue until June 30, at which time it is expected that the power bill discount scheme will come to an end.</p>
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>To support businesses covering staff absences due to self-isolation requirements and who are not under the wage subsidy scheme and in the prevention of a pandemic outbreak, it is important to encourage everyone to respect and comply to all self-isolation instructions without worrying about loss of income.</p> <p>The self-isolation support will not impact an employee's accumulated leave entitlement. It is a separate category of emergency leave entitlement offered under the COVID19 stimulus package for a maximum period of 14 days at a time, at the minimum wage. It is possible that the same employee may have to self-isolate more than once throughout this pandemic, as such, the support can be requested by the employer as often as needed.</p> <p>This support will only cover self-isolation as defined under the public health guidelines, where the employee is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - not sick, cannot perform work remotely and has been advised by the Ministry of Health to self-isolate; - not sick but has to care for dependents who are required to self-isolate or who are sick with COVID-19. <p>In cases where the affected employee is not sick and can perform work remotely whilst in mandatory isolation, they will continue to be paid as per their usual rate of pay in agreement with their employer.</p>
	<p>Health insurance</p>	
	<p>Pensions</p>	

	Unemployment benefits	<p>[July 2020] In July, the government announced the provision of unemployment benefits to provide temporary financial support to individuals who are unemployed as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This benefit can be claimed for up to 4 months, until 31 December 2020. Eligible recipients will be paid \$266 per week for a period of 4 weeks. This measure commenced on 1 April 2020, with payments administered by INTAFF. Recipients that are unsuccessful in securing new employment within the 4 weeks that they receive the unemployment benefit can apply with INTAFF for review and extension of an additional 4 weeks of the benefit. Extended payments beyond the first 4 weeks will be reduced to \$150 per week.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] In January, the government announced the extension of unemployment benefit provision for 7 months, until June 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[July 2020] In July, the Cook Island's Government introduced the Training Subsidy program to assist businesses in upskilling their employees and improve their productivity for recovery phase. The training subsidy is based on the minimum wage for 35hrs/weekly over an additional period of 3 months, available only to those businesses qualified for the wage subsidy. Employees have to be enrolled in an official training by the 1st of July 2020 and to commence by 30 July 2020. If training has occurred prior to these dates, the payment will only be available from 1 July 2020, not prior. All training courses must be endorsed or provided by an approved training entity and must run for a period of at least two months, at a minimum of 10 hours per week. The training subsidy program duration is 7 months, from June 1 to December 30, 2020.</p> <p>[July 2020] To further support the upskilling of workers and businesses that had opted to participate in the training subsidy under Phase II of the COVID-19 Economic Recovery Plan, a "fees free" initiative was included to cover the costs of a select number of courses delivered by the Cook Islands Training and Tertiary Institute (CITTI) and the University of the South Pacific, Cook Islands Campus (USP). These CITTI and USP fees free courses were available from June to December 2020. [Extended - January 2021] The extended fees free initiative will apply from January to July 2021 for existing students continuing with certificate and diploma courses undertaken in Semester 2 of 2020. The cost of the Fees Free Extension is \$0.3 million.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] The government delivered financial support for businesses affected by the impact of Covid-19 to keep their employees on the payroll and avoid unemployment. This consisted of wage subsidies based on the minimum wage for 35hrs/weekly over a period of 3 months: \$266 per week for a full-time employee working 20 hours per week or more; and \$133 per week for a part-time employee working between 5 and 19 hours per week. The wage subsidy will be provided for a period of up to 3 months.</p>

		<p>[Extended - July 2020] On July 1, the Cook Islands Government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan Phase II was announced, starting July 1, 2020 to September 30, 2021, with an increased rate of \$320 per week for full-time staff. In Phase II, businesses have the option to continue to receive the wage subsidy, or alternatively, to receive the training with wage subsidy. The estimated cost for Phase II Wage and Training Support Initiative is \$27 million over the next 6 months.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] In December, the Cook Islands Government announced the extension of the wage subsidy program starting January 1, 2021 to February 28, 2021, with an estimated cost of \$9 million.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] In January, the Cook Islands Government's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan Phase III was announced, starting January 1, 2021 to April 30, 2021, with an estimated cost of \$15.2 million.</p> <p>[Extended - April 2021] In April, the Cook Islands Government announced the extension of the wage subsidy program starting May 1, 2021 to June 30, 2021, with an estimated cost of \$8 million.</p> <p>[Extended - October 2021] In October, the Cook Islands Government announced the reinstatement of the wage subsidy program effective October 1, 2021, with an estimated cost of \$4 million for the month of October.</p> <p>[Extended - November 2021] In November, the Cook Islands Government announced the reinstatement of the wage subsidy program effective November 1, 2021, with an estimated cost of \$4 million for the month of November.</p>
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Costa Rica

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Social services for social transfer beneficiaries – nurseries open for those workers that need to work even during the containment measures/partial lockdown.</p> <p>By Decree 42,305 - MTSS - MDHIS, the government launched the Protect Bonus which is an extraordinary, monthly and temporal cash transfer aimed at people who have been affected by the COVID 19 pandemic, in terms of their labor situation. This measure is implemented for 3 months only. Beneficiaries are workers who have been dismissed or ceased, suspended, independent formal workers and formal self-employed or informal workers who have lost their jobs or whose revenues have declined due to the pandemic. The benefit ranged between CRC\$62,500 and CRC\$125,000. This measure reached 375,000 families economically affected by COVID-19.</p> <p>Emergency benefit (one-off 125k colones – USD 223K) for 33,000 poor families in the social registry (SINIRUBE) who do not receive any social transfers. This program is aimed at poor households with female household head, elderly people, disabled, and children. As of October 2020, there were 35,143 beneficiaries (individuals), which concerned a budget of CRC\$7,617 M.</p> <p>The implementation of the conditional cash transfer program Avancemos will keep being active with transfers depending on grade levels (\$40-\$62). Similarly, the Crecemos program, which delivers an average of \$35 scholarship per student, will not be interrupted.</p> <p>The Board of Directors of the Social Protection Board (JPS) launched a subsidy of CRC\$200,000 to each active seller of the national lottery and popular lottery affected by the suppression of the draws, as a result of the prevention measures against COVID-19. The Board of Directors' agreement establishes the payment of this subsidy on a monthly basis for up to 3 months based on what is projected by the health authorities.</p>
	Social pensions	Expansion of 10K non-contributory social pension.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Alimentos En Casa is a special program that delivers food packages and sanitary items to families in extreme poverty. This program is aimed at children, pregnant and lactating women beneficiaries of other programs, such as Atención y Protección Infantil (API) y Comidas Servidas within CEN-CINAI. The government planned to target 38,667 individuals in extreme poverty. The government delivers

		<p>food rations for two and a half weeks, which includes the following items: rice, beans, tuna, liter of sunflower, corn or soybean oil, corn flour, and pasta, among others. In addition, the government worked in alliances with the private sector to distribute hygiene and cleaning items.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock launched the “Donate Seeds, it is time to be solidary” to meet the needs of vulnerable families and communities in rural territories that have been severely affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. The initiative consists of the donation of seeds to distribute throughout the national territory to small producers, in order to improve their productive activity and expand their family diet. The program has 3 specific objectives:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diversify the crops produced by vulnerable communities and populations, in order to improve their diet by expanding food options, building greater resilience to climate change or other adversities. - Support the supply of seeds to vulnerable groups that need to strengthen their livelihoods and the provision of basic foods. - Provide support in the integral management of seeds, from the recovery and selection of seeds, characteristics of the cultivation, production of seedlings, cleaning, production systems, storage, etc., as a way to improve productive efficiency with the use of seeds of good quality. <p>The National Council of People with Disabilities (CONAPDIS), in coordination with the National Commission for Risk Prevention and Emergency Care (CNE), delivered food, nutritional supplements, cleaning supplies and diapers to families with disabled people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. Each package had items depending on the specific needs of each person with a disability. As of April 30th 2020, 721 food rations were delivered out of a total estimated of 1,541 supplies.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>3-month deferral for some taxes (including self-employed workers).</p> <p>The Fiscal Relief Package against COVID-19, implemented by Law 9,830, is a measure aimed at mitigating the impact of COVID-19 on citizens. The tax moratorium is for a period of three months (March, April and May 2020), with the condition of paying them later, before December 31st, 2020. This package includes the postponement of the following taxes: VAT, Selective consumption tax, and tariffs on the importation of goods. There is also a VAT exemption on commercial leases.</p> <p>Through a guideline, the government urged water operators not to suspend water services due to users' non-payment for at least 60 days, as a measure to prevent the transmission of COVID-19. It also requested restoring the services in those cases where it was canceled due to late payment.</p> <p>The Ministry of Environment and Energy (MINAE) urged the Public Services Regulatory Authority (ARESEP) to suspend for three months any increase in electricity, transportation and fuel supply</p>

		<p>with the aim to avoid affecting users during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Through the Special Law of leases payment, the government implemented a moratorium, partial and total, in the payment of housing rents, for a period of 3 months. In cases where lessees have suffered from a 100% reduction in their incomes due to contract suspension or unemployment, they could apply for a total or partial moratorium. When lessees have suffered from a 50% reduction in their incomes or less, they were allowed to pay at least 50% of their rent. In the case that lessees were affected by a reduction in their incomes of about 20%-50%, the reduction in the payment was proportional to the income reduction.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>The Costa Rican Social Security Fund informed the advancement of the deposit of pensions for both the Non-Contributory Regime and the Disability, Old Age and Death Insurance (IVM) with the purpose of guaranteeing payment and allowing financial entities to dispose of the resources in advance so that they can organize their service platforms and avoid crowds in their offices. The deposit was implemented in advance on March 27th 2020.</p> <p>Authorization for complementary pension operators to provide partial funds to employees affected by COVID-19.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The government announced a deferral of the payment of social security contributions until the end of 2020.</p> <p>[April 2020] By Law 9839, formal workers whose working hours were reduced were given the right to withdraw their social security savings accumulated in their favor from the Fondo de Capitalización Laboral (FCL).</p> <p>[September 2020] This has resulted in disbursements amounting to CRC 56 billion so far.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[June 2020] The government, through the Ministries of Agriculture and Livestock (MAG) and of Labor and Social Security (MTSS), created a number of virtual channels for agricultural workers to apply to carry out agricultural work. From the MTSS portfolio, the labor intermediation channels were enabled, as well as a new option on the institution's website.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Protect Skills Plan is a scholarship program for online training promoted by the government, which plans to benefit 50,000 individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. This program is aimed at individuals who are unemployed and beneficiaries of Protect Bonus. The program offers the possibility of accessing hundreds of free-courses in Spanish and English, allowing beneficiaries to train for new jobs.</p>

		<p>[March 2020] The government offered training about business development to SMEs in order to boost economic activity.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Foreign Trade Promoter of Costa Rica (PROCOMER) developed a new training program for the export sector to be prepared to the COVID-19 pandemic. The new topics in the exporter training plan included: 1) "COVID-19 and its impact on transport insurance and responsibility in the insurance contract between buyer and seller"; 2) "Introductory talk" that allows companies to make a self-diagnosis and define an action plan to attend and recover from the impacts of the crisis; 3) "Boosting my sales in the digital world, an opportunity in the face of the crisis"; 4) "How to maintain an international client in times of crisis?". These sessions were taught free of cost between April and May 2020 through Microsoft Teams and Moodle platforms.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 4th, 2020] Through Decree 42286-MTSS-H-MIDEPLAN, due to the extraordinary situation of emergency, the government decided to suspend the application of the increase in the base salary of the Central Government public servants.</p> <p>[October 2021] Costa Rica's Congress approved a bill to suspend the annual salary increase to public employees for two years. According to the government, it could save more than USD 111 million which would be used to address the crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The law will go into effect once it has been signed by President Carlos Alvarado.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] Through the Law 9832, it is permitted to modify employment contracts, with prior authorization from the MTSS, depending on the decrease in the company's gross income:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If the decrease is at least 20%, the working day can be reduced by up to 50% of the hours. - If the decrease in income is at least 60%, the working day can be reduced by up to 75% of the hours. Wages are reduced in the same proportion and the worker does not need to agree to the reduction. The measure cannot be applied to pregnant or lactating women and can last for 3 months, extendable for equal periods if the reduction in income continues. <p>[Extension - January 2021] The President signed Law No. 9937 which allows employers to request a three-month extension in the reduction of working hours of its workers if it can demonstrate that it has been adversely impacted by the pandemic.</p> <p>[March 2020] The Ministry of Labor and Social Security (MTSS) issued a recommendation to companies to temporarily readjust workers who occupy non-teleworking positions and have risk factors (e.g. elderly, diabetic, hypertensive, immunocompromised etc.) to allow them to join the teleworking modality. It offered companies the option of granting such employees paid vacation in advance (in agreement with the worker).</p>
	Wage subsidies	

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Côte d'Ivoire

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) A total of 125,000 households have received 75,000 CFA francs (136 USD) per quarter (25,000 per month for 3 months) as part of the implementation of a special solidarity fund 13.3 billion CFA francs (approximately 25 million USD) set up by the Ivorian government. This special fund, intended for vulnerable people, began Phase 1 on April 23, 2020 in the Greater Abidjan region, with the goal of expanding into the interior of the country in May 2020. The beneficiaries identified from the available databases of vulnerable households coupled with inclusive and participatory community targeting aim to ensure greater equity and transparency. The government has opted for the electronic distribution of aid by cash transfers alongside the physical distribution of food and non-food (food and hygiene kits). The identification of beneficiaries was made on the basis of existing data in certain structures.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Government of Côte d'Ivoire (GoCI) issued a cash transfer of 500,000 FCFA per family of destitute people who died due to the pandemic.</p> <p>[May 2020] Workers whose contracts were suspended or terminated were given government support. This benefit was given to the 20,326 employees registered at the end of April 2020. The total allocation was CFAF 4.4 billion, with a benefit amount ranging between 60,000 CFAF and 360,000 CFAF, according to educational and management level. This benefit was delivered for two months.</p> <p>(June 2021) As part of the Productive Social Safety Net project, the Ivorian government distributed, in the first quarter of 2021, CFAF 42.7 billion to households in the form of family allowance and subsidies.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The GoCI opted for the electronic distribution of aid by cash transfers alongside the physical distribution of food and non-food (food and hygiene kits). The identification of beneficiaries was made on the basis of existing data in certain structures. After the first phase, operation will be extended to the entire national territory from May 2020.</p> <p>(May 2020) Food baskets were distributed to female beneficiaries, including health workers in rural areas, that had been selected by the government and local authorities. The baskets contained basic</p>

		<p>foods such as vegetables and rice, and were delivered to the beneficiaries' houses via a nationwide distribution campaign.</p> <p>The GoCI issued food provisions and basic supplies to quarantined populations.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money account and making it free for people to transfer money between mobile accounts.</p> <p>The GoCI announced postponed payment deadlines for electricity and water bills from the month of April 2020 to the month of July 2020 and, from the month of May 2020 to the month of August 2020.</p> <p>The GoCI announced it would cover the costs of electricity and water bills for disadvantaged groups (i.e., households subscribed to the social electricity tariff, and households whose water consumption is under a certain amount). The GoCI plans to cover the cost for April and May 2020. This impacts more than one million households, or about 6 million beneficiaries.</p> <p>The GoCI announced price controls on hydroalcoholic gels. These measures apply to all distribution networks, including supermarkets, stores, pharmacies, gas stations, and convenience stores, and will be in effect as of March 25th, 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) The GoCI announced measures to strengthen price controls on consumer products and enforce penalties for violators.</p> <p>(June 2021) The Minister of the Budget and the State Portfolio, Moussa Sanogo, handed over, on Saturday June 5, 2021, the keys to social housing to 77 subscribers of the Cité Lilioum, in Ebimpé (commune of Anyama).</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>The GoCI announced three months of Universal Health Coverage (Couverture Maladie Universelle, CMU) premiums to all beneficiaries of financial support in the form of cash transfers.</p> <p>The GoCI announced that it would conduct free diagnosis and management of all suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	

Labor Markets	Activation measures	[April 2020] The "Fond d'appui aux acteurs du secteur informel" (FASI) is a program that provides financing via loans to informal sector actors impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. The FASI covers all the municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire impacted by COVID-19. Informal sector actors (production units and employees) impacted by the coronavirus seeking to relaunch their work activities can benefit from the FASI. Eligible beneficiaries include employees of informal production units who have suffered a loss of income, and Ivorian entrepreneurs in the informal sector proving an economic activity impacted by the pandemic with supporting documentation. The program is divided into four phases : Phase 1: (3 months): Identification of beneficiaries and implementation of grants; Phase 2: (6 months): Training and follow-up-support for beneficiaries.
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] The "Fond d'appui aux acteurs du secteur informel" (FASI) is a program that provides financing via loans to informal sector actors impacted by the COVID-19 health crisis. The FASI covers all the municipalities of Côte d'Ivoire impacted by COVID-19. Informal sector actors (production units and employees) impacted by the coronavirus seeking to relaunch their work activities can benefit from the FASI. Eligible beneficiaries include employees of informal production units who have suffered a loss of income, and Ivorian entrepreneurs in the informal sector proving an economic activity impacted by the pandemic with supporting documentation. The program is divided into four phases. Phase 3 of FASI involves the recovery of loans granted and formalization of beneficiaries.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Croatia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 11 December 2020, the local government of Zagreb in Croatia, aware of the dire situation decided to give a one-off financial support to young artists on the pressure from the artistic community with a gross amount of HRK 5,000 (€666.7). A one-off support to young artists is financed from the budget of the City of Zagreb.</p> <p>On April 1, 2020, Croatia's Ministry of Culture announced emergency aid payments for freelance artists whose contributions are paid from the budget of the Republic of Croatia and who can prove that, due to special circumstances conditioned by the coronavirus, they have been prevented or significantly impeded from performing artistic activities. The emergency payments ranging from HRK 1,625 (€217) to HRK 3,250 (€433) net per month were allotted to independent artists. The emergency payments were planned for three months - from 15 March to 15 June 2020 - and would be subject to review each month, depending on the inflow of funds from the state budget.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	<p>On 8 November 2021, the School feeding Scheme in Croatia, which is aimed at promoting a balanced diet and is now in its eighth year, has been expanded to another 67 schools and 21,000 children as well as to another 106,000 children consuming milk and dairy products. The expansion is the result of a campaign the ministry conducted from October 2020 to October 2021, together with the Paying Agency for Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Development, among schools, suppliers and other state authorities. The program promotes EU health policies and includes ensuring fruit and vegetables in primary and secondary schools as well as milk and dairy products in primary schools as additional meals. In the 2022-21 school year, 803 schools participated in the program with 49 suppliers and 289,686 pupils, for whom 639.5 tons of fruit and vegetables and 312,411 liters of milk and dairy products were utilized.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 17 March 2020, The Croatian government announced the deferment of public obligation payments (income and profit tax and social security contributions) for three months, which can be extended by additional three months if necessary, and the temporary suspension of payments of selected parafiscal charges.</p>

		<p>On 17 March 2020, The Croatian government announced that individuals will be entitled to an early personal income tax refund. Under the present legislation, a personal income tax refund based on an annual tax assessment is made upon expiry of the deadline for objection to the provisional notice of assessment issued in June, which was usually during August of the current year. The tax refund procedure has been changed so that the refund will be made at the time of delivery of the provisional assessment notice to the individual, who remains entitled to the objection rights. Based on this new measure, the individuals will receive their personal income tax refund for 2019 during June 2020.</p> <p>As of April 10, 2020, for the lease of state-owned properties/premises, the Croatian government has adopted a decision for deferral of payment of the annual rent for 3 months. As long as the deferral is in place, the Republic of Croatia will not claim statutory default interest nor be allowed to declare a cancelation or termination of the underlying lease agreement on the grounds of non-payment of rent. However, this is not applicable on a private property.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The government of Croatia paid pension contributions for both public defined benefit (DB) scheme and funded defined contribution (DC) individual accounts for the next 3 months (with possibility of extension for another three months), in parallel with net wage subsidy of HRK 4000 per employee in a sector/establishment that qualifies for the support.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The government covered the health and pension benefit costs for all coronavirus-stricken entrepreneurs, or HRK 1,460 per employee, i.e for entrepreneurs who have seen a year-over-year decline in revenue of 20-50%. The benefit had been requested by 66,000 entrepreneurs for more than 400,000 employees.</p> <p>The government of Croatia will pay pension contributions for both public defined benefit (DB) scheme and funded defined contribution (DC) individual accounts for the next 3 months (with possibility of extension for another three months), in parallel with net wage subsidy of HRK 4000 per employee in a sector/establishment that qualifies for the support.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>March 2020] As home offices are not intended for working, employers may not be expected to fulfil all safety requirements pertaining to the specific job position and that statutory health and safety requirements should be fulfilled to the full possible and permissible extent, especially making sure that employees' health and safety are not put at risk.</p> <p>[March 2020] The measure for permanent seasonal workers was extended by six months to ensure at least the minimum wage and the health and pension insurance coverage.</p>

		<p>[January 2021] On 21 January 2021, the Croatian Employment Service issued the Guidance for seasonal workers for 2021. The duration of the measure is six months with the possibility of extension due to the pandemic. It usually covers the cost of extended pension insurance for the first 3 months, and for the next 3 months the 50% of extended insurance.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The government enacted a decision on 18 March by which all employers were obliged to ensure work from home arrangements for their employees wherever possible. In addition, employers would be allowed to unilaterally determine that employees should perform their duties at a place different than stipulated in their respective employment agreement. The government also stated that in the case of low-risk jobs (such as office and administrative work) remote work may be in force as long as extraordinary circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are in place.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The government created a program to support the preservation of jobs in sectors affected by the pandemic. Eligible employers included those operating in sectors such as transport and storage, accommodation services, food and drink preparation and service, event organization etc. Employers who could not operate due to the Decisions of the Civil Protection Headquarters or those who faced a decline in income of more than 20% due to the circumstances were also eligible. The support could not be granted if a certain percentage of employees had been dismissed from 20 March 2020 until the date of application; the threshold varied according to the size of the company. The amount of the grant - HRK 3,250 or HRK 1,625 per worker - was applicable for March 2020, while for April and May 2020 it was increased to HRK 4,000 (€534) for full-time jobs or HRK 2,625 (€267) for part-time jobs.</p> <p>[May 2020] The program was continued for the month of June 2020 for employers who still could not operate or faced a decline in revenue of 50% or more. The Croatian Employment Service also announced that an employer would have to repay support if it pays a dividend or profit share by the end of 2021.</p> <p>[July 2020] It was extended for the months of July and August 2020 and employers needed to show a decline of 60% in revenue compared to the same month the previous year. [August 2020] The program was extended to also include micro-entrepreneurs who would be granted HRK 2,000 (€266.67) per month per full-time worker. [September 2020] The program was extended until the end of 2021. [March 2021] The list of eligible activities was reduced to exclude financial and insurance activities as well as gambling and betting activities. [April 2021] The support was extended for the months of March and April 2021. [July 2021] The program was extended and an additional condition was added which stipulated that employers whose 70% or more workers had been vaccinated against COVID-19 would be eligible to receive the support in full amount. [September] The program was extended for the months of August and September 2021.</p> <p>[July 2020] In late June 2020, a grant was introduced for the preservation of jobs in sheltered workshops, integrative workshops and employment units for people with disabilities, to be applied from the period between July to December 2020. Employers who were eligible for this grant included</p>

		<p>sheltered workshops, integrative workshops and work units for the employment of people with disabilities, regardless of the sector in which they were operating. Employers had to prove a decrease in turnover of at least 50% in the month preceding the month for which the grant is sought, compared to the same month of the previous year (based on VAT returns submitted to the Tax Authority). An employer could receive a grant in the amount up to HRK 4,000 per month per eligible employee.</p> <p>[January 2021] The measure was extended until 30 June 2021.</p>

Cuba

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Sick workers endorsed by medical certificate received a subsidy equivalent to: a) 50% of the average wage if they were hospitalized. b) 60% of the average wage if they were not hospitalized The government extended the term of validity of the temporary monetary benefits of Social Assistance for a period of 6 months from its expiration, to families already receiving the cash transfers, without being subject to updates and ratification from the Ministry of Labor and Social Security.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] The payment of obligations for the Special Contribution to Social Security of self-employed workers whose activities are suspended were deferred. The government established that those workers who received economic support were exempted from paying income tax as well as special contributions to the Social Security System
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] There was no reduction in wages for those workers who needed to self-isolate for fourteen days due to COVID-19. [April 2020] The government introduced a set of labor measures on how work interruptions should be handled:

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - If workers are relocated to another position within or outside the entity, they must earn the wages of the new position, without losing their employment relationship with the original entity. - If workers are relocated to an activity without holding a position, they must receive basic wages. - In all cases, it should be ensured that the relocation is carried out in labor activities in correspondence with the current epidemiological situation and food production and care for vulnerable people should be prioritized. <p>[April 2020] The government reduced procedures in the Public Administration to avoid crowding in public places. This included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Suspending the procedures for granting new authorization of self-employment status. 2) Extending work permits to foreigners for 6 months from March 2020 to work in Cuba and suspending procedures for new requests.
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] The government established a set of labor measures, including encouraging remote work or telework in all activities for which workers must be paid 100% of their wage.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] Elderly workers and people at risk of getting COVID-19 received 100% of their salary during the first month they remained at home, and from the second month 60% of their salary.</p> <p>[April 2020] Working parents of children with classes suspended in primary or special education must receive their full wage for the first month (100% of the basic wage) and if the suspension continues, he/she should receive 60% of the basic wage.</p> <p>[April 2020] In case a worker cannot be relocated, they should continue to receive 100% of the basic wage during the first month, and 60% of the basic wage from the second month onwards. If the worker does not wish to relocate with no justification given, they should be able to maintain their labor relationship with the original business entity, although no wage will be paid during this period</p>

Curaçao (Netherlands)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Social assistance recipients could receive a fortnightly credit in addition to the social assistance benefit received on a personal rechargeable card. The amount of the deposit depended on the family composition: singles ANG \$75, couples without children/single parent with children ANG \$150, couples with children ANG \$225. This measure was in place on April 22nd, 2020.</p> <p>People who lost their jobs before March 15th, 2020 and are still unemployed will be eligible for a personal rechargeable card, if they were registered as a job seeker from January 1st 2019. The amount of the deposit depends on the family composition: singles ANG \$300 per month, couples (with or without children) and single parent ANG \$450 per month.</p> <p>Self-employed entrepreneurs without employing staff can receive additional benefits up to ANG \$1,335, if they were unable to work from March 30th, 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(May 2020) Emergency food and hygiene package of ANG 50, to be provided weekly for the duration of 1 month to 550 families (intended) based on established criteria. Implementing organization: Food Bank. Total planned budget ANG 110,000 for one month.</p> <p>(May 2020) Emergency hygiene package of ANG 16, with hygienic items in connection with Coronavirus, to be provided monthly to 7,200 welfare recipients for one month. Implementing organization: Kas di Bario. Total planned budget ANG 115,200.00 for 1 month.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Temporary regulations introduced with maximum prices for hygienic products (hand sanitizers, latex gloves, disinfectant sprays, antibacterial wipes and alcohol) and fruits and vegetables with a high vitamin C content.</p> <p>(March 2020) Basic discount in income tax will be adjusted/increased retroactively for the year 2020 to January 1, 2020</p>

		<p>(March 2020) Fines for late or non-payments will not be imposed.</p> <p>(March 2020) Current payment of taxes (deferred payment) can be suspended on request.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>(March 2020) Temporary regulations introduced with maximum prices for hygienic products (hand sanitizers, latex gloves, disinfectant sprays, antibacterial wipes and alcohol) and fruits and vegetables with a high vitamin C content.</p> <p>(March 2020) Basic discount in income tax will be adjusted/increased retroactively for the year 2020 to January 1, 2020</p> <p>(March 2020) Fines for late or non-payments will not be imposed.</p> <p>(March 2020) Current payment of taxes (deferred payment) can be suspended on request.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[March 2020] The Solidarity Package announced by the government included the launch by the Ministry of Economic Affairs Development of "KLA PA TURISMO" 2.0 which was aimed at providing hospitality training digitally to stakeholders within the tourism sector.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>To provide temporary support to companies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment has introduced the Temporary Emergency Measure Bridging Work for the Preservation of Work (NOW). This reached employers as well as statutory directors of firms from certain branches, such as hotels, restaurants, cafes, transport, non-food retail, construction and storage. To be eligible, firms must have suffered from revenue loss of at least 25% due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The compensation varied between 20% and 80% of their maximum wages, depending on the revenue loss. Another condition is that the employer keeps all employees in service and continues to pay them, taking into account any reduction based on mutual consent.</p> <p>[June 2021] The compensation for employers has changed from July 2021 and is now equal to between 18% and 57% of the monthly wage bill, based on expected decrease in turnover (at least 25%).</p>

Cyprus

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government introduced an extraordinary measure to support the unemployed in March 2020. The measure was first introduced for the period from 16 March 2020 to 12 April 2020 and, since then, it has been continually renewed on a monthly basis. Initially (that is between 16 March and 1 July 2020) the amount of the benefit was €360 per month. As of 1 July 2020, this amount was increased to €500 per month. The duration of the allowance is for one month and covers only people who have been recipients of the regular unemployment benefit (registered with the public service employment registry) and who have exhausted their right to a regular unemployment benefit. This allowance is not provided if the unemployed person receives a regular unemployment or sickness benefit or a maternity/paternity allowance or receives a statutory pension.</p> <p>The government provided a lump-sum allowance for students studying abroad during the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic between March and April 2020 to the tune of 750 EUR. Beneficiaries were all students with a permanent residence in Cyprus who were studying abroad during the first wave of the pandemic and could not return to the country during the Easter period due to the suspension of flights. As of April 8th, 2020, 3,000 students had received the benefit.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Around 13,000 students received a special allowance in July 2020 to make up for the school breakfasts they missed during March and April 2020.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	A tenant support scheme was approved to financially protect tenants by incentivising landlords to reduce rents. Specifically, in cases of a rent reduction, a tax credit is granted to the landowner equal to 50% of the rent reduction provided that the rent reduction is between 30% and 50% for a specific period of months. This plan was introduced in May 2020 and was reinstated in January 2021 (it was extended until March 2021). The only difference between the two periods is that initially the landowner should have made a rent reduction for a period of up to three months within 2020 to gain the tax break, while, for 2021, the period of rent reduction extends to up to six months. The measures target, in principle, all tenants (15.6% of the total population)

		<p>The government has taken multiple measures in 2021 to support vulnerable households in light of a difficult global economy including the reduction of the VAT rate on electricity consumption in vulnerable households, from 19% to 5%, for a period of 6 months, reduction by the EAC by about 10% in consumer tariffs, a measure that will apply in the two months November - December 2021 and January - February 2022, a € 5 million Plan to provide sponsorships for the replacement of energy-intensive appliances and, in particular, air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines, with new high-efficiency products, and in the near future vulnerable consumers will be subsidized to replace old type bulbs with LED bulbs.</p> <p>Three-month suspension of a scheduled increase in the interest for housing loans for four years.</p> <p>Suspensions of the VAT payment obligation from April to June 2020 and acceleration of refunds were provided until 10 November 2020. The deferral of payment of VAT due only applies to periods ending on 29 February 2020 (1/12/2019 - 29/2/2020), 31 March 2020 (1/1/2020 - 31/3/2020) and 30 April 2020 (1/2/2020 - 30/4/2020), provided that: the relevant VAT returns will be timely submitted (10/4, 10/5 and 10/6 respectively); and taxable persons do not fall into the specific categories specified in the amending law.</p> <p>Following a proposal from the government, the Cyprus Energy Regulatory Authority (CERA) decided on a universal reduction of 10% of the final electricity price, excluding VAT and the renewable energy sources (RES) and energy saving fee (FDI). This measure was initially implemented in the first phase of the pandemic, in March 2020, for a period of four months.</p> <p>On 30 March 2020, the Cypriot Minister for Finance issued a decree providing for an extension of the deadline for submission of tax returns and payment of tax extended. Further, by the same decree, the Minister of Finance has extended the deadline for the payment of tax due under the aforementioned tax returns for 2018 until the same date.</p> <p>The purpose of this measure was to protect families and people paying rents and facing financial difficulties from the risk of an eviction. This legislation came into force in March 2020 and was amended in May 2020 so as to further extend the protection of renters from any procedure for the recovery of property-ownership until 30 September 2020. This measure targeted any person or household living in a rented house or apartment who faced financial difficulty in paying the rent, and</p>
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		<p>who was therefore at risk of receiving a notice of eviction. 0.18% of the total population or about 1,500 people.</p> <p>An interest rate subsidy scheme for new mortgages was passed with the purpose of providing financial support to households with new home mortgages which have been taken out for buying or building a prime residence (not loans for renovating or buying a secondary residence). This is achieved through subsidizing their interest rate payments up to a certain level and for a period that cannot exceed four years. The scheme was approved by the cabinet on 27 May 2020, while its extension was approved by a subsequent cabinet decision on 25 November 2020. The scheme covers new housing loans for which loan agreements have been signed from 1 March 2020 onwards and will be approved by the financial institutions by 30 June 2021.</p> <p>On 30 March 2020, the Cypriot Minister for Finance issued a decree providing relief in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The decree provides for the extension of the deadline for submission of tax returns and payment of taxes as well as the deadline for the filing of tax returns.</p> <p>The government has taken multiple measures in 2021 to support vulnerable households in light of a difficult global economy including the reduction of the VAT rate on electricity consumption in vulnerable households from 19% to 5% for a period of 6 months, reduction by the EAC by about 10% in consumer tariffs, a measure that will apply in the two months November - December 2021 and January - February 2022, a € 5 million Plan to provide sponsorships for the replacement of energy-intensive appliances and, in particular, air conditioners, refrigerators and washing machines, with new high-efficiency products, and in the near future vulnerable consumers will be subsidized to replace old type bulbs with LED bulbs.</p>
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>Within the content of the Emergency Measures Taken to Cope with the COVID 19 Pandemic Act 2020 aiming at supporting employees responsible for the care of children up to 15 years of age and/or children with disabilities of all ages, the "Child Care Special Leave" allowance is granted in accordance with certain terms and conditions. The Child Care Special Leave Allowance will be awarded to working parents who are responsible for the care of children up to 15 years of age and/or children with disabilities of any age and due to the nature of their work cannot work either by teleworking or working from home or with flexible working hours provided there is no in-house assistance.</p> <p>Granting of a sickness benefit of EUR 800 per month to workers (including self-employed) who are</p>

		dealing with special health issues, for cases of compulsory absence from work and certain senior citizens.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] Workers who have lost their employment or full employment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic are entitled to receive the Special Unemployment Benefit to workers. The Special Scheme for Partial Suspension of Business and provision of a Special Unemployment Benefit provides support from 16/3/2020 to 12/4/2020. [Extension-September 2020] Deadline was prolonged until 31st October 2020
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] In order to strengthen the health sector in the effort to combat the virus and not to affect the incomes of employees and enterprises, a suspension of additional contribution by employers and employees to the General Healthcare System will be introduced. This is scheduled as of 31/3/2020 for two months. The estimated budget is €98 million. Extension of the time period for the submission of appeals at the Social Insurance Services for self-employed persons; Three-month suspension of a scheduled increase in the contribution to the General Healthcare System and interest subsidy for new business and housing loans for four years, which benefit both businesses and households.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	Special schemes for the training of employees, aiming to enable SMEs to train their employees; [September 2020] The Incentives Provision Scheme aims to provide young people aged 15 to 29 years who are out of work with education or training (for immediate recruitment). The estimated budget amounts to €4,000,000 and the scheme is scheduled to be implemented after the end of October 2020.
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] All the businesses that are still operative in compliance with the Quarantine (Determination of Measures to Prevent the Spread of COVID-19) related decrees, are required to organize and implement a disinfection procedure which shall be implemented after the end of every working day in all the premises that are visited by the public, to prevent the spread of the virus.
	Reduced work time	[January 2021] Private enterprises/services that remain in operation are required to promote teleworking, with a regulation for simultaneous physical presence of 15 % of their staff, with a maximum number of employees who may be physically present at 20 persons per professional premise, to prevent the spread of the virus. The measures will apply from Sunday, January 10, 2021 until 31 January at midnight

		<p>[Extension- May 2021] The measure of physical presence of up to 30% of employees remains, with a maximum number of 50 employees that can be physically present in each professional structure, and with a minimum number of 5 employees, until 16 May 2021. From 17 May 2021, physical presence of up to 50% is allowed.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] The government launched the Special Self Employed Benefit to cope with the COVID-19 pandemic. This was particularly aimed at those self-employed who suffer from a reduced turnover of more than 25% in March 2020. Eligible individuals were granted with an allowance equal to 60% of the weekly amount of the insurable remuneration for which the payee was obliged to pay contributions to the Social Insurance Services, which ranged between € 300 and € 900. To receive this benefit, self-employed must not dismiss any of its employees. This measure was in place between March 16th and April 12th, 2020. [Extension-September 2020] Deadline was prolonged until 31st October 2020.</p> <p>[March 2020] With a view of supporting enterprises, businesses (legal or natural persons who are employers) that have partially suspended their operation and have a turnover decline greater than 25% in March 2020 and are projecting a corresponding drop in turnover for April 2020, as compared to the corresponding months of the previous year and the decline in turnover solely due to the state of the business as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, are entitled to receive the Special Unemployment Benefit to workers. The Special Scheme for Partial Suspension of Business and provision of a Special Unemployment Benefit provides support from 16/3/2020 to 12/4/2020. In the cases of businesses that were not active during the corresponding period of the previous year, the basis for comparison will be the months immediately preceding March 2020. The estimated budget is 110 million Euros. [Extension-September 2020] Deadline was prolonged until 31st October 2020</p> <p>[March 2020] The government announced a support Plan for Small Businesses employing up to 5 people, under the condition that these businesses have suffered a loss bigger than 25% of their turnover but that will keep employing their employees. The estimated budget is €10million and the Plan foresees a subsidy of 70% of the workers' salary.</p> <p>Support plan for small businesses that have suffered losses to subsidize 70 percent of workers' salary and the self-employed (including those who are not on the VAT register), including a lump sum to cover debts in rents and other operating expenses; those who are on the VAT register do not need to apply for this subsidy.</p>

Czechia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>In March 2020, Czech Republic announced a compensation bonus for self-employed workers which shall be paid by tax authority upon receipt of the application. It is paid as a lump sum up to CZK 25,000, ie CZK 500 for each day of the bonus period in which the self-employed person has met all the conditions for awarding the bonus. The first bonus period lasts from March 12 to April 30, 2020. Self-employed persons submit applications for CZK 500 for every day during this period, during which they could not perform their activities in whole or in part above the usual health risks or emergency measures. On May 7, 2020, the government announced to extend the period for which self-employed can claim a bonus. The second bonus period applies from May 1 to June 8, 2020. The conditions for obtaining the compensation bonus will be the same. However, the self-employed will have to reapply for the bonus for this period and submit a new affidavit. Also, if someone has not yet applied for the first bonus period, then from 7 May 2020 onwards it is possible to submit both applications together. This program was re-introduced in October and since then it has been extended six times. On 24 February 2021, the government increased the bonus from CZK 500 to CZK 1,000 per day for entrepreneurs while the employees would get only CZK 500 and it was applied retroactively from February 1st, 2021. The pool of potential applicants was larger, now bankrupt people, volunteers in care services and foster parents working on an agreement could also apply. This was further extended until May 2021.</p> <p>March 4, 2021, the Czech government approved daily quarantine compensation bonus of CZK 370 per person to be paid to those who have been ordered to quarantine or isolation between March 1 and April 30, 2021. If the Parliament approves, payments should be extended until June 30.</p> <p>On 8 March 2021, Czech Republic announced that doctors, other medical staff, non-medical professionals, and social service workers will receive an extraordinary bonus for their service during Covid-19. Doctors and other medical staff will be paid a bonus of up CZK 75,000 via the subsidy program of the Ministry of Health, depending on the number of hours actually worked in the period from 1 October 2020 to 28 February 2021 at the provider's workplace, up to the amount of their agreed workload. Non-medical employees in these facilities will receive a bonus of CZK 30,000 if they work full time. The government has set aside CZK 12.2 billion from the State budget for these bonuses, and the employees should receive them with their April 2021 wages. Employees in social</p>

services will also receive the bonuses of CZK 25,000. The amount of their extraordinary remuneration will depend on the workload and the number of hours actually worked and the complexity of the work. Employees of the 1st category founders in direct care and medical staff will be entitled to up to CZK 50,000 if they are working in direct care, and to CZK 30,000 if they are other employees; in the 2nd category for other services, the numbers will be CZK 25,000 for employees in direct care and CZK 15,000 for other employees. In addition to the financial possibilities of the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs, the government released another CZK 5 billion for these bonuses.

On 20 August 2020, Czech Republic announced the COVID Spa program, to support Czech spas, which had been badly damaged by the anti-COVID-19 measures and the sharp decline in the tourism sector (with a loss of 180,000–200,000 clients per year in Czech spas). Thus, the government of the Czech Republic delivered CZK 1 billion (€37,481,260 approx.) in the form of discount vouchers worth CZK 4,000 (€150) per person (250,000 vouchers are available in total). The call was opened on 24 August 2020 with the deadline of 30 September 2020. On April 6, 2021, the second call of this program (i.e., re-introduction) COVID Spa 2021 was opened. The decisive period is from 1 January 2021 until 31 December 2021. The call is opened for applications until 28 May 2021. The total amount for this call is CZK 743.8 million (€28,607,692). From the first round, CZK 150.58 million was spent (as reported on 31 May 2021). As of 2 October 2020, 147,000 vouchers have been downloaded out of 250,000 for 2020 and as of 10 September 2021, 128,000 vouchers were downloaded from the total number of 185,000 vouchers for 2021.

On November 11, 2020, Czech Republic's Region Development of Czech Republic under the COVID Tourism program supported tour guides (i.e., individuals) with an amount of CZK 50,000 or 40,000 depending on the conditions given below. The calls have been opened from 11 November 2020 until 11 January 2021 (the application deadline was extended until 29 January 2021). Tour guides will receive CZK 50,000 (€1,852 approx.), if he/she provides educational services to a school facility for the duration of at least ten teaching hours by 30 June 2021 at the latest or completes further education or a retraining course accredited by the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports of the Czech Republic for additional employment on the labor market by 31 December 2021. Or else, CZK 40,000 (€1,482 approx.), if the guide does not meet the conditions above. Total allocated funds for this is CZK 25 million (€925,926 approx.). As of 31 May 2021, according to the Ministry it was spent CZK 18,580,000 (€714,615 approx.) on 404 tourist guides (out of 619 applications).

On 18 August 2020, the Czech government introduced a program for self-employed artists and technicians in the field of culture to cover ex-post vain expenditures on cultural events which have been cancelled or postponed in the period from 10 March 2020 to 31 August 2020. They introduced a one-time support for artistic and technical professions in the field of culture in the amount of CZK 60,000 (€2,204 approx.). The total allocation (including funds for business) of the first call was CZK

		900,000,000 (€33,063,923 approx.). This program was re-introduced on 22 October 2020 to cover vain expenditures on cultural events which were cancelled or postponed in the period from 1 October to 20 November 2020. The total allocation (include funds for business) of the second call is CZK 750,000,000 (€27,553,269 approx.). On 5 February 2021, they introduced policies for self-employed in the culture (actors, acrobats, sound engineers, illuminators, painters, writers etc.) and audiovisual industry (audiovisual professions). A one-off support in the total amount of CZK 60,000 (€ 2,300 approx.) per person was provided.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Antivirus Employment Protection Program: an employee who is affected by COVID-19 or ordered into quarantine in connection with COVID-19 is entitled to sick pay. This rule applies to all insured persons notwithstanding the place of quarantine (national territory, another EU member state or a third country). Same rules apply as in the case of a sick worker (the employer has the obligation to pay the employee a salary reimbursement in the amount of 60% of reduced average earnings for the first 14 calendar days of the quarantine, with no waiting period; after 14 days the employee is further reimbursed through sickness insurance). The employee must be covered by Czech sickness insurance to be entitled to this sickness allowance.</p> <p>The program has now been extended until 31/08/2020.</p> <p>New law that came into effect on 26 March 2020: care/nursing allowance (also called attendance allowance) is prolonged for the whole period of school closure as a result of anti-epidemic measures for workers with children aged 0-13 (compared to up to 10 years old before) or persons taking care of disabled persons (regardless of age) if the facility designed for their care has closed. The attendance allowance is provided from sickness insurance by the Czech Social Security Administration and thus not considered as a family benefit. It might or might not be paid at the same level as a sickness benefit</p> <p>The government approved a proposal for legislative changes in the field of employment. It will now be possible for a job seeker to register at the Labor Office online and from anywhere. Persons registered with the Labor Office will now have up to 3 days to prove a medical certificate in case of illness.</p>
	Health insurance	Self-employed can apply for a 6-month waiver of health insurance payments.
	Pensions	The government paid out a one-off benefit for pensioners of CZK 5,000 (CZK 15bn in total).

	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[June 2020] As part of the Antivirus Employment Protection Program, social security contributions will be waived for the months of June, July and August for companies with up to 50 employees, an additional targeted support aimed at mitigating the effects of the coronavirus crisis in order to maintain the maximum possible number of jobs. The Antivirus C is expected to help approximately 88% of employers and 1.4 millions of their employees. The impact on the state budget is expected to amount to a maximum of CZK 13.5 billion.</p> <p>Social security contribution relief for self-employed affected by COVID-19. Waiver of penalties related to pension and state employment policy contributions payments. This measure waives penalties for late filing payments and statements to state pension and allows for deferral of monthly pre-payments into pension and state employment policy contributions.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The government approved a proposal for legislative changes in the field of employment. It will now be possible for a job seeker to register at the Labor Office online and from anywhere.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Antivirus Employment Protection Program, designed to help businesses protect their jobs will compensate companies for payments through the Labor Office of the Czech Republic, helping employers to better manage the current situation and not resort to redundancies. Employers can apply to the Labor Office for a contribution in two modes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Mode A covers employers whose employees have been quarantined or have had to reduce their operations as a result of crisis or emergency measures issued by the government, the Ministry of Health or the regional hygienic station. The maximum aid amount is 80% of the salary paid (incl. levies) or CZK 39,000 per employee. - Mode B covers employers who had their number of employees dropped below tolerable levels due to quarantine and childcare, or the closure of the company due to lack of raw materials or inputs or reduced demand for products or services. The maximum aid amount is 60% of the wage compensation paid, including mandatory contributions or CZK 29,000 per month per employee. <p>[Extension- June 2020] Extensions of the eligibility period and validity period started for both Mode A and B</p>

Denmark

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>Around 500,000 households in various parts of Denmark can apply for assistance paying sky-high heating bills during the winter of 2021-2022. The government has announced funds of 100 million kroner to be earmarked to help low-income households in affected areas to pay the high bills. Municipalities will be able to apply for the funding. Local authorities would then use the money to directly subsidize residents, the Ministry said. Individual residents can already apply for the subsidies through their municipalities.</p> <p>The "Summer and Business Package" of May 2021 provided a framework of 110 million DKK for cheaper domestic transport during the summer period.</p>	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Sickness Benefits Act amendment (new bill adopted on March 17 2020) provides a right to receive and be reimbursed for sickness benefits from the first day of absence in case of COVID-19 infection or due to quarantine imposed by health authorities, provided that the other general conditions in the Sickness Benefits Act for receiving and being reimbursed for sickness benefits are met. This applies to both employees (standard and non-standard) and self-employed workers.</p> <p>For workers on sick leave benefits, the remaining entitlement period will be frozen for three months and all job search and activation requirements are canceled.</p> <p>Sick leave benefits subsidy by the Ministry of Finance. Sick leave benefits are normally provided by the employer in the first month of illness, however now, if related to COVID-19, the government will cover these. This is so far valid until the 31st of January 2021.</p>
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] Unemployment benefit recipients will have increased access to unemployment benefit as the period from 1 March to 31 May does not count in the unemployed seniority. However, the person must be a member of the unemployment insurance fund during the period. Suspension of G-days: Employer's payment of unemployment benefit (G-days) to employees who are covered by a division of work or returned home is suspended.</p> <p>[Extension -July 2020] Due to the Corona situation, the Danish Parliament has decided to extend the temporary period by one month until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>[Extension -December 2020] Reintroduction of the suspension of unemployment benefit consumption for all unemployment benefit recipients in the period from 1 January 2021 to 28 February 2021, corresponding to the extension of the targeted compensation schemes.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] The parties to the agreement agree that the suspension of unemployment benefit consumption will be extended until and including April 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2021] The Danish Parliament passed a bill (L 218) to extend the suspension of benefit consumption until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>[April 2020] A so-called 225 hours rule in force requires that the unemployed needs to have had 225 hours of employment over the last 12 months in order to continuously receiving a cash benefit. The government and the Parliament have suspended this rule on the grounds that finding a new job is impossible in the current situation. The government and the Parliament on 6 April 2020 decided to put the 225 hours rule on hold with effect from 9 March 2020 and three months forward. This means that the unemployed person receiving social security benefits in this period will receive the cash benefit without documenting 225 hours of employment in the last 12 months nor having continuously to search for jobs.</p> <p>[Extension - July 2020] Due to the Corona situation, the Danish parliament has decided to extend the suspension of the 225-hour rule for social security protection recipients until September 8, 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] The parties to the agreement agreed to extend the suspension of the 225-hour rule by a further two months until and including 30 April 2021.</p> <p>[Extension -May 2021] The Danish Parliament passed a bill (L 219) to extend the suspension of the 225-hour-rule until the 30 June 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[February 2021] A bill requiring employers to ensure that traveling employees are PCR-tested for COVID-19 after entry into Denmark entered into force on 2 February 2021. It contains a so-called sunset clause, so the law will be repealed on 1 July 2021, unless this period is extended prior to that

		<p>date. With the adopted bill, employers who employ workers traveling into Denmark to work are required to ensure that the arriving employees are tested for COVID-19 after entry. The requirement does not apply to individuals who live in Denmark.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>In connection with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Employment and the Labor Inspectorate has decided to adopt a force majeure provision in the occupational health and safety regulations on rest periods. This means that the rule that employees must have a rest period of at least 11 consecutive hours a day and a weekly day off can be waived to the extent necessary in companies that face an extraordinary workload due to COVID-19. This is a temporary measure.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] A 2.6 billion Danish krone short-time work scheme was announced on March 15, 2020 and will apply retroactively from 9 March until 9 June, 2020. It applies to companies facing having to fire at least 30 percent of employees or more than 50 employees. Conversely, companies undertake not to fire employees for financial reasons while receiving compensation from the state. For employees paid on a monthly basis who would otherwise have been fired, the Danish government would cover 75% of the employees' salaries if firms committed not to lay off workers up to a maximum of 23,000 Danish krone/month (\$3,418). Firms will also have to cover the remaining 25% to ensure employees can keep their full salary. For hourly workers (with no notice period) the compensation rate is 90% up to a maximum of 26,000 kroner (or EUR 3500). From the employees' side, it is a question of each individual having to take five vacation days - either vacation, time off or without pay - in order to receive the salary compensation.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2020] The government and the social partners have agreed to extend the temporary wage compensation scheme by one month to apply until and including 8 July.</p> <p>[May 2020] Wage subsidy scheme for companies that have apprentices or want to hire apprentices. The initiatives are intended to ensure that pupils can complete their education in the event that they lose their apprenticeship as a result of the crisis. Companies will receive 75% of their current apprentices' wages. In addition, wage subsidies are given for new agreements of 45% for short appointments and 90% for ordinary training agreements, respectively. All employers in both the public and private sectors will receive an increased salary refund during school stays by 20% in the second half of 2020. Funds are allocated to a number of initiatives to ensure that pupils have easier access to school internships. It also envisages investing in the quality of school internships. The AUB scheme will be balanced by introducing a flexible AUB contribution from 2021 to ensure that income and expenditure balance over time and can accommodate an increased activity in vocational education and training.</p>

Djibouti

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(March 2021) The GoD has secured funding to its Integrated Cash Transfer and Human Capital Project. This additional finance permits an extension of cash transfers to about 2,500 households in urban areas. The transfers will be fixed at DJF 30,000 (about US\$169, or US\$56 per month) in the regions of the interior, and DJF 24,000 (about US\$135, or US\$45 per month) in Djibouti-ville.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) WFP, in partnership with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Solidarity (MASS), in response to the pandemic, has started a new phase of distribution of vouchers to vulnerable populations affected by the November 2019 floods, for a value of FDJ10,000 per household to 4,500 households in Djibouti city. WFP and MASS staff finalized the voucher distribution on 1 April. These households received their vouchers to be redeemed at retailer sites to receive food in the various neighborhoods of Djibouti city. In addition, UNHCR, ONARS and MASS agreed to include refugees in the cash assistance program</p> <p>(April 2020) Over a three-month period from April to June 2020, the Integrated Cash Transfer and Human Capital project was restructured to accommodate new support for in-kind transfers to cushion the impact of COVID-19 on the vulnerable population. Food vouchers (FDJ10,000/USD56.5 per month per family for 3 months) were given to 27,567 poor and vulnerable urban households (154,000 people), exceeding the target of 27,000 households. It targeted approximately 16,000 households under the poverty line, and approximately 11,000 households active in day labor, temporary and/or independent work. In addition, the food voucher platform catalyzed government financing for food vouchers for one month to about 49,000 additional households. The vouchers entitled beneficiary households in Djibouti-ville and its suburb of Balbala to a basket of food staples, including rice, flour, cooking oil, sugar, dates, pasta, and tomatoes. The intervention was designed and carried out with a series of measures designed to mitigate the risk of transmission of the coronavirus</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) An electricity subsidy of 168.7 USD to cover 94% of the population as well as a universal postponement on the payment of utilities bills from March to June 2020.

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>A presidential decree (2020-63/PR/MTRA) has been introduced, requesting exceptional measures for businesses with 11 workers or more, including paid leave.</p> <p>The employee benefits from compensation for lost wages, the rate of which will be fixed by a government decree.</p> <p>All civil servants and employees in the parastatal and formal private sectors are paid during the containment period.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The government announced that it would provide support for the employers' social contributions paid by companies which are affected by confinement and commit to maintaining staff salaries. This amounted to 0.5 billion FDJ.</p> <p>[July 2020] On July 24, 2020, the African Development Bank mobilized additional funds to help Djibouti continue with this policy.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>(March 2020) Presidential decree (2020-63/PR/MTRA) puts in place health and safety measures for the protection of workers in the workplace (in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic) of enterprises of 11 workers or more. Measures include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employer must set up a work environment that promotes barrier gestures, for example washing hands regularly and using disinfectant for hands and surfaces. Avoid touching face; covering mouth when coughing or sneezing. If a person is not feeling well, they should isolate themselves and seek medical assistance. - Employer is required to respect and enforce barrier gestures in the workplace. - Companies are invited to rethink their organizations to: limit meetings to what is strictly necessary; limit groupings of employees in confined spaces; non-essential trips must be canceled or postponed by the organization. <p>The government promised support measures to enterprises who would follow the rules, as well as sanctions to those which openly broke the instructions.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>(</p> <p>[March 2020] Presidential decree (2020-63/PR/MTRA) proposed exceptional measures, requesting enterprises of 11 workers or more, to protect their workers contracts, by adopting alternative working measures (paid leave, teleworking, partial work). For the teleworking measure, the employee and his/her employer must agree to use telework. They must imperatively formalize this agreement by the means of their choice. The employee must agree to be teleworking. The fact of refusing to be teleworked cannot constitute a reason for dismissal. However, in the event of exceptional</p>

		<p>circumstances or force majeure, teleworking may be imposed on the employee without his/her agreement to contain the epidemic.</p> <p>[March 2020] Presidential decree (2020-63/PR/MTRA) proposed exceptional measures, requesting enterprises of 11 workers or more, to protect their workers contracts, by adopting alternative working measures (paid leave, teleworking, partial work). For the policy of partial work, the employer can place his employees in a position of partial activity when the company is forced to reduce or temporarily suspend its activity during the duration of the coronavirus crisis in consultation with the workers (staff representatives, trade union organization).</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] As per decree (2020/63), certain categories of employees in the private sector who lost their jobs or had a reduction of work time due to COVID-19 can be entitled to government compensation. On April 29, 2020 Decree N° 2020-049/PR/MTRA announced the conditions for granting compensatory allowance for companies.</p> <p>Workers placed in partial activity could receive a compensation of up to 70 per cent of their wages despite the reduction in working hours—30 per cent being paid by the State, and the remaining 40 per cent by the the employer. The employers will receive money from the government and must pay their employees.</p> <p>The specific allowance due to companies as well as the compensatory allowance allocated to their employees placed in a partial employment position mentioned by the aforementioned decree n ° 2020/63 of March 23, 2020, benefits companies who started their activity and did not file a declaration of suspension of payment before March 1, 2020, were forced to reduce or temporarily suspend their activity due to the pandemic.</p>

Dominica

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>\$8 million approved from the Dominica Social Security to help people who would have lost their jobs (from the Redundancy Fund and the Employment Injury branch of the DSS).</p> <p>Plus, a minimum of \$9.5 million from the government for relief payments to those who are financially challenged.</p> <p>This program offered financial assistance in the amount of EC\$600.00 and EC\$400.00 to individuals with minor dependents under the age of 18 and individuals with no minor dependents under the age of 18 respectively who have either been laid off or whose employment has been terminated as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic or the Emergency Powers (Curfew) Order, Statutory Rules and Order No. 15 of 2020. Financial assistance was paid via the Dominica Social Security (DSS). To be eligible, individuals must have been laid off/terminated between March 1 to August 15, 2020; individuals must have not received other unemployment benefits as a result of his/her termination, evidenced by an employer declaration or cross-checked with the Redundancy Fund database at DSS; and total employment income of the individuals must not exceed EC\$4,000.00 per month, verified by the last month of income reported in the DSS database, among other requirements.</p> <p>This grant program is targeted at self-employed sole trader businesses. This program will offer a financial assistance grant in the amount of EC\$600.00 and EC\$400.00 respectively for a period of three months to self-employed individuals with minor dependents under the age of 18 and individuals with no minor dependents under the age of 18 respectively, whose businesses have been suspended as a result of the COVID-19 Pandemic or the Emergency Powers (Curfew) Order, Statutory Rules and Order No. 15 of 2020. Grants will be paid via the DSS. To be eligible beneficiaries must show:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Evidence of business activity and business must have been operational in Dominica prior to March 1, 2020- Business must have been closed/operations suspended after March 1, 2020 and must remain closed/suspended in order to receive each month's benefit- Individual's business sales for the last calendar year ending December 31, 2019 did not exceed EC\$100,000.00- Individual is not in receipt of other employment income

		<p>- Individual has not received cash grants from government for agriculture</p> <p>The Social Cash Transfers Program is one of the programs launched by the government to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. It will provide temporary income support to selected vulnerable individuals and families to address their basic needs including food, health, education and other necessities. Groups targeted for potential support through this program are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Existing beneficiaries of the Public Assistance Program (PAP) - Eligible senior citizens and persons with disabilities who are not registered on the PAP and are not receiving other types of financial support - Eligible fisherfolks and fish vendors and small craft producers and vendors <p>The program is led by the Ministry of Youth Development and Empowerment, Youth at Risk, Gender Affairs, Seniors Security and Dominicans with Disabilities in partnership with the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) and it is made possible thanks to the generous support of the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office and WFP.</p> <p>3000 people to benefit from COVID-19 Social Cash, 2000 of whom are automatically registered under the Public Assistant Program (PAP) are to benefit from the program. They received two top-ups of EC\$ 225 for a period of two months for a total value of \$450 EC. Non-PAP beneficiaries received two payments of EC\$ 450 each, over the course of two months, for a total value of EC\$ 900. Benefits were disbursed based on the payment method selected at the time of registration. Bank payments were done by direct bank transfer, cash and cheques were issued and processed with the support of Village Councils</p> <p>Direct Farm Support Cash Grant - Cash grants (EC\$3.5 million total) to approximately 2,500 individual crop farmers to assist with the cost of farm labour and other direct costs. The grant amount is based on the size of the farmer's holding - small holdings EC\$700, medium holdings EC\$1,400 and large holdings EC\$2,800.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Backyard Gardening Seedlings Program – seedlings for a variety of crops distributed to registrants across Dominica to boost food production (corn, beans and sweet potatoes, tomatoes, lettuce, pumpkin, cucumbers, cabbage, sweet peppers, and pumpkin) and to guarantee food security. According to the press, the government spent EC\$162,000 to procure seeds and produce seedlings and planting materials for farmers island wide.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	The Republic Bank implemented a moratorium on all loans, including mortgages and help loans for up to 6 months. There was debt restructuring and a temporary increase in overdraft and credit cards. Late fees or loan payments were waived at the Republic Bank and there was no penalty on withdrawals of certificates of deposit.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[July 2020] The government announced that applications were open for Work Online Dominica, an online, 12-week long training program open to individuals aged 17-40. The goal of this program was to provide skills training to access online opportunities for incoming generations. [June 2021] The training of the first cohort commenced in June 2021. Sixty participants benefited from this program and out of those, fifty were able to secure online jobs. The program was supported by the Dominican government, USAID and IsraAID.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Dominican Republic

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Government has rolled out a 'Stay at Home' program (Quédate en Casa) with different elements, including (i) top-up to safety net of 5,000 pesos (US\$92) for two months to 811,000 beneficiary families that have the Solidarity payment card to purchase food and basic necessities; (ii) horizontal expansion at the same amount 5,000 pesos (US\$92) to 690,000 nonpoor and vulnerable non-beneficiary families in the SIUBEN social registry. The payments are expected from April 1 to May 30; (iii) a special transfer totaling 7,000 pesos (US129) to over 350,000 households where the household head is vulnerable to COVID19.</p> <p>The government has launched the freelancer/self-employed work assistance program (Pa 'Ti) which provides temporarily support of RD \$ 5,000 to independent workers, who have not been able to work due to f social distancing measures imposed by the pandemic, with an unconditional cash transfer that allows them to counteract the economic effects of the measures taken to stop the spread of COVID-19 . Total planned beneficiaries is 2.3 million individuals (200,000 actual as of June 2020). The program is extended to the end of December 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Expansion of the Comer Es Primero cash transfer program, as follows: vertical expansion of conditional transfers of the CEP - 100% increase in the amount transferred to families. Horizontal expansion - inclusion of 100,000 families in extreme poverty, moderate poverty and vulnerable sectors on the verge of becoming poor due to the shock of COVID 19. This expansion will deliver the same increased benefits that will be delivered to families that already participate in the program. These inclusions are temporary. Horizontal expansion - inclusion of formalized own-account workers who are listed in the Social Security Treasury (TSS) and who are at risk of falling into poverty due to the impact of the shock of the COVID 19.</p> <p>Economic Kitchens (Comedores Económicos) is serving more than 100,000 servings of cooked food every day, through its mobile kitchens across the country. More than 22,000 basic food kits are also being distributed to children 0-5.70.</p>
School feeding		

		<p>Through the Stay at Home program students receive food rations each week (it was announced that 1,3M will be delivered), enough for one week of feeding per child. More than 22.000 basic feeding kits are being distributed to children from 0 to 5 years old who received their food in children's centers.</p> <p>The National Institute of Student Welfare (Instituto Nacional de Bienestar Estudiantil) is distributing 1.8 million food kits to parents and tutors of students enrolled in the different modalities of the School Lunch Program (Programa de Almuerzo Escolar), replacing the cooked rations they receive daily.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The government decided to forbid the suspension of non-paid electric energy provision and telecommunication services, provided by both public and private firms, during the pandemic, in order to guarantee the provision of those services.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Paid leave for employees who are over 60 years of age and have a special health condition.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The government announced that firms whose establishments must be closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic may grant paid vacations to all workers.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The government announced that those firms whose establishments were to remain open during the pandemic should introduce more flexible working hours as well as remote work, wherever possible. However, firms are not allowed to reduce workers' wages.
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The government is covering up to 8,500 pesos (US \$ 157) of the salary of formal employees in economic sectors that have temporarily ceased their operations. For those companies that have not yet suspended operations, the Economic Commission will work directly with them to provide coverage of a percentage of the salary, which can reach up to 8,500 pesos per month, to keep workers on their payroll, thus facilitating job stability and household income. This measure will be valid for two months. According to the Decree 143-20, this economic support for suspended workers (FASE I) is equivalent to 70% of suspended workers' wages, although this cannot be less than RD\$5,000 nor greater than RD\$8,5000 and essential workers are not considered as beneficiaries of this program. The program is also targeted at non-suspended employees working in SMEs firms (FASE II), who will receive RD\$5,000 per month. According to the IMF, the program's

		<p>beneficiaries will be 754,000 families of formal workers who were laid off (no information about how many workers receive the benefit).</p> <p>[August 2020] The program was later extended by Decree 358-2020 until the 31st of December 2020.</p> <p>[December 2020] The government announced that FASE I would be extended until April 2021 and FASE II would eventually be replaced by another program.</p> <p>[April 2021] According to the IMF, FASE I expired at the end of April but the government announced a new program targeted at workers in the tourism sector, one of the most adversely impacted sectors, in the form of a targeted FASE program from May until July 2021.</p> <p>[September 2021] Overall, the expenditure of FASE so far has been 50.909 billion pesos.</p>
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Ecuador

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Bono de Protección Familiar is a transfer of USD 60 to 950,000 poor households and informal sector workers. The first transfer was made in early April and the second transfer was initiated in mid-May. The Decree N° 1026 (2020/04/24) extended this benefit in a second phase which was paid between May and June 2020. In this case, it is a one-off payment of US\$120. This extension was aimed to increase the program's coverage, as they now include vulnerable and poor people whose income is less than the poverty line (Canasta Familiar Vital)</p> <p>An amount of USD 15 every 2 months is given to all beneficiaries of benefits and pensions of the cash transfer programs of the Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economic and Social Inclusion (MIES) reported that more than 7,990 families, users of Child Development Services, will receive the Nutritional Support Bounce (Bono de Apoyo Nutricional). This is a one-time cash compensation of USD 240. The beneficiaries are mostly pregnant women and families with children from 0 to 3 years old. Household beneficiaries of the Bono de Protección Familiar are not eligible for this program.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The program "dar una mano sin dar la mano" (Giving a hand) will provide kits. The digital platform allows individuals to choose between kits of 5, 10 and 20 dollars, which will allow donations for people who need it most.</p> <p>The government announced an Emergency Food Plan for 8 million people through the Solidarity Basket Plan (Plan de Emergencia de Alimentación). This consists of in-kind food distributions in public schools and door-to-door delivery.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The Government of Ecuador (GoE) has prohibited the price increase of basic services, including water, electricity, internet, and telecommunications for one year.
Paid sick leave		

Social Insurance	Health insurance	<p>The GoE extended health coverage for 60 days for people dismissed from their place of employment or those who received delayed payments due to the pandemic.</p> <p>The GoE prohibited insurance companies from terminating health plans that received late payments during the COVID 19 pandemic.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[June 2020] During the months of April, May, June and July 2020, the government of Ecuador facilitated the procedure to receive unemployment benefits, allowing formal workers who recently became unemployed to avoid monthly paperwork.
	Social security contributions	The Social Security Institute of Ecuador (Instituto Ecuatoriano de Seguridad Social (IESS)) will postpone contribution payments for April, May and June 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[June 2020] The Government of Ecuador established a law granting job security to the fixed-term health workers employed at the healthcare center of the Comprehensive Public Health Network (RIPS).
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The government implemented a series of guidelines to allow firms to reduce, modify or suspend workdays, without job loss, during the pandemic. The employer must obtain approval from the Regional Director of Labor and Public Services. Employers are allowed to modify the working hours of their employees to protect their economic activity without violating the rules regarding the maximum working hours as stated in the Labor Code.
	Wage subsidies	

Egypt

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) A one-off monetary compensation of EGP 500 is being offered (for 3 months) to informal workers registered in the database of Ministry of Labor and Manpower Payment. It will be done through post offices and banks. Registration is still opened and is expected to cover 1.9 million individuals (out of 4.4 million applicants) working in construction, ports, agriculture, fishing, plumbing, electricity, etc. The first payment was processed in April 2020 via Post Offices (4,000 branches) and the Agriculture Bank of Egypt (1,100 branches) as well as 600 schools used as payment site – a total of 5,700 outlets. Beneficiaries receive a free ATM card with their first payment to cash their 2nd and 3rd payment via post offices and/or banks. Accepted beneficiaries are notified via SMS regarding the location and time to visit to collect their first payment and the ATM card, to avoid overcrowding and ensure the safety of beneficiaries (3 billion EGP).</p> <p>(2020) To support the healthcare sector, EGP 5 billion has been allocated, targeted at providing urgent and necessary medical supplies, and disbursing bonuses for medical staff working in quarantine hospitals and labs. To support medical professionals, including doctors working in university hospitals, a 75 percent allowance over the wages has been announced.</p> <p>(April 2020) In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Social Solidarity has been implementing several COVID-19 response measures, including supporting 9,000 workers in the tourism sector (EGP 500 per month per tour guide). The subsidies are provided by the Emergency Fund at the Ministry of Manpower.</p> <p>(April 2020) Monthly cash assistance for 6 months financed by the House of Zakat for informal workers who did not benefit from the Sisi Grant to Informal Workers. The program was originally for 3 months (April, May and June) and then extended for additional three months (October, November, and December).</p> <p>WFP and the Ministry of Education and Technical Education continued to provide assistance to about 27,000 families with community school children in 5 governorates with cash assistance (USD 11 per child) redeemable at local retail shops. The assistance aims to increase food security of vulnerable families negatively affected by the pandemic.</p>

		<p>WFP provided food assistance through cash (USD 25 each) to about 100,000 registered refugees from different nationalities to help secure their basic food needs</p> <p>(2020) An unrestricted/unconditional one-off cash transfer by WFP of EGP500 (equivalent to USD31) to 50,000 families with children under three years old, and pregnant women, in 5 governorates to complement the national social safety nets (covering those who were previously rejected from Takaful and other social safety net programs and who are now more vulnerable due to sudden disruption of services and loss of income).</p> <p>(2020) A payment to women community leaders in rural areas ranging from EGP350 to EGP900 per month has been announced.</p> <p>(2020) In support of the Ministry of Manpower, WFP launched its first monthly cash assistance of EGP500, targeting about 52,000 registered casual workers, 40,500 of whom redeemed their assistance. The assistance was launched on 12 April in 9 governorates. To avoid crowding at the Fawry retailer outlets, WFP divided the distribution process over 5 slots that extended between 12-30 April. WFP's assistance runs as part of the Ministry of Manpower's temporary cash assistance to casual labor workers provided via post offices and Agricultural Bank of Egypt branches, benefitting over 2 million people.</p> <p>(April 2020) More than 400K households will also be added to receive a one-time-off cash payment of EGP 450-500 EGP for 3 months in addition to potential in-kind benefits with priority given to elderly, orphans, disabled and female-headed households. The households will be selected from MoSS Social Registry that includes around 30 million registered beneficiaries. Payment will be done via post office for first payment and ATM card will be collected for 2nd and 3rd payments.</p> <p>(March 2020): Since the start of the pandemic, the Ministry of Social Solidarity has been implementing several COVID-19 response measures including expanding the cash transfer program (Takkaful and Karama) coverage to include an additional 411,000 households. Up to July 2021, the project has reached 3.37 million direct project beneficiaries (including 75% women), while 11.85 million direct and indirect beneficiaries benefited from the project.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(2020) In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Ministry of Social Solidarity has been implementing several COVID-19 response measures, including providing meals to approx. 3.8 million households with pregnant women or children under two years of age to improve nutrition levels.</p>

		(2020) The ministry of social welfare distributed more than 500,000 hygiene and sanitation materials for needy families
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Doctors Syndicate has agreed with the Insurance and Pensions Authority on the rules for disbursing the work injury pension to female and male doctors affected by COVID-19, according to the decision issued on May 30, 2020, considering the COVID-19 as an infectious disease that is entitled to a work injury pension after submitting the required documents to the authority. It will reach an amount of 6000 pounds during this year.
	Health insurance	The head of the Egyptian Tax Authority (ETA) has recently issued a regulation regarding the payment of the health insurance contribution (which is amounting to 0.25% of total annual revenues of the enterprise). As per this regulation the taxpayer can now pay such contribution electronically via any of the banks that supports the ETA's electronic payment system, through the ETA's web portal. The taxpayer's tax registration number is required to verify the taxpayer and confirm the settlement.
	Pensions	Pensions have been increased by 14 percent in the budget of FY 2021. To facilitate payments, pension payments are scattered over different days (depending on the level of the payment) and schools are also being used as payment sites. Mobile payments will be piloted in Luxor and Port-Said for the transfer of pensions. Pensioners will receive five bonuses (variable income) at a total cost of 35 billion EGP this year. The variable wage pension will be re-adjusted by adding 80 percent of the special allowances that are not included in the basic wage of the pensioners who have ended their service between July 2006 and June 2016.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] On March 29, the President's office announced that all medical professionals, including doctors working in university hospitals, will receive a 75% increase to their medical profession allowance. The total value of the wage subsidy is EGP 2.25 billion

El Salvador

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020): The government of President Nayib Bukele has pledged to give \$300 to some 1.5 million households (75 percent) who work in the informal economy such as house cleaners and street vendors who lack a financial safety net. The government targeted households using electricity usage: any household with monthly consumption of 0-250 kilowatts/per hour got the transfers. This criterion spurred some protests from people who demand to be included in the new scheme</p> <p>(March 2020): The government launched a compensation bonus of USD 150 for essential public employees who work in activities aimed at combating COVID 19, particularly those working at the Ministry of Health.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(April 2020): Distribution of 2.7 food baskets to affected families worth US\$ 56 each. This program was originally launched in April (budget of US\$50 M per month) and a second delivery was implemented in August (with an additional estimated cost of US\$190 M).
	School feeding	(June 2020): The government delivered 320,000 Family School Meal Packages, primarily targeted to vulnerable families that cannot access food during the COVID 19 pandemic. This program is aimed at those students' families living in municipalities which fulfilled the following criteria: 1) being considered as severe, high or moderate in the poverty map; 2) being considered as a municipality with very high, high or moderate chronic malnutrition. The government planned to spend \$7.8 M in this program. The package includes food and in-kind items such as milk powder, milk, fortified beverages, vegetable oil, rice, beans, sugar and cereals. It was estimated to be delivered between June and July 2020.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020): The government has granted a waiver for utility bills payments for individuals and legal entities directly affected by COVID-19 for three months. Utilities include electricity, water, telephone, cable, and internet. Also, mortgage payments, personal loans, credit card payments, business loans were frozen for three months for individuals and legal entities directly affected by COVID-19.

		(March 2020): The government implemented a price control scheme to ensure that there is no increase in the basic food basket and protect people's income.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The government has mandated private companies to ensure quarantine of particular worker categories, including those older than 60, pregnant women or those with preexisting conditions. These workers would receive a paid sick leave for 30 days. Also, private companies (except those in the food, medical and other key sectors) that decide to send all their workers home on paid leave will be eligible for further government support. This initiative also includes leave with disability pay for quarantined workers, for the time required by health personnel.
	Health insurance	The government decided to keep on offering health insurance coverage during the emergency period for those suspended workers or unemployed, even if their employers did not pay their social contributions.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>Instituto Salvadoreño de Formación Profesional (INSAFORP) offers e-learning courses that respond to the demands of the productive sectors and the population. The online platform serves as an interface for 15 platforms from different providers through which the online training is carried out.</p> <p>[October 2020] The government, through the Fondo Solidario para la Salud (Fosalud), trained more than 62 professionals from the Medical Emergency System in order to standardize health workers knowledge and action in cases of patient care during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] By Decree N° 593, the government established that no worker who is quarantined due to COVID-19, ordered by the competent health authority, or unable to return to the workplace due to migration or health restrictions decreed in the country or abroad can be dismissed, nor be subject to a reduction of their wages. The measure will expire at the time of declaring the State of National Emergency extinct.</p> <p>[May 2020] On May 5, 2020, the Legislative Assembly approved Decree No. 641, which contains the "Ley de Protección al Empleo Salvadoreño". The purpose of this law is to safeguard the job stability of employees in the Salvadoran private sector, guaranteeing employees a decent income, without affecting the sustainability of business activity, without distinction of sectors or economic elements.</p>
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] On March 20, 2020, the Legislative Assembly approves the Telework Regulation Law, which aims to promote, harmonize, regulate and implement telework as an instrument for the generation of employment and modernization of public, private and autonomous institutions, through the use of information and communication technologies.
	Wage subsidies	

Equatorial Guinea

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The government will make contributions to finance the Public Social Guarantees Program against the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Public Social Guaranties Program will guarantee basic food and necessities for identified households. The program was launched on May 28th, where 12,000 households are expected to receive the food baskets.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers	As part of the COVID-19 relief package announced in March 2020, households benefitted from a 25-50% reduction in their electricity bill.	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] Article 23 - The Ministry of Finance, Economy and Planning demands food distribution and food commercialization companies and all those that hire new employees to reinforce their workforce to comply with the standards established by the health authorities. They will be granted a discount of 100% of the Social Security contributions until September 30, 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Eritrea

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The GoSE provides unconditional monthly cash of 500Nakfa (33.33USD) for approximately 60000 families of martyrs every year.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>UNICEF provides one-time in-kind transfer (direct cash transfer is not allowed) of 600USD to establish income generating ventures (shops, livestock, cottage production, etc) to the vulnerable families, specifically female headed households and households hosting children with disabilities and orphans. In 2020, with UNICEF support 499 families were reached.</p> <p>UNICEF extended in-kind support equivalent of 300 Nakfa (20 USD) for each student for educational supplies and reached 7,220 vulnerable children to get them back to school in April 2021.</p> <p>The GoSE provides universal food vouchers with discounted rates for bread, sugar, milk, etc. distributed from selected shops (not much information available)</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Payment of electricity, water and telephone household bills were postponed.</p> <p>Price control measures: The government took stringent legal measures on all individuals and commercial enterprises that engage in hoarding and speculative price hikes by misconstruing the precautionary measures that are being taken.</p> <p>Landlords in Eritrea have agreed to waive rents - It was just for 3 months and the lock down and other stringent measures extended until the opening of schools in April 2021.</p> <p>The Ministry of Agriculture is working to distribute around a million one-month-old chicks to around 40,000 families all over the country. The ultimate objective of the distribution program is to sell chicks at a very fair price to the tune of 15 Nakfa per one-month-old chick, for rural families so as to improve their livelihoods and promote nutritious diets.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Estonia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 22 April 2020, a temporary amendment to the Creative Persons and Creative Societies Act was passed by the Estonian government, which aims to support creative practitioners who have lost their income. A minimum wage is guaranteed for six months and is available to freelance creative practitioners who are creators as defined in the Creative Industries Act and whose main source of income is professional creative activity in the fields of architecture, audiovisual, design, performing arts, sound, literature, visual arts. The Ministry of Culture applied for an additional EUR 4.2 million to cover this expansion of the Act to a total of approx. 1,200 people who work in creative fields and have been disrupted by the pandemic. On 4 February 2021, it was introduced a short-term scheme for freelance artists, sports coaches and heads of choirs and dance groups. It concerns a temporary measure for the period of the emergency situation due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Freelance artists were supported by an amount equal to the minimum salary for a period of two months.</p> <p>On April 13, 2020, The Estonian government introduced an emergency support for parents with special needs children under the age of 18. The person must officially be on unpaid leave to be eligible for the allowance and cannot receive any other COVID-19 related financial support or national replacement income (e.g., parental benefit). The allowance is paid for one parent of a child with special needs in case that the parent cannot work due to the need to take care of their child due to the national emergency situation. The amount of the allowance per calendar day is 70% of the previous year's salary per calendar day. The allowance is paid monthly. The minimum rate is €18 per day (around €540 which is the national minimum wage per month), the maximum rate is €35 per day (around €1,050 per month). The allowance was paid as of 12 March 2020 and during the entire time of the unpaid leave, but not longer than 31 May 2020. The implementing institution is the Estonian National Social Insurance Board. According to the data of the Estonian Social Insurance Board, altogether 1,298 people received the allowance in the total amount of €1.3 million</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	It is reported on April 8, 2020, that Tallinn government in Estonia, due to school closure and social distancing norms changed the modality of school feeding from on-site hot meals at school to once in a week take-home style food package. Within a week after the change in the distribution of school food in Tallinn, the number of children coming for lunch has risen from 1,200 to 11,550. Even

		though the growth in numbers has been exponential, the city will not monitor whether people who request food actually have the need for it. The weekly food package has food for 6 days' lunch. The packages distributed on April 1, 2020 had rye bread, cucumber, tomato and carrots, apples, bananas and an orange, pasta, cheese, meatballs, canned soup, milk, kefir and corn puffs. The menu will vary in order to ensure different nutrients for the children and the foods are chosen in close cooperation of the caterers and health promotion specialists.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The Estonian government reduced the Excise duty on some types of fuel, electricity and gas from 1 May, 2020 until April 30, 2022. On 29 September 2021, this policy has been further extended for a period of one year (until 30 April 2023). The freeze on excise duties will impact the state budget, leaving a hole of €53 million in 2022, rising to €93 million in 2023.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Waiving of the 3-day waiting period: the state decided to reimburse the first three days of sick leave for all workers during an emergency situation (normally not covered: the employer pays sick pay from day 4 to day 8 of sick leave for employees). The first three days of sickness are reimbursed retrospectively to anyone whose sick leave was opened from 13 March. This difference applies to all sick leaves (including the self-employed) that were opened until the end of the emergency, that ended on 17 May. The economic stimulus package includes temporary suspension of second pillar pension scheme payments.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[September 2020] In June 2020, the Parliament approved an amendment to the Labor Market Services and Benefits Act regarding temporary employment. Thus, since September 2020, it is possible to take on temporary work (a one-off work task not exceeding 8 calendar days per month) while being registered as unemployed. Previously, an unemployed person had to terminate his/her unemployment status if he/she took on a piece of work (e.g., a one-off lecture, publishing a paid article, replacing a former colleague for a few days, etc.).
	Social security contributions	[July 2020] From 1 July 2020 to 31 August 2021, the state will suspend the employer contributions to the second-pillar funded pension from social tax (4% of salary). Payments into the II pillar of the pension fund are temporarily suspended. The state has suspended its payments into the mandatory funded pension system from 1st July 2020 to August 30, 2021. Persons participating in the system may decide to suspend their payments into this system as well from 1st December 2020 to August 30, 2021 (the decision to be made and the application to be filed in October 2020).
	Activation measures	[March 2020] The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund (EUIF) improved its blended employment counselling (combining face-to-face and distance counselling) and adopted a law to allow PES to

Labor Markets		decide the mode of counselling without any time or other limits. Counselling can be provided online, via telephone, e-mail and Skype. The key changes in the counselling practice were implemented from March 2020 to December 2021.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund will compensate 70% of the average wages from the last 12 months but no more than 1000 Euros. The employers will also contribute, paying at least 150 Euros. Both the Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund and the employers will pay the social tax and the unemployment insurance premiums from their part themselves. If possible, employers should continue paying the wages they have paid thus far. In order to be eligible to apply for the compensation, employers need to meet 2 out of 3 criteria: the turnover or revenue of the employer has fallen at least 30% due to the corona virus compared to the same period last year; the employer does not have work to give to at least 30% of the workers; or the employer has had to cut down the wages of at least 30% of the workers by at least 30%. The compensation is paid for only those workers to whom the employer does not have work to give or whose wages have already been cut because of the lack of workload.

Eswatini

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The WFP has been supporting families hardest-hit by the impacts of a poor harvest, rising food prices and the prolonged secondary effects of COVID-19 in the rural, urban and peri-urban areas of the Manzini, Lubombo and Hhohho regions with cash transfers. Monthly cash transfers are delivered via a mobile money platform established in partnership with mobile service provider MTN. The Cash-Based Transfer program will also continue to integrate Social Behavior Change Communication (SBCC) to provide knowledge and information on basic hygiene for prevention of COVID-19, as well as knowledge on nutritional practices to enhance purchasing choices for households to meet their nutritional needs. The project was scaled up significantly in August 2020 from 20,000 to 94,000 families but has since been pared back. In September 2021, a donation of EUR500,000 allowed for the continuation of the project for 53,600 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA), mandated in terms of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) Regulations 2020 to coordinate and provide relief assistance to the most vulnerable, paid cash transfers to 13,659 households in 14 constituencies in the country. In this regard, the government through the NDMA provided a payment (grants) of SZL 700 to the poor and vulnerable to help them to buy food and other basic necessities. As of July 17th, 2020, an additional donation from the Kirsh Foundation allowed for the NDMA to provide a total of 330,000 Emaswati with cash transfers to support food consumption.</p> <p>The NGO Young Heroes, with assistance from MTN Bushfire has distributed monthly cash transfers of SZL 200 for three months and food parcels, to families looking after orphaned and vulnerable children in Lobamba Lomdzala in spring-summer 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	(April 2020) Disbursements of the government's Old Age Grant and the Disability Grant were increasingly processed via mobile money instead of manual cash payments. The payment digitization process was supported by the Red Cross and implemented via the eSwatini Post and Telecommunications Corporation and MTN Mobile Money.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(April 2020) The Government pledged to provide food assistance to the most vulnerable of society that have been adversely affected by the COVID 19 pandemic. Vulnerable individuals and households in areas where local and traditional government structures were in place (i.e. rural areas) were identified with the support of chiefs and other local structures and received food parcels. The

		<p>scheme was funded largely through donations and aimed to complement various donor-funded cash transfers.</p> <p>The All Out Africa Foundation provided food relief assistance on a monthly basis to 44 and later 55 (from July) families from April to September 2020.</p> <p>The NGO Young Heroes, with assistance from MTN Bushfire has distributed food parcels to families looking after orphaned and vulnerable children in Lobamba Lomdzala in spring-summer 2020.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Banks have announced that those individuals and companies that need short term financial support or relief can approach them and each application will be assessed on a risk-based approach.</p> <p>(April 2020) The increase in the price of electricity and water have been suspended for two months and three months respectively.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Government of Eswatini is ensuring that the citizens have continued access to water and sanitation services during the crisis. This is done by providing water tanks and hand washing facilities to most of the areas in the country.</p> <p>As part of the measures to cope with the COVID-19 economic crisis, the government of Eswatini reduced the price of fuel with effect from midnight April 2nd, 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) To provide relief due to lockdown measures, the government announced that taxpayers projecting losses are expected to file loss provisional returns and no payment will be required.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Access to paid leave and access to health care: Identified and/or suspected COVID-19 positive cases are to be relieved from duty with immediate effect and treated by the terms of the provisions of the relevant workplace sickness policy and/or the Employment Act, No. 5 of 1980 in relation to sick leave.
	Health insurance	Access to paid leave and access to healthcare: Identified and/or suspected COVID-19 positive cases are to be relieved from duty with immediate effect and treated by the terms of the provisions of the relevant workplace sickness policy and/or the Employment Act, No. 5 of 1980 in relation to sick leave.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[June 2020] On June 5, the Prime Minister announced the establishment of the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF). The Eswatini National Provident Fund has set aside SZL 5 million for the establishment of the fund to offer protection against loss of income. Individuals can claim

		unemployment benefits if they lose their jobs. The employer and employee will each contribute a certain percentage of the employee's salary.
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] On April 8, the government announced the suspension of the payment of Eswatini National Provident Fund (ENPF) contributions for the months of April and May 2020 to allow companies to use these contributions to cushion wages and payment of salaries.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[April 2020] On April 1, the Prime Minister announced that the government provided COVID-19 training to 1,007 nurses from all levels, 147 medical doctors and over 3,000 rural health motivators in reaching out to communities and helping with the required information to stop the spread of COVID 19.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Ethiopia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Cash transfer to poor and vulnerable, Proposed temporary income support to poor and vulnerable households in urban Ethiopia. This is to supplement support otherwise going to rural households via the Rural PSNP. As of end of December 2020, the project was still proposed.</p> <p>6-months of cash transfer top-ups to all existing 50,050 UPSNP PDS households in 11 cities. The support reached 93,120 clients (55,127 female beneficiaries). The top-up value was 360 ETB per month for 6-months. Disbursements for PDS clients started in September 2020. MoLSA, JOBFSA, WFP and UNICEF also collaborated to identify 17,460 TDS clients in the 11 UPSNP cities and provided 3-months of transfers (disbursements commenced in November 2020). For TDS clients in Addis Ababa, the support was extended to provide 6-months of support, this was due to additional budget availability and the higher COVID-19 transmission rates in Addis Ababa.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP) will receive a 3-months advance payment while on leave from their public works obligations. They will be able to withdraw 50% of their savings to cover expenses arising out of the COVID-19 emergency. The project is split into public works, direct support, and institutional support/capacity strengthening components. This benefit pertains to direct support beneficiaries.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Amhara Regional State: started providing flour, oil and sugar to "the poorest of the poor" in the city of Bahir Dar in April 2020.</p> <p>City of Adama (Oromia): started providing bread and water for those who need assistance during the stay-at-home order.</p> <p>Addis Ababa City Administration: Allocated 600 million ETB for purchasing stockpile of food/other essential goods and to distribute the same to 800 retail shops.</p> <p>\$635 million (0.6 percent of GDP) for emergency food distribution to 15 million individuals vulnerable to food insecurity and not currently covered by the rural and urban PSNPs.</p>

		\$282 million (0.3 percent of GDP) for provision of emergency shelter and non-food items.
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>The PSNP is the government of Ethiopia's multi-billion-dollar food security, public works, and social safety net program for millions in need across Ethiopia. A total additional \$2.2 billion investment by the government and Ethiopia's international partners in PSNP over the next five years will reach up to nine million people each year as it provides food assistance and services that will lift vulnerable families out of poverty.</p> <p>Ethiopia Rural PSNP is adapting the following adjustments: the public works requirement is waived since beginning of April.</p> <p>Ethiopia Rural PSNP is adapting the following adjustments: The program scaled up vertically and provided 2 extended supports. The extended support reached 2.9 million with financing of people \$40. The cash benefit value will increase by about 22% for scale-up. It also extended the duration of benefits from 3 months to 6 months.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the Urban Productive Safety Net Project (UPSNP) will receive a 3 month advance payment while on leave from their public works obligations. They will be able to withdraw 50% of their savings to cover expenses arising out of the COVID-19 emergency. The project is split into public works, direct support, and institutional support/capacity strengthening components. This benefit pertains to public works beneficiaries.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>National Expansion of free public transport: government buses to provide free transportation service to the public to reduce overcrowding in the public transport system.</p> <p>Tigray State: a moratorium on evictions and reduction of rents by half,</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Harari State: government employees who are at higher risk of COVID-19 (elderly, pregnant women, those with underlying conditions) to stay home while receiving their salaries.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[July 2021] The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs announced that it was preparing to launch a Labor Management Information System (LMIS). It would be a multi-functional system which would offer institutional arrangements, procedures and mechanisms put in place to coordinate the collection, processing, storage, retrieval and dissemination of labor market information. It would assist in searching for jobs, matching applicants to jobs, providing information about market needs,

		developing job profiles, providing information to employees about the development of new sectors, professions, and projects.
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] The government prohibited companies from laying off workers and terminating employment in measures introduced as part of a state of emergency to stop the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government issued guidance on health and safety protocols including the measures of workplace prevention and mitigation mechanisms to be put in place by employers, monitoring of the measures, urgent follow up action for COVID-19 cases, up-to-date information sharing by Safety Officers, and precautionary measures to be taken by workers.</p> <p>[March 2020] According to the tripartite Protocol, workers were allowed to take their unused annual leaves; for those who had exhausted their annual leaves, they were allowed to take at least half of their annual leave from the following budgetary period.</p> <p>For the fiscal year 2020/21, the authorities planned to allocate funds for additional payments for health workers.</p>
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The federal government workers were directed to work from home with effect from 25th March, 2020. Each Ministry was mandated to determine critical staff.
	Wage subsidies	

Faroe Islands (Denmark)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] A job retention scheme was introduced in mid-March to support companies hit by the COVID-19 crisis until the 30th of June, 2021. It was designed to temporarily help pay the wages of people who cannot do their jobs, thus allowing employees to stay on the payroll.</p> <p>[April 2020] It was announced that more than 4,000 people had signed up for the scheme and the government had paid out over DKK 52 million in stimulus payments. With the lifting of the lockdown, many people returned to work so the number of people registered decreased to 3,575.</p> <p>[June 2020] The measure was extended until the 31st of August, 2020, however, people aged 67 and over (working pensioners) would not be included in the extension.</p> <p>[August 2020] The scheme expired on the 31st of August 2020.</p>

Fiji

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 26 March 2020, as part of the budget, the government of Fiji announced a one-off cash transfer of \$150 to all Hawker license holders in the informal sector in the lockdown areas</p> <p>On 26 March 2020, the government announced that Fijians in the informal sector who get tested positive for the Coronavirus will receive a one-off cash transfer of FJ\$1,000. The deficit in the budget will be financed from ADB and the World Bank.</p> <p>On January 11, 2021, it is reported that the Fiji government has made more than 19,000 Fijian families most-affected by the impacts of COVID-19 receive 100 Fijian dollars a month over the following four months through digital cash transfers. This program has started before Christmas. It is said this will be one of the largest cash assistance programs ever rolled out in Fiji and will be especially crucial as families prepare to send their children back to school. Each household received \$400 through a digital cash transfer system, namely Vodafone's M-PAiSA platform. The second round of the Cash Program commenced in August 2021 and will be implemented over a 6-month period until January 2022. A total of 16,772 households received cash payments. On 7 September 2021, a total of \$6.7Million Fijian dollars was transferred directly to families to help them meet their basic needs such as buying food and medicine and taking care of their children's educational needs. The second round of the Cash Program commenced in August 2021 and will be implemented over a 6-month period until January 2022. This is being done through the Fiji National Philanthropic Trust Cash Assistance Program - a partnership between Save the Children Fiji, Fiji Council of Social Services and Vodafone Fiji. Between August and December 2021, they will be providing 39,000 households, each will receive 3 payments of \$200 which will be transferred into their mycash wallet or M-PAiSA accounts. As of September 2, 2021, they have already verified and vetted a total of 16,772 households. These households have already been paid their first transfer amount of \$200 on the 22nd of August. They will receive their second and third payment of \$200 on the 22 of September and their final third payment of \$200 on the 22nd of October. In total more than \$23million FJD will be transferred to 39,000 households by December 2021.</p> <p>On 26 April 2021, the government of Fiji announced a one-off COVID-19 relief for FNPF members impacted by the lockdown restrictions in the Western Division which will open from Monday 26th</p>

		<p>April 2021 and close on May 3, 2021. The beneficiary will get a one-off payment of \$220, given that the containment period is 14 days, which is equivalent to two weeks. Members living in the containment area and who are currently accessing phases two and three of the COVID-19 relief, will not be eligible for this one-off relief. There are two main modes of application submission – the employer portal and the myFNPF App which will be available from Monday 26 April 2021, when the scheme opens.</p> <p>Government provides top-ups to eligible FNPF members whose general account balance is below a certain threshold.</p> <p>In 2020, the government of Fiji announced that households registered in the Disability Allowance Scheme (DIS) will receive two payments: one in August 2020 worth FJD 100 and one in September 2020 worth FJD 100, in addition to the existing monthly food voucher and cash entitlement. Starting from 5th August, beneficiaries will be able to withdraw cash from their bank accounts or redeem the vouchers at their nearest post offices. Around 7,500 beneficiaries exist for this program/scheme</p> <p>In 2020, the government of Fiji announced that households registered in the Poverty Benefit Scheme will receive two payments: one in August 2020 worth FJD 100 and one in September 2020 worth FJD 100, in addition to the existing monthly food voucher and cash entitlement. Starting from 5th August 2020, beneficiaries will be able to withdraw cash from their bank accounts or redeem the vouchers at their nearest post offices. Around 26,000 beneficiaries exist for this program/scheme</p> <p>In 2020, the government of Fiji announced that households registered in the Child and Protection allowance will receive two payments: one in August 2020 worth FJD 100 and one in September 2020 worth FJD 100, in addition to the existing monthly food voucher and cash entitlement. Starting from 5th August 2020, beneficiaries will be able to withdraw cash from their bank accounts or redeem the vouchers at their nearest post offices. Around 45,000 beneficiaries exist for this program/scheme</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 18 March 2020, the government of Fiji announced that households and farms received packages with seeds and planting materials to ensure their food security and adequate access to food of acceptable quality and nutritional value. The government has two programs: Home Gardening Program and Farm Support Program. The former program provides home-gardening kits for</p>

		households in small towns or large cities. While the latter program support aims to improve production of short-term crops in farms in the country. Under the Home Gardening initiative, households in urban and peri-urban communities, with at least 49 square meters of land, received home gardening packages with vegetable seeds and instructions on planting techniques. Under the Farm Support initiative, packages include seeds and planting materials, e.g.: taro, cassava, rice, kumala, duruka, eggplant, chilies, okra, tomatoes, maize, bitter gourd, pigeon pea, and cowpea, and were distributed to farmers with the aim to support short-term crops production. This program was started on 2 April 2020.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 26, 2020, the Fiji government has requested banks to waive all charges on minimum balances in customers' accounts and to remove the minimum purchasing requirement for electronic transactions. This will allow more electronic and online payments by customers and consumers.</p> <p>On March 26, 2020, the government of Fiji has requested banks and hire purchase companies to offer six-month deferral (i.e., until the end of September 2020) of loan repayments for Fijians who have lost their jobs or had their hours reduced. As of July 2020, the total value of repayment relief for loans given by licensed financial institutions stood at \$3 billion for 17,194 customers (this also included businesses). On 3 September 2020, the loan and interest payment deferral was extended until the end of December 2020. Again, on March 17, 2021, the Association of Banks in Fiji (ABIF) has announced further support for vulnerable customers with the extension of COVID-19 Customer relief measures to September 30, on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>On 26 March 2020, the government of Fiji has ordered Water Authority of Fiji (WAF) to suspend all disconnections of water meters for non-payment of bills until 31 December 2020. This policy cost \$28.4 million dollars. This policy got further extended until the end of March 2021. All residential customers will need to clear at least 50 per cent of their outstanding payments by 30 April 2021 and enter into a payment plan that ensures that full outstanding accounts are paid by 31 December 2021, and all current bills from 1 April 2021 must be paid in full by their due dates.</p> <p>On March 26, 2020, the government of Fiji announced a policy for students repaying Tertiary Education Loans based on which repayments will be suspended until 31 December 2020. This will provide a relief of around \$10 million. On 5 September 2020, the government further extended the repayment of tertiary educational loans until the end of December 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Government to fund 21 days COVID- 19 leave for Fijian employees earning less than FJ\$30,000 who have tested positive for the virus.
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	The Fund paid one-off additional payment to Retirement Income Fund annuitants (active pensioners). More than 7,000 Fiji National Provident Fund pensioners received a COVID-19 relief payment on Tuesday 26 May 2020. Inactive pensioners will need to contact the Fund for validation before payment will be processed.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>Effective from 1 April 2020 to 31 December 2020 reduction in employee and employer FPNF contribution from 8 percent and 10 percent respectively to 5 percent. The program has been extended to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>Waiver of penalties for after due date contributions; reduction of upfront contribution payments to 10%; and reissuance of conditional compliance letters.</p> <p>Fijian workers in the hospitality sector who have lost their jobs or have had their hours cut since 1 February 2020 are able to access an initial \$1,000 from their FPNF accounts, with additional funds to be considered.</p> <p>Insured workers under the national social security system were able to withdraw from their own retirement funds, and/or receive top-ups if their funds were not sufficient. The scheme comprises of 4 phases, with one or two rounds each, aimed at different types of beneficiaries and rolled out between March 2020 and still ongoing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Phase 1 (March 2020 – 29.05.2020; beneficiaries: employees who work in the tourism Sector (\$1,000) and those affected due to physical distancing issues or work within the lock-down zone nationwide (\$500). Employees who have had reduced working hours; been sent on leave without pay; reduced wage rate or salary - entitled to government top-up; taxi, minivan or hire drivers, small enterprise owners and employees who have resigned, been terminated, non-renewal of contract, laid off or seasonal workers in the last 6 months - no government top-up); · Phase 2 (09.06.2020 - ongoing; FPNF members who were eligible before or have recently become unemployed/leave without pay); · Phase 3 (10.08.2020 – 16.10.2020; beneficiaries: FPNF members who are on reduced hours and reduced wage rate can apply for Phase 3 withdrawal. Members who have insufficient General Account balance will receive government Top Up.); · Phase 4 (31.08.2020 – ongoing (govt. top-up not applicable); beneficiaries: members who became unemployed before COVID (from 1 October 2017 to 30 September 2019). <p>Koroï says the fund paid out \$438.9million driven by retirement, migration, unemployment withdrawals that included COVID-19 related assistance totaling 101,879 applications valued at \$55.8 million.</p>

		Employees affected by the nationwide stipulated physical distancing requirements, along with employees in the Lautoka confined area who have been placed on leave without pay or had their hours cut are able to access an initial \$500 from their FNPF accounts.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Finland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On October 5, 2021, the government announced a temporary compensation for households and persons that receive basic social assistance (in Finnish 'toimeentulotuki') that are affected by the restriction imposed due to COVID-19. Basic social assistance is available for individuals living and residing in Finland whose income and assets do not cover essential daily needs. This temporary compensation can be granted to persons who received basic social assistance while the restrictions were in force (between March 2020 and July 2020). Only persons who have received basic social assistance in the month preceding the payment of the compensation are eligible. The compensation is granted automatically by the Finnish social insurance institution Kela. The amount is €75 per month and per person. The benefit is not subject to tax nor does it affect the social assistance or any other benefits. The total budget of this measure is €60 million. This policy was implemented from 5 October 2020 until 31 December 2020. This measure is implemented to off-set the negative impacts created by the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 pandemic in Finland. For instance, the closure of schools in the spring 2020 increased the costs in many low-income families as they could no longer rely on school lunch or lunch provided at day care facilities.</p> <p>Due to the social distancing recommendations and restrictions, the culture and creative arts sector has been hit hard during the COVID-19 pandemic. Freelancers among others are negatively impacted and have been excluded from many of the other forms of support available for enterprises in Finland. Private individuals can apply for a work grant that is €6,000. The grant is available for professional artists and other professionals whose work and income have been negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy started on 1 April 2020 and lasted until the 30 June 2021. As of June 2021, five application rounds have been organized. The total budget of the fifth application round is €55 million. The grants are administrated by Arts Promotion Centre Finland. As of June 2021 (when the fifth application round was opening), the number of beneficiaries was approximately 9,500. The total amount of support granted was around €43 million.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
School feeding	<p>On April 3, 2020 it is reported in Finland that some cities such as Helsinki and Kauniainen have opted for on-site school feeding. Officials in the capital Helsinki estimated that 97 percent or roughly 43,000 basic education pupils are no longer attending school physically and are learning remotely</p>	

		<p>instead. The city continues to provide sit-down meals for students at their respective schools, but remote learners need to sign up in advance if they want the free lunch. As of April 3, 2020, 300 distance learners go in for school lunches every day. In much smaller 10,000-resident Kauniainen, a program that began on 24 March 2020 provides distance learners with a daily warm lunch. Students should also sign up for lunch, which is served at one school, Kasavuoren koulu, between 11 and 11.30am daily.</p> <p>On April 3, 2020, it is reported in Finland that some cities such as Tampere have opted for take-home ration. In Tampere, Finland's most populous inland city, officials said that just three percent of about 20,000 children in basic education are attending classes. They get school lunch as normal but students learning remotely should call ahead if they also want a meal. Only 35-40 remote learners per day have been coming in for meals. Some parents just do not want to take the chance and send their children out to school. The city is currently working with social services to identify and deliver lunches to vulnerable families whose children may need special support. Children doing distance learning will be given take-away meals from 6 April, if they place an email order by 10am on the preceding workday.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>In Finland, students who graduate on time can receive a deduction to their loan (either directly or through taxes). This deduction is 40% of the amount that exceeds €2,500. During the COVID-19 pandemic, some students have struggled with finishing studies due to the stress and other health issues caused by the turbulent situation, making it hard for students to graduate and therefore, missing their right to student loan deduction. In order to support students affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, on 30 June 2020, the amendment (effective from 1 August 2021) was made such that students who graduate maximum one semester later than planned can receive student loan deduction. The student must be able to prove that the delay is caused by COVID-19. Students must apply for reprocessing of the deduction. This means that a student whose right to the deduction has been rejected by Kela (Finnish social insurance institution) can demand reprocessing. If they can prove that their studies were delayed by maximum one semester due to COVID-19, they get the deduction. There is no budget for this measure. The maximum amount of deduction an individual student can receive is €7,640.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Kela (the national Social Insurance institution) can pay a sickness allowance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · employees who have been ordered to stay away from work in order to prevent the spread of a communicable disease such as the novel coronavirus. · provider of a child under the age of 16 who is placed in quarantine, making it impossible for the provider to continue working while the quarantine is in effect.

		<p>There is no waiting period to qualify for such sickness allowance, and the allowance provides full compensation for the loss of income suffered during a period of absence from work, isolation or quarantine.</p> <p>For employees, the sickness allowance is determined on the basis of the salary they would have earned if able to continue working. For self-employed persons, the allowance is determined on the basis of their annual earnings under the Self-Employed Persons' (YEL) or Farmers' (MYEL) Pensions Acts at the beginning of the absence.</p> <p>Payment of the allowance requires the affected person to present to Kela a decision from the physician in charge of infectious disease response for the municipality or hospital district which indicates that the affected person has been barred from work or placed in isolation or quarantine. Persons who have been placed in isolation or quarantine in an EU country can be paid a daily allowance. The placement in isolation or quarantine must be certified by a physician authorized to issue an isolation or quarantine order in the relevant country.</p> <p>The allowance provides compensation for loss of income and is therefore payable only for days in which the affected person cannot work due to placement in isolation or quarantine. The allowance is not available for example if it coincides with a leave of absence or if telecommuting would be an option. Proof of the loss of income must be presented in the form of documentation from the employer.</p>
	Health insurance	<p>On 27th January 2021, the government decided on the reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccinations through health insurance. The Health Insurance Act will be amended so that vaccinations received through occupational healthcare can be reimbursed by Kela. The costs of reimbursement would be paid from state funds. The amount of the reimbursement will be decided later. The state is responsible for procuring the vaccine, while municipalities are responsible for its distribution. Travel costs related to vaccinations provided by both public and private healthcare services would also be reimbursed. The Government will submit a proposal on the reimbursement of COVID-19 vaccination to Parliament in February.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] The government allowed self-employed and entrepreneurs to claim temporarily the labor market subsidy, an unemployment benefit. To be beneficiary, entrepreneurs need to be unemployed or have a monthly income less than €1,089, or to show a decrease in their income due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The labor market support is €33.6 per day and it is paid 5 days a week.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2020] This measure was extended until 31 December 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - November 2020] The government proposed extension of this temporary amendment until the end of March of 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] This measure was extended until the end of June 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] This measure was extended until the end of September 2021.</p> <p>[Extension] This measure is expected to end by December 2021.</p>

		<p>In 2020, in total 44,000 entrepreneurs received labor market subsidy. The total amount paid out by KELA, the social insurance institution that pays out the subsidy, was €165.7 million.</p> <p>[June 2020] Because of COVID-19, the government increased temporarily the exempt amount of the adjusted unemployment benefit. For benefit adjustment periods beginning between 1 June 2020 and 30 November 2021, the exempt amount is EUR 465 if the benefit is paid every four weeks and EUR 500 if the benefit is paid monthly. For adjustment periods beginning on or after 1 December 2021, the exempt amount is EUR 279 if the benefit is paid every four weeks and EUR 300 if the benefit is paid monthly.</p> <p>[Extension - September 2021] This measure was extended until the end of November 2021. The government estimated a total cost of EUR 19 million for this measure.</p> <p>[June 2020] The government removed the waiting period in order for jobseekers to receive benefits from the first day of the unemployment period. This measure applies to all jobseekers. Also during the waiting period the amount of financial support is dependent on whether the job-seeker is a member of an unemployment fund and meets specific criteria.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[June 2020] The government introduced fiscal measures which included lower pension contributions. Pension funds granted a postponement up to 3 months for pension premiums paid by employers and self-employed individuals. Besides, pension contributions paid by employers were reduced by around 2 percent in order to deal with the financial impact of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The government declared that some changes in the Annual Holidays Act regarding critical workers would not apply. This includes the following sectors: 1) health care 2) social services 3) rescue services 4) emergency response centers 5) police services. This measure was in place until June 2020.</p> <p>Employers are required to take the necessary measures to ensure the safety and health of their employees while they are at work. As part of this obligation, employers must ensure that their risk assessments under the Occupational Safety and Health Act are up-to-date. This obligation continues to apply also now that the Emergency Powers Act has entered into force.</p> <p>[November 2020] The government modified the risk assessment and hazard analysis employers need to implement in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic. This included providing information to the occupational safety and health authority, upon request, about whether their employees' risk of being infected with the coronavirus at work is elevated in comparison to the rest of the population. These obligations are based on the Decree on Biological Agents, the amendment of which entered into</p>

		force on 15 November 2020
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The government declared that some changes in the Working Time Act regarding critical workers would not apply. This includes the following sectors: 1) health care 2) social services 3) rescue services 4) emergency response centers 5) police services. This measure was in place until June 2020.</p> <p>[April 2020] In order to prevent COVID-19 close physical contacts need to be avoided. The government recommended shifting to remote work when possible in a situation where the health authorities state that the COVID-19 epidemic is growing regionally. Employers should also promote work arrangements that reduce close contacts and other risk factors at the workplace. This recommendation ended on October 15th, 2020.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

France

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>A transfer of Euro 1,500 will be provided to the self-employed and other SMEs in April 2020 as part of the solidarity fund.</p> <p>Guarantee payment of benefits by the Family Allowance Funds if the quarterly declaration of resources is not possible.</p> <p>A bonus for all civil servants who pursue their public service mission, despite confinement, up to 1,000 euros in tax-free bonuses are provided (April 2020).</p> <p>At the national level, on April 15th, 2020, the government announced a one-off payment of 100 euros per child for vulnerable families to mitigate the additional financial burden for families because of coronavirus, including the unavailability of nearly-free school meals for children.</p> <p>An "emergency aid" of 150 euros per family receiving active solidarity income (RSA) or specific solidarity allowance (ASS) was provided. This payment also concerned the disabled. Their payment "will be automatic, without any action being necessary" and will concern more than four million households. This aid was provided once again in December 2020.</p> <p>Following the announcement by the Prime Minister of July 15, 2020, the back-to-school allowance (ARS) paid per child has been exceptionally increased by an additional € 100 for the start of the 2020 school year. This measure helps families meet back-to-school expenses and thus ensures the continuity of their children's learning, made difficult by the health situation. It should enable low-income families to cope with the crisis which has sometimes weighed heavily on their income and their daily lives. This increase was paid to families this summer to adapt to their needs. It complements the exceptional solidarity aid paid on May 15, 2020 to more than 4 million low-income households and families. The amount of the back-to-school allowance has thus increased for the 2020 start of the school year to: € 469.97 for a child aged 6 to 10 instead of € 368.84 in 2019, € 490.39 for a child aged 11 to 14 instead of € 389.19 in 2019 and € 503.91 for a child aged 15 to 18 instead of € 402.67 in 2019.</p> <p>Healthcare workers are also set to receive a tax-free bonus of €500-€1,500 per person, for those who have been managing the worst of the Covid-19 crisis. Those at the frontline of the worst-</p>

		<p>affected departments in the country will receive the most. Administrative workers and those in the least-affected departments will receive less (April 2020)</p> <p>The government has provided multiple rounds of emergency aid for students in 2020. On May 4, Prime Minister Édouard Philippe announced to the Senate the creation of financial aid of 200 euros for the most deprived and isolated students during this health crisis. This exceptional aid is accessible to students in initial training (excluding apprentices/work-study), scholarship holders and non-scholarship holders, without condition of nationality, which can justify a reduction in resources due to the Covid-19 epidemic. Scholarship students received an aid of 150 € paid by the CROUS at the beginning of December with their usual monthly scholarship payment.</p> <p>The first beneficiaries of the Youth Solidarity Income (RSJ) will receive 400 euros in June 2021: these young people aged 18 to 24 will inaugurate the new social system for the most precarious, approved in March 2021 by the executive of Greater Lyon (note; only for Lyon). This local RSJ, endowed with 10 million euros per year, targets 1,500 young people by the end of the year: French or foreigners out of the education system, not fitting into any existing system and with less than 400 euros of activity resources per month, and without financial support from third parties or parents are eligible for the benefit. The monthly allowance of 300 to 400 euros, open for six months, will be renewable for up to two years on condition of enrolling in an "active course" of training or integration, with a reassessment of situations every three months.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>To face the increase of student precariousness, the French president announced on January 21, 2021, "an extension of 1-euro meals to non-scholarship recipient students". The CROUSes declare that this action helped multiply by five the number of meals served every week to student in January, up from 160,000 to 780,000. Non-scholarship recipient students are indeed the ones who benefitted most from this action: the number of meals per week increased 9 times, from 50,000 to more than 450,000. As of April 2021, about 5.5 million meals were served in 540 CROUS restaurants open in the French territory.</p> <p>The "Solidarity Grocery" bus from the University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines (UVSQ) will distribute 200 baskets of food and cleaning products every week free of charge in student residences in Yvelines. The weekly tour takes place at the feet of the building three days a week during the partial period, until June 4, 2021. ActivitY and the State provide respectively 65,000 euros and 105,000 euros for training and employment support for these five employees. The foodstuffs (canned food, dairy products, prepared meals, fruit, vegetables, cleaning products) come from donations made or collected by the Solidarité Etudiants Facebook group, the solidarity network, the Jardins de Cocagne and supermarket chains.</p>

	School feeding	In France, where school feeding programs are managed at the sub-national level, several modalities have been implemented in different areas of the country. The municipalities of Marseille, Paris or Brest, as well as the county of Haute-Gavonne had announced cash transfers or food stamps to mitigate the unavailability of school meals. In the county of Meurthe-et-Moselle, the local authorities have decided to deliver school meals to the home of the most vulnerable children enrolled in middle schools (April 2020).
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Since 1st February 2021, psychological support systems have been offered to students. Students facing a situation of ill-being can benefit from psychological support without advancing the costs via the platform santepsy.etudiants.fr (uploaded on March 10, 2021). They can choose their psychologist from the list of professional partners accessible on the interface and make an appointment directly with them. The sessions, which can last up to 3 meetings of 45 minutes, are completely free. If necessary, the doctor can renew them.</p> <p>Beginning in 2022, consultations with the psychologist will be reimbursed for all French people aged at least 3 years. The first consultation may be invoiced for 40 euros, the following ones at 30 euros, with a fixed price of 10 sessions, renewable once. This rate is a ceiling. There will be no out-of-pocket expense. Complementary health insurance will participate in the financing, at a level that remains to be discussed. The measure was informed by experiments conducted during the COVID-19 period.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	People placed in isolation will benefit from "sick leave and daily benefits" of up to 20 days without "waiting period". The measure also applies to parents whose children are subject to isolation and who cannot, therefore, go to work.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[February 2020] Partial exemption from employer contributions and contributions: For the period from February 1 to May 31, 2020, this exemption covers social security contributions, unemployment insurance contributions, the autonomy solidarity contribution and the contribution to the National Housing Assistance Fund</p> <p>[Extension - Fall 2020] As part of the second wave of the health crisis, the Social Security financing law for 2021 provides for measures to support companies and associations directly impacted by the economic consequences. These measures will be the subject of Decree No. 2021-75 of January 27, 2021. This decree will be adapted to take into account the activity restriction measures taken at the end of January 2020.</p>

		<p>Companies and associations can benefit, under certain conditions, from an exemption from part of employer contributions as well as assistance in the payment of social contributions.</p> <p>[Extension - March 2021] Employers who experience a direct or indirect closure or restriction of their activity as a result of measures decided by the public authorities retain the possibility of postponing all or part of the payment of their employee and employer contributions for the deadlines of April 6 and 15, 2021. Declarations must nevertheless be filed on the dates specified. The deferral of Urssaf contributions also applies to supplementary pension contributions. Deferred contributions, which would not be subject to the exemptions announced under the new support plan decided in the autumn, will subsequently give rise to clearance plans of up to 36 months.</p> <p>[February 2020] Help with the payment of social contributions and contributions. Aid for the payment of social contributions and contributions is equal to 20% of the amount of activity income that was the subject of the exemption over the period from February 1 to May 31, 2020. The employer calculates and declares the amount of this assistance in DSN via CTP 051. The payment aid resulting from the amending finance law n ° 3 applicable within the framework of the first health wave is calculated for the periods starting from February 2020. It can be allocated to the payment of contributions and social contributions due to the title of the years 2020 and 2021.</p> <p>The withdrawals from the April 2020 installments are suspended for self-employed workers whose main activity relates to sectors affected by the crisis, eligible for exemptions from social contributions.</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>[July 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution » new qualifying training for the professions of the future thanks to the Skills Investment Plan (PIC) will be offered: 100,000 new qualifying or pre-qualifying training courses will be offered to young people without qualifications or failing in higher education.</p> <p>[July 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution », training in the healthcare sector to double the training capacities of nursing assistants, nurses and carers over the next 5 years will be offered. Digital training for unskilled young people will be offered.</p> <p>[July 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution », personalized courses for dropouts between 16 and 18 years old will be offered. Additional training places to continue training in higher education, CAP and BTS at the start of the 2020 academic year will be offered.</p>

		<p>[July 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution », doubling of the number of students benefiting from success ropes and excellence courses will take place.</p> <p>[September 2020] Increase in the coverage of the Youth Guarantee program.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] A relaxation of the conditions of access to the Youth Guarantee. First of all, the system is open to young people still attached to their parents' tax household, and now takes into account the income of the last 6 months, instead of the last 3 months. In addition, people with disabilities will be able to claim a Youth Guarantee until the age of 30. For more flexibility, the duration of the course, usually between 12 to 18 months, can now be between 9 to 18 months. The Youth Guarantee is a device reserved for young people aged 16 to 25 in precarious situations, to help them in their access to autonomy and professional integration. The Youth Guarantee is a one-year reciprocal commitment contract between a young person and a local mission. A local mission counselor accompanies youth in an intensive and personalized way to build a course that combines professional experience, advice, collective workshops and payment of an allowance. The Youth Guarantee gives the right to an allowance of a maximum monthly amount equivalent to that of the Active Solidarity Income (RSA) for a single person, less the housing package.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2021] As of April 1, 2021, the maximum amount of the allowance paid under the Youth Guarantee was thus equal to € 497.01 per month. It is open to all young French people, but also to foreigners (European Union or third countries) provided they are legally resident in France and have a residence permit. The duration of the Youth Guarantee support is 12 months.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>[March 2020] Ordinance #2020-323: In-house company agreement or branch level collective bargaining agreement may set out the conditions under which the employer can require the taking of paid leave, or modify the dates of leave already scheduled, with a limit of up to 6 working days, and respecting a notice period of one clear day. This also applies to paid leave days accrued before the start of the period during which they will be taken. The agreement may authorize the employer to divide the leave without the employee's consent.</p> <p>[March 2020] Employers may, throughout the public health emergency period, impose or modify employees' paid leave for periods not exceeding six working days, subject to compliance with a minimum notice period of one clear day. This option is subject to conclusion of a company or branch agreement. This option, which cannot be extended beyond December 31, 2020, applies to leave acquired before May 31, as well as leave normally due to be taken as from June 1, also within the limit of six working days.</p>

		<p>[March 2020] The new provisions allow employers in business sectors "particularly necessary for the security of the nation or continuity of economic and social life" to temporarily derogate from the rules set out in the French Labor Code and the collective bargaining rules on working hours, weekly rest periods and Sunday rest periods.</p> <p>(March 2020) Profit-sharing and incentive schemes: Incentive and profit-sharing bonuses, which should have been paid by companies before June 30, 2020, may be delayed until December 31, 2020.</p> <p>(June 2020) A decree and an order published in the Official Journal on June 14, 2020 provide for an exceptional relaxation of the time savings account in the territorial and hospital public services. This measure allows employees to preserve their rights to acquired leave by ensuring the continuity of public service during the health crisis. The total number of days that can be maintained on this account increases from 60 to 70 days for the year 2020.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>[March 2020] To avoid layoffs and mitigate the effects of reduced activity linked to COVID-19, a Decree on March 25, 2020 (Ordinance #2020-325), followed by a Ministerial Order on March 27, 2020 (Ordinance #2020-770), have adjusted and extended the system of application for short-time authorizations, filed since March 26, 2020, for time not worked since March 1, 2020.</p> <p>Grounds for recourse to this measure: Companies may apply to implement short-time working for one or more employees unable to work if they are either affected by Decrees requiring the closure of the business, or are faced with falling activity and/or supply difficulties, or when it is impossible for them to set up the necessary preventive measures to protect employee health (homeworking, barrier gestures, etc.) for all their employees.</p> <p>The Administration will be carrying out checks afterwards to ensure that companies have not abused the system.</p> <p>Status of the employee subject to short-time working: The employees concerned, including protected employees, cannot refuse short-time working. This entails suspension of their employment contract for unworked hours but does not constitute a change in the contract.</p> <p>[March 2020] The new provisions allow employers in business sectors "particularly necessary for the security of the nation or continuity of economic and social life" to temporarily derogate from the rules set out in the French Labor Code and the collective bargaining rules on working hours, weekly rest periods and Sunday rest periods.</p>

		<p>A Decree to be published shortly will list the sectors concerned. These should include the energy, telecoms, logistics, transport, agriculture and food processing sectors.</p> <p>The exemptions allowed are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an increase from 44 to 46 hours in the weekly working time authorized over a period of 12 consecutive weeks; - an increase from 48 to 60 hours for working time authorized in a single week; - authorization to work on Sundays; - a reduction in the compensatory rest period between two working days from 11 to 9 hours. <p>Employers using at least one of these derogations must inform the Social and Economic Committee and the French Labor Inspectorate immediately and by any means.</p>
Wage subsidies		<p>[March 2020] Decree n° 2020-325: Special unemployment benefits for employees who stop working. The company compensates 70% of gross wages (about 84% of net). Minimum wage earners or less are compensated 100%. The company will be fully reimbursed by the state for those earning up to 6,927 euros gross monthly— that is, 4.5x the minimum wage. Extension of temporary virus-related unemployment benefits until summer.</p> <p>[March 2020] The partial unemployment scheme operates in 2 stages:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) The employee receives a partial activity allowance from his employer, in lieu of his salary. This compensation corresponds to 70% of his gross salary (i.e. approximately 85% of his net salary) with a minimum of € 8.03 per hour. Employees whose remuneration was less than the minimum wage (apprentices for example) benefit from an allowance equal to their previous remuneration. 2) The company benefits from an allowance paid by the State corresponding to 85% of the amount of the employee's partial activity allowance within the limit of 4.5x the minimum wage. <p>The company can apply for a partial activity allowance for one or more employees unable to work, if it is in one of the following cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is affected by the decrees providing for a closure, - it is faced with a decline in activity and/or supply difficulties, - it is impossible for it to put in place the necessary preventive measures to protect the health of employees (teleworking, barrier gesture, etc.) for all of its employees. <p>[Extension - June 2020] Ordinance #2020-770 of 24 June 2020, supplemented by Decree #2020-810 of 29 June 2020, stipulates that the rate of the common law allowance reimbursed to employers between 1 June and 30 September 2020 is 60% of employees' pay, up to a limit of 4.5 times the minimum wage.</p> <p>Until December 31, 2020, the following companies benefit from 100% coverage of the partial activity allowance paid to employees:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - companies in the tourism, hotel, catering, sport, culture, air transport and events sectors, - companies in sectors subject to specific legislative or regulatory restrictions due to the health crisis or impacted by the curfew implemented in several cities in France as of October 17, 2020.

[Extension - September 2021] Ordinance No. 2021-1214 of September 22, 2021, specifies the benefit of long-term partial activity (APLD). This is open:

- to employees on a fixed-term contract (CDD) in the context of a seasonal job, who benefit from a guarantee of renewal of their employment contract provided for by this contract, a collective agreement or a collective employment agreement;
- to employees who, failing a renewal of their employment contract, have worked or are working at least two same seasons in the same company over two consecutive years.

The common law system of partial activity (co-pay 40% now) will be applied to all sectors with effect from 1 st September 2021.

[August 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution » a load compensation of 4,000 euros for any young person recruited between August 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021.

[Extension - September 2021] The compensation of charges of 4,000 euros was extended until May 31, 2021. Exceptional aid of 5,000 euros or 8,000 euros is granted for the first year of the contracts signed between July 2020 and December 2021 and should be extended until June 30, 2022 (Prime Minister's announcement of September 6, 2021).

[March 2021] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution », an exceptional assistance of 5,000 euros to recruit a work-study student under the age of 18 (on an apprenticeship or professionalization contract) or 8,000 euros to recruit a work-study student over 18 years of age will be provided. These provisions apply to apprenticeship contracts between the 1st of March 2021 and 31st of December 2021.

[October 2020] As part of plan « 1 jeune, 1 solution », the "Franc + employment" system, that will run between October 15, 2020 and May 31, 2021, is reinforced with assistance paid to the employer which is increased when recruits a young person under the age of 26 (on a permanent or fixed-term contract of at least 6 months).

[July 2020] As part of the "1 young, 1 solution" plan, exceptional assistance facilitates hiring under a professionalization contract. This system applies to all contracts concluded between July 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021, up to master's level. Financial assistance granted to employers of employees on professionalization contracts. Its amount is:

- € 5,000 for a work-study student under 18
- € 8,000 for a major work-study student (up to the age of 29) by contract preparing for a diploma (or a professional title, a qualification certificate) up to a master's degree (bac + 5 - level 7 of the National Directory of Professional Certifications - RNCP).

For the employer to benefit from this device, workers must be under 30 years of age. The aid will be paid:

- to companies with less than 250 employees: unconditional,

- to companies with 250 or more employees on the condition that they undertake to reach, in their workforce, a threshold, defined by decree, of work-study contracts or contracts promoting professional integration (otherwise the sums received must be reimbursed):

- 5% of contracts promoting professional integration as of December 31, 2021
- 3% of work-study students as of December 31, 2021 and an increase of 10% of work-study students compared to 2020.

[January 2021] In order to support the recruitment of 1,000 young people in VSEs, SMEs and ETIs in ecological transition trades, aid of up to € 8,000 will be paid to the company that welcomes a talent in Territorial Volunteering in a company (VTE). Eligible companies can be VSEs, SMEs or ETIs. They must hire, for a mission of at least one year, from September 1, 2020:

- on an employment contract, a young person with a minimum of 3 years of higher education, graduated less than 2 years ago
- on an apprenticeship contract (if applicable, minimum duration of 10 months) or professionalization, a young person who has already graduated with a bac + 2 level and is in training for a bac + 3 level or more.

The Green VTE Aid cannot be combined with the franc employment aid or with the hiring aid for young people under 26 years old instituted by decree n ° 2020-982 of August 5, 2020.

VTE Vert aid can be partially combined with the exceptional work-study aid provided for the apprenticeship and professionalization contracts concluded between July 1, 2020 and March 31, 2021. When a company already benefits from this aid, the amount of VTE Vert Aid is capped at € 4,000.

Launch in January 2021 (retroactive application possible for contracts signed from September 1, 2020).

[July 2020] Beside the expansion of short-time work at the start of the crisis, the government has created a long-term short-time work scheme (Activité partielle de longue durée, Decree, 28 July 2020) designed to provide security for employees and business activity, which enables companies faced with a lasting reduction in activity to reduce working hours in return for commitments, particularly in terms of job maintenance. The employer must pay the employee compensation corresponding to 70% of his gross salary per nonworking hour: hour not worked by decision of the employer, or about 84% of net hourly wages. This compensation cannot be less than € 8.30 net, nor be greater than a ceiling of € 33.01 per nonworking hour. The employer receives an allowance equivalent to 60% of the employee's gross hourly remuneration limited to € 28.30 with a minimum of € 8.30. In administratively closed companies, the employer receives an allowance equivalent to 70% of the gross hourly remuneration of the employee limited to € 33.01 with a minimum of € 8.30.

[Extension - October 2021] Long-term partial activity (APLD) allows a company facing difficulties to reduce the working hours of its employees. This temporary arrangement can apply until June 30, 2022.

French Polynesia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Family allowances were increased from 10,000 FCP to 15,000 FCP. The first payment took place on April 8, 2020 at the same time as the allowances intended for employees registered with the RGS (General Plan for Employees). On February 2, 2021, the government announced to extend family allowances of 15,000 FCP for RSPF nationals, until June 2021.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On May 5, 2020, the government distributed hygiene kits and food baskets for the poorest families in the municipality of Mahina, as reported on May 6, 2020. In this event, 100 families living in poverty received health kits including liquid soap, hydro-alcoholic gel, disinfectant solution, tissues and gloves. 100 families also benefited from 100 food baskets and vouchers, consisting of basic necessities, fruits and vegetables. The municipality of Mahina will continue this food aid for the next five weeks thanks to the financial support of 5 million Fcfp provided by the state and Mixed Syndicate of the City Contract of the agglomeration of Papeete. At the entrance of the distribution area, fabric masks were provided to beneficiaries and social distancing protocols were adhered
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Gabon

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNDP supported the vulnerable by distributing \$50,000 to 500 people living with a double handicap.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government created a solidarity fund in the amount of five (5) billion CFA francs with the aim of creating a food bank. This facilitated the granting of food aid to people in distress and emergency situations. This highly popular initiative was extended in June 2020 to last "until the end of the pandemic."</p> <p>In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the UNDP supported the vulnerable by spending \$75,000 in providing viral load and genotype testing for 1,200 economically and socially vulnerable patients.</p> <p>Free coverage of Covid-19 screening tests had been introduced since the start of the pandemic in 2020 in Gabon. As of October 16, 2020, eight months after the start of the pandemic in the country, free tests costed the State more than 589.3 million FCFA, at a rate of 2,800 FCFA per test, excluding costs of transport, according to the Gabonese authorities. This envelope was spent on the purchase of 210,482 tests. Faced with the increase in cases of Covid-19 contamination in October 2021, Gabon plans to reduce the budget allocated to the free coverage of screening tests to reallocate funds to the vaccination campaign.</p> <p>The Advisor to the Minister of Oil, Gas and Mines, Eddy Moubambou Mounanga Bounda, in charge of corporate social responsibility, has under the Local Communities Development Fund (FDCL), the Nyanga-Mayomb permit operated by Maurel and PROM, delivered pharmaceutical drugs worth CFAF 10 million to the Ndindi Medical Center, the departmental capital of Haute Banio. All the communities in Upper Banio will now have access to free medicines.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	For the most fragile and economically weak people, the state will inject 4 billion CFA francs per month for the payment of electricity bills and 2 billion for all water bills. The measure was extended in May 2020 for a second phase. It was confirmed by the implementing agency that the program will

		<p>end in May 2021.</p> <p>Landlords and 'small' lessors of residential, commercial and mixed-use properties with a rental income of less than CFA 250,000 per month can apply for full payment of the regular rental income from the state. The scheme is implemented by the Ministry of the Economy and Finance and funded through a special fund established for this purpose. It was launched in May 2020 and will remain in place as long as deemed necessary by the government. An aid fund of 2.5 billion CFA francs will be set up to compensate for the losses of small owners linked to the previous measure.</p> <p>Land transport provided by public companies will be completely free for all users in urban areas starting in April 2020. The program has continued through July 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] To prevent the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the Minister of Labor calls for the responsibility of employers and workers to scrupulously implement and enforce Covid-19 preventive measures essential to the well-being and health. Some measures include restricting and regulating the flow of workers within companies, supervising and regulating the working time of workers in situations of vulnerability, promotion of measures and awareness of workers on the importance of and compliance with barrier measures, permanent disinfection of workplaces and regular distribution of safety equipment, provision of disinfectants to customers, visitors and staff when entering and leaving businesses, and administrative checks carried out by the Ministry of Labor and other administrations to verify the application and compliance with barrier measures.</p> <p>Relaxation of conditions relating to layoffs with payment of compensation that were not previously provided for by the Labor Code in force.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>([April 2020] The purchasing power of workers will be preserved by setting up a technical unemployment allowance. This is set between 50% and 70% of the gross monthly salary excluding bonuses and allowances for workers fully impacted by the protection and prevention measures linked to the fight against the spread of the Covid-19 virus, with the exception of low-income workers between 80,000 and 150,000 CFA francs, whose salaries must be fully maintained.</p>

Gambia, The

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The WFP provided important direct support to households during the lean season by providing 60,355 food insecure households (not covered by the Nafa Quick program) with the same transfer value (D1,500 or \$30), plus a bag of rice, for three months from September 2020 to December 2020.</p> <p>Horizontal expansion to Nafa Quick program targeting 83,000 households with a cost of US\$10 million. The Nafa Quick package will last for four months. The package intends to contribute to the mitigation of the social and economic impact of COVID-19 on the population with a view to providing immediate universal cash transfer of D1,500 (\$31) per month to each beneficiary household (program is ongoing as of November 2020).</p> <p>The beneficiaries under the BReST project (mothers and their children) benefited from a direct cash transfer between 2017 and 2019. The [top-up in 2020 for COVID] intervention targets 6000 households and it was implemented through Unconditional Cash Transfer along with SBCC. With an operating budget of EUR200,000, the intervention was implemented at 10 selected health facilities in The Gambia</p> <p>The Government of The Gambia agreed to provide a one-off cash transfer of US\$50 to each of the small-scale tourism actors whose contact details are available. Since then, arrangements were made with Africell for the transfer to each beneficiary. A total of D16,837,867.50 (sixteen million eight hundred and thirty seven thousand, eight hundred and sixty seven dalasis and fifty bututs) was remitted by UNDP directly to Africell's for the transfer.</p> <p>The GoG announced a new D250M Covid-19 relief that includes the provision of a cash package of D3,000 to families affected by the economic downturn of the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare in The Gambia provided 1,000 extremely vulnerable households with cash transfers of 1,000 D over a period of three months starting in July 2020.</p> <p>The Gambia delivered a Cash Transfer Program (CTP) to enrolled children and their families deemed most in need during this emergency period. The cash transfer is unconditional, which has given the beneficiaries the autonomy on spending. Thus, the overall objective of the cash transfer is to provide cash to most in need enrolled families for resilience building during the coronavirus pandemic. Beneficiaries were select from communities in West Coast Region and Lower River Regions of The Gambia and a total of 2,877 beneficiaries were reached so far.</p>

		Gambian students studying abroad and who were not receiving government funding benefitted from financial support as part of the government's COVID-19 response. The scheme was implemented by the Ministry of Higher Education, using beneficiary lists drawn up by embassies and consulates. Payments were disbursed via embassies in two payment rounds.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The GoG announced a new 250M D Covid-19 relief that includes the provision of immediate food support to the entire Gambian population to aid food security</p> <p>The President of the Republic launched the National COVID-19 Food Assistance of over seven hundred and thirty-four million (GMD734,254,864), targeting 84% of the total households in the country with rice, sugar, and oil, respectively. The aim of this assistance was to contain the spread of the virus and to uphold the declaration by the public. It was also aimed to strike a balance between responding to the effects of COVID-19 and addressing the underlying causes of vulnerability. Out of the 208,220 beneficiaries provided by the regions, 189,026 have already benefited from the distribution. On average about 91% of the list provided for the distribution have been covered. The government targets 235,767 households nationwide for this exercise. This relief package comes in the form of bags of 50kg of 100% broken rice, 50kg bags of sugar and 10-litre drums of refined cooking oil.</p> <p>The WFP provided important direct support to households during the lean season by providing 60,355 food insecure households (not covered by the Nafa Quick program) with the same transfer value (D1,500 or \$30), plus a bag of rice, for three months from September 2020 to December 2020.</p> <p>The government of The Gambia (GoTG), through the Ministry of Agriculture, and the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) have today launched an emergency relief package to provide food assistance to 342,000 people (42,750 households) across all regions of the country as part of the national COVID-19 response. Each household will receive a 50kg bag of rice per month for a period of four months, February to May 2021.</p> <p>The Ministry of Women Children and Social Welfare in The Gambia provided 1,000 extremely vulnerable households with 50kg bag of rice and five liters of cooking oil.</p>
	School feeding	Following prolonged school closure, WFP and Ministry of Basic and Secondary Education (MoBSE) agreed to implement Take Home Ration (THR) and cash-based transfer as part of interim solutions

		to children who benefited from the School feeding program with two months ration equivalent to 16.6kg of rice, 2 liters of oil or cash equivalent of D600. WFP has 150,742 (54% females) learners in Regions, 1, 3, 5 and 6. The school meals provided to the child at school will be converted to a family ration for the child to take home to benefit his/her household. About 73,939 households will be benefitting from the THR. The THR is implemented in July and August 2020. MoBSE will be doing the same in regions 2 and 4 to support 88,000 school children who benefited from school meals prior to the schools' closure.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Emergency powers were used to freeze prices of essential commodities such as rice, meat, fish, cooking oil soap, sanitizers, and cement. The government of The Gambia has announced measures to facilitate the accessibility and affordability of livestock in preparation for the Tobaski feast observed on July 20, 2021. All duties and domestic taxes by Gambia Revenue Authority will be waived during the period in addition to a 50 percent reduction of fees for the ferry crossing for all livestock dealers.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	Public servants were allowed to work from home through stay-at-home orders.
	Wage subsidies	

Georgia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>One-off compensation of 300 GEL to individuals employed in outlets or facilities whose operation were suspended. This measure involved 370,000 beneficiaries with a total budget of GEL 110,8 million in 2020 and 1,233 beneficiaries with total budget GEL 369.9 in 2021</p> <p>On June 24th,2020, the parliament announced support for citizens who have been employed but lost their jobs during the pandemic: GEL 200 per person for 6 months, 162.3 thousand people benefitting with a total budget of GEL 131.2 million in 2020 and 136.9 thousand people benefitting with a total budget GEL 148 million in 2021.</p> <p>On May 4th, 2020, the government introduced temporary monthly cash transfers, according to the families Proxy Means Test (PMT) rating score: families with a PMT rating score of 0 - 100,000 with three or more children aged 16 or less received a top-up benefit of 100 GEL through the Targeted Social Assistance for up to 6 months. This cash transfer covered 21,000 families, involving a total budget of 13 million GEL (USD \$4.08 million or €3.78 million). Additionally, families with a PMT rating score of 65,000 - 100,000 received a flat benefit of 100 GEL for up to 6 months. This benefit reached 70,000 families and involved a total budget of 45 million GEL (USD \$14.13 million /€13.10 million). The transfers were extended in January 2021 for another six months.</p> <p>Persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities received a direct transfer of 100 GEL for up to 6 months. About 40,000 citizens benefited from this program, involving a total budget of 25 million GEL (€7.28 million). The program was extended for another six months in January 2021.</p> <p>In 2021 persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities received a direct transfer of 100 GEL for up to 6 months. About 45.9 thousand citizens benefited from this program, involving a total budget of 27.3 million GEL (€7.28 million)</p> <p>On August 6th, 2020, the government provided one-time assistance of GEL 200 to all children below 18, aiming at reaching 800,000 children. The estimated total cost was GEL 160 million.</p> <p>The government increased the list of villages that benefited from the provisions of the law on 'Mountainous Regions' by 59 villages. A total of 272,000 people benefited from this law, including</p>

		<p>dwellers of high mountainous regions, as well as the villages adjacent to the occupied territories. The benefits introduced by this law included social transfers for the newborns.</p> <p>The Social Service Agency is ensuring the continuous issuance of state transfers (compensation), regardless of the origin of the suspension(s) established by law. (Announced in Government Decree No. 184, issued on 23 March 2020)</p> <p>The government postponed recertification procedures of beneficiaries of the Targeted Social Assistance and simplified its application and enrollment procedures.</p> <p>People employed in the informal sector or self-employed who lost their jobs received a one-time assistance of 300 GEL. This was particularly aimed at those who applied for government assistance, but were refused. The government allocated 75 million GEL to this program, reaching 170,000 people that received it.</p> <p>Assistance to socially vulnerable children will be doubled starting July 1st, 2021. Instead of the existing level of 50 GEL per child, assistance for socially vulnerable children will be 100 GEL in Georgia.</p> <p>The number of children receiving assistance will also increase. Instead of the existing threshold of a 100,000 social score, children living in families with scores less than 120,000 will be able to receive the 100 GEL assistance. A total of 145 million GEL will be allocated from the budget annually for the program.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The government increased the list of villages that benefit from the provisions of the law on 'Mountainous Regions' by 59 villages. A total of 272,000 people benefited from this law, including dwellers of high mountainous regions, as well as the villages adjacent to the occupied territories. The benefits introduced by this law included higher pensions and social assistance.</p> <p>From January 2021, a rule of indexation of pensions was introduced, including on its calculation the inflation rate as well as the real economic growth rate. Regardless of this new rule, the government increased pensions by at least GEL 20 for pensioners younger than 70 years old and by GEL 25 for those above the age of 70. A new increase is planned for 2022, January 1st.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	<p>Utility waivers</p>	<p>The government implemented the State Program for Maintaining Prices of Primary Consumption Food Products consisting of building stocks of commodities, such as rice, pasta, buckwheat, sunflower oil, sugar, among others. This involved a total budget of GEL 139 million. Also, the government subsidized the price of grapes and sub-standard apples to help peasants in the regions.</p> <p>The government helped students from vulnerable families (with a PMT score below 150,000) covering one semester of their university tuition. About 33,000 were expected to benefit from this initiative, involving a total budget of GEL 35 million.</p> <p>The government announced a subsidy on utility fees for three months (March, April and May 2020), including electricity bills, sanitary service, gas and water bills for households which consume less than 200 kWh of electricity and 200 cubic meters of natural gas per month. This meant a total planned expenditure of GEL 170 million. This was reintroduced from November 2020 to February 2021, involving 1.1 million families.</p> <p>The government implemented a bank loan service holidays for individuals in the period of March-May 2020, which was later prolonged for 3 more months for those borrowers who asked for extension. This measure involved an estimated budget of GEL 3 million.</p> <p>The government increased the list of villages that benefited from the provisions of the law on 'Mountainous Regions' by 59 villages. A total of 272,000 people benefited from this law, including dwellers of high mountainous regions, as well as the villages adjacent to the occupied territories. The benefits introduced by this law included subsidized electricity and heating to households.</p> <p>Out of pocket co-payments for COVID-related expenditures are fully subsidized by the government for all.</p> <p>The 'Produce in Georgia' state program will introduce a new program providing co-financing on loans taken out by families with newborn children to buy a new apartment. The state will cover 6% of the total interest amount for the families with a first or second newborn and 8% of the total interest amount for families with a third or every subsequent newborn. The loan amount should vary from 60,000 GEL to 300,000 GEL.</p> <p>A state subsidy will increase from 10 to 15 GEL per 50 kilograms of wheat flour in Georgia in order to avoid an increase in bread prices during the coronavirus pandemic in the country. The state subsidy</p>
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		<p>will not exceed 15 GEL per 50 kilograms of high-quality wheat flour. The budget for the program is 10 million GEL. The program came into force on December 1st, 2020 and ended on March 31st, 2021.</p> <p>The government helped students from vulnerable families (with a PMT score below 150,000) covering one semester of their university tuition. About 14439 benefited from this initiative, involving a total budget of GEL 14.8 million</p> <p>Acceleration of VAT refunds. 1.040 million GEL- in 2020 and GEL 1, 700 million planned in 2021</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>In order to ensure access to paid leave, Ministerial Decree No. 281/n was amended to enable the issuance of forms equal to medical leave to persons in quarantine or self-isolation, upon which the period spent in quarantine or self-isolation will be paid.</p> <p>Furthermore, employers are obliged to develop flexible sick leave policies, in compliance with the public health instructions.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>From January 2021, a rule of indexation of pensions was introduced, including in its calculation the inflation rate as well as the real economic growth rate. Regardless of this new rule, the government increased pensions at least by GEL 20 for pensioners younger than 70 years old and by GEL 25 for those above the age of 70.</p> <p>The Social Service Agency is ensuring the continuous issuance of state transfers (state pensions), regardless of the origin of the suspension(s) established by law. (Announced in Government Decree No. 184, issued on 23 March 2020)</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] Unemployment cash allowance to formal workers who lost jobs. As of September 2020, this measure reached 161,295 people.</p> <p>[April 2020] To support hired employees who have lost their jobs and income during the crisis after the declaration of the state of emergency and cannot receive their salaries, the State will provide assistance in the amount of 1200 GEL over a period of six months, which is 200 GEL (about \$62.79/€58.23) per month. This assistance will apply to 350,000 citizens. A total of 460 million GEL (about \$144.43m/€133.92m) is allocated from the budget.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] To control the spread of the Covid-19 virus, the Order of MoDPLSA approved a set of general recommendations for all business sectors. Employers are required to develop a plan for readiness for and response to infectious diseases. This plan shall foresee the risk levels related to the</p>

		<p>different workplaces and the assignments which the employees are to perform. Among other issues, the employers shall develop policies and procedures for immediate isolation of persons who show signs and/or symptoms of coronavirus. Furthermore, employers are obliged to provide employees with the personal protection equipment required for their safety when employees are performing their job responsibilities. Employees are obliged to observe hygiene rules at the workplace and to clean their workplace and the devices they use for work with disinfectants. They are also obliged to maintain a distance of 2 meters from other people and to use alcohol-containing hand-cleaning solutions if they are unable to wash and dry their hands.</p> <p>The government increased the list of villages that benefited from the provisions of the law on 'Mountainous Regions' by 59 villages. A total of 272,000 people benefited from this law, including dwellers of high mountainous regions, as well as the villages adjacent to the occupied territories. The benefits introduced by this law included increased salaries for teachers and medical personnel</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] With the aim of slowing down the spread of the virus, the Ministry of Internally Displaced Persons from the Occupied Territories, Labour, Health and Social Affairs of Georgia (MoIDPLSA) prescribed general recommendations for all permitted sectors of business activities, and employers shall develop a flexible working regime and inform the employees about it. Employers shall carry out control activities, such introducing remote working, to minimize contact between employees, clients and consumers.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] All persons who will retain their jobs and all the companies that will retain jobs will receive a full subsidy of salary payment of up to 750 GEL for salaries of up to 1,500 GEL. For the six-month period, the salaries will be fully exempt from income tax. The budget for this assistance is 250 million GEL (€72.78 million).</p>

Germany

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Solo freelancers such as artists and nurses are to receive direct grants of up to Euro 15,000 over 3 months. A total of Euro 50B is planned for this purpose.</p> <p>Parents who lose income due to COVID-19 can get easier access to child benefits. In addition, a simplified process for child grant (Kinderzuschlag) is put in place, with one-month income proof instead of 6 months. Payment amount is up to Euro 185/child/month until September 2020.</p> <p>As part of the Second Act on protection of the population in the event of an epidemic situation of national importance of May 2020, all nursing care workers will receive a one-off special payment ("Corona premium") of up to €1000 in 2020. The highest payment will be made to full-time employees in direct care and nursing. The payment can be increased to €1500 by employers and/or the Länder. Individual Länder, such as Bavaria, has announced that they will pay a premium of €500 to all employees in the health and care sector.</p> <p>The stimulus package of February 2021 provides for a 150€ one-time bonus for recipients of basic income support in 2021.</p> <p>Simplified access to minimum income benefits according to Social Code Books II (Basic Income Support for Job-Seekers) and XII (Social Assistance) was provided in the first economic stimulus package of March 2020: in order to support especially microentrepreneurs and the self-employed who have suffered significant income losses in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, access to subsistence benefits has been simplified (until 30 June, with the possibility of an extension until 31 December).</p> <p>A "child bonus" of 300€ per child was paid in autumn 2020 to all parents in two installments of 150€. An additional payment of 150€ was provided in the economic stimulus package of February 2021. The bonus is also paid to recipients of minimum income benefits under Social Code Books II and XII.</p> <p>If parents are unable to work due to the official closure of kindergartens and schools, they can, subject to certain conditions, receive compensation (this measure applies to parents with children under 12 or disabled children [with no age limit]) starting in March 2020. Foreign nationals living in</p>

		<p>Germany may only claim public funds for their family in the form of child allowance if they have previously been granted an unlimited settlement permit or other residence permit. Child allowance is paid up to a minimum age of 18 or, alternatively, up to the age of 25 if the dependent is undergoing schooling or training or higher education. As of January 2021, for the first and second child, child allowance is 219 euros per month. For the third child it is 225 euros. For the fourth and any subsequent children the sum is 250 euros.</p> <p>In order to support low-income families and help them participate in social and cultural life once again, the German government has decided to offer a one-off "leisure bonus". The German Bundestag approved a one-off "children's leisure bonus" (Kinderfreizeitbonus) of 100 euros per child in April 2021, which will be paid out to underprivileged families in August. It is part of the larger "Catch-Up Program" intended to help children make up for lost experiences during the pandemic. The federal government is promoting short vacations for poor families so that they can recover from the stresses and strains of the Corona period starting in October 2021. With the "Corona break", families can take a week's vacation in a non-profit family vacation home or youth hostel. Families only have to pay around ten percent of the regular costs for accommodation and meals. A budget of 50 million euros has been earmarked for the "Corona break".</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	Lunches made available as part of the education package even if schools are closed
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Private leases may not be terminated until June 30, 2022 due to any rent arrears in the period from April 1, 2020 to June 30, 2020. It is not necessary for landlords and tenants to agree this in an addendum to the rental agreement. Landlords and tenants are not allowed to lift or restrict the moratorium on rents in the rental contract. This means there is no unrestricted coronavirus termination protection for the tenants. Tenants are only protected against contract termination if they demonstrate the arrears in payment are due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>The government approved support for single parents as part of the June 2020 stimulus package. A parent who raises their child without a partner can normally claim a so-called relief amount when filing their tax return, i.e. they have to pay €1,908 less tax on annual income. This relief amount is being raised to €4,000 for two years. The aim is that more money will be left in the pockets of single parents.</p> <p>The VAT rate was cut in Germany and flexibility has been added in payment of taxes in order to ease the burden on taxpayers and stimulate consumption. In March and April 2020, officials offered</p>

		<p>extensions to filing of VAT returns. In June 2020, the VAT rate was cut from 19% to 16% until 31 December 2020. Most recently, in February 2021 the VAT return deadline was extended to August 2021 from the original due date of March 31st, 2021.</p> <p>Electricity prices will be reduced for consumers by reducing the EEG levy on electricity prices to subsidize renewable wind and solar energy sources. The federal budget will compensate the approximately €11bn levy reduction, so that there will be no adverse impact on the promotion of solar and wind.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The number of days off that parents may take when their children under the age of 12 are sick was doubled to 20 per parent and 40 for single parents. During these days 90% or 100% (if the employee received Christmas or holiday allowance) of the net income is compensated by the health insurance</p> <p>As a Federal law, the German Protection against Infection Act (Infektionsschutzgesetz (IfSG)) regulates the prevention and management of infectious diseases in humans. For the physician actively engaged in the management of patients, the requirement to report infectious diseases and the surveillance responsibility for specific nosocomial infections are of particular importance. Where the Infection Protection Act applies, for the first six weeks the provided sick leave corresponds to the net salary, after which the amount equals to sick leave benefits.</p>
	Health insurance	<p>German finance ministry plans interest rate cuts to pension products. The German finance ministry is set to reduce the maximum interest rate on life insurance and pension products from the current 0.9% to 0.25% in 2022, the ministry told IPE in a statement.</p>
	Pensions	<p>Pensions increase guarantee: Pensioners before the standard retirement age will be able to earn up to 46,060 euros in addition to the full pension in the coming year due to the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>The same applies to pensioners receiving old-age pensions where the limit for supplementary earnings has been raised from 6.300 Euro to 44.590 Euro a year.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The government announced that the eligibility period to receive unemployment benefits was being extended to a further three months for unemployed persons whose entitlement would end between May and December 2020.</p>
	Social security contributions	

		<p>[March 2020] As contract workers became eligible for short-time work, it was announced that social insurance contributions that employers must normally pay for their workforce would be fully reimbursed by the Federal Employment Agency.</p> <p>[October 2020] It was announced that the full reimbursement of social insurance by the Federal Employment Agency was extended to the 30th of June, 2021, however, between the 1st of July, 2021 and the 31st of December, 2021, the reimbursement would drop to 50%.</p> <p>[January 2021] The government announced that the if employers trained their workers during short-time work, the reimbursement level of social security contributions could be raised to 100% even after the 1st of July, 2021.</p> <p>[June 2021] The full reimbursement of social security contributions was extended by 30 September 2021.</p> <p>[September 2021] Under the fourth amendment on short-time work, full reimbursement of social security contributions was extended to the 31st of December, 2021.</p> <p>The period for short-term employment under privileged conditions (lump sum for social security) has been increased from 70 to 115 days a year to help seasonal staff, especially in the agricultural sector, and farmers.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] Employees were allowed to supplement their short-time work allowance by taking up a second job in system-relevant professions and sectors, including areas such as healthcare, energy and water supply, transport and passenger traffic, agriculture, food industry and the supply of food to people. Earnings from these side jobs were not to be credited against the short-time work allowance.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs presented a uniform SARS-CoV-2 Occupational Safety and Health Standard which includes measures such as the placement of optical and physical barriers in the workplace to maintain minimum safety distance of 1.5 meters, the regular cleaning and disinfecting of facilities and devices, the provision of necessary hygiene and sanitary products, and improvements to ventilation systems, staggered working and break systems, the requirement to wear mouth-and-nose coverings and PPE, and special measures for the protection of high-risk groups.</p> <p>[May 2020] The Federal Cabinet adopted occupational safety and health program for the meat industry, amending the Occupational Safety and Health Act (Arbeitsschutzgesetz). This included</p>

		<p>prohibiting contract workers and the leasing of temporary workers and only permitting employees of the company to slaughter and process meat, and doubling the fines imposed to EUR 30,000.</p> <p>[January 2021] Employers were required to inform workers about the risks of COVID-19 and the options for getting vaccinated. Workplaces were also required to allow employees to take time off to get vaccinated.</p> <p>In certain sectors, employees are required to inform their employers of their vaccination status.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] The government adopted the COVID-19 Working Hours Regulation, for a limited period of time from 10 April 2020, which introduced the following relaxations to the Working Hours Act: increasing the maximum daily working hours from 10 to 12 hours, reducing the daily rest period by 2 hours, and permitting employment on Sundays and public holidays if it is not possible to carry out the work on working days and a substitute day of rest is granted within eight weeks. These applied to certain sectors and were set to expire on the 31st of July 2020.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>If a worker was quarantined and could not work, they were entitled to receive their full salary.</p> <p>[November 2021] The federal government announced that unvaccinated workers who have to quarantine will no longer receive wage subsidies.</p> <p>[June 2021] A new restart premium was announced as an incentive for a new start that will be paid to companies towards personnel costs which bring existing employees back from short-time work earlier or hire new employees.</p> <p>[September 2021] This scheme expired on the 30th of September 2021.</p>

Ghana

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(October 2020) Ghana has launched a GH¢11 million COVID Relief Fund, a cash transfer program to COVID-19 affected daily wage earners. The program targets vulnerable persons and households in the Greater Accra, Western and Ashanti regions. 75,000 persons would benefit from the relief fund. 65,000 of beneficiaries were daily wage earners in the Greater Accra Region, while the rest were smallholder farmers in the Ashanti and Western regions. Beneficiary households would receive different amounts of money depending on the number of eligible members in a household. The minimum amount to be paid had been pegged at GH¢53, which would be transferred through mobile money wallets each month for five months.</p> <p>(April 2020) Beneficiaries of the government's LEAP cash transfer program had to collect their payments from banks and cash points instead of the usual government pay points during the confinement period. To compensate for this, two bi-monthly payments were combined into one and beneficiaries also benefitted from a once-off top-up payment to cover additional transport costs incurred to collect their payment. Beneficiaries in rural areas received a higher top-up than those in urban areas. The program is implemented by the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection.</p> <p>(October 2020) Informal workers and smallholder farmers in selected regions were identified via an emergency registration drive for the Ghana National Household Registry, supported by WFP. Eligible beneficiaries will benefit from cash transfers paid via mobile money using the payment module of the Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty program. Benefits of varying amounts will be paid for a period of four months, starting in late 2020.</p> <p>(May 2021) As part of the additional financing of the Ghana Productive Safety Nets Project, a component will support the continuation, expansion, and strengthening of LEAP through (a) expansion of program coverage; (b) improved targeting of the program to poor households; (c) increased benefit levels; and (d) enhancement and strengthening of the capacity of decentralized structures (including regional and MMDA structures) to support the implementation of LEAP at the community level. It will finance cash transfers, program administration and operations, and the costs of strengthening and reforming program design and implementation.</p>
	Social pensions	

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The government announced hotlines for the needy communities and households to reach them for their food items during the COVID-19 lock down. This act has really helped them to start to provide food for up to four hundred thousand (400, 000) individuals and homes in the affected areas of restrictions. Total cost is 280 million cedis.</p> <p>(April 2020) Vulnerable households and individuals in Accra, Kumasi, Tema and Kasoa benefitted from the distribution of cooked meals and food parcels which was implemented in collaboration with faith-based organizations. The program was coordinated by the National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO) and implemented over a 2-3 week period in April 2020.</p> <p>(May 2021) Government, in partnership with the World Bank, has handed over twenty thousand (20,000) wheelchairs to the Ghana Federation of Disabilities Organizations as part of ongoing interventions to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing.</p>
	School feeding	<p>In 2020, an estimated number of 3.3 million pupils from nine thousand basic schools in Ghana benefited from the Ghana School Feeding Program. This was a 2005 Comprehensive Africa Agricultural Development Program initiative that sought to decrease the prevalence of hunger and boost food security among kindergarten and primary school children in the country. In view of this, beneficiary pupils are expected to receive one hot and nutritious meal per school day.</p> <p>The government of Ghana mandated the closing of its schools in March 2020 to curb the spread of COVID-19, which brought a sense of fear among the children and families served by Food For All Africa (FFAA). School feeding had been a feature of FFAA's programs since 2016, initiated in 12 schools across Ghana. Often these programs are sponsored by governments, but in some cases, like the schools where FFAA works, food banks and other non-governmental organizations are needed to fill critical gaps. In 2016, FFAA established school feeding kitchens in the poorest and hardest to reach primary schools, providing a daily hot meal to improve students' nutrition and ability to focus on school. Through the use of mobile technology, FFAA recovered nutritious surplus food from a network of retailers, manufacturers, wholesalers, farmers, and growers to supply fresh ingredients to school kitchens, reducing waste and greenhouse gas emissions in the process. And then, in March 2020, everything had to change. Schools were closed. Stay at home orders were announced by the government. The FFAA team found themselves unable to serve the 5,354 children/families they had been reaching through this program. With support from GFN, FFAA was able to quickly shift its school feeding kitchens to a weekly home delivery program, guaranteeing a lifeline of support for vulnerable families during lockdown. In addition to technical assistance, GFN also provided grant funding to FFAA to enhance the food bank's infrastructure and logistical capacity to meet the growing demand for emergency food support across Ghana. This support from GFN meant that</p>

		<p>from March 2020 to January 2021, FFAA was able to deliver 24,822 food boxes to 8,455 families who were otherwise cut off from social protection programs. When schools reopened in Ghana in January 2021, FFAA was able to restart its in-person feeding program, providing one hot meal per day in 25 schools across five regions in Ghana. FFAA also invested in hand-washing stations, personal protection equipment, training, and new guidelines to ensure the health and safety of students and program staff. To address ongoing needs made worse by the pandemic, FFAA plans to expand its hot meals program in rural communities along with weekend food bag delivery, and incorporate vocational training for single mothers and youth. To improve its logistical capacity, FFAA hopes to establish a satellite warehouse in the Ashanti region of Ghana.</p>
	Public works	<p>(April 2020) A daily allowance of one hundred and fifty cedis (GH¢150) being paid to contact tracers.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the Labor Intensive Public Works Program who were either mothers or caregivers of children benefitted from reduced working hours to allow them to care for their children while continuing to receive their full daily wages. In addition, the size of work crews was reduced, crew rotations were adjusted, and physical distancing was enforced to comply with COVID-19 safety measures.</p> <p>(May 2021) As part of the additional financing of the Ghana Productive Safety Nets Project, support will be given to the implementation, expansion, and strengthened performance of LIPW, specifically: (a) expansion of the program in rural communities; (b) extension of the program to urban areas; and (c) development of a strategy for increasing financing for LIPW, including through Government financing at the national level and through the budgets of MMDAs. It will also finance the cost of LIPW sub-projects (including LIPW wages for participants), program administration, and the costs of strengthening and reforming program design and implementation.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>Beginning Friday March 20, 2020, all mobile money transfers of GH¢100 and below will attract no charges from service providers for the next three months.</p> <p>(March 2020) Ministry of Finance announced tax waiver for health workers and water sanitation bills to cost GHS 441 million cedis. GHS 241 million cedis to cover as a tax waiver for health personnel.</p> <p>(April 2020) From a speech given by the President on the 9th of April: The Ghana Water Company Ltd and the Electricity Company of Ghana have been directed to ensure the stable supply of water and electricity (supply will not be disconnected). The government will absorb the water bills for all Ghanaians for the months of April, May and June. Publicly and private water tankers will be mobilized to ensure the supply of water to vulnerable communities. This will cover persons who consume 0 to 50-kilowatt hours per month for this period. "This forms part of relief interventions by the state amid the novel coronavirus pandemic. Other categories of consumers will enjoy a 50 percent discount within the same period. For all other consumers, residential and commercial, the government will absorb 50 percent of your electricity bill for this period using your March 2020 bill</p>

		as the benchmark." According to his speech: GHS 200 million cedis to cater for bills on water and sanitation
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	An insurance package, with an assured sum of three hundred and fifty thousand cedis (GH¢350,000) for each health personnel and allied professional at the forefront of the fight has been put in place.
	Pensions	Ghana's SSNIT announces Ghanaian cedis 500,000 as donation for COVID relief efforts. This money comes out of their reserves.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	All frontline health workers will receive an additional allowance of 50 percent of their basic salary for the months of March, April, May and June.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Gibraltar (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	(Nov 2020) The government published the Employment (Self-Isolation) Pay Order 2020 to assist businesses where their employees have had to self-isolate and are unable to work. The Order also applies to assist self-employed people who are required to self-isolate and are also unable to work. This new scheme sees the introduction of a statutory self-isolation pay rate of £52.50 per day.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] To help businesses continue to pay their employees, including those on zero-hours contracts, employers across all sectors (including the Excluded Sectors) will be allowed to defer their social insurance contributions for the second quarter of 2020 by a period of 12 weeks from month-end instead of the 10 weeks previously announced. The payment of salaries to employees of affected businesses in the hospitality, leisure, distributive, and catering sectors will not be subject to pay as you earn (PAYE) or employee or employer social insurance (SI) contributions for the month of April 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] To help businesses continue to pay their employees, including those on zero-hours contracts, Gibraltar introduced a wage subsidy reform called the Business & Employee Assistance Terms (or BEAT) payment. The COVID-19-related salary is £1,155 per month for a full-time employee

		(working 7.5 hours per day or more) or a self-employed person, and would be apportioned for those who work less than full-time or are on zero-hours contracts.
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Greece

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Financial assistance of euro 400 was introduced for non-subsidized long-term unemployed individuals, registered with the Hellenic Manpower Employment Organization (OAED) from March-November 2020, and not receiving any other benefit from the State. The one-off payment was provided twice, in April 2020 and in December 2020.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the Social Solidary Income (SSI) Guaranteed Minimum Income program will not be required to submit a new application upon expiration of the benefit recertification period, unless they chose to do so. Three consecutive extensions have been granted for the approved benefits that have been expiring since February. The same extensions are also granted for the housing benefit. Extended for 3 months for those decisions to be expired during the period Nov.2020 - Jan.2021 (extended to Feb.2021-April 2021 respectively).</p> <p>One-off income support was granted to households with minor dependents that are GMI/SSI-beneficiaries: Euro 100 for the first child + Euro 50 for all other children and up to max Euro 300 for each beneficiary (single-parent or co-parent families). The decision was published in the government gazette on May 4, 2020. The amount is tax-free, cannot be seized and cannot be offset against any debt. The first income-support payment, to GMI beneficiary households with children, was introduced in May 2020 and paid in June 2020.</p> <p>One-off stipend of €600 to specific liberal professions i.e. economists / accountants, engineers, lawyers, geotechnicians. The measure was adopted in March 2020 and the economic support was provided to beneficiaries in April 2020.</p> <p>One-off stipend of €600 to specific liberal professions i.e. economists / accountants, engineers, lawyers, geotechnicians. The measure was adopted in March 2020 and the economic support was provided to beneficiaries in April 2020</p> <p>The amount of the Easter allowance, corresponding to the period of suspension of the employment contract, and the respective social security contributions will be paid the state directly to the employees, whose employment contract is suspended within the period from the January-April 2021.</p>

		<p>The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labor announced Social Solidarity Income (SSI) recipients are expected to receive only for December 2020 double the monthly amount the usually get. The extra payment, to all GMI beneficiaries, was introduced in November 2020 and paid in December 2020. This payment was granted to 256,562 households (or 482,335 people).</p> <p>The Ministry of Finance and the Ministry of Labor announced Social Solidarity Income (SSI) recipients are expected to receive only for December 2020 double the monthly amount the usually get. The extra payment, to all GMI beneficiaries, was introduced in November 2020 and paid in December 2020. This payment was granted to 256,562 households (or 482,335 people).</p> <p>Employees whose contracts were suspended in November 2020 will receive (in December) an 800-euro stipend based on the number of days suspended. Measure covers all employees who have been hired until November 4, 2020. Regarding the Christmas gift, which is payable between Dec. 21 and Dec 31st, the state will pay the proportion for the period of time that the employees were suspended, calculated at the amount of 534 euros. Total cost of measure: 215 million euros.</p> <p>The European Commission has approved a €500 million Greek scheme to support self-employed individuals, including self-employed managers of small companies in sectors affected by the coronavirus outbreak. to provide a one-off payment of €800 per self-employed person, including self-employed managers of companies that employ less than 20 employees in sectors severely affected by the coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>A measure was passed concerning a special allowance granted to seasonal workers in tourism and food sectors, who were employed in 2019 but not rehired in 2020. The measure was introduced in May 2020, and the special allowance was provided in June, July and August 2020. In April 2021, the authorities decided to provide an extra special allowance for January and February 2021, which was paid in May 2021. Approximately 20,000 unemployed workers benefited from this scheme. In May 2021, it was announced that affected workers in the tourism sector could again benefit from a special allowance for the months of March, April, and May.-</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	<p>The Public Power Corporation (PPC) announced discounts on its tariffs, including the abolition of a flat rate charge for all consumers, an additional 8% for vulnerable customers and for consumption of over 2,000 kW as well as a Euro 5 discount for all e-bill customers, old and new. The measure will apply from March 26, 2020 for three months.</p> <p>Tenants whose employment contract is suspended are allowed to pay only 60% of their monthly rent on main residence in March and April. The measure was extended through April 2021 for employees whose contract is still under suspension.</p> <p>Employees who are suspended from employment throughout the country are entitled to a mandatory 40% reduction in rent for their main residence but also for the student residence of their children (Total cost of measure: 30 mil. Euros).</p> <p>(April 2020) Shelter in Athens to open for the homeless. To protect the vulnerable group of homeless people in the corona pandemic, Athens has created a shelter with more than 400 beds. The three-buildings complex of seven floors was opened in April and is run by the City of Athens' Reception and Solidarity Center. It offers accommodation in dormitories as immediate help and apartments for a longer stay, along with free meals and psychosocial support.-</p> <p>'Bridge Program': The government will subsidize loans secured on a main residence with between 300 to 600 euros per month, depending on whether they are serviced or not. The subsidized tranches will concern both performing and nonperforming loans, using a number of criteria for debtors hurt by the pandemic. The scheme was means-tested, based on income and assets. The overall aim of the program was to support debtors who encountered difficulties in repaying their loans related to primary residence due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This program was introduced in July 2020 and was open for applications during August-October 2020. In total, 72,581 people (113,961 loans) benefited from this program</p> <p>(November 2020) Setting of a maximum profit margin for health-related products and services. The Ministry of Development and Investment announced the setting of a maximum profit margin in businesses selling products or providing services needed for the health as well as for nutrition, transportation and security of consumers. The measure in enforced until 28 February 2021 with a possibility of further extension.</p> <p>(June 2020) Extension of the 25% discount measure for timely payments of tax debt installments due in May 2020. For individuals who lease immovable property to such enterprises that are eligible for the extension of the deadline for the abovementioned payments to the Tax Authorities.</p>
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<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>[March 2020] The government introduced the ‘special purpose leave for working parents’ in the private and public sector, for their convenience during the shutdown of school units or special schools for children with disabilities and the further extraordinary measures linked with the pandemic. The measure was adopted through a law within the framework of the labor market extraordinary and temporary measures aimed to address and limit the spread of COVID-19, with regard to the organization and the place of work.</p>

		[Extension - July 2020] This measure was extended until July 31, 2020.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[[March 2020] All unemployment benefit payments will be further extended by 2 months for those whose entitlement expired within the first two months of 2020. This extension was targeted at the regular, self-employed and long-term beneficiaries of the unemployment benefit. The beneficiaries of the regular unemployment benefit will receive up to €798.50 (up to €399.25 monthly), self-employed individuals will receive up to €720 (up to €360 monthly) in total, and the beneficiaries of the long-term unemployment benefit will receive up to €400 (up to €200 monthly) in total.</p> <p>[Extension - November 2020] The Ministry of Labour extended this measure by two months for those whose unemployment benefits expired between September to December 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] This program was extended for those beneficiaries whose benefits had expired within the first two months of 2021 and had not benefited from the previous two-month extension.</p> <p>[November 2020] Employees whose contracts were suspended in November 2020 will receive an 800-euro stipend in December 2020 based on the number of days suspended. This measure covers all employees who have been hired until November 4, 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - March 2021] The government extended these measures to workers of “special categories”, affected by the coronavirus pandemic. This includes dockers, active members of cooperatives, football and basketball coaches, forest workers -resin collectors, lottery salespersons, and outdoor traders of which the activity was suspended by public order. The allowance is set at 534 euros.</p> <p>[March 2020] The unemployment benefits was extended for two months (April and May) for those whose unemployment card expired during the first three months of the year and were to be employed this tourism season.</p> <p>[April 2021] This policy was included as part of the Stability Program 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[November 2020] The social security contribution payment instalments have been suspended for the month of November 2020 for the businesses suspended by the state.</p> <p>[Extension - September 2021] The reduction in social security contributions by 3 percentage points has been extended to 2022.</p> <p>[March 2020] The deadline for the payment of installments related to restructurings which are active and fall due by March 31st 2020 and the deadline for all related subsequent monthly installments has been extended for three months without additional fees and late payment surcharges.</p>

		<p>(March 2020) Payment of Social Security contributions. The deadline for payment of installments related to restructurings which are active and fall due by 31/3/2020 and the deadline for all related subsequent monthly installments is extended for three (3) months without additional fees and late payment surcharges.</p> <p>Reduction of self-employed individuals and self-employed professionals' insurance contributions by 25%. This measure applies to self-employed individuals and self-employed professionals provided that they pay their current insurance contributions of February & March on time. The reduction of insurance contributions shall not apply if the option of prolonging the payment of insurance contributions has already been selected.</p> <p>The reduction of social security contributions for private sector employees by 3 percentage points amounting to a cost of 816 mn €.</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>[March 2020] A training voucher of €600 was introduced for specific professionals and a corresponding indemnity of €600 was granted to six scientific fields during April 2020. The program aimed to reach 166,000 scientists from six disciplines: lawyers, doctors, engineers/architects, economists/accountants, educators and researchers.</p> <p>(March 2020) Distance learning introduced for public training programs.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>[March 2020] Businesses that have had to cease their operations due to the pandemic were not allowed to terminate the employment contracts of their employees, who receive a special purpose compensation. Such terminations, starting from March 18th, 2020 were considered void.</p> <p>[March 2020] Employers which have been adversely impacted by the pandemic were entitled to the right to suspend the contracts of the employment of all or a part of their employees. By virtue of a mutual Decision of the Ministries of Finance and Labour, dated March 28th 2020, the duration of the suspension has to be 45 days and cannot be interrupted nor revoked. The measure can be implemented until the 20th of April 2020 and can be extended by a decision of the Competent Greek Authorities.</p> <p>[March 2020] The employer is obliged to retain the same employees and with the same terms and conditions of their employment contracts, as they were in force on the 21st of March 2020, for 45 days after the conclusion of the measure of suspension.</p>

	Reduced work time	<p>March 2020) Temporary rotational work scheme was introduced (for up to six months – i.e. until September 2020): businesses that have been financially affected may unilaterally designate staff as safety personnel for the operation of their business. Each employee may work for a minimum of 2 weeks within a reference period of 1 month, continuously or intermittently. The measure shall apply to at least 50% of staff. Employer is required to maintain the same headcount at the time of entering such operation.</p> <p>[September 2020] On 15 September 2020, a new law was passed (No. 4722, Part B, art. 15), which provides for the replacement of workers' absence time from work, in cases where quarantine was needed in order to avoid the spread of COVID-19. The new regulation was complementary to the measures taken in March 2020, concerning private sector employees and applied for the period after 1 September 2020. Employers of workers who were requested to stay at home (for either 7 or 14 days) could either ask them to work remotely, or in case this was not feasible, ask them to work for 1 hour per day on top of their contractual working hours on other working days following the end of the restriction period and up to the completion of half the hours corresponding to the working hours the employees were requested to stay at home.-</p> <p>[March 2020] The employers' right to impose remote working unilaterally was announced. [November 2020] Compulsory teleworking was introduced for 50 percent of employees, when the type of work being carried out allows for it, until 31 December, 2020. [Extension - December 2020] The measure was extended until 31 January, 2021. [Extension - January 2021] The proportion of employees teleworking was increased to 60 percent in areas with a 'very high risk level' and the measure was extended until April 2021. [July 2021] The participation rate for compulsory teleworking was reduced to 20 percent of the total number of employees from June to September 2021. [September 2021] The participation rate for compulsory teleworking was left up to the discretion of the employer.</p> <p>[November 2020] The government announced that employees' working schedules should be adapted and reformulated to avoid overcrowding in the workplace.</p> <p>[March 2020] A special part time working system was introduced where employees work for 50% of the month.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[June 2020] SYNERGASIA was established to help employers maintain the same headcount of full-time employees. Beneficiaries include full-time employees and all businesses that present at least a 20% reduction in sales, in comparison to the reference month and depending upon the month of participation to the mechanism. The duration of the measure starts 15 June 2020 to 15 October 2020, and exceptionally until 31 December 2020. [Extension - January 2021] The measure was initially extended until 28 February, 2021.</p>

[Extension - July 2021] The measure was subsequently extended from July to September 2021. The total expenditure as of February 2021 amounted to €69,798 million.

[October 2020] The government launched a program in September 2020 to create 100,000 new jobs in the private sector by subsidizing the social security contributions for a period of six months. In the case of a long-term unemployed person, the subsidy will include an additional €200. The program came into place on the October 1, 2020 and will remain active until the target number of jobs has been reached. The total budget for this program is €345 million.

[April 2020] The government announced that the the employment program for the long-term unemployed aged 55-67 would be expanded with an increase to 8,500 jobs. The beneficiaries were also expanded to include all legal entities under Public Law and all first and second degree Local Government Organizations, which do not carry out economic activity. The subsidy was increased from 50% to 75% of the monthly remuneration and non-salary costs along with an increase in the ceiling from € 600 to € 750 per month. This program was set to last 12 months with the possibility of an additional 12 months upon the request of the beneficiary.

Greenland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] To prevent the dismissal of workers, the government allocated DKK\$107 M to compensate private firms for wage costs. [Extension - October 2020] The wage compensation scheme was extended till 30th November 2020.

Grenada

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The SEED CCT adjusted payment delivery, including initiating payment delivery to beneficiaries aged 60 and over at their homes in March 2020 and introducing additional payment points for all beneficiaries in each Parish (district) in April 2020.</p> <p>The government of Grenada has approved a temporary income support program for the self-employed workers in the tourism-related sector (including transportation) such as taxi and bus drivers, tourist vendors, and tour guides, among others. The benefit amount of this program ranges from EC\$300 to EC\$800 per month for three months, requested through a one-time application, reducing administrative cost for both applicants and the government. The applicant requirements included registration with NIS and the Grenada Tourism Authority (where applicable). The benefit amount was determined by the Ministry of Finance based on previous income records of workers in specific occupations to partially compensate the loss of income. This benefit amount was fixed across eligible occupations. The total resources executed for the payroll support and the income support program are EC\$20 million, approximately 0.6 percent of GDP. This program has reached at least 1,800 workers.</p> <p>Government to provide support to single headed households whose breadwinner is unemployed as a result of the pandemic.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Delivery of care packages of basic food items to affected and vulnerable persons and households in different constituencies. The support is managed by the Prime Minister's Office through Constituency Offices. Some care packages have also been made available due to private sector donations.</p> <p>Government also continues to bear the cost of sanitization of buses and the provision of hand sanitization fluid in excess of \$50,000 per month.</p> <p>Initiatives to facilitate remote teaching including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Distribution of E-devices to secondary school students and teachers concluded (October 2020) o Primary school teachers begin receiving laptops (December 2020).

	School feeding	
	Public works	The government approved the establishment of the Community Economic Infrastructure Program 2020-2022 and intends to accelerate its implementation. On April 27, 2020, the Cabinet approved the establishment of the Community Economic Infrastructure Program 2020-2022 with the objective to support public infrastructure, mostly small-scale infrastructure; support livelihoods through labor-intensive public works; and, involve local communities while incentivizing economic activity for an inclusive recovery. The hiring guidelines for staff working in projects include hiring workers from the community where the work is taking place and that at least 10 percent of the workers must be women, contributing to closing the gender gap in a male-dominated sector. This program will generate at least 300 direct jobs, with many more jobs generated indirectly during the project execution and after the completion of the small-scale infrastructure projects.
	Utility waivers	<p>Backyard Gardening Program. This program will provide a unique opportunity for over five hundred (500) vulnerable households, along with local institutions that have limited and or irregular access to healthy and nutritious foods. Through this program, the target beneficiaries will receive material support such as seeds and other planting material, small garden tools and labor support. Backyard Gardening Program will also provide drums and tires to beneficiaries who lack sufficient land space around their house.</p> <p>The government committed to reduce the cost of electricity by 30 percent for the months of March, April and May in the first instance, to all consumers. This will not apply to a few companies that have special concessionary arrangements.</p> <p>Certain cleaning items are placed on the Price Control List to prevent price gouging.</p> <p>The Covid-19 National Food Security Mitigation and Response Plan will provide relief through the provision of agriculture inputs for small-scale and backyard farmers.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] The National Insurance Board (NIB) in Grenada allocated EC\$10 million for workers who have lost income because of measures taken by the government to reduce the spread of COVID-19. There was to be no distinction between higher- and lower-income workers and the support was not based on income. Eligible persons must have been contributing to the NIS and must have been unemployed as a direct consequence of COVID-19. Persons who were receiving income support or payroll support from the government of Grenada were not eligible. Qualified persons were to receive a flat monthly payment of EC\$330 per month over a period of six months and payments were to commence during the last week of May 2020. The program was expected to benefit at least 4,000 workers. [January 2021] The program was extended from October 2020 until January 2021.

	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] Prior to the pandemic, a two-percentage-point increase in the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) contribution rate paid by employers and employees was expected to come into force in January 2020 to support the long-term sustainability of the NIS. Given the unprecedented impacts from the COVID-19 crisis and liquidity constraint of employers and employees, the government approved the temporary suspension of this increase from April to July 2020. This measure is estimated to have a cost of EC\$4.5 million (US\$1.7 million, nearly 0.15 percent of GDP). The temporary suspension of the NIS contribution increase will benefit at least 2,500 employers and 34,000 employees.</p> <p>[July 2020] The suspension was not extended</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[December 2020] The government issued guidelines for dealing with suspected COVID-19 cases at work.</p> <p>[May 2020] Activity in the construction sector resumed with guidelines and requirements for contractors and construction companies. These include the provision of handwashing stations on site, safety kits for each worker, site cleaning to a set standard at the end of each day, and daily disposal of waste and PPE.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] To help businesses survive and retain workers while ensuring business continuity in the key economic sectors in Grenada, the government has established a temporary payroll support program targeting tourism-related businesses such as hoteliers, restaurants, bars, and travel agents, among others. The payroll support program covers 40 percent of the monthly payroll of businesses that meet the eligibility criteria in this sector. The main eligibility requirements include, among others, that businesses must be registered with the Inland Revenue Division (IRD) and the NIS; have been in operation prior to March 2020 and it is only applicable for workers who were on the payroll in February 2020 or before. Businesses had to apply each month for up to four months, from April to July 2020. Grants were disbursed to businesses on a monthly basis. To increase the likelihood of workers and jobs retention, employee verification forms were required with the applications, starting with the second monthly application. Management and high-level jobs were excluded from this intervention. The payroll support program was planned to have benefited at least 140 businesses and 3,100 workers.</p>

Guam

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On March 27, 2020, Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act became law. The one-time stimulus rebate (Economic Impact Payment -1) provides individuals payment of \$1,200, joint filers of \$2,400, and people below 16 years receive \$500 per qualifying dependent. On December 22, 2020, Congress approved a relief package which expanded EIP payments issued in 2020 as part of the CARES Act. If you're a U.S. citizen or U.S. resident alien, you may be eligible for \$600 (\$1,200 for a joint return), plus \$600 for each qualifying child. A third round of the Economic Impact Payments (EIP) was approved under the American Rescue Plan of 2021, which was approved into law on March 11, 2021. Under the Act, the EIP will provide payments up to \$1,400 for individuals or \$2,800 for married couples, plus an additional \$1,400 for each dependent. Unlike the prior rounds of EIP, families will get a payment for all their dependents claimed on a tax return, not just their qualifying children under 17. The IRS has issued more than 169 million payments in the third round of direct stimulus aid, with more than 2 million people in July 2021. The IRS and U.S. Treasury approved \$134.8 million and \$241 million for Guam's EIP 1 and EIP 3 Program respectively.</p> <p>On 6 May 2020, the Disaster relief program (called Prugrãman Salãppe' Ayudon I Taotao) was reported to provide cash assistance of \$300 to \$1,200 to about 18,000 Guam households (or 55,000 people). The direct disaster aid program uses \$20 million from the federal government under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security Act. Households need to meet the following requirements: (i) household that makes equal to or below 165% of the federal poverty level will get the assistance. (ii) Recipients must be 18 years or older and must have been residents of Guam for at least six months. (iii) Must provide valid identification documents: driver's License, or Guam identification card or passport</p> <p>On April 16, 2021, it is reported that the US government began providing financial assistance for funeral expenses incurred after January 20, 2020 for deaths related to COVID-19. This involves a one-off cash transfer of \$9,000. The measure began in early April 2021.</p>

		On December 17, 2020, through Bill 340-35, the Guam's government provides a one-time payment of \$800 to qualified individuals for COVID-19 relief, aiming to help up to 30,000 needy families
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On December 27, 2020, the government of the US has increased SNAP by 15 percent starting from January 1, 2021, until the end of June 30, 2021. On March 11, 2021, it is reported that the USDA announced the extension of the 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits, also known as food stamps, as families continue to struggle as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For Guam, the increased benefits for another three months mean \$5 million more invested in food security, involving 43,000 beneficiaries until the end of September 2021. This is an increase of \$36 per person per month.</p> <p>On 30 March 2020, the USDA approved the issue of Guam's Emergency Allotment (EA) to ongoing SNAP households for March and April 2020, increasing their current monthly allotment up to the maximum monthly allotment for a household of that size. Ongoing SNAP households that already receive the maximum monthly allotment for their household size are not eligible for EA. All EA will be delivered on ongoing SNAP households' EBT cards. This policy has been extended every month since April 2020, and the latest extension was approved on 17 September 2021 with 11,799 households eligible for the EA and \$2,559,151 of EA allotted for the month</p>
	School feeding	<p>With schools closed, the Guam Department of Education arranged with federal agencies to provide free lunches (take home style – Grab 'n' Go) for children starting on Monday, March 23, 2020, although meals were not served during weekends and holidays. According to the press, as of February 19th, 2021, there were 6,857,730 meals distributed. Apart from that on 8th October 2020, the Guam Department of Education (GDOE) announced that School Meal Distribution will take place every Friday 9AM-12PM at all GDOE schools and it is open to all children 0-18 years old. Children do not need to attend GDOE schools to participate (this is an example of horizontal expansion in school feeding). Again, on August 30, 2021, GDOE announced that meal distribution will begin from September 7, 2021. These school meals will be provided for free to children aged 18 and below, both to public and private school students. The content of the bags will include one breakfast and one lunch meal. The limit is five bags per vehicle. Distribution of Grab n Go is on a "first come, first served" basis. The GNG distribution will take place Monday through Friday from 11:00 am to 1:00 p.m.</p> <p>On 6 July 2021, the government approved the Pandemic Electronic Benefits Transaction (P-EBT). The Guam Department of Education (GDOE) will identify eligible children for P-EBT benefits who are directly certified from SNAP Households (HHs) based on free or reduced price meal applications</p>

		<p>from school districts through the National School Lunch Program (NSLP) and if the School District was closed or has reduced the number of days or hours that students attend the school for at least 5 consecutive days, utilizing the most current available data for School Year 2020-2021 (August 2020 through May 2021). If additional funding for P-EBT become available or may be extended to the summer or the next school year, Guam will modify the date range covered by the current plan and inform USDA of any significant increases or decreases in these data points based on requirements. The estimated total number of children which the Guam Department of Education directly certified from SNAP Households and based on free and reduced applications from non-SNAP households for issuance of P-EBT benefits is estimated at 27,942. Estimated total expenditure (total issuance + administrative costs) is 37,180,858.72. The first issuance (\$422.41) will be for August 2020, September 2020 and October 2020 and it will occur on or around August 20, 2021. The second issuance (\$310.83) will be for November 2020, December 2020 and January 2021 and it will occur on or around August 31, 2021. The third issuance (\$294.89) will be for February and March 2021 and it will occur on or around September 18, 2021. The final issuance (\$215.19) of SY20-21 will be for April and May 2021 and it will occur on September 30, 2021.</p> <p>The USDA announced the extension of the 15% increase in Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, benefits, also known as food stamps, as families continue to struggle as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. For Guam, the increased benefits for another three months means \$5 million more invested in food security, involving 43,000 beneficiaries.</p>
	Public works	<p>On March 22, 2020, the Guam Department of Labor had applied for the Disaster Displacement worker grant (DWG) from the US government. The initial approved amount is \$1,500,000 for the duration of April 10, 2020 until March 31, 2022 with 210 planned participants. The proposed DWG will allow disaster-relief employment of eligible individuals to fill humanitarian positions such as assisting first line responders at quarantine sites and airports, serving meals to school children and senior citizens, and as clean-up positions to sanitize schools, senior centers, and quarantine sites. Workers laid-off due to quarantine orders or business closures related to disruptions caused by the outbreak are eligible participants. It also includes workers who are unable to go to their regular workplace due to social distancing requirements, as well as those missing work to care for a family member. On 25 February, 2021, the US government has announced additional funding of \$1,767,172 to Guam to continue disaster-relief employment in positions addressing pandemic clean-up and humanitarian activities which is expected to employ 100 additional temporary pandemic jobs.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 29, 2020, the Guam government declared that there would not be evictions or foreclosure actions or proceedings involving real estate or property, whether rental or otherwise until the public health emergency is over. Many financial institutions have already notified their customers that they are granting borrowers as much as three months in deferred payments. The executive order extends that relief to renters. On 6 June 2020, this measure was extended until June 30th, 2020.</p>

		<p>On March 29, 2020, it is reported that the Guam governor’s executive order reiterates that price gouging is in effect until the public health emergency is lifted. The price cap includes services, dwelling rentals and personal protective equipment, and other items that are either in short supply or could be in short supply because of the ongoing crisis.</p> <p>On March 27, 2020, as part of Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act, federal student loan borrowers are automatically placed in an administrative forbearance from March 13, 2020, to September 30, 2020. The pause includes the following relief measures for eligible loans: (i) a suspension of loan payment; (ii) a 0% interest rate; (iii) stopped collections on defaulted loans. After further extensions, on August 6, 2021, the U.S. Department of Education announced (applicable for Guam) a final extension of the student loan payment pause until January 31, 2022.</p> <p>On 22 September 2021, it was reported that the Guam Department of Revenue and Taxation has processed the first of five instalments for the Advance Child Tax Credit for Guam residents. A total of 15,556 payments totaling \$8,499,895 million were processed on Monday (20 September 2021). The American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 authorized the Advance Child Tax Credit. It includes the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · The maximum Child Tax Credit increased to \$3,600 for children under the age of 6 and to \$3,000 per child for children between ages 6 and 17 (applicable even for people who turn 17 in 2021). · Taxpayers may receive part of their credit in calendar year 2021 before filing their 2021 Guam income tax return. <p>Guam DRT will be processing payments for the Advance Child Tax Credit for Guam residents in 5 instalments as follows: September 20, 2021, September 30, 2021, October 15, 2021, November 15, 2021, and December 15, 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] In an effort to help workers, many of whom have lost their jobs or are seeing smaller paychecks and to keep the nation’s economy from tanking in light of the COVID-19 crisis, the

		<p>government planned to provide unemployment insurance benefits of \$930 a week for those who lost their job or were furloughed.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program was created to provide temporary benefits to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been lost or interrupted because of reasons directly related to the COVID-19 pandemic. Such individuals will receive up to 39 weeks of unemployment benefits. The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program expanded the unemployment insurance eligibility to Guam workers who have suffered from reduced working hours and was established as a 39-week program for those who lost work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The eligibility window stretches from February to Dec. 31, 2020. Guam's PUA Weekly Benefit Amount (WBA) is \$345 per week and employees who have been laid off or furloughed due to COVID-19 qualify for the full amount. Employees still working but making less than \$345 a week qualify for PUA minus their wages and those making \$345 or more do not qualify. [Extension: December 2020] The second COVID relief package extends the benefit cap from 39 weeks to 50 weeks and the PUA program from December 27, 2020, through April 5, 2021. Claimants from the first COVID relief program who maxed out their benefit can now qualify for another 11 weeks starting December 27, 2020 if their employment and income continues to be affected as a direct result of COVID-19.</p> <p>[November 2020] The Lost Wages Association (LWA) Program, the replacement of the Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation program (FPUC), provides eligible claimants a supplemental payment of \$300 per week, for up to six weeks, in addition to their weekly unemployment benefit amount. To date, the Guam Department of Labor has issued nearly \$35 million as part of the LWA Program. It was approved a waiver of the 25% matching fund requirement to be eligible for the program.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Guatemala

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government of Guatemala (GoG) introduced an emergency cash transfer “Bono Familia” to reach 2.7 million households (80% of the population) for 3 months (1000 quetzals or USD 130 per month/beneficiary). Targeting is based on electricity consumption (<200whz) for areas with electricity (90% of beneficiaries). In areas with limited access to electricity, targeting is based on socio-economic characteristics (10% of beneficiaries). The initial plan was to allocate 3 payments of Q 1000 but given the increment in the number of beneficiaries they did two payments of Q 1000 and one payment of Q 250.</p> <p>The GoG is removing the conditionality of the existing Bono Social cash transfer and facilitate how it disburses payment to beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Risk Cash Bonus grants a cash bonus to health personnel exposed to COVID-19. The bonus was created for the protection of professionals’ health who are providing their service during the pandemic to safeguard citizens.</p>
	Social pensions	The GoG and the Ministry of Labor, who is the implementing agency, announced an expansion of the non-contributory program “Adulto Mayor” (estimated expenditure of 100 million quetzals or USD 13 million).
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The GoG is issuing food transfers and vouchers for food, medicine, and inputs to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The program targets vulnerable families, including the elderly and those in nursery homes. The program is jointly implemented by the Ministry of Social Development and Ministry of Agriculture (estimated expenditure of 700 million quetzals or USD 91 million).
	School feeding	To ensure that primary and pre-primary students continue to enjoy school meals during school suspension, the GoG shared resources transferred to the parents of parent organizations (OPF) to buy non-perishable foods. Targeted to reach 2.4 million children to receive food even if not attending school. The GoG allocated QTQ \$ 589.9 million. The value of the food delivered is approximately QTQ 60 per student.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The National Electricity Institute (INDE) will continue to provide “social tariffs” to subsidize the cost of electricity for low-income households. Social tariffs of 0.4 to 0.7 quetzals per kw will be provided to families in need.

		The tax authorities in Guatemala issued guidance extending the deadline for filing certain tax returns in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The income tax return for 2019 and the monthly value added tax (VAT) return corresponding to February 2020 are now due 15 April 2020. The deadline for returns corresponding to income tax withholdings is April 28th, 2020 and for VAT withholdings is May 5th, 2020.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	One-time benefit for state retirees and pensioners.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] On March 21, the Guatemalan Social Security Institute (IGSS) authorized deferred payment of employer fees for March, April and May 2020. This benefit is granted exclusively to the private sector and employers will not have surcharges for arrears, interest or administrative expenses as provided that the provisions of the agreement are met. [Extended - June 2020] On July 24, and by agreement of the Board of Directors 1481, employers may defer the employer fees corresponding to June, July and August 2020, and may choose to pay them in four for up to 15 months
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] On March 16, the Presidency of the Republic issued a decree to enact the application of the safety and hygiene protocol for essential activities. In order to prevent the spread of COVID-19, public and private institutions that will continue operating must follow the government's instructions through official communication platforms.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] On March 16, the Presidency of the Republic issued a decree suspending in-person work for the government sector with some exceptions. It also called for the public and private sectors to allow and promote telework.
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] On April 8, the government issued Decree 12-2020 which provides a wage subsidy of GTQ 75/day to formal workers in the private sector whose contracts have been suspended. Applicants must be receive approval from the Ministry of Labor. Program expenditure is estimated at GTQ 2 billion (USD 260 million). As of October 1, the government no longer continued to provide the benefit to workers who were suspended when the State of Calamity ceased to be in force. [Extended - December 2020] On December 18, the government issued Decree 35-2020 which orders a single payment to private sector employees who were suspended as of September 30.

Guernsey (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 26 March 2020, the States of Guernsey has set up a hardship fund to provide emergency financial help for people who may not otherwise qualify for unemployment benefit, sickness benefit or income support. There are no contribution conditions for the hardship fund. Hardship allowance is targeted at people whose income has been severely reduced because of COVID- 19 but do not qualify for sickness benefit, unemployment benefit or income support. Payments are for essential items such as food, toiletries, cleaning products, etc. The hardship fund does not cover rent or mortgage interest payments. The weekly rate payable is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £100 for the first adult in the household - £80 for the second adult in the household - £55 per child in the household <p>On 26th January 2021, as there will be individuals and families who are struggling financially but may not be eligible for standard benefit support, and so government a £250,000 Hardship Fund is being re-established by the government.</p> <p>On 26 March 2020, the government implemented the Income support program, which is a weekly cash benefit for people with low incomes as a direct result of the COVID-19 pandemic. It is a means-tested benefit which brings a person's income up to the minimum amount needed to live on. The benefit amount is calculated as the difference between people's current income and this minimum amount to live. Only those with valid residency certificate or permit are eligible for this payment. There is a limit to the weekly amount of benefit that can be awarded. The limit is reviewed annually and is currently £850.00 per week.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Paid sick leave	The government pays a sickness benefit of up to £168 /week to workers who are unable to work due to illness. To be beneficiary, people must have paid at least 26 social insurance contributions, as	

Social Insurance		an employed or self-employed person, at any time in the worker's working life; and must have paid or had credited at least 26 contributions, as an employed or self-employed person, during 2019 (for claims beyond 30 June, this switches to 2020).
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] The government pays an unemployment benefit of up to £168/week to unemployed people who are looking for work with an employer. To be beneficiary, people must have paid at least 26 social insurance contributions; and must have paid or had credited at least 26 contributions as an employed person during 2019.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[April 2020] The Career Advantage Program is a joint offer from the Job Centre and the College of Further Education and seeks to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support people to clearly recognize their current knowledge and skills in order to create a portfolio of evidence that could be used to either: gain a recognized qualification and/or offer them coaching and CV update skills. - Identify skills gaps for further development, such as math and English. - Explore future progression or retraining opportunities. - Support job application processes, e.g. develop CVs, letters of application and interview skills. <p>This program was offered virtually, working with staff from the Job Centre and College of Further Education lecturers while the college is closed. Its aim is to give those currently out of work due to the COVID 19 pandemic the best chance to regain employment either during this ongoing crisis or later.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The government launched the Coronavirus Payroll Co-Funding Scheme which aims to pay employees an amount equivalent to Guernsey's minimum wage. The government funds 80% of employee wages, based on the minimum wage of £8.50 per hour which equates to a gross payment of £238 for a standard 35-hour week. Employers must make up the remaining 20% (equivalent to £60 per week). Employers are encouraged to 'top-up' these amounts further if they can do so. The support is available for an initial period of up to three months (13 weeks). Initially, this measure was in place for three months. The measure planned to reach 1,700 businesses with total employees of 10,500.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2021] After extending the program several times, the government announced the end of this measure by late September 2021.</p> <p>According to a government's report, as of May 2020 this program involved a total budget of £36M.</p>

Guinea

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) The Agence Nationale d'Inclusion Economique et Sociale (ANIES) introduced a new cash transfers program of 250,000 GNF per month intended for 240,000 households (1.6 million people) in various parts of Guinea including Conakry. The transfers have been piloted in the capital of Conakry to date and are planned to roll out to the interior of the country in coming months. The program has reached 20,000 households, or 130,000 individuals, with monthly transfers of 250,000 GNF.</p> <p>The World Bank has decided to increase its funding to 120 million US dollars (USD) as part of the strengthening of the activities of the National Agency for Economic and Social Inclusion (ANIES) (50 million USD on top of previous 70 million USD commitment).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The country new Social Protection agency, the Agence Nationale d'Inclusion Economique et Sociale (ANIES) will distribute sanitation kits to 130,900 households (more than 850,000 people) in 102 sub-prefectures (1,920 districts) and the special zone of Conakry. This phase will take place from April 2020.
	School feeding	
	Public works	The COVID-19 economic response plan announced on April 6, 2020 includes the implementation of labor-intensive public works. ANIES will deploy high-intensity labor-intensive activities (HIMO) in Conakry and, where applicable, the construction of boreholes to promote access to drinking water in the rural. In Conakry, the aim will be to contribute to the sanitation of the city by employing young people and women, on remunerated conditions, for cleaning the roads, cleaning the gutters, etc. This phase will be initiated from May 2020 and will be continued throughout the period of crisis management, and at the latest until December 2020.
	Utility waivers	<p>The State will cover the bills of subscribers to the social electricity tariff for three months from this month of April, at a cost of 456 billion Guinean francs.</p> <p>The State will also cover the bills of subscribers to the social water tariff for three months from this month of April, at a cost of 24 billion Guinean francs.</p>

		<p>Payment deadlines for water and electricity bills for all other non-commercial subscribers will be delayed by three months starting April 2020.</p> <p>The prices of health products (i.e. pharmaceuticals and health equipment) and basic necessities are frozen during the period of the pandemic.</p> <p>Rents on public and private buildings are blocked from April to December 2020.</p> <p>Public transport by bus is made free for three months from April 2020, which represents a state effort of 6 billion Guinean francs.</p> <p>Public transport by rail (Conakry Express) is also made free for three months from April 2020, at a cost for the State of 2 billion Guinean francs.</p> <p>Suspending the non-performing loan (NPL) classification for businesses and individuals impacted by the pandemic and the provisioning of such loans</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	the postponement (for three months) since April 2020 of all social charges for companies in the tourism and hotel sector.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>The Project Boosting Skills for Youth Employability (BoCEJ) will support higher and technical education institutions in distance training.</p> <p>[January 2021] The Project to Strengthen the Competitiveness of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Access to Finance in Guinea (PRECOP) has launched a series of training courses for 150 SMEs to strengthen their capacity and improve their competitiveness in the local market.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Guinea-Bissau

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Cash transfer program has been implemented for the most vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 in 8 sectors (Sao . Domingos, Bigene, Bula, Canchungo, Mansaba, Bissora, Quinhamel and Sonaco) plus 4 districts of the Capital (Antula, Bandim Cumtum Madina and Bairro Militar). The program is expected to reach 11,000 individuals with multiple vulnerabilities among which include female headed households with children, the elderly, those suffering from chronic illnesses or malnutrition, and the unemployed. Each family will receive a transfer of 40,000 CFA (around 60 euros) during three months. The program will cover the regions in the country with the highest prevalence of food insecurity.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	20,000 bags of rice and 10,000 bags of sugar were distributed across the country, costing CFAF 525 million (US\$ 0.9 million or 0.06 percent of GDP) To mitigate the immediate impact of the pandemic the government made emergency and support allocations (in 2020) of: (i) CFAF 4.7 billion (0.6 percent of GDP) to provide medicine, food, and medical equipment
	School feeding	
	Public works	The Guinea Bissau Emergency Food Security Project will boost farmer livelihoods in light of the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The project will ensure household food security for sections of the communities affected by job losses by mitigating the expected shortfalls in their incomes through support for public, community-level works.
	Utility waivers	To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money free. The government has provided direct support to the agricultural campaign for CFAF 790 million

		The Guinea Bissau Emergency Food Security Project will boost farmer livelihoods in light of the economic downturn due to the COVID-19 pandemic. One component of this project will support an accelerated supply response focused on preserving/restoring the productive capacity of 50,000 eligible farming households to enable them to effectively engage in continued and expanded production of key staple foods in the short - to medium - term (6-24 months). The project will finance the procurement and distribution of improved seeds and planting materials, with a focus on key food crops and vegetables.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The government has provided direct support to the agricultural campaign for CFAF 790 million
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Guyana

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Restoring and increasing the school cash grant to \$15,000. Effective from the 1st of January 2021, a \$15,000 cash grant for school children will be introduced. This is an increase to the \$10,000 “Because We Care Cash Grant” that started under the PPP/C Administration in 2014 but was later discontinued by the APNU+AFC in 2015</p> <p>COVID-19 relief fund of G\$25,000 (US\$120) to each household affected by COVID-19 (universal one-off).</p> <p>The government has launched a childcare subsidy for essential workers. Frontline workers who are providing an essential service or key public services during the COVID-19 pandemic can apply.</p> <p>GYD 150 million (USD 717,000) allocated to support frontline workers two-week tax-free bonus to the Joint Service workers.</p> <p>The government announced the disbursement of a one-off cash grant of \$25,000 each to workers of the entire Public Sector, including those who are currently employed at GuySuco. The grant, valued over GYD 2 billion, would benefit more than 60,000 people.</p> <p>The Administration also announced it would be doubling the allowance for uniforms. This means that the uniform voucher allowance will be \$4000 per child in the public school system.</p>
	Social pensions	Advance payment of old-age pension Safeguard and ensure that people older adults can collect their payments pension during the pandemic of COVID-19.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The assistance programs include vouchers and packaged hampers for the coastland and the hinterland respectively.</p> <p>Civil Defense Commission extending food relief to a formalized COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Voucher Program at an estimated value of between GYD 25,000 and 32,000 (USD 120 – 153) per voucher per month. The initiative focuses on homes where one or more individuals have experienced</p>

		a loss in earnings because of the COVID pandemic, single-parent homes, elderly persons and persons living with disabilities.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Suspending water and electricity utilities for three months (from April 1, 2020, to September 30, 2020).</p> <p>Removal of Value Added Tax (VAT) on all medical supplies.</p> <p>Removal of VAT on electricity and water consumption for households and businesses effective October 1, 2020.</p> <p>Mortgage Interest Relief on housing loans of up to GYD 30 million (USD 143,540) for homeowners occupying these properties</p> <p>REAP [Rural Entrepreneurial Agricultural Project] Kitchen Garden Initiative – relief effort whereby applicants benefit from vouchers for kitchen garden tools, seeds, irrigation and other start up materials to start their own kitchen gardens boosting both individual and collective food supplies in Guyana.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Increase in Old Age Pension from \$20,500 to \$25,000, with effect from 1 January 2021. This will benefit over 60,000 persons and put an additional \$4 billion of disposable income in their hands.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[May 2020] The National Insurance Scheme has introduced an amnesty on the payment of contributions owing at January 15, 2020 to May 15, 2020 due to the COVID 19 pandemic. The new deadline for payment of the contribution without interest is June 30, 2020. Employers and self-employed persons who have existing agreement to pay outstanding contributions with the National Insurance Scheme's Debt Recovery Unit are not entitled to the waiver of interest. [Extension-August 2020] The deadline for payment of the contribution without interest is extended to September 30, 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[September 2020] To ensure the development of an instrument that can be used to determine the online and ICT training needs of TVET educators, enhance the quality of the teaching and learning process to integrate online platforms to deliver the curriculum, and to establish an online platform for educators to communicate, share best practices and develop teaching and learning materials, the

		Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) unit of the Ministry of Education launched an online training program today for TVET instructors and lecturers.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Haiti

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The government announced a one-off cash transfer of 3,000 Haitian Gourdes (around 39 USD) to 1.5 million vulnerable families. As of January 2021, 319,959 individuals received the transfer.. CERC to finance emergency CT in (peri-)urban areas. The contract with the WFP has been signed and the first tranche of cash-transfers and hand-washing stations are expected to be delivered in December 2020.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The GoH announced in-kind transfers to 1 million families on March 27th, 2020. The government establishes measures to guarantee food security and among them it opts for a short cycle crop by prioritizing the planting of tubers and cereals, prioritizing plant production and fishing, among others. Food safety measures: the Minister finally pointed out that in the Artibonite valley, out of the 8,000 hectares of unplanted arable land, 3,000 hectares will be used to produce more food supplies.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

	Wage subsidies	<p>Wage subsidies for 60,000 workers were announced for the textile industry as well as compensation for 100,000 teachers. During the month of April 2020, the Economic Assistance Fund (FAES), which is the Governmental entity tasked to deploy assistance programs, implemented a temporary wage subsidy program with public funding to support incomes and ensure minimum consumption levels for the formal workers in the textile sector during the closure of the factories. The intervention disbursed an amount equivalent to US\$ 2,000,000. These public funds were directed to the 43 textile companies of the Association of Industries of Haiti (ADIH) to subsidize 50% of the daily minimum wage for the closure period of 15 business days; 30 of the companies were responsible for distributing the subsidies to workers in the sector and FAES is in the process of collecting the reports of the payments to the workers. The intervention was aimed at supporting income and did not include any specific measures regarding employment protection in the sector.</p>
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Honduras

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Government of Honduras (GoH) is implementing an emergency cash transfer program focused on self-employed and informal workers receiving government support under the Covid-19 crisis. The program will benefit around 500,000 people, who are all new beneficiaries.</p> <p>(May 2020): A cash transfer was made available for those needing to repatriate bodies of those that died due to COVID.</p> <p>In response to COVID-19, the GoH introduced vertical and horizontal expansion of Honduras Social Protection Integration Project. A vertical one-time top-up to increase the benefit size and committed to maintain the coverage of the CCT BVM (Grants for a Better Life, Bono Vida Mejor in Spanish) Program in urban areas in 64 targeted municipalities. The increased CCT benefits were provided to 31,091 urban beneficiary households in municipalities with compounded effects of the tropical cyclones and COVID-19 (out of the 45,820 beneficiary households). The GoH also paid these top-up transfers in rural areas covering 151,106 households out of the 289,651 beneficiary households. In May 2021, 110,000 rural households were added to the Honduras Social Protection Integration Project with the approval of the Additional Financing in the 64 originally targeted municipalities.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(March 2020): The GoH launched Honduras Solidaria, a state-run program aimed at giving 800,000 families food commodities and hygiene products every two weeks for 30 days.
School feeding	<p>Packages of food are home delivered with support of teachers and local school feeding focal points. Collaboration between World Food Program (WFP) and UNICEF, in support of the Honduran Government, and safety protocols have been developed for teachers, together with school feeding committees, to prepare food rations that had been left unprepared when the schools shut. Consequently, one adult per family can go to a school to withdraw a ration of food, consisting of rice, beans, oil and cornmeal. Security protocols developed by WFP and UNICEF also allow for the delivery of take-home rations. Teachers decided to go for the door-to-door delivery to avoid crowds in schools, and it was also an opportunity to see how the children and their families were doing. In delivering food, the teachers take the opportunity to train families on how to keep the coronavirus at bay. The rations were delivered to parents in the warehouses, mainly, and in some cases in schools. Due to the lack of funding for the program, the strategy was to use the remaining funds of 2019 to</p>	

		<p>give as much assistance as possible. The delivery of rations for the first time was made to all the children in the program (1.25 million) in March 2020, with rations for 45 days. Then in May a second delivery was made for 43 days in vulnerable areas of the country (380,000 students). Finally, there was a third delivery in August for 39,000 students from vulnerable areas, with food donated by private companies (without state resources). The program developed protocols and measures of biosecurity for delivery. Protocols were developed for the delivery of both dry and fresh rations, although in the end only the former were distributed, mainly due to mobility restrictions in the different regions.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020): An extension was granted to those categorized as small and medium taxpayers and to individuals and independent professionals for the delivery and payment of the Income Tax, Solidarity Contribution and Net Assets Tax Return; as well as the delivery and payment of the declarations of the Contribution of the Social Sector of the Economy; Specific Single Income Tax on Lease or Rental of Homes or Apartment Buildings; Special Contribution on Operating Surpluses obtained by Private Universities, Schools and Institutes of Preschool, Primary and Middle Education; and, to the Social Contribution of the Cooperative Sector. This applied to fiscal period 2019, with all formal and material obligations to be fulfilled no later than June 30th, 2020.</p> <p>(March 2020): The National Banking and Insurance Commission (CNBS) issued a resolution on measures to mitigate the economic and financial impact of the COVID-19 emergency. The measures include granting grace periods to debtors who are affected (natural and legal persons in the services, tourism, transportation, and housing sectors) by the reduction of cash flows until June 30, 2020. New payment plans can be given until September 2020, no changes in lending risk categories can be given until October 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020): The GoH established a maximum sale price to the final consumer on mask, antibacterial gel, and 95% alcohol products. This applies everywhere in the national territory.</p> <p>(April 2020): The National Telecommunications Commission (CONATEL) confirms a moratorium on suspensions for fixed and mobile telephones, mobile and residential internet services in the country during the COVID-19 pandemic. CONATEL will allow users more flexible payment options through all self-management platforms, guaranteeing the continuity of services without interruption. Likewise, CONATEL will establish various measures to ensure to any of their subscribers (Natural Persons, SMEs and MYPMES) facing financial difficulty to pay for their telephone and internet service, receive a free basic package to be always connected, as well as access to the web portals established by the GoH.</p>
	Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	<p>The GoH issued a decree guaranteeing workers the right to health care benefits through the Honduran Social Security Institute (IHSS) even when contributions are suspended due to the suspension of work.</p> <p>A fund to finance the "Plan para la Promoción Solidaria y del Auxilio Recíproco" (PLAN PRO-SOLIDAR) was established to increase the social protection coverage through the improvement of the Comprehensive Public Network of Health Services (RIPSS). This fund will provide access to essential services and social transfers with an emphasis on people in vulnerable conditions.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The Private Contribution Scheme (RAP) will grant its affiliates an advance on the balance they have in their Individual Capitalization Account derived from the Social Welfare Insurance Scheme and the Coverage Insurance Regime Labor, as well as any other individual account that is accredited in the name of the affiliate and that is being administered by the RAP, taking into consideration the balance that each affiliate had in their individual account. The advance will be divided into 3 successive monthly payments of equal value, up to 9,000 Lempiras (L.9,000.00) to be disbursed over three months. The advance must be granted as long as the concerned company certifies that it has been adversely affected by the pandemic.</p> <p>[April 2020] The GoH issued a temporary suspension on the provisions related to financing through contributions and mandatory worker-employer contributions derived from the Social Security Insurance Scheme (Complementary Pillar of Individual Accounts) and the Labor Coverage Insurance Scheme; for a period of three (3) months starting March 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - July 2020] It was extended for 6 months by Decree 83 on 16th July, 2020.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Private Contribution Scheme (RAP) issued a temporary halt on the collection of worker-employer contributions and contributions to RAP for a period of up to 3 months from March 2020. This includes the collection of contributions and mandatory worker-employer contributions corresponding to the individual capitalization accounts derived from the Social Security Insurance Scheme and the Labor Coverage Insurance Scheme, in accordance with the attribution granted by the Framework Law of the Social Protection System. The aforementioned period may be extended as long as there is a decree issued by the GoH and in accordance with the the RAP.</p> <p>[Extension - July 2020] It was extended for 6 months by Decree 83 on 16th July 2020.</p> <p>e</p>
	Activation measures	<p>[May 2020] The GoH announced that it would provide training to those receiving Aportacion Temporal Solidaria in the tourism sector.</p>

Labor Markets		[May 2020] The National Institute of Professional Training (INFOP) was offering more than 50 trainings in the areas of administration, ICT, tourism, management, financial analysis, and entrepreneurship.
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The GoH issued nationwide hygiene and safety protocols. These measures were aimed at workers and employers for the prevention and control of COVID-19 and established health and safety conditions in the workplace without prejudice to the regulations issued for each particular activity.
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The GoH issued a decree authorizing the implementation of teleworking for employees of public and private entities.</p> <p>[May 2020] The Honduran Supreme Court of Justice (CSJ) instructed magistrates, judges, directors, coordinators, bosses, and any other technical administrative workers the authority to work remotely.</p> <p>[March 2020] The STSS authorized employers and workers to use holidays and vacations, guaranteed that holidays (those recognized in the Labor Code) would be recognized and paid for during the time of national emergency, and that employers would continue to grant vacations during the period of national emergency. These agreements were to be reported to the STSS.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] The government announced that workers who are subject to a suspension of contracts due to force majeure derived from the national health emergency, may receive a temporary solidarity contribution from the government and employers. Two relief schemes were set up to provide support to those contributing to the Private Contribution Regime (RAP) and those in the factory sector. For workers who work in companies under the Free Zones Regime (Maquila), the government and the private sector will make contributions. In all cases, the amount, term and form of payment will be determined by the parties that finance the temporary solidarity contribution.</p> <p>[May 2020] The authorizing decree was modified on the 4th of May, 2020 to include the tourism sector.</p>

Hong Kong

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 9 June 2020, the Hong Kong government announced that recipients of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA), recipients of the Old Age Allowance (OAA), the Old Age Living Allowance (OALA) and the Disability Allowance (DA) under the Social Security Allowance (SSA) Scheme will receive a one-off extra allowance starting from June 12, 2020. It is announced as part of the 2020-21 Budget. Recipients from the above-mentioned social security payments on May 14, 2020, will be eligible for the one-off extra allowance. The Social Welfare Department (SWD) has been allocated \$4,209 million for implementing the arrangements and will credit the payment to the designated bank accounts of the eligible recipients without the need to make an application. Payments for different groups range from \$1,435 to \$6,770. The measure will benefit about 1.39 million eligible persons, including 320,000 CSSA recipients, 600,000 OALA recipients, 270,000 OAA recipients, 28,000 GD Scheme recipients, 9,000 FJ Scheme recipients and 150,000 DA recipients. On April 10, 2021, the government re-introduced a one-off extra allowance, equal to half of one month of the standard rate of Comprehensive Social Security Assistance payments, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance or Disability Allowance, which would be provided to eligible recipients of these social security payments. About 1.51 million social security recipients are estimated and it is expected to cost 2.5 billion (N.B. This is shared with WFA and WITS).</p> <p>On 8 June 2020, the Hong Kong government announced that the Cash Payout Scheme will open for registration on June 21, 2020. Hong Kong permanent residents aged 18 or above may register electronically or use a paper form to receive \$10,000 with the aim to encourage and boost local consumption on the one hand, and to relieve people's financial burden on the other. This measure involves an expenditure of about \$71 billion and it is expected to benefit about seven million people. Registration will close on December 31, 2021. The public may choose to register through 21 participating banks to have the sum deposited to their sole-name bank account; those who wish to receive the payment with a cheque can register with Hongkong Post and collect it in person at the post office. Banks will start accepting electronic registrations from 7am on June 21. Please note, the registration commencement is batched based on the year of birth. As of 19 November 2021, 6,558,910 payments have been made.</p>

On February 20, 2020, the government of Hong Kong reported the provision of additional subsidies to kindergartens (KGs), primary and secondary schools and their students to alleviate the burden of schools and parents in defraying extra expenses during the fight against the epidemic and class suspension, as many parents must make the usual education-related payments for their children during the class suspension. Some may have to pay for reading and learning materials or e-learning devices for their children. To alleviate parents' burden, a funding of about \$900 million will be allocated from the Anti-epidemic Fund to be set up shortly to provide an additional \$1,000 to each recipient of the Student Grant for the 2019/20 school year, i.e., an increase from \$2,500 to \$3,500. This measure will benefit parents of about 900,000 students. No extra applications are necessary.

On February 21, 2020, government of Hong Kong announced a one-off special allowance under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) to eligible Working Family Allowance (WFA) households from June 9 to support low-income households affected by the deteriorating economic and employment conditions as a result of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic. Applications are not required. For WFA households, a household which has submitted an application (and was eventually approved) from April 1, 2019 to February 21, 2020, (i.e., the day on which the AEF funding proposal was approved by the Finance Committee of Legislative Council) will receive a special allowance equivalent to two months of WFA payment based on the highest monthly amount it received in its most recently submitted and approved application during the above period. It is estimated that about 58,000 WFA households will benefit from this measure. Again, on April 20, 2021, it is reported that, as part of the budget 2021-22, the government re-introduced an extra one-off allowance equal to half of the average monthly amount of the approved months payable to the corresponding recipients in their most recently submitted applications in the applicable period, and eventually approved. As reported on May 24, 2021, 70,000 WFA households will benefit from this policy.

On February 21, 2020, the government of Hong Kong announced a one-off special allowance under the Anti-epidemic Fund (AEF) to eligible Student Financial Assistance (SFA) households from June 9 to support low-income households affected by the deteriorating economic and employment conditions because of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) epidemic. Applications are not required. Households receiving means-tested SFA for pre-primary, primary

and secondary students in the 2019/20 academic year will receive a special allowance of \$4,640. It is reported on June 5, 2020, that 145,000 SFA households would benefit from this special allowance.

On April 18, 2020, as part of the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, the government announced a monthly subsidy of \$5,000 for six months to each travel agency's staff and freelance accredited practitioners whose main occupations are tourist guides or tour escorts. The deadlines for applications are June 15, 2020. Some 26,000 persons are expected to benefit from this scheme.

The government of Hong Kong, under the second round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, announced to provide the taxi or red minibus driver subsidy. Under the fund, the government provides a monthly subsidy of \$6,000 for each eligible active taxi or red minibus driver for six months, from April 1 to September 30, 2020. It will be provided in two tranches. The application for this program has ended.

On March 20, 2020, the government of Hong Kong announced to transfer the monthly allowance of \$1,000 under the Anti-epidemic Fund to frontline cleaning workers, toilet attendants and security workers. Eligible frontline workers will receive a monthly allowance of \$1,000 for a period of no less than four months (until the end of June 2020). The government and Hong Kong Housing Allowance are now working with their contractors to confirm implementation details and enter into agreements, so that the contractors can transfer the monthly allowance to eligible workers. It was estimated to cost \$250 million and to cover 62,000 people. On June 16, 2020, the government has extended this policy for 3 more months (until the end of September 2020). As of June 16, 2020, over 70 government departments have made arrangements with their contractors. The allowance has been disbursed to some 60,000 workers who performed duties in March, April and May, amounting to approximately \$180 million.

On 8 April 2020, the government announced, as part of an anti-epidemic package, that a one-off lump sum subsidy of HK\$7,500 will be granted to self-employed persons (SEPs) who have set up a Mandatory Provident Funds account on or before 31 March 2020 and which has not been

		<p>terminated as of 31 March 2020. If the SEP has more than one MPF account, he/she may only apply once for a one-off lump-sum subsidy of \$7,500.</p> <p>Around 215,000 self-employed persons will receive a one-off lump sum subsidy of HK\$7,500 if they have made MPF contributions in the past 15 months. The first tranche of subsidies will commence from 25 May 2020. Besides, eligible self-employed persons who did not receive the one-off lump-sum subsidy of \$7,500 under the first tranche of ESS can also make applications from 31 August to 13 September 2020. In the first tranche 110,000 eligible applicants received the one-off payment costing of more than \$800 million of subsidy. For the second tranche some 10,600 SEPs received approval for their one-off subsidy, involving a total subsidy of \$80 million.</p> <p>On June 5, 2020, as part of the second round of Anti Epidemic Fund, the government announced to provide each tour service coach driver a one-off subsidy of \$10,000. Some 9,300 drivers are expected to benefit from this scheme. On September 28, 2020, as part of the third round of the Anti-epidemic Fund, the government re-introduced to provide each tour service coach driver a one-off subsidy of \$6,700. Some 3,400 drivers were expected to benefit from this scheme. On August 5, 2021, the government again re-introduced a one-off subsidy of \$3,350 which will be provided to each tour service coach driver. Some 3,400 drivers are expected to benefit from this measure.</p> <p>On 19 March 2020, the government of Hong Kong had announced a subsidy of \$1,500 each to about 240,000 registered construction workers. On 1 April 2020, under the second-round measures of the Anti Epidemic Fund, a one-off subsidy of \$7,500 will be offered to each eligible registered construction worker. It is also mentioned that to simplify and expedite the application process, eligible applicants for second-round relief measures who have received subsidies through the CIC under the first-round measures will each receive the \$7,500 subsidy in May 2020 without the need to submit applications. On 18 May 2020, it was noted that the first round had covered 210,000 workers and about \$1.7 billion in subsidies has been disbursed so far (which also includes the first round).</p> <p>On June 5, 2020, as part of the second round of Anti Epidemic Fund, the government announced that the registered vehicle owners who hold the vehicle licence(s) of taxi(s) or RMB(s) as at day-end of 8 April 2020 are eligible for a one-off non-accountable subsidy of HK\$30,000. In any circumstance, the subsidy will be provided to each licensed taxi and RMB once only.</p>
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	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On February 24, 2021, the government of Hong Kong, as part of the budget (FY2021-22), announced a Consumption Voucher Scheme whose registration opens on July 4, 2021. Hong Kong permanent residents and new arrivals aged 18 or above and residing in Hong Kong may register to receive electronic consumption vouchers with a total value of \$5,000 by instalments (2 or 3 depending on the service provider). The registration period will last for six weeks until August 14, 2021. On 26 October 2021, the government announced that the consumption voucher can be collected by tapping the registered Octopus card at designated channels by 30 September 2022 (Note: the deadline for collecting the voucher by batches and instalments using</p>

		<p>Octopus cards has all been extended from three months after the disbursement date to 30 September 2022). This measure is expected to cost \$36 billion and is expected to benefit around 7.2 million people. As of 1 November 2021, about 6,273,033 vouchers have been distributed in the second round and about 6,305,558 in the first round.</p> <p>Hong Kong, a property developer is raffling off a \$1.4 million apartment for people who have been vaccinated (2021).</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 28 Feb 2020, the Hong Kong government announced that it will pay one month's rent for lower income tenants living in public rental units of the Hong Kong Housing Authority and the Hong Kong Housing Society, involving an expenditure of about \$1.829 billion will benefit about 760,000 (Hong Kong Housing Authority) HA tenants will benefit from the measure.</p> <p>On Feb 24, 2021, the Hong Kong government, as part of the budget (FY2021-22), proposed a Special 100% Personal Loan Guarantee Scheme (PLGS) will provide an extra financing option for the unemployed. The Government will offer a guarantee for loans provided under the scheme. The maximum loan amount per applicant is set at six times their average monthly income during employment, subject to a cap of \$80,000. There will be a principal moratorium for the first 12 months. Afterwards, the principal and interest can be repaid over a period of up to five years with an interest rate fixed at 1% per annum. Applicants who have repaid loans in full as scheduled will be offered full reimbursement for the interest paid. Freelancers who provide proof of loss of income may also apply for the loan. The Government will provide a total guarantee commitment of \$15 billion. The application period will last for six months, from 28 April 2021 to 27 October 2021. The Government announced on 21 September 2021 that the application period of the PLGS is extended to end-April 2022.</p> <p>On Feb 24, 2021, the Hong Kong government, as part of the budget (FY2021-22), announced to provide rates concession for non-domestic properties for four quarters of 2021-22, subject to a ceiling of \$5,000 per quarter in the first two quarters and a ceiling of \$2,000 per quarter in the remaining two quarters for each rateable property. This proposal is estimated to involve 420,000 non-domestic properties and reduce government revenue by \$3.4 billion.</p> <p>On June 29, 2020, the Hong Kong government announced that Public Transport Fare Subsidy Scheme's monthly threshold will be relaxed from \$400 to \$200 from 1 July 2020 to 30 June</p>

		<p>2021. The Government will provide a subsidy amounting to one-third of the actual public transport expenses in excess of \$200, subject to a maximum of \$400 per month for each Octopus. Please note, this is already existing policy (i.e., it existed even during pre-covid-19), however, now the government has increased the fare subsidy rate from one-fourth to one-third of public transport expenses. On 20 March 2021, the Government has decided to extend the aforementioned special measure for another six months till 31 December 2021, and temporarily increase the monthly subsidy cap of the Scheme from \$400 to \$500 from 1 April to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>Hong Kong Government announced an Interest-free deferral of loan repayment for two years to students receiving loans from the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency. All student loan borrowers who have commenced their loan repayments (except those defaulters on whom legal recovery actions have been taken), as well as those new loan repayers who will graduate and commence their loan repayments during the period from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2022 (referred to as “suspension period” hereunder), will benefit from the two-year interest-free deferral of loan repayment. Student loan borrowers do not need to submit any applications. The Student Finance Office (SFO) of the Working Family and Student Financial Assistance Agency will issue notification letters to all loan repayers. During the suspension period, eligible student loan borrowers do not need to repay their loan instalments and interest. No interest will be accrued during the suspension period and their repayment period will be extended for two years accordingly.</p> <p>On 24 Feb 2021, as part of 2021-22 Budget, Hong Kong government announced an electricity subsidy of \$1,000 to be provided to each eligible residential electricity account holder. Starting from 1 June 2021, an electricity charges subsidy of \$80 will be credited by the Government to each residential tariff electricity account on the first day of each month for 11 consecutive months and \$120 in the 12th month, making up a total of \$1,000. This measure will involve an expenditure of about \$2.8 billion and benefit over 2.7 million eligible residential households. The subsidy can only be used for paying electricity charges. Any unused subsidy can be carried forward to pay billed electricity charges under the same account until 31 December 2023 or the close of the account (whichever is earlier).</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[May 2020] The Social Welfare Department (SWD) announced the provision of six-months of unemployment support under the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance (CSSA) Scheme

		from June 1 to November 30, 2020. The asset limits for able-bodied persons were relaxed temporarily by 100 per cent and were to be restored to the normal level from December 1, 2020.
	Social security contributions	<p>Lawmakers and pension experts have urged the government of Hong Kong to follow Australia's lead and allow employees to dip into their savings in the city's pension scheme to help them cope with the Covid-19 pandemic. The government, pension regulator and some commentators, however, have reservations, as they point out that the law would have to be amended and could lead to massive withdrawals from the Mandatory Provident Fund (MPF). The scheme is already the least adequate in the world to cover the future living cost of people after their retirement.</p> <p>Relaxation of asset limits for able-bodied applicants of the Comprehensive Social Security Assistance Scheme (a household-based scheme) by 100% for six months, helping recipients meet their basic needs.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>[January 2020] A special work from home arrangement was implemented for government employees starting from January 29th, 2020.</p> <p>[January 2021] This was most recently extended in January 2021 when the government of Hong Kong announced that all government employees except those providing emergency and essential public services would continue to work from home until 20th January 2021 as the fourth wave of COVID-19 remains active. It was estimated that about 180,000 civil servants would be affected.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] In the FY2020-21 budget, an employment support scheme was allocated HK\$80 billion to provide wage subsidies to employers. This scheme aims to subsidize eligible employers up to HK\$9,000 per month for each employee.</p> <p>[May 2020] It was announced that the scheme would support salary payments for 6 months in two tranches, with the first tranche of subsidies supporting payment of wages in June, July and August 2020 and the second tranche covering September, October and November 2020.</p> <p>[August 2020] The applications for the second tranche were opened.</p> <p>[November 2020] The scheme was not extended.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government allocated \$150 million under the Anti-epidemic Fund for launching the Arts and Culture Sector Subsidy Scheme for arts organizations and freelance arts workers to pay the salaries of their staff, contractors and freelance workers as much as possible.</p>

Hungary

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 18 March 2020, every commercial loan, mortgage or other loan contract signed before March 18, 2020, will receive a freeze on loan repayments, capital repayment and any related fees until at least 31 December 2020. The length of the loan will be extended by the period of the freeze. The Banking Association said the deferred loan payments would amount to about HUF 450 billion in the 9-month period, but estimations based on partner interviews suggest it would be at most half of that amount. Clients must sign a statement (online) to opt out of the payment freeze scheme, so the default is that they do get the suspension. On 20 October 2020, this policy was extended until 30 July 2021, the law targets certain special social groups (pensioners, parents and expectant parents, registered jobseekers and people in public works schemes) as well as people undergoing a "personal bankruptcy procedure". It was first calculated that about 700,000 people would benefit from the extension. Banks should apply the extension automatically. On 15 September 2021, an extension of the suspension of loan repayments was approved until 31 October 2021 for anybody and until 30 June 2022, by request, for vulnerable groups (pensioners, parents and expectant parents, those enrolled in public works programs, individuals who lost income in 2020). Central bank data shows that 1.2 million people opted to suspend repayment in April 2021. In March 2021, some 1.6 million individuals benefitted from the payment freeze. This amounted to HUF 4.2 billion or 42% of all loans (54% of retail loans)</p> <p>On 1 May 2020, the government of Hungary under government decree 96/2020 announced that students of higher education and adult education may take out an interest-free loan to offset their living expenses during the COVID-19 pandemic. The measure was introduced as part of efforts to help families with little or no savings, as well as seeing students as a group vulnerable to losing their part-time jobs or not finding a job during the pandemic situation. The loan can be requested via the student loans provider Diákhitel Központ until 31 December 2020. The amount of the interest-free</p>

		loan for students in higher education is a one-off lump sum of HUF 500,000 (€1,429). Students in adult education courses organized by the Ministry of Innovation are also eligible, they can apply for an interest-free loan of HUF 1.2 million (€3,429). Students will have 12 months before they must start the repayment of the loan, which can be over a period of 1 to 5 years, at their discretion. On December 17, 2020, the deadline for accepting applications for the interest-free student loans has been extended until 30 June 2021. On October 1, 2021, the measure has been further extended until the end of the 'state of danger' due to COVID-19. The state of danger has been extended several times, the latest end-date under Act 102/2021 is 1 January 2022. According to a press report in April 2021, a total of HUF 31 billion (€86.1 million) in student loans were issued in 42,000 new student applicants in 2020, three times more than in the previous year.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Expiring benefits for persons currently on maternity leave will be extended until the end of the state of emergency. An extra week of pension will be paid out every February during 2021-24.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[March 2020] Employers in sectors particularly affected by the crisis (catering, sports, recreation, live performance, cultural services, personal transportation/taxi companies) were exempted from paying social security contributions. Employees' contributions were significantly reduced until June 30, 2020, and the health insurance premium was reduced to the statutory minimum. [March 2021] This policy was extended many times and most recently, it was extended on the 28th of March 2021 for the month of April 2021. [June 2021] Based on decree 318/2021 (VI.9.), this relief may be requested if proof is provided that the taxpayer is experiencing financial hardship due to COVID-19. The measure is expected to be in place until 31 December 2021.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[April 2020] Wage support program for job retention - Kurzarbeit with training obligation. Under the government decree 105/2020. (IV. 10.) the aim of the measure was to prevent layoffs in face of the COVID-19 crisis. This program required employers to arrange training for the employee for 30% of the hours that had been cut from working time and pay wages for this time as well. The wage support measure was extended in late April 2020 and the compulsory training could be held within two years of approval. [July 2020] The measure was extended by one month until August 31, 2020.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	There were temporary amendments made to relax labor regulations and facilitate collective negotiations to allow for teleworking, home office, and flexible work hours, while also authorizing employers to take the necessary measures in order to inspect the health of employees.

	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] Under government decree 103/2020 employees working in the R+D field as engineers received an income supplement for three months during the pandemic in order to prevent job cuts in this occupational field. The income supplement was, on average, 40% of the gross wage and the amount was transferred from the state directly to the employee. The measure aimed at preventing job losses in the areas of innovation and product development due to COVID-19. The income supplement paid by the state was 40% of gross income, but no more than HUF 318,920 (€911) per month. The maximum support applied to gross monthly salaries of HUF 670,000 (€1,888) with all usual taxes payable. This measure was expected to support 33,000 researchers and developers.</p> <p>[January 2021] The Ministry for Innovation and Technology announced that applications for the R+D subsidy are open again in January 2021 and that the support could be claimed after new hires as well. It also stated that 23,000 applicants were supported in the first phase.</p> <p>[February 2021] The measure ended on February 23, 2021 and the government announced that 5,000 more applications submitted by 400 employers were granted HUF 4 billion (€11 million).</p> <p>[April 2020] Wage support program for job retention - Kurzarbeit with training obligation. Under the government decree 105/2020 (IV. 10.) the aim of the measure was to prevent layoffs in face of the COVID-19 crisis. This measure followed the German example of Kurzarbeit, but on a much smaller scale, with a lot of narrowing criteria the applicant had to fulfill. The support could be extended from 1 May 2020 for three months. The amount of the income support was transferred directly from the state to the employee while the reduced wage was paid by the employer. Businesses who were shedding 30-50% of working time of employees compared with their pre-Covid situation who could prove that their orders have not fallen by more than 50% and were working towards the "interests of the national economy" were eligible. For every employee that was considered for layoff, the state agreed to pay 70% of the part of the salary that was lost due to the worktime reduction. Only the part of salaries up to HUF 214,300 net (twice the minimum wage - €612 as of 15 April) per month received the income supplement and earnings after that threshold were not subsidized. The government calculated that, on average, a monthly HUF 64,500 per employee will be paid out, so the total cost for three months could be HUF 193.6bn (according to government calculations) or HUF 128bn according to KOPINT-Tárki Institute calculations. The measure was extended in late April 2020 and the eligibility criteria were eased. For example, working towards the 'national interest' was no longer required, compulsory training could be held within two years of approval, and the ban on layoffs was restricted to employees in the scheme.</p>
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[July 2020] The measure was extended by one month until August 31, 2020.

[November 2020] Wage support for the catering and recreation sectors. The sectoral subsidy was equal to 50% of a full-time or part time employee's wage, up to an amount equivalent to 150% of the minimum wage (currently pre-tax HUF 241,500 or €680). The measure applied for the single month of November 2020. During this time, the employer had to pay full wages, but was exempt from payroll taxes. The employee had to be in full employment with the company on 30 November 2020 and their work contract could not be terminated before 31 December 2020.

[December 2020] In a pre-Christmas package of measures, the government extended the measure until January 2021 and announced that privately-owned bus-driving services were eligible.

[March 2021] The program was extended for the months of January-April 2021 and the cap for the subsidy was raised to pre-tax HUF 241,500 per month, then to HUF 251,100 (€698) per month from 1 February 2021. The list of eligible sectors was expanded to include 55 sectors such as retail, accommodation, road transport, travel and tour operators, sports, and museums.

[April 2021] The program ended on the 30th of April, 2021.

According to the government, 155,000 employees at 25,000 companies received the subsidy and HUF 62 billion was spent.

[May 2020] Wage support for job creation: The aim of the measure is to create jobs for registered jobseekers, reducing the level of unemployment (which has risen during the COVID-19 pandemic). Businesses may apply to the local branch of the National Employment Office (which acts as a state authority) for a full grant of 100% of wages for six months for employing a registered jobseeker, which is then reviewed. The candidate for the job can be stated in the application form or can be selected (recruited) by the Employment Office. If the application is approved, the Office signs a contract with the employer which includes details and conditions about the grant. This is a de minimis subsidy, so the rules of decree 1407/2013/EU apply (meaning that certain sectors such as export-linked sectors, farming and fisheries are excluded).

[July 2020] The scheme was restricted to the target groups of applicants aged 15 to 25 and the long-term unemployed (individuals who have been unemployed for six months or longer).

		<p>[October 2020] The program was extended until 31 March 2021 and the target groups were changed to include the unemployed youth (under the age of 25) and people with an education level of less than the completion of secondary school.</p> <p>[June 2021] An extended measure called the "workforce support program for companies" was introduced which targeted the unemployed youth (under the age of 25) and people who had been registered for more than 1 month with the National Employment Services. The support would be in the form of a grant for a maximum of six months. The amount of the grant was 50% of the gross salary with taxes payable by the employer, but not more than HUF 100,000 per month (€278) for full-time employment, and a proportionate amount in case of part-time employment.</p> <p>[September 2021] The program was extended to include a new measure called "work experience support" which is a subsidy equivalent to 100% of the new hire's wages with social contributions, but no more than the minimum wage in effect. This subsidy can be claimed for up to 90 days.</p>
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Iceland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 21 March 2020, the government of Iceland announced a one-off child benefit payment that will be made on June 1, 2020, to all families with children under the age of 18. Parents with an average monthly income below ISK 927,000 in 2019 will receive ISK 40,000 per child and those with higher income will receive ISK 20,000 per child.</p> <p>On 21 April 2020, the government of Iceland, as part of the second Economic Stimulus, announced grants for low-income families to encourage participation of minors (born between 2005 and 2014) in sports and other recreational activities administered by municipalities at the local level. The support is 45,000 ISK per child and the sport or recreational activity must occur during the 2020-2021 school year (i.e., August 2020 until June 2021). The average household income must be below ISK 740,000 per month from May to July 2020 to be eligible for this grant. Applications must be received by 31 July 2021. This is expected to cost 600million ISK.</p> <p>The government of Iceland has increased the means testing threshold in the child benefits system will be permanently, thereby ensuring that it changes with developments in the lowest wages in the labor market. This change will ensure that single parents with two children and a monthly income of ISK 350,000-580,000 will receive an annual increase of ISK 30,000 in child benefits, and that for a family whose combined monthly income is ISK 700,000-920,000, child benefits will be ISK 60,000 higher than they would be otherwise.</p> <p>On April 21, 2020, as part of the second phase of the economic response package to COVID-19, the government of Iceland has announced an award for front-line healthcare workers, who have been “under additional strain and are at elevated risk of contagion,” a one-off bonus in acknowledgement of their service. The bonus is worth an estimated ISK 1 billion (\$6,867,690 / €6,325,199). The implementation and allocation of the bonus will be in the hands of healthcare institutions.</p> <p>On May 26, 2020, it is reported that all individuals domiciled in Iceland, born in 2003 and earlier (older than 18), receive a Travel Gift worth 5,000 ISK. The travel gift is delivered in the form of a bar code that can be displayed or read out when paying for services at a travel company that is included in the project. The donation was part of the effort to support Icelandic tourism following a coronavirus pandemic. The validity of the travel donation is from the date of issue until September 30, 2021. The voucher will likely be distributed via a smartphone app to all adult residents, who are around 250,000. The total cost of the measure will therefore be around ISK 1.5 billion (\$10.8 million/€9.8 million).</p>

		[April 2020] On April 21, the government announced that front-line healthcare workers, who have been under additional strain and are at elevated risk of contagion, will receive a one-off bonus to reflect their service. The bonus is worth an estimated ISK 1 billion (\$6,867,690 / €6,325,199). The implementation and allocation of the bonus will be in the hands of healthcare institutions.
	Social pensions	On Nov 20, 2020, Iceland Government announced that it will make one-time payment of ISK 50,000 before 18 December 2020 to recipients of disability and rehabilitation pensions who are eligible for pensions during the year, in addition to the December supplement that is usually paid during the month. Also, at the beginning of 2021, permanent changes will be made to the disability pension system. Internal reductions will be scaled down, and the lowest-paid disability pensioners will receive a supplement of nearly ISK 8,000 per month in addition to the planned 3.6% increase provided for in the fiscal budget proposal. The total increase in social security benefits for the lowest-paid disability pensioners will therefore be nearly ISK 20,000 at the turn of the year.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Workers including self-employed who used their twelve-month sickness benefit entitlement are still entitled to sickness benefits. Self-employed workers can receive sickness benefits ("quarantine payments") when in quarantine.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The government introduced temporary payments to individuals due to loss of income from being quarantined without signs of being infected. This involved paying salaries to those employees who needed to quarantine. Employees who are quarantined will get paid a salary. In such cases where an employee is quarantined but does not have the right to a salary from their employer during the quarantine, the government shall pay the employee his salary. The goal of the new Act is to allow individuals to follow the commands of the public health authorities without worrying about loss of income. The Act only applies to the private employment market. As the Act only applies to employers, employees and independently employed individuals on the private employment market, it is estimated that it will apply to approximately 140,000 individuals, or a total of 75% of the total employment market.

		<p>The aid is conditional. The Act states that certain conditions must be met, for instance the employer of the quarantined employee must be able to prove that he has paid the employee's salary during the active period (1 February 2020 to 31 December 2020).</p> <p>There is a salary cap. The Act states that a cap will be put on government payments, the payments may not exceed ISK 633,000 per employee, per calendar month.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[November 2020] On November 20, the government announced its decision to pay a special supplement over and above basic unemployment benefits next year (2021), so as to support the large group of people whose income-linked unemployment benefits will expire in the next few months. The 2.5% supplement will be paid in addition to the 3.6% increase provided for in the 2021 fiscal budget proposal. With these increases, which total 6.2%, basic unemployment benefits will equal ISK 307,403 per month.</p> <p>[September 2020] On September 4, the Icelandic Parliament passed a bill regarding changes to the Act on Unemployment Insurance in relation to the rights to study while receiving unemployment benefits. The amendment's objective is to broaden the right of receiving unemployment benefits while studying. The amendment included increasing the maximum amount of ECTS credit an individual receiving unemployment benefits may complete each semester while still receiving the benefits from 10 ECTS to 12.</p> <p>Participation in the program "Education is opportunity" wherein the participants (unemployed) can conclude a special educational agreement with the Directorate of Labor where he may still receive full unemployment benefits while being a full-time student. The participation in the program is limited to certain education which is defined as a labor market study program in addition to further requirements.</p> <p>[November 2020] On November 20, the government announced its decision to extend the increased payments for support of job-seekers' children through the end of 2021, with a 6% supplement added to basic unemployment benefits for each child instead of the previous 4%. Moreover, a December supplement of just over ISK 86,000 will be paid to confirmed job-seekers.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>March 2020] On March 13, the Icelandic Parliament passed a legislation that permits legal entities to postpone the payment of half of the social security tax, that was originally due on 16 March 2020 to 15 April 2020. No penalty or surcharge on account of the late payments. The penalty or surcharge will not be imposed with regard to partial payments, provided that full payment is made by 15 April 2020.</p> <p>[Extension] The due date was further pushed until January 2021.</p>

		During the next 15 months, individuals may withdraw a monthly sum from their voluntary pension savings to a maximum of ISK 800,000 (US\$5,680).
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The Administration of Occupational Safety and Health released a series of guidelines for Icelandic workplaces in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] On March 21, the government announced the first-phase response measures to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures include a government commitment to allow part-time employees, the self-employed, and freelance workers to claim up to 75% of unemployment benefits in order to avoid job losses. This allowed workers at a risk of job losses to reduce their hours to 25% of previous levels and access to government support of up to ISK 700,000 (US\$ 4,975) per month until June 1, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - April 2020] On April 28, the Government announced the extension of the program from June 1, until August 31, 2020. Starting July, workers and employers are allowed to decrease their hours to 50% of previous levels, instead of 25%.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2020] In September, the government announced the extension of the program, without significant changes, until December 31, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] On January 11, the government announced the extension of the program until May 31, 2021.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 28, the government announced its decision to provide companies with the opportunity to apply for government support to pay a portion of salary costs for any staff member during their notice period. This support will take the form of payment up to ISK 633,000 per month for up to three months, plus vacation pay. It is limited to those companies that have suffered at least a 75% loss in revenue and are forecasting continued revenue losses at least through 2020. This government support will be available from 1 May through 30 September.</p> <p>[November 2020] On November 20, the government announced the provision of "Resilience subsidies" which are intended to help companies maintain a minimum level of activity while the impact of the pandemic persists. The measure applies to all taxable entities that suffer at least a 60% loss of revenue, irrespective of their operational form.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For entities suffering revenue losses between 60% and 80%: The maximum subsidy ranges up to ISK 400,000 per monthly full-time position equivalent, capped at ISK 2 million. - For entities suffering revenue losses between 80% and 100%: The maximum subsidy ranges up to ISK 500,000 per monthly full-time position equivalent, capped at ISK 2.5 million <p>[May 2021] Resilience subsidies extended through November 2021. Now also available for companies suffering between 40%-60% drop in revenue from the same month in 2019. The lower threshold (40%) applies retroactively to November 2020.</p>

India

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On March 26, 2020, the Indian government announced a COVID-19 relief package, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). The PMGKY contained several measures aimed at mitigating the impact of the first nation-wide lockdown on the vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of society. The single largest component of PMGKY was the direct pay-out of Rs 500 per person per month for a duration of three months (April until June) to 20 crore Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) women account holders. Each beneficiary would thus receive a total of Rs 1,500 under this scheme. As per the official release on Aug 28, 2020, a total of Rs. 30,945 crores (INR 309.45 billion) have been credited into the accounts of women PMJDY account holders during the COVID-19 lockdown.</p> <p>On April 7, 2020, India's state government of Bihar launched the 'Corona Sahayata (Assistance)' scheme to provide cash assistance through payments into bank accounts to tide over the immediate crisis. It was to transfer Rs.1000 (\$15) to the bank accounts of Bihari migrant workers who were stranded outside the state due to the lockdown and who were interested to return safely to Bihar. The Bihar government received 2.9 million applications within a month of the launch of the scheme, out of which 2.0328 million were verified and paid a total sum of 2.0328 billion INR by May 24. Bihar's initiative is a rare example of a sub-national government's effort to identify, onboard and pay a specific segment of the population (i.e., migrants – and generally the “missing middle”) adversely affected by the pandemic, doing so remotely, at scale and without the benefit of an existing database, using a “digital first” identification and payment approach to transfer funds quickly and efficiently.</p> <p>On March 26, 2020, the Indian government announced to make an advance payment of Rs 2,000 of its universal cash-for-farmers program, PM-KISAN, between April 1, 2 or 3, 2020 rather than in June 2020, responding to the coronavirus epidemic. Around 86.9 million people will benefit from the advance payment. Traditionally (in the pre-covid-19 days), under the scheme an income support of 6,000 per year in three equal installments would be provided to all land holding farmer families.</p>

On March 21, 2020, the Uttar Pradesh (UP) government in India announced a financial package of more than Rs353 crore to give cash handouts worth Rs 1000 to an estimated 3.53 million daily wage earners and laborers, who are likely to be hit due to the coronavirus outbreak. The beneficiaries include 2.03 million laborers registered with the UP labor department and 1.5 million rickshaw pullers, hawkers and kiosk owners, who will get the money directly into their bank accounts. As of June 3, 2020, it is reported that the UP government has provided cash assistance to more than 3.32 million poor, daily wage earners and laborers costing 3.32 billion INR. Again, on June 9, 2021, the Uttar Pradesh government in India has announced and transferred INR 2.30 billion into the bank accounts of 2.3 million daily wagers. The beneficiaries included dhobis, rickshaw pullers, construction workers, cobblers and halwais.

On 2 October 2020, the state government of Assam in India launched a cash transfers scheme called Orunodoi. It will provide Financial Assistance of Rs. 830 per month through the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) scheme to around 1.7 million families in the state but it aims to expand to 2.6 million households. They will receive the amount on the first day of every month, starting from October 2020. Women being the primary caretakers of the family are kept as beneficiaries of the scheme. Aim of the program is to provide women empowerment and also to achieve SDG goals on health and nutrition. It is reported on 11 October 2021, that the state finance department has increase the cash assistance to Rs.1000 per month (from 830/month). Also it released Rs. 1.8598 billion to cover 1.91 million families. Currently, as of November 2021, the actual beneficiaries of the program are 1,931,971.

On March 26, 2020, the Indian government announced a COVID-19 relief package, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY). The PMGKY contained several measures aimed at mitigating the impact of the first nation-wide lockdown on the vulnerable and disadvantaged segments of society. Out of the Rs 1.7 trillion PMGKY package, an amount of Rs.28.145 billion is transferred to state/UT governments to provide ex-gratia of Rs. 1000 (in two instalments of Rs.500 each) to the 30 million old aged, widows and divyangjan beneficiaries of National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP) under Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana Package (PMGKY) in 2020-21. The first payment is expected to be on April 8 or 9, 2020 and the second payment is expected to be in the second week of May, 2020. As of 8 September, 2020, it is reported that NSAP disbursed cash 2.81 crore to old-age persons, widow and differently-abled persons.

In June 23, 2020, it is reported that in a significant move, the State Governments, in response to the advisory dated 24th March, 2020 issued by the Ministry of Labor & Employment, have disbursed a substantial amount of Rs. 4957 crore cash assistance until date to approximately two crore registered construction workers across the country during the lockdown. About 1.75 crore transactions were done directly into the bank accounts of the workers through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT). Apart from cash benefits ranging from Rs. 1000 to Rs. 6000 per worker during the lockdown, some of the States have also provided food and ration to their workers.

Gujarat - An amount of Rs. 1500 per child is provided to beneficiaries of Adarsh Nivasi Shalas, Ashram Shalas and Child Protection homes under the Department of Social Justice and Empowerment, vis a vis the transfer of INR 1500 to all children deinstitutionalized from Child Care Institutes – this was completed by the Social Justice and Empowerment Department (SJED) alongside further reviews undertaken with all District Child Protection Officers (DCPOs) and Sub Divisional Officers (SDOs) from the 33 districts

Bihar: In lieu of the midday meals, the government of Bihar gave cash transfers for each day of school closure to all children already receiving school-based cash transfers for uniforms etc. Children from grade one through eight received anything between 115 to 171 INR per fortnight towards this through direct bank transfer

On 27 April 2021, it is reported that the Delhi government will provide a medical assistance of Rs 5,000 per person (and maximum of 10,000 per family) for Covid-19 positive construction workers in the city. The process to claim this disbursement is fair and simple, and a member of the family would have to produce an RT-PCR report which will then be verified through the ICMR portal. Each worker infected with the virus will get Rs 5,000 aid (and maximum of 10,000 per family). A total of 2,10,684 construction workers will receive the cash transfer in the form of aid, out of which 200,000 have already received aid of Rs 100 crores, and 11,000 workers will be granted the disbursements in the week to come.

	<p>On 13 April, 2021, the state government of Maharashtra in India has decided to distribute Rs 1500 each to approximately 1.05 lakh domestic workers.</p> <p>Tamil Nadu: Maintenance allowance to existing beneficiaries (“persons with mental retardation, severely disabled people, those affected by muscular dystrophy and leprosy affected persons”) through bank transfer advancing 2 months payment.</p> <p>The state of Uttar Pradesh will provide compensation to poor workers via online payments if they lost their job due to the pandemic. Vegetable vendors, construction workers, rickshaw pullers, autorickshaw drivers, and temporary staff at shops will be targeted by this measure</p>
Social pensions	<p>It is reported on 21 March 2020, that the state government of Delhi in India said that Rs 4,000-5,000 pension will be paid to 850k beneficiaries by April 7, 2020.</p>
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 8 April 2020, the state of Gujarat in India expanded free grains to 6 million Above Poverty Line (APL) families during the lockdown who are otherwise not officially covered in the National Food Security Act. Each APL-1 cardholder can avail 10kgs of wheat, 3kgs of rice, 1kg of sugar and 1kg of pulses. The total number of such beneficiaries is around 25 million to 30 million.</p> <p>On 21 March 2020, the Delhi government in India announced free and increased rations for the beneficiaries under the public distribution scheme. They discussed setting up kitchens to distribute free food but that would have led to crowds gathering, which is not advisable in the prevailing conditions. Hence, they have decided that they will give 1.5 times more ration to the 7.2 million beneficiaries under PDS in the coming month, and this will be given free of cost. The beneficiaries will now get 7.5 kg of food grains that include 6 kg of wheat and 1.5 kg of rice free of cost for the month of April 2020.</p>

(March 2020) Scaling up Public Distribution System (PDS) allocations for all Antyodaya Anna Yojana (AAY) priority households for three months (1kg pulses per household, 5kg wheat or rice per individual)

Bihar - With the support of local women Self-Help Group (SHG) members, new vulnerable families were identified and a total of 2.3 million new ration cards were made in 2020

On March 26, 2020, the Indian government announced a COVID-19 relief package, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for 1.7 trillion. As part of the program, government provides food grains under the name "Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana" (PM-GKAY). On 23 June 2021, the government approved the allocation of additional food grains (wheat or rice) for a period of 5 months starting from July to November 2021, providing 5 kg per person per month free of cost to 813.5 million beneficiaries covered under the National Food Security Act (NFSA) (Antyodaya Anna Yojana and Priority Households) including those covered under the Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) with an expenditure of Rs. 672.66 billion. This package was first started from April to November 2020. Around 800 million NFSA beneficiaries were allocated additional 5 kg of food grains (wheat or rice), free of cost, thereby ensuring food security of poor/vulnerable beneficiaries/households. In this period a total of about 321 Lakh MT food grains was allocated by the Department to all States/UTs, about 305 Lakh MT food grains lifted by States/UTs and a total of about 298 LMT of food grains (i.e., around 93% of allocated quantity) was distributed all over the country. In 2021, the government re-introduced PMGKAY for a period of two months (i.e., May 2021 and June 2021) at an estimated expenditure of about Rs. 266.02 billion. A total allocation of over 79 LMT of food grains was done for this purpose. So far, more than 76 Lakh MT Food grains, (i.e. more than 96% of the allocated food grain has been lifted by States/UTs). Furthermore, more than 35 Lakh MT food grains have been distributed by States/UTs in May 2021 and more than 23 Lakh MT food grains have been distributed in June 2021. Around 80 crore NFSA beneficiaries are receiving 5 kg additional free-of-cost food grains (wheat or rice) for the months of May and June 2021. It was further extended for a duration of 5 months from July to November 2021 by providing 204 LMT of food grains. This additional free of cost allocation of food grains will be over and above the regular monthly food grains allocated for the beneficiaries covered under the NFSA. This entire expense will be borne by the government of India without any sharing by States/UTs.

		<p>On 29 June 2021, the Supreme Court order directs states to ensure cooked food for migrant workers via community kitchens in prominent places until the pandemic ends and also it directs states not yet implementing One Nation One Ration Card scheme to implement it no later than 31 July 2021</p> <p>To avoid people from gathering twice and to ensure social distancing in front of the ration shop, the Karnataka government, in India, provided double portions (i.e., two-month equivalent ration for the months of April and May 2020) in April 2020 itself</p>
	<p>School feeding</p>	<p>(March 2020) The Kerala state government will deliver food ingredients for mid-day meals to over 300,000 children studying in 33,115 anganwadis (rural childcare centers) closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. At the moment, they are delivering such food items necessary for ten days. Before the end of such period, the materials required for the next ten days will be packed and delivered. The materials are being packed and distributed by the teachers themselves.</p> <p>Gujarat - Take home ration provided to children between 3 to 6 years at their home. The cooking cost for Midday Meals (MDM) was given to parents in cash form during school closures and schools provided coupon to children to get the ration from fair price shops in the villages. The Vadil Vandana program aims to provide free of cost cooked food to the elderly, needy and students living alone in various cities of the state (Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Gandhinagar, Jamnagar, Rajkot, Surat and Vadodara) at their doorsteps</p> <p>In lieu of the Mid-day Meals (MDM), primary school students received 4 kg of rice and 800-gram of dal and upper primary school students received 6 kg of rice and 1,200-gram of dal during COVID-19.</p> <p>Andhra Pradesh MDM were supplied in the form of dry ration</p> <p>On 16 November 2021, with the COVID-19 situation slowly improving, the government of India has asked the states and UTs to resume on-site school feeding (i.e., hot cooked meals in schools) to</p>

		<p>eligible students attending schools by strictly adhering to the prevalent COVID-19 protocols and social distancing norms.</p> <p>On 23 November 2021, it is reported that, after a gap of 19 months, on-site school feeding (i.e., cooked meals at school) has resumed in government schools in Tamil Nadu. A considerable increase in admission of students to government schools across the state this year has meant an increase in the number of beneficiaries under the mid-day meal scheme. In March 2020, as many as 1,60,773 students benefited from the scheme and this number has increased to 1,75,638 as of November 2021.</p>
	Public works	<p>On 27 July 2021, it is reported that the budget for Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme (MGNREGS; India's public works program which guarantees 100 days of wage employment) has been increased to Rs. 730 billion for MGNREGS for 2021-22 which is an increase of Rs. 115 billion as compared to the FY 2020-21. As of 23 July 2021, a total of 65.1 million persons have been provided an employment wage under NREGS.</p> <p>On March 27, 2020, the government of India increased the average wage of Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) workers from 182 to 202 per worker per day. This increase in wages under the MGNREGA will come into effect from April 1, 2020. On 15 March 2021, the government increased MGNREGA wages, although small, in 2021 as well. With the exception of Meghalaya, all states have recorded a lower hike in MGNREGA wages for 2021-2022 in comparison with the increase announced for the previous year (2020-21).</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 26, 2020, the Indian government announced a COVID-19 relief package, the Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Yojana (PMGKY) for 1.7 trillion. As part of the program, government provided free gas cylinders (free of cost) to 8 crore poor families for the following three months. This started on April 1 until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>The Indian government has introduced 67 new railway routes for running 235 parcel specials (out of which 171 are time-tabled parcel trains) to supply essential commodities including perishable horticultural products and agricultural inputs.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>Norms on collection of Health Insurance Premium during COVID-19 crisis. In view of prevailing conditions owing to the COVID-19 outbreak, considering the need for easing the payment of health insurance premiums, all the insurers are allowed to collect health insurance premiums in instalments. The premium instalment facility may be offered either as a permanent feature by duly complying</p>

		<p>with the norms specified in the above referred guidelines or may be offered as a temporary relief for a period of twelve months (one year policy) in respect of all the health insurance policies that are due for renewal up to 31st March 2021.</p> <p>Non-life insurers' premium collection grew by 11.67 per cent in 2019-20 as compared to 2018-19. However, premium collection for the month of March 2020 declined significantly.</p>
	Pensions	<p>India's Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) also allows withdrawals - Workers can now withdraw up to 75 percent non-refundable advance from PF account or 3 months' salary, whichever is lower</p> <p>India's National Pension Scheme (NPS) allows partial withdrawals towards treatment for COVID related illness for the subscriber, spouse, and children. The current rules of early withdrawal do not apply to Atal Pension Yojna (APY) (informal sector) subscribers and therefore are applicable only for about 1 crore people</p> <p>The EPFO has received 400,000 requests for withdrawals under a special Covid-19 window announced in March 2020 to provide relief to subscribers in financial need.</p> <p>The facility allows such subscribers to withdraw three months' salary or 75% of their retirement funds. The scheme was amended on March 28 to allow members to withdraw non-refundable advances - either their basic wages and dearness allowance for three months or up to 75% of total account, whichever was less - if facing any financial exigency due to Covid-19.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] The government of India announced that it will pay the Employee Provident Fund contributions for employees and employers for the next 3 months. This is targeted to firms with up to 100 workers and where 90% of workers earn less than Rs15,000 per month. This was expected to cover 1.8M employees and 400,000 firms.</p> <p>[May 2020] This measure was extended for 3 months until the end of August 2020 with an expected expenditure of Rs 25 billion.</p> <p>[May 2020] The Employee Provident Fund contribution for both employers and employees was reduced from 12% to 10% for all establishments covered by the Employees' Provident Fund Organization for the next three months. However, the Central Public Sector Enterprises (CPSEs) and state public sector undertakings (PSUs) were to continue to contribute 12% as an employer contribution. This was expected to provide liquidity worth Rs. 675 billion.</p>

Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] A notice was issued to employers of public and private establishments advising them not to terminate their employees, particularly casual and contractual workers or to reduce their wages during the 21-day lockdown period.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Indonesia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Indonesia government reported on 18 April 2020 that a new, unconditional cash transfer program (BLT Dana Desa) was issued to village residents not currently registered in the social registry and who are not recipients of any government social assistance (such as Aspiring Family Program (PKH)/Food Assistance Program/BST). This program is funded via Village Fund and will cover approximately 11-12 million households with the benefit of IDR 600,000 per household per month to 6,881,778 beneficiaries for 3 months starting from April 2020 until June 2020. On 3 June 2020, the government reported an extension of the program until the end of sept 2020 with IDR 300,000 per household per month with a budget of IDR 31.8 trillion. On 5 Jan 2021, the BLT has been further extended with IDR 300,000 per household per month until the end of the year (i.e., 31 Dec 2021). As of 8 May 2021, the BLT has been distributed to 49,095 villages from the total of 74,961 villages targeted in the program and has spent IDR 18.3 trillion. The planned budget is IDR 72 trillion for the year 2021.</p> <p>On 9th April, 2020, a new unconditional cash transfer program called social cash assistance (BST) was introduced for eligible residents outside the Greater Jakarta region who are not recipients of PKH or the Food Assistance Program. The budget allocated for this is allocated budget reaches IDR 16.2 trillion. Starting in April 2020, approximately 9.1 million households each received IDR 600,000 (US\$ 40) per month for the first 3 months and IDR 300,000 per month. On 1 Nov 2020, Indonesian government has announced that in 2021 BST will reach 10 million Beneficiary Families (KPM) with an index of IDR 300,000/KPM/month from Jan to June 2021. The Ministry of Social Affairs has allocated IDR 12 trillion budget for this program. The assistance comes from the State Budget (APBN) funds. BST payment for May and June 2021 is given in July 2021 for 1,007,379 beneficiaries.</p> <p>It was announced on 31 March 2020 that Indonesia's flagship CCT program, Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH), will expand the program coverage from 9.2 to 10 million beneficiary families (or 15 percent of the population) and double the benefit level for 3 months (April-June 2020). The PKH program budget has been increased by nearly 29% to reach IDR 37.4 trillion (US\$2.5 billion). Furthermore, from 8 April 2020, benefit payments have become monthly instead of quarterly between April-September 2020. As reported on Jan 20, 2020, the program benefit level was back to normal. For 2021, the program reaches 10 million beneficiary families with a budget of 28,709,816,300,000. It reaches to underprivileged families are in the Social Health Integrated Data (DTKS) such as pregnant women, early childhood, elementary school children, junior high school children, high school students, elderly people 70 years and over, and people with severe disabilities.</p>

		<p>Each of them receives different payments quarterly (i.e., January, April, July and Oct): pregnant women and early childhood children each received IDR. 750 thousand, elementary school children IDR 225 thousand, junior high school children IDR 375 thousand, high school children IDR 500 thousand and elderly people 70 years and over and people with severe disabilities IDR 600 thousand.</p> <p>On 24 Aug 2020, Indonesian Government launched the Presidential Assistance (Banpres) Productive Micro Business (BPUM) with an aim to help micro businesses to face the Covid-19 situation for working capital so that their businesses can survive. The assistance provides is IDR 2.4 million per micro business actor or IDR 600,000/month for a duration 4 months to 12 million recipients who are not currently receiving/eligible for bank credit. This is not a loan but a grant. The disbursement of the assistance starts on 24th Aug or 25th Aug 2020. In the initial phase, this program targeted 9.1 million micro enterprises with a total budget allocation of IDR 22.01 trillion. The budget was later increased to a total budget of IDR 28.8 trillion with 12 million micro enterprises beneficiaries. As of Dec 14, 2020, BPUM disbursement realization has now reached 100 per cent, targeting 12 million micro entrepreneurs with a budget of IDR 28.8 trillion. On 30 July 2021, the government re-introduced (started) the grant with a planned coverage of 12.8 million MSMEs through BPUM and allocated a total budget of IDR 15.3 trillion. However, only IDR 1.2 million per micro business actor is provided.</p> <p>On 10 Aug 2021, Indonesian government introduced Social Cash Aid aimed at encouraging public spending, which means driving the economy. Social Cash Aid is distributed to as many as 9 million participants of the Basic Food Program (BPNT) who do not receive PKH, with cash worth IDR 500 thousand/KPM. This is expected to cost IDR 4.5 trillion. This aid is distributed only once. Social Cash Aid will be distributed through Himbara, especially for KPM who already have a Prosperous Family Card (KKS). Distributions are also made through the Post Office as well as direct distribution through direct cash transfer.</p> <p>In Indonesia, BAZNAS introduced a Cash assistance to support 26,086 households of vulnerable and informal workers with a cost of 70,200,000 expenditure. The benefit amount is transferred via post offices, bank transfers, or mobile money to Vulnerable households affected by the pandemic and those who have lost their jobs.</p> <p>It is reported on 9 April 2020, National Police will also implement a Safety Program similar to Pre-Employment Card Program called the Safety Program that combines social assistance and training. It targets 197,000 taxi drivers, bus or truck drivers, and bus conductors, who will be given an incentive of IDR 600,000 per month for 3 months. The allocated budget reaches IDR 360 billion.</p>
	Social pensions	

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>A new in-kind food assistance was introduced for Greater Jakarta (Jabodetabek) residents. The Gol allocated IDR 3.42 trillion for approximately 1.9 million households. Starting April 2020, beneficiaries received food assistance worth IDR 600,000 per household per month for 3 months, and food assistance worth IDR 300,000 per household per month until December 2020.</p> <p>In addition, several local governments also provide in-kind food assistance and/or cash assistance to selected residents that do not receive assistance from the Central Government. For example, the Government of Jakarta provided in-kind food assistance to another 1.1 million households worth IDR 275,000 and the West Java Government provided in-kind food assistance worth IDR 350,000 and cash assistance of IDR 150,000 per household for 1.3 million households (Cycle 1 and 2) and for 1.9 million households with reduced amount of benefit in Cycle 3 and 4.</p> <p>It is announced on 08 April 2020 that the Government of Indonesia has made some changes to its food assistance program, Sembako (previously called BPNT), by expanding its coverage from 15.2 million (pre-covid-19) to 20 million low-income households in the social registry, bringing the coverage of the program to just short of 30 percent of the population. The benefit level will increase by 33% from IDR 150,000 to IDR 200,000 from April 2020 to December 2021. The total program budget is increased by about 55%, reaching IDR 43.6 trillion (from 28.08 trillion). Since Jan 4 2021, Sembako program has been extended to 18.8 million beneficiaries. As reported on 1 Nov 2021, IDR 300,000 is being distributed to its beneficiaries.</p> <p>On 10 Aug 2020, government of Indonesia announced Rice Social Assistance/Aid to assist 10 million KPM beneficiaries participating in Family Hope Program (PKH) with 15 kg of rice per month for a duration of 3 months. It is expected to cost IDR 5.41 trillion. The 1st Phase assistance will begin in September, and 2nd Phase is in October. The distribution of 1st Phase of Rica Social Assistance will begin in September, for allocations in August and September 2020. So that in this first distribution, each KPM will receive 30 kg of medium quality rice and in October 2020, each KPM PKH receives 15kg of rice.</p> <p>In Indonesia, BAZNAS provided food parcels/packages with an aim to reduce food insecurity in 34,736 vulnerable families affected by public closure regulations. Its expenditure was IDR 933,710,000. These food packages are delivered to beneficiaries' house.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>In Indonesia, Cash For Work (CFW) was implemented by the BAZNAS Mustahik Economic Empowerment Institute (LPEM) from March to April 2020, with a target of 107 locations in Indonesia. The realization of the distribution of funds to the mustahiq amounted to IDR 170.868 million from Zakat funds. CFW has been implemented in 3 provinces, 10 cities, 59 sub-districts, and</p>

		<p>77 villages reaching 1,259 households (as of 19 May 2020). As part of the program informal workers (such as motorcycle taxi drivers, manual laborers, street singers, as well as self-employed workers like craftsmen, tailors) whose work and source of income has been disrupted due to the pandemic were provided with voucher in exchange for work. Similarly, people with disabilities also were given this opportunity. The CFW was used to disinfect public spaces. The payment was made through paper-based vouchers which could be exchanged at specified supermarkets chains.</p> <p>On April 9, 2020, the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing also runs Cash Labor-Intensive Program, targeting 530,000 workers with a total budget of approximately Rp10.2 trillion. However, it has allocated IDR 12.32 trillion. On Dec 14, 2020, the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing reported that it will receive IDR 18.42 trillion from the State Budget in 2021, which is higher than the budget for the current year (i.e., 2020). On 6 July 2021, the government through the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing (PUPR) stated that the Cash-Intensive Work (PKT) program has succeeded in absorbing up to 755,816 workers until the closing of June 2021. The PKT program is expected to reduce unemployment and maintain people's purchasing power as part of the National Economic Recovery (PEN) agenda due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This PKT is intended especially for people who have lost and are only focused on construction work that does not require technological support and is not high risk</p> <p>On April 9, 2020, it was reported that the Government's ministry of Villages is introducing a Cash Labor-Intensive Program with a total budget of IDR 16.9 trillion. The Ministry of Villages provides Cash Labor-Intensive Program for Village, targeting 59,000 workers.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On 31 March 2020, the Government of Indonesia announced to subsidize electricity bill of 24 million households (i.e., approximately 40 percent of the population) with a 450 Volt-Ampere (VA) connection and 7.2 million households with a 900VA connection will receive a 50 percent discount. It is planned to cost IDR 3.5 trillion and the duration for the program from April to June 2020. On May 8, 2020, it was reported that the government has planned to extend the duration of the subsidies for households from July to Sept 2020 with a budget of IDR 4.338 trillion with planned beneficiaries of 31.63 million. On Sept 23, 2020, it is reported that the electricity subsidy will continue until the end of the year with a 4.338 trillion covering 31.88 million people. On Jan 2, 2021, government has further extended the duration of the subsidy until end of March 2021. On 8 March 2021, it was announced that, between April 2020 and January 2021, the electricity stimulus has been enjoyed by 33.04 million customers at a total value of Rp14.24 trillion. On 8 March 2021, it is announced that the government will cut back on subsidies with a 50 percent and 25 percent tariff discount, which are valid for household group with a power of 450 VA and 900 VA power respectively starting from April to June 2021.</p>

		<p>On 31st March 2020, the Government of Indonesia issued IDR 1.5 trillion in mortgage subsidies for 175,000 low-income families nationwide and increased the salary ceiling for eligible recipients to Rp 8 million for all types of housing from the previous Rp 4 million for landed houses and Rp 7 million for low-cost apartments. The new provision takes effect on April 1, 2020. This stimulus will be in the form of interest rate subsidies for loan installments (SSB) and down payment subsidies (SBUM). Out of the Rp 1.5 trillion, Rp 800 billion will be used for SSB and Rp 700 billion for SBUM.</p> <p>It was announced on 27 Aug 2020 that the Indonesia's Education and Culture Ministry will provide IDP 7.2 trillion in form of internet quota subsidy to support students and teachers conducting long-distance learning for the next four months (starting from Sept until end of Dec 2020). 47.3 million students and teachers have benefited from this program. This package consists of 2 internet quotas, both of which are distributed monthly. All students and teachers received a five-gigabyte quota each month for the first type of quota. For the second type the quota was allocated based on each student's and teacher's level of education (e.g., Early-childhood (15 GB); Elementary- and secondary-school students (30 GB); Early-childhood education, elementary and secondary teachers (30 GB) and University students and lecturer (45 GB)). The re-introduction of this program was announced in the end of Feb 2021. The second round of the program lasted from March to May 2021. This time there was only one quota for everything (except social media). Again, like previously, the size of quotas was adjusted base on the education level. The Second re-introduction was reported on Aug 14, 2021, but this time the package is expected to reach the recipients in b/w sept 2021 to Nov 2021 with a coverage of 26.8 million students, teachers and lecturers, and has a budget of IDR 2.3 trillion.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	The Gol issued IDR 3 trillion to finance contributions to the national health insurance scheme for 30 million non-salaried workers.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	Kartu Pra-Kerja (Pre-Employment Card Program), a program that provides subsidized vouchers for unemployed workers for skilling and re-skilling has doubled in its allocated budget (from IDR 10 to 20 trillion) and will be launched in April. The program will be accessible to an estimated 5.6 million informal workers and small and micro enterprises who have been affected by COVID-19. The benefits of the Pre-Employment Card Program in 2020 are Rp. 3,550,000 consisting of training assistance of Rp. 1,000,000, post-training incentive of Rp. 600,000 per month for four (4) months and job survey incentives of Rp. 50,000 per survey for three surveys or a total of Rp. 150,000 per participant. Each program participant can only join the program once and must not receive other social assistances. Incentives are paid after participants complete at least one (1) training session.

		<p>The applicants of the Pre-Employment Card Program are limited to: (i) job seekers; (ii) terminated employees; and (iii) employees that require job competency improvement. Pre-Employment Card Program registration is conducted online through www.prakerja.go.id. In 2020, the program had 11 enrollment cycles.</p> <p>The targets of the Pre-employment Card program are victims of job cuts (layoffs), job seekers, as well as micro and small business actors (UMK) affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Originally, it was one of President Joko Widodo's campaign promises in the 2019 election. The design and purpose of the program has then been adapted and it has then been initiated in 2020 as part of an extensive economic stimulus package to support the economy in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>The 'Safety 2020' program rolled out by the National Police Traffic Corps (Korlantas) combines safety training with Covid-19 prevention materials and online traffic safety and tutorials. The participants of this program are bus drivers, taxis, trucks, angkot, conventional motorcycle taxis, andong, rickshaws, kernet, bajaj or bemo and rental throughout Indonesia. The assistance provided in the form of money amounted to 600 thousand per month for three months to meet household needs. Polri reallocates Rp 360 billion from its budget to realize a program that distributes through BRI debit cards.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>The Indonesian Ministry of Manpower (MOM) provided guidance on worker protection and business sustenance in the context of prevention and control of Covid-19 via the Minister of Manpower Circular No. M / 3 / HK.04 / III / 2020 concerning Worker Protection and Business Sustenance in the Context of Preventing and Control of Covid-19. The main idea of this is to: (1) make efforts to prevent the spread and handling of Covid-19 related cases in at work, (2) Implement wage protection for workers in relation to the Covid-19 pandemic. MoM coordinates with Heads of Manpower Offices of Provinces throughout Indonesia in order to anticipate and overcome labor problems in the regions, among others, by providing directions and guidelines both verbally through teleconferences as well as through Circular Letters and coordinating on data collection and monitoring of companies laying off workers. MoM strengthens the role of labor attaches in an effort to ensure the implementation of the WHO protocol for migrant workers in the country of placement.</p> <p>The Indonesian Ministry of Manpower (MOM) extended work permits for foreign workers in Indonesia for certain amount of time during the pandemic. On April 8, 2020, Ida Fauziyah, the Indonesian Minister of Manpower ("MOM"), signed and issued Circular Letter No. M/4/HK.04/IV/2020 regarding Services for the Utilization of Foreign Workers in Relation to the Prevention of Covid-19 ("MOM CL 4/2020"). Through MOM CL 4/2020, the Ministry of Manpower suspends all services for new applications related to the utilization and licensing of foreign workers. MOM CL 4/2020 also allows employers to apply for work</p>

		<p>permit extensions for their foreign workers who are still in Indonesia and cannot return to their country of origin due to entry restrictions. This allows employers to continue employing their expatriate workers during the Covid-19 outbreak.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>Between September and December 2020, the Gol launched an unconditional cash transfer for workers with a salary < IDR 5,000,000 and registered on BPJS TK Target to 15.7 million workers but reached 12.4 million workers in 2020. The program is not continued in 2021. Two IDR 1,200,000 transfers were disbursed every two months.</p> <p>Bantuan subsidi upah or BSU wage subsidy expected to help prevent workers affected by COVID-19 from getting laid off amid the enforcement of public activity restrictions and to assist employers in maintaining their businesses. Under the BSU 2021, eight trillion Indonesian rupiahs (about US\$551 thousand) will be allocated to eight million people, with each beneficiary receiving Rp1 million (about US\$69) via bank transfer. To receive the aid, workers need to be Indonesian citizens, registered under the Worker Social Security Program (Jamsostek), and still active in BPJS Ketenagakerjaan. The beneficiaries will be required to pay a fee, which will be accounted for from the Rp3.5-million salary. As of October 25, 2021, 2.1 million beneficiaries had received the aid transferred directly from the Himbara bank to the worker's account.</p> <p>[October 2020] Rp8 trillion was channeled to assist contract-based teachers at the Ministry of Religious Affairs and Ministry of Education and Culture.</p> <p>[December 2020] The Ministry of Religious Affairs (dubbed "Kemenag") together with the Committee for the COVID-19 Handling and National Economic Recovery Communication Team (KPCPEN) and the Ministry of Finance launched a wage subsidy program for non-civil servant educators and educational personnel ("BSU PTK Non-PNS") for PTK Non-PNS under the Kemenag's domain. This program is similar program had been distributed to PTK Non-PNS under the Ministry of Education and Culture. Requirements to receive BSU PTK Non-PNS include: an NIK (National identification number); a bank account (Facilities to open a bank account for those who do not have one will be provided in order to receive BSU PTK Non-PNS fund); does not receive BSU Tenaga Kerja (Manpower ministry's workers wage subsidy program) and are not recipients of Kartu Prakerja (Pre-employment card program); and earn less than Rp5 million with non-civil servant status.</p> <p>[August 2021] The government plans to re-disburse BSU 2021 Rp1.8 million for Honoree Teachers or NON-CIVIL SERVANTS in public or private education units. The following are the requirements of recipients who are entitled to BSU Guru Honorer and non-civil servant teachers Rp1.8 million, namely as follows: 1. Indonesian Citizen (WNI) 2. Status as a non-civil servant PTK 3. Registered and active status in The Basic Data of Education (Dapodik) or Higher Education Database (PDDikti) as of</p>

		<p>June 30, 2020 4. Not getting Wage Subsidy Assistance or salaries from the Ministry that organizes government affairs in the field of employment until October 1, 2020 5. Not as a pre-employment card recipient until October 1, 2020, 6. Have income below Rp 5 million per month as evidenced by the statement in the Statement of Absolute Responsibility (SPTJM).</p> <p>Between September and December 2020, the GoI launched an unconditional cash transfer for workers with a salary < IDR 5,000,000 and registered on BPJS TK Target to 15.7 million workers but reached 12.4 million workers in 2020. The program is not continued in 2021. Two IDR 1,200,000 transfers were disbursed every two months.</p>
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Iran

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(November 2020) The Parliament proposed plan is in the form of 6 monthly transfers of IRR1.2 million per individual to the bottom three deciles (20 million people) and IRR0.6 million per individual for 60 million other Iranians according to the income deciles. The total cost of the plan is IRR300 trillion (US\$7.1 billion).</p> <p>(March 2020) First round of lockdown: Iran supported around 3 million families from lowest deciles of income whose head of household is no permanent jobs or retired without pension with cash transfers up to 6 million rails (US\$ 400) in 4 stages. It will be paid monthly for four months, and one additional time for Ramadan. [1,2] A single person family will receive 200,000 Tomans, a two-person family 300,000 Tomans, a three-person family 400,000 Tomans, a four-person family 500,000 Tomans and a five-person family 600,000 Tomans</p> <p>(October 2020) Second round of lock down: 40 million people from low income, non-fixed income, under of coverage of Imam Khomeini Relief fund, and SWO schemes qualified to receive unconditional cash transfer amounting between 100,000 to 120,000 Tomans per person for 4 months (Dec 2020 to March 2021)</p> <p>(2020) More targeted social protection services – cash plus – to reach approx 42,000 households with children under the age of 18 in four high COVID-19 impacted deprived provinces in line with the endorsed UN Iran COVID Socioeconomic Response Programme (SERP) to complement the existing UBI. Soft conditionalities are intended to improve the access of these vulnerable households to health services, nutrition vouchers, food baskets and remote learning for at-risk children. Furthermore; the targeted population will benefit from psycho-social support services and skills training</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Procurement of hygiene kits for vulnerable children, including those without caregivers, children with disabilities and street children (Iranian and non-Iranian): Procurement is in progress and the requested quantities will be delivered to the Ministry of Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare to distribute between SWO and NGOs. The hygiene kits will address the needs of 51,000 children living with disabilities in 906 Rehabilitation Centres and 10,000 children without caregivers in 650</p>

		<p>Nurseries and Child Care Centres throughout the country, and also the large number of street children scattered in the capital, whose identify and numbers are not fully known.</p> <p>(2020) The cash plus scheme will go hand-in-hand with existing schemes for addition of inkind support to have better access and continuation of education (e.g. tablets with educational applications, wheel chair, etc.) for children given the current school closure due to the pandemic, and nutritional cash cards to support food baskets for these poor households.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(2020) Iran planned for free interest 1 million Tomans loans on demand for the 21 million households qualified under cash subsidies (UBI) – deduction from monthly cash subsidies. For women headed households the allocation is 2 million Tommans
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Social Security Organization guarantees a wage compensation of 50 percent to workers taking sick leave
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	Iran planned to allocate IRR50,000 billion (USD305 million) as of 6 April to the Unemployment Insurance Fund, to aid those who have lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 outbreak. The workers of 10 economic sub-sectors subject to the Labour Law, the Social Security Act and the Unemployment Insurance Law, are eligible for the benefit for three months. Self-employed people who have insurance, such as construction workers, carpet weavers, public transportation operators and drivers, are not eligible for unemployment benefits
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Iraq

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>An Emergency Grant was announced on 4 April, 2020. A total of IQD300 billion will be allocated for the emergency grant, covering all governorates. On 30 April, 2020, the Minister of Planning announced that the Emergency Grant will be disbursed around mid-May, 2020. The eligibility criteria of the Emergency Grant are as follows: 1. Male applicants must be between 18 and 66 years old, and women must be between 18 and 55 years old; 2. The applicant must be registered in the unemployment registry; 3. The applicant must not have a fixed income. Registration takes place on the website minha.iq. Beneficiaries need valid documents to register (such as an ID and a ration card). Each beneficiary family will receive IQD150,000. As of 3 July, 2020, about 7 million people had received the transfer (out of 12 million considered eligible). It was indicated that 67,000 new families who were registered for the 'emergency grant' will be included in the list of families receiving assistance under the Social Protection Law (under discussion).</p> <p>(April 2020) Vertical expansion of SSN: 600,000 beneficiaries received a one-time top-up (another top-up is under discussion).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Iraqi Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs launched on April 7, 2020 a program named "1,000,000 Food Baskets for the Poor" to alleviate the effects of COVID-19. The aid is targeting poor households registered in the main Cash Transfer Program database. The estimated cost of each basket is about US\$ 15 and 708,360 beneficiaries have received the food basket as of April 13th.</p> <p>Food assistance and nutrition support for 652,661 individuals including refugees and IDPs in the form of in-kind and cash transfers by WFP. The combination of both modalities came in response to current disruption to local bank and financial service providers</p> <p>The NGO department in the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers provided 135 local organisations with financial, food and medical assistance and sterilisation materials. A total of 118,741 beneficiaries were supported as of 2 April 2020. On 26 April 2020, there were 1,891,976 beneficiaries (different non-standardised, in-kind grants) through NGOs in Iraq. The Council of Ministers refers to these efforts as the "National Campaign of NGOs and Volunteering Groups to Respond to COVID-19 Impact.</p>
School feeding		

	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Central Bank also encouraged the use of electronic payments to contain the transmission of the virus and instructed vendors to eliminate commissions on such payments for six months. In coincide with the move to support the e-government program, the Central Bank of Iraq announces the launch of the electronic collection project, which can contribute to strengthening government resources and collecting them in a safe and transparent environment, by relying on the infrastructure of payment systems and electronic payment platforms provided by the Central Bank and its authorized payment service providers. This project generally targets ministries and collection departments that collect their revenues through bills and fees, on top of which is the Iraqi Housing Fund.-</p> <p>This project will enable the Housing Fund to automate all lending processes, adopt electronic payment tools and cancel cash transactions, which in turn will help alleviate the burden of borrowing citizens by speeding up the completion of transactions and using payment platforms instead of coming to the headquarters of the Housing Fund. The project included a timetable to include all its branches in the governorates in the collection project until the end of 2021.-</p> <p>The Municipality of Baghdad and municipal departments in the provinces are directed to suspend the collection of levies and other financial dues from residents to ease the financial burden caused by the coronavirus-</p> <p>Some additional measures were announced in early April 2020, such as the exemption of monthly loans payments for specific groups, including farmers-</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	Waiver of penalties applicable to the late payment of the February 2020 social security contributions, which were due by the end of March 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Ireland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Christmas Bonus is an extra payment for people getting a long-term social welfare payment. The Christmas Bonus is 100% of the normal weekly long-term social welfare payment (the minimum payment is €20). It will also be paid to people getting the COVID-Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) for at least 17 weeks.</p> <p>The bonus was paid with the social welfare payment the week beginning 7 December 2020, for people receiving Domiciliary Care Allowance, on 15 December 2020.</p> <p>The payment for the spouse/partner (the so-called Qualified Adult Allowance) for unemployed claimants was raised by €12.30 a week (from €134.70 to €147 a week). This was mainly to correct for considerably greater generosity for those receiving the PUP (and the COVID19 Enhanced Illness Payment) as against those on the regular jobseeker payments.</p> <p>A number of social programs were vertically expanded in October 2021 in light of the ongoing economic difficulties due to COVID-19. The maximum rate of all weekly social welfare payments will increase by €5 with proportional increases for qualified adults and people on reduced rates of payment (January 2022). The weekly rate for a qualified child will increase by €2 from €38 to €40 for children under 12 years of age. It will increase by €3 from €45 to €48 for children aged 12 years and over. The Fuel Allowance will increase by €5 from €28 to €33 per week from 13 October 2022. The Living Alone Increase will increase by €3 from €19 to €22 (January 2022). The Working Family Payment threshold will increase by €10 across all family sizes (June 2022). Parent's Benefit will be extended by 2 weeks from 5 weeks to 7 weeks for the parents of children born or adopted from November 2019 (July 2022). The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA) for a child aged 4-11 will increase by €10 from €150 to €160. For children aged 12 and over, it will also increase by €10 from €275 to €285.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
School feeding	<p>A number of social programs were vertically expanded in October 2021 in light of the ongoing economic difficulties due to COVID-19. The maximum rate of all weekly social welfare payments will increase by €5 with proportional increases for qualified adults and people on reduced rates of</p>	

		<p>payment (January 2022). The weekly rate for a qualified child will increase by €2 from €38 to €40 for children under 12 years of age. It will increase by €3 from €45 to €48 for children aged 12 years and over. The Fuel Allowance will increase by €5 from €28 to €33 per week from 13 October 2022. The Living Alone Increase will increase by €3 from €19 to €22 (January 2022). The Working Family Payment threshold will increase by €10 across all family sizes (June 2022). Parent's Benefit will be extended by 2 weeks from 5 weeks to 7 weeks for the parents of children born or adopted from November 2019 (July 2022). The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BTSCFA) for a child aged 4-11 will increase by €10 from €150 to €160. For children aged 12 and over, it will also increase by €10 from €275 to €285.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>A series of measures to support people impacted by COVID-19 have been announced by the banking sector. These include: flexible arrangements, including a payment break for mortgages and other loans. Customers affected by COVID-19 must contact their bank to discuss the flexibility available to them, including the possibility of a payment break of up to 3 months. Non-bank mortgage lenders and credit servicing firms have also announced their support for this measure; support for buy-to-let bank customers with tenants affected by COVID-19 – customers with rental property in which the tenants are adversely impacted by COVID-19 will also be provided with flexibility including with an opportunity to seek a payment break of up to 3 months, which will allow them to exercise due levels of forbearance to their tenants; payment breaks as a result of COVID-19 will not affect credit records</p> <p>Legislation was enacted in March 2020 mandating a prohibition on evictions and also a freezing of rents for a period of three months. This means that landlords were not only prohibited from increasing rents during the three-month period but they may not backdate any intended rent increases during this time as arrears of rent due to them when the crisis passes. The banks have also said they will support buy-to-let bank customers with tenants affected by COVID-19 with an opportunity to seek a payment break of up to 3 months – so they can in turn offer forbearance to their tenants.</p> <p>Rent Supplement was made available in March 2020 as a short-term income support to those in the private rented sector who experienced difficulty paying their rent. In view of the difficulties created for many in the private rented sector who have lost significant employment income, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection will use the full flexibility of the scheme to provide the necessary support.</p> <p>The Commission for Regulation of Utilities (CRU) has issued a moratorium on disconnections of domestic customers for non-payment to the gas and electricity suppliers. The suppliers have arrangements in place for any domestic/residential customers in arrears which</p>

		<p>are overseen by CRU and have a number of emergency provisions to assist Pay As individuals Go customers.</p> <p>Rent Supplement was made available in March 2020 as a short-term income support to those in the private rented sector who experienced difficulty paying their rent. In view of the difficulties created for many in the private rented sector who have lost significant employment income, the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection will use the full flexibility of the scheme to provide the necessary support.</p> <p>An extension of the payment period for the Winter Fuel Allowance (a means-tested payment for those on long-term social welfare benefits to help with fuel costs) by 4 weeks (meaning an additional €98 per qualifying household) was announced in March 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Eligible people will be paid €305 per week (as compared with the normal Illness Benefit rate of €203). This is available to employees and the self-employed who are unable to work due to: a diagnosis of COVID-19 or an instruction by a doctor or the HSE to self-isolate or restrict their movements
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[August 2020] The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment was put in place from August 5, 2020 as a social welfare benefit and is available to employees who lost their employment on or after March 13, 2020 as a direct consequence of COVID-19. The payments range from €203 per week to €300 per week, depending on weekly earnings. The COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment scheme closed to new applications from 8 July, 2021.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>Additional €200 million investment in training, education, skills development, work placement schemes, recruitment subsidies, job search and assistance measures, to help those who have lost their jobs find a new one, retrain, or develop new skills, in particular for emerging growth sectors. The government offers a range of initiatives for reskilling and upskilling to help businesses through the COVID-19 pandemic. Skills and training supports include Enterprise Ireland's eiLearn online learning resource, LEO training webinars, Skillnet Ireland's Skills Connect, the SOLAS Skills to Advance initiative and Springboard+ courses.</p> <p>[July 2020] As part of the Jobs Stimulus package, the government announced a new Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme which provides financial support for apprenticeship employers who take on apprentices on all national apprenticeship programmes. Apprenticeship employers are eligible for a €3,000 payment for each new apprentice who is registered between the period 01 March and 30 June 2021. €2,000 per apprentice is payable at the point of registration. A</p>

		<p>further €1,000 is payable in Quarter 3 2021 for each eligible apprentice retained on their apprenticeship.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] On June 24, the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme for employers of apprentices was extended to 31 December 2021.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 27, an amendment of the law on claiming redundancy from your employer if you have been temporarily laid off, or temporarily put on short-time work was amended for the COVID-19 emergency period. Normally, if you are laid off or put on short-time hours, you can claim redundancy from your employer after 4 weeks or more, or 6 weeks in the last 13 weeks. However, this was suspended during COVID-19. It applies from 13 March 2020 and is set to expire by the end of the emergency period (May 31, 2020). This rule has been extended until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2020] The Government extended the suspension of redundancy entitlements until August 10, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2020] The Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection announced the extension of the suspension of redundancy provisions until September 17, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2020] On September 15, the Minister for Social Protection announced the extension of the redundancy provisions until November 30, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - November 2020] On November 2020, the Government announced that the suspension of redundancy provisions will be further extended until March 31, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] The Government announced a further extension until June 30, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] As part of the Economic Recovery Plan, the Government announced a further extension of the redundancy provisions until September 30, 2021.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Temporary COVID-19 Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS) provides a subsidy up to 85% depending on employees' previous average net weekly pay. The TWSS operated from 26 March 2020 for 12 weeks, and then was extended until 31 August 2020. It enabled employers that were affected by the pandemic, to give significant support directly to their employees and keep employees on their payroll throughout the pandemic. Qualifying criteria includes employers from all sectors whose business activities are experiencing negative economic disruption (minimum 25% decline in turnover) unable to fully pay normal wages.</p> <p>[September 2020] The Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) provides income support to eligible employers who are impacted by COVID-19, with respect to employees on their payroll. The scheme was introduced in September 1, 2020 as a replacement for the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS), and will continue until March 31, 2021. The number of employers benefiting from the scheme in 2020 was 39,367.</p>

		<p>[Extended - January 2021] Under the Government's 'Resilience and Recovery 2021 – the Path Ahead' the scheme is extended until 30 June 2021. The scheme now requires companies to demonstrate at least a 30% reduction in their business turnover as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] On June 1, the Minister for Finance announced the extension of the Employment Wage Subsidy Scheme (EWSS) to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - October 2021] On October 12, the Minister for Finance announced the extension of the scheme until April 2022. A two-rate structure of €151.50 and €203 will apply for December, January and February, and a flat rate subsidy of €100 will apply for March and April. The extension is expected to cost the government around €1.26 billion.</p> <p>[July 2020] As part of the Jobs Stimulus package, the government announced a new Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme which provides financial support for apprenticeship employers who take on apprentices on all national apprenticeship programmes. Apprenticeship employers are eligible for a €3,000 payment for each new apprentice who is registered between the period 01 March and 30 June 2021. €2,000 per apprentice is payable at the point of registration. A further €1,000 is payable in Quarter 3 2021 for each eligible apprentice retained on their apprenticeship.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] On June 24, the Apprenticeship Incentivisation Scheme for employers of apprentices was extended to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>The government is providing income support payment for those who have been temporarily placed on a shorter working week. The payment is made in respect of regular salary for the days that employees are no longer working. For example, if an employee working week has been reduced from a 5 day work pattern to a 3 day work pattern, they can receive support for the other 2 days. Short Time Work Support is paid for a maximum of 234 days. The entitlement will depend on the number of social insurance contributions employees have</p>
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Isle of Man

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The Manx Earnings Replacement Allowance ('MERA') was introduced, which provides an income of £200 a week (for 12 weeks) to people who have either been laid off or made redundant from their employment, or have lost their self-employed work, since 2 March 2020. It is also for people who have been instructed to stay at home with their school-age child or have been self-isolating because they have been in close contact with someone who has had a positive COVID19 test or think they may have COVID-19.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2020] MERA was extended for an additional 12 weeks until September 20, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] On January 5, MERA was reintroduced until January 31, 2021</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 3, MERA was reintroduced and will be payable to qualifying persons up to 11 April 2021. The payable amount has been increased by £30 per week, to £230.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Salary support scheme was introduced is to provide salary support for businesses adversely affected by Coronavirus. The Scheme provides a contribution of a maximum of £280 per week per full time employee, and a maximum of £280 pro rata based on a 35 hour week</p>

		<p>for part time and zero-hours contract employees, for up to 12 weeks beginning on March 2, and until May 25, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2020] On May 20, the Isle of Man Government has announced a 12-week extension to the Salary Support Scheme, until August 17.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] On January 8, the Salary Support Scheme was re-opened starting January 4, until January 31, 2021. On January 23, the scheme was extended starting February 1 to February 28, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 2, the Salary Support Scheme was extended for another period, until March 29. The amount of salary support increased to £310 a week. The scheme also received a monthly extension for the months of April and May 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2021] On May 20, the Government decided to extend the Salary Support Scheme but only for businesses in the travel and tourism sectors (also launderettes). This extension will last till January 2, 2022.</p>
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Israel

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On July 15, 2020, the Israeli government announced a plan called "A Grant to Every Citizen." It provided for a universal grant to Israeli citizen-residents -- whose annual income in 2018 did not exceed NIS 641,880 -- of 750 New Israeli Shekels (NIS), or roughly \$220, per adult (over the age of 18) and 500 NIS, or roughly \$150, per child, with a maximum of three children per household. By early August, the payments had been disbursed and deposited directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. According to the Bank of Israel, the final cost of the grants was estimated at the time to be 6.5 billion NIS (0.46 percent of 2019 GDP). In practice, less than 2 percent of citizens were ineligible due to either having income above the ceiling or not having filed a tax return for 2018 in spite of being obligated to do so (the large majority of taxpayers do not have to file tax returns). Thus, the grant was practically universal.</p> <p>(April 2020) Grant to self-employed (NIS 15.0 billion as of 3 March 2021): A grant of 70% of twice the average monthly taxable income up to NIS 15 000, once every two months, from May 2020 to June 2021, for self-employed that experience a 40% decrease in activity. Amount (if specified): NIS 15.0 billion. Extended on 8 and 24 April 2020.</p> <p>Grants to the long-term unemployed of NIS 2,000 (i.e. to individuals who received unemployment pay for a period of at least 100 days, whether consecutive or not, between March and October 2020, on condition that their effective wage before the crisis was lower than the average daily wage in the economy).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	Israeli bar offers free beer and shots to young people who get coronavirus vaccination
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Tax and payment deferrals (NIS 9 billion). Payment of VAT, municipal taxes, social security contributions, utility payments, government fees have been deferred for SMEs until the end of April.</p> <p>Suspension of mortgage payments for three months.</p>

		Temporary suspension of evictions from public housing and rent reductions for tenants severely affected by Covid-19.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Histadrut (General Organization of Workers) and the government have agreed on paid leave for workers in the public sector. It is an agreed pooling system of vacation leave to share with workers who need to stay away from work. It stipulates that a non-essential designated employee that is not required to work during the crisis period will take a mandatory vacation at the expense of the workers' accumulated vacation days. Employers in the public sector and the Histadrut will set up a joint vacation days fund for emergencies, which will work to prevent damages to workers' wages that do not have the sufficient accumulated vacation time.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Those who have reached the age of 67 and who is fired or whose employer issued it to the USSR in March, April or May 2020 following the Corona crisis may be eligible for grants. The amount of the grant is determined by your income from retirement pension. The maximum amount is NIS 2,000 for March, and NIS 4,000 for April and May.
	Unemployment benefits	<p>(September 2020) In Israel, neither self-employed workers nor freelancers are eligible for unemployment benefits. However, in the covid-19 context, certain groups of self-employed workers may be entitled to unemployment benefits: a. Tour guides; b. Instructors, lecturers and teachers who ceased their activity due coronavirus outbreak; c. Artists who ceased their activities due to coronavirus outbreak.</p> <p>[March 2020] various reliefs were set for the unemployed, which ended on June 30 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -expand eligibility for employees who will be placed on 14-day unpaid leave -changes in the calculation of the amount of unemployment benefits -add eligibility for those who have completed their unemployment days in january or february 2020 -extending the payment period for those who have completed the days of unemployment who were entitled to them (including those whose unemployment year has ended) -shorten the qualification period to 6 months -receiving unemployment benefits in parallel with additional allowances (without a reduction from the allowance) -payment for the first days of unemployment at the end of 4 months -confirmation of eligibility for those who have not yet registered with the employment office -automatic extension of eligibility in case of extension of unpayment -"unemployment benefits" for maternity, adoptive parents, designated parents and foster parents

		<p>[July 2021] Easing eligibility for unemployment benefits starting in July 2021 (extension of eligibility for 45-year-olds, shortening the qualification period, the amount of unemployment benefits, payment in a row at the end of 4 months, payment in parallel with additional allowances).</p> <p>[July 2021] Adaptation grant for the unemployed over the age of 67 (extension of eligibility for those who received an adjustment grant in June 2021, up to another 3 months)</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>Tax and payment deferrals (NIS 9 billion). Payment of VAT, municipal taxes, social security contributions, utility payments, government fees have been deferred for SMEs until the end of April 2020.</p> <p>Tax and payment deferrals (NIS 9 billion). Payment of VAT, municipal taxes, social security contributions, utility payments, government fees have been deferred for SMEs until the end of April.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[September 2020] As part of the plan to expand economic safety net to deal with nationwide lockdown, some employers will receive employee retention grants in the amount of 5,000 new shekels (\$1,460) for each employee they kept to encourage employment and prevent mass layoffs. The amount of the grant will depend on how much the business has been hurt and the share of employees retained in September and October 2020.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Israeli government agreed to grant employers who met certain qualifying criteria NIS 7,500 for each employee they recruited back to work from unpaid leave.</p>

Italy

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Decreto di Rilancio - "Relaunch decree" - a stimulus package of €55B signed on May 19th 2020 introduced a temporary means tested cash transfer, Reddito di Emergenza (REM), Emergency Income, for those vulnerable households not protected by any other social assistance measure. The amount varies between €400 to €840 per month, depending on an equivalence scale. There have been four rounds of REM since its launch, the last of which started in April 2021. This involved a total budget of €954.6 million, €172.5 million, €452 million, €1.5 billion on each round, respectively. To summarize, throughout the first three rounds of REM, each household could have accessed up to a maximum of 5 monthly instalments of REM in a period of 8 months (May 2020 - December 2020). With the latest re-financing they could be eligible for further 3 months, bringing it to a total of maximum 8 monthly instalments in a period of 13 months.</p> <p>The Relaunch Decree introduced a flat-rate allowance to protect domestic workers and carers. The allowance was paid in April and May 2020. Domestic workers and carers were entitled to a €500 monthly benefit. The INPS reports that 215,000 domestic workers and carers received this bonus.</p> <p>Workers with income less than €40,000 (US\$ 44,000) per year were entitled to a nontaxable, one-off benefit of €100 (US\$ 110) for March 2020 if their job required the worker to go to the regular workplace. Workers who carried out their job remotely were not entitled to the bonus.-</p> <p>The Relaunch Decree extended the one-off €600 (US\$ 660) bonus to self-employed and professional workers, including agricultural, tourism, cultural sector workers by one additional month for April 2020. In May 2020, the bonus increases to €1,000 for those self-professional workers who could demonstrate a 30% reduction in income during March-April 2020 with respect to the same period of last year.</p> <p>The Cure Italy Decree introduced a monthly lump-sum allowance for some categories of intermittent and seasonal workers registered with the INPS. Apart from employees in agriculture, who received the benefit in March-April 2020 only, all other targeted categories received this allowance in March, April, and May 2020. Moreover, excluding those employed in agriculture, three further monthly installments were introduced (one month each) by the August Decree, the Reliefs Decree and the "Reliefs quater Decree" (Decree No 157, issued on 30 November 2020) whereas the Support Decree introduced (March 2021) a further one-time allowance for the categories covered by</p>

		<p>the Reliefs Decree. The amount of the flat-rate benefit varied across the different professional categories. All categories received a €600 monthly benefit in March and April 2020. Since May, the monthly amount for seasonal workers in tourism increased to €1,000, whereas it remained at €600 for seasonal and intermittent employees in other industries. Moreover, all intermittent, occasional, and seasonal workers benefited from an additional €2,400 lump-sum payment in April 2021.</p> <p>(March 2020) The “Cura Italia” (Cure Italy) stimulus – a package of Euro 25B – includes Euro 13.5B to support families and workers. It offers funds to private-sector workers to pay for babysitters via a childcare voucher of up to Euro 600 for workers with children below the age of 12 who decide not to take parental leave. The voucher can reach up to Euro 1,000 for workers in the health sector. The Relaunch decree includes specific support families and workers. It offers funds to private-sector workers to pay for babysitters via a childcare voucher of up to €1200 (US\$ 1320) for workers with children below the age of 12 who decide not to take parental leave. The voucher can reach up to €2,000 (US\$ 2,200) for workers in the health sector sector. Vouchers can also be used towards summer camps.</p> <p>(March 2020) Two novelties concerned the Reddito di cittadinanza (RdC), Italy’s flagship social assistance program, during the pandemic: i) conditionality rules about job-search activities by beneficiaries were temporarily suspended until July 2020; and ii) the government introduced a top-up supplement for RdC recipients. The topup supplement is paid to households whose members belong to the categories of workers protected through the extraordinary allowances described in Sections 2.5.3- 2.5.5 (e.g. self-employed and seasonal workers), where the RdC amount is lower than the amount of these allowances. An increase in the number of RdC recipients was reported in 2020 due to the growing number of those in poverty as a consequence of the effect of the pandemic on household incomes. According to the latest INPS data, the number of beneficiaries then greatly increased after the outbreak of the crisis up to a maximum of 1,255,152 beneficiary households in September 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On March 29th 2020, the National Civil Protection transferred €400 million to 7,904 municipalities to purchase food vouchers and basic food necessities based on population and income criteria. Mayors are free to decide how to purchase products and how to select beneficiaries. Priority should be given to households that are not beneficiaries of other social assistance programs</p> <p>In March 2021 further financing of €155M was approved by the government to renew the food vouchers for low-income households following the same distribution mechanisms of the original ones.</p>

	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Cure Italy Decree increased the resources, and extended the operation, of the national “solidarity fund” in order to temporarily suspend the payment of mortgage instalments for new categories of workers buying their first home. The suspension of payment of mortgage instalments is granted for a maximum duration of: six months in cases where working time is suspended or reduced by 30-150 consecutive working days; 12 months for 151-302 consecutive working days; and 18 months for more than 303 consecutive working days. The solidarity fund covers 50% of the interest accrued during the suspension period. Access was extended to self-employed workers for nine months, from 17 March to 17 December 2020. By contrast, for employees the measure has been extended from 17 March until 31 December 2021.</p> <p>The Cure Italy Decree suspended the execution of eviction orders, including both residential and non-residential buildings. The suspension was originally introduced from 17 March to 30 June 2020. The term of the suspension was later extended by subsequent legislative interventions to 30 June 2021. All tenants are potential beneficiaries of this intervention. No estimate of evictions avoided through this intervention is available (in 2019, in better economic conditions, the total number of approved arrears evictions was 48,543).</p> <p>Law No 77 issued on 17 July 2020 substantially increased, for 2020, the resources of the national fund to support access to rental housing (i.e. the fund allowing local authorities to grant contributions to low-income households to lessen the burden of rent costs on household income). The Budget Law for 2021 (Art. 234 of Law No 178 of 30 December 2020) further increased the resources of the fund for the whole of 2021. It is up to the municipalities to define the eligibility conditions as well as the amount and the duration of the support to tenants, identifying their requirements by means of special notices.</p> <p>The government introduced the suspension of VAT and other tax payments in March 2020.</p> <p>Law No 176 of 18 December 2020 introduced a contribution for owners of residential real estate units who decide to reduce the rent for the contracts in place on 29 October 2020, with the aim of addressing tenants’ economic difficulties and consequently reduce the risk of evictions. The contribution will reduce, in 2021, the rent for the contracts already in place on 29 October 2020 by 50%, up to a maximum of €1,200, within the limit of the resources allocated to this measure (100 million EUR for 2021). The reduction is targeted at home-owners of properties that constitute the tenant’s main residence and are located in a town with “high housing voltage” – that is, the 714</p>

		municipalities, including all the provincial capitals, listed in an old provision (Resolution No 87 of 13 November 2003) of the Inter-ministerial Committee for Economic Planning (CIPE).
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Parents of children younger than 12 were allowed to take leave for up to 30 (combined) days starting from March 5th 2020 until July 2020, while receiving 50% of the salary paid by the government.</p> <p>Paid leave up to the maximum of 12 days a month (instead of 3 days) for workers with care duties in respect of persons with disabilities.</p> <p>Paid leave up to the maximum of 12 days a month (instead of 3 days) for workers with care duties in respect elderly/non autonomous family members.</p> <p>Parents with kids in remote learning due to school closures or that were obliged to quarantine were entitled to extra family/sick leave for as long as the school premises are closed or the quarantine period is in place.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] On March 17, and as part of the "Cura Italia" Decree, the Government decided to extend the deadline of NASpl and DIS-COLL unemployment benefits applications by 60 days, from 68 to 128 days from the date of involuntary termination of the relevant employment relationship. This extension only applies to NASpl and DIS-COLL applications for involuntary terminations occurring between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2020] On May 19, and as part of the "Rilancio" Decree, the Government extended the NASpl and DIS-COLL treatment, expiring between 1 March 2020 and 30 April 2020, for a further two months from the original expiry date, provided that the beneficiary does not receive any additional allowances according to the Decree "Cura Italia" or the "Rilancio" Decree for self-employed workers.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government extended NASpl and DIS-COLL for a further two months, under the same conditions.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2021] On May 25, as part of the "Sostegni bis" decree, the Government announced the suspension of payment reductions (which start from the 4th month of payment) until 31 December 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government provided an exemption from payment of social security contributions to employers who used salary support schemes in the months of May and June 2020 (part of Cura Italia Decree) and decided not to apply for the further 18 weeks period of salary support. The exemption is granted for a maximum of 4 months, to be used by 31 December 2020, calculated at twice the amount of hours of salary support the employer have already benefited from during the months of May and June 2020. Employers who</p>

		<p>will be granted total exemption from social security contributions will not be able to dismiss employees for justified objective reasons for the entire period during which they will benefit from the above relief.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 24, and as part of the "Ristori" Decree, the exemption from paying social security contributions was extended for an additional period of 4 weeks, to be used by December 31, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - January 2021] On January 1, and as part of the Budget Law for year 2021, the exemption from paying social security contributions was extended for an additional maximum period of 8 weeks, to be used by March 31, 2021.</p> <p>[August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government provided an exemption from social security charges to employers who hire employees on an open-ended/permanent contract (including the transformation of a fixed-term employment contract into an open-ended one), until 31 December 2020. The exemption is granted for a maximum of 6 months starting from the hiring date and up to the maximum amount of EUR 8.060,00 per year.</p> <p>[August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government provided employers having production units in regions considered economically depressed and with high unemployment rates, will have the possibility to benefit from a 30% reduction of social security charges, calculated on the overall amount due between 1 October and 31 December 2020.</p> <p>[August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government provided employers having production units in the regions of Lombardy, Veneto and Emilia Romagna, who suspended or reduced their business activity as a result of the enforcement of restrictive measures related to COVID-19, can apply for social shock absorbers, for a maximum of 4 weeks, to cover periods of suspension / reduction of work that occurred between 23 February, and 30 April 2020. Applications must be filed by 15 October 2020.</p> <p>Postponement of social security contributions payment for taxpayers who carry out business activities with revenues or fees not exceeding EUR 2 million.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 17, and as part of the Cura Italia Decree, the Government announced that employers are prohibited from dismissing their employees for justifiable reasons, for a period of 60 days, regardless of the number of workers. Employers are also not allowed to initiate collected dismissal procedures.</p>

[Extended - May 2020] On May 19, and as part of the "Rilancio" Decree, the Government announced the extension of dismissal ban until August 17, 2020.

[Extended - August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government extended the duration of the dismissal ban for a mobile term corresponding to the end of the 18 weeks of wage supplementation or until the end of the period in which the social security contribution relief benefit is used. The following cases are also excluded from the extension of the ban on dismissal: (i) dismissals due to closure of business (cessazione definitiva), (ii) dismissals due to union company agreements, and dismissal due to bankruptcy (fallimento).

[Extended - December 2020] On December 24, and as part of "Ristori" Decree, the Government extended the ban on dismissal until January 31, 2021, regardless whether wage subsidies were requested or not.

[Extended - March 2021] On March 23, as part of the Sostegni Decree, the dismissal ban was extended until end of March 2021 to prevent discrimination/social exclusion. The Sostegni decree extends a general firing freeze until June 30, 2021. After this date, the government announced a more selective approach, keeping the freeze in place only for some sectors.

[Extended - May 2021] On May 25, and as part of the Sostegni-bis Decree, the Government regulated the dismissal ban so that it ends on June 30, for all employers, and remains up to October 31, for employers benefits from special supplementary salary schemes. For employers using CIGO or GIGS salary schemes, the ban will remain for the duration of the policy and in any case, end before December 31, 2021

[March 2020] On March 17, and as part of the "Cura Italia" Decree, an ad hoc protocol was developed which requires employers to take some enhanced occupational safety and health (OSH) measures in order to counter and contain the spread of COVID-19 in workplaces. These OSH measures were the result of an agreement by social partners with the mediation of the Prime Minister which was adopted on 14 March 2020. This agreement contains national guidelines on the implementation of enhanced occupational health and safety measures that comply with the WHO's requirements.

[May 2020] On May 19, the "Rilancio" Decree sets out, by way of derogation from the ordinary provisions relating to the extension and renewal of fixed-term contracts, the possibility to renew or extend until 30 August 2020 all fixed-term contracts already in place as at 23 February 2020, even when the grounds provided for by law are not met.

[August 2020] On August 14, the "Agosto" Decree provided for the possibility, as an exception to the ordinary rules on extensions and renewals of fixed-term contracts, to renew or extend until 31 December 2020 all fixed-term employment contracts, for a maximum period of 12 months and for one time only, even in the absence of the reasons provided for by law. The Decree also repealed the provision containing the automatic extension of fixed-term contracts introduced by the law converting the "Rilancio" Decree.

		<p>[March 2021] on March 23, the "Sostegni" Decree provided that until 31 December 2021, it is possible to renew or extend fixed-term employment contracts, without mentioning business related reasons, once and for a maximum period of 12 months. In any case the maximum duration of 24 months for fixed-term employment must always be complied with.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>[May 2020] On May 19, and as part of the "Rilancio" Decree, parents who are employed in the private sector with at least one child younger than 14 years are entitled to agile working if in the household there is no other parent benefiting from income support measures in case of suspension or interruption of the work activity or other non-working parent; and if the agile working mode is suitable for the type of work of the relevant employee.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2020] On July 20, and as part of Law Decree no.83, the right of parents with at least one child under the age of 14 to perform agile working was extended until September 14, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the parent's right for agile work was extended until December 31, 2020 and for the entire duration of said mandatory quarantine period. The employed parent is entitled to perform his/her working duties through agile work, or in case the agile work is not suitable due to the specific type of work, and, in any case, as an alternative to agile work, benefit from a special leave for the entire or part of the child's quarantine period with payment of an allowance equal to 50% of the salary.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 24, and as part of "Ristori" Decree, the parents provisions were amended as follows: (i) the age of the child whose mandatory quarantine period grants the parent the right to agile working is increased from 14 to 16 years old; and (ii) the right to agile working is extended to cases where the cohabiting child's in-person didactic activities have been suspended, if the child is younger than 16 years old.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 13, and as part of the Decree Law no. 30, the Government extended parents' entitlement to agile work until June 30, during periods where teaching is suspended, for the duration of a COVID-19 infection or quarantine of a child.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2021] On August 6, and as part of the Decree Law no. 111, the Government extended until December 31, 2021.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 8, and as part of the Decree of the President of the Council of Ministers, the smart/agile work modality will be applied for the duration of the state of emergency by employers to any employment relationship. The decree eased certain restrictions including the requirement that parties consent to this work system, and introduced simplified mandatory communications procedures to labor authorities. These changes have been reiterated in several emergency measures that followed, including "Cura Italia" and "Rilancio" Decrees.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2020] As part of the Law Decree no.83/2020 on July 20, and Decree of the Prime Minister on July 29, the state of emergency was extended until October 15, 2020. This entails the extension of the right of employers to implement agile working without having individual agreements</p>

		<p>with employees and the simplified communication process, until October 15, 2020, after which, the agile/smart work arrangements shall be undertaken in line with Law no. 81/2017.</p> <p>[April 2020] The right of agile/smart working for fragile workers in public and private sectors was introduced as part of the "Cura Italia" Decree, converted with amendment into Law no. 27 of April 24, 2020. This right for fragile workers to perform agile/smart work was also reinforced in the conversion of "Agosto" Decree into law in October 2020. The law highlights that employees in condition of risk arising from immunodepression and oncological pathologies or risk due to the conduct of life-saving therapies, including workers with serious disabilities, will regularly perform agile work.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 23, and as part of the "Sostegni" Decree, fragile workers will carry out their duties through remote work, from March 1, until June 30, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2021] On July 23, the Decree-Law no. 105 extended the right of fragile workers to smart working from July 1 until October 31, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2021] On September 24, the Law no. 133 extended the right of fragile workers to perform work in an agile/smart way, until December 31, 2021.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>To discourage layoffs during the crisis, employees of companies that have interrupted their activities were entitled to receive a benefit in the amount of 80% of the salary paid by the government. The measure was valid for up to nine weeks and no longer than August 2020. This measure included all economic sectors, except for domestic work, and enterprises, regardless their size of the latter. For those firms that exhausted the nine weeks, four more weeks were available from September 1st until October 31st 2020.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 9, the Government announced that companies benefiting from CIGO and ordinary allowance (ASO) which are measures aimed at reducing the personnel cost for employers in case of suspension/reduction of the company's activities due to exceptional circumstances (e.g. the COVID-19 health emergency), will now be exempted from consultation with trade unions and compliance with certain terms. CIGO, ordinary allowance, and derogated CIG (CIGD) benefits may be provided for up to a maximum of 9 weeks starting February 23, 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2020] On May 19, and as part of the "Rilancio" Decree, the Government announced the extension of CIGO, ordinary allowance, and derogated CIG (CIGD) by a further 5 weeks in the same period between February 23 to August 31, 2020. This only applies to employers who benefited from the initial 9 weeks. In addition, employers benefited from the available 14 week support period (initial 9 weeks plus 5 week extension) are entitled to request an additional 4 weeks, starting September 1, 2020. The obligation to carry out the trade union information and consultation procedure (exempted in Cura Italia Law) has been reintroduced.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2020] On August 14, and as part of the "Agosto" Decree, the Government announced that employers who suspended or reduced their activity due to COVID-19, may apply for</p>

		<p>a maximum duration of 9 weeks, increased by additional 9 weeks. The 18 week period is in addition to the 18 weeks perviously authorised under the "Relancio" Decree and related conversion law.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 24, and as part of "Ristori", the CIGO, ordinary allowance and derogated CIG (CIGD) were extended for an additional maximum period of 6 weeks, which can be used between November 16, 2020 and January 31, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 19, the Government approved the Decree Law "Sostegni" that includes an extension of CIGO's duration (without additional payments) by an additional 13 weeks starting April 1, until June 30, 2021. The aforementioned 13 weeks are in addition to the 12 weeks provided for by the 2021 Budget Law, for a total of 25 weeks. The duration of CIGD and ASO was extended by 28 weeks (without additional payments) between April 1 and December 31, 2021. These measures are also in addition to those already provided for by the 2021 Budget Law, for a total of 40 weeks.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2021] On July 23, the Government passed into law the Decree "Sostegni-bis" which extends CIGO for an additional 17 weeks, from July 1 until October 31, 2021, for employers within textile, leather, fur, and similar industries.</p>
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Jamaica

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Program of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) payments will be paid earlier than scheduled. The April 2020 payment was made prior to the April 15, 2020, payment date. The May and June 2020 payment cycles commenced on May 15 and June 22, 2020.</p> <p>PATH families with children enrolled in primary and secondary schools are receiving a top-up of J\$150 per day while children in ECD are receiving J\$100 per day for school feeding while school is closed. A total of 23 school days were paid for this benefit in May. 152,999 student beneficiaries and children within Early Childhood Institutions (ECIs) received the School Feeding Stipend in May 2020</p> <p>Persons enrolled in PATH will receive a 'COVID-19 PATH grant' which will add another payment for the April-June payment period under the CARE program. PATH beneficiaries will therefore receive three payments instead of two payments for this payment period. Total beneficiaries 360,000 individuals</p> <p>The COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) program's Compassionate Grant of J\$10,000 (US\$70) is available to anyone in need (e.g. tertiary students, unemployed, informally employed, elderly, pensioners, etc.) who completes the required application form, is not formally employed, has not received, and does not intend to apply to any other cash benefit under CARE.</p> <p>Through CARE Program, a budget of JMD\$150 M was provided to the Ministry of Local Government to assist the homeless, those in shelters and the elderly in infirmaries</p> <p>The government created a separate window within the CARE program to ensure persons with disabilities, who might face additional hurdles to accessing relief, are able to do so. This concerned a budget of \$40 million (USD 275,000). This is a one-off temporary grant for persons with disabilities aged 18-65 who have not already benefited from the CARE program. Implementation started in July 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	The Ministry of Labor and Social Security through its Central Foods Warehouse is delivering relief packages (food and other relief items) to persons in quarantine and to the elderly.
	School feeding	Around 152,999 primary and secondary school students benefited from school feeding stipend. As such, under the food support plan, Nutrition Products Limited will prepare snacks comprising baked products, fruit juices, milk, and water for students on PATH at the primary and secondary levels. A limited number has been prepared for today, Monday, March 16, 2020, while the distribution points are finalized. Principals will be asked to suggest distribution points for schools, which will be utilized over the next two weeks. At the same time, the Ministry is looking at collaborating with selected food suppliers, supermarkets, and other major areas to distribute food packages at specific drop off points in each community.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Covid-19 Student Loan Relief will provide a deferral of student loan principal and interest payments for 3 months (until July 2020) for loans outstanding to the Student Loan Bureau (SLB).</p> <p>The National Water Commission (NWC) granted a 30% discount on outstanding balances for residential customers more than 90 days in arrears. The initiative involved the period May 6th to July 31st and convened 31,000 estimated beneficiaries. Also, the NWC offered a waiver on reconnection fees to those customers who were disconnected.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>The National Insurance Scheme (NIS) pensioners will receive their two fortnightly payments in one payment.</p> <p>Beginning October 1, workers in the tourism sector were able to register for the Tourism Workers' Pension Scheme. The Scheme is a defined contributory plan supported by legislation and will require mandatory contributions by workers and employers. It covers all workers in the tourism sector aged 18 to 59, whether permanent, contractual, or self-employed.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Under the Government's COVID Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) Program, a direct transfer will be made to workers who lost their jobs. Supporting Employees with Transfer of Cash (SET Cash) – which will provide temporary cash transfer to individuals where it can be verified that they lost their employment since March 10, (the date of the first COVID19 case in Jamaica). Individuals who apply and qualify will receive J\$9,000 (US\$63) per fortnight, paid monthly from the month of their application through to June 2020. Extension of two months July – Sep 2020.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The Ministry of Tourism implemented a free online training initiative on April 22th as part of the Government's thrust to ensure the continued development of employees in the sector, who were laid off as a result of the closure of hotels during the coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic. The courses,

		<p>which were offered by the Jamaica Centre for Tourism Innovation (JCTI), were run until late July. The initiative included the following trainings: laundry attendant, gift room attendant, kitchen steward/porter, public area sanitation, hospitality team leader, certified banquet server, certified restaurant server (55 participants), Servsafe training in food safety (2,930 participants), certified hospitality supervisor (19 participants), introduction to Spanish (220 participants), and disc jock (DJ) certification.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>Several incentives are planned to mitigate employment losses, including direct transfers to businesses to maintain employees.</p> <p>*update* The Government announced a COVID-19 Allocation of Resources for Employees (CARE) program, which includes Business Employee Support and Transfer of Cash (BEST Cash) – which will provide temporary cash transfer to businesses in targeted sectors based on the number of workers they keep employed</p>

Japan

Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p> <p>On 7 April 2020, The Japanese government as part of its emergency economic measure package, has announced an additional child allowance of 10,000 yen per child on top of the (regular) monthly 10K per child allowance, tax exempt.</p> <p>Japan will give 100,000 yen (US\$ 930) to every citizen – delivered to the head of the household to which the person belongs. The cost is expected to be around 2% of GDP (12,880,293 million yen). On April 30, 2020, some municipalities in Japan started providing these one-off payments. As of 25th September 2020, 12.66 trillion yen (out of budget of 12.9 trillion yen) has been paid. An application form will be mailed to everyone that is eligible, and you can also apply online through the government website for "My Number" card holders. In-person applications will be limited to special cases in order to reduce the risk of spreading the coronavirus. Anyone who is on the basic resident register as of April 27 and submits an application is eligible for the transfer. That covers about 127 million people, including foreign nationals who have legally resided in the country for more than three months. Homeless people are also eligible, but they will have to become registered with a city or town.</p> <p>On June 12, 2020, the second supplementary budget for FY2020, Government of Japan has allocated 136.5 billion to provide additional payments to low-income single parent households. Here 50,000 yen per household</p> <p>Government of Japan has provided ¥50,000 each to single-parent households receiving child-rearing allowances under an extraordinary benefit program financed by its second supplementary budget for fiscal 2020 that was enacted in June. An additional ¥30,000 was provided for each child after the first.</p> <p>On 19 May 2020, the Japanese government has announced to provide cash assistance to students who lost their part time job, and all or part of their revenue. On the same day, the application process has also started. It was designed for some of the 430,000 students in the nation. This aid will amount up to ¥200,000 for those from low-income households that are exempt from residence tax and ¥100,000 for others. The Cabinet has decided to allocate the budget allocated ¥53.1 billion. Foreign students are also entitled to this program. This aid will come on top of the ¥100,000 relief fund already offered by the Japanese government.</p>

		<p>On March 10, 2020, Japanese government, as part of their Second Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Emergency Response Package, announced that self-employed people (performing subcontract work) who are unable to work due to absence of childcare facility or school closure will be eligible to receive a daily amount of 4,100 Yen when they must care of their child. On 27 May 2020, the government announced that it would increase the maximum subsidy amount to JPY 7,500 per day.</p> <p>It is reported on June 5, 2020, that Japanese Government will provide a grant of max ¥330,000 per month for furloughed SME's employees that have received no leaving allowance.</p> <p>Tokyo Metropolitan Gov., Japan, is planning to offer discount coupons in Nov., 2021.</p> <p>Town of Miyashiro, Saitama Prefecture, in Japan, passed a supplementary budget that included a plan to distribute 1,000 yen coupons to all its 30,000 residents eligible for vaccination</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On April 30, 2020, Japanese government, as part of the First Supplementary Budget for FY2020, has approved 79.2 billion Yen to provide preventive measures against the spread of infection (such as distributing masks to kindergartens, elementary schools, nursing homes, and other facilities) and also allocated 23.3 billion Yen for distributing fabric masks to all households.</p> <p>On Aug 21, 2021, the Gunma Prefectural Government in Japan has launched a vaccination incentive targeting young people aged in their 20s and 30s, offering a vehicle and travel coupons as prizes in a lottery for those who have received their second COVID-19 vaccine shot by the end of September 2021.</p> <p>Hiroshima Prefecture, in Japan, in order to increase the vaccination ration from 63% to 80% as of 10 Oct 2021, On 12 Oct 2021 offered a car by local automaker Mazda Corp and also provided gift certificates. On the same note, Gunma Prefecture, in August 2021 offered fully vaccinated people b/w age 20 and 40 a chance to win a Subaru Corp. sport utility vehicle. The lottery also included hotel vouchers worth up to 50k Yen to 350 people as a prize. This lottery was open to everyone who had received their second shot before Sept 30, 2021.</p>

		<p>Other Prefectures, in Japan, like Tochigi are offering bikes, beef and rice to its residents age b/w 18 and 39 who are fully vaccinated. This lottery is open until the end of Nov. 2021.</p> <p>Tokyo's Chiyoda Ward, Japan, has asked two drug firms headquartered in the ward (Earth Corp. and Otsuka Pharmaceutical Co.) to distribute free bath powder and bottles of soft drinks to older people who got vaccinated.</p>
	School feeding	<p>On Mar 18, 2020, the city of Osaka, Japan will offer free lunches for all students at government-run elementary and junior high schools (from April 2020) as part of its economic measures to ease the burden on parents in the wake of the spread of COVID-19. The program would save parents between 50,000 yen (\$470) and 60,000 yen per child each year. The city estimates the annual cost of covering all 165,000 students at 7.7 billion yen, with funding for fiscal 2020 starting April from a reserve fund. The city plans to continue the program beyond the next fiscal year and discuss details such as how to secure funding for fiscal 2021 and beyond</p>
	Public works	<p>On December 21, 2020, as part of the budget for FY21-22, Government is planning for Securing public work projects stably worth ¥6,069.5bn. In these projects, the prevention and mitigation of disaster risk and national resilience will be promoted, such as flood control measures for the entire basin and measures against aging using new technologies. Further equalizing the construction period of public work projects by expanding the use of multi-year debt obligations (two-year and zero). In principle, 3D digitization of designs for large-scale civil engineering works under the direct control will be implemented to promote improvement of productivity in the construction industry.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 20, 2020, Japanese Government announced that it will be supporting those who have lost their jobs or have closed their businesses for two years or less since the date they did so, or those whose incomes have decreased due to temporary retirement and so on, whose situations are quite similar to those who have lost their jobs, on condition that they are acting for job hunting. The government will directly pay the rent amount or a part of it to the owners of the rented facilities for a certain period in order to secure the place to live and job for them under economic need. It will be paid for 3 months and if certain requirements are met, every 3 months up to 9 months will be applied. This scheme was first introduced in April 2015, but since 2020, it has been amended significantly in order to ease conditions following the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier one had to register through Hello work to avail this benefit but since April 30, 2020, independent support centers have been opened to make the process easier. As of Feb 22, 2021, at least 125,874 households in Japan received housing support over the nine months up to December 2020. It is possible to extend repayment for house rental for those who completed payment until September 2021. (Applicable to the application of February 2020.)</p> <p>On 24 April 2020, as part of its efforts for encouraging electricity and gas utilities to take flexible measures involving consumers' payment of electricity or gas bills, e.g., providing a grace period for</p>

such payment, the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI) granted approval for extending the ongoing special treatments involving the wheeling service provisions and other clauses.

Special Grace of Tax Payment (Special grace) which was established following enactment and enforcement of the "Act on Extraordinary Exception on National Tax Related Laws to Address the Impact of the Novel Coronavirus Disease" on April 30, 2020, has ended on February 1, 2021. Grace system for national taxes is that taxpayers will be granted grace of tax payment for up to one year by applying to the tax office if taxpayers are in special circumstances such as they are likely to face difficulty maintaining standard of living by paying the national tax in a lump sum, or they have lost their assets due to disasters. Methods of tax payment are followings:(1) defer payment for one year; or (2) make installment payment during the grace period depending on the taxpayer's financial resources. However, if it is recognized you had unavoidable reasons why you could not apply for Special grace for the taxes which were due by February 1, 2021, by their due date, you may apply for Special grace after the due date. In the case Grace of tax payment is granted,
(1) You will be granted the grace for one year in principle. (It may be extended for a further one year, depending on circumstances.)
(2) Delinquent tax (interest on principal tax) during the grace period will be reduced*.
* In 2021, the rate of delinquent tax will be reduced from 8.8% per annum to 1.0% per annum.
(3) Seizure of assets or asset conversion (sale of assets) will be suspended.

On March 10, 2020, Japan government, as part of the Second Novel Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19) Emergency Response Package, announced that the Special loans from emergency small funds for individuals. The number of households that are eligible for loans under this system will be expanded to include non-low-income households (i.e., horizontal expansion). Special loans such as emergency small amount funds will be provided to households that are struggling for their living expenses as a result of temporary stoppage of work or unemployment. For people facing temporary stoppage of work: The upper limit of the loan has been from 100,000 yen to 200,000 yen depending on the profession, with no interest and with possible exemption (i.e., vertical expansion, as the upper limit during pre-covid days was just 100,000 yen). The deferral period for repayment is 1 year, which is an expansion of the previous period of 2 months; and the repayment deadline is 2 years, which is an expansion of the previous period of 1 year. Similarly, following are the conditions for people who have become unemployed. Loan upper limit is JPY 150,000/month and 200,000/month (for one and two or more respectively) and the loan is provided for a duration up to 3 months. Therefore, the upper limit is JPY 450,000 – 600,000 yen. The deferral period has increased to 12 months from 6 months (before covid-19) and the repayment deadline is 10 years. No interest rate is charged. Earlier during pre-covid-19 days for a 0% interest, a guarantor was required and in the absence of guarantor the individual was charged 1.5 % interest. On June 12, 2020, as part of the second supplementary budget for FY2020 allocated 204.8 bn Yen for providing individual loans.

		The City of Shizuoka, Japan, has announced that it will subsidize taxi rides for older people to and from vaccination sites to the tune of 2000 Yen for each person
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Subsidy for employers who allow female pregnant employees to take paid leave</p> <p>Extension of the support fund and allowance for the leave without pay until December</p> <p>Support for parents work leaves: Establish a new subsidy system that covers employees, no matter permanent or non-permanent (subsidy rate: 10/10, up to 8,330 yen a day)</p> <p>Access to paid leave. Applied paid-sick-leave system to patients of COVID-19 and those who have noticeable symptoms of COVID-19 such as fever.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The payment of social security premiums was deferred without collateral and late payment penalties. [June 2020] This measure was extended if businesses faced difficulties in paying social security contributions due to a decline in sales.</p> <p>[June 2020] A reduction/exemption of social security insurance (e.g. national health care insurance, long-term care insurance, pension) was announced for businesses which were facing an income decline.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>[July 2020] The government requested companies to ensure that 70 percent or more employees work from home and to avoid large-scale gatherings.</p> <p>[March 2021] The Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare updated its guidelines regarding teleworking and provided details on the implementation of work-from-home arrangements.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] The government announced in March that all business owners would become eligible for employment adjustment subsidies which enabled businesses to put workers on temporary leave while keeping them employed. The coverage was expanded to include non-regular workers (i.e., employees who work less than 20 hours per week). From April 2020 to June 2020, subsidy rates were raised from 2/3 to 9/10 for SMEs and 1/2 to 3/4 for large enterprises (on the condition of avoiding dismissals) and the firms were given up to ¥8,330 per day for each worker who missed work.</p> <p>[June 2020] The scheme was allocated ¥451.9 billion in the Second Supplementary Budget. The government also announced an increase of the subsidy from ¥8,330 to ¥15,000 per person per day. The subsidy rates were also increased to 75% for large enterprises and 100% for SMEs.</p> <p>[August 2020] The government decided to extend the program for 3 months.</p>

		<p>[November 2020] The program was extended until the end of February 2021.</p> <p>[March 2021] The scheme was extended to 30th April, 2021.</p> <p>[April 2021] The scheme was extended till the end of June 2021.</p> <p>[August 2021] As of 13th August, 2021, the government had approved four million applications for over ¥4 trillion.</p>
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Jersey

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The COVID- 19 Related Emergency Support Scheme (CRESS) was launched on April 1st, 2020, to provide weekly payments to cover basic costs, depending on the individual's relationship status and whether they have children. Initially, this cash transfer was £150 per week for single people and £250 per week for couples who have been working for at least six months but lost their employment income. A child supplement of £50 per child was also introduced. Those who worked for less than six months received an amount of £70 per week. This program was extended until August 31st, 2020, with a total budget of £540,500 and 450 beneficiaries.</p> <p>On 10 July 2020, Government of Jersey, as part of the support package, announced that it will provide vouchers/cards to be spent locally. In September all adults and children – an estimated 107,800 Islanders - will receive £100 to spend in the local economy. However, on Sept 9, 2020, it was announced that 105,000 Spend Local cards will be distributed to Islanders over the next three days (Wednesday 9, Thursday 10 and Friday 11 September). This measure will cost approximately £11 million. This voucher/pre-paid card is expected to expire by 30 Nov 2020.</p> <p>On 10 July 2020, Government of Jersey, as part of the support package, announced direct payments to low-income households in which about 13,000 Islanders from low-income households will receive a £100 payment by the end of July 2020. This measure is targeted at those Islanders who need it most. Payments will be made to working-age Income Support claimants (6,300 adults and 3,400 children) and pensioners on Income Support and Pension Plus (3,300 Islanders).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
Public works		

	Utility waivers	<p>The government established that those in struggle related to mortgage payments can contact their banks directly to request a mortgage payment 'holiday,' charged with interest. It was advised not to stop their direct debit or standing order, but to agree lender first.</p> <p>On Dec 8, 2020, Local General Practitioners have worked with the Government on a new health scheme to provide subsidized fixed costs for General Practice visits for up to 12,000 people. The Health Access Scheme means that those who are receiving Income Support or Pension Plus are able to receive the care they need at reduced rates with children in income support households receiving free surgery appointments. The new scheme will start on Friday 11th December and letters will be sent to eligible families and individuals over the next few days. There is no need to apply.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[September 2020] Employers most affected by the public health workplace restrictions can defer the payment of Social Security contributions. After the deferral, payment plans can be offered for up to three years to give extra flexibility to those most affected. Eligibility criteria is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • businesses that are required to close for part of a month as a result of the public health measures • food and/or beverage wholesalers that derive more than 75% of their income from businesses required to close <p>The deferment is implemented until 2023, with an overall estimated cost of £12 million from 2021 to 2023.</p> <p>Self-employed individuals most affected by the public health workplace restrictions can defer the payment of Social Security contributions. After the deferral, payment plans can be offered for up to three years to give extra flexibility to those most affected. Eligibility criteria is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • businesses that are required to close for part of a month as a result of the public health measures • food and/or beverage wholesalers that derive more 75% of their income from businesses required to close <p>The deferment is implemented until 2023. As of July 2020, this policy was funded by the Support Package, involving a planned budget of £26 million</p>

Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Government Co-Funded Payroll Scheme is a short-term emergency measure introduced to protect the most vulnerable employers and employees in the early stages of the Coronavirus disruption in Jersey. Initially, the program delivered eligible employers up to £200 per week per employee until 31 March 2020 (Phase 1). The program changed several times.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2020] The measure was extended until August 2020. Some changes were introduced to the program: the subsidy payable was 80% of the lower of the worker's gross wage paid in the month or £2,000 a month, with a maximum subsidy of £1,600 per worker per month.</p> <p>[Extension - September 2020] The measure was extended until March 2021. During Phase 3, the percentage applied to worker's wage ranged from 60% in September 2020 (£1,200) to 40% in December 2020 (£800). [Extension - March 2021] The measure was extended until April 4. Phase 4, established higher benefits: a maximum subsidy of 80% of £2,000 per worker (i.e. a maximum payment of £1,600) and 95% of £2,500 per worker (i.e. a maximum payment of £2,250) for businesses that are required to close or wholesalers whose 75% of their income comes from selling food and/or beverages and were required to close. [Extension - May 2021] The measure was extended until June 2021 - Phase 5. [Extension - July 2021] The measure was extended until October 2021 - Phase 6. According to the government's website, as of September 2021, the measure involved an actual expenditure of £273.7 million</p>

Jordan

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(2020) The government has launched a program to provide cash support to poor and vulnerable households affected by COVID-19 outbreak. Prior to COVID, NAF was already providing regular cash transfers (CTs) to 146,000 households: 45,000 households benefit from the Takaful CT program (described below) and 101,000 households benefit from NAF monthly CT programs. The GOJ will add 10,000 new Takaful beneficiaries who were already planned for 2020. The Program added to those efforts by providing: (i) temporary (six month) CTs to 200,000 additional vulnerable households; and (ii) temporary (six month) benefit top-ups for existing NAF beneficiaries whose benefits are below a certain threshold. The Program will cost approximately US\$277 million and will be largely financed by the proposed WB-financed project. The number of households benefiting from the overall Program will be about 293,000. (Jan 2021) An additional (estimated) 25,000-35,000 households are currently being targeted in Q1 2021 to be enrolled by Q2 2021 in the Takaful (1) program.-</p> <p>On 16 April 2020, the Minister of Social Protection announced a social protection programme to support daily wage workers to be carried out by the NAF.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The programme is financed via donations collected from citizens and the private sector through the newly formed 'Emergency Response Fund—Himat Watan'; • The benefit amount consists of JOD70 per month for 2-member households and JOD136 per month for households consisting of 3 members or more paid for 3 months. It will be delivered through e-wallets; • Applications for the programme are made through the pre-existing bread support cash assistance application website/Takmeely Platform; • As of 3 June 2020, 230,000 households have benefitted, and an additional 50,000 are expected to receive aid. • The National Unified Registry is used to verify applicants' information currently the fund has JD27 million- <p>Until 14 April 2020, 150,000 families received cash and in-kind aid provided by the Zakat Fund, for a total value of approximately JOD2 million. These are a combination of old and new beneficiaries. Priority is being given to daily wage workers.-</p> <p>The 'Hajati' Cash Transfer program, specifically tailored to Syrian refugees and vulnerable Jordanian</p>

		<p>families, was expanded to cover 18,000 additional vulnerable children. A database maintained by UNICEF Jordan with information on 38,000 of the poorest and most vulnerable households was used to identify households not receiving Hajati but who were in urgent need of financial support.-</p> <p>In 2020, Jordan took another step, endorsing the Regulation No. (93) of 2020 on Maternity Social Protection under the Social Security Law. The regulation enables working mothers to return to work while receiving childcare subsidy for their children either if they attend a childcare facility or if they stay at home. It also allows for registered childcare centres to receive direct cash benefits to cover 50% of their operational costs.-</p> <p>For 2021, the government launched the Recovery Takaful 3 Program, which also aims to support the daily wage workers with cash assistance, and plans to cover 100,000 households. The registration process started mid-December 2020 and lasted for one month. Registration was available both face-to-face and online, and more than 300,000 families applied for assistance. Within Q1 2021, potential eligible households will have their data validated and will afterwards be visited for verification. The first payment is expected in March 2021 for the 100,000 beneficiary households.-</p> <p>In 2020, Jordan took another step, endorsing the Regulation No. (93) of 2020 on Maternity Social Protection under the Social Security Law. The regulation enables working mothers to return to work while receiving childcare subsidy for their children either if they attend a childcare facility or if they stay at home. It also allows for registered childcare centres to receive direct cash benefits to cover 50% of their operational costs.</p> <p>A total of 20,500 of the most vulnerable Palestine refugees residing in Jordan (Jerash camp) that do not hold Jordanian citizenship (targeting within this group the elderly, female-headed households and families with children under the age of five years) will receive a one-time cash assistance of JDS50-</p> <p>NAF started the registration of the Bread Subsidy Cash Compensation Program, which targets up to 80% of the population with a small amount of money annually. Payments will occur over April-November 2020. Similar mode of registration as the Takaful Program is being used. The bread subsidy registration database will be used for a temporary emergency program to support households that were affected by the COVID-19 with JD70 (about \$100) every two weeks.-</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Until 14 April 2020, 80,000 families received cash and in-kind assistance provided by Zakat Fund with a total value of approximately JOD2 million

		<p>NAF beneficiary households received water, gas and basic medicines.</p> <p>On March 31, 2021, the government announced a COVID stimulus package with a total value of JD 448 million. The package includes measures to help underprivileged families with food vouchers during Ramadan to buy foodstuffs from the civil and military consumer corporations.</p> <p>In February 2021, food coupons (with a value of JD100 per coupon) were distributed to 30,000 underprivileged beneficiary families</p> <p>In-kind support, financed by the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and the charity NGOs, is being provided to about 189,000 households in the form of food baskets - worth between JOD 25-50</p> <p>In-kind distribution of bread (universal) will occur at reduced subsidized price (JD1 per 3 kg, instead of JD1.5 – US\$ 1.41 vs US\$ 2.11). The Ministry of Local Affairs is coordinating distribution from local bakeries. Bread is delivered door to door by buses that patrol localities, escorted by police officers to deter crowding. NAF beneficiaries will receive the bread for free with the support from municipalities.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	In Jordan, the government launched a COVID stimulus package including measures to employ youth in programs such as vaccination campaigns.
	Utility waivers	<p>The government has set limits on commodity prices for fruits, vegetables and other basic food supplies</p> <p>Fines imposed on delayed payments of property tax will be cancelled while taxpayers will also be relieved from fines on outstanding balances they owe to the tax department if they pay off the dues before July 1, 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Ministry of Labor announced a two-week paid leave for all public sector workers in 2020. This will not be deducted from the normal allocation of sick leave
	Health insurance	The Government and Ministry of Health is covering the cost of treatment for COVID-19 patients in government hospitals
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	(March 2020) The Jordanian Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced that workers on unpaid leave can apply for disbursement of unemployment benefits, provided they meet the relevant conditions and work in certain sectors, such as tourism, transportation and trade

		<p>[April 2020] The Government launched the program "Musaned 1" which provides unemployment insurance for insured employees who have stopped working due to COVID-19. Employees receive unemployment insurance consisting of 50% of their salary in amounts between JOD150-350 for three months. This benefit is only available for employees who paid their social security contributions for the past 36 months.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 16, as part of Defence Order No. 9 of 2020, the government announced "Musaned 2" which allowed Jordanian/non-Jordanian SSC members to retrieve a maximum of JOD450 from their unemployment insurance savings to be received in three monthly payments.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Social Security Corporation reduced the minimum permitted disbursement to JOD90 instead of JOD150.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] The Defence Order No. 1 of 2020 gave the authority to Social Security Corporation to allow enterprises to suspend old age contribution for 3 months starting March 1, 2020 until May 31 2020 while maintaining coverage for maternity, unemployment, death, and occupational health.-</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 19 and as part of Defence Order No. 1, the Government announced that entities that owe contributions to Social Security Corporation will not accrue interest or be penalized, and they will be allowed to pay their contributions on installments until end 2023-</p> <p>Tamkeen Ektisadi 2, which is part of Defence Order No. 14 was issued on 15 June 2020, allows both Jordanian and non-Jordanian SSC members, in the public and private sectors, with a monthly income of less than JOD 700, with a 5% advance payment on their insured income, in the form of a one-off payment and up to a maximum of JOD 200 per person.-</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 18, the Government provided private sector entities the option to temporarily defer the payment of the old age component of all or some of their employees' social security contributions from March 1, 2020 for up to three months. This effectively decreases the total social security contributions from 21.75% to 5.25%, with the employer's share decreasing from 7.5% to 1%.</p> <p>[June 2020] On June 15 and as part of Defence Order No. 14, the Government announced Tamkeen Ektisadi 1 program, which allows for the partial payment of old age component of the social security contribution of their employees, till December 2020. This reduces the total social security contributions paid from 21.75% to 13.5% for private sector workers, with the employer's share decreasing from 7.5% to 4.25%.</p>

		<p>[Extended - October 2020] On October 5, the Social Security Corporation announced the extension of the program until May 31, 2021.-</p> <p>[March 2020] The Defence Order No. 1 of 2020 gave the authority to Social Security Corporation to allow enterprises to suspend old age contribution for 3 months starting March 1, 2020 until May 31 2020 while maintaining coverage for maternity, unemployment, death, and occupational health.-</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 18, the Government provided private sector entities the option to temporarily defer the payment of the old age component of all or some of their employees' social security contributions from March 1, 2020 for up to three months. This effectively decreases the total social security contributions from 21.75% to 5.25%, with the employer's share decreasing from 7.5% to 1%.</p> <p>[June 2020] On June 15 and as part of Defence Order No. 14, the Government announced Tamkeen Ektisadi 1 program, which allows for the partial payment of old age component of the social security contribution of their employees, till December 2020. This reduces the total social security contributions paid from 21.75% to 13.5% for private sector workers, with the employer's share decreasing from 7.5% to 4.25%.</p> <p>[Extended - October 2020] On October 5, the Social Security Corporation announced the extension of the program until May 31, 2021.-</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[January 2021] The launch of Tawkeed program to ensure that sectors and economic activities keep operating and apply work procedure protocols and preventive measures to halt the spread of COVID-19. The program provides training opportunities in collaboration with the private sector to train and qualify individuals wishing to work as health protection observers, who will inform the companies' management about any violations in safety and health protection measures.
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 17, the minister of labor announced a two week paid leave for public and private sector employees (except for some essential sectors) with employers not allowed to deduct the leave period from the employees' vacation balance.</p> <p>[January 2021] The launch of Tawkeed program to ensure that sectors and economic activities keep operating and apply work procedure protocols and preventive measures to halt the spread of COVID-19. The program provides companies with health inspectors who monitors and ensures the implementation of health measures.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

[April 2020] The Government launched the program "Tadamon 1" for employees at companies that had to reduce wages by 50%. Employees receive an unemployment allowance consisting of 50% of their salaries for three months, in amounts between JOD165-500. The employer will pay 20 per cent, with a maximum of JD250. The support is conditional for companies registered within the Social Security Corporation (SSC) and employees whose contributions have been paid for the previous 12 months.

[April 2020] The Government launched the program "Tadamon 2" which targets uninsured businesses not registered with the SSC, and those whose contributions lasted for less than a year. Employees receive an unemployment allowance of JOD150 per month for three months.

[April 2020] On April 16, the government announced Musaned 3 which permitted Jordanian/non-Jordanian SSC members and voluntary members with income less than JD500 to receive a 5% advance on their insured income at a maximum of JD450 paid across three months.

[Extended - June 2020] On June 22, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced their decision to adjust the conditions of Musaned 3 to include those whose income is less than JD1000, instead of JD500.

[Extended - March 2021] on March 17, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced that previous SSC members and unemployed, or voluntary members, can benefit from Musaned 3

[June 2020] On June 15 and as part of Defense Order No. 14, the government announced Himayah programme which provides employees of businesses in tourism and transportation sectors (registered with the Social Security Corporation) with a wage subsidy of 50% of their salary in the amount between JOD 220 and JOD 400 per month. The program expires by the end of 2020.

[Extended - October 2020] The Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced its decision to include restaurants and coffee shops in the Himayah program.

This was to expire at the end of 2020 but was then extended till May 2021.

[June 2020] On June 15, a measure called Tamkeen 2 allowed Jordanian SSC members in the private sector with income less than JOD700 to receive a one-time lump sum payment of 5% of their total income at a maximum of JOD200 to be paid back later by the employee without interests. This benefitted at least 364,000 workers.

[Extended - August 2020] On August 5, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced their decision to allow public sector employees to benefit from Tamkeen 2

[Extended - Decemeber 2020] On December 28, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced their decision to increase the benefit to a one-time lump sum payment of 8% of their total income, with a maximum of JOD500 instead of JOD200 for the sectors that are unauthorized to work or

were severely impacted by COVID-19. The maximum salary has also been increased to JOD1000, instead of JOD700.

[Extended - April 2021] On April 12, the Social Security Corporation (SSC) announced their decision to the maximum payment to JOD350 to Jordanians and JOD200 to non-Jordanians, given that their salary doesn't exceed JOD1500.

[December 2020] On December 15, the Government announced (Defence Order No. 24) Estidama program with a total value of JOD200 million which provides wage subsidies for six months from December 2020 up until May 2021. Employees working for companies that are unauthorized to operate due to COVID-19 regulations will receive 50% of their salary with a minimum of JOD220 and maximum of JOD500 fully covered by the program, while employees working for companies severely impacted by the pandemic will receive 75% of their salaries (37.5% contributed by the program and 37.5% by the employer) with a minimum of JOD220 and maximum of JOD500 fully covered by the program.

[Extended - April 2021] On April 12, the prime minister announced the extension of Estidama program till December 2021 with an additional JOD50 million allocated for the program.

[September 2021] On September 21, the prime minister announced that employees in Estidama program will now receive 100% (instead of 75%) of their salary (60% contributed by the program and 40% covered by the employer) with a maximum of JOD800 per month.

[Extended - October 2021] On October 21, the Government announced the extension of Estidama+ program till June 2022. Estidama+ program covers 85% of the employee's salary (80% covered by the program with a maximum of JOD 800, and 20% by the employer)

[April 2021] The Ministry of Digital Economy and Entrepreneurship will launch a project with a total cost of JOD20 million, to support fresh graduates who graduated during the last three years in digital and IT companies. The government will subsidise 50% of wages, with maximum of JOD200 for a period of six months, till December 2021.

Kazakhstan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Monthly payments of US\$100 were provided for up to almost 4 million people who lost income as a result of COVID-19 for three months in spring-summer 2020 during the lockdown period and for one month afterwards. The benefit amount was equivalent to minimum wage (42,000 tenge or US\$110).</p> <p>One-off payments to medical workers infected with COVID-19 in the amount of 2 million tenge (US\$ 4.7K) to 9,300 individuals as of April 2021.</p> <p>One-off payments to families of medical workers deceased from COVID-19 were paid out in the amount of 10 million tenge (US\$ 23.5K) to 186 households as of April 2021.</p> <p>In order to prevent the spread of coronavirus infection, comply with the quarantine measures and exclude direct contact between specialists of the employment centres and applicants for targeted social assistance (TSA), the TSA was automatically prolonged. In Q2 of 2020, the TSA was prolonged for 560 thousand recipients with the simultaneous increase in its value; in Q3, for 627 thousand recipients, and in Q4 for 614.3 thousand recipients. In the first quarter of 2021, 524 thousand had their TSA automatically extended.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>In-kind support in the form of free grocery packages is planned for large families with children, persons with disability and other vulnerable families totalling around 1 million people in 2020.</p> <p>As part of the TSA, the work has been underway to provide preschool children from low-income families with a guaranteed social package (GSP). In 2020, more than 218 thousand preschool children were provided with food sets on a monthly basis and hygiene products on a quarterly basis.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>As part of the 2020-2021 KZT 1.8 trillion Employment Roadmap (ERM), 6,107 infrastructure projects for repairing and constructing social facilities, engineering and transportation infrastructure, irrigation systems, and housing and communal services, along with the landscaping of settlements. This initiative employed 150,000 people. Employees who have arrived from other settlements for infrastructure projects under the ERM receive additional lump-sum material assistance (“lifting”) in the amount of two minimum wages determined by the law on the republican budget for the</p>

		<p>corresponding financial year. At least half of the workers will be hired through employment centers. Priority will be given to the unemployed youth. The government planned to employ 1.22 million people by the end of 2020 and extended the measure in 2021, devoting around 300 billion KZT to the initiative.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>Reimbursement of utilities expenses for Apr and May in amount of KZT15,000 will be provided for some socially vulnerable groups of population. Electricity and telecommunications: citizens, who were transferred to remote work, may receive compensation for the electricity and telecommunications bills. Utilities in Almaty: the residents can defer utilities payments, incl. elevator and waste disposal, for Mar and Apr till the end of 2020 with no fines or penalties.</p> <p>VAT reduced from 12% to 8% for essential food products until Oct 2020</p> <p>Banks have requested to allow loan repayments deferrals until mid-June and refrain from charging penalties for borrowers affected by the emergency. Loan deferrals were at the discretion of banks and participating banks issued a 90-day debt moratorium, which expired in June 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Free healthcare for all until June, 2020.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Kenya

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) 1,094,238 Inua Jamii beneficiaries will start receiving Ksh8,000 (US\$ 80) each from the state to cushion them against the effects of the coronavirus. At the queue at the payment centers, the beneficiaries will be required to maintain 1.5 meters of social distance. In addition, 8,750 new beneficiary households (not yet in receipt of Inua Jamii transfers) will be identified through the Nyumba Kumi system (a community policing system) and independently verified by the Kenya Red Cross Society.</p> <p>3,000,000 new households' beneficiaries will be added under NSNP/KSEIP.</p> <p>Upto Kshs 2 Billion (USD 20M) recovered from corruption proceeds will be used to support the most vulnerable especially the urban poor.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Ministry of Sports, Culture & Heritage is availing an additional support of Kshs 100 Million (USD 1M) from an existing sports fund to artists, actors and musicians during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Artists, musicians, performers and other self-employed individuals in the creative industry could participate in a work-for-pay scheme under which they were required to produce works that would entertain and educate Kenyans about COVID-19. Various programme lines with individual application criteria and funding amounts were available to applicants from different creative sectors. The programme was overseen by the Ministry of Sports, Culture and Heritage and implemented through various industry associations and bodies. Applications for most programme lines closed in June 2020 and project implementation is underway.</p> <p>Early in the crisis, the Kenyan government announced a one-off top up of Ksh 8,000 (USD 74) to existing recipients of the Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities (PwSD-CT). The first payments were made in April 2020.</p> <p>Based on a national listing exercise by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities during June 2020, the Government of Kenya announced a short-term ad-hoc cash transfer of Ksh 2000/month (USD 18) for 33,000 persons with disabilities for a period of 3 months from June to August 2020.</p>

		<p>Appropriation of an additional KShs. 10 Billion (USD 100M) to the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members of the society through cash transfers by the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection to cushion them from the adverse economic effects of COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>(May 2020) Professional athletes, including Kenyan Premier League footballers, national team athletes in various disciplines, paralympic athletes and technical staff could apply for a monthly stipend paid via mobile money for three months. Beneficiaries were identified in collaboration with sports federations and payments started in June 2020.</p> <p>(July 2021) The Government of Kenya has released Kshs. 276,288,000 for payment to beneficiaries enrolled in the Persons with Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer (PWSD CT) Programme under the Inua Jamii Programme. A total of 34,536 beneficiaries will each be paid Kshs 8,000 being payment for March-April and May-June 2021 payment cycles. In addition, 246 Persons with severe disabilities registered in the NICHE programme in Kitui, Kilifi, Marsabit, Turkana and West Pokot counties will also be paid during the period.</p> <p>(July 2021) The Government of Kenya has released KSH 8,758,200,000 for payment to beneficiaries enrolled in the Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme. The programme targets orphans and vulnerable children, older persons, and persons with severe disabilities. The payment will be for those already enrolled in the programme and have their accounts successfully submitted to the Consolidated Cash Transfer Program Management Information System.</p> <p>(July 2021) Beneficiaries of the Inua Jamii Programme who are also enrolled in the Nutrition Improvement Through Cash and Health Education Programme (NICHE) will receive an additional amount of up to 4000 KSH per household. This NICHE complementary programme targets households with children under 2, pregnant and lactating mothers who are already enrolled in the Inua Jamii Cash Transfer Programme from Marsabit, Turkana, Kitui, Kwale, and West Pokot counties.</p> <p>WFP continued to complement the Government's response through its support to the Social Protection Sector and its urban response in Nairobi and Mombasa counties targeting 378,000 people with cash and nutrition support. WFP will conclude its response in May 2021 after which it will transition into an urban strategy aimed at creating opportunities for urban livelihoods and providing nutritional support to the urban poor.</p> <p>WFP continues to deliver food assistance to over 400,000 refugees residing in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps through a hybrid of in-kind and cash-based transfers</p>
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		<p>Six-month funding to support food security and expand cash transfers to Nairobi informal settlements & Jua Kali associations from July to December 2020.</p> <p>The Royal Danish Embassy in Nairobi signed a DKK 20 Million (KES 310 million) grant to provide cash transfers to 40,000 vulnerable Kenyans in Mombasa and Nairobi informal settlements. The cash transfers will be disbursed monthly, for three months, via MPESA to Kenyans who have lost their income sources due to Covid-19 and who are at risk of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).</p> <p>Shikilia is directing donors interested in providing funds for cash transfers to give to GiveDirectly, a NGO which has a decade's experience in efficiently providing cash grants to low-income households in Kenya. GiveDirectly is a registered non-profit in Kenya and the United States, with external audits completed annually in both countries (more financial data here). GiveDirectly has worked with the Shikilia organizing committee team to agree on the targeting and transfer sizing of this cash program. The first recipients for this program were enrolled and received cash transfers in April, with thousands already enrolled.</p> <p>A 6-months cash transfers to families receiving children released from residential children institutions i.e. Statutory Children Institutions (SCI) and Charitable Children Institutions (CCI). An additional support to the existing cash transfers under Inua Jamii programme with a cash transfer top-up as part of the Joint devolution programme targeting most vulnerable in Garissa, Kajiado, Kilifi, Kakamega and Migori.</p> <p>More than 1.3 million vulnerable households receive Sh2,000 per month under the National Safety Net Programme (NSNP) from an annual budget of Sh30 billion. NSNP was launched in 2013 to manage four, public-funded cash transfer programmes for senior citizens, orphans and vulnerable children, the severely disabled, and those susceptible to hunger. The four programs are: Persons With Severe Disabilities Cash Transfer, Older Persons Cash Transfer, Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT- OVC) and the Hunger Safety Net Cash Transfer.</p>
	Social pensions	300,000 new households' beneficiaries will be added under the social pensions program.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(May 2021) Garissa county government completed a three-day exercise of distributing assorted food items to 2000 vulnerable families in Garissa Township Sub County. Each of the 2000 households will each receive 12kg of maize flour, 12kg of wheat flour and 3 litres of cooking oil.</p> <p>(April 2021) At least 100,000 needy households in Mombasa benefited from a food donation that is meant to cater for them in a period of one month. The Jaffer Foundation in conjunction with Grain</p>

		<p>Bulk Handlers Limited has given out food donations worth Sh. 110 million to help needy Muslims fasting during the month of Ramadan which took place amid the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>(April 2021) Over 1000 families in Elgeyo Marakwet benefited from food donations worth Sh5.2 million from the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Days Saints.</p> <p>WFP continued to complement the Government’s response through its support to the Social Protection Sector and its urban response in Nairobi and Mombasa counties targeting 378,000 people with cash and nutrition support. WFP will conclude its response in May 2021 after which it will transition into an urban strategy aimed at creating opportunities for urban livelihoods and providing nutritional support to the urban poor.</p> <p>WFP continues to deliver food assistance to over 400,000 refugees residing in Dadaab, Kakuma and Kalobeyei camps through a hybrid of in-kind and cash-based transfers.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>(May 2020)</p> <p>(May 2020) As part of the “Kazi Mtaani” initiative, 10,600 youths (18-35) living in Nairobi’s slums (Mathare, Kibera, Mukuru and Korogocho) have been enlisted for street cleaning, fumigation, disinfection, garbage collection, bush clearance and drainage unclogging services, among others. Kazi Mtaani (Jobs in the Neighborhood) is a public works program reaching 26,000 unemployed youth residing in 27 informal settlements of Nairobi, Mombasa, Kiambu, Nakuru, Kisumu, Kilifi, Kwale and Mandera. Daily wage is about \$6/day delivered via Mpesa (first phase ran from April 29, 2020 to June 2, 2020). The second phase of Kazi Mtaani expanded the program, starting in July 2020, to 1,200 informal settlements in all 47 of Kenya’s counties. The expanded program employs 283,210 people and ran for a total of six-and-a-half months. The program did not initially provide workers with facemasks or personal equipment like gloves, boots or overalls, relying on existing equipment available to local governments. However, after persistent calls by youth for better support, the Ministry of Health provided Kazi Mtaani participants with facemasks and gloves in August.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Ministry of Sports, Culture & Heritage is availing an additional support of Kshs 100 Million (USD 1M) from an existing sports fund to artists, actors and musicians during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic. Artists, musicians, performers and other self-employed individuals in the creative industry could participate in a work-for-pay scheme under which they were required to produce works that would entertain and educate Kenyans about COVID-19. Various programme lines with individual application criteria and funding amounts were available to applicants from different creative sectors. The programme was overseen by the Ministry of Sports, Culture and</p>

		<p>Heritage and implemented through various industry associations and bodies. Applications for most programme lines closed in June 2020 and project implementation is underway.</p> <p>Local workers were hired to validate the World Settlement Footprint 2019 (WSF-2019), a large geospatial dataset generated with AI by the German Aerospace Center (DLR) which identifies built-up areas in 2019 at a global scale.</p> <p>Workers were hired to develop and test a simple microtasking workflow to perform slum mapping and collect data on COVID-19 hotspots, with the intention of potentially scaling the refined workflow to other data collection themes, such as solid waste identification, green spaces, etc.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The central bank has also encouraged banks to extend flexibility to borrowers' loan terms based on pandemic-related circumstances</p> <p>On 17 March, a central bank order for banks to waive bank fees for individuals who move money between their bank account and mobile wallet came into effect.</p> <p>(September 2021) Kwale County Governor Salim Mvurya has disbursed bursaries worth Sh.15.7 million to needy students in the region. Governor Mvurya said 1,200 secondary and university students from Mwereni and Tiwi wards received the fees bursary from the county government's coffers. He urged needy parents to take advantage of the bursary kitty to educate their children and secure their future.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The government called upon employers to consider alternative working arrangements where possible including teleworking and paid leave, and to avoid, to the extent possible, termination of employment.</p> <p>[July 2021] This policy was extended due to a rise in COVID-19 cases in the country. Most recently, on the 30th of July, 2021, the government directed all employers, including the public and private</p>

		sector, government offices, businesses and companies to permit their employee to work from home until further notice unless they were engaged in critical or essential services.
	Wage subsidies	

Kiribati

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	From 20th March 2020, Kiribati government announced financial support for private citizens who are not supported by any institutions and are stranded abroad. The financial support is a standard daily rate of AUD\$30 applicable to eligible nationals irrespective of the country you are stranded in. The daily rate is for meal allowance. Accommodation costs will be settled directly to the service provider.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	An economic relief package approved which included unemployment assistance via partial income substitution.
	Social security contributions	A reduction in social security contributions for both employers and employees was announced. Reduction in social security contributions for both employers and employees
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Korea, Rep.

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On April 1, 2020, South Korean Government as announced childcare coupons for 2 million households with 2.63 million children who received childcare at the end of March are eligible for this program. Each voucher is worth KRW 400,000 per child to households with children aged less than 7 years to help address challenges caused by COVID-19 outbreak. As reflected on the supplementary budget of COVID-19 passed on 17 March 2020. These were paid in the form of e-vouchers, local e-currency (mobile or card), paper vouchers (local community voucher). The voucher is expected to be paid by April 2020.</p> <p>On 30 April 2020, Government of South Korea, as part of the 2nd emergency supplementary budget, passed/announced that Korean households in the bottom 70 percent income bracket will receive the government's emergency relief payments of up to 1.0 million won. A total of 14.78 million households to become recipients. However, payments to vary according to the household members: 0.4 million won (single-person households), 0.6 million won (two-person households), 0.8 million won (three-person households), 1.0 million won (four-person households). The payments to be made in online and offline gift certificates issued by local governments. A total of 14.3 trillion won will be spent on the relief program, including 1.2 trillion won worth of local government funds.</p> <p>Government of South Korea provides income support to those who are not eligible for employment insurance-- self-employers, freelancers in lieu of employment retention/unemployment benefits (but only those in a low-wage bracket).</p> <p>The government decided to offer universal emergency relief payments to roughly 21.71 million households through the universal program (this an extension of emergency relief announced earlier to reach the bottom 70 percent income bracket). A total 14.3 trillion won (\$11.66 billion). The government plans to provide 1 million won to households with four or more members, 800,000 won to three-person households, 600,000 won to two-person households and 400,000 won to single-person households. Some 2.8 million households that belong to vulnerable groups, such as beneficiaries of national basic livelihood security and disability pensions, started receiving funds first beginning next week, the rest of the nation's households will get relief in the form of credit or debit card points, regional gift certificates or prepaid cards. The aid will be granted upon request via online and offline platforms. The government first handed out virus-related relief funds totaling 14.3 trillion</p>

won to all households from May 4 to Aug. 24 to help people cope with the economic impact of the pandemic. A second round was handed out selectively and in phases mostly to the self-employed and small business owners from last September. Third phase has been approved in December

On March 2, 2021, Government of South Korea as part of the fourth round of relief package, announced that Emergency relief checks will be offered to about 800,000 people vulnerable to job loss, including company-owned taxi drivers and freelancers.

It is reported on 2 Feb 2021 that all the residents of Gyeonggi Province are eligible to receive 100,000 won each as part of the provincial government's second round of coronavirus relief payments to help locals cope with the economic fallout from the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic. Gyeonggi, which surrounds Seoul, is home to nearly 14 million people, including some 580,000 foreign nationals. Regardless of income, age, or occupation, Korean citizens and foreigners registered with a local address as of January 24, 2021 qualify to get the cash. The provincial government is currently receiving online applications for the relief funds, as well as offering special home visit application services, until February 28. In person applications can be submitted starting March 1, 2021 until April 30, 2021, while foreign residents can apply both in person and online throughout the month of April. The 100,000 won payment will be directly deposited into the applicant's credit card account or issued in the form of a local currency card and must be spent within a three-month period.

On 10 Sept 2020, Government of South Korea, as part of the Forth supplementary budget, announced expanded childcare assistance covering elementary school-age children. The government aims to begin payments from Sept 2020. 1.1 trillion won to support a total of 5.32 million households with children staying at home due to the closing of schools and daycare centers.

On March 18, 2020, Seoul government, South Korea, announced the emergency livelihood assistance measures to support vulnerable groups that are having trouble meeting their basic needs and will provide 300,000-500,000 won (US\$233.39-388.98) to households making less than the median income in order to stimulate the local economy. The median monthly income is 1,757,000 won (US\$1,367) for a single-person household, 2,991,000 won (US\$2,327) for a two-person household, 3,870,000 won (US\$3,011) for a three-person household and 4,749,000 won (US\$3,696) for a four-person household. The amount of the emergency livelihood assistance will depend on the number of people in the household, with single- and two-person households receiving 300,000 won (US\$233), three- and four-person households receiving 400,000 won (US\$311), and households with five or more people receiving 500,000 won (US\$389). The funds will be disbursed only once via community gift certificates or prepaid cards, which will only be valid through June 2020. The city expects that

		1,177,000 households will receive benefits through this program. Citizens can apply at a local community center or Seoul's online welfare portal starting on Mar. 30, 2021, with benefits going out three or four days after their income has been verified. In order to prevent "double dipping," families who are receiving support from the revised supplementary budget passed by the National Assembly on Mar. 17 and recipients of unemployment benefits, emergency welfare, and the youth allowance will not be eligible for this one-time payment.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>South Korean government announce that 2.8 trillion won (\$2.51 billion) are provided via four-month-worth purchase vouchers to households receiving child and social assistance.</p> <p>On Feb 28, 2020, South Korean government announced that 7 million people will receive masks in Daegu City and Cheongdo County.</p> <p>On Feb 28, 2020, South Korean government announced that it will issue discount coupons to be used for purchasing cultural events and farm products, as well as for tourism expenses and paychecks to promote consumption. On Oct 18, 2020, Government plans to resume distribution of a series of discount coupons this week to spur consumption in the live performance, film, and sports industries hit-hard by the coronavirus pandemic. However, accommodation, travel and restaurant businesses were not included in the 85 billion won discount scheme, as virus concerns linger. South Korea originally planned to distribute the coupons in August but suspended the plan due to a resurgence in virus cases, mostly traced to a conservative church in northern Seoul. On Oct 26, 2021, plans to resume discount coupon programs aimed at boosting domestic demand as the country is preparing to move into a phase of "living with COVID-19" in early November, 2021. The country has suspended the coupon programs in six sectors, including sports, accommodations, tourism, and cultural performances, due to the resurgence of virus cases. Only online use of some discount coupons, such as food delivery and agricultural products, has been allowed. government will permit the use of consumption coupons at offline places starting next month. People can also receive 10,000 won (\$8.60) in refund when they make more than four orders of food worth at least 20,000 won each via food delivery apps and a visit to restaurants.</p>
	School feeding	On 18 May 2020, due to school closure, Seoul has decided to provide 100,000 Won of food voucher to every student. The duration of the program is from May until July 2020. Out of the 100,000 won, 60,000 won is provided as a mobile voucher (30,000 won for rice and remaining 30,000 won for ingredients) and 40,000 is in NH mall points. Please note, mobile coupons can be used until the of June and NH Mall points can be used until the end of July 2020.

	Public works	<p>Create on-line, digital public jobs (10,000 jobs for maximum 6 months).</p> <p>Generate open air public works for low-income households (30,000 jobs for maximum 6 months).</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On 30 March 2020, Government of South Korea, as part of the 3rd Emergency Economic Council Meeting, announced that it will also provide a 1.3 trillion Won (this also includes measure for small business) worth of electricity bill payment deferral to 1,570,000 low-income households for three months from April to June 2020.</p> <p>On Feb 28, 2020, South Korean government announced that it will provide 10 percent refund for the purchases of high energy-efficiency home appliances. The government has spent 150 billion won (\$138 million) in March to subsidize up to 200,000 won off purchase of electronic home appliances. The budget was raised to 450 billion won in June.</p> <p>The government of South Korea announced 50% Tax Deduction for Rent Reductions. For individual property landlords, who reduce rent receivable from small business owner lessees during the period January 2020 to June 2021, an amount equal to 50% of the reduction in rent is deductible.</p> <p>The government of South Korea announced VAT exemption for "simplified taxpayers" (RSTA §108-5)—Liability to pay VAT is exempted for simplified VAT taxable persons whose annual turnover is between KRW 30M – 48M, until the end of 2020.</p> <p>The government of South Korea announced that for entertainment expenses incurred during the period January to December 2020, the deductible amount limit is temporarily increased (0.35% up to KRW 10bn, 0.25% from KRW 10bn up to KRW 50bn, and 0.06% for amounts exceeding KRW 50bn).</p> <p>On Dec 17, 2020, it is reported that government of South Korea lowered the interest rate for low-income household loan programs from 4.5 percent to 2-3 percent.</p> <p>On 10 Sept 2020, Government of South Korea, as part of the Forth supplementary budget, announced 0.9 trillion won to support/ subsidize mobile bill payment by providing government plan to give 20,000 won (\$17) for all Koreans aged 13 and older.</p> <p>On Feb 28, 2020, South Korean government announced that it will provide a 70 percent individual consumption tax cut for car purchases. On 22 June 2021, South Korea is extending a temporary 30 percent cut in individual consumption tax on passenger vehicles for another six months until the end of December 2021. Maximum benefit from the tax cut has been set at 1 million won (\$882). The incentive was in place for six months from July last year to stimulate consumption amid Covid-19 outbreak and was extended twice.</p>

		<p>On Oct 8, 2021, the government of South Korea announced that it will waive fines and suspend re-entry restrictions for fully vaccinated illegal stayers choosing to voluntarily depart from South Korea between Oct 8, 2021 and Dec. 31 this year. The government had imposed a fine of up to 30 million won (\$25,140) depending on the period of illegal stay for illegal aliens who voluntarily leave the country. Those who refuse to pay the fine are prohibited from reentering the country for at least one year to a maximum of 10 years.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Parent employees get up to 5 days of leave along with childcare support (see above). This measure is limited to those without receiving paid family emergency leave from their firms.</p> <p>W84billion to subsidize employers' cost for paid leaves offered to those infected.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The government will expand the social security contribution reliefs for firms as it will offer 3-month payment deferrals and 30 percent contribution cuts. The deferrals and cuts will be applied to contributions for March and on.</p> <p>"The government will expand the social security contribution reliefs as it will offer 3-month payment deferrals and 30 percent contribution cuts. The deferrals and cuts will be applied to contributions for March and on.</p> <p>1) National HealthCare contributions - Current reliefs: Give 50 percent cut in contributions for three months to those in the bottom 20 percent income bracket and bottom 50 percent in hard-hit areas (A total of 5,460,000 beneficiaries) - Expand to bottom 40 percent and give them 30 percent reduction for three months (Additional beneficiaries of 4,880,000)</p> <p>2) National Pension contributions The government will adopt a long installment payment plan rather than a payment exemption, for citizens are to receive their pension benefits according to the contributions they made. - Temporarily expand the eligibility for the contribution relief - Allow up to 60-month installment payment</p> <p>3) Unemployment insurance contributions</p>

		<p>- Give a three-month payment deferral to small businesses with less than 30 employees: 6,120,000 employees and 2,280,000 businesses, around 44 percent of the total unemployment insurance holders, to receive the payment deferral"</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>Further vocational training for job seekers (an increase of training allowance, lowering co-payment rates, lifting the income threshold for job-seeker package, continued provision of training through on-line).</p> <p>As of April 22nd, 2020, the government newly established "Emergency Employment Stability Subsidy" to support small business owners who suffered a drastic drop in sales, non-standard contract employees and freelancers who lost their work - home-study teachers, institution instructors, those working in the theater and film industry - and SME workers on unpaid leave by granting 500,000 won a month for three months. In addition to the subsidy, the government offers job-search support programs and vocational training programs to ensure the job security of these workers.</p> <p>Job Search Promotion Subsidy of 500,000 won a month for up to 3 months is provided to those who earn less than 60% of the median income among those aged below 69 and participating in the "Employment Success Package Program". Participants who need to receive the subsidy should fill out a written plan that includes more than two job-seeking activities a month, and the government provides the allowance after confirming the results of job-seeking activities described in the plan. Until now, the scope of job-seeking activities was limited to cases when workers change their occupation, but it is now expanded to any activities that enhance workers' expertise in the field or secure stable income in order to provide support to a wider range of workers. As the requirement for the subsidy being relaxed, non-standard contract employees and freelancers who were in the blind spot of employment safety net are now eligible for the subsidy.</p>
	<p>Labor market regulations</p>	<p>Flexibility in the system introduced: (i) extend the employment contract by 50 days for those whose employment terms are approaching; (ii) support replacement of new EPS workers who cannot leave their home countries, (iii) operate EPS-related business through one-stop service, and (iv) extend the job search period for EPS job changers.</p> <p>[January 2021] Extend the young adult employment quota (3 percent of the newly hired) and increase new hires in public institutions.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>[February 2020] Amid the spread of COVID-19, the government temporarily simplified procedures for employers to apply for the subsidy to promote the use of flexible work arrangements and help contain the spread of COVID-19. The "flexible work arrangement subsidy" is designed to provide assistance to cover labor costs for SME employers who introduce commuting with time difference,</p>

		<p>work from home, remote work or selective work hours. The subsidy amount depends on the number of those flexible work arrangements employees take. More specifically, employers will be paid 50,000 won per employee taking flexible work arrangements once or twice a week and 100,000 won per employee taking them three times a week or more up to a year per employee in aggregate.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>Increased by W400 billion, to KRW500 billion: This emergency measure introduced a further increase in employment retention subsidies from 66% of wages to 90% for 3 months, April to June (while maintaining the cap of \$66/employee/day). Large firms are subject to the 66% threshold.</p> <p>[April 2020] Emergency livelihood aid: Wage subsidies to those with unpaid leaves in targeted industries (e.g., tourism) to help retain employment. Special Regional Employment Support Aid' will be given to 100,000 workers, at the rate of KRW 500,000 a month.</p> <p>[April 2020] The government's 'Emergency Welfare Aid' has been expanded to include workers on unpaid leave, workers on leave of absence and the dependent self-employed whose livelihoods have been disrupted by COVID-19. Starting April 6th, recipients of Emergency Welfare Aid will get an average subsidy of KRW 650,000 a month, depending on the number of their household members.</p> <p>Increased by 250% of existing indirect employment-cost subsidies (to W400,000 per worker) in the event an employee reduces work hours for COVID-19-related family care, coupled with relaxing eligibility criteria (e.g., the minimum employment duration from 6 months to 1 month).</p> <p>[March 2020] Business support including wage support ₩610 billion.</p> <p>[March 2020] Support for job seekers including wage support ₩630 billion.</p> <p>[February 2020] On April 24th the Ministry of Employment and Labor (MOEL) gave public notice of the unpaid leave subsidy program that provides a maximum employment retention subsidy of 7.2 million won directly to workers for up to 180 days if the employer retains employment by putting them on unpaid leave during a temporary shutdown or layoff. An employment retention subsidy will also be provided to employers who have to adjust employment inevitably due to business deterioration, but instead take employment retention measures involving job-sharing arrangements, such as adjusting working hours and reorganizing shift work. In addition, if an employer carries out a plan to develop and improve the vocational skills of workers during an employment retention period, he/she will be paid a subsidy to cover the costs (up to 100,000 won per worker per month). This subsidy is given to employers who are faced with inevitable restructuring due to business slowdown but instead of laying off employees, took measures to retain their employees such as temporary business suspension or having employees take leave. In response to the growing need to strengthen government support to keep people in employment as many businesses continue to struggle amid</p>

the COVID-19 crisis, the government decided to raise the amount of subsidy for employee retention for six months from February 1st to July 31st."

"The Korean government provides subsidy for employers who shorten weekly contractual work hours to 15 to 35 hours up to one year. The subsidy covers indirect labor costs, reduced earning allowance and cost of recruiting substitute workers. Due to the spread of COVID-19, growing number of workers experience difficulty taking care of their children and want to reduce their working hours. As such, the government is actively promoting workers to shorten their work hours as they wish and significantly increased the subsidy temporarily, from March 1st to June 30th, to help businesses cope with their employees' shortened work hours. More specifically, subsidy for indirect labor costs granted to SMEs was raised from 200 to 400 thousand won per employee. The subsidy provided to a worker for shortening their weekly work hours, which is also provided to large businesses, has been increased. The subsidy for a worker shortening weekly work hours to 15 to 25 hours has been increased to 600 thousand won, from previous 400 thousand won. A worker shortening weekly work hours to 25 to 35 hours can receive increased earning allowance subsidy of 400 thousand won, from previous 240 thousand won. In addition, the subsidy provided to SMEs that need to hire substitute workers due to their employees' reduction of working hours has also increased to a maximum of 800 thousand won from previous 600 thousand won. The period of work requirement to be eligible for the subsidy has also been reduced from six months to one month, enabling more workers to benefit from the policy. In addition, the requirement for the period of shortening working hours has been reduced from more than two weeks to less than two weeks, expanding the range of workers and employers who can benefit from the policy.

As burdens of both employers and workers increase in the spread of COVID-19, the government is expanding the amount of subsidy of "Job Stability Funds Program." As COVID-19 continues, the government expanded job stability fund program so that businesses with less than ten employees can receive additional subsidies of up to 70 thousand won per employee per month, and businesses with more than ten employees up to 40 thousand won per employee per month.

[April 2020] On March 10th 2020, four industries whose employment is certain to worsen - travel, tourism and lodging, tourist transportation and performance industries - were designated as "Special Employment Support Sectors." As COVID-19 continued and more sectors struggled, four more industries - aircraft ground handling, duty free and travel retail, exhibition and international

		<p>convention, airport bus sectors - were additionally designated to be eligible for special employment support on April 27th. Employers and workers in the "Special Employment Support Sectors" can enjoy increased support for six months from March 16th to September 15th. More specifically, support for employers taking employee retention measures is strengthened in the above-mentioned sectors. For example, the amount of employee retention subsidy and maximum amount of eligible subsidy have been increased. In addition, the deadline for employment insurance contribution has been deferred.</p> <p>"[March 2020] The government implements ""Special Support Program For Regional Employment"" with 17 local governments to support the livelihood of workers including those on unpaid leave, dependent self-employees, and freelancers. This package focuses on alleviating the difficulties caused by job insecurity and income loss of workers who are in the blind spot of employment safety net in local communities. In particular, as the impact of COVID-19 varies depending on regions and given that local governments are the ones who are well aware of the employment situation of the region, customized support measures led by local governments have been put in place. This package provides monthly subsidy of up to 500,000 won for two months to workers on unpaid leave. Currently, the government provides priority support to small-scale business owners and also offers intensive support to designated industries most particularly affected by COVID-19. In addition, dependent self-employees, and freelancers, who are highly likely to lose income as it is difficult to carry out face-to-face services due to COVID-19, are provided with monthly livelihood stabilization subsidy of up to 500,000 won for two months. "</p>
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Kosovo

	Cash-based transfers	
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<p>Social Assistance</p>	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p>	<p>The emergency fiscal package (measure 15) provided for three payments (corresponding to the minimum wage for young workers) for families in need with no income from work or social transfers. The purpose of the measure was to provide minimum protection for families in need with no income but still not eligible for SAS benefits; the scheme might also have offered some protection for families depending on informal sector jobs which may have been lost during the pandemic. Payment was equal to EUR 130 per person and was meant for April, May and June 2020. While payments started in May 2020, they were fully completed in December 2020 (including resolved complaints). The initial budget was EUR 3 million but then it was increased to around EUR 9 million.</p> <p>The government's emergency fiscal package (measure 1) provided for a doubling of the payments issued to beneficiaries of the Social Assistance Scheme. The government returned to the same approach in the third quarter of 2020 and first quarter of 2021. The measure amounting to seven million six hundred fifty thousand (€7,650,000.00) Euros. The initial SAS double payments were issued for April and May 2020. The government issued further double SAS payments for October, November and December 2020. Similar payments were issued in January, February and March 2021 and are planned for the rest of 2021. The new administration increased SAS benefits by 30 percent from April 2021 onward and planned to provide more inclusion to marginalized groups.</p> <p>Early payment of farming grants and subsidies (for 1,702 farmers) is planned.</p> <p>Businesses and their employees were supported with a one-off payment of 290 EUR per worker for all employers still actively paying taxes. The one-off payments were distributed mostly during October 2020 to all employers. Additional payments for more employers were to be issued in January 2021.</p> <p>Measure 3.1 of the June 2021 Economic Recovery Package will support by a monetary amount all the families that have lost their head of the family by COVID-19, knowing that that for many families the loss of most loved ones might have represented the only source of income. The total amount allocated for this measure equals 4 million EUR.</p> <p>Measure 3.3 of the June 2021 Economic Recovery Plan provides for an expansion of the Social Assistance Scheme. The pandemic has shown that the current system is not properly designed and leaves out of the scheme many families in need. In cooperation with the World Bank, the government will begin a reform of the social assistance scheme, with the aim of expanding it to include more families. The total amount of the project is expected to be around 47 million euros.</p> <p>Measure 3.5 of the June 2021 Economic Recovery Package will commence the support scheme for jobless women after childbirth. Within this scheme, all women after childbirth who don't work will benefit from a support at the level of minimal wage for 6 consecutive months.</p>
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		<p>The emergency fiscal package (measure 2) launched a top-up to all other general tax-financed minimum social transfers that are practically tied to the food poverty threshold. The purpose was to strengthen the minimum social protection floor that the government provides. €30 was added to all social transfers of under €100 financed by general taxation for April, May and June 2020. Funds were allocated for the same additions for January, February and March 2021. The measure was to continue for the rest of 2021, but since April it has not issued more than €100 in total- which means the schemes issuing amounts close to €100 will receive smaller top-ups than before.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>For 6 consecutive months in 2021-2022, in cooperation with UNDP and EU funding, 7,500 of Kosovo's most needy families will be served a food coupon amounted to 60-70 euro, depending on the size of the family. The support will be expanded for another 3000 families from non-majority communities, with the IOM support.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Deferrals for VAT</p> <p>Deferral of public utilities payments until end of April 2020</p> <p>Removal of VAT on imports of wheat and flour</p> <p>On May 18th, 2020, the Ministry of Finance and Transfers announced that all interest on unpaid property taxes would be suspended until 2021.</p> <p>The Central Bank of Kosovo (CBK) allowed for suspension of individual loan payments and loan restructuring for individuals who, due to the situation created by COVID-19 and the decline of their income levels, were allowed to suspend the payment of loan instalments and enter into loan restructuring. Loan suspension and restructuring will not be recorded as a bad loan in the CBK registry and no penalties will be imposed by the banks on the borrowers. Loan suspension lasted from March 16th, 2020 to June 16th, 2020; restructuring lasted from June 16th to the end of September 2020.</p> <p>The Law on Economic Recovery (Article 15) initiated subsidies for energy consumption that originates from renewable resources for all consumers. Households were subsidised by €0.0061 per kWh of energy consumption, for the part of the energy originating from renewable resources. The</p>

		<p>subsidies (€16 million) were paid directly to energy producers. The program lasted from January 1st to May 31st, 2021.-</p> <p>The Law on Economic Recovery of December 2020 provided that all taxpayers who have not made timely tax payments relating to the period January 1st to December 31st, 2020, will be relieved from payment of accrued interest, should they pay all (base) tax liabilities by December 2020.-</p> <p>Measure 3.6. of the June 2021 Economic Recovery Package aims to address family liquidity by subsidizing consumption loans up to 3000 euros. This will enable families to close balances of credit cards that have very high interests, and at same time to prepare for autumn having necessary liquidity on covering seasonal expenditures.-</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The Government announced on April 21, 2021, that further top ups to the basic pensions.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] As part of the Emergency Fiscal Package, financial support was provided for business organization under financial distress due to the downfall of their business activities that resulted from the public health emergency situation by covering the value of pension contributions with regard to the measures foreseen for April and May, amounting to eight million (€ 8,000,000.00) Euros</p> <p>Early payment of pensions (Euro 35M monthly).</p> <p>As part of its efforts to provide relief to individuals affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, Kosovo enacted a law on December 7 that allows participants of the country's mandatory individual account pension program to withdraw up to 10 percent of their account balances. (Other measures of the law include €200 million [US\$245.4 million] in aid to businesses, payments of €300 (US\$368.13) a month from October 2020 to December 2020 to workers who lost their jobs, and reductions in the value-added tax on raw materials.)</p> <p>As part of the economic recovery plan for the second half of this year and 2021, 5-percent of pension contributions that business pay for workers will be covered under efforts to reduce tax burden.</p> <p>[April 2020] As part of the Emergency Fiscal Package, financial support was provided for business organization under financial distress due to the downfall of their business activities that resulted from the public health emergency situation by covering the value of pension contributions with</p>

		regard to the measures foreseen for April and May, amounting to eight million (€ 8,000,000.00) Euros
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] All public enterprises and private companies that perform public transport of passengers (buses, vans, taxis), are obliged to perform regular disinfection. In addition, they are required to work with halving their capacity (up to 50%) in terms of the number of passengers they carry to allow the necessary space for each passenger.</p> <p>[December 2020] Passenger road transport operators are allowed to work, utilizing the full capacity of the seats, provided that staff and passengers wear the mask at all times. Transport operators cannot have more passengers on the bus than they own seats.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[July 2020] To control the spread of the virus, there was a reduction of employees in the administration only to essential staff and should create conditions for performing work tasks from home, halving the number of persons in each office in accordance with the manual. The employer is obliged to, in cooperation with the employees, define jobs that can do work from home.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] As part of the Emergency Fiscal Package, financial support is provided for business organizations under financial distress due to the downfall of their business activities that resulted from the public health emergency situation. Expenditures for the monthly salaries of employees in the amount of one hundred seventy (€170) Euros for April and May will be covered by the Government. The estimated budget amounts to forty-one million (€41,000,000.00) Euros</p> <p>[April 2020] As part of the Emergency Fiscal Package, financial support in the amount of six million (€6,000,000.00) Euros will be provided to business organisations registering employees with employment contracts of at least one (1) year during the period of emergency public health situation. The benefit will include an amount starting from one hundred and thirty (€130) euros for the next two months after registration.</p> <p>As part of the economic recovery plan for the second half of this year and 2021, employment support measures include: (i) Wage subsidy for workers in pandemic-affected businesses</p> <p>Salary subsidy for new workers hired by businesses based on a plan that identifies sectors and categories of workers most in need</p>

Kuwait

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) Between 16 March and 10 April, the Kuwaiti Zakat House/Fund provided financial aid to 4,124 families (total value: KWD980,000). The first phase (16-19 March) targeted widows, divorced women, orphans, and the elderly. The second phase (31 March-9 April) targeted low-income families with no fixed income or whose income was affected by the crisis. The Zakat House sent text messages to all registered families to update their private data through the attached link and enter their bank account numbers so that the Zakat House could transfer the value of the aid. Families who do not have accounts in local banks were encouraged to open accounts and then register through the Zakat House website in anticipation of any new precautionary measures that the State may take to limit the spread of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p>(March 2020) The 'Fazaa El-Kuwait' programme, based on public and private donations and implementation through NGOs/charities/volunteer teams, has been set up. It includes cash transfers and in-kind grants. As of 30 May 2020, KWD5,230,110 were distributed via cash assistance to impacted families through rent payments, general cash assistance and distribution of shopping cards: 331,273 food baskets, 495,123 meals and 405,682 hand sanitizers were distributed</p> <p>Minister of Social Affairs and Minister of State for Economic Affairs announced on 19 July 2020 the launch of the application: Kuwaitis without salaries to aid citizens who could no longer be paid due to the effect of the Covid-19 outbreak.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) The 'Fazaa El-Kuwait' programme, based on public and private donations and implementation through NGOs/charities/volunteer teams, has been set up. It includes cash transfers and in-kind grants. As of 30 May 2020, KWD5,230,110 were distributed via cash assistance to impacted families through rent payments, general cash assistance and distribution of shopping cards: 331,273 food baskets, 495,123 meals and 405,682 hand sanitizers were distributed</p> <p>Three-months' worth of support/meals for people living in nursing homes and who need social care. Workers in these nursing homes also receive food support.</p>

		<p>(March 2020) General Authority for Disability Affairs—The ‘Friends of PwD’ team distributed 1,200 food baskets to persons with full disabilities</p> <p>The Kuwaiti Red Crescent Society distributed on 26 June 2020, 1,500 food parcels and 1,500 milk cartons to workers and residents in Al-Jahra Governorate, in cooperation with the Ministry of Interior and the Governorate as part of its continued efforts to support incomes due to the Covid-19 outbreak.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Kuwaiti Civil Service Commission (CSC) has told all government agencies to ban employees placed under quarantine from starting work and stressed that salaries (March-April, April-May salaries) for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti staff will continue to be paid during any period of quarantine. Their absence from work will not impact their employment status. The duration is equivalent to the quarantine period.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	Postponing the deduction of the replacement part of the retirement pension according to Article (77) of the Law for a period of (6) months Payment of the retirement pension on the assumption that what the law permits is not disbursed in advance for cases that have benefited from the provision of Article (112) bis of the Social Security Law for a period of (6) months, provided that the legal instrument necessary to implement this decision is specified
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	Kuwaiti Civil Service Commission (CSC) has told all government agencies to ban employees placed under quarantine from starting work and stressed that salaries (March-April, April-May salaries) for Kuwaiti and non-Kuwaiti staff will continue to be paid during any period of quarantine. Their absence from work will not impact their employment status. The duration is equivalent to the quarantine period.

Kyrgyz Republic

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Automatic extension of the standard one-year enrollment term for beneficiaries of poverty-targeted cash transfer, the term of which was due to finish during the quarantine period. Low-income families with children do not need to report on their income and visit district social protection offices.</p> <p>Categorical cash transfers to persons with disabilities (children and adults) were prolonged automatically if their term finishes in the time of quarantine.</p> <p>Financial assistance is provided to 490,000 individuals of low-income families in the form of humanitarian assistance in the fight against coronavirus.</p> <p>Relaxing one asset-related filter which does not respond to transient poverty and prevents entering the poverty-targeted cash transfer program for families with children</p> <p>One-off payments to medical workers infected with COVID-19 in the amount of Kyrgyz Som 200,000 (\$ 2,700)</p> <p>One-off payments to families of medical workers deceased from COVID-19 in the amount of Kyrgyz Som 1 mln (US\$ 13,500)</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government prepared a second and a third package of economic measures of about \$540 million (7 percent of GDP), including support food security program to the vulnerable groups</p> <p>Provision of the food kit/set to supplement cash transfers to low income families with children, children and adults with disabilities. In Bishkek city, food, medical supplies and financial assistance are provided to low-income families in the form of humanitarian assistance in the fight against coronavirus. 2.7 tons of flour, 460 liters of vegetable oil and more than 2 tons of food (pasta, rice, sugar, etc.) were distributed. Municipal Territorial Departments together with economic entities and shopping centers delivered food to 60 large, disabled and low-income families in the territory of the Municipal Territorial Administration. Food was distributed as assistance to people with disabilities in</p>

		<p>17, 19, 20, 21 municipal territorial administrations. In the city of Osh. Low-income families in Osh received food, medical supplies and financial assistance. 26.0 tons of flour, 1,100 liters of vegetable oil and more than 2 tons of other food products (pasta, rice, sugar) were distributed.</p> <p>The government allocated 4459,5 tons of flour for food insecure citizens.</p> <p>The government allocated 200 million soms for the purchase of food for families from socially vulnerable groups</p> <p>Provision of food kit/set to supplement low income families with children and children and adults with disabilities. In Bishkek city, Municipal Territorial Departments together with economic entities and shopping centres delivered food to 60 large, disabled and low-income families in the territory of the Municipal Territorial Administration</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>The Swiss Government allocated CHF 2.5 million to the United Nations World Food Programme (WFP), in support of the vulnerable people severely affected by the socio-economic impact of the pandemic in Kyrgyzstan. The funds will be used to support 80,000 people living in poverty. They will receive cash assistance in urban areas, with a possibility to participate in creating community assets and skills trainings for better job prospects and enhanced income opportunities. This approach will ensure that not only assistance is extended to the people whose livelihoods were impacted by the Pandemic adverse effects, but also give appropriate tools to make them better prepared and resilient to the future stresses.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The government moved to suspend rent charges for municipal property use in relation to affected tenants.</p> <p>Deferral of utilities service charges and fees (electricity, water and gas), bankruptcy moratorium until January 1st 2021.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact on the economy, the authorities have approved the first package of anti-crisis plan economic measures of \$15 million (0.2 percent of GDP) including the postponement of tax payments, time-bound exemptions of property and land taxes, and temporary price controls on 11 essential food items.</p> <p>Banks were instructed to provide grace periods and installment plans for the payment of tax debt caused by force majeure circumstances, without a bank guarantee in cases of damage to taxpayers.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>To avoid the risk of coronavirus infection, the Ministry of Health of the Kyrgyz Republic decided to send on paid labor leave medical workers over 65, pregnant women and employees with small children</p>

	Health insurance		
	Pensions		
	Unemployment benefits		
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] On March 31, the government approved a group of measures that included providing deferrals and installments for the payment of arrears on social contributions and extend the deadline for submitting reports on social contributions until July 1, 2020.</p> <p>[July 2020] On July 24, the Prime Minister signed a decree on the extension of the deadlines for reporting social contributions until October 1, 2020.</p>	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The authorities will safeguard health spending at around budgeted levels and create space for increasing health and other spending. In collaboration with international organizations, the authorities have recently adopted a health sector contingency plan, with an estimated cost of \$16 million (0.2 percent of GDP) to provide training for health-care workers.	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 30, the government imposed a restriction on-site inspections until January 1, 2021, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 24, the President signed a decree for the introduction of a state of emergency in the Kyrgyz Republic. Part of the measures is a prohibition on the dismissal of workers and employees, except for good reasons, and amend the Labour Code accordingly.</p> <p>[July 2020] On July 7, the government announced the increase of nurses and health workers' salaries by 25-30%</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 30, the government imposed a restriction on-site inspections until January 1, 2021, to reduce the spread of COVID-19 pandemic.</p>	
		Reduced work time	[March 2020] On March 24, the President signed a decree for the introduction of a state of emergency in the Kyrgyz Republic. Part of the measures is a request for employers to change their work plans and establish a special mode of operation, to ensure the continuation of their economic activities.
		Wage subsidies	

Lao PDR

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 21 February 2021, Government announced that up to 17,000 garment workers in Lao PDR affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are to each receive two months' emergency income support worth 900,000 LAK (approximately US\$100). Eligible beneficiaries, of whom 85 per cent are women, will receive the cash transfers by the end of March. This emergency program will 'piggyback' on LSSO's existing delivery systems, helping reduce administration costs and speed up delivery, whilst easing the financial strain on the national unemployment insurance scheme. New payment methods will also be piloted by LSSO, with electronic payments made via a local mobile network operator, increasing financial inclusion for garment sector workers, especially those without bank accounts. As of December 2021, the program supported 80% (nearly 21,000 workers) of total garment sector in the (26,000 workers)</p> <p>(June 2020) The Government of Luxembourg has granted 1 million EUR to support people in disadvantaged villages in Laos to cope with the economic and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The support is channeled through the Local Development Program – LAO/030, which is working with 150 000 people in 229 poor target villages in the four provinces of Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane, and Vientiane. The total value of support to Vientiane Province is 163,947 EUR, benefitting 30,800 people from 41 villages. The officers and staff of the Department of Planning and Investment, District Planning Offices, the Village Development Committees, with the village authorities managed the distribution with the support of the LAO/030 staff from LuxDev., Government of Luxembourg.</p> <p>On 12 August 2021, the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare (MOLSW), the Attapeu Department of Labor and Social Welfare' and the Star Fintech Company (subsidiary of Star Telecom) has commenced the first cash transfer to beneficiaries under the Mother and Early Childhood Grant (MECG) initiative in Sanamxay district, Attapeu province. There are a total of 982 beneficiaries in 46 villages of Sanamxay districts enrolled under the MECG, which is a cash transfer pilot for pregnant women and young children aimed at improving the uptake of vaccinations and access to antenatal and postnatal as well as child protection services, including 529 pregnant women and 453 children under six months of age. The payment so far was made via a cash-to-door approach reaching 26 villages and 192 beneficiaries, which accounted for about 30 per cent of the payment. This first payment will be completed in the coming weeks and payment through the electronic payment app "U-Money" will commence thereafter. Beneficiaries of the initiative will directly receive a monthly</p>

		<p>benefit of 150,000 LAK, made in bi-monthly payments of 300,000 LAK, via U-Money and cash-to-door approach provided by Star Fintech. The process also relies on a computerized Management Information System (MIS) to ensure accurate targeting and timely cash payments. The MECG pilot is part of the United Nation’s Joint-Program (UNJP) entitled “Leaving no one behind: Establishing the basis for social protection floors in Lao PDR”, a joint initiative between UNICEF, the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF).</p> <p>On June 30 2021, the government has approved a budget of 1.5 billion kip to disburse cash allowances for the poorest and provide other subsidies for almost 6,000 low-income earners and informal sector workers who have lost income due to the pandemic and suffer extreme financial hardship.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(June 2020) In partnership with World Vision, WFP provided food to returning migrant workers in the largest quarantine center in Savannakhet province. In total, 9,870 meals were provided to 1,007 returning migrants. This food assistance supports those affected by the Government’s quarantine measures aimed at preventing the spread of COVID-19. As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP is providing unconditional food assistance to returning migrant labourers in six quarantine centres in Lao PDR through implementing partners World Vision International and the Swiss Red Cross. In September, WFP provided over 82,671 nutritious meals and basic dignity kits to 5,589 beneficiaries (2,738 women and girls) at US\$ 138,695. WFP continued to distribute food to returning migrant labourers in seven quarantine centres in Lao PDR through partnerships with World Vision International and the Swiss Red Cross. During November, WFP provided over 32,089 nutritious meals to a total of 2,674 beneficiaries (1,310 women) at a total commodity voucher cost of US\$ 57,631. As part of the COVID-19 response, WFP is providing food assistance to returning migrant labourers in six COVID-19 quarantine centres in Lao PDR through partnerships with World Vision International and the Swiss Red Cross. During October, WFP provided over 56,877 nutritious meals to a total of 3,380 beneficiaries (1,652 women) at a total cost of USD 108,148.</p> <p>(June 2020) The Government of Luxembourg has granted 1 million EUR to support people in disadvantaged villages in Laos to cope with the economic and health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The support is channelled through the Local Development Programme – LAO/030, which is working with 150 000 people in 229 poor target villages in the four provinces of Bokeo, Bolikhamxay, Khammouane and Vientiane. Households with rice insufficiency received 60 kilograms of rice, the destitute households received 80 kg of rice plus an additional 400,000 Lao Kip (about 40 EUR), and households supporting members with disabilities were provided with 80 kg of rice. The</p>

		<p>support also included hygiene kits for the total village population, and an emergency fund that will be used for isolation and for hospitalization in case COVID cases are identified later.</p> <p>The total value of support to Vientiane Province is 163,947 EUR, benefitting 30,800 people from 41 villages. The officers and staff of the Department of Planning and Investment, District Planning Offices, the Village Development Committees, with the village authorities managed the distribution with the support of the LAO/030 staff from LuxDev.</p>
	School feeding	Take-home rations to 88,700 students across 940 schools - a total of 943mt of grains, oil, and fish are distributed.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>A new electricity tariff, to ensure supply of electricity, is in effect from May 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020. Consumers using less than 150 kWh per month will be charged 355 kip per kWh. Consumers using 150 kWh or more will be charged two different rates. For 150-461 kWh a month, the first 150 kWh will cost 355 kip per kWh with the remainder charged at 710 kip per kWh. Electricity customers using more than 462 kWh a month will be charged 710 kip per kWh for the entire bill. 30 April 2021, Electricite du Laos (EDL) is to provide a 3% discount on electricity rates to residential consumers in provinces under lockdown. It also decided to postpone the deadline for the payment of water supply bills from May to July 2021.</p> <p>On April 10, 2020, the Laos government issued tax relief measures to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. The employees' income tax is exempted for both civil servants and employees of the private sector with income less than LAK5 million per month for 3 months, Until June 2020. On 20 May 2021, government re-introduced the tax exemption for both civil servants and employees of the private sector with income less than LAK5 million per month (April Until June 2021).</p> <p>On May 20, 2021, the Laos government issued tax relief measures to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak. It extended the deadline to pay road tax until 30 June 2021.</p> <p>Vientiane Water Supply Enterprise will reduce its rates from May to July 2020 for household customers by five percent with the change coming into effect next month. On 20 May 2021, government has decided to provide discount on supplies of water, and also postponement of the deadline for the payment of water supply bills from May to July 2021</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[September 2020] To provide prompt financial assistance to cover the daily living costs of workers who had their work suspended or workdays reduced during the COVID-19 lockdown, the government has agreed to provide unemployment allowance to such workers. Members of business-related social insurance schemes will be able to receive compensation from the National Social Security Fund (NSSF) of Lao PDR. The policy does not cover people who are members of the state social insurance organization because the government pays them a monthly salary. Affected businesses forced to close during the COVID-19 outbreak measures such as hotels, restaurants, and tour companies, along with factories that stopped work, can request financial assistance for temporarily unemployed staff from the NSSF under the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare of Lao PDR.</p>

Latvia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 24th March 2020, PM of Latvia announced on Latvian Radio that about 4,500 health care workers will receive a 20 percent bonus payment. This extra pay will apply to State Emergency Medical Service, specialists at the Disease Prevention and Control Center, epidemiologists who carry out tests, people who make calls about the test results, lab employees, admissions office employees at hospitals, and employees of the Latvian Infectiology Center. The government will grant €8m in bonuses to medical personnel working through the Covid-19 outbreak. The bonuses will last for 3 months, and medics will be able to cash the money out starting early April. The bonuses will be granted as thanks for medics who've worked in an intense capacity for a month now, said the Prime Minister. Extra pay of up to ranging from 20-50% of the monthly wage will be granted under the scheme. Later on, 2 December 2020, during the approval of the state budget for 2021, Latvia's government decided to increase the lowest wages of healthcare workers by 25%, as confirmed by Healthcare Ministry. It is planned to allocate EUR 183,005,047 for the increase of wages of healthcare workers in 2021 and onward. This will provide the option to increase the lowest wages of healthcare workers in inpatient and outpatient sectors, as well as family doctors and residents by 25%. Generally, this means that the lowest wage of certified doctors will increase by EUR 302 (from EUR 1,187 in 2020 to EUR 1,489 in 2021) and the lowest wage of certified nurses.</p> <p>The childcare allowance was approved by the Latvian parliament on 18 February 2021 and on March 18, 2021, the State Social Insurance Agency (VSAA) carried out the first money transfer of childcare allowance of €500 aid per child, said Welfare Ministry. The second transfer is scheduled for March 19, 2021, while the third is scheduled for March 22 (or 23), 2021. The beneficiaries will receive the money in their accounts no later than three working days after the date of the transfer. The €500 aid will be paid to a total of 363,320 children and it will cost 182 million Euros. Transfer dates for each child may vary because the payout will take place gradually in accordance the child's year of birth, starting with the oldest children. As previously reported, EUR 500 will be paid for each child under 15 years of age, those children aged 15 to 20 who are studying and dependent, and children who will be born until April 6, 2021. April 6, 2021 is the day the state of emergency in Latvia is currently set to expire. This one-off financial support will be covered by the contingency budget program. The payment will be made automatically by State Social Insurance Agency (VSAA) without any applications. The payment will not be subject to tax or deductions</p>

	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>On 28 July 2021, Ministry of welfare announced paid temporary public work, which is a measure for unemployed persons to acquire and maintain work skills by performing socially beneficial work. The requirement is that unemployed persons without unemployment benefit; have been registered with SEA for at least 6 months OR have been registered as unemployed for less than six months but have been without employment for at least 12 months, he/she can apply for the measure in the Local Employment Office. Unemployed person is employed subsequently or with intervals up to four months within a 12-month period; the unemployed person may participate repeatedly. For performing temporary public work the unemployed person receives a monthly remuneration of EUR 200.00. Mandatory State social insurance contributions are made for the unemployed person involved in the measure in accordance with the normative acts on mandatory State social insurance contributions and State social insurance special budget. The support funds are co-financed by the European Social Fund to mitigate the effects of the COVID-19 crisis and is now planning to implement temporary public work.</p>
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The government funded sick leave from the second day of illness for adults who were ill or injured, needed to isolate, returned from abroad. This also included those who work in educational, medical, or social care institutions with contact with people; those who took care of sick children; or those who qualified for a sick leave certificate based on other criteria.</p> <p>Quarantined workers are entitled to receive paid sick-leave, also in case of care for quarantined children below 14 years or children with disabilities below 18 years.</p> <p>The government covered 75% of the costs of outbreak-induced sick leaves or workers' downtime for up to EUR 700 per month, from March 14th to May 14th 2020 if the employer was not able to secure work for the employee because of COVID-19.</p> <p>The government funded sick leave from the second day of illness for adults who were ill or injured, needed to isolate, returned from abroad. This also included those who work in educational, medical, or social care institutions with contact with people; those who took care of sick children; or those who qualified for a sick leave certificate based on other criteria.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	

	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	Relaxed overtime regulation: Overtime work has been extended up to 60 hours per week in the public health sector and other specified public services.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The government has introduced an "allowance for idle time", which consists of granting a subsidy to employees suspended from working during the COVID-19 pandemic. The allowance for the idle time was determined in the amount of 75% of the average monthly gross work remuneration, capped at €700 per month. To apply, employer must show a decrease in revenue. From 25 March 2020 to 31 July 2020, 52,828 employees were benefited, involving an actual expenditure of €51,5 million. [Extension - September 2020] In September 2020, COVID-19 spread rate rose sharply and, from 9 November 2020 the state of emergency was declared again, and different restrictions, as well as support measures, re-introduced.

Lebanon

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Lebanon's Parliament ratified an LBP600 billion (USD75 million at current unofficial exchange rates) aid package for low-income families to go to the Emergency National Social Solidarity Programme, providing a monthly cash assistance of LBP400,000 (about USD100, now 50 USD) to up to 200,000 families for 7 months until December. As of the end of 2020, 3 transfers had been made to between 150,00 and 170,000 households. People with disabilities, victims of landmines and explosions, parents of public-school children are included, as well as non-food voucher households in the NPTP (around 28,000 households). The cash delivery was overseen by the Army.</p> <p>(January 2021) Conditional cash transfer; top-up for students (NPTP beneficiaries with children between 13 - 18 years currently enrolled in public schools) at risk of drop-out provided monthly and yearly (conditional CT) carried out by the WB</p> <p>(2021) Cash Transfer for Basic Income Support through the National Poverty Targeting Programme; expansion of the monthly food assistance through an electronic prepaid card provided by the National Poverty Targeting Programme (unconditional CT)</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 24 March, the Lebanese PM directed the government to extend grace periods and delay the collection of water, electricity, and telephone service bills until the end of the emergency/lockdown period. The cabinet approved an urgent draft law to waive taxes for six months. The ministry of finance announced the extension of all deadlines related to payment of taxes and fees.</p> <p>(June 2020) The central bank has stabilized wheat, medicine and fuel prices by providing importers with hard currency at the largely-defunct official rate of 1,507 per dollar. It's also given a preferential exchange rate to importers of 300 basic food and household products, allowing them to buy dollars at 3,900 pounds each.</p>

		The cabinet approved an urgent draft law to waive taxes for six months. The ministry of finance announced the extension of all deadlines related to payment of taxes and fees
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Paid sick leave should be granted to medical employees working in hospitals (nurses, contractors) covering the entire isolation period. Decree 136/1983 on work-related injuries and emergencies will apply to all such workers whom contract the Covid-19 disease. This decree stipulates the responsibilities of the employers in case of occupational injuries with corresponding compensation and indemnity, as well as workers' entitlements. This decision enters into effect retroactively for all cases starting February 1, 2020.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>According to Law No. 6, of 5 March 2020, concerning facilitations in paying social security contributions, the below apply (among others):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduction of 100 per cent of social security contributions until 31 December 2020, and reduction of 85 per cent for unpaid contributions related to the period from 1/1/2001 until 31/12/2019 if payments started before 5 May 2020 • The unpaid contributions for the abovementioned period (1/1/2001 until 31/12/2019) shall be paid on instalments for up to 5 years with a 5 per cent interest rate (other conditions apply) • The unpaid contributions will be exempted from additional interest rates specified in law 144 of 31 July 2019, if payment started before 5 May 2020 • Employers may request rescheduling for their unpaid contributions, except for the above-mentioned period (conditions apply); • Persons who already paid interest on delayed contributions may receive refunds for the interest percentage <p>[February 2021] The National Social Security Fund issued a decision to suspend all the deadlines stipulated in the Social Security Law, including all transactions related to submitting applications, payment of contributions, bonds, settlements, etc., as of 14/1/2021 and until the end of the lockdown.</p> <p>Accordingly, employers can now pay their December 2020 contributions without increases or fines, while preserving the rights of the insured people to submit their papers.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Lesotho

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government has provided top ups of M870/quarter to all existing PA households (around 12,600 in both urban and rural areas) for 2 quarters.</p> <p>Increase the cash benefit amount for existing beneficiaries, especially child grant support. Identify and add new vulnerable people – children, elderly (60-70yrs), people living with disabilities and informal sector operators. The project is expected to benefit close to 200,000 social grant beneficiaries</p> <p>(April 2020) A once off payment of 800 LSL given to factory workers.</p> <p>(April 2020) Pay stipend to affected Basotho students abroad (China, Cuba, India etc) for three months.</p> <p>(May 2020) Under the Public Assistance Program, cash transfers (LSL831 per month) were provided to 10,000 newly destitute families (Jul-Sep 2020) and 45,000 persons aged 60-69 (May-Jul 2020).</p> <p>(May 2020) Cash support to beneficiaries in privately-owned care facilities housing (1,335 children, 23 elderly persons, and 651 persons with disabilities) (May-Jul 2020).</p> <p>(October 2020) WFP assisted 34,000 severely food insecure people living in urban areas of the five worst affected districts by expanding the government's Public Assistance Programme. Each household will receive €47 (M831) per month via MPESA, a mobile money platform. This cash assistance will give them a choice to purchase what they need most at local markets.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(July 2020) Food parcels were provided for vulnerable households (up to 100) across community councils (Jul-Sep 2020).</p> <p>(June 2020) Food stamps were given to vulnerable Basotho living in South Africa (9,000-12,000) (Jun 2020).</p>

		Food and/or cash transfers (LSL831 per month) to acutely vulnerable households (72,626) with livelihoods affected by poor planting and COVID-19 mitigation measures.
	School feeding	(May 2020) Under School Feeding Program, take-home rations for early childhood care and development and primary school-going vulnerable children (72,200) (May-Jul 2020) (September 2020) The United Nations World Food Programme (WFP) welcomed the Japanese Government contribution of JPY 250 Million (equivalent to about US\$ 2.3 Million) that enabled WFP to strengthen food assistance to some 94,000 primary school and 60,000 pre-primary school learners, through the Government of Lesotho's national school feeding programme.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) CBL: Commercial banks will grant three months credit payment holiday to clients, as well as reduced transaction fees and charges. (August 2020) The Government of Lesotho introduced a 60% subsidy on all agricultural seeds. Anyone in Lesotho could purchase the subsidized seeds, which were sold in government- run central stores only. (April 2020) Businesses and individuals working in sectors of the economy that were affected by lockdown measures were eligible for tax payment deferrals covering the first and second quarter of 2020. The scheme was launched by the Lesotho Revenue Authority in April 2020 and covers Company Income Tax, PAYE/ income tax for workers, and VAT. Payment of these taxes can be deferred and effected through individual payment plans. To promote the use of digital payments, transaction fees on person-to-person payments, merchant payments, and transfers from bank accounts to digital wallets, were waived. In addition, transaction and account balance limits were raised.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] On April 13, the Government of Lesotho announced an industrial worker wage subsidy program. The subsidy of LSL 800 for three months (April - June) will benefit around 50,000 industrial workers.
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Liberia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>For COVID-19 support to vulnerable households, the Government of Liberia used the existing Social Cash Transfer (SCT) program under the Liberia Social Safety Nets Project to provide immediate relief in Greater Monrovia. The program is called the SCT-COVID, and it was completed as of October 2021. SCT-COVID benefited 14,855 households or 65,362 individuals (using 4.4 average household size as per the enrolment data) in 11 communities. Women were the primary beneficiaries in over 70 percent of all beneficiary households. The beneficiaries received full payments via mobile money.</p> <p>The Social Cash Transfer (SCT) program, a partnership between the World Bank and the Ministry of Gender, Children, and Social Protection of Liberia, will scale-up from 3,500 to 12,000 extreme poor households in Liberia's four most food insecure counties (Maryland, Grand Kru, River Gee and Bomi) via mobile money to assist in the COVID-19 economic recovery. The expected beneficiaries are as follows: 3,500 rural extreme poor households (current); additional 9,000 rural extreme poor households (planned).</p> <p>The USAID Unconditional Cash Transfer Activity (UCT) will provide 85,000 Liberians the equivalent of US\$50 in Liberian currency (approximately 7,750 Liberian Dollars) per month for three months to improve food security, start or expand income-generating activities, and protect their livelihoods. Targeted beneficiaries include Liberians disproportionately affected by the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as those previously affected by the Ebola epidemic. The focus of the distributions will be owners of micro and small businesses, small traders, market women, small farmers, and members of other vulnerable groups who live in the six counties in which USAID does most of its development work in Liberia: Bong, Grand Bassa, Lofa, Margibi, Montserrado, and Nimba..</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government is appropriating the amount of US\$25 million to support food distribution to households in designated affected counties for the period of 60 days.</p> <p>An Executive Order issued Tuesday, April 27, 2020 directs the NFAA to introduce food stamp and free meals for various categories of people, such as physically challenged persons, single and</p>

		vulnerable parents including young children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, the aged, sick and malnourished children. Others include the young girl without parental guidance and support.
	School feeding	The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has instituted several policy measures to ease the negative impact of the Coronavirus pandemic on the Liberian economy. The measures include suspension for three months, all charges on the Automated Clearing House (ACH), Direct Credit (DC) and Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS); as well as one month suspension on all Mobile Money Operators (MMOs) charges to customers for money transfers. Commercial banks and operators are required to suspend all charges to customers related to these Electronic Payment Channels so as to reduce the cost of clearing, payments and transfers for individuals and businesses. Transfer limits have also been reviewed.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Government is planning to take up the electricity bill of households in the affected counties for the duration of the STAY-AT-HOME. Cost of this measure is US\$4 million.</p> <p>The Central Bank of Liberia (CBL) has instituted several policy measures, such as suspension for three months, all charges on the Automated Clearing House (ACH), Direct Credit (DC) and Real Time Gross Settlement System (RTGS); as well as one month suspension on all Mobile Money Operators (MMOs) charges to customers for money transfers. Commercial banks and operators are required to suspend all charges to customers related to these Electronic Payment Channels to reduce the cost of clearing, payments and transfers for individuals and businesses. Transfer limits have also been reviewed.</p> <p>The payback conditions of the Market Women and Small Informal Petty Traders Bank Loan Programme were relaxed to alleviate the impact of the pandemic on the daily earnings of vulnerable groups.</p> <p>The President of the Republic, H.E. Dr. George Manneh Weah, has suspended import tariff on rice, Liberia's staple.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	All non-essential employees of government have been granted paid leave until further notice.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] To reduce the impact of the COVID-29 outbreak, a COVID-19 preparedness guide for workplaces and workers in Liberia has been provided. This includes the closure of all non-essential businesses and government offices.

		<p>[April 2020] Social distancing protocols have been put in place in Liberia and directives for businesses and organisations to limit customers in the service areas based on the type of services provided is being enforced. For instance, Motorcycle taxi drivers were asked to take only 1 passenger at a time, and the taxi to take 2 passengers in the back to provide space for COVID-19 passengers to observe as much social distancing as possible.</p> <p>[April 2020] To improve and enforce workplace safety for all, social distancing protocols have been put in place and businesses and organisations are directed to limit customers in the service areas based on the type of services provided.</p> <p>[May 2020] To control the spread and reduce the impact of COVID-19 outbreak, the government through its Ministry of Labour has provided preparedness guide for workplaces and workers in Liberia based on the Decent Work Act.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Libya

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Around, 64,630 vulnerable IDPs and non-displaced individuals (in Alkufra, Aljufra, Alqatroun, Alshati, Bani Waleed, Benghazi, Ghat, Aljabal Algharbi, Misrata, Nalut, Sebha, South Azawia, Tarhouna, Tawergha, Traghan, Ubari, Wadi Araba) were reached through monthly in-kind food assistance.</p> <p>(March 2020) Emergency one-off in-kind assistance provided by the Zakat Fund to its existing beneficiaries as well new ones, including poor families and IDPs</p>
	School feeding	<p>(March 2020) Home delivery; WFP and the Ministry of Education are working to deliver meals to children who used to benefit from the school feeding program</p> <p>Food Assistance and nutrition support for 90,000 people. Providing one 2-kg box of mineral and vitamin-fortified date bars to 18,379 students aged 6 to 14 and their families in 58 schools in southern Libya, WFP and the Ministry of Education are using the take-home ration initiative to support children while they take distance learning. The ration secures 30 percent of the daily nutrition needs of the children and five of their family members for a five-day period.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(April 2020) To prevent food prices from increasing, the Minister of Economic has adopted a regulation controlling the prices of 16 food items such as fruits, vegetables, and meat. The regulation will be revised every 3 months
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Liechtenstein

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>If employees are unable to work for a longer and unpredictable period of time due to official orders and home office is not possible, employers will be compensated for continued wage payments with the COVID-19 daily allowance.</p> <p>For employees, the COVID-19 daily allowance is 100% of the previous AHV-liable wages, including regular ancillary payments, if they are completely unable to work. The maximum amount of the creditable salary is CHF 148,200 per year and CHF 406 per calendar day. If the wage is subject to strong fluctuations, a reasonable average wage per day is used.</p> <p>The COVID-19 daily allowance is paid from the third day of the officially ordered measure or exemption, but no earlier than April 1, 2020 (employees) or November 1, 2020 (self-employed persons). Employees who are particularly at risk (section 2.1 letter c) and people in 24-hour care (section 2.1 letter e) are entitled to the earliest from January 18, 2021. The COVID-19 daily allowance ends when the measure expires or the exemption, but no later than June 30, 2021.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[April 2020] To mitigate the economic consequences of the coronavirus (COVID-19), unemployment benefits will be provided to workers who lost their jobs due to the COVID-19 pandemic
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	[June 2020] Employers are required to take further measures according to the STOP principle (substitution, technical measures, organizational measures, personal protective equipment), namely

		<p>the possibility of home office, physical separation, separate teams, regular ventilation or the wearing of face masks.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[April 2020] As part of a larger economic stimulus package, the government of Liechtenstein has provided financing for short-time work through unemployment insurance to prevent an increase in unemployment. With short-time work, working hours are shortened for a limited period if there is a significant loss of work. The basics of Corona short-time work apply to companies and employers affected by the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic. The entitlement to Corona-related short-time work compensation applies until the end of June 2021. This is intended to create planning security for the companies concerned.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] The government decided on September 22, 2021 that the deadline for the period for short-time work due to the coronavirus should be extended beyond September 30, 2021 until December 31, 2021.</p>

Lithuania

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The universal child benefit of 60 euros has been increased to 100 euros for a period of six months after the end of the national quarantine for families who lost income during the quarantine.</p> <p>Payments of EUR 257 per month (the minimum consumption requirement for 2020) to affected self-employed who paid social insurance contributions for at least 3 months during the last 12 months prior to the declaration of emergency and, due to emergency, cannot further carry out their activities. Furthermore, the social protection of artists is enhanced., On 16 March 2020, Lithuanian Government introduced payments of EUR 257 per month (the minimum consumption requirement for 2020) to affected self-employed who paid social insurance contributions for at least 3 months during the last 12 months prior to the declaration of emergency and, due to emergency, cannot further carry out their activities. Furthermore, the social protection of artists is enhanced. On 5 Jan 2021, it was reported that the self-employed will continue receiving the benefit, but the benefit amount has been increased to EUR 260/month during quarantine and emergency.</p> <p>On 21 April 2020, Republic of Lithuania announced that it will issue special coupons to passengers who were prevented from taking trips they had paid for due to the introduction of quarantine measures. The coupons entitle to taking a trip at a later time. This is aimed at protecting tourism businesses from bankruptcies and insolvencies and retaining jobs. The new provisions provide for the possibility for tour operators experiencing difficulties as a result of emergencies to offer tourists an alternative, i.e., coupons, the value of which must be at least equal to the amount of money paid for the tour that did not take place. The coupon can be used to pay for a future trip or part of a trip that starts no later than 12 months after the restrictions cease to apply. If the tourist does not use the coupon within 12 months, the tour operator will be obliged to return the money paid by the tourist within 14 days from the expiry of the coupon. If the person does not agree to accept the coupon, the money for the missed tour should be returned to him/her no later than within 14 days from the date of termination of the arranged tour contract. As of 24 Jan 2021, it was reported that there were 9,000 unused coupons issued to tourists which is worth €2.9 million.</p> <p>On 25 March 2021, Government of Lithuania approved Grants for the self-employed affected by COVID-19 and it provides self-employed with a lump-sum subsidies. The aim is to support self-employed persons (who carry out activities on the basis of individual activity certificates or business</p>

certificates) who have been affected by restrictions imposed in Lithuania during the COVID-19 pandemic. The subsidy provided to the self-employed is between £100 to £10,926 depending. The applications duration is from 29 March 2021 to 1 June 2021.

On 9 June 2020, Government of Lithuania has announced that a lump-sum payments will be provided to families with children or foster children and to abandoned children which will be effective from 12 June 2020. The Law aims at reducing the negative economic and social effects of the state of emergency and quarantine and boosting the economy. The lump-sum payments will be available to all children who receive child benefit in Lithuania (i.e., a universal child benefit payable in respect of all children under 18). The lump-sum benefit will be €120 or €200, depending on the amount of child benefit the family receives: for families receiving €60 (normal amount), the lump-sum payment will be €120 and for those receiving child benefit in the amount of €100 (payable for disabled children, low-income families, and large families), the lump-sum payment will be €200. The lump sum will be paid by 31 July 2020, but for children who become entitled to the child benefit after 1 July 2020, the lump sum will be paid together with the child's first instalment. The lump-sum payments will be also available for children who will become entitled to the child money by 31 December 2020. It is reported that 507,000 children or 330,000 families will get a one-off payment of 120 euros, whereas 134,000 children or 60,000 families could claim 200 euros. The law is valid until February 25, 2022. The lumpsum is paid from state budget.

On 7 May 2020, Republic of Lithuania announced that Lump-Sum Benefits for Recipients of Social Insurance Pensions and Social Assistance Benefits will come into force from 15 May 2020 and the law is valid until 31 December, 2020. It will provide a lump-sum benefit of €200 to elderly people, disabled people, survivors, and orphans. The people who have registered under the following mentioned categories will automatically receive the payment in Aug 2020: social insurance old-age pension (early old-age pension, old-age pension for disabled persons); social insurance work incapacity (disability) pension; social insurance survivors' pension; social insurance orphans' pension; loss of breadwinner's pension; social assistance old-age pension; retirement pension; compensation for special working conditions; social assistance disability pension; other pensions. It is reported that the lump-sum benefits will be paid to 910,000 residents of the country and will require approx. €182 million of funds.

In May 2020, Lithuania approved new monthly payment for unemployed people under job Seekers' allowance. It started functioning in June and is planned to be in place until 31 December 2020. It amounts to €200/month (i.e., one third of the minimum monthly wage). The maximum duration of the allowance is six months. In addition, a supplement of 7% of the minimum monthly wage (€42.5) is paid as a top-up to those eligible for unemployment insurance benefits. The total cost of the new allowance was estimated at €265 million, making up about 30% of the total COVID-19- related package of measures approved back in May for the second half of 2020. By mid-November, the

		<p>jobseekers' allowance has been paid for a period of four and a half months with a total bill of €108.11 million. However, the sum should go up as the number of registered unemployed is exceeding expectations: it was around 266,000 or 15.4% of the working-age population in the middle of November. This is 3.6 percentage points higher than the number of registered unemployed before the introduction of the allowance, and 6.1 percentage points higher than the situation in mid- March. It is also substantially above the official seasonally adjusted unemployment level as defined by Eurostat, which was 10.4% (around 155,000 people) in October in Lithuania.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>It is reported on March 16, 2020 that Lithuanian government will provide a state guarantee to extend the deferred period from 3 to 6 months for mortgage payments (excluding interest) for those who have lost their jobs.</p> <p>It is reported on March 16, 2020 that Government of Lithuania allowed deferment or payment in instalments of electricity and natural gas bills from UAB Ignitis, and to recommended to municipalities to allow deferment or payment in instalments of utilities and heat energy. Possibility for all the customers to defer or arrange the payments in instalments for used electricity and gas has been offered by the main provider of electricity and gas in Lithuania (state owned company).</p> <p>On 11 Aug 2021, Government of Lithuania announced that self-employed persons affected by COVID-19 restrictions can apply for partial reimbursement of the rent of premises and the costs of running the premises. The measure aims at reducing financial burdens on self-employed persons affected by COVID-19 and thus helping them to preserve their businesses. The maximum amount of compensation that can be granted is 70% of the fixed costs relating to the renting of and running the premises up to a maximum of €20,000. Eligible costs include those related to the renting of and running the premises, such as rent payments, water, heat, electricity supply charges, elevator costs, costs of cleaning and storage of premises, handling of building and environment, costs of building renovations and repairs of equipment, etc. Subsidies granted by the government shall cover for fixed costs incurred during the period 1 November 2020 until 30 April 2021. The deadline for the applications is 15 October 2021. This program is expected to cost €14 million, and it will be allocated from the state budget.</p>

		On 23 June 2020, Government of Lithuania increased the threshold for Non-taxable amount of income from €4200 (before the law was passed) to €4800 (after the law was passed). The Law stipulates that the maximum annual Tax Exemption Amount of Income shall be €4,800 (€400 per month) in Lithuania, if the person's annual income does not exceed the minimum monthly wage (MMW). Prior to the entry into force of the Law, the annual TEAI in Lithuania was €4,200 (€350 per month). For persons whose monthly income related to employment relationships or relations in their essence corresponding to employment relationships exceeds the MMW effective on 1 January of the current calendar year, the applicable monthly TEAI shall be calculated according to a special formula. This law will be in effect from July 1, 2020 and valid until 31 December 2020.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Sickness benefits were increased for employees who became infected during the performance of their duties. If health care professionals, officials or other employees are infected with the COVID-19 virus, they are offered a maximum sickness benefit of 100% of the neto average wage (or 77.58% bruto of the average wage).</p> <p>Sickness benefits are granted for persons who take care of children, elderly people, disabled individuals (who are not allowed to attend daycare centers, nurseries, schools, etc.) - 65.94% of their bruto salary; persons with chronic diseases who are affected by the virus-mitigation measures taken by government - 62.02% of their bruto salary. It will be issued for up to 60 days, but no longer than the end of quarantine or emergency. Possibility for all the customers to defer or arrange the payments in instalments for used electricity and gas has been offered by the main provider of electricity and gas in Lithuania (state owned company).</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] On March 16, the Government announced that persons who have participated in vocational training which was suspended due to the declared emergency and quarantine will receive a training grant equivalent to 0.39 of the minimum monthly salary.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[May 2020] On May 16, the parliament approved a welfare package which includes job seekers' allowances of EUR 200. All people registered with the Užimtumo Tarnyba (Employment Services) would be entitled to job seekers' allowance for up to six months. The measures would also apply to students registered at the Employment Services. The government has allocated EUR 265 million for the purpose and estimates that the measure could benefit around 200,000 people.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] On March 16, the Government decided to allocate funds for the self-employed who have paid social security contributions with the amount of EUR 257/month for up to 3 months when they are unable to carry out their activities due to quarantine.

		<p>[March 2020] On March 16, the Government announced that it will contribute to the maintenance of jobs with subsidies in case of downtime or partial downtime, the amount of which can be chosen by the employer: 90% from the employee's calculated salary, but not more than EUR 607 gross, or 70% from the employee's calculated salary, but not more than EUR 910.5 gross. Employers who have benefited from subsidies will have to maintain at least 50% of jobs for at least 3 months from the end of the payment of the grant. The Government is planning to allocate EUR 500 million for this measure.</p>
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Luxembourg

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On May 20, 2020, Luxembourg government had drawn up a specific measure for those parents who have to look after their child (ren) under 13 years of age, so that they will be able to benefit from leave for family reasons. The employee under this measure benefits from the full salary paid from the National health Fund (CNS). The State is envisioning a total expenditure of around € 280 million. This is applicable from 25 May 2020 to 15 July 2020. On 2 April 2021, the government has extended the policy from Jan 22, 2021 until July 17, 2021</p> <p>On May 20, 2020, the Luxembourg government amended the cost-of-living allowance (allocation de la vie chère - AVC) in order to grant beneficiaries, double the planned amounts for the year 2020. The purpose of this amendment is to provide targeted support to low-income individuals who have been particularly affected by the Covid-19 crisis. For example, people working in sectors with incomes equal to or only slightly higher than the social minimum wage have been heavily affected by short-time work.</p> <p>The amounts of the AVC will be set as follows for 2020 (previous amounts are in brackets): EUR 2,640 for a single person (EUR 1,320). EUR 3,300 for a household of 2 persons (EUR 1,650). EUR 3,960 for a household of 3 persons (EUR 1,980). EUR 4,620 for a household of 4 persons (EUR 2,310). EUR 5,280 for a household of 5 or more persons (EUR 2,640).</p> <p>On Dec 18, 2020, The Luxembourg government has also decided to partially extend the tourism fund to support and revive the associative tourism sector. Non-profit associations and tourist offices, which professionally manage a tourist infrastructure and ensure a minimum level of activity, will thus be able to benefit from an extension of the participation in the remuneration costs. The amount of this aid is 1,250 euros per employee. This support measure extends over a period of four months from December 2020 to March 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On April 10, 2020, it is reported that the Luxembourg Red Cross and Caritas Luxembourg announce that they are extending access to their social grocery stores, the "Croix-Rouge Buttek" and the

		<p>""Caritas Buttek"" , to people and families in precarious situations or experiencing temporary financial difficulties linked to the Coronavirus sanitary crisis. ""Caritas Buttek"" and ""Croix-Rouge Buttek"" social grocery stores offer people affected by poverty food and hygiene products at prices up to 70% cheaper than on the market. In these difficult times, it is important for both partners to expand their joint assistance. Individuals and families who are not yet registered with the social office and who do not yet benefit from food aid, as long as they are living in Luxembourg and are suffering financial consequences linked to the health crisis.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 18 Dec 2020, the Luxembourg government has decided to extend the validity of the accommodation vouchers of 50 euros made available by the General Directorate of Tourism to all residents over the age of sixteen as well as to frontier workers. Vouchers that have not yet been used will now be valid until April 18, 2021. Following the recommendation to limit social interactions and after the implementation of additional restrictions in the Horeca sector, an extension of the validity of vouchers hosting has proven to be useful. It is noted that 94,413 accommodation vouchers have been used since mid-July, which corresponds to a payment of 4,720,650 euros for this sector. On average, 507 vouchers were used per weekday and 975 vouchers per weekend day. The vouchers have been validated with 260 different accommodation structures.</p> <p>On 20 May 2020, the Luxembourg government decided on a temporary freeze on all rent increases for all residential leases until the end of 2020. On Nov 13, 2020, it is reported that, however, given the significant increase in the risk of infection, this temporary freeze on rent increases has been extended for 6 months, i.e., until 30 June 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Family leave cannot be denied. Simplified procedures for requests for special leave for family reasons due to school closures with public financial support (€226 million, 0.4 percent of 2019 GDP).</p> <p>Full coverage by National Health Fund (CNS) of the remuneration only in case of sickness. The normal mechanism for continuation of remuneration in case of sickness leave is waived and CNS takes over remuneration of sick employees as from the first day of sickness</p> <p>Flexible leave arrangement for parents of children infected or in quarantine.</p> <p>Self-employed can take family leave if affiliated to the Mutualité des Employeurs, the employers' mutual insurance scheme, as a self-employed person. (€1bn, 1.6 percent of GDP)</p> <p>Payment of an advance on extraordinary family leave.</p>

		Advance partial reimbursement of salaries that employers must continue to pay to the parents concerned
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] Access and rights to unemployment benefits for workers who lost their job due to the Covid-19 pandemic is extended by the duration of the state of crisis. The compensation for the unemployed, which normally cannot exceed the duration of 12 months at most (24 months at most in the event of an extension) is extended by a period equal to the duration of the state of crisis. In addition, the government also simplified registration and access to unemployment benefits for workers who lost their job due to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>[March 2020] To support workers, a partial unemployment support is provided for employees in the cultural sector. If agreed, the Employment Fund can pay 80% of the normal wage (capped at 250% of the minimum social wage for an unqualified employee) for a maximum of 1,022 hours per employee.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] Postponement of social-security contribution payments for the first half of the year from April 1, 2020</p> <p>Increased flexibility in the payment of social security contributions</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[July 2020] To support companies that do not yet have the authorization to reopen, a recovery and solidarity fund for companies will be set up for a period of 6 months starting on July 1 to offer companies in the hotel and catering sectors, events (including in the cultural field), the tourism, and physical cultivation centers direct monthly aid of 1,250 euros per employee in post and 250 euros per employee on short-time work. To benefit from the aid, companies must decide to resume their activities and must have suffered a loss of at least 25% of turnover. The maximum amount companies with less than 10 employees can receive monthly is 10,000 euros, 50,000 euros for companies with less than 50 employees, and 100,000 euros for companies with more than 50 employees.</p> <p>[Extension- June 2021] For September and October 2021, the subsidy will amount to 1,000 euros per self-employed person and per employee in activity during the month for which the aid is requested. The subsidy for employees with full partial unemployment will remain unchanged at 250 euros. The amount of aid cannot exceed 20,000 euros for a microenterprise, 100,000 euros for small businesses, and 200,000 euros for a medium and large business.</p>
	Reduced work time	[April 2020] The labor inspections have issued guidelines to protect the health and safety of employees at the workplace. These include in particular implementing telework, regularly disinfecting the offices and surfaces, limiting the holding of meetings favoring video conferencing and prohibiting

		<p>unnecessary travel. Employers of workers at risk have to provide particular protection for them (e.g., isolating them from other colleagues are encouraging telework).</p> <p>[June 2020] To ensure greater predictability for cross-border workers, agreements have been concluded with France and Belgium to allow cross-border workers from these countries to telework without suffering from financial tax disadvantages during the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] Extension of the Belgian-Luxembourg agreement until December 31, 2021.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] The Luxembourg- France agreement have extended until November 15, 2021</p> <p>[March 2020] On 27 March 2020, the government announced that enterprises, whose operation is deemed to be “essential”, can ask an extension of daily working hours up to 12 hours per day (60 hours/week). In order to do so they need a favorable opinion of the staff or the agreement of two representative trade unions. The Contrat de Durée Déterminée (CDD) for students in essential services can be extended from 15 to 40 hours per week.</p> <p>[November 2020] The government authorized temporarily an increase in working time for professionals in the health sector to maximum 12 hours/day and 60 hours/week, to ensure the functioning of essential and indispensable services, primarily those provided by the health sector and the aid and care sector . In addition, the “CDD-Students” employment contract can now be reduced from 15 hours to 40 hours per week. [Extension- October 2020] On 29 October 2020 this exemption on working hours was extended to 31 December 2020.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] To avoid redundancies, companies in all economic sectors that are directly related to the coronavirus are eligible State support. During the period of partial unemployment, the State covers the compensation allowance up to 80% of wages . Reimbursement is limited to 250% of the social minimum wage for unqualified persons aged 18 or over. This compensation allowance may not be less than the amount of the minimum social wage for unskilled employees. Any difference between the amount of the compensation allowance and the unqualified minimum social wage will be covered by the Employment Fund. The reduction in working time may not exceed 1,022 hours per calendar year and per employee working full time. For employees working part-time, the 1,022 hours are prorated. The partial unemployment scheme for cases of force majeure linked to the coronavirus crisis is from March 18, 2020 (start of the health crisis) until June 30, 2020.</p> <p>[Extension-June 2021] From July 1, 2021, access to partial unemployment will be defined, where appropriate, according to cyclical or structural unemployment, for cases of force majeure or for economic dependence.</p> <p>[February 2021] Self-employed workers who are currently forced to suspend their activities due to the health crisis would be able to benefit from the month of March, in addition to the various aids</p>

		<p>already paid by the State to support them, with a replacement income. The amount of this replacement income should be calculated in principle according to the partial unemployment model (income equivalent to 80% of the salary cannot be lower than the social minimum wage and capped at 2.5 times the social minimum wage).</p> <p>[July 2020] Due to the increased absences of workers during the pandemic and the employers' obligation to continue pay in the event of workers incapacity to work (Lohnfortzahlung), costs for the employer mutual obligation have increased. To better support employers and the self-employed, the Employers' Mutual Insurance scheme (Mutualité des employeurs) will reimburse the full amount (from 80 to 100%) for periods of incapacity for work corresponding to a quarantine or isolation measure. The measure is applied retroactively from 1 July 2020.</p> <p>[May 2020] Support to SMEs in retail sector and the care sector are available for a three-month period and consist of a payment of 1000 EUR per employee in June 2020, 750 EUR in July 2020 and 500 EUR in August 2020 (with a ceiling of 50 000 EUR per month). This measure will be limited to SMEs with less than 250 employees.</p>
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Macao, SAR China

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Introducing benefit for workers and/or dependents: Financial assistance to employees and freelancers</p> <p>On 8 April 2020, government announced measures for Self-employed residents (Tour Guides, Tricycle Riders, Taxi Drivers, Market stall owners, Street Vendors, Fishermen, Water Taxi Drivers), holders of required license or supporting documents (e.g., taxi driver identification card, tricycle rickshaw registration document, hawker license) during the period of January 1, 2009, to March 31, 2020, will be entitled to a one-off subsidy of MOP 10,000:</p> <p>On 15 March 2021, government announced that the annual wealth partaking scheme (in form of voucher) will be handed out earlier in April this year, with the usual MOP10,000 (US\$1,250) allocated to each permanent resident and MOP 6,000 to each non-permanent resident, representing a total of MOP 7 million.</p> <p>In March 2021, government announced a new plan which will transfer MOP\$5,000 (US\$625) of “start-up” money into residents’ e-payment apps on their mobile phones or to their Macau Pass. Anyone using their e-vouchers via these apps or Macau Pass will also enjoy a 25% discount on all purchases. This is not applicable for non-resident workers or students.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 8, it was announced that eligible local employees will receive a monthly subsidy of MOP5,000 for a period of three months. The initiative is intended to help employees with three months of income. The program is expected to cost the government MOP 3.8 billion. The subsidy does not cover non-resident work permit holders, public workers, local workers covered by a 2018 professional tax return plan previously announced, and local workers who recorded annual earnings over MOP720,000.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On 12 February 2020, to boost local demand and benefit SMEs in various sector, the government announced to issue its first consumption e-voucher via smart card operator Macau Pass with a

		<p>value of MOP 3,000. The e-voucher can be used on restaurants, retail services, daily necessities or department stores. The card must be spent within three months period from May 1 to July 31 and subject to a daily spending limit of MOP 300. To receive the Macau Pass, residents must register on the website of the Macau Monetary Authority (AMCM) from March 18 to April 8. Residents can collect the card from April 14 to April 30, at the chosen venue out of 32 government premises and 130 local bank branches. On April 8 2020, government provided its second e-voucher to Residents and asked them to register for it with a value of MOP 5,000 to be spent between August and December. On 12 April 2021, government announced the third e-coupons worth MOP\$8,000 (US\$1,000) to all local residents, aiming to boost the economy and stabilize local employment in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. The stimulus plan will inject around MOP\$5.88 billion (US\$735 million) into the local market between June 2021 and December 2021 in order to raise domestic demand.</p> <p>On February 12, 2020 government announced to provide health voucher worth 600-pataca (or MOP 600) to each Macao permanent resident, to be spent on an aspect of their personal health. Government, in April 2021, announced to re-introduce electronic medical voucher of MOP 600 and would be available to use from May 1. The validity period of each voucher will last until April 30th, 2023 (i.e., for a period of 2 years). As approved by the Executive Council, the medical vouchers will continue to be issued electronically. The government expects to spend MOP 428 million on the latest round of medical e-vouchers, as reported by the Macau Post Daily. The e-vouchers are only valid for consultations and treatments offered by health professionals in the private sector not subsidized by the government. They are also fully or partly transferable to their beneficiaries' spouse, parents and children who are permanent residents.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Government on 12 February 2020 announced to subsidise all electricity and water for the housing units of Macao residents for a period of 3 months. The estimated cost is MOP 295 million, or 0.07% of GDP. The subsidy scheme covers the electricity fees of the billing months of March, April and May. For the electricity subsidy, a total of more than 260,000 customers will benefit from the scheme, covering 98.6% of total customers. Beneficiaries under the residential customer category are the ones currently enjoying the MOP 200 "Government Subsidy" Scheme per month. As the subsidy period is calculated based on "billing month", each customer has a different subsidy starting date each month, which means that it does not consistently commence on the first day of each month. The subsidized bills will be issued between 23 March and 18 June, 2020. Similarly, subsidy on water contract during the billing period of May and June subject to a limit of MOP 6,000.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[April 2020] On April 8, the Government announced that unemployed local residents who join Government re-training scheme will be entitled to a subsidy of MOP6,656. Upon completion of training, they will be offered 10,000 vacancies through employment-matching services. The re-training scheme costs MOP250 million</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 8, it was announced that employed local residents who are looking to improve their skills and who are recommended by their employer can apply to the Government re-training scheme, and will be eligible for a MOP5,000 subsidy, upon completion of the training. The trainees will also be offered 50,000 vacancies. The Government allocated MOP316 million as a budget for the program.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Madagascar

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
		<p>The government implemented the Tosika Fameno (UCT) (“complementary support”) between April and September 2020. The programme is an unconditional cash transfers of 100,000 Ariary to poor and vulnerable households. Each household is entitled to two transfers. The programme initial target was 150,000 households (first phase), since revised to 368,000 households. Total project budget is about US \$15,000,000.</p> <p>Vatsin’ankohonana (“family support”) seeks to improve the living conditions of extremely poor families by delivering conditional cash transfers every two months. According to the Multisectorial Emergency Plan, this program will be horizontally (13,339 new households) and vertically expanded due to COVID 19 pandemic. No further details were given. According to the program’s website, the government allocated MGA\$6,339,760,000, which means USD \$1,734,070.</p>
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Monetary transfer to households affected by drought in southern Madagascar initiated in 2016. One-off interventions in the context of a humanitarian emergency with WFP. According to the Multisectorial Emergency Plan, this program will be horizontally and vertically expanded due to COVID 19 pandemic. No further details were given.</p> <p>After the emergency phase, the Government has elaborated a social protection recovery strategy. A long- term urban conditional cash transfer will be implemented in 2021 in Anananarivo and Toamasina (targeting currently ongoing). The urban safety net is expected to reach 30,000 households starting in Q1/Q2 2021, funding is secured for a minimum of 3 years.</p> <p>The scale-up of the Madagascar Social Safety Net Project will increase coverage of the two core safety net programs, the HDCT and PSNP, into five new regions and nine new districts, to reach a total of 14 regions and 29 districts throughout the country.³¹ The scale-up of existing programs will continue to focus on rural areas, including areas highly vulnerable to climate change.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>Vulnerable households and individuals in Antananarivo and other (mostly urban) areas benefitted from food packages distributed by the government during the early phase of the pandemic. Beneficiaries were selected with the support of local chiefs and community leaders and had to</p>	

		<p>register with their Fokontany booklet. The second round of food distribution started in August and aims to reach a considerably larger number of households across the country. The contents of the food packages are valued at approx. half the minimum wage. Essential products of necessities like rice, sugar, oil, salt will be provided to people who earn live on a day-to-day basis such as laundry workers, rickshaw pullers, prostitutes, university students who live on campus, and old people are also beneficiaries. In addition, there is a cheap market organized by the State in each "district" (quartier) where people can buy at a low price 3kg of rice and 1 L of oil for around 1.5 USD, per family (half of the price).</p> <p>In the Androy region, 100 households benefitted from emergency food distribution of 2.5 tonnes of rice and 5 kg of beans each.</p> <p>10 tons of rice and 800 kg of beans were distributed amongst urban households in the commune of Ambovombe. The distribution targeted large, vulnerable households.</p>
	School feeding	<p>Take Home Rations have been distributed to more than 200,000 schoolchildren in 800 schools in 11 districts.</p>
	Public works	<p>A public work component will be added to the post COVID-19 urban safety nets (financed by the World Bank), however exact number of eligible households is not known at this stage.</p> <p>The ACTP program is a social safety net program that aims to provide additional income to the poorest households by providing them with one-off income during difficult times in exchange for certain activities. During the COVID 19 pandemic, the government launched these public works for cleaning and sanitation activities and for the maintenance and rehabilitation of irrigated areas and rural roads in Madagascar's rice granaries. According to the Multisectorial Emergency Plan, the government aimed at reaching to 42,500 beneficiaries for 20 working days at a rate of MGA\$ 5,000 per day.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The government mandated the postponement of bank maturities for three months for those who have taken out consumer loans and mortgage loans.</p> <p>The government temporarily postponed the payment of electricity and water bills.</p> <p>The Government has launched the "Tsinjo Fameno" loan system . The objective of this Program is to offer loans to formal workers of the National Social Security Fund (CNAPS). The total budget allocated to this aid amounts to nearly MGA\$52,000 M for a sum of MGA\$200,000- MGA\$500,000 M for each beneficiary according to his/her salary level. This aims at benefiting nearly 200,000 to 250,000 employees from firms working in different fields with priority for the tourism sector, private education, and the textile sector (free zones), among others. Payment is made</p>

		<p>directly between the CNAPS and the employees on a bank account or by mobile banking. The repayment deadline was set between 12 to 24 months from January 2021.</p> <p>The Government has reactivated the Tsena Mora Program, set up for the first time in Madagascar in 2010. The objective of this program is to supply basic necessities (such as rice, oil and sugar) to vulnerable populations by subsidizing prices. By June 2020, 571,500 people had benefited from it as part of the fight against COVID-19 during the months of March and April 2020. This operationalization of Tsena Mora has two major consequences: placing basic and essential products on the market as close as possible to the most vulnerable consumers at very affordable prices and the sale of products from farmers confined due to lockdown.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[May 2020] Deferral of payment of liabilities for all companies. It includes contributions in social security fund. CNaPS complies with this announcement and the contributions due to the 1st term of year, which should be paid until the end of this month, will be rescheduled to the end of July without incurring any penalties for late payment.</p> <p>[March 2020] Suspension of payment of social charges.</p> <p>[March 2020] Use of amicable payment deadlines, payment of social security contributions due for the first and second quarters of 2020</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Malawi

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>As part of the government of Malawi’s National COVID-19 Preparedness and Response Plan, the government has proposed measures to frontload payment of Social Cash Transfer Program (SCTP) benefits, as follows: in April 2020, SCTP payments will be fast-tracked, with a four-month payment delivered at one time.</p> <p>President Peter Mutharika announced on April 28, 2020 that Malawi will launch a six-month emergency cash transfer programme for about one million people and small businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic. Eligible households will receive a 35,000 Malawi kwacha (\$40) monthly payment, matching the country’s minimum wage, through mobile cash transfer starting in May 2020. This program, supported by the ILO is expected to reach 172,000 households in urban and peri-urban areas (almost one million people) (35% of the urban population). Each beneficiary is being paid electronically through mobile payments.</p> <p>Government of Malawi has been working with its development partners to provide cash top-ups supports to people facing severe food insecurity in the country through 2021. The top up has enabled beneficiaries to have enough food and other household items during the lean season.</p> <p>The Ministry of Gender, Community Development and Social Welfare has rolled out the third phase of emergency cash transfers under the Covid-19 urban cash transfer intervention targeting 74,150 urban beneficiaries starting in June 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	<p>The school meals program has been adapted to take-home rations is in line with Ministry of Education’s guidance to partners implementing school feeding program.</p> <p>This 16 million increase for the Afikepo program (from €70 to €86 million), which in the local language of Chichewa means: “Let them [the children] develop to their full potential”, will allow 280,000 pupils to benefit from school meals in 200 primary schools in Malawi’s Southern region</p>

		<p>thanks to the programme. Smallholder farmers in the surrounding communities will be the principal suppliers of the food, contributing also to support the local agri-systems.</p> <p>To avoid the pandemic becoming a hunger calamity for schoolchildren, the World Food Programme (WFP) is working with the Government of Malawi to provide take-home rations in the form of food and cash so that 600,000 vulnerable children continue to receive their meals at home. Parents collect food rations on behalf of their children</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Commercial banks have been directed to implement a three-month moratorium on principal and interest repayments on loans. In September 2020, financial sector actors agreed to extend the moratorium until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Commercial banks have been directed to reduce fees and charges for internet banking, mobile payment, and related services by 40% in April 2020.</p> <p>The Malawi Revenue Authority will be implementing a special window with effect from April 8th to October 31st, 2020 to provide relief to individuals to regularize their tax affairs without suffering penalties, interests and charges. The window is also aimed at increasing voluntary compliance among business people.</p> <p>Resident tax has been waived for all foreign healthcare workers</p> <p>Both of the country's mobile phone network operators, Airtel and TNM, removed all user fees and charges on personal mobile money transfers on the same network for a period of 3 months, significantly reduced user fees and charges between their respective networks, doubled the personal transaction limit, and increased the agent transaction limit.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[March 2020] To develop and protect the labour force through enhancement of labour relations, occupational safety, worker's compensation services and skills and development in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, would- be laid off workers will be an provided with skilling, reskilling, and up skilling opportunities. The estimated budget is USD 1,000,000
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] With an aim to prevent, contain, and manage the spread of COVID-19 disease, a series of public health measures to be practiced in the workplace (by employers and employees) was released on April 9, 2020. These measures include the requirement to keep workers informed of

		<p>COVID 19 developments, provide adequate facilities to ensure that employees, customers and visitors are safe, minimize physical contact of persons at the workplace, ensure physical distancing of at least one metre between persons, limit the number of visitors to the workplace and arrange for isolation of any person who has developed COVID-19 symptoms at a work site.</p> <p>[April 2020] To minimize the termination of employment as a result of the effects of COVID-19, the Workplace Guidelines that provide a set of guidelines to avoid terminations were introduced.</p> <p>[August 2020] To ensure business continuity, measures that include introducing shifts to avoid overcrowding, allowing vulnerable employees including those with underlying medical conditions to work from home (teleworking), to allow employees with COVID -19 symptoms to stay at home were introduced. In addition, employers are require to provide up to date Ministry of Health COVID-19 information to employees, provide adequate handwashing or hand-sanitizing facilities, ensure regular cleaning, sanitization, and disinfection of workplaces, promote working from home for non-critical employees, allow vulnerable employees to work from home, minimize face to face meetings, and display posters on COVID-19 spread at strategic locations throughout the workplace.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Government increased risk allowances for health workers, adjusting upwards the allowances from a minimum of K1, 000 to a maximum of K60,000. The new rates indicate that health workers from grade HE to HI will be receiving a risk allowance of K50,000 from K1,800, workers under C will be receiving K20,000 from K, 1000, grade HJ and HK allowance has been adjusted from K1,500 to K50,000 and grade HL has been moved from K1, 000 to K30,000. Health workers from grade HM and below will be getting K25,000.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>[August 2020] To ensure business continuity, measures that include introducing shifts to avoid overcrowding, allowing vulnerable employees including those with underlying medical conditions to work from home (teleworking), to allow employees with COVID -19 symptoms to stay at home were introduced. In addition, employers are require to provide up to date Ministry of Health COVID-19 information to employees, provide adequate handwashing or hand-sanitizing facilities, ensure regular cleaning, sanitization, and disinfection of workplaces, promote working from home for non-critical employees, allow vulnerable employees to work from home, minimize face to face meetings, and display posters on COVID-19 spread at strategic locations throughout the workplace.</p> <p>[August 2020] The Chief Secretary of the GoM issued a Circular instructing all public servants not providing essential services to immediately commence working from home, following recommendation and endorsement of the Civil Service Trade Union (CSTU).</p>

Wage subsidies

Malaysia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>A one-off cash transfer of RM200 will be given to all students enrolled in institutes of higher learning in May 2020. This is expected to cost RM270 million</p> <p>The Malaysian government has budgeted RM10 billion to provide one-off cash transfers to households depending on income level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RM1600 will be transferred to 4 million households earning <RM4000/month• RM1000 will be transferred to 1.1 million households earning RM4000-8000/month• RM800 will be transferred to 3 million single individuals aged 21+ earning <RM2000/month• RM500 transferred to 400,000 single individuals aged 21+ earning RM2000-4000/month <p>** Overall, this very broadly targeted program intends to benefit 5.1 million households and 3.4 million individuals The transfers to individuals and households are not exclusive, with individuals with income below the eligibility threshold being eligible to receive the transfer while their households also remained eligible.</p> <p>Civil servants will be given a one-off cash transfer of RM500 per person in April 2020. This will benefit 1.5 million workers. Public pensioners will also be given a one-off cash transfer of RM500 per person in April 2020. This will benefit 850,000 pensioners.</p> <p>120,000 e-hailing drivers will be given a one-off cash transfer of RM500 (US\$125) in April 2020. The allocation for this transfer is RM60 million.</p> <p>As part of the Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) program, the payment of RM200 expected in May 2020 will be anticipated to March 2020. Such payments amount to RM760M and will benefit 3.8M BSH households. Also, BSH 2020 recipients will receive an additional RM100 as well as RM50 as e-cash, which will be disbursed in May 2020. This will cost RM500M and benefit an additional 5M BSH recipients.</p> <p>The government will provide a special monthly critical worker allowance of RM400 (US\$96) for medical doctors and other medical personnel, as well as RM200 (US\$48) for immigration and related frontline staff until the end of the outbreak. This benefit was increased to RM600 per month as of April 2020. This allowance will last until the pandemic is fully addressed.</p>

One-off payment of RM600 (US\$144) to taxi, tourist and trishaw drivers and tourist guides, benefiting 36,677 individuals

On September 23, 2020 the government announced a second round of one-off payments called BPN 2.0, with slight adjustments to the benefit level: RM1,000 to B40 households and RM600 to M40 households while for B40 and M40 single individuals it is RM500 and RM300 respectively, with a total allocation of RM7 billion. Payments of BPN 2.0 will be made to all beneficiaries of BPN and are expected to take place in October 2020 and January 2021. The transfers to individuals and households are not exclusive, with individuals with income below the eligibility threshold being eligible to receive the transfer while their households also remained eligible. Estimates from the 2016 Household Income Survey (HIS) by DOSM suggest that about 30 percent of households receive more than one BPN transfer. The program was extended in 2021 and allows for new applicants as well as previous applicants to receive more benefits.

To ease the transition to the new normal of working-from-home, the Government will support working parents through the subsidy of childcare expense. This comes in the form eVouchers of RM 800 per household for mobile childcare services, to be utilised until the end of August 2020 and will cover 5,000 households.

Social assistance support will be provided to identified vulnerable groups. One-off financial assistance of RM300 was given to 190,000 registered OKUs, 150,000 single mothers (income below the poverty line) registered under KPWKM (unregistered single mothers can start to register until December 2020), and 2,000 volunteer Home Help Services providers.

The encouragement of contact-free payment was provided through the provision of RM 50 worth of e-wallet credits, an additional RM50 in value through vouchers, cashback and discounts by e-wallets. This was available only for offline/physical purchase. This is applicable to all Malaysians aged 18 and above and earning less than RM100,000 annually.

For phase one of Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat or BPR, the first instalment will involve more than 8 million recipients. Households earning up to RM5,000 per month will receive RM300 each while for those under single category, earning up to RM2,000 per month will receive RM150. The second payout will take place between September and October 2021.

The first round of cash transfers under the Prihatin Rakyat Stimulus package ended in spring 2020, however a second round of cash transfers for the same groups of beneficiaries was disbursed in two

installments, the first in October 2020 and the second in January 2021. Households with income of <=RM4,000 will receive RM1,000 in total, households with income between RM4,001-RM8,000 will receive RM600 in total, singles with income <=RM2,000 will receive RM500 in total, singles with income between RM2,001-RM4,000 will receive RM300. The total spending allocated for the second round of cash transfers is RM7 billion.

In March 2021, the Government announced an additional one-off aid of RM500 for the B40 and the disabled, as well as for recipients of BPR earnings less than RM1,000. RM100 million has also been allocated to assist the B40 to obtain daily necessities and food items. An RM300 subsidy is provided for B40 households with children to buy smart devices to aid online learning. The Disabled Workers Allowances has been extended to workers earnings up to RM1,500 (compared to the earlier salary ceiling of RM1,200).

The Government extended a special allowance of RM200 a month to military, police, customs, civil defense and RELA members who are directly involved in enforcing the MCO. This allowance will also be paid beginning April 1st, 2020 until the COVID-19 outbreak ends. About 169,000 additional front liners are expected to benefit from this initiative.

A one-off transfer of RM500 was announced on November 6th, 2020 for frontliners from the Ministry of Health and is expected to benefit 100,000 medical staff.

One-off emergency assistance for informal workers affected by the lockdown measures was provided by the Emergency Zakat Assistance Scheme in March and November 2020.

The Federal Territories Islamic Religious Council provided its monthly beneficiaries with their assistance earlier than usual and a one-off top-up in response to lockdown measures.

Bantuan Khas Covid-19 (BKC) cash aid will be disbursed from Sept. 6th, 2021 to eligible groups. A total allocation of RM3.1 billion was channeled to banking institutes for this purpose. Some 10 million recipients, comprising those hardcore poor, B40, M40 and eligible bachelor groups, would benefit from BKC, which is part of the Pakej Perlindungan Rakyat dan Pemulihan Ekonomi (Pemulihan). Hardcore poor households will receive RM1,300 cash aid, with RM500 payment in two instalments and RM300 to be paid on the third month. Meanwhile, senior citizens who are living alone and eligible bachelors (with monthly income of RM2,500 and below) will receive RM500, with payments to be made in two instalments. One-time RM100 cash aid will be distributed to M40 individuals with household monthly income between RM5,001 and RM9,000 and bachelors with monthly income between RM2,501 and 5,000 (as per income tax records).

		<p>The government agreed to provide an additional payment under the Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat program of up to 500 MYR in July 2021, with payment staggered from June 29th. These payments will be made to, among others, households earning less than 5,000 MYR per month.</p> <p>MYR500 will be given to those that have lost their jobs in 2021 according to data held by the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) and the Social Security Organization (SOCSO).</p> <p>Non-contributors to the social security scheme such as fresh graduates, school leavers, and workers in the informal sector may register under the MYFutureJobs Platform to receive an allowance of at least MYR300.</p>
	Social pensions	Under Budget 2021, the Government has increased the monthly rate of welfare assistance under the Social Welfare Department (JKM) with effect from January 2021. This welfare assistance involves an allocation of RM2.2 billion and will benefit more than 400,000 recipients.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Government will allocate RM25 million (around US\$6 million) to be channeled to vulnerable groups including the elderly and children in shelters, the disabled, and the homeless in late March 2020. The Government will work with NGOs and social entrepreneurs to distribute food, medical care equipment and shelter.</p> <p>Social Welfare Department (JKM) will also implement a Food Basket Program immediately which will provide essential food items worth RM100 for each eligible household, involving a total allocation of RM50 million.</p> <p>The government announced on September 19th, 2021 the Covid-19 Care Package (PPC) which is expected to benefit about 3.6 million B40 households in preparation for the Covid-19 endemic phase. The prime minister said the PPC aid with an allocation of more than RM471.6 million included, among others, four reusable face masks and four Covid-19 self-test kits for each household. In addition, each family will also receive a pulse oximeter and a thermometer as well as user guidelines and health brochures.</p> <p>The newly launched Jaringan Prihatin program will assist 8.5 million Bantuan Prihatin Rakyat (BPR) recipients to gain access to either internet data services or mobile device purchases. Under Jaringan Prihatin, eligible recipients can choose one of two benefits - a device package or a monthly data plan package. For those under the B40 category with children under 18 years old, they are eligible for either a RM300 rebate for device package or RM180 monthly data plan rebate for 12 Months. As for</p>

		<p>those under the B40 category with no children, they are eligible for either a RM180 rebate for device package or RM180 monthly data plan rebate for 12 Months.</p> <p>The Malaysian government will allocate MYR300,000 for each Member of Parliament to provide food baskets for their constituents. A total of MYR10,000,000 will also be allocated specifically for members of indigenous communities.</p> <p>(May 2021) Vaccinated Malaysians can get a free bowl of taufufah from June 1 as an incentive to increase COVID vaccination rate.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>A discount on the electricity bill – previously announced at 2% - will be increased according to electricity consumption. The discount will range from 15% to 50%. The discount lasted for six months in 2020. This subsidy was continued in 2021 at a rate of up to 9 percent for a period of 6 months, from 1st January to 30th June 2021. As of September 2021 the subsidy was still in place.</p> <p>The telecommunications industry is committed to provide assistance during the COVID period. All customers of the telecommunication companies collaborating with the government will receive free internet services until the end of the COVID-19 outbreak as part of the second stimulus package of March 2020. The provision of 1 free gigabit data has been offered to the public to browse websites, including for educational purposes. This RM500 million facility started on 1 January 2021 and will be extended until the end of April 2021. This measure was further extended until December 2021.</p> <p>The B40 community that are renting public housing for the urban poor, the Citizen Housing Project (PPR) will be exempted from rent for six months. The sum of these forgone payments is RM3 million (US\$0.75 million). The Kuala Lumpur City Hall (DBKL) will be making the same exemption for public housing in its jurisdiction, benefiting 40,000 renters. The Government will also provide a rent exemption to premises owned by the Federal Government such as school canteens, kindergartens, cafeterias, and others</p> <p>The Government will allow a deferral of repayments to the National Higher Education Fund Corporation (PTPTN) and the National Skills Fund Corporation (PTPK) for six months from 1 April 2020 to 30 September 2020. This is expected to defer payments amounting to RM750 million (US\$187 million) and RM159.2 million (US\$39 million) respectively benefiting 174,500 borrowers.</p> <p>A six-month moratorium will be granted on all consumer loans from April 2020 to September 2020.</p>

		<p>To encourage mobility and reduce the burden of costs of transportation, the Government will introduce an unlimited monthly travel pass costing RM30 for use on all rail services (MRT, LRT, Monorail), BRT, RapidKL buses and MRT feeder buses.</p> <p>The government will double the existing allocation for the PEKA B40 Program to a total of RM 100 million in 2020 in order to fund four benefits for the B40 group: ▶ Health screening ▶ Medical device assistance ▶ Cancer treatment incentives ▶ Subsidy for transportation for health</p> <p>In-kind benefits were provided for Urban Farming (e.g., Fertilizers, Seeds, Infrastructure, Equipment, Advisory and Training) worth RM500 per person and RM 50,000 per community in June 2020.</p> <p>Bank Negara Malaysia (BNM) said loan takers can request repayment moratorium and that their Central Credit Reference Information System report will not be affected at a time when the nation contends with the economic impact of the Covid-19 pandemic in 2021. This measure was extended in July 2021.</p> <p>A special tax relief of up to RM2,500 on the purchase of mobile phones, computers and tablets which expired on 31 December 2020, will be extended for another year until the end of 2021.</p> <p>The special SPM and STPM prepaid data plan is now extended to students who are studying in institutes of higher learning. This was revealed by Prime Minister Muhyiddin Yassin during his announcement of the PERMAI special assistance package. The special data package will be offered until the end of April 2021. To recap, 5 telcos namely Celcom, Digi, Maxis, U Mobile and Telekom Malaysia, are offering 15GB of data for RM20/month to eligible students. Prior to this announcement, prepaid subscribers who are born between 2001 to 2004 are eligible to activate the plan. With the new update, we expect telcos to increase the age limit for the special plan to cover college and university students.</p> <p>The government is expected to cover fuel and cooking oil subsidies up to RM8 billion, which is RM4.22 billion higher than the RM3.78 billion allocated for this year. Finance Minister Tengku Datuk Seri Zafrul Abdul Aziz said the higher allocation this year was due to the increase in current global market prices tied to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The government has agreed to extend rental discounts for tenants of Federal land and buildings for six months, starting July 1st, 2021. The Energy and Natural Resources Minister said in a statement that the initiative was aimed to reduce the burden of tenants due to the Movement Control Order (MCO 3.0) and for businesses operating on Federal land and buildings to rearrange their cashflow. On</p>
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Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The Government partially funded contributions of a work-injury scheme for employees in the gig economy.</p> <p>Through the national insurance plan for the B40, mySalam, patients of COVID-19 can apply for an income replacement of RM50/day for up to 14 days. This initiative will also be extended to the B40 who are quarantined as persons under investigation (of COVID-19 symptoms).</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Public pensioners will also be given a one-off cash transfer of RM500 per person in April 2020. This will benefit 850,000 pensioners.
	Unemployment benefits	[January 2021] As part of the Permai Assistance Package, the Prime Minister announced that for those who suffered loss of employment during the MCO enforcement, the Government has agreed to relax the conditions for the Employment Insurance System (EIS) Prihatin program. Employees who do not meet the minimum contribution conditions, or whose contract was not extended after having been renewed for at least 3 times previously, are now eligible to apply for the SIP PRIHATIN assistance of 30 percent of their monthly salary for a period of 3 months.
	Social security contributions	<p>In addition to that, Prime Minister Tan Sri Muhyiddin Yassin announced March 23 that Malaysians below the age of 55 will be allowed to withdraw RM500 per month from their Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Account 2 for 12 months to buy essential goods amid the worsening COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The Malaysia Employees' Provident Fund will reduce the employee contribution rate from 11 to 7% of the salary from April 2020 to the end of the year (a waiver estimated in total at around RM 10 billion, with no provision for making up the lost contributions). In Malaysia, EPF covers just under 60% of the labor force.</p> <p>EPF i-Sinar or i-Sinar KWSP was announced as a part of the government scheme to support Malaysians who were financially hit by the pandemic, allowing eligible members to withdraw a set amount of funds from their respective accounts. The EPF has allocated RM70 billion for the initiative, which is expected to benefit eight million members who can withdraw a maximum of RM10,000 or RM60,000, depending on their Account 1 balance. It works as an advance facility on</p>

		<p>your retirement funds. The scheme allows you to withdraw a larger amount of up to RM10,000 (depending on your Account 1 balance), which can benefit those who need large funds upfront. Eligible members will receive an interim payment of up to RM1,000 from the total amount applied on January 26, 2021. The i-Sinar Category 2 advance withdrawal process has also been simplified as members need to only provide a self-declaration that they meet the prescribed criteria and submit the supporting documents online. The Government has also asked EPF to facilitate the advance payment, which will commence on 26 January. Further details will be announced by EPF in the near future</p> <p>The PenjanaGig program was introduced to encourage the take-up of social insurance by gig workers. For the period from June 2020 until December 2021, 70 percent of contribution to the Social Security Organisation's (SOCSO) Self-Employment Security Scheme is to be made by the Government, while the remaining 30 percent of the contribution is to be made by either the worker or the platform.</p> <p>RM10 million has been allocated to support women entrepreneurs to obtain SOCSO coverage.</p> <p>The Government partially funded contributions of a work-injury scheme for employees in the gig economy.</p> <p>Through the national insurance plan for the B40, mySalam, patients of COVID-19 can apply for an income replacement of RM50/day for up to 14 days. This initiative will also be extended to the B40 who are quarantined as persons under investigation (of COVID-19 symptoms).</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>[February 2020] The government is encouraging trainings by providing the Human Resources Development Fund (HRDF) with a matching grant of RM100 million on a one-to-one basis. The combined fund of RM200 million is expected to benefit 40,000 workers. The fund will prioritize sectors affected by COVID-19, which include hotels, tourism and retail, in addition to those indirectly affected such as electrical and electronic and automotive manufacturing.</p> <p>[February 2020] The government is encouraging trainings by providing RM50 million to subsidize short courses in digital skills and highly skilled courses (expected to benefit 100,000 Malaysians)</p> <p>[February 2020] The Employment Insurance System is encouraging trainings through increasing the training fee ceiling from RM4,000 to RM6,000 and providing trainees with a training allowance of RM30 per day.</p>

	<p>[June 2020] As part of the penjana Short-term Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will extend the training allowance of RM4,000 per individual to those retrenched but not covered under the Employment Insurance System (EIS)</p> <p>[June 2020] As part of the penjana Short-term Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will enhance the employability of youth particularly school leavers and fresh graduates and will provide a 1-to-1 matching fund of RM250 million to co-fund place-and-train in addition to other upskilling programs with HRDF.</p> <p>[June 2020] As part of the penjana Short-term Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will provide upskilling for unemployed workers, and a Marketing Representative training scheme of up to RM 800 per person by registering with SIDC</p> <p>[June 2020] As part of the penjana Short-term Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will facilitate policies to support the growth of the gig economy and the welfare of gig economy workers through providing MDEC with RM25 million for the Global Online Workforce (GLOW) program which will train Malaysians to earn income from serving international clients while working online from home</p>
Labor market regulations	
Reduced work time	
Wage subsidies	<p>March 2020] Employment Retention Program (ERP) provided RM 600 (around \$150) per employee/month for up to 6 months for workers who are forced to take leave without pay from March 1, 2020 onwards. This will be delivered through the Employment Insurance System (EIS) and is targeted to workers with monthly income of less than RM 4,000 (around\$ 1,000). This is expected to cost RM 120 million (about \$30M). The payment is transferred to the employer and the employer is required to make payment to the employee within 7 days from receiving payments from the Social Security Organization (SOSCO).</p> <p>[March 2020] The RM 5.9 billion Wage Subsidy Program assists employers in retaining their workers. The Government will provide a salary of RM600 per month to every employee for 3 months, for workers earning less than RM4,000 and employers experiencing more than 50% decrease in their income since 1 January 2020. Employees under WSP shall not be retrenched or placed on unpaid leave/no pay leave or be subject to any salary reduction exercise for 3 months from the date of implementation of the WSP.</p> <p>[Extended - April 2020] As part of the Additional PRIHATIN Package, a RM7.9 billion extension to the wage subsidy program was announced, providing an additional 3 months of subsidies. [Extended - June 2020] As part of PENJANA package, a RM5.3 billion extension to the wage subsidy program for a further three months (June 2020 - September 2020) was announced, now allowing employers</p>

to implement pay cuts or reduction of working hours conditional to the agreement of their workers. [Extended - September 2020] On September 23rd, the wage subsidy program (now referred to as WSP/PSU 2.0) was extended for another three months. Businesses are now eligible if their sales/revenues decrease by at least 30% instead of 50%. [Extended - January 2021] As part of PERMAI package, a RM1 billion extension to the wage subsidy program (now referred to as WSP/PSU 3.0) for an additional one month was announced. All employers under the MCO are eligible, with the 200-employee limit increased to 500 employees. The program is targeted to benefit 250,000 businesses employing more than 2.6 employees. [Extended - May 2021] As part of PEMERKASA+ package, a RM1.5 billion extension to the wage subsidy program for one month (June 2021) was announced. The program is expected to benefit 2.5 million employees and 200,000 employers. [Extended - June 2021] As part of the PEMULIH package, a RM3.8 billion extension to the wage subsidy program for four months was announced. The salary cap of RM4,000 has been waived and the eligible sectors have been updated. The government is aiming to target 2.5 million workers with this initiative.

[March 2020] Workers providing contract services to the Government (e.g., cleaning and food supply to public institutions) will receive a wage replacement. This will benefit 80,000 workers costing RM110 million (US\$27 million). The Government will also extend these service contracts for one month reflecting the duration of the Movement Control Order.

[June 2020] As part of the penjana Short-term Economic Recovery Plan, the Government will introduce incentives to encourage the hiring of the unemployed:

- 1) Youth: RM600 per month for apprenticeships for school leavers and graduates for up to 6 months
- 2) Unemployed Workers (a) Below 40 years old: RM 800 per month for employment of unemployed for up to 6 months, (b) 40 years old and above or persons with disability: RM 1,000 per month for employment of unemployed for up to 6 months

Maldives

Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p> <p>Although the goal of the economic relief packages is to ensure job continuity for Maldivians, large-scale lay-offs and wage reductions have taken place. The Income Support Allowance has been rolled out to provide a safety-net to affected and displaced workers due to COVID-19. The allowance was initially planned for 3 months starting from April 2020 but was extended until December 2020 to eligible individuals. Maldivians who are currently unemployed; are on no pay leave; had their salary deducted; had their earnings affected (for self-employed/ freelance workers) due to COVID-19 related reasons may be eligible for benefits up to MVR 5,000, contingent on having been employed up until 1st December 2019. To apply, please report your employment situation, if affected by COVID-19, on the online form found on the JobCenter website. To submit an application on the JobCenter, each user is required to sign up for an eFaas account. As of July 2021, 22,946 have been assisted. On Jan 25th 2021, World Bank's Board of Executive Directors approved additional financing of \$21.6 million to further help Maldives mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis on poor and vulnerable workers and their families. The additional financing will be utilized to expand the existing COVID-19 Emergency Income Support Project, which was approved by the World Bank's Board of Executive Directors in June 2020 with funding of \$12.8 million. It will help finance the extended duration of the Government's COVID-19 Income Support Allowance scheme by continuing to provide temporary support of up to MVR 5,000 (approximately \$322) per month to workers who have lost their jobs or income as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>In light of financial difficulties faced by Maldivian students abroad due to COVID-19, the Ministry of Higher Education (MoHE) is providing financial assistance to secure their essential needs. Students who are currently studying abroad and had their course financing negatively affected or interrupted due to COVID-19 may be eligible for this aid if all conditions are met. Self-sponsored or privately sponsored students are required to show their need for financial support, with evidence of an interruption or complete cessation of usual monthly stipends and/or allowances. The policy states that the sum of aid would be deduced based on the ministry's categorization of average living costs in the students' country or city of residence. If the student is based in a country where the daily cost of living is calculated by the ministry as being below USD 50, the student would receive the amount stipulated for the particular area. Under this Financial Aid the students would be paid for a maximum period of 2 months. Whereas, if the student is living in a country categorized as incurring a daily cost of above USD 50, the student is limited to a total stipend amounting to USD 1500 - 1550, or a daily rate of USD 50, per month. Students must submit their request via email to the ministry, defining</p>

		<p>the duration for which they require aid and with proof that the student is currently in the country at which they are pursuing education. Successful applicants will receive funds every 14 days.</p> <p>[April 2020] The Minister of Finance announced that individuals who lose their employment due to COVID-19 were eligible for a three month "special allowance" as part of the government's stimulus package. The benefit amount was a monthly cash transfer of MVR\$ 5,000. According to the presidency's website, as of December 2020 this measure concerned 17,147 beneficiaries involving a total budget of MVR\$ 221 M.[Extended - October 2020] The Minister of Finance announced that the government decided to extend the Income Support Allowance until the end of 2020, allowing for beneficiaries to receive the allowance for a total of 10 months.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The government with UNICEF provided a food basket that lasts two weeks to 691 most vulnerable families with children in three islands that were under lockdown. Of these, nearly 300 were people with disabilities and around 400 were single parents.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 25 March 2020, the government announced of providing 40 percent discount on the electricity bill and 30 percent on the water bill for the month of April and May 2020. After more than a year, on 25 May 2021, the government has re-introduced the discount on water and electricity bills by 30 percent and 40 percent respectively. This discount in utilities was only applicable for the month of May 2021. As of June 2021, as per the President's office statistics, 276,203 households and 110,966 households had benefited from the electricity and water bill subsidies respectively. The value of discount is MVR 146.7 million and MVR 26 million on electricity and water bills respectively.</p> <p>On 25th March 2020 it was announced that all Bank of Maldives loans are eligible for the debt moratorium from 1st March 2020 until end of September 2020. The debt moratorium will allow BML customers to defer monthly principal and interest repayments for 6 months. At the same time the tenor of the loan will also be extended by 6 months allowing more time to repay the accrued interest and principal repayments. Compound interest will not be charged during the moratorium period. Following the moratorium period, the repayment amount would be reduced by 20% for a further 6 months.</p> <p>It was announced on 25 March 2020 that Individuals with Housing Finance loans issued by Housing Development Finance Corporation (HDFC) had the option of applying for a 6-month debt moratorium, which started on 1st March 2020, under the condition that regular payments have been</p>

		<p>made. The debt moratorium allows HDFC customers to defer monthly principal and interest repayments for 6 months. Consequentially the initial loan periods would be extended by an additional 6 months. The application deadline was on 15th April 2020.</p> <p>The Government has also resolved to ease student loan repayment in response to the current situation. Over 4000 individuals are currently liable to repay student loans. The Government has therefore arranged to introduce 6 months of debt relief for all student loan debtors. This will have no effect on the current student loan scheme. The Government has also resolved to ease student loan repayment in response to the current situation. Over 4000 individuals are currently liable to repay student loans. The Government has therefore arranged to introduce 6 months of debt relief for all student loan debtors. This will have no effect on the current student loan scheme. This program ended on 31 December 2021. They are planning re-introduced this scheme, as of 8 June 2021, as per the president's speech. They have decided to suspend repayments of the student loans for 4000 students till the end of the 2021.</p> <p>On March 2020, the government implemented an initiative to assist internet consumers for three months during COVID 19 pandemic. This included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Provision of free fast reliable internet access to all COVID19 taskforce operation centers and cells. 2) Provision of free internet access for everyone during the period of mandatory isolation or quarantine. 3) Recognizing the extra demand for data beyond normal usage, the government encourages service providers to considerably increase the current data caps and lower the price of data boosts. <p>The government expects service providers: to at least double the original data allowance for 70% of fixed broadband and 50% of mobile broadband customers (Or) to introduce daily uncapped allowances after package data limit has reached for all fixed broadband and mobile broadband customers.</p> <p>The government introduced price control for the following food items: onions, dahl, potatoes and eggs will be controlled, effective 6 April 2020. Ministry of Economics of the country announced that the highest rate at which onions and potatoes can be sold is at MVR 20, yellow lentils below MVR 45, and eggs no expensive than MVR 1.80. Retailers that sell at higher prices can get a MVR 100,00 fine or be subject to closure of business for 6 months. Also, it is closely monitoring staple food stocks, and the State Trading Organization (STO) is currently stockpiling essential food items, including 10-months' worth of rice and sugar, and 5-months' worth of flour by mid-April. STO guarantees the availability of fuel.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	

	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[February 2021] On February 4, the Government announced training programs targeting a minimum of 1,200 youth. This program will focus on training youth, specializing in the tourism sector and related areas such as construction and ICT.
	Labor market regulations	[September 2020] On September 22, the President ratified the COVID-19 Special Measures Bill 2020, which will enter into force as Law No 20/2020, which prevented any kind of changes to employees' status due to the pandemic under extraordinary circumstances.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Mali

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government is planning COVID-19 related emergency cash transfers to 75,000 households. These are composed of 25,000 households in the capital and largest urban center, Bamako, and 50,000 households in the regional and departmental capitals across the country (targeting a total of 35 urban municipalities).</p> <p>The government of Mali launched the payment operations of the Government Emergency Cash Transfer Program, intended for poor and vulnerable households as part of the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic, on January 18th, 2021 in Bamako. This assistance operation consists of providing financial assistance in the amount of CFAF 90,000 to each household deemed vulnerable in order to mitigate the economic and social impacts of the pandemic in Mali.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Free distribution of fifty-six thousand tons of cereals and sixteen thousand tons of livestock food to vulnerable populations affected by COVID-19 in August 2020.</p> <p>The government will provide for the massive and free distribution of masks, hydro-alcoholic solutions and hand washing kits in public places, including places of worship.</p> <p>On December 18, 2020 relaunch of the food distribution operation was announced.-</p> <p>The Minister for the Promotion of Women, Children and the Family gave washable masks to 50 women's associations, or 1,000 masks per association, to be distributed in January 2021 to women leaders for the benefit of the members of their association aims to galvanize and equip women in the fight against COVID-19.-</p> <p>In its policy to fight the COVID-19 pandemic and food insecurity in West Africa, ECOWAS, with the support of the EU, made a food loan of 7,372 tons of cereals as its contribution to the Malian state for the most vulnerable families in September 2021.-</p>

		<p>The Prime Minister launched in Ségou, on August 16th, 2021, the campaign of free distributions of cereals to vulnerable layers of the Ségou region. The operation of the day consists of distributing 3,014 tons of cereals in order to alleviate the suffering of the populations.-</p> <p>At least 43,000 tonnes of grain worth 1.3 million CFA were handed over to food insecure people on July 7th, 2021. The donation was made by the President of the Transition who arrived the same day in Mopti.-</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>The pilot program aimed to: (i) Generate high-quality mapping outputs that identify where solid waste points are located in Bamako, allowing field mapping teams to travel to sites for further data collection; (ii) Train local mappers in Bamako on how to use MapSwipe and the solid waste challenges within their community; (iii) Create a work for cash opportunity for individuals whose livelihoods are affected by COVID-19, creating a safe, low-barrier entry for completing task-based work without needing to travel</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money fee.</p> <p>The president announced in his speech that the government will be taking over electricity and water bills for the months of April and May 2020 in the so-called social categories. On December 18, 2020, as part of the social measures announced, the Government announced electricity will be subsidized for the month of December 2020 and January 2021. For consumers with a 2-wire 5 Amp meter, all consumption from 1 kWh to 100 kWh (so-called social brackets), whether the meter is conventional or ISAGO, will be free for the months of December 2020 and January 2021. The bill for conventional meters will be borne by the State for the tranche concerned (the first 100 kWh), while holders of ISAGO meters will receive free credits of up to 100 kWh per month.</p> <p>Exemption from Value Added Tax on electricity and water bills, of all consumers, for the months of April, May, and June 2020. The exemption from VAT (Value Added Tax) on electricity consumption, applies to all of the company's customers for all consumption brackets. This measure will be applied during the months of December 2020 and January 2021.</p> <p>Reduction of taxes on necessities, especially rice and milk.</p> <p>The exemption from VAT (Value Added Tax) on electricity consumption, applies to all of the national electric company's customers for all consumption brackets. This measure will be applied during the months of December 2020 and January 2021.</p>

		The State has decided to subsidize fertilizer to the tune of 15 billion FCFA to support the current agricultural season. The authorities have voted more than 3 billion FCFA to subsidize animal feed, fry and fish feed for the benefit of breeding and fishing.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The National Director of Labor sent a letter to the labor inspectorates on preventive measures in the fight against the spread of COVID19 in the workplace and during inspections in companies. Inspectors are invited to adapt their control methods in companies according to the current situation
	Reduced work time	[December 2020] Extension of the telework measure or the rotation system to the private sector for all companies employing more than 50 people [March 2020] The National Director of Labor sent a letter that allows organizing work in the face of COVID19 according to the Labor Code, which can be adapted to the economic situation affecting certain sectors of activity to avoid redundancies On March 30, 2020, the National Director of Labor sent a letter to the labor inspectorates on preventive measures in the fight against COVID-19 in the workplace and during inspections in companies. Inspectors are invited to adapt their control methods in companies according to the current situation
	Wage subsidies	

Malta

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) Eligible individuals receive a direct payment of €166.15 per week if they work full-time or €103.85 if they work part time. €13.2 million have been paid out to 8,360 beneficiaries for benefits related to parents, those with medical conditions, disability and those who applied for the additional unemployment benefit. A total of €17.5 million will be handed out by the end of June. Applicants must be parents of children under 16 years of age; they work full-time or part-time in the private sector (excludes employees working with private companies who work/provide an essential service to a government entity). Intended for those who cannot work from home and are not attending work after the 8th of March 2020 to look after their children.</p> <p>(March 2020) A benefit of €800 per month (€500 in case of part-timers) to one of the parents who take additional unpaid leave to take care of children whilst schools remain closed, when both parents work in the private sector.</p>
	Social pensions	(March 2020) Eligible individuals will receive a direct payment of €166.15 per week if they work full-time or €103.85 per week if they work part-time. To be eligible, individuals have to be registered with Jobsplus as a person with disability and have a special ID Number or EU disability Card issued by the Commission for the Rights of Persons with Disability, work full or part-time in the private sector, were medically advised to remain at home after the 8th of March 2020, and cannot work from home are eligible.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) Rent subsidies or increased rent subsidies to employees who lose their job and have rent to pay.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>€350 grant is being awarded to employers for each employee required to be on mandatory quarantine leave.</p> <p>Persons with disabilities who have to stay at home due to health concerns that may arise as a consequence of COVID-19 and cannot telework will be entitled to a benefit of €800 per month for a specified period (€500 per month for part-timers).</p>
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Workers who lost or will lose their job with effect from 9 March 2020 will be entitled to a new temporary benefit of €800 per month (€500 per month for part-timers).</p> <p>[March 2020] Provision of an additional unemployment benefit for individuals who were working full-time or part-time in the private sector before becoming unemployed after the 8th March 2020 due to the impact of COVID-19. This will be received in conjunction with the Contributory Unemployment Benefit. Such individuals who would qualify for the 'Contributory Unemployment Benefit' would also be eligible for this additional benefit. Between the two, individuals will receive a direct payment of €166.15 a week for those who were working full time, or €103.85 for those who were working part-time before they became unemployed.</p>
	Social security contributions	Persons receiving unemployment benefits will have their Social Security Contribution paid, and their future contributory pension rights safeguarded.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[June 2020] The Skills Development Scheme aims to support organisations in providing training which develops or updates the knowledge and skills of their workforce. The original scheme had a budget of €30 million for costs that include wage costs of trainees and trainers, air travel in sending trainees abroad or bringing trainers to Malta, and the rental of necessary equipment and training rooms. During an announcement of COVID-19 related measures, it was announced that in order to reach more businesses, the scheme was built upon and topped up with €5 million. The top-up shall be directed towards businesses that employ fewer than 50 persons with the aim of advocating in-house training and focusing on fostering sharing of skills between the most experienced and younger employees. Whilst the expansion of the measure has been announced, the measure is yet to be formally offered.</p> <p>[May 2020] With the aim of empowering and educating the workforce to return stronger when the industry is no longer on hold, the Ministry for Tourism and Consumer Protection, in collaboration with the Malta Tourism Authority (MTA), launched an e-learning training scheme for the tourism industry. It was estimated that up to 25,000 individuals may make use of this opportunity which was not only available to employers and employees in this sector, but also to students studying tourism studies, those who wish to take up a part-time job in tourism, as well as those who are unemployed by may want to take up a new career in tourism. It was announced that nearly €6 million had been spent on the scheme. Between 5,000 and 6,000 individuals who chose to enroll in up to three short courses completed their studies. A further 2,000 were in the process of undertaking a longer accredited course.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	[February 2020] As part of the Maltese effort to reduce the transmission of COVID-19, workers were encouraged to work from home where possible.

	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Wage Supplement Scheme provides employees with a basic wage cover in view of the disruption caused by the COVID pandemic to certain industries. Funds are forwarded to employers who are in turn obliged to forward these to their employees. Full time employees in specific sectors will receive €800 a month from the government through their employers. As part of the agreement, employers in these sectors will continue providing their workers with a further €400 a month. Employers who were too highly impacted by the pandemic and cannot afford the further €400 must register with the Department of industrial relations.</p> <p>[Extension- July 2020] Sectors that were listed under Annex A who obtained the largest wage supplement were reduced.</p> <p>[Extension - October 2020] It was announced that the Scheme would be extended to 2021.</p> <p>[Extension - January 2021] Two important changes to the COVID-19 Wage Supplement were announced. i) the supplement could be used by qualifying businesses for workers who were replaced during summer 2020 and ii) The amount disbursed per employee will from January 2021 vary depending on the losses incurred by the organisation.</p> <p>[Extension-March 2021] The Minister for Enterprise and Sustainable Development announced that the hardest hit businesses will continue to benefit from the measure up to the end of 2021.</p> <p>[Extension-May 2021] The government notified the EU Commission that the estimated budget for this measure had rose from the initial €215 million to €750 million</p> <p>[June 2020] In order to reduce commuting between Gozo and Malta, whilst also encouraging employment in Gozo, the Government via the Ministry for Gozo launched the 'Gozo Telework Scheme' which provides partial reimbursement of the cost of technological equipment as well as a salary reimbursement over a period of three years which is offered pro-rata according to the number of hours of telework allocated. The measure, administered by the Ministry for Gozo, can be used to support up to 10 workers. The scheme offers two levels of support:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Partial reimbursement of 75% up to €850 on the cost of teleworking-related equipment for each employee; -Salary reimbursement of up to €10,000 spread over a period of three years which will be provided on a pro-rata basis according to the allocated teleworking hours per employee. Organisations will receive €3,000 in the first two years and €4,000 in the third year. <p>[Extension- February 2021] It was clarified that the first payment for this scheme will be made once the first year of teleworking has elapsed.</p>
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Marshall Islands

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(June 2020) The Republic of the Marshall Islands Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Plan, approved in June 2020, outlines the actions and resources required to safeguard the wellbeing of vulnerable communities and households, including those in the more remote parts of the Marshall Islands (\$8.3 million). Assistance to the vulnerable involves providing monthly food baskets (comprising shelf-stable staples, e.g., rice, flour, and sugar) to each household in the more remote islands and atolls for at least 6 months, as well as fishing gear and farming tools.
	School feeding	(June 2020) Further, the The Republic of the Marshall Islands Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Plan expands the Ministry of Education's feeding program, which now provides school lunch meals 5 days a week to about 11,300 children from poor families nationwide. This component will also help expand water, sanitation, and hygiene facilities, implement gender-sensitive protocols in quarantine shelters, and support continuing children's education.
	Public works	
Utility waivers	(June 2020) The Republic of the Marshall Islands Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Plan will allocate USD4.0 million to ensure the continuity of essential services, including utilities, and support consular assistance and possible evacuation of citizens abroad.	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Mauritania

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) The Government created the Solidarity Fund (Fonds Spécial de Solidarité et de lutte contre le Coronavirus, FSSLCC) which will be the main vehicle to finance COVID-19 expenditures. This fund will be used to support 30,000 poor families for three months (about US\$13.4 million) from Nouakchott and Nouadhibou that are not yet covered by the social registry (their integration in the social registry is scheduled by end of 2020). Those 30,000 households will be selected through another methodology based on the recycling of beneficiary lists.</p> <p>(March 2020) The Government has decided to support 200,000 households with a nation-wide cash transfer intervention, both in urban and rural areas. Although the effects of COVID-19 are primarily felt in urban areas, the Government decided to also intervene in rural areas to take into consideration the impact of the crisis on food insecure rural households during the lean season. This intervention is the first large-scale cash transfer intervention in Mauritania. It will complement the regular safety net program Tekavoul but as a separate and temporary program covering all the Mauritanian territory. Out of the 200,000 beneficiary households who will be targeted by the COVID-19 cash transfer intervention, 170,000 will be selected from the social registry – i.e. all those in the areas that the social registry currently covers. The remaining 30,000 households are the poor households from the Fund for Social Solidarity program. To date (January 2022), the GoM supported vulnerable affected by the Covid socio-economic impact with two large cash interventions both supporting 210,000 households (1 437 325 individuals). The first intervention was fully financed by the Government through the special fund for covid-19 in June 2020. The second intervention was supported jointly by the WB safety net project, the AFD and the Government in January 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(September 2020) The army will deliver food for around 20,000 families in Nouakchott, which is in lockdown, using 150 vehicles over a period of 5 days. Beneficiaries were selected using various existing databases as they were not covered by the Social Registry. The food distribution drive was coordinated by TAAZOUR and complemented the cash transfer program.</p> <p>The Ministry of Public Service has given out food as well as sanitary products (disinfectants) to trade unions so that they can distribute them to their members in need on April 10th 2020.</p> <p>The Nouakchott Regional Council announced a campaign to distribute aid to poor people in the nine provinces of the capital, in addition to the workers of the lower-income council. This includes the distribution of food baskets, comprising rice, sugar, dairy products, oils, and dates, to the lower-</p>

		<p>income workers of the council.</p> <p>The Mauritanian Ministry of Fishing and Maritime Economy distributed 10 tons of fish to the families most in need in the inland states (far from the coast) that were affected by the measures to combat COVID-19, and in preparation for Ramadan in April 2020.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The state paid water and electricity bills for poor families for two months starting in April 2020.</p> <p>All the taxes and royalties will not have to be paid for the rest of the year for the heads of families working in the traditional fishing sector in relation to their activities starting in May 2020.</p> <p>In order to avoid excessive food price increases during the pandemic, the government implemented a tax exemption for staple foods and basic consumer items, starting in April 2020. The measure is expected to remain in place until the end of 2020.</p> <p>(September 2021) The government approved a reduction in the prices of several basic consumer items, based on an agreement with the Traders Union. The reductions will apply to the prices of meat, rice, wheat, oil, sugar, and milk.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Mauritius

	Cash-based transfers	
	Social Assistance Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>An Employment Support Scheme was developed for SMEs to support 11,000 employees with a monthly payment of Rs10,200 per capita on the condition that the entity has not laid off any employee since September 2020.</p> <p>Eligible self-employed individuals received a financial support of Rs 5,100 (i.e. 50% of Guaranteed Income) for the period March 16th, 2020 to April 15th, 2020. Self-employed individuals who are either in business (examples: shops, hawkers, hair dressers, etc.) or are casual workers (examples: masons, plumbers, artists etc.) are eligible under the scheme. Self-employed individuals in business or self-employed casual workers whose total monthly household income does not exceed Rs 50,000 will also be eligible under the scheme. The program was continued throughout 2020 and since July 2020 only involved the tourism sector (except for April 2021, when all sectors were involved). The 2021 budget provided a further extension for tourism-related employees until September 2021, which was later extended until December 2021.</p> <p>The Government of the Republic of Mauritius announced the payment of a One-Off Grant of Rs 10,000 to Self-Employed individuals under a One-Off Grant Scheme in March 2021. The Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) further announced that all Self-Employed individuals who are eligible to the Self-Employed Assistance Scheme (SEAS) for the month of March 2021 will also receive the One-Off Grant of Rs 10,000.</p> <p>As part of the national initiative to fight unemployment, tea planters, in particular those of the tea-belt of the South who were affected by the lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, obtained a one-off grant of Rs 8,000 per hectare. As of August 11th, 2021, around 500 planters had received benefits under a total budget of Rs 3.7 million.</p> <p>The Minister of Arts and Cultural Heritage remitted cheques to beneficiaries of the COVID-19 Artists Support Plan 2021. A total of 190 artists whose maquette was approved under the Music Industry Scheme of the Support Plan, will receive each a financial assistance to the tune of Rs 15,000. A total amount of Rs 2,850,000 was disbursed to this end.</p> <p>The COVID-19 Artists Support Plan 2021 was implemented to offer a financial support to local artists and other concerned actors of the cultural and creative sectors, whose activities were impacted by the COVID-19 restrictions. The Support Plan comprises seven measures and schemes</p>

	<p>in various artistic disciplines, namely music, literature, production of short stories, painting, sculpture, film making, photography and other forms of art. The work of the beneficiaries of the Support Plan will be used for the promotion of Mauritius on the international landscape, and will also increase the visibility of artists. A total budget of Rs 20 million has been earmarked for the Post COVID-19 Action Plan and the Support Plan of this year.</p> <p>The 2021 budget contains a raise in the grant to NGOs running Special Education Needs (SEN) from Rs 138 million to Rs 151 million. The grant will compose a Rs 600 increase in the Basic Grant for each student to Rs 6000, Rs 15 more per day in meal allowance to Rs 75 and a grant to newly registered NGOs catering for students with autism and visual and hearing impairments. This is part of a Rs 845 million grant to NGOs to facilitate a more inclusive society.</p>
Social pensions	The 2021 budget increases the orphan pension to MUR8k per month for those up to 23 years and monthly foster care allowance to MUR8k per month.
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	
School feeding	
Public works	<p>As part of the national initiative to fight unemployment, the Nationwide Clean-Up Campaign under the responsibility of Maurifacilities Management Co. Ltd hired some 2,000 people on technical unemployment. In addition, a thousand members of the fishing community were recruited by the Mauritius Oceanography Institute and the Albion Fisheries Research Center for work related to coral cultivation, reef rehabilitation and fish farming.</p> <p>15 local filmmakers engaged in the production of short film/video in the form of a documentary, will receive a financial assistance of Rs 75,000 from the Ministry of Arts and Culture. An amount of Rs 1,125,000 was earmarked to this end.</p>
Utility waivers	<p>The Agricultural Marketing Board, through the Seed Purchase Scheme, will provide seeds for the cultivation of potato, garlic, bean, and onion. AMB will purchase at a guaranteed price product such as potatoes, garlic, and onion on a long-term basis.</p> <p>As part of its commitment to mitigate the adverse financial impact of the lockdown on economic operators, Government is waiving the fees payable by sellers of vegetables, haberdashery, and general merchandise in markets around the island during the curfew period. For those who have already paid, the amount will be deducted in the next installment due.</p> <p>The 2021 budget provides for the extension of the subsidy imposed on the price of white flour for 25 kg bags to MUR 155.50 for one additional year. There was an additional provision for a subsidy of MUR 19.50 per 25 kg bag to align the price of wheat flour to that of white flour.</p>

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	(February 2021) The Human Resource Development Council (HHRDC) will increase the National Training and Reskilling Intake by some 9,000 unemployed in the construction, manufacturing, logistics, ICT-BPO, agro-industry, renewable energy and the circular economy. Beneficiaries will be paid monthly stipends of Rs10,200 over a training period spanning six months.
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] All work permits that were set to expire in 2020 were extended automatically up to 31 December 2021.
	Reduced work time	(March 2020) To minimize human contacts, Government will give full support to promote the Work at Home Scheme.
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The Government Wage Assistance Scheme (GWAS) is an economic measure by the Government of Mauritius to provide a Government wage subsidy to Employers, as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to ensure that all employees are duly paid their salary for the month of March 2020.</p> <p>The scheme is applicable to businesses in the private sector and with respect to their employees drawing a monthly basic wage of up to Rs 50,000.</p> <p>The scheme covers both Mauritians and expatriate employees working in Mauritius. However, the scheme is not applicable to Ministries and Government Departments, Local Authorities, Statutory Bodies and Government Owned Companies.</p> <p>[September 2021] This measure was extended for the full month for the tourism sector. For those businesses outside of the tourism sector, it was extended for those who were not allowed to carry out their activities in the month of September, e.g. theaters, cinema halls, casinos etc.</p> <p>[October 2021] This scheme has been extended on a monthly basis since its initiation. The most recent extension was announced on 14th October 2021.</p>

Mexico

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Advance payments for the Scholarship Program for basic and high school education for the third bi-month (May-June) in the beginning of the period (payments are usually made at the end of the period). This measure was only for beneficiaries that do not receive the benefits in their Bank accounts (38% and 12% of basic and high school education recipients, respectively). The Government has pointed out that it will continue advancing payments, that is, advancing May-June 2021 period, which will be paid with the corresponding payment of March-April period.</p> <p>A program that supports children of working mothers will increase its baseline coverage by 46%, from 150 to 220 thousand mothers in 2020. The progress report of the last quarter of 2020 highlights that the target was achieved (252,219 beneficiaries).</p>
	Social pensions	<p>Advance payments for the two social pension programs (i.e., social pensions for the elderly and for people with disabilities) for the May-June and September-October periods in March-April and July-August periods, respectively (payment of two-bi-monthly benefits at once. The amount of bi-monthly benefit is MXN \$5,240 in advance. This measure benefited more than 8 M older adults and 800,000 people with disabilities, which represented an investment of MXN \$46.4 billion. The delivery of this program was through bank account and in cash. The Government has confirmed that it will advance payments of the social pension programs for the 2021 May-June period with the corresponding payment of the March-April period.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>Provision of additional support to the parents' societies for the maintenance of 31,000 schools and with the purpose of providing temporary employment.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>Through Housing Funds of the public sector workers and other formal workers (i.e., through Fovissste- Fondo de la Vivienda del ISSSTE; and Infonavit- Instituto del Fondo Nacional de la Vivienda para los Trabajadores), 177 billion pesos will be allocated to grant housing loans for nine months, for the benefit of 442,500 workers.</p> <p>The Government waived the electricity threshold for domestic high energy use for the duration of the outbreak. On April 27, 2020, the Ministry of Finance issued a circular stating that the household electricity usage during the quarantine period cannot be considered to reclassify a household into a</p>

		<p>high user category (Domestico de Alto Consumo-DAC) with a higher tariff. This was done to protect the households from facing a significantly higher electricity bill stemming from the increased electricity usage in during the quarantine/stay at home period.</p> <p>The INFONAVIT offered deferments on the payment of employer’s mortgage, capital and interest. Initially, this was granted for 3 months, with the possibility of an extension up to 6 months. In the last press release (September 7th, 2020), INFONAVIT reported to have helped to preserve around 2.5 million jobs through this mechanism.</p> <p>Micro-credits/soft loans for affected population. In response to COVID-19, the Government has established the Financial Support (Credit) Program for Microenterprises geared towards formal and informal MSMEs and independent workers. This program has two modalities: i) Solidarity Credit (“Credito Solidario a la Palabra”) for formal microenterprises and family businesses that consists of a soft loan of MXN \$25,000 with three months grace period and to be paid in three years, with the sole eligibility criterion of not having layoffs or stopped paying workers’ wages in 2020. This modality also supports domestic and independent workers voluntarily registered with IMSS and ii) Family Microenterprises (“Microempresa familiar”) for non-farm informal family micro-businesses, individual entrepreneurs, or self-employed workers (that has been in operation 6 months or more) in the face of the economic damages caused by COVID-19, to access to concessional loans of MXN \$25,000 per business or person to be paid in three years, including three months grace period. In 2020, this program achieved its target of providing over one million micro-credits. The Government recently announced that this emergency program (modality - family microenterprises) will continue its operation in 2021, with a target of 60 thousand micro-credits</p> <p>Moreover, the Government has determined to scale-up the existing Microcredits for Welfare Program (Microcréditos para el Bienestar, also known as Tandas para el Bienestar) and relaxed its repayment conditions (increased grace period) and eligibility requirements (in terms of age and geographical location). This program also aims to support informal MSMEs through interest-free short-term microcredits, with the possibility of accessing increasing amounts of microcredit if the original or previous microcredits have been repaid in a timely manner (of up to MXN\$20,000 if smaller credits were repaid). Each of the reimbursements can be made in up to ten monthly payments with one to three months initial grace period. In 2019, the program benefited nearly 350 thousand informal MSMEs.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	On 18 March 2020, Mexico announced an advance of 4 months of pension to seniors scheduled for the end of March. Pensions are usually delivered every two months. Under the new measures, instead of the regular 2,670 MXN older people will receive double that amount.

		Frontloading payments of the old-age and disability pensions by 8 months.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	The Institute of the National Housing Fund for Workers (INFONAVIT) offered deferments on the payment of employer's social security contributions, specifically those related to housing. In September 2020 press release, INFONAVIT reported to have helped to preserve around 2.5 million jobs through this mechanism.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Micronesia (Federated states of)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On June 10, 2020, Government of Micronesia has announced a financial assistance to provide some relief to its citizens stranded abroad prior to Health Emergency Declaration (dated 25 March 2020) which affected flights to the country. This assistance is not meant to cover 100% of their costs. It is a one-off cash transfer worth USD \$1,000 per single adult application (18 years or older) and USD \$1,500 per family. Beneficiaries had to designate which payment method they preferred (such as cash, check through Consulate, direct deposit to Bank of Guam account or Bank of FSM account). For those who do not have access to their own bank account while overseas and cannot get to the nearest consulate or embassy they could receive the cash transfer in relatives account or request a wire transfer. As officially reported on December 15, 2020, there were 423 beneficiaries. The program was extended for a second round before Christmas 2020. As of 19 May 2021, stranded citizens program has received 748 applications of which 535 have been approved so far to receive two payments of \$1,000 per person or \$1,500 per family with a total expenditure of \$1,174,000.</p> <p>On 13th November 2020, Asian development bank approved a \$14 million grant to help the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) respond to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. It includes a cash transfer program approximately to 4,500 low-income households with an intension to provide temporary cash relief for households outside of the formal labor sector, such as subsistence farmers and fishermen, and specifically such laborers who do not qualify for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program. Approximately six million dollars (\$6,000,000) was scheduled for this purpose and expected to provide a one-time assistance of \$1,000 to each low-income household. Households were encouraged to use this assistance to enhance COVID-19 readiness by buying facemasks, sanitary needs, and other COVID-19 preventive items. The Government intended to begin rolling out this social protection program by January 2021. However, the government hasn't began the roll-out so far. The government recently has formally re-launched the program as Low-Income Assistance Social Protection Program and has increased the allocated funds to 7 million dollars as per the announcement on June 8, 2021.</p> <p>On June 10, 2020, a financial assistance was approved to provide some relief to travelers who have had to incur extraordinary costs due to being stranded but it is not meant to cover 100% of their costs. As of 19 May 2021, it was reported that a total of 250 Micronesian students who were studying overseas and were stranded abroad have received one-time payments of \$500 totaling \$125,000</p>
	Social pensions	

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) completed food relief for Malaita Outer Islands (MOI) early this month following assessment by the Malaita Province Livelihood Committee, benefiting nearly 5,000 inhabitants, approximately 792 households in Luani
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 15 December, 2020, President of the Micronesia (FSM) launched the Social Protection Program. With the funding from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the president initiated the financial assistance program to support vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence is intended to provide temporary waivers of medical expenses not included under funding from the Compact of Free Association. Approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose, and it is the intention of the Government to begin rolling out this social protection program by January 2021.</p> <p>On 15 December, 2020, President of the Micronesia (FSM) launched the Social Protection Program. With the funding from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the president initiated the financial assistance program to support vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence is intended to provide electricity subsidies to an estimated 2,000 low-income households with dependents who have disabilities. Approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose, and it is the intention of the Government to begin rolling out this social protection program by January 2021.</p> <p>On 15 December, 2020, President of the Micronesia (FSM) launched the Social Protection Program. With the funding from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the president initiated the financial assistance program to support vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence is intended to provide solar lamps to an estimated 5,000 households on remote outer islands. Approximately one million dollars (\$1,000,000) is scheduled for this purpose, and it is the intention of the Government to begin rolling out this social protection program by January 2021.</p> <p>On 15 December, 2020, President of the Micronesia (FSM) launched the Social Protection Program. With the funding from Asian Development Bank (ADB), the president initiated the food security program. The food security program for community groups and low-income households is intended to provide subsistence livelihood training, and an equitable distribution of seeds, planting, and fishing materials, to vulnerable citizens at no cost. Approximately USD \$2,000,000 is scheduled for this purpose, and it is the intention of the government to begin rolling out this social protection program by January 2021.</p>
	Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The government announced the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program of US\$36 million (9 percent of GDP) for the period of nine months, supported by the U.S. Department of Labor. The FSM Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program (PUA) provided unemployment benefits to individuals who had become unemployed as a direct result of the COVID-19 Pandemic or are partially employed, or unable or unavailable to work due to one of these COVID-19-related situations.</p> <p>[Extension - March 2021] This measure was extended to September 4, 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Moldova

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 24 April 2020, the Moldova government introduced approved a Temporary increase of social assistance benefit: guaranteed minimum income threshold increased to 1300 lei (US\$73.5) from 1107 lei (US\$62.6) per adult during the emergency period.</p> <p>On 24 April 2020, Moldova government has announced to increase of the minimum guaranteed monthly income (GMI) for children from 50% to 75%. For families with children, increasing the adult equivalency coefficient to 0.75 from 0.5 and using a higher GMI threshold would result in a substantial strengthening of support. Instead of a current benefit of 1,544 Leu on average for a family with children, they would be eligible for 2,800 Leu on average. This is a permanent measure.</p> <p>Double increase of child allowance for uninsured people (MDLei 975/\$55).</p> <p>On November 5, 2020, the Moldova Government approved a draft law that allows inclusion of the expenses related to COVID-19 testing of employees in the general non-taxed revenues of the companies, thus stimulating these to increase the testing coverage of its workforce. This will start on Jan 1, 2021.</p> <p>On 13 May 2020, the government announced to allocate over 6.5 million lei from the intervention fund to the Interior Ministry for providing one-off allowances of 16,000 lei to employees infected with COVID-19 during the fulfillment of the job duties, as well as to the Health, Labor and Social Protection Ministry and local public administration authorities for the providing of one-off allowances to the medical system employees infected with COVID-19.</p> <p>On 24 April 2020, the Moldova government introduced the flat unemployment benefit of 2775 Lei a month for those who would otherwise be ineligible for the regular unemployment benefit (such as returning migrant workers and former informal workers). There are a total of 39,045 beneficiaries and will cost 164,068,800 MDL</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
School feeding		

	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[April 2020] On April 1, the Government approved a draft law on measures to support the population during the state of emergency. The measures include providing unemployed individuals, including those returning from working abroad and registered as unemployed with the National Agency for Employment (ANOFM), with monthly unemployment benefit of MDL 2775. the benefit will provide even if the individuals do not have the contribution period necessary to benefit from such unemployment aid. The unemployment benefit will be provided during the state of emergency, afterwards unemployment benefits will be granted under the terms of existing laws for unemployment insurance.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Monaco

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The State is implementing as of 1 April 2020, the Extraordinary Minimum Income, a measure announced by the Government to help self-employed workers who are experiencing a decline in their activity impacted by the Covid-19 crisis, to the point of depriving them of any resources. The aim is to grant an Extraordinary Minimum Income of a lump sum of €1800 to self-employed workers who would find themselves without income in this unprecedented economic situation. The cost of the measure is €3 million per month (based on an estimate of 2,000–2,500 applicants).
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	For employees who are laid off due to COVID-19, the government's strengthened provisions for total temporary layoffs include: (i) Employees who usually receive a gross base salary of less than or equal to EUR 2,075.16 (US\$ 2,274), for 169 hours per month, will not lose any of their income. They will receive their usual net salary, since this is less than EUR 1,800.00 (US\$ 1,972). (ii) Employees who usually receive a gross base salary of between EUR 2,075.17 and EUR 2,571.43 (US\$ 2,274-2,817) for 169 hours per month will be entitled to the safeguard clause at a rate of EUR 1,800.00. (iii) If the employers pays the extra 20% so that the worker continues to receive their full salary, the State will exempt the employer from social security contributions on this additional portion. In the case of higher salaries, a cap has been set at 4.5 times the minimum wage.
	Social security contributions	[July 2020] To ensure job retention, employers, employees, and self-employed workers who are experiencing a significant drop in activity can request postponement and a staggering of the payment of social contributions in favor of employers. [Extension- October 2020] The assistance was renewed, under the same conditions, for contributions from August to December 2020, without the employers who benefited from it the previous month having to renew their procedures.

		<p>[Extension- March 2021] The aid was renewed, under the same conditions, for the cofisaflons from August 2020 to June 2021, without the employers who benefited from it the previous month having to renew their procedures.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] The assistance was renewed, under the same conditions, for contributions from October 2021 to December 2021, without the employers who benefited from it the previous month having to renew their procedures.</p> <p>[July 2020] As part of the Principality's economic recovery plan, the Government has decided to renew the Partial Exemption from Employers' Charges (EPCP) measure. From now on, new sectors of activity that have been permanently impacted are included, and the turnover ceiling is raised to 5 million euros achieved in 2019, instead of 1 million previously. The Partial Exemption from Employer's Contribution seeks to enable companies that have been significantly impacted by the COVID-19 crisis to benefit from partial exemption from the employer's share of Autonomous pension fund (CAR) and Social services compensation fund (CCSS) contributions for a given period. The measure is valid until December 2021.</p> <p>[Extension- October 2020] New sectors of activity that have been affected are included. In addition, the maximum turnover has been increased to EUR 5 million instead of EUR 1 million.</p> <p>[Extension- September 2021] The measure is extended until December 2021.</p> <p>Employers and self-employed workers who are experiencing a significant drop in activity can request staggered payment of their social security contributions. Policy in place until June 2021.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>(October 2020) Employment assistance for young Monegasques or residents, under the age of 26, looking for a first job or first permanent professional integration, registered with the Commission for the Integration of Graduates and the Youth Employment Unit allows companies that recruit them to benefit from reimbursement of employer contributions (CCSS, CAR, AMRR, ASSEDIC, CET), for a maximum period of two years. This measure is open to employers until June 30, 2021.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[June 2020] With an aim to provide assistance to employees with more than 20 years of service and prevention of dismissals during the Covid-19 period, employers who will recruit senior employees will benefit for two years from a total discharge of his contributions social. On the condition, of course that there is no dismissal later, otherwise a reimbursement will have to be made to the State.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The Government of Monaco requires both the public and private sectors to implement teleworking options for employees, when the nature of the employee's activity is compatible with his remote exercise and the employer can make the technical and material resources necessary for such an exercise available to him, the employer. This measure is effective from April 1, 2021 until April 18 inclusive.</p>

		<p>[Extension-June 2021] As of June 12, 2021, teleworking is no longer compulsory but it remains strongly recommended in the private and public sectors.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] To offer solidarity to employees affected by the Covid-19 pandemic, the State is reimbursing employers in the amount of 80.6% of the net salary of each employee. This system, which seeks to support the situation of employees, 75% of whom live outside the Principality, was requested by 2,625 employers and concerns 21,650 employees, or 40% of Monegasque employees. The cost of the measure is €50 million per month. From August 1, 2021 to 30 September 30, 2021, it was decided to apply the following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -For activities listed in Annex A, companies must justify a loss of 20% of turnover compared to a reference period in 2019 -For activities listed in Annex B, companies must justify a loss of 30% of turnover compared to a reference period in 2019. <p>From October 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, it was decided to apply the following rules:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -For the activities listed in Annex A and those listed in Annex B, companies must justify a loss of 30% of turnover compared to a reference period in 2019. <p>[Extension-September 2021] The measure's extension is announced until 31 December 2021</p> <p>[March 2020] To provide support for workers, employees earning up to €1,800 per month will receive not 80% but 100% of their salaries, thanks to a guaranteed supplement from the State. This measure affects up to 9,000 people. The cost of the measure is €1.6 million per month. In practical terms, employees earning up to €1,800 per month will keep all of their income.</p>

Mongolia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On May 6 2020, Government of Mongolia announced that the 'Child Money' monthly allowance, given for a total of 1.14 million children below 18 years old in Mongolia, will be raised to MNT 100,000 until October 1, 2020. As the previously increased to MNT 30,000 (March 27, 2020) from initial MNT 20,000 (i.e., pre-covid-19), was already granted to children in April 2020, the leftover amount MNT 70,000 will be compensated in the coming days. On Aug 5, 2020, the cabinet announced that child money monthly support of 100,000 MNT per child will continue until the end of 2020. A total of 300 billion MNT will be spent on 1.25 million children. It was further extended until 30 June 2021, as reported on 23 March 2021. Finally, on 28 June 2021, government announced further extension of the temporary increase until the end of 2021. The child money program reaches more than 1 million Mongolian children with electronic transfers.</p> <p>On April 8, 2021, the government announced a cash assistance of MNT 300,000 to each citizen account for MNT 1 trillion in total equivalent to 2½ percent of GDP to compensate an income loss associated with a renewed lockdown during April 10-25, 2021 (and the lockdown extended until May 2021). Even those residing in other countries who still hold Mongolian citizenship can get it if they applied online and connected their local bank account with the E-Mongolia system.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>On May 6 2020, Mongolian Government announced a vertical expansion of Social Welfare Pension (SWP) benefit of MNT100,000. It is targeted at seniors citizen ineligible for old-age pension from the Social Insurance Fund, persons with disabilities, children who lost breadwinner, and single & senior parents with 4+ children and they will receive an increased benefit amount of MNT 280,000 as compared to pre-Covid benefit level of MNT 188,000.0 per month. This was expected to end by the end of September 2020 as per the initial plan. It is expected that around 32.6 thousand people will receive the benefit, including 3.6 thousand senior citizens who are not entitled to pension benefits, 42.5 thousand citizens with disabilities, 16.5 thousand orphaned or half-orphaned children and single parents. On Aug 5 2020, government extended the SWP until Dec 30, 2020; and it was extended again until 1 July 2021</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Food support program: A monthly cash benefit is provided to members of poor families. The benefit's pre-Covid level was MNT 16,000.0 per adult and MNT 8,000.0 per child per month. The benefit was increased to MNT 32,000.0 (11.2\$) per adult and MNT 16,000.0 (\$5.6) per child per month during 1 May to 1 October 2020 as part of government fiscal measures to respond to Covid-19 pandemic. The increased level of benefit continued only for adults till 1 Jan 2021. From 1 January 2021, the increased benefit for adults was scaled back to the pre-Covid level. This program continues with the pre-Covid level of benefits.</p>

	School feeding	It is announced on August 11, 2021 that the Mongolia's Cabinet decided to expand School lunch program by including 381 thousand children of 1st-5th grades and increase its daily cost per child to MNT 1500 from September 1, 2021. In addition, it was decided to set the daily cost of 'School Lunch' per student of 6th-9th grades at MNT 1800 from September 1, 2022.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	On Dec 13, 2020, Mongolian government announced Households were exempted from paying utility fees (for electricity, heating, water usage and waste disposal service) between December 1, 2020 till 1 July 2021. Moreover, it was decided to exempt every household in Mongolia from electricity, water, and waste bills, and the ones living in apartments of up to 100 square meters from heat bills from December 1, 2020, to July 1, 2021. A household living in a home of 120 square meters, for example will have to pay the heat bills for the 20 square meters by themselves. The utility fee exemptions equaled about 1.5 percent of GDP (Kim and Uochi, forthcoming). On 25 June 2021, the government has proposed to extend the utility fee exemption until the end of 2021.
		On Dec 13, 2020, Mongolian government announced to increase the discount on refined coal by 25% (going from 50% to 75%) and this discount will be applicable from 1 Dec 2021 until June 1, 2021. On 25 June 2021, government further proposed to extend a 50 percent discount rate of refined coal until March of 2022.
		On April 13, 2020, the Bank of Mongolia allowed existing consumption loan borrowers to defer their principal and interest payments by up to 12 months. On June 29, 2020, Government extended this measure and therefore, the Bank of Mongolia in cooperation with corresponding organizations and banks decided to make deferrals on the subsidized mortgage loans' principal and interest repayment again until the end of December 31, 2021.
		On April 1, 2020, Mongolian government has announced reduction of money transaction fees. Commercial banks collectively reduced interbank transaction fees by 20 -100% from April 1, 2020 till October 1, 2020.
		Penalties imposed on unpaid taxes and dues will be lifted during the period of state heightened situation. There are approximately 800,000 such taxpayers.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	

	Unemployment benefits	Cash support from the Unemployment Insurance Fund: (i) The insured who worked in enterprises (except state and local government entities and state owned enterprises) for which the sales revenue was reduced by 50% and more during the months of February and March 2020 as compared to the same months in previous year and which retained their employees and (ii) the insured who worked in enterprises which stopped operation due to decision of state authorities or due to the impact of the pandemic, were provided a monthly cash support of MNT 200,000 between April 1., 2020 till July 1, 2020.
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] Exemption from social insurance contributions under mandatory social insurance scheme: Employers and employees of all entities and firms, excluding state and local government entities and state owned enterprises, were exempted from social insurance contributions paid for pension insurance, benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance from April 1, 2020 till October 1, 2020 and the insured were automatically considered to have paid for social insurance contribution during this period. This measure was extended further; and between October 1, 2020 till July 1, 2022, the eligible employers and employees as mentioned above, were partially exempted from social insurance contributions as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) between October 1, 2020 till January 1, 2021: Full exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance, and partial exemption of SI contribution for pension insurance; (ii) between January 1, 2021 till July 1, 2021: Exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance only. <p>Deferral of SI contribution arrears: The enterprises (except state and locally owned entities and semi-state entities) which reported in due time, the social insurance contribution dues for the period between February 1, 2020 to April 1, 2020 but could not make the transfer of contributions within the legally prescribed time, were relieved from fines and payment of undue losses imposed by the Law on Violations. This measure was extended till December 31, 2020.</p> <p>On November 18, 2020, the government announced further extension of selected COVID-19 fiscal measures through end-June 2021, in response to potential adverse effects of the country's lockdown associated with domestic transmissions: reduced social security contribution. A supplementary budget to contain these measures (amounting to about 7½ percent of GDP in total including the previous measures) was approved by Parliament on August 28.</p> <p>Exemption from social insurance contributions under mandatory social insurance scheme: Employers and employees of all entities and firms, excluding state and local government entities and state owned enterprises, were exempted from social insurance contributions paid for pension insurance, benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational</p>

		<p>disease insurance from April 1, 2020 till October 1, 2020 and the insured were automatically considered to have paid for social insurance contribution during this period. This measure was extended further; and between October 1, 2020 till July 1, 2022, the eligible employers and employees as mentioned above, were partially exempted from social insurance contributions as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) between October 1, 2020 till January 1, 2021: Full exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance, and partial exemption of SI contribution for pension insurance; (ii) between January 1, 2021 till July 1, 2021: Exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance only. <p>Exemption from social insurance contributions under voluntary social insurance scheme: The self-employed who participate in the voluntary social insurance scheme were partially exempted from the SI contributions as the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) between April 1, 2020 till October 1, 2020: SI contributions were relieved by the amount calculated against the minimum wage; (ii) between October 1, 2020 till January 1, 2021: Exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance, and partial exemption of SI contribution for pension insurance; (iii) between January 1, 2021 till July 1, 2021: Exemption of SI contributions for benefit insurance, unemployment insurance and industrial accident and occupational disease insurance only."
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The government directed all public and private organizations to allow female employees who are pregnant or have children under 12 to work from home, or to provide paid leave for them until the end of March.
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] Cash support was available from the Social Insurance Fund for: (i) The insured who worked in enterprises (except state and local government entities and state owned enterprises) for which the sales revenue was reduced by 50% and more during the months of February and March 2020 as compared to the same months in previous year and which retained their employees and (ii) the insured who worked in enterprises which stopped operation due to decision of state authorities or due to the impact of the pandemic, were provided a monthly cash support of MNT 200,000 between April 1, 2020 till July 1, 2020.

Montenegro

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Within the first economic support package (announced on March 19th, 2020), nearly 8,500 beneficiaries of material security (korisnika materijalnog obezbijedenja) received a one-off amount of EUR50. For this purpose, the government spent EUR429,650, involving 8,593 actual beneficiaries. Payments are processed through the Post office and home deliveries, to enforce social distancing.</p> <p>Within the second package, the government implemented an advance payment of a part of premiums to agricultural producers and additional support for production in 2020. With the increase of 2020 Agrobudget, the funds for this measure of non-refundable support were also increased, so that 80% of the paid funds in 2020 exceeded the amount of 2019 support. Overall, the government spent EUR 3,335,000 to provided additional support to the income of agricultural producers.</p> <p>Within the second economic package, the government introduced a one-off payment economic support to 183 professional fishermen who were holders of a license for commercial fishing at sea. This policy involved an expenditure of EUR213,300.</p> <p>Within the second economic package, the government provided a one-off assistance in the amount of EUR 50 to all unemployed persons on the records of the Employment Agency of Montenegro, who do not receive any social transfers. According to a report published by the government, there were 17,157 beneficiaries, which involved a total budget of EUR 857,850. This benefit was extended in the fourth economic package of January 2021, with a one-time assistance of EUR 100 for persons that were registered in the unemployment register of the Employment Service of Montenegro at the end of 2020.</p> <p>As part of third package, 8 million EUR were distributed on 200 EUR one-off cash assistance to beneficiaries of family material support, and veterans' material security beneficiaries in summer 2020 (total 1,800,000.00 EUR). This benefit was extended as part of the fourth economic stimulus package passed in January 2021. In this package, users of material security should receive a one-time financial compensation in the amount of EUR 50 per family with one or two members, and EUR 100 per family with three or more members.</p>

	<p>As part of the fourth economic stimulus package passed in January 2021, all pension users who receive pensions in Montenegro in the amount less than the minimum wage (EUR 222) will receive EUR 50 in one-time financial assistance, and the same amount will be given to the beneficiaries of the right to personal disability benefits through the Centers for Social Work.</p> <p>In 2021, the Government introduced universal child allowance for children 0-6, covering new 36,000 children. Payout of the benefit for already existing categories of eligible children (children in poor families, children with disabilities, and children without parental care) were increased by approximately 20 EUR per month. Annual expenditure for the reformed benefit is assessed at 17.5 million EUR</p> <p>In Q1 2021, the following one-off measures were introduced, totaling 7 million EUR: Unemployed registered with the Employment Agency and who do not receive any form of cash assistance, 100 EUR, unemployed persons registered at the Employment Agency who receive some form of cash assistance (amounting to the difference between the assistance received and €100), families receiving FMS (€50 or €100, depending on family size, 767 beneficiaries of Personal Disability Allowance (€50)</p> <p>Q1 2021: Education and health workers received tourism vouchers to be used by 1 July 2021, in the amount of 200 EUR. Vouchers were valid only for registered accommodation providers. The support was assessed at 5,5 million EUR.</p>
Social pensions	<p>Within the first two economic packages (announced on March 19th, 2020), nearly 11,900 pensioners receiving the lowest pension received a one-off amount of EUR50. According to the government's website, there were 12,012 actual beneficiaries, which involved a budget of EUR628,700 at this stage.</p>
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>Government introduced free textbooks policy for children in primary school in 2021. Annual expenditure is assessed at 4 million EUR.</p>
School feeding	
Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>Within the first economic package (March 2020), the Montenegrin Electric Enterprise increased the number of subsidies for electricity bills for the duration of the measures to socially disadvantaged households. Subsidies were approved for electricity bills that were ranged from 30% to 50% of the bill amount. This direct reliefs, covered 21,272 customers in April, with a total budget of EUR 277,516.</p>

		<p>Within the first economic package (March 2020), the government implemented the following measures related to the facilitation to settling electricity energy bills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Suspension of coercive measures of disconnection from the network as well as showed tolerance towards customers who have concluded agreements on debt settlement, and they are not able to comply with due to emerging situations caused by the COVID-19 pandemic; - Enabled membership in the "golden team" for all electricity customers energy that on April 30th, 2020 have no outstanding electricity obligation. This is how these customers gained discounts on the value of calculated active electricity in amounting to 13%. <p>Q2 2021: Pensioners receiving below minimum wage and unemployed registered at the Employment Agency will receive 40% utility waivers. 5 million was allocated in Q2 2021.</p> <p>As part of the fourth economic stimulus package passed in January 2021, the government allowed for the postponing and rescheduling of payment of taxes and income contributions.</p> <p>The new economic stimulus package of April 2021 includes a reduction of electricity bills for the most vulnerable groups.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>Within the second economic package, the government implemented an extraordinary payment to the beneficiaries of the elderly pension. This meant two payments of EUR\$ 64.41 for 3,419 beneficiaries, involving a total budget of EUR\$ 440,000.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>Within the second economic package, the government introduced the payment of contributions to insured persons based on agriculture. All contributions have been paid for 528 agricultural insured persons who regularly pay contributions, in the total amount of EUR\$ 163,099.20. In this way, each insured person received EUR\$ 308.9, which consisted of EUR\$ 185.34 of personal contributions and EUR\$ 123.56, paid by the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development. This measure was granted for six months.</p> <p>Postponement of payment of taxes and contributions on salaries as well as obligations according to</p>

		<p>the Law on Reprogramming for up to 90 days as of June 30th 2020. According to the Tax Administration, the total amount of deferred liabilities on this basis were EUR\$ 45 million.</p> <p>[April 2020] The payment of taxes contributions on salaries will be postponed according to the Law on Reprogramming.</p> <p>In 2021, a contribution waver was introduced for employing individuals registered with the Employment Agency for more than three months, amounting to 90% of taxes and contribution in 2021, 60% in 2022, and 30% in 2023. The difference will be covered from public budget.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	Q1 2021: During school closures, parents had the right to government subsidized school leave in case of children younger than 11 years and children with disabilities younger than 18 years.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] Within the first economic package, the government launched subsidies of 50-100% of employees' wages. In order to preserve existing jobs, these measures were implemented to protect formal workers, as well as to support new employment. The measures included subsidies for the tourism sector.</p> <p>[July 2020] Within the third economic package, the government decided to extend wage subsidies for the months of July, August and September to firms, companies and entrepreneurs operating in the area of tourism, catering and public transport. This was up to 70% of net minimum wage and 70% of taxes and contributions to minimum earnings for the tourism sector. It was estimated that this initiative implied a budget of EUR\$ 4 million on a monthly basis, i.e. EUR\$ 12 million for the duration of the measure.</p>

Montserrat (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(April 2020) A three-month temporary transfer of EC\$900 (US\$333) a month to persons who do not have any work and unable to access other Social Security benefits and other financial support.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) Food delivery in partnership with the Red Cross and Meals on Wheels to vulnerable communities. According to the government's website, overall, there was a planned budget of XCD \$75,000.</p> <p>(April 2020) Social Services will provide additional food packages top-up for vulnerable low-income earners and other low-income groups.</p> <p>(May 2020) The Ministry of Agriculture, Lands, Housing & the Environment implemented an initiative to assist residents and support food security on the island. This measure involved supplying limited water tanks under the agriculture support program and under the Covid19 support program. To be beneficiary, people must be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) Persons who did not benefit under the Commercial Farming, Hoop House rehabilitation, Open Field and Container Garden Initiativee. (ii) Persons who do not already have a tank in their possession. <p>This incentive was delivered on a 'first come, first serve' basis and also after assessments by the Outreach Team to determine eligibility and suitability of the incentive for each applicant.</p> <p>(April 2020) Medication collection and delivery – The Social Services Department and the Montserrat Red Cross volunteers have been assisting persons with the collection of their medication. Where possible the pharmacy will provide a 3-month supply.</p> <p>(April 2020) A three-month temporary transfer of food packages to persons who do not have any work and unable to access other Social Security benefits and other financial support.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	(April 2020) The Government of Montserrat has agreed with Montserrat Utilities Limited that no further disconnections of electricity and water will take place until further notice.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	March 2020] On March 18, the Government implemented a flexible working arrangements policy which allows public officers the ability to take a more flexible approach to working, in terms of working locations, hours and duties.
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] On April 1, the Government announced a board financial support package that included a direct financial support of at least 80% of salaries up to a maximum amount of XCD \$3,200 (US\$1,184) per month for an initial period of three months directly to employers in the tourism sector; including hotels, tour operators, restaurants, and transportation services. [Extended - April 2020] Later in the month, the financial support was extended to any eligible businesses that are suffering financial hardship due to COVID-19. As of August 14, 2020, the 464 persons benefitted from the Direct Salary Support to Employees.

Morocco

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(March 2020) The Economic Watch Committee (Comité de veille économique (CVE)) members activated a mobile payment device to transfer cash to workers operating in the informal sector adversely affected by COVID-19 (only for those who have been directly affected by the Government of Morocco's (GoM) compulsory confinement policy). The electronic cash transfer program will reach half of the informal sector workers (estimated 3 million workers to receive payment). Registration has started on March 30, 2020 and the first payments began April 6th, 2020. The speed and scale is facilitated by the use of a health insurance fee waiver registry and a simple payment mechanism. The program is funded by the Coronavirus fund created by King Mohammed VI. Payment amounts are: 800 dirhams per month for households of two people or less; 1,000 dirhams per month for households of three to four people; 1,200 dirhams per month for households of more than four people.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	(March 2020) Moroccan government institutions, with the support of UNFPA, have delivered "Salama kits" containing hygiene products and COVID-19 prevention assistance to different people that can be vulnerable such as pregnant women and those who assist with childbirth; people with disabilities, people in prisons, teachers and those involved with education at distance, and female victims of violence. Nearly 8,000 people were reached with these kits.
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) Formal employees who lose their jobs and are registered with the pension fund can defer debt payments until June 30th, 2020. (March 2020) The GoM issued a moratorium for the repayment of bank loan maturities and leasing maturities. These deferrals are for people in a liberal profession facing financial difficulty, until June 30th, 2020 without payment of fees or penalties.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Workers who lost their jobs will keep being insured by the AMO (medical insurance) until end-June The CNSS will include health insurance for COVID treatment as part of medical insurance for workers

	Pensions	<p>A decree grants employers more time to electronically report employees' salaries and payment of contributions via the electronic platform published by the CNSS. The deadlines for applying this provision are as follows: 6 months from the date of publication of said BO for employers with an average annual number of employees greater than or equal to 5; 12 months for those with a number greater than or equal to 3; for employers who employ an average annual number of employees greater than or equal to 1, the maximum period is 24 months. The annual average number of employees will be calculated on the basis of declarations made by employers during the 12 months preceding the date of publication of the aforementioned BO.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>"[March 2020] Formal employees who lost their jobs and were registered with the pension fund would receive a monthly allowance. The compensation from March 15th to 31st, 2020 would be 1,000 dirhams and from April to June 2020, it would be 2,000 dirhams. It would be granted to employees working for employers facing financial difficulty who met the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employees and employees under integration contract; - Fishermen who were on temporary work stoppage; - affiliated and declared to the CNSS for the month of February 2020. <p>This compensation cancelled and replaced the compensation for loss of employment provided for by the CNSS scheme. To receive this benefit, applicant employers were to fill out a form with the formalization of a declaration of honor certifying the total or partial cessation of work activities. For seafarers, these measures were to be applied to persons appearing on the list received from the Department of Maritime Fisheries (DPM)."</p> <p>"[July 2020] A flat-rate compensation of 2,000 DH was granted, from July 1, 2020 until December 31, 2020 to employees and trainees under an integration contract declared to the CNSS in February 2020 and those reporting to employers facing financial difficulty affiliated to the CNSS whose activity is impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. These employees and trainees also benefited for the same period and in accordance with the regulations in force from expenditure relating to the benefits provided under the compulsory health insurance scheme and family allowances with regard to employees. Employees and trainees of classified tourist accommodation establishments, travel agencies, tourist carriers and guides were to benefit from this allowance. The allowance dedicated to guides was to be reduced by the amount relating to the latter's contribution to the CNSS, from the entry into force of the decree establishing social cover for guides. The following groups were eligible for this measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Employers whose turnover fell by at least 50% for the months of July, August, September, October, November and December 2020 compared to the same period of the year 2019, provided that the all the employees and trainees under an integration contract declared to the CNSS for February 2020, did not exceed 500 people; - Tourism guides approved by the Ministry of Tourism;

		<p>If the number of employees exceeded 500 people or the turnover had fallen by a rate of between 25% and 50%, the decision to grant the allowance was to be submitted to the opinion of a chaired committee by the ministry in charge of finance and composed of representatives of the ministries in charge of Tourism and Labor and the CNSS. The employer was to return to the National Social Security Fund any compensation or amount paid on the basis of a false declaration on their part, within 30 days of receiving a notice on the subject from the part of the said fund, under penalty of applying the penalties provided for by the legislation in force. The National Social Security Fund returned the sums paid to it to the state budget."</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>(March 2020) The government announced that companies can benefit from the suspension of social security contributions for the period from March 1 to June 30, 2020 with graceful remission of late payment increases for this period. This measure applies to employers facing financial difficulties affiliated to the Caisse Nationale de Securite Sociale (CNSS).</p> <p>[August 2020] The government announced a measure granting an extension to the suspension of social charges payments until December 31, 2020, with staggered reimbursement over 18 months starting January 1st, 2021.</p> <p>The GoM announced a measure granting an extension of the IR exemption on additional remuneration for the benefit of employees affiliated to the CNSS until December 31, 2020.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[August 2020] The government announced a measure to accelerate the deployment of reforms and modernize the legal and normative framework for hotels, travel agencies and guides.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[August 2020] The Government of Morocco announced a measure granting an extension of the income tax exemption on additional remuneration for the benefit of employees affiliated to the CNSS until December 31, 2020.

Mozambique

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Direct transfers were issued to 1,102,825 new households under the Post Emergency Direct Cash Transfers Program (PASD-PE Covid), representing 35 percent of the poor population living in urban areas. PASD-PE Covid will provide a cash transfer of 1,500 Mt per month, every two months, for 6 months for vulnerable families in urban, peri-urban and border areas. The Government of Mozambique (GoM) has secured funding for the first phase covering 290,000 families in urban, peri-urban and priority border areas with a total cost of US \$ 50 million (Phase 1). Additional resources are being mobilized to finance the second phase (Phase 2) estimated at US \$ 140.5 million, which already has US \$ 20.5 million channeled through the United Nations.</p> <p>For people employed in informal economy particularly markets, GoM stated that it will use Municipalities for cash transfer (Fundo de Compensação Autárquico).</p> <p>The Basic Social Subsidy Program (PSSB) and the Productive Social Action Program (PASP) provide a single cash transfer equivalent to 3 months of regular subsidies to beneficiaries. Combined, both programs seek to cover 566,642 households across the country and have an estimated cost of US\$ 25.4 million.</p> <p>The Productive Social Action Program (PASP) provides a single cash transfer equivalent to 3 months of regular subsidies to its beneficiaries. Combined with the Basic Social Assistance Program (PSSB), both programs seek to cover 566,642 households across the country and have an estimated cost of US\$ 25.4 million.</p> <p>Additional payments to existing social protection beneficiaries include participants in the the Direct Cash Transfer for Vulnerable Families component (Component 3) of the Mozambique Social Protection Project third additional financing.</p> <p>The proposed additional financing of the Mozambique Social Protection Project is expanding coverage of the Direct Cash Transfers for post emergency component (Component 3) to a new 280,000 households in areas already covered by the Social Protection Project (horizontal expansion).</p>

		The WFP and UNICEF will support the Mozambique National Institute for Social Action to provide cash transfers to 94,000 families in the Zambezia and Tete regions in order to mitigate the economic impact of COVID-19. The project is funded by Canada, German, and American aid agencies. Local workers were trained in grievance redress and transfer protocols. An additional 9,300 families had mobile accounts registered to receive their transfers.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	Additional payments will be provided to existing social protection beneficiaries including participants in the Labor Intensive Public Works component (Component 2) of the Mozambique Social Protection Project third additional financing.
	Utility waivers	<p>The GoM announced a measure allowing companies or consumers affected by COVID-19 to negotiate conditions enabling them to pay the debt in accordance with their financial capacity. Financial institutions face no obligations to set up provisions, in the case of debt renegotiation with customers affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, before the expiration of the loan, from 23 March to 23 December 2020. With this measure, the GoM hopes to avoid consumer bankruptcies and allow the payment of fixed expenses (as salaries).</p> <p>The GoM announced that transactions between two clients of the institutionalized electronic coins (e-Mola, M-Kash and M-pesa) will not be charged any commission. This allows workers to use mobile devices, particularly smartphones, to pay bills and buy groceries. Within the framework of the Central Bank's measures, commercial banks and electronic money institutions are expected to reduce fees and charges on transfers to individual customers by 50%.</p> <p>The GoM announced temporary and well-targeted tax exemptions to support families and the health sector. This includes VAT and import tariff exemptions on food, medicine and medical equipment.</p> <p>The Mozambican parliament and the Assembly of the Republic unanimously passed the first reading of a bill to restore exemption from Value Added Tax (VAT) for sugar, soap and vegetable oil. This bill reinstates the VAT exemption on these products that expired December 31st, 2019. This reinstatement is time-limited and runs out on December 31st, 2020. The exemption, according to Ministry of Finance, will cost the Mozambican budget this year about 2.96 billion meticaais (about USD 43M). The exemption was extended for a further three years in November 2020.</p>
	Paid sick leave	The GoM announced a measure allowing sick-leave equivalent to 70% of medium salary, to contributors of pension fund, in case of COVID-19.

Social Insurance	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	(April 2020) The GoM announced a measure granting forgiveness of fines and reduction of interest on social contributions for enterprises for 3 months starting April 2020.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>Through a clause in the State of Emergency Decree, the GoM relaxed the restriction on the number of people who can work in any factory to a third of the normal workforce with turnover of teams every 15 days.</p> <p>Through a presidential decree, the GoM proposed flexible work schemes for companies and the public administration to allow them implement teleworking schemes and avoid social contact. In addition, enterprises are suggested to rotate their staff to promote social distance and allow good air flow in the workplace.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Myanmar

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Government of Myanmar (GoM) launched the COVID-19 Economic Relief Plan (CERP) on April 27th, 2020. As a part of this plan, the GoM issued multiple rounds (three) of cash transfers to most vulnerable and affected households. In May 2020, Government of Myanmar launched cash assistance of K15,000 which was given to 5.4 million households with a cost of 71.1 billion kyats. In the second round, K40,000 was distributed to 5.5 million households 218.1 billion kyats. On 24 Sept 2020, it was announced that government will provide K 20,000 in assistance to poorer households and K 114 billion has been allocated to support 5.7 million people in low-income family. Therefore, in total, from April to Sept, government provided K404.7 billion financial support for low-income families. On November 5, 2020, government plans to provide fourth round of cash transfer to the vulnerable families.</p> <p>It is announced on 27 May 2020, that the Myanmar Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Social Welfare (DSW), and Livelihoods and Food Security Fund LIFT have announced a budget of USD 4.93 million to help 241,425 mothers. The program will provide an additional one-time payment of MMK30,000 for the families of pregnant women and mothers of children under the age of two years (in addition to the existing monthly payment of MMK15,000) in Chin, Kayah, Kayin Rakhine State, Naga Self-Administered Area. The support is delivered via the existing Maternal and Child Cash Transfer (MCCT) program initiated by LIFT.</p> <p>The GoM will provide cash assistance to 63,000 households in Internal Displaced Camps and temporary shelters in November 2020.</p> <p>Myan Ku was set up in April 2020 by the European Union (EU) as a rapid response measure to alleviate the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on predominantly female garment workers in Myanmar who lost their jobs due to the crisis. The initiative is funded by the EU's Nexus Response for Myanmar and implemented by the United Nations Office of Project Services (UNOPS) and sequa's SMART Textile & Garments project staff. The program provides both a cash transfer and nutritional support services to female beneficiaries. The average payment size per beneficiary per month was K75,000 in 2020 and 2021, with the payment range varying from K25,000 up to K125,000. Ninety-nine per cent of cash payments were successfully distributed using Wave Money's mobile money platform, a leading mobile financial services provider in Myanmar. On 20 January 2021,</p>

		<p>EU decided to provide additional 5 million Euros from its Myan Ku Fund to support Myanmar's garment workers, who continue to struggle from factory closure and lay-off due to COVID-19. The EU Myan Ku Fund's extension phase is planned to operate from January 2021 until February 2022. 70,000 beneficiaries are expected to directly benefit from 140,000 support payments already issued to workers in crisis by mid-2021. It is targeted at garment, footwear, and textile workers that have lost their jobs or are underemployed and provide financial support for laid-off factory workers is a key feature of the program which provides assistance to unemployed, pregnant workers and unemployed workers with young children under age 10, Migrant workers and workers willing to complete skills training programs are also supported.</p> <p>On 17 July 2020, The European Union, in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Sports and HealthAge International, will help fund a 1.43 million project to support Myanmar's disabled workforce. The project will provide a one-off K30,000 payment to some 5,000 people with disabilities across the country, to help recipients and their families endure the economic impact of the pandemic.</p> <p>In May 2021, WFP assisted 766,700 people in Myanmar with 5,491 mt of food and US\$ 2.3 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).</p> <p>In May 2021, WFP provided food and cash support to 2,925 people living with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) patients. These included 1,800 additional beneficiaries in Yangon.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>It is announced on 27 May 2020, that Myanmar Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement, Department of Social Welfare (DSW), and Livelihoods and Food Security Fund LIFT has announced a budget of USD 4.07 million to support 200,301 older people. The program will provide an additional one-time payment of MMK30,000 to people over the age of 85 and over (in addition to the existing average monthly payment of MMK10,000). The support is delivered via the social pension program, implemented by the Department of Social Welfare.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 6 April 2020, government of Myanmar announced that it will provide basic food (such as for rice, cooking oil, salt, beans and onions) to households struggling across the country during the 10-day New Year holiday in April starting from 10th April 2020. Each food package (consisting of rice, cooking oil, salt, beans and onions) is worth MMK15,000 to MMK18,000 (i.e., USD11 to USD13). As of May 18 2020, 4 million households have received the one-off food transfer at a reported cost of around 50 million kyats (36 USD million)</p> <p>On 21 January 2021, Yangon Region government, Italy and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) announced a contribution of 1 million Euro from the Italian Agency for Development</p>

		<p>Cooperation (AICS) in support of the COVID-19 response in Myanmar. The Italian contribution helped WFP provide daily nutritious meals for over 16,000 people who were receiving medical and quarantine care at Aung Myint Moh, the largest COVID-19 treatment centre in Yangon Region in terms of bed capacity.</p> <p>On 15 Sept 2020, in support of the Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement (MoSWRR), the Rakhine State Government and the United Nations World Food Program (WFP) have signed an agreement for the provision of short-term food assistance at quarantine centers across Rakhine State. Under the agreement, people undergoing mandatory quarantine at eight townships in Rakhine State will receive three nutritious meals a day, funded by WFP, throughout the quarantine period. Through its ongoing support to returning migrants in quarantine sites, WFP provided food assistance to over 60,000 people in 10 out of 14 states and regions in Myanmar.</p> <p>On April 6th, 2020, the GoM's Central Committee on Prevention, Control and Treatment of COVID-19 announced that they would provide emergency food rations across the country to low-income households that did not have regular income. The food rations per eligible household comprised 10.4 kg rice, 1.6 kg pulses, 1.6 kg onions, 0.8 kg oil, and 0.8 kg salt. This food package was to be delivered prior to the Thingyan new year holiday period (12th-16th April), when GoM had banned celebrations and planned to impose stay-at-home measures and travel restrictions. This is in line with figures from MDI, that estimated a transfer worth MMK 12,600 to 3.9 million households, for a total value of MMK 49 trillion (USD 35.8 million).</p> <p>In May 2021, WFP assisted 766,700 people in Myanmar with 5,491 mt of food and US\$ 2.3 million in cash-based transfers (CBT).</p> <p>In May 2021, WFP provided food and cash support to 2,925 people living with HIV and tuberculosis (TB) patients. These included 1,800 additional beneficiaries in Yangon.</p> <p>In May 2021, WFP provided a comprehensive package of nutrition support (stunting prevention; prevention and treatment of wasting) for 62,100 children aged 6-59 months and pregnant and lactating women and girls.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>On 18 June 2020, the Government of Myanmar is currently supporting 390,000 beneficiary households (42% female participants) in more than 2,500 villages under a cash-for-work (CfW) scheme to provide emergency wage transfer to vulnerable households. A sum of 10 million kyat will be distributed to each village and about 120,000 households are expected to benefit from it. The project period will take about 3½ months until September. Under this program, that covered 3,500 villages across Myanmar, around 400,000 households received an income to provide support to</p>

		<p>subprojects concerning the development of basic infrastructure, mainly related to transport and water and sanitation.</p> <p>(May 2021) WFP delivered conditional cash or food, with health and nutrition education, to 9,850 people in exchange for building or rehabilitating community assets.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 6, 2020, Myanmar government decided that the households need not pay for the first 150 units of electricity consumption, along with religious and local NGOs (excluding embassy, UN and INGOs) Until the end of the month. It has costed K35.5 billion to subsidize electricity for the 4.5 million households. This was extended for the month of May on 23 May 2020. This program began April 2020 and was extended through December 2020, on monthly basis. The provision of 150 free units of electricity per month in April and May, and 75 units in June, 56 subsequently renewed. They have decided to provide an additional 150 free units per month from Aug until December 2020. On 18 Feb 2021, government announced to provide 150 free units per month for the month of February 2021 and is expected to cost K35 billion.</p> <p>On June 26, 2020 the government approved to support farmers with less than 2-acre land, women led households with returning migrants, households of ethnic minority, and households led by persons who are older than 45 of farmers through agriculture input e-voucher worth 120,000 each benefiting 300,000 farmers. Total expenditure on vouchers is estimated at USD 25 million.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Insured sick workers or laid-off workers previously insured under the SSB were entitled to sickness cash benefits amounting to 60% of previous salaries.</p> <p>Current pregnant workers insured under the SSB were entitled to receive a maternity cash benefit for up to 26 weeks for the duration of the crisis.</p>
	Health insurance	The GoM extended healthcare benefits for unemployed SSB members from six months to one year from the date of unemployment and extended medicine and travel benefits from six months to one year from the date of unemployment.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	The GoM announced a deferral of SSB contributions for three months. This measure covers both individuals and firms.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

Wage subsidies

Namibia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>A one-time emergency income grant of N\$750 to employees who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and its fallout, limited to a maximum of N\$562 million in total. Only Namibian citizens between the ages of 18 and 60 years old who do not receive any other social grants qualify for this grant. Payments will be by the Government in collaboration with the Social Security Commission. The program was launched in April 2020 and most beneficiaries had received payment by July 2020.</p> <p>The World Food Program (WFP) and the Ministry of Gender Equality, Poverty Eradication and Social Welfare (MGEPEWSW) launched a Cash-Based Transfer (CBT) program in Onamatanga Village in Omusati Region following a contribution of €1 Million (N\$17 610 019.00) from the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO). The contribution has enabled WFP to strengthen the Namibian Government's response and delivery mechanisms to vulnerable people affected by devastating droughts and COVID-19. The regions of Omusati and Khomas, with marginalized households of 1,775 and 5,125 respectively, were identified as regions that will benefit from this approach. Each beneficiary will receive three cycles of cash-based transfers, on a monthly basis, for a duration of three months.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>More than 30,000 Namibians affected by COVID-19 and drought received food assistance from the European Union after the bloc unveiled a €2 million support grant in October 2020. The EU support, which would be administered by the United Nations World Food Program, is expected to support severely food insecure communities living in informal settlements in the Khomas, Omusati and Erongo regions through September 2021. The WFP would assist the communities through food distributions, cash transfers and vouchers.</p> <p>The Indian community in Namibia, supported by High Commission of India in Windhoek, handed over a contribution of food packets and essential supplies for Namibian people severely affected by the COVID-19 lockdown. This was received towards the end of April 2020.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	<p>The government ensured that water points are kept open without a need for water cards during lockdowns, through NamWater and Local Authorities that will subsidize this critical service. All Namibian citizens benefitted from free water supply, including those using the pre-paid water meter system. In addition, free water was provided to informal settlements and rural areas via additional standpipes and water trucks. The scheme started in April 2020 and ran for approximately two months. The total budget was estimated at NAD 40.94 million.</p> <p>Tax-back loan scheme for tax registered and tax paying (PAYE) employees and self-employed individual persons who have lost income or part thereof. In addition, to provide breathing room for cashflow-constrained individuals who are taxpayers, they can borrow an amount equal to 1/12th of their tax payment in the previous tax year, to be repaid after one year. The interest rate will be favorably low at the prime lending rate less 1% on the back of a Government guarantee. The total guarantee is capped at the maximum of N\$1.1 billion, based on the PAYE tax register and the potential loan size.</p> <p>All individuals with active loans could apply for a loan repayment moratorium of 6-24 months, starting in April 2020. Applications and implementation were handled by individual banks.</p> <p>On June 15, 2020, the government announced it will extend the deadline of submitting Individual Income Tax returns from June 30 to September 30, 2020 (not the payment of taxes due, which is still June 30).</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>The Affected Employees program invites persons to apply for a grant designed to provide compensation for those who have lost income. This program is designed to provide a safety net for those who have been adversely impacted by COVID19. Applicants should have been registered with the SSC as at 1 February 2020, be able to prove loss of income related to COVID19, earn less than N\$50,000 p.a., the benefit will be limited to 50% of monthly salary, subject to a minimum of N\$1,000 per month for 3 month and will be net of other benefits received from the state (e.g. Emergency Income Grant).</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] To avoid major retrenchments and business closures, employers including Government and business owners will be allowed to negotiate a temporary 20% reduction of salaries and wages during the crisis period, and 50% for the worst-hit industries. The negotiations will be undertaken through a consultative process with employees and labor unions.</p>

		[March 2020] The tripartite partners at national level have released a statement through the MIRLEC: 'Labour and Employment Sector Voice on COVID-19 at Workplace' which highlights a commitment to maintain harmonious labor relations, and to ensure job security and business sustainability during the lock down period. In addition, the statement seeks to ensure that workers are paid their March and April 2020 wages and salaries; and that workers are not forced to resign or take annual leave or forced unpaid leave.
	Reduced work time	(April 2020) Non-essential staff in government and private sector are working from home or are under lockdown. Only designated critical service workers are reporting for duty. [April 2020] To reduce the risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus, non-essential staff in government and private sector are encouraged to work from home or are under lockdown. Only designated critical service workers are reporting for duty.
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] The Employer Wage Subsidy Program for the hard hit industries under three (3) sectors of aviation, tourism and construction is designed to save jobs and its characteristics include employers of affected industries receiving a 17% cash subsidy based on their total wage bill and SSC contribution holiday, or both for a period of three months. In addition, prospective beneficiary employers should agree to not retrench staff for the three (3) months and should not be allowed to reduce staff salaries by more than 50%. The program is designed to potentially assist 7,900 employers employing 65,420 employees. The program is budgeted to receive N\$150 million which when combined with the waiver, should equate to ~25% of the total wage bill.

Nepal

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 11th March 2021, Governments of Nepal horizontally expanded the social security 'allowance for children' by 500,000 new children (below 5 years of age) and therefore covering a total of 1.3 beneficiaries. In 2018-19, children from 15 districts with low human development status were made beneficiaries of cash transfers; such districts have increased to 26 in this fiscal year 2021-22.</p> <p>On 12 April 2020, Employees Provident Fund in Nepal has decided to pay Rs 200,000 in compensation to any regular depositor who dies due to the coronavirus as they are consider death due to COVID-19 as accidental death.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>In the fiscal year 2020-21, the social security allowance budget in Nepal has increased from 66.16 billion to 68.65 billion. The budget has further increased to 100 billion for the year 2021-22. As reported on May 29, 2021, the government has increased social security allowances for senior citizens, single women and the disabled by 33 per cent and this will come into effect July 16, 2021. According to the Department of National Id and Civil Registration, 3,258,129 people across the country have been receiving social security allowances. It is reported on 8 October 2021 that the government has increased the frequency of payment from every four months once to every three months once. This has come into action from Mid-July, 2021</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 30th March 2020, According to the Finance minister of Nepal, those poor families and informal sector workers who have been facing livelihood problem can access food relief from their respective wards. The local unit through their Covid-19 fund will keep the record of such people and provide them relief by taking into consideration their daily food requirement. Local and provincial units will establish a fund and use it to provide relief to families as per the collected data and The Nepal government will provide additional funds if there is a shortage. Also, government will now start making up a list of those eligible for food aid, and beneficiaries have to get an identity card from their ward councils. Provincial and municipal governments will also distribute food aid depending on size of families, and with special priority for expecting mothers, orphans, the disabled or those with chronic illnesses.</p>
	School feeding	<p>It is reported on August 7, 2020, the World Food Program (WFP) with the Nepal government are distributing 1,500 metric tons of fortified rice, lentils and vegetable oil donated by the United States to 150,000 households with school-going children from grades 1-8 in rural Nepal, under strict safety and hygiene protocols. The campaign will benefit families most vulnerable to COVID-19 lockdown</p>

		<p>impact in the western provinces. Since March 2020, 2.4 million children in Nepal have been missing out on the nutritious lunches they used to receive at school — the only proper meals many of them could count on. As of May 2021, it was reported that the WFP is currently preparing to resume take-home rations distribution under its school feeding operation. After successfully reaching 160,000 students last year during the first lockdowns, WFP aims to reach these students again through the provision of rice, lentil, and oil.</p>
	<p>Public works</p>	<p>Nepal Government announced on April 26, 2020 that the Informal sector workers who have lost their jobs due to the ongoing crisis will be given the opportunity to participate in public-works program (PWP) for a subsistence wage or receive 25 percent of local daily wage should they choose not to participate. This is part of the Prime Minister Employment Program (name of the PWP) which started in 2019 and guarantees 100 days of minimum work (but due to slow pickup, it has reduced the guarantee to 30 days). 175,909 people were hired under this program in the pre-covid days. The budget allocation for the program, which aims to provide a minimum 100-days of waged-employment to unemployment, has been doubled to Rs11.6 billion with the aim of providing 200,000 jobs in the next year (i.e., 2021)</p> <p>Nepal Urban Governance and Infrastructure Project (NUGIP) was approved on 28 September 2020 and was launched on January 27, 2021 in twelve municipalities across Nepal’s seven provinces that are providing COVID-19 recovery support for vulnerable groups through Labor Intensive Public Works (LIPW) costing \$20 million. The project supports the post-COVID-19 economic recovery by delivering small scale community infrastructure maintenance and rehabilitation projects in roads, sanitation, water, environment, and parks through cash-for-work schemes. It aims to provide up to 50 days of temporary employment in LIPW to a total of at least 20,000 poor and vulnerable individuals (of which at least 35% are women) from households that are most affected by the pandemic in these municipalities. The NUGIP will end date on 15 July 2025. An unskilled wage worker could receive Rs 33,500 (approximately \$285) for 50 days of work, while skilled wage workers could receive Rs. 47,500 (approximately \$404). Over the past 6 months, around 7000 targeted beneficiaries have received cash benefit and an additional \$18 million will be delivered through the NUGIP project in the next 18 months across all twelve municipalities, reaching an additional 13,000 beneficiaries.</p>
	<p>Utility waivers</p>	<p>On 29 April 2020, The Nepal Rastriya Bank announced that banks will defer loan repayments due in April and May until mid-July. The loan deferral was further extended to January 2021 or later depending on how severely the borrower was affected.</p> <p>As of 30 March 2020, it is reported that telecom companies will provide a 25 percent discount to internet and data users. The government will make necessary arrangements for discount from private telecom companies. Similarly, Nepal Electricity Authority will give 25 percent discount to users who use up to 150 units of electricity in a month. Also, the deadline to pay for electricity, drinking water, telephone and internet will be extended and no extra fines will be charged for the</p>

		<p>delay in payment till May 13, 2020. The electricity subsidy plan will cost the government Rs 500 million and covers 3.8 million consumers every month. As of Aug 12, 2021, government announced extension of electricity tariff waiver for lower income groups and irrigation facilities and decided to provide electricity free of charge (except for the service charge of Rs 30) for the people who use less than 20 units a month. The cost of electricity tariff waiver would be Rs700-750 million and will benefit 2.1 million consumers.</p> <p>As of March 30, 2021, government requested Private school not to charge their students for the month of Chhaitra or Baisakh, except for boarding fees, while the schools were closed. Around 1.4 million private school students will benefit from this initiative. However, during June 23, 2020, it was reported that despite the directives from a parliamentary committee and the government not to charge students for the lockdown period, associations of private schools have requested guardians to clear their 'pending fees.' This is due to the fact that schools have gone broke.</p> <p>As of March 30, 2020, It is reported that the Nepal government has decided to provide 10 percent discount on all food items such as rice, sugar, flour and oil sold by government food companies such Nepal food Corporation and Salt Trading Corporation.</p> <p>On 12 April 2020, it was reported that the depositors who have obtained loans (such as home loan, house repair loan, education loan or other revolving loans) from the Employees Provident Fund (EPF) will get 10 per cent waiver on interest for four months starting from March 14, 2020 to July 15, 2020. This facility is being provided by the EPF to provide relief to its borrowers during this crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>On 29 March 2020, Government of Nepal announced that Individuals to get 1 month extension for entry and payment of trimestral installments of VAT, excise duty, income tax, and other fees (education service, telecommunication service etc.) until the May 7, 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>An insurance scheme for persons diagnosed COVID-19</p> <p>Measures announced March 30, 2020. Health spending will be increased, including by providing additional insurance coverage to all medical personnel fighting the coronavirus, importing additional medical supplies (with duty on said items eliminated), and setting up quarantine centers and temporary hospitals.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	<p>The government will deposit the necessary amount (31 % contribution from Employers and employees) to Social Security Fund in case of those firms who have completely closed due to lockdown. To receive this employers, have to keep paying the employees' salaries.</p> <p>The government will deposit the necessary amount (31 % contribution from Employers and employees) to Social Security Fund in case of those firms who have completely closed due to lockdown</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	In the budget speech for fiscal year 2020/21, Finance Minister Khatiwada announced additional measures. Labors of affected sectors by COVID pandemic will be provided training in local and provincial level. From this 1 lakh people will be employed so Rs 1 arba has been allocated
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Netherlands

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government announced a three-month provision for self-employed persons with financial problems. Implemented by municipalities, it can be applied for in the form of an additional allowance for living expenses and/or operating capital. Depending on household income and composition, the living expenses allowance will top up the income to a maximum of the guaranteed minimum income and does not have to be repaid. To avoid delays in the payment of the allowance, the income of a partner or the assets of the self-employed person will not be taken into account. Support for operating capital will take place in the form of a loan at a reduced interest rate according to the Social Assistance (Self-Employed Persons) Decree (March 2020).</p> <p>Financial compensation for a period of up to 5 weeks for fishermen who cannot sail out (€9 million available).</p> <p>(April 2020) Childcare fees will be reimbursed to both parents working in so-called "crucial professions" who did use the emergency childcare facilities that were paid by parents. Childcare fees will be reimbursed to all other parents who had no access to it but were paying nevertheless because of their contract with the provider.</p> <p>In June 2020, a one-time benefit of €1,650 was introduced for workers on a flexible contract who suffered a loss in income (Tofa).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Measures to prevent evictions (agreement renewal until January 2021): landlords will make every effort to reach tailor-made agreements with tenants to bridge in case of financial difficulties like suspending the rent or making a payment arrangement. Evictions are also postponed as much as possible.</p>

		(March 2020) Banks have increased the transaction amount limit for contactless card payments to help prevent the virus spreading via PIN pads.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[June 2020] On 22 June 2020, the Temporary Bridging measure for Flex Workers (TOFA) has been opened for flex-workers that have been laid off after 1 March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, with a substantial loss of income (more than 50% in April compared to February and who cannot claim other benefits). The scheme consists of a one-off gross payment of 1,650 euros in total for the period of March, April and May 2020 and 10,780 out of 23,563 applications were approved.
	Social security contributions	<p>Under the Labor Market Act (Improved Equilibrium, or Wet arbeidsmarkt in balans; WAB), the unemployment insurance contribution that employers pay for employees with an open-ended contract is lower than that paid for employees with a flexible employment contract. According to the WAB, the higher unemployment insurance contribution will apply retroactively to permanent employees whose overtime hours amounted to more than 30% during a calendar year. This provision may now lead to unintended effects in sectors where a lot of extra overtime is required as a result of the coronavirus. The government is therefore preparing to introduce an adjustment to eliminate this unintended effect for the 2020 calendar year.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Dutch pension funds for the building, metal and cleaning sectors and the scheme for hairdressers have granted their affiliated employers' leeway for paying their pension contributions. The schemes have allowed employer companies to defer premium payment by up to two months to cushion the impact of the COVID-19 crisis. Earlier, the schemes for hospitality workers (Horeca & Catering), the travel industry and the retail sector introduced similar measures.</p> <p>In addition to paying wages, the scheme will also pay both the employer pension contribution, something that the Pension Federation, the Labour Foundation and the Dutch Association of Insurers, had requested.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] The NL Keeps Learning is a measure that was announced on March 17th, 2020 as part of package of emergency packages adopted to combat the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The aim of the program is to help workers, self-employed and workers with temporary or flexible employment contracts by providing education and training. The measure has been tied to the NOW. The measure has a budget of €50 million.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2020] A second package was released on 20 May 2020.</p> <p>[June 2021] The program was split into two components:</p>

		<p>- NL continues to learn through training (NLLD - S): This provides a temporary subsidy scheme aimed at offering free training to further the skills and employability of the beneficiaries. The amount of the subsidy consists of the sum of the number of training courses given times the amount per participant, whereby the training courses are subdivided into three categories (category A: €150 per participant; category B: €500 per participant; category C: €1,000 per participant). 50 million euros has been earmarked for this initiative.</p> <p>- NL Keeps Learning: subsidy for EVC procedures (NLLD – SMR): This provides a temporary subsidy scheme of the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment and is part of an accompanying temporary crisis package for which another €70 million has been made available. With this temporary arrangement, partnerships of sectors, employers' associations, employee associations, R&D funds and other stakeholders can offer development advice, guidance to work, training and EVC procedures free of charge to participants who have a connection with the Dutch labor market and apply for a subsidy for this.</p> <p>[August 2020] The government included a component of retraining and upgrading existing skills in an additional social package.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[October 2020] Work-from-home allowances were announced to cover the costs of working from home in some professions. This was set to be a minimum of 25 euros per month for call center employees, 3 euros per day for employees of the Dutch water boards and 224 euros as a one-off payment for civil servants.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] The government of the Netherlands introduced the Temporary Emergency Measure for the Preservation of Jobs (NOW) scheme. The scheme was designed to help companies that expect to lose at least 20 per cent of their revenue during the pandemic. It paid employees' wages for three months, up to a maximum of 90 per cent of the company's wage bill, depending on the loss of turnover.</p> <p>This scheme ended on the the 1st of October, 2021.</p>

New Caledonia (France)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Increase in family benefits for childcare.</p> <p>The government proposed to reinstate the system for increasing family allowances for the benefit of salaried workers, parents of a child under 16, forced to stay at home to look after their children and unable to telework. This specific increase may not exceed 90,000 francs per month and will be added to the benefits currently paid. It will apply to family allowances paid from September 2021.</p> <p>The extension of the exceptional purchasing power bonus which can amount to a maximum of 100,000 francs and exempt from social security contributions and income tax has been retained in May 2021. Employers may assign this optional bonus to their employees present in the company between 1st January and 31st December 2021. It will have to be paid before 30 September 2022. Already applied last year, this measure had been widely used for people who were on the front during the first lockdown, such as cash workers.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>A new reinforced partial unemployment scheme has been created for companies whose activity has been reduced or suspended due to measures taken by the authorities to fight against the spread of the Covid-19 virus in New Caledonia: Creation of a specific Covid 19 allowance paid by CAFAT, after examination of the requests by the Directorate of Labor (DTENC): 100% of the salary for employees remunerated at the guaranteed minimum hourly wage of the sector of activity concerned, and 70% of the last gross salary within the limit of 4.5 times the minimum wage in other cases.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>Self-employed workers who are part of the sectors permanently affected by the health crisis and who are beneficiaries of the State solidarity fund, will be able to benefit from a flat-rate reduction in</p>

		<p>social contributions over the last two quarters (Q3, Q4 2021). Self-employed workers who are not part of the sectors permanently affected by the health crisis, but are impacted by the new confinement, will be able to approach CAFAT to request a postponement or a staggering of their charges.</p> <p>[June 2021] On June 4, the government pass a law that allows companies that are part of the sectors permanently affected by the health crisis to benefit from an exemption from social contributions (employer contributions) over the second, third and fourth quarters of 2021. Companies that are not part of the sectors permanently affected by the health crisis, but are impacted by the new confinement, will be able to approach CAFAT to request a spreading of their charges.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] On April 11, the government announced a COVID-19 allowance for employees in companies whose activity has been reduced or suspended due to measures taken to fight against the spread of the Covid-19. The hourly allowance is equal to either 70% of gross monthly salary (reduced to an hourly amount and limited to 4.5 times the gross amount of minimum hourly wage), or 100% of the gross hourly wage (for employees remunerated at the guaranteed minimum hourly wage), or 100% of the legal salary for people on a single work-study contract. The allowance is limited to 39 hours per week.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2020] On June 29, the government decided to extend the COVID-19 allowance.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] In December, the government decided to extend the COVID-19 allowance for t hree months from December 1, 2020, until February 28, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 9, the government decided to extend the COVID-19 allowance during the lockdown period, under the same conditions and forms as the previous versions.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2021] On September 27, the government decided to extend (under the same conditions and form) the COVID-19 allowance for a period of two months, from November 1, until December 31, 2021.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

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New Zealand

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	On 17 March 2020, New Zealand government introduced Economic Response to COVID-19 package. It included a permanent increase across the main benefits by \$25 per week. This change will come into effect on 1 April 2020 and will be permanent. This measure will cost \$2.4 billion over the next four years to increase main benefits (i.e., increase of 25NZD per week). Please note: Main benefits for working age (18–64 years) clients include: Jobseeker Support (JS), Sole Parent Support (SPS), Supported Living Payment (SLP), Youth Payment and Young Parent Payment (YP/YPP), Emergency Benefit (EB), Emergency Maintenance Allowance (EMA), Jobseeker Support Student Hardship (JSSH), Widow's Benefit Overseas (WBO), and Sole Parent Support Overseas (SPSO).
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	On May 14, 2020, Government announced that a major expansion of the free and healthy school lunch program (Ka Ora, Ka Ako program), funded through the COVID-19 Response and Recovery Fund, will see around 200,000 more New Zealand children get a free lunch every school day and create an estimated 2,000 more jobs. The program will expand over the next year, from feeding nearly 8000 students currently to 205,000 students by Terms 2-3 in 2021. It will target students in schools with the highest disadvantage. On Sept 9, 2021, it was reported that during school closure in level 4 lockdown, free lunches were stopped. The lunch program, run by the Ministry of Education, was earmarked to feed 215,000 kids across 963 schools by the year's end. But the disruption from lockdown has seen many families reach out to social service organizations for help. In the week ending August 28, 2021 the number of food parcels distributed by The Salvation Army nationally increased by 84 per cent on the week prior. The Government gave a \$7 million boost to food banks and support services to go towards food parcels at level 4. The funding would help distribute an additional 60,000 food parcels and 10,000 wellbeing packs. Government approved a transfer of \$3.2 million from Ka Ora, Ka Ako to Ministry of Social Development to support the work they are doing with vulnerable families through the NZ Food Network/ or food support work. In 2019, the Government announced a two-year initiative to explore delivering a free and healthy daily school lunch to Year 1–8 (primary and intermediate aged) students in schools with high levels of disadvantage. Around 10,000 learners in 42 schools across Bay of Plenty/Waiariki and Hawke's Bay/Tairāwhiti were the first to get a free school lunch in Term 1 2020. Over 3,000 students in 18 schools and kura across Otago and Southland joined Ka Ora, Ka Ako in Terms 2 and 3. Another 51 schools in Bay of Plenty/Waiariki and Hawke's Bay/Tairāwhiti began delivering lunches in Term 4 2020.

	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 25 March 2020, New Zealand government announced that special childcare measure for essential workers. If essential workers are unable to access childcare to perform their essential service, the Government will fund other licensed childcare providers (for example through Porse, Barnados and Edubase/Home Grown Kids) to provide in home care to the children aged 0-14 of essential workers. On 22 Aug 2021, Government reintroduced the childcare for workers in Alert Level 4 businesses and services, which was available during last year's national lockdown. Workers who have children aged up to 13-years-old can access free care, so they are able to continue to provide the essential services we need during the current lockdown. A list of 32 providers, with national coverage, will from today, be available for parents to contact. These providers may offer options for childcare under the scheme either in the child's home, or in the carer's home.</p> <p>On 23 March 2020, the New Zealand government announced a freeze on rent increases. This has been applied as law through the COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Amendment Act, which came into effect on 26 March 2020. These measures will support New Zealanders to stay in their rental properties with a six-month freeze on residential rent increases. There is a freeze on rent increases from 26 March – 25 September 2020, unless extended.</p> <p>On 24 March 2020, the Reserve Bank announced that banks will offer loan deferrals to their customers. It will include a six-month principal and interest payment holiday for mortgage holders whose incomes have been affected by the economic disruption from COVID-19. This guidance enabled banks to temporarily treat deferred loans as performing (non-defaulted) for a period of up to six months. On 17 August 2020, Government decided to extend the mortgage repayment deferral scheme. The extension takes effect from when the existing guidance expires on 27 September and will apply until 31 March 2021, at which point the usual treatment will resume. Banks will still be able to offer deferrals to borrowers after this date, but they will not have the same concessionary regulatory treatment.</p> <p>On 23 March 2020, the New Zealand government announce an extension of no-cause terminations. This has been applied as law through the COVID-19 Response (Urgent Management Measures) Amendment Act, which came into effect on 26 March 2020. Tenancies will not be terminated between 26 March – 25 June 2020. At the end of both initial periods, the Government will evaluate whether they need to be extended.</p> <p>On 17 March 2020, New Zealand government introduced Economic Response to COVID-19 package. It included doubling of the Winter Energy Payment (for 2020 only), which is an extra payment to help with the cost of heating your home over the winter months. Winter Energy Payment will start on 1</p>

		<p>May 2020 until Oct 1, 2020 and be paid at double the current rate for 2020 only. The rates for 2020 will be \$40.91 per week (single people) and \$63.64 per week (couples or people with dependents). This measure will cost \$480 million additional spend on the Winter Energy Payment in 2020. The Winter Energy Payment automatically, along with your other regular payments from government (either weekly or fortnightly). Beneficiaries of the following programs automatically receive the Winter Energy Payment: NZ Superannuation; Veteran's Pension; Jobseeker Support; Jobseeker Support Student Hardship; Sole Parent Support; Supported Living Payment; Young Parent Payment; Youth Payment; Emergency Benefit; Emergency Maintenance Allowance. Please note, it is a measure which is paid every year during winters (i.e., 1 May to 1 Oct) and the payment rate went back to pre-covid-19 level (i.e., Single people with no dependent children [\$20.46 a week]; Couples, and people with dependent children [\$31.82 a week])</p> <p>From 12 August 2020, rent increases are limited to once every 12 months. This is a change from once every 180 days (six months). Any rent increase notices given to tenants from 12 August 2020 must comply with the new 12-month rule. If a notice was given before 12 August 2020, it is still within the 180-day rule.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The COVID-19 Short-Term Absence Payment is available for businesses, including self-employed people, to help pay their workers who cannot work from home while they wait for a COVID-19 test result. The Short-Term Absence Payment is available from 9 February 2021. It's to help businesses keep paying eligible workers who: cannot work from home and need to miss work to stay home while waiting for a COVID-19 test result (in line with public health guidance).</p> <p>There's a one-off payment of \$350 for each eligible worker. You can only apply for it once, for each eligible worker, in any 30-day period (unless a health official or doctor tells the worker to get another test)."</p> <p>This includes \$126 million for leave and self-isolation support. Those required to self-isolate or care for someone who is sick will receive the same amount as wage subsidy (see below). It will be paid to employers to pass onto their employees who need to self-isolate for 14 days and can't work from home. The Leave Support Scheme is paid as a 2-week lump sum per eligible employee. The Leave Support Scheme is paid at a flat rate of \$585.80 a week for full-time workers who were working 20 hours or more a week; or \$350 a week for part-time workers who were working less than 20 hours a week.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

		<p>[June 2020] The Income Relief Payment was a temporary, short-term support for people who lost their jobs from 1 March to 30 October 2020 because of COVID-19. It offered up to 12 weeks of payments for people who no longer had work while they looked for other employment. Depending on how often you worked, beneficiaries received: \$490 per week if you were previously working 30 hours or more a week; or \$250 per week if you were previously working 15 hours to 29 hours a week. While receiving the Income Relief Payment beneficiaries should (as appropriate to their situation): look for work, accept suitable job offers, or accept opportunities for redeployment or training. The COVID-19 Income Relief Payment has now stopped. The final day of the Income Relief Payment 4 February 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[August 2020] Apprenticeship Boost is a payment to help employers keep and take on new apprentices. It means apprentices can keep earning and training towards their qualifications as the economy recovers from the impacts of COVID-19. The payment is made directly to employers. Apprenticeship Boost pays businesses \$1000-a-month for each apprentice in their first year of training, and \$500-a-month for apprentices in their second year. Eligible businesses can get Apprenticeship Boost if their apprentices are actively training through a transitional Industry Training Organization (ITO) or a provider; training for a New Zealand Apprenticeship or Managed Apprenticeship recognized by the Tertiary Education Commission; or in their first 24 months of training (this includes any previous apprenticeship enrolment, including any other apprenticeships, with the same transitional ITO or provider).</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] As part of the Government's \$12.1 billion COVID-19 economic support package, a total of \$5.1 billion is committed to provide wage subsidies for affected businesses in all sectors and regions including self-employed. It was for employers and self-employed people who would otherwise have had to lay off staff or reduce their hours due to COVID-19. The subsidy rates were: \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week (full-time rate); \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week (part-time rate). The subsidy was paid as a lump sum and covered 8 weeks per employee from the date the application was submitted. [Extension- June 2020] Extra 40,000 businesses to be eligible for wage subsidy extension.</p>

		<p>[August 2020] The Resurgence Support Payment (RSP) is a payment to help support viable and ongoing business or organizations due to a COVID-19 alert level increase to level 2 or higher. If a business or organization is facing a reduction in revenue due to an alert level increase, it may be eligible for the RSP. Each time the COVID-19 alert level is increased from level 1, the Government may decide to activate the Resurgence Support Payment. It will generally be activated when the period of increased alert level is 7 days or longer, but this is not guaranteed. Once the RSP has been activated it will be available nationally, even if the alert level isn't increased across the whole country. When the RSP is activated, eligible businesses and organizations can apply to receive the lesser of \$1,500 plus \$400 per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee, up to a maximum of 50 FTEs; four times (4x) the actual revenue decline experienced by the applicant. Applications for the payment will open in myIR for eligible business and organizations 7 days after the alert level increase. They will remain open for one month after the return to alert level 1. Applications are open to businesses and organizations affected by the alert level escalation of 28 February 2021. The last day for applications is Monday 12 April 2021. Initial maximum payment is \$21,500 and \$1,900 in the case of sole traders.</p>
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Nicaragua

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(April 2020): The government has continued to prioritize programs to strengthen the social safety net, including the provision of food packages among vulnerable families. Sixty thousand food packages were distributed in April 2020.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The government has continued to prioritize programs to strengthen the social safety net, including the provision of food packages among vulnerable families. Sixty thousand food packages were distributed in April.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	On March 23rd, 2020, a Tripartite Commission met in order to determine labor measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, for which firms committed to implement that pregnant women, workers over 60 years old and workers at high risk of getting COVID 19 (elderly, diabetic, heart disease, hypertensive, with lung disease, cancer or diseases that affect the immune system) will be granted paid leaves.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 23rd, 2020, a Tripartite Commission met, made up of entities representing workers, employers and the government (Ministry of Labor (MITRAB) and the National Commission of Free Zones (CNZF)). This commission has met in order to determine labor measures as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, for which firms committed to implement the following labor measures for 30 days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Grant work permits with percentage of salaries. <p>[March 2020] The measures decided by the Tripartite Commission included grant advance payment related to vacations for the next 30 days.</p>

		[March 2020] The Tripartite Commission decided that the collective suspensions of work contracts must be approved by MITRAB, and in accordance with the Bipartite Commission, for the next 30 days.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The measures decided by the Tripartite Commission included reducing working hours for the next 30 days. [March 2020] The measures decided by the Tripartite Commission included the implementation of telework or remote work, without reducing employees' wages, for the next 30 days.

Niger

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>As a part of its response to the COVID-19 crisis, the Government of Niger (GoN) implemented a horizontal expansion with one-off emergency cash transfer (3 times regular CT) in the most affected areas. Total beneficiaries are 400,000 household (scale-up from a pre-COVID19 coverage of 30K HHs) in both rural (250K HHs) and urban areas (150K HHs). As of August 2021, The COVID-19 emergency cash transfer response has been completed in rural areas where 249,500 households have received a one-off cash transfer of 45,000 XOF (USD\$ 90). In urban areas the response is still ongoing, and 62,000 of the planned 150,000 urban beneficiary households have received their payment so far. Emerging results of response evaluations confirm the successful delivery of payments to beneficiaries while also highlighting operational challenges which the World Bank is addressing in collaboration with the authorities</p> <p>120,000 households received cash transfer support from WFP and UNICEF as part of the Government response plan.</p> <p>An additional financing of the Niger Adaptive Safety Net Project will cover the financial gap and further scale-up the "cash transfer for resilience" program, increasing the number of program beneficiaries from 50,000 households initially planned under the project to 120,000 households.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>As a part of an updated crisis response plan, the GoN announced actions towards an immediate health response and broader economic and social mitigation. Key elements of the plan include food distribution. The response plan has an estimated cost of 18.4 percent of GDP.</p> <p>ECOWAS provided over 7,598 tons of cereals and 205 tons of fortified flours to the government in order to help it cope with the difficult food and nutritional situation of the most vulnerable households.</p>
	School feeding	Government of Niger announced that 150,000 children receive take home ration and 13,000 girls receive cash grants.

	Public works	As part of the additional financing for the Niger Adaptive Safety Net Project, a project component will finance the provision of cash for work opportunities to approximately 33,000 beneficiaries, who will receive a remuneration of XOF 1,300 a day for 60 days for two consecutive years.
	Utility waivers	<p>To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money free.</p> <p>Under a government-run scheme, food and agricultural inputs, including cereals and sugar, are sold at subsidized prices throughout the country. In addition, face masks were manufactured locally and sold at subsidized prices.</p> <p>Low-volume users of water and electricity, i.e. those using the 'social tariff', benefitted from free provision of water and electricity, starting in April 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Nigeria

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) Nigeria's national flagship cash transfer program has announced an expansion of the National Social Register to include an additional 1 million vulnerable households. At the onset of the pandemic, the National Social Register (NSR) contained data of over 2.6 million poor and vulnerable households (with over 11 million individuals) across 34 States. As of June 30th, 2020, it had grown to 3.7 million (equivalent to 15.5 million individuals) across 36 States.</p> <p>The GoN announced financial assistance to road transport workers with an estimated cost of N10 billion.</p> <p>(March 2020) The GoN made the decision to pay HHs registered in the National Beneficiary Registry (NBR) an advance payment of 20,000 naira (approximately USD 52) each as bulk of the regular monthly payments, for 4 months as part of the country's conditional cash transfer program.</p> <p>Beneficiary identification and registration for the NSR was accelerated significantly across 36 States and the Federal Capital Territory by March 2020, which led to an expansion of the National Social Register from an estimated 11 million to over 24 million (NASSCO, 2020) individuals registered by December 2020. Within the flagship federal-funded National Social Safety Nets Programme (NASSP), the GoN launched the Rapid Response Register (RRR) in January 2021, as a complementary framework to the NSR, targeting poor individuals and households impacted by COVID-19 in urban and peri-urban areas – considering that the economic impact of COVID-19 was disproportionately urban at the immediate onset of the pandemic. Within the planned scale-up of NASSP supported by the World Bank, 2 million beneficiaries are targeted for cash grants from the RRR. Under the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) for COVID-19, 1 million beneficiaries are targeted for cash transfer payments by the Federal Ministry of Humanitarian Affairs, Disaster Management and Social Development; bringing the total number of targeted cash transfer beneficiaries to 3 million total.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	<p>President Buhari approved the release of 70,000 Metric Tonnes of grains from Nigeria's National Strategic Grain Reserves, for distribution to poor and vulnerable persons in frontline COVID-19 states, as well as persons whose livelihoods will be affected by the lockdown. Distribution started in April 2020 and progressed at varying speeds and through different targeting and distribution methods in several states.</p> <p>The GoN distributed 12,000 COVID-19 relief packages to tradesmen and artisans in Lagos in August 2020.</p> <p>(May 2020) Farmers in 13 states of Nigeria will receive improved seeds of sorghum, pearl millet, cowpea and rice through an initiative spearheaded by the International research institute for the semi-arids tropics (ICRISAT) and Syngenta Foundation. The states were selected based on the importance of sorghum and millet as food crops and access of partners to needy smallholder farmers.</p> <p>(June 2020) In response to housing and electricity challenges faced by vulnerable households during the pandemic, the government announced a USD 818.3 billion (NGN 317.29 billion) Mass Housing Program (MHP). The strategy was revealed to have two tracks; track one which will involve building 300,000 homes across the country within a year, and track 2, which will leverage existing institutions to develop an additional 25,515 houses across the country, within the same period. The program also proposed installing Solar Home Systems (SHS) for 5 million households across Nigeria. Funding for the MHP will be derived from the USD 5.93 billion (NGN2.3trillion) National Economic Sustainability Plan approved by the Federal Executive Council on June 24th, 2020.</p>
	School feeding	<p>(March 2020) Instead of providing meals at school, the program switched to providing take home food rations for pupils during the school closure period. The modified delivery method was launched as a pilot project in three states from May to July 2020.</p>
	Public works	<p>Kano State, with support from international partners, launched an unconditional cash transfer project in October 2020. With a total sum of N 2.95 billion (equivalent of \$7,700,000), the project, implemented under the Nigeria One UN COVID-19 response, seeks to alleviate the socio-economic impact of the pandemic on the poor and vulnerable and strengthen the resilience of communities in local government areas in Kano State deeply impacted by the COVID-19 crisis. With this intervention, 9,600 individuals will benefit from a cash for work program.</p> <p>"In october, 2019 Special Public Works Program in the Rural Areas was piloted. The pilot was designed to mitigate the lack of job opportunities in Nigeria's rural areas through a short-term engagement of 1,000 unemployed Nigerian youth (aged 18 to 30) per participating Local Government</p>

		<p>Area (LGA). for a period of 3 months. The scheme was approved for implementation in five LGAs in each of eight States, namely: Adamawa, Borno, Ebonyi, Edo, Ekiti, Jigawa, Katsina and Kwara-- translating into 40,000 short-term jobs. On April 6th, 2020, the Minister of Finance, Budget and National Planning announced the extension of the pilot programme to all 36 Nigerian States and the Federal Capital Territory from October to December, 2020, to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the economy. Under the SPW, 774,000 people--1,000 in each of Nigeria's 774 Local Government Areas--are to be employed for 3 months, performing low-skilled and labour-intensive work. The federal government has allocated NGN 52 billion to the public works program, with NGN 15.5 billion (USD 40.5 million) earmarked for monthly payments to program participant. The program's beneficiaries are to be paid a monthly salary of NGN 20,000 (USD 52.50). The program was extended in January 2021 and it is estimated that 774,000 Nigerians will benefit from this engagement. A total of N60 billion for allowances and operational cost has been earmarked from the COVID-19 crisis intervention fund for the program.</p> <p>The government's COVID-19 protocols still strictly apply, including mask wearing and social distancing. The program's payments will be made electronically directly into beneficiaries' bank accounts. The program is designed for a largely agrarian populous, who frequently have other requirements on their time in the mornings and evenings on farms or elsewhere. As a consequence, work with the SPW will not follow a traditional 9.00 to 17.00 working day. The program will compromise--among other projects--the following: Drainage digging and clearance, Irrigation canal clearance, Rural road maintenance, Traffic control, Street cleaning, Cleaning of public infrastructure, including health centres and schools, Maintenance of the Great Green Wall nurseries and orchards in Borno, Jigawa and Katsina States. "</p> <p>Within the COVID-19 Economic Sustainability Plan, A minimum of 1,000 young Nigerians are are targeted for recruitment for public work programmes per local government area (LGA) in Nigeria. The public works programme is designed to create approximately 774,000 direct jobs, with an extensive focus on the construction and repair of major and rural roads using locally available materials such as limestone, cement and granite.</p> <p>(January 2021) The Lagos State Government in partnership with United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has kicked-off the cash-for-work programme for vulnerable people in the State with the aim of cushioning the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. The beneficiaries will be engaged by the State government to provide volunteering services and were selected across various social-ethnic group and through the state's social register for vulnerable people.</p>
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) grants all deposit money banks grants leave to consider temporary and limited restructuring of debt to households.

		<p>The Central Bank of Nigeria (CBN) Policy Measures in Response to COVID-19 Outbreak and Spillovers, on Monday, March 16, 2020 announced various policy measures in response to COVID-19 outbreak. The CBN would support affected households, businesses, regulated financial institutions and other stakeholders by: Creating a NGN50 billion (about US\$136.6 million) targeted credit facility to support households and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have been particularly hit by COVID-19.</p> <p>(March 2020) Several state governments have announced tax relief measures for individuals in their respective jurisdictions. Among these are the Lagos State Internal Revenue Service (LIRS) and the Federal Capital Territory Internal Revenue Service (FCT-IRS), as well as the tax authorities in Bayelsa, Kebbi and Ogun state. Measures include extended tax filing deadlines, the suspension of tax audits, and the suspension of rate increases and penalties.</p> <p>Holders of mortgages under the National Housing Fund for Home Owners scheme can apply for a deferment of their monthly mortgage payments by up to six months. The scheme was launched in March 2020 and could be extended by an additional six months.</p> <p>In March 2020, the fuel price was reduced from USD 0.37 to 0.32 (NGN 145 - 125). In May 2020, there was a further reduction to USD 0.28 (NGN 108). As of June 2020, the government removed the long-held price cap on the fuel prices.</p> <p>In April 2020, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission (NERC) suspended the payment of the new electricity tariff scheduled to commence on April 2nd, till 2021, citing the impact of COVID-19 as one of the reasons for the suspension. In September 2020, the implementation of the new electricity tariffs which were temporarily suspended in April was reinstated.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>The Central Bank of Nigeria convened a Bankers' Committee meeting in May 2020 reviewing the implications of the pandemic on the Nigerian Banking Industry and refraining banks from laying off part-time or full-time staff members; except absolutely necessary and by formal approval from the Central Bank.</p>
	Reduced work time	

	Wage subsidies	<p>A Survival Fund was introduced within the Economic Sustainability Plan (ESP) in response to COVID-19 granting conditional cash grants to support micro and small enterprises (MSMEs) identified as vulnerable to poverty and financial crisis during COVID-19 in meeting their payroll obligations and safeguarding Jobs in the MSMEs sector. The scheme is estimated to save an estimated 103 million jobs across the country and reported to impact on over 35,000 individuals per state.</p>
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North Macedonia

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>For citizens who lost their jobs or were part of the informal economy, the North Macedonian Government will provide accelerated access to the social protection system for April and May. They will receive an average of 7,000 denars (-EUR 113) per household. The estimated scope of the new measures covers about 20,000 new households from the informal economy and 30,000 existing users.</p> <p>Eligibility criteria for the Guaranteed Minimum Income scheme (GMI) for materially deprived households with income lower than guaranteed minimum allowance were relaxed. This meant an expansion of the GMI to 15,500 new households from the informal economy and 30,000 existing beneficiaries.</p> <p>Cash allowance to the tune of 1000 MKD per month to cover part of the households' electricity costs from April to December 2020 to materially deprived households with income lower than the guaranteed minimum allowance.</p> <p>One-time financial support with a payment card for purchase of domestic products in the amounts of MKD3,000 (US\$60) for low-pay workers and MKD9,000 (US\$180) for Guaranteed Minimum Assistance (GMA) recipients and unemployed in May 2020.</p> <p>One-time financial support for purchase of domestic products in the amount of MKD3,000 (US\$60) for students aged 16-29 years old in May 2020.</p> <p>One-time direct cash payment of MKD6,000 (US\$120) for passive job-seekers; low-pension pensioners; single parents; artists; singers; and related sub-groups was provided in December 2020.</p> <p>The Government has adopted a Decree implementing the Child Protection Law during a state of emergency in April 2020. This includes an extension of the duration of expired child protection benefits (i.e. the new-born allowance, parental allowance for the third and fourth child) up to three months after the end of the state of emergency.</p>

		<p>As part of the third package of COVID-19 support measures announced in May 2020, the Government distributed payment cards credited with 3,000 denar and 6,000 denar vouchers in order to stimulate domestic tourism by the poorest households. The measure will affect about 100,000 citizens from the poorest households, i.e. earning less than 15,000 denar per month (the minimum wage is 14,500 denar per month). The voucher must be used in domestic hotels and other accommodation facilities, while with the payment card will encourage the purchase of domestic tourism products and services</p> <p>The government provided a one-off cash allowance in 2020 for public secondary education students from low-income households for buying school materials in the amount of MKD3,000 and MKD6,000 for covering the costs for co-funding tuition fees, fees for accommodation in student dormitories and in private accommodation in the amount of MKD6,000 for undergraduate students from low-income households. enrolled in public higher education institutions in the country</p> <p>Measure 23 of the fifth economic support package of February 2021 included financially supporting the health workers who were not included in the third package of measures. This is a small number of users, and the amount of 570,000 denars is provided. The funds are intended for health workers from the hospitals in Strumica and Gostivar.</p> <p>The government has financially supported 745 pop artists affected by the coronavirus economic crisis in June 2021. One-time assistance of 30,750 denars per person, for a total of 23 million denars will be allocated.</p> <p>The Ministry of Economy announced the measure if organized vacation of low-income workers whose monthly income in the family does not exceed the net amount of 30,000 denars. This measure is part of the Home Tourism Program for low-income workers 2021 and provides for the issuance of certificates/vouchers for tourism in the amount of 12,000 denars for low-income people to use them in the categorized catering facilities for accommodation (hotels) located in the tourist centers in the Republic of Northern Macedonia that have been previously reported to the Ministry of Economy.</p> <p>As part of the sixth economic support package of April 2021, financial support of 30,750 denars will be given to all musicians, members of musicians' associations as well as licensed tour guides, who during 2020 had an average monthly net income below 15,000 denars.</p>
	Social pensions	

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>In-kind support (e.g., packages of basic food and hygienic products) provided to beneficiaries of means-tested programs</p> <p>In-kind support (e.g., packages of basic food and hygienic products) were provided to quarantined populations and COVID-19-affected households.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Extension of installment payments and other benefits in a state of emergency to facilitate loan servicing during COVID-19. This measure applied to individuals who have accepted changing of the loan repayment schedule</p> <p>Banks and savings houses could offer the following additional benefits to the concerned citizens: extension i.e. grace period for loan repayment; prolonging the loan repayment for an extended period; lower interest rate, etc.</p> <p>Students received partial re-imburement of university tuition fees as part of the third package of COVID-19 relief measures announced in May 2020.</p> <p>In North Macedonia, a rent payment deferral was introduced for the months of April and May 2020 for particularly vulnerable categories of tenants living in social housing (e.g. those entitled to guaranteed minimum assistance, single parents with underage children, persons belonging to the Roma community and socially vulnerable people).</p> <p>Freezing of prices of basic necessity products, such as food (including bread, salt, oil, milk and dairy products, eggs, flour, meat and pasta), medicines, disinfectant at the price level these products had on the day the WHO declared a pandemic outbreak (unless imported at higher prices).</p> <p>As part of the fifth economic support package adopted in February 2021, craftsmen will be allowed advance payment of personal income tax to be reduced by 50% in 2021 compared to 2020.</p> <p>The sixth measure of the fifth economic support package of February 2021 is the financial support of citizens by extending the measure for postponing the payment of personal income tax until June 30th, 2021. The value for this measure is 15 million denars, and the target group are the self-</p>

		<p>employed who according to the Law on Personal Income Tax were exempted from paying advance payments until March 31st, 2021.</p> <p>Measure 22 of the fifth economic package of February 2021 included the deletion of interest of citizens to public institutions and companies. This measure with legal changes will order the Public Utility Companies, the Public Enterprises and the Public Revenue Office, as well as the municipalities and all other institutions from the public activities to forgive and write off the debts of the citizens on the basis of interest in the amount of 100 %. This applies to all individuals in the country.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Access to paid leave. Release from work obligations of one of the parents of children up to 10 years of age, chronically ill according to the recommendations of the Commission for Infectious Diseases and pregnant women. The period of paid leave from work due to pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood and adoption continues to flow and the salary compensation continues to be paid until the expiration of the temporary measures for protection from COVID-19 coronavirus spread and prevention.</p> <p>The period of paid leave from work due to pregnancy, childbirth and parenthood and adoption continues to flow and the salary compensation continues to be paid until the expiration of the temporary measures for protection from COVID-19 coronavirus spread and prevention.</p>
	Health insurance	Healthcare coverage for COVID diagnosis and treatment to persons not covered under the regular health insurance
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] Under the COVID-19 Emergency Project, the government will support up to 45,000 people with unemployment benefits for a period of 4 months. This benefit is aimed at those who have lost their jobs because of the crisis and is equal to 50 percent of their average salary in the last 12 months.</p> <p>For citizens who have lost their jobs due to the crisis, the state would pay a monthly allowance of 50% of the average monthly net wage of the employee for the last 24 months and up to 80% of the average salary in the country.</p>
	Social security contributions	(March 2020) The government has adopted fiscal measures to help address firms' liquidity problems, protect jobs and support the most vulnerable. These temporary measures included subsidies on private sector wages and social security contributions for firms that maintain employment, among other measures. Financial support was granted by providing a minimum wage of USD 260 per employee for April and May 2020, or alternatively, subsidized 50% of mandatory social contributions, conditional to saving the same number of workers by September 2020. This involved firms in different economic sectors, such as tourism, transport, catering, media sector, sport workers and freelance artists, among others.

Labor Markets	Activation measures	As part of the third package of measures announced in May 2020, a payment card of 3 000 denars and co-financing vouchers up to 30,000 denar for IT and digital skills training are to be distributed to North Macedonian students. The measure is estimated to affect 100,000 students and mobilise around EUR 12 million.
	Labor market regulations	<p>The government temporarily banned new employments in the public sector, except for hiring appropriate staff in the health sector and other sectors that deal with the consequences of the pandemic.</p> <p>The Ministry of Labor and Social Policy issued recommendations for organizing the work process.</p> <p>[March 2020] All elected and appointed officials would receive only minimum wage (MKD 14,500) in April and May 2020.</p> <p>[April 2020] The government announced that chairpersons and members of management and supervisory boards of public institutions would not receive compensation during the crisis. This measure did not apply to people who were unemployed, and for whom this was the only source of income.</p> <p>[April 2020] The use of of the first part of the annual leave for 2020 was made mandatory, i.e. mandatory completion of the annual leave from last year until May 2020, which was to be approved by the employer.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The government announced subsidies on private sector wages for firms that maintained employment. This relief was granted by providing a minimum wage of MKD 14,500 per employee for the months of April, May and June 2020.

Northern Mariana Islands

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Fishermen impacted by the pandemic were eligible for one-time financial assistance in October 2021. The CNMI Fishermen Relief Program was made possible through funding assistance received from CARES Act, which provided assistance to tribal, subsistence, commercial, and charter fishery participants affected by the novel coronavirus. Within the CNMI, there were a total 1,205 applicants to the fisheries program. Of the said total, there are a total of 1,180 awards to the CNMI under the subsistence and commercial programs – 1,153 of 1,172 subsistence applications and 27 of 33 commercial applicants. Each subsistence applicant is to receive a one-time payment of \$755.68. Commercial applicant awards are based on figures provided by the business that reflected actual loss. Award disbursements were based on a formula put together by the CNMI Division of Fish & Wildlife and approved by the Pacific State Marine Fisheries Commission. The CNMI received an appropriation of \$1 million to the program of which \$871,299.04 was distributed among subsistence fishermen and \$97,919.09 to commercial applicants.</p> <p>The Department of Finance, Division of Revenue and Taxation (DRT) issued the Expanded Child Tax Credit for 2021 pursuant to the American Rescue Plan starting in July 2021. From July through December 2021, up to half the credit will be advanced to eligible families. DRT anticipates that the plan will allow estimated advance payments based on the 2020 return, or if not available, the 2019 return. The new law increases the amount of the Child Tax Credit, makes it available for 17-year-old dependents, makes it fully refundable and makes it possible for families to receive up to half of it, in advance, during the last half of 2021. Moreover, families can get the credit, even if they have little or no income from a job, business or other source. Currently, the credit is worth up to \$2,000 per eligible child. The new law increases it to as much as \$3,000 per child for dependents ages 6 through 17, and \$3,600 for dependents ages 5 and under.</p> <p>The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance Program for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) provides emergency unemployment assistance to workers who do not have unemployment insurance. The program provides unemployment benefits for up to 9 months for eligible workers. An estimated 2,000-3,000 workers will be eligible for the benefits.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Under a new memorandum of understanding (MOU), food assistance available to the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) will grow much closer to parity with

		the rest of the United States. The changes included in the MOU — announced by the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and leaders of the CNMI in November 2021, will substantially increase the reach of critical food assistance in the CNMI, beginning in November. The new MOU, which releases \$30 million authorized by the American Rescue Plan, will increase benefit amounts, expand eligibility, and create a contingency reserve fund so the CNMI will be able to respond to unanticipated needs.
	School feeding	The Child Nutrition Program of the CNMI public school system provided free meals including breakfast, lunch, and snack through a Grab-and-Go program on the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota starting March 25th 2020. Unfortunately, all meal distribution on all islands was suspended as of April 1st 2020.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Taxpayers in the Northern Mariana Islands will be eligible for the tax rebates provided to U.S. citizens under the CARES Act. These refunds are valued at up to US\$ 1,200 for individual filers and US\$ 2,400 for joint filers, plus an additional US\$ 500 per child.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	Workers in the CNMI will also be eligible for the U.S. government's Federal Unemployment Compensation Program, which provides eligible beneficiaries with US\$ 600 weekly. When combined with the national average unemployment compensation benefit of US\$ 360 weekly, this will bring the estimated benefit to US\$ 960 weekly
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Norway

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 8 April 2020, Government of Norway approved a compensation scheme for self-employed persons and freelancers who have lost all, or part of their income. The new temporary scheme covers up to 80% of income, limited up to an annual income of 6G (approx. €50,700; where 1G = the basic amount in the national insurance), and applies to income that does not entitle to unemployment benefit. The scheme includes those who have lost income on or after March 16. The compensation is given from day 17 after the loss of income. One must apply in arrears for the loss of income the month before, so that The Norwegian Labor and Welfare Administration will know about any income for the month in which the application applies. On 12 June 2020, a temporary law, valid through 1 November 2020, replaced the temporary government regulation. 23 October 2020, the parliament decided to extend the compensation scheme for self-employed and freelancers until February 2021, but the compensation benefit will be reduced from 80% to 60% from 1 November 2020. On 5 March 2021, the compensation scheme for the self-employed and freelancers who have lost income as a result of COVID-19 outbreaks was extended until 1 October 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 20, 2020, the Norwegian government will cut its reduced VAT rate from 12% to 7% b/w 1 April 2020 and October 2020. The rate applies to cinema admission, public transport, hotel accommodation services, entrance to cinemas, museums, and amusement parks. On 27 March 2020, Norway has cut its reduced VAT rate for a second time during the coronavirus crisis from 7% to 6%. This will still apply from 1 April until 31 October 2020.</p> <p>On 13 March 2020, Government of Norway announced the cancellation of the flight tax during the period starting from 1 January 2020 to 31 October 2020 means that the tax will be abolished both for flights made earlier this year and for flights commenced in the period up to and including 31 October 2020. The time of purchase of the air ticket is of no significance for the duty to pay. Flights starting on or after 1 November 2020 will be subject to tax. It follows from the proposal that the fee paid for flights earlier this year should be repaid to the airlines. On Jan 4, 2021, the passenger tax on</p>

		<p>air flights, which was introduced in 2016, was suspended on 13 March 2020 by the government from 1 January to 31 October 2020. The tax was not reintroduced in November, and after budget negotiations in the parliament, the parliament decided that the air passenger tax should be abolished in 2021 as well. Now the tax will be re-introduced starting from 1 January 2022 or later.</p> <p>On 26 March 2020, Norwegian government under a support package to help students through the coronavirus crisis announced that those students who can prove loss of income, can apply for additional financial support, in form of additional student loans or through the conversion of parts of student loans into grants. Students will have grants and loans for the rest of the study year paid out, together with the payment from April. For most students that is NOK27,550. In addition, those who have lost their work income due to the coronavirus crisis will have the opportunity to take up an extra loan of NOK26,000 under the favorable conditions set by the Norwegian State Educational Loan Fund</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Parents are entitled to a total of 12 months' leave in connection with the birth and after the birth. These 12 months include the mother's right to leave for up to 12 weeks during the pregnancy and six weeks of leave reserved for the mother after the birth. This leave must be taken directly after the first year.</p> <p>Employers are to be reimbursed for sickness benefits paid from the fourth day onwards for absences due to the coronavirus.</p> <p>Fiscal policy: Key implemented and proposed fiscal measures (discretionary measures close to NOK 126.3 billion, or 4.2 percent of 2020 mainland GDP) include: Expenditure measures: (i) household income protection scheme offering larger wage subsidies for temporary lay-offs, more generous unemployment benefits, and expanded sickness and childcare. This includes Paid leave for sick people and care providers.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] To support unemployed workers who are laid off from their jobs, the Norwegian parliament agreed on temporary amendments to the rules on unemployment benefit. Employees will retain 100% of their pay from day 3 up to and including day 20 of the layoff period, for salaries up to approximately 600 000 NOK (56 700 USD). The employer-financed period (the period during which the employer must pay laid-off workers) has been reduced from 15 to 2 days. After this, the state will take over responsibility for income security for employees who are laid off</p> <p>[Extension- January 2021] The rate of unemployment benefit for people who are laid off and for those who lose their jobs has been raised to 80% of their income for an income of up to 300 000 NOK (28 350 USD) and 62.4% of income between 300 000 NOK and 600 000 NOK</p>

		<p>[March 2020] Wage subsidies for temporary layoffs via the unemployment benefit, eligibility for which has been reduced from 50 percent to 40 percent work reduction. The maximum duration of the furlough scheme has been suspended, and the scheme has been extended until at least 1 July 2021. The minimum reduction in working hours entitling employees to unemployment benefit has been reduced from 50 % to 40 % with effect from 20 March, Wage subsidies for temporary layoffs via the unemployment benefit, eligibility for which has been reduced from 50 percent to 40 percent work reduction.</p> <p>[March 2020] To provide support to workers who have lost their income, the Government is enabling NAV (the PES) to pay unemployment benefits in advance. That is, those who have lost their income will be able to get money into their account quickly, without having to wait for processing of the unemployment benefit application.</p> <p>Key implemented and proposed fiscal measures (discretionary measures close to NOK 126.3 billion, or 4.2 percent of 2020 mainland GDP) include more generous unemployment benefits.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] To ensure business continuity, the social security contribution obligation is reduced by 4 percent for two months, from originally 14.1% . Some areas in Norway have reduced rate and it is uncertain if the same reduction applies. For zone V (the former Finnmark county and region of Nord-Troms), where the rate is zero, compensation of NOK 250 million is to be provided. Payment deadline for employers' social security for the months March and April is extended to 15. August 2020. Employers who submit salaries beyond the notice period will not receive refund for layoffs effected as of 20 April 2020. The employer and the employee may enter into a loan agreement where the employer covers salary for the 18 days period and is reimbursed from the employee when the employee receives benefits from NAV. This should be agreed in writing.</p> <p>The Government proposed temporary legislative amendments enabling employers to decide that employees being temporarily laid off can continue as members of the pension scheme.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] To strengthen support for skills upgrade and in-house training for companies affected by the virus outbreak, through increased grants to the counties, the Viken County Municipality announced the subsidy scheme "Competence development and in-house training" in two rounds in 2020. A total of 190 companies applied for support. Almost NOK 57 million was distributed to 136 companies. On 29 January 2021, Viken County Municipality announced funding for skills development and in - company training to help companies in a demanding situation, as a result of the corona pandemic. All companies could apply for support of up to NOK 700,000 per company, by the deadline of 1 March 2021. A total of 175 companies applied for support and NOK 20 million was distributed to 91 companies.</p>

	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] To prevent discrimination and exclusion, seasonal workers who are in Norway during the COVID-19 pandemic are exceptionally allowed to renew their residence permits and stay in Norway for more than six consecutive months.</p> <p>[April 2020] To provide support to apprentices, the Government is introducing a temporary scheme providing apprentices with compensation equivalent to apprentice salary in case of unemployment or temporary layoff. The compensation will be equivalent to 100 per cent of salary up to 1.5 times the National Insurance Scheme's basic amount (G), and 62.4 per cent of salary between 1.5 G and 6 G, with 'salary' being the apprentice's salary upon temporary layoff or termination of the apprenticeship. For 3 G of income this will provide a compensation rate of just over 80 per cent. It is assumed that the scheme will cover about 5 000 people who will receive the benefit for an average of three months. The scheme includes both laid-off apprentices and others who lose their jobs. The proposed allocation is in the amount of NOK 250 million.</p> <p>[March 2020] Employees are given the right to self-report sickness for 16 days even though the employer only pays from Day 4. Self-employed persons and freelancers may also receive sickness benefits from the National Insurance Scheme from the fourth day onwards for sickness absence due to the coronavirus. Sickness absence for the first 16 days may be certified by electronic report to NAV by the self-employed person. Self-employed persons may receive sickness benefits from the National Insurance Scheme from the fourth day onwards for sickness absence due to the coronavirus. Sickness absence for the first 16 days may be certified by electronic report to NAV by the self-employed person.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>Key implemented and proposed fiscal measures (discretionary measures close to NOK 126.3 billion, or 4.2 percent of 2020 mainland GDP) include household income protection scheme offering larger wage subsidies for temporary lay offs</p> <p>[June 2020] As part of the key measures to mitigate the economic effects of Covid-19, a temporary subsidy scheme for companies to take back temporarily laid off workers (NOK 4 billion) is proposed. The scheme applies to employers that are self-employed persons and businesses, private limited companies, non-profit organisations and foundations that have laid off employees as a result of the coronavirus situation.</p>

Oman

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) "Salat Al Khair" initiative: The Public Authority for Consumer Protection has launched a food basket composed of 19 essential food items, sold at a subsidized fixed cost of approx. OMR9 (approx. USD23). The food baskets were delivered during Ramadan 2020 to vulnerable families. The initiative was financed through private donations and subsidies provided by shopping centers.</p> <p>Distribution of 2,000 food baskets containing rice, wheat, oil, sugar, and other essential items and that the assistance to Omani and expat families (as of 6 April 2020)</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020) Payment of utilities' bills (electricity, water, and wastewater) will be postponed until after June 2020, and utility providers are being asked to offer the possibility of paying amounts owed through a series of instalments.</p> <p>Financial institutions in the Sultanate are asked to cooperate, by postponing and rescheduling the repayment of loans for affected employees after their salaries are reduced. Financial institutions are being asked to accommodate these repayment holidays for the duration of the months in which the employee's salaries are reduced and do not apply interest or other charges during this time.</p> <p>The fees for renewing Labor cards for expatriates have also been reduced until the end of June 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Government has extended the eligibility criteria for the National Fuel Support Card to include Low income Omani workers whose salaries have been reduced due to COVID</p>
	Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	<p>The Capital Market Authority in Oman has launched an initiative to expand the services covered by the health insurance scheme, including medical tests and treatment costs for insured members with COVID-19 (both nationals and expatriates) under their medical insurance coverage. The insurance scheme will cover up to the beneficiaries' available annual benefit limits in their respective policies. The insurers will apply the unified standard price schedule and national guidelines set by the Ministry of Health (MoH). Formal foreign workers covered by the Health Insurance scheme will benefit from the expansion of medical care benefits, including free tests and treatments for COVID-19. Additionally, the treatment of migrants not covered by the insurance program and without sponsors will be paid by the government.</p> <p>Additionally, for those without health insurance or sponsors, the government will offer free treatment (for residents and citizens)</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[August 2020] Omani workers contributing with Public Authority for Social Insurance (PASI) will be eligible to receive the unemployment benefit, which is the first ever scheme in Oman to cover all Omani workers, be they in the private, public, military or security sectors, under one fund. Unemployed insured Omanis will be entitled to receive benefits upon the first claim, provided that they have been affiliated with the scheme for 12 consecutive months - or for 12 non- consecutive months over a period of 36 months - prior to unemployment. However, this entitlement condition will be waived for the first year of the scheme. The eligibility criteria for an Omani employee to be paid the benefit includes if the Insured: i) has completed certain eligibility periods with the Employer stipulated in Article 11 of the Royal Decree; ii) does not receive a retirement benefit; iii) has not willfully left his or her employment; iv) has not been dismissed from employment for disciplinary reasons; v) is capable of working and is looking for employment (in accordance with regulations and rules set by the Board of the PASI); and vi) is not enrolled as a student in any educational institutions. The scheme will go live for claimants in November 2020, although the requirement to make contributions to the scheme will not start until January 2021.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The Public Authority for Social Insurance has taken the following measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postponing the due payments of the monthly contributions (March, April, May and June 2020) for the employer and employee. <p>[April 2020] Exemption from fines that will result from the delay in paying the due contribution for March, April and May 2020; or resulting from delay in registering their Omani employees/ or the notification from the end of their services.</p> <p>The Public Authority for Social Insurance has taken the following measures:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Postponing the due payments of the monthly contributions (March, April, May and June 2020) for the employer and employee.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>(April 2020) Oman's Supreme Committee issued a decision on 14 April 2020 requiring employees in private sector enterprises that have been closed to take their annual leave. Employers must pay full salary to employees who have been quarantined during the compulsory quarantine period.</p> <p>(April 2020) The employment contracts of Omani nationals cannot be terminated, however it is permitted for companies operating in the industries which have been demonstrably affected by Covid-19 outbreak, to grant their Omani nationals full paid leave during the lockdown.</p> <p>(April 2020) Furthermore, after employees have utilized their annual leave the company may reduce their salaries and in return reduce their workhours for the next three (3) months. These measures for Omani employees can only be taken with effect from May 2020 onwards, and not beforehand.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Pakistan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 28 March 2020, Punjab Government of Pakistan announced a Rs 10 billion relief package for financial support of 2.5 million families of daily-wage earners in addition to the financial support packages announced by the federal government. Each family will be given Rs 4,000 for financial assistance.</p> <p>The government of Sindh provides cash grant and ration distribution program of PKR 1.5 billion for low-income households.</p> <p>On 1 April 2020, the Government of Pakistan announced to introduce Ehsaas Emergency Cash (EEC) Program which aimed to reach 12 million families with 12,000 per family (one-off) leading to a total expenditure of Rs.144 billion. The financial assistance under the program is meant to help them buy rations so that they don't go hungry (i.e., for food security). On 09 April 2020, the government started allotting the unconditional one-off cash transfer and reached to 14,830,876 beneficiaries with a total expenditure of Rs. 179.274 billion. The first phase of the EEC ended on 30th Oct 2020. On 26 May 2021, The re-introduction of EEC program was approved with a planned beneficiary amount of 12,000 per person and aims to cover 12 million families (increasing number of regular Ehsaas Kafalat beneficiaries to 8 million and additional 4 million beneficiaries will be identified through NSER) with a planning expenditure for the additional beneficiaries to equal Rs. 48 billion. As of 19th Oct 2021, family covered were 2,169,753 with 26.034 billion in expenditure.</p> <p>From a delivery standpoint: An SMS campaign is the entry point to identify these beneficiaries. To check eligibility for emergency cash, people can send their CNIC numbers to 8171 till April 19, 2020. For the ease of applicants, Emergency Cash application/registration web-portal has also been developed to check eligibility. Those who are being asked to contact District Administration (through SMS) can register themselves at the application/registration web-portal without visiting the office till April 19, 2020.</p> <p>On May 28, 2020, UNHCR with the help of Pakistan government distributed Rs.12,000/- each as an emergency cash assistance to 36,000 Afghan refugee families. This cash transfer is inspired by the Pakistan's Ehsaas Emergency Cash Transfer. UNHCR launched an emergency cash program in May 2020. The program mirrored the Government of Pakistan's Ehsaas social protection program under which vulnerable Pakistani families receive a one-off cash grant of Rs. 12,000 to meet their critical needs, such as food, health, education, as well as rent and transportation. As of Nov 10, 2020, it is</p>

		<p>targeting 70,000 most vulnerable Afghan refugees but has reached 50,000 so far. Later in Jan 29, 2021, UNHCR completed the disbursement of emergency cash assistance for 75,000 vulnerable Afghan refugee families that have been the hardest hit by the coronavirus pandemic. UNHCR's cash assistance program was established and rolled out in collaboration with the Ministry of States and Frontier Regions (SAFRON)/Commissionerate for Afghan Refugees (CAR), the Pakistan Post, some partner NGOs, and a network of refugee volunteers and community leaders. Using vulnerability criteria, this volunteer refugee network supported the process of identifying the neediest refugee families.</p> <p>On Aug 5, 2020, it is reported that Sindh Government (Pakistan) has proposed Rs 20 billion cash transfers to those affected by coronavirus under the Sindh Peoples Support Program through the Social Protection Strategic Unit (SPSU) and Social welfare department (SWD). This budget was made to ensure food security, reduce inflation, and unemployment.</p> <p>National Rural Support Program in Pakistan supported 14,092 Poor and poorest households by providing cash-grants of Rs. 153,205,500 for emergency use, consumptions, and purchase of essential food/ non-food items with the support of Local Philanthropists, Local Communities, Rotary International, Akhuwat, Ehsaas Program Govt, District Governments, etc.</p> <p>On 30 April 2020, Government of Punjab Pakistan decided that legal heirs of the officials, health workers and Rescue 1122 personnel, who died on the frontline of the fight against the novel coronavirus (Covid-19), would receive Rs 7 million cash compensation.</p> <p>On 27 April 2021, Sindh Government in Pakistan decided to pay Rs1 million as compensation to families of employees who died of COVID-19. The compensation will also be applicable to the contractual employees of the Sindh government.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government of Sindh provides cash grant and ration distribution program of PKR 1.5 billion for low-income households.</p> <p>Ehsaas Koye Bhooka Na Soye' (EKBNS) is a new policy initiative of the federal government of Pakistan to eliminate hunger in the country. The initiative is an extension of Ehsaas Langar Policy, which distributes cooked meals at designated delivery points to people in need especially those at risk of or experiencing hunger. (March 2021) Meals are delivered free of charge through food truck arrangements. Many of the EKBNS recipients are the labor class including the elderly, differently abled, laborers, daily wage earners, women and children, who cannot access Ehsaas Langar sites in</p>

		<p>industrial zones and bus stations. This program has been designed in a public-private-partnership mode whereby Pakistan Bait-ul-Mal is responsible for the operations of the food trucks and Saylani Welfare International Trust responsible for provision of meals. This program was officially launched on March 10, 2021 in twin cities, Rawalpindi and Islamabad. On August 20, 2021 the PM announced the expansion of 'Ehsaas Koye Bhooka Na Soye' (EKBNS) program. Prime Minister announced that by October 2021, the EKBNS operations would be expanded to all four provinces, AJK and GB with the overall fleet of 40 food trucks in 29 cities that would feed 40,000 people every day and 14.6 million people, annually. Each truck feeds 1500-2000 people daily on specified service points. The meals are cooked, stored, and served from a truck kitchen.</p> <p>On July 23 2020, it was reported that the Ministry of Human Rights has launched Eid relief packages for coronavirus affected transgenders with the support from the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The beneficiaries were identified through a preliminary socio-economic rapid need assessment for coronavirus to address and cater to the most vulnerable transgender persons, led and driven by the transgender community. The assessment was conducted in Rawalpindi and Islamabad. A total of 120 ration bags were planned to be distributed to the transgender persons identified through the need-based assessment.</p> <p>National Rural Support Program in Pakistan supported 66,174 Poor and poorest households by providing in- kind support in the form of essential food items, soaps, sanitizers, etc. of Rs. 65,467,640</p> <p>(November 2021) To provide relief to the poor and deserving people, the government has launched a historic subsidy program "Ehsaas Rahan" worth Rs. 120 billion. The new Ehsaas Targeted Commodity Subsidy program will benefit 20 million families who will receive a monthly subsidy. In fact, 130 million people (around 53% of the country's population) will benefit nationwide. A discount of Rs.1000 per family will be given on the purchase of flour, lentils and ghee / cooking oil from designated grocery stores. Households will be identified based on the recently completed Ehsaas National Socioeconomic Registry (NSER) survey 2021 and registration will open in the second week of November through an online portal.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>On 28 April, 2020, Pakistan government approved 'Green Stimulus' package (which is supported by the United Nations Environment Program) as part of the government's efforts to extend green cover in the county and to create job opportunities for the youth, particularly in the wake of coronavirus crisis. The Green Stimulus package, as part of 10 Billion Tree Tsunami project, aims to promote plantation, setting up nurseries, natural forests and promotion of honey, fruit, and olive plantation in</p>

		<p>the country. Under the package, a 'Green Nigehabaan' initiative would also be launched to provide job opportunities to 65,000 youth/daily-wage earners with Rs. 500-800/day in the first phase and costs Rs. 7.5 billion, making them a part of the plantation campaign. As of June 8, 2021, it is reported that the Pakistani Ministry of Climate Change claims to have created nearly 85,000 jobs through the 10 Billion Tree Tsunami for locals, most of which are temporary, including the nursery and nighaban jobs. Many of these settings are outdoors and inherently socially distanced and thus have provided employment opportunities against the backdrop of the pandemic.</p>
	<p>Utility waivers</p>	<p>On 28 March 2020, the government of Punjab, Pakistan, implemented a PKR 18 billion provincial tax relief</p> <p>On July 10, 2020, as part of the FY 20-2021 budget, PKR 30 billion has been allocated in the form of housing package to subsidize mortgages as well as the provision of tax incentives to the construction sector. This means a subsidy of Rs 0.3 million will be given on the first 100,000 houses constructed. Those people who will borrow from the bank to construct their homes will be given a subsidized interest rate. The interest rate of 5 marla houses will be five per cent and for 10 marla houses will be seven per cent. The government asked all the banks to set aside five per cent of their portfolio for the construction industry. The government has also decided to reduce NOCs [no objection certificates] and have made a one-window operation in all provinces. Also, and this is only because of the pandemic, the source of investment until December 31, 2021 and no one will ask where the funds came from while buying the house.</p> <p>On March 24 2020, Government of Pakistan announced to reduce different taxes and duties on import and supply of different food items for alleviating the adverse impact of COVID -19 on different sections of the society: Rate of advance tax on the import of different food items was reduced to 0% from 2%; Individuals and associations of persons providing basic food items to Govt. owned departmental stores without a brand name will pay 1.5% withholding tax instead of 4.5%; and Additional customs duty (ACD) at 2% on soya bean oil, canola oil, palm oil, and sunflower oil (as well as oil seeds) has also been exempted.</p> <p>The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on 26 March 2020 increased individuals' borrowing limits for one year. The capacity to borrow from banks for individuals is limited by their capacity to bear the burden of debt, defined in terms of a percentage of their income and known as a Debt Burden Ratio (DBR). The SBP has also relaxed the DBR for consumer loans from 50 percent to 60 percent, this will allow about 2.3m individuals to borrow more from banks in this time of need. To avail this relaxation, borrowers should submit a written request to the banks before June 30, 2020.</p> <p>On 09 April 2020, It is reported on the Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet has approved the deferment of monthly and quarterly fuel adjustments in the electricity bills for power</p>

consumers for the next three months (till June 2020) under the government relief package. It is expected that consumers will save Rs151 billion from this policy.

On 24 March 2020, Government of Pakistan provided Rs. 50 billion, as part of the PM Relief Fund 2020, for Utility Stores Corporation (USC) to provide essential food items to the vulnerable section of the society at subsidized rates and is operational since Jan 8, 2020. USC has prepared an initial plan to deliver 9 essential food items at Rs3,000 for a family of two to four people through Pakistan Post Foundation Logistics Division until 30 June 2020. The ECC of the Cabinet on Jan 29, 2021 decided to continue a general subsidy on five essential kitchen items starting from Jan 1, 2021 until June 30, 2021. On July 17, 2021, the chair approved to extend the Prime Minister's Relief Package-2020 providing subsidies on five essential commodities from 15th July 2021 to 30th September 2021 till the Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system becomes fully operational. On July 16, 2021, PM's Relief Package 2020 is announced to extend subsidy from July 15 to September 30. On 30 Sept 2021, the Government again extended the food subsidy which is expected to start from 1 Oct 2021 and last until 31 Oct 2021. It is reported, as of 25 July 2021, only Rs. 29.7 billion has been spent in the form of subsidy so far out of Rs. 50 billion.

The Pakistan government on 30 April 2020 announced a reduction of Rs15 per liter in the price of petrol, of Rs27.15 per liter in the price of high-speed diesel (HSD), Rs30.01 per liter in the price of kerosene and of Rs15 per liter in the price of light diesel oil (LDO). Ministry of Finance made the decision to slash prices of petroleum products to "provide relief to consumers". This will be applicable from May 1, 2020. The benefit for end consumers is estimated to be PKR 70 PKR (Rs. 15/liter decline in prices of gasoline and diesel).

On 8 April 2020, Government of Pakistan's Economic Coordination Committee (ECC) of the Cabinet approved a Rs2.5 billion Ramazan package under which 19 food items (including flour, sugar, ghee, rice, cooking oil, pulses, white gram, dates, tetra pack milk, tea, spices, and gram flour) would be sold at subsidized rates in Utility Stores during the holy month until end of Eid (i.e., 23 May 2021). The new rates will come into effect from April 17, 2020. On 9 April 2021, reintroduction of Ramadan Relief Package was announced and will be implemented from 10th April 2021. The USC under the proposed relief package will provide subsidy worth 7.8 billion rupees on various item (or 10-15 % subsidy on each product) and will be implemented in 4,800 utility stores nationwide. This will last until the end of Ramadan month (i.e., 12 May 2021).

The State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) on 18 March 2020 waived all charges on fund transfers through online banking channels to avoid the use of cash (and visit bank branches or ATMs) and promote the use of digital payment services (such as internet banking, mobile phone banking, etc.). Moreover, under the guidelines issued by the SBP, customers using ATMs or visiting bank branches for transferring large amounts will not incur any cost.

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Government's Sehat Sahulat Program is being implemented in more than 90 districts of the country, mainly in KP and Punjab, where over 9 million families enrolled under it are being provided free-of-cost healthcare services by both public and private hospitals
	Pensions	Ministry for Communications and Postal Services provided door-to-door delivery of money allocated for government pensioners across the country via Pakistan Post. It was anticipated around 1.3 million pensioners will be disseminated their due allowances at the doorstep"
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The government announced that the Kamyab Jawan Program would be realigned to respond to the impact of COVID-19 Response. The technical training of the youth under the Skill for All Program (Hunarmand Pakistan Program) was shifted to distant/ virtual training so that the employability of the youth may not suffer in the face of the socioeconomic impact of COVID-19. Under the Start Up program, Business incubation Centers (BICs) were established to promote youth entrepreneurship with focus on post COVID-19 recovery.
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The DG, Labor Welfare (Govt. Balochistan), issued a notification that in case of complete/partial lockdown or closure in the Province, all factories, industrial and commercial establishments, NGOs, private banks, private educational institutions, and all other private entities shall pay at least minimum wages (PKR 17,500) to their workers (permanent, contract, daily wages, piece rate etc.) on regular basis without any deduction.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government of Sindh issued a notification instructing employers not to lay off their employees and continue their salaries during the 15-day lockdown period. The period of closure was to be considered by the employers as paid leave.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa announced that it all employees aged 50 and above would be be given a 15-day leave.</p> <p>[April 2020] The government of Punjab announced an additional salary for all doctors, nurses and healthcare professionals every month from April till the coronavirus pandemic subsides.</p> <p>[June 2020] The government announced that it was mandatory for all public and private sector employees to be vaccinated against COVID-19.</p>

		[March 2020] The government issued guidelines to ensure safe working conditions for employees in industries.
	Reduced work time	[November 2020] The government directed that 50 percent of staff of public and private institutions should work from home.
	Wage subsidies	<p>The Labor Welfare (Govt. Balochistan), notified that in case of lockdown or closure, all factories / industrial and commercial establishments / NGOs/ private bank/ private educational institutions shall pay at least minimum wages (PKR 17,500) to their workers on regular basis without deduction</p> <p>State Bank of Pakistan (SBP) introduced a temporary refinance scheme for payment of wages and salaries to the workers and employees of the business concerned. Under the SBP'S Rozgar Refinance Scheme with Risk Sharing Facility, on overall basis, up till 10 July 2020, financing of Rs 125.9 billion was approved by banks for 2068 businesses covering wages and salaries over 1.2 million employees</p>

Palau

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 6 August 2021, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Palau signed grant agreements for an ADB-supported project which aims to address the needs of poor and vulnerable groups in Palau affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The project will roll out welfare support to older people and persons with disabilities besides other goals and estimated to directly benefit 1,650 individuals. The \$3.71 million project is funded by a \$766,442 grant from the Asian Development Fund 13 thematic pool. The Government of Japan is providing \$2.4 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and the Ireland Trust Fund is contributing \$550,000.</p> <p>On 30 July 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$20 million loan to help the Government of Palau prepare for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and implement economic stimulus package. The program helped finance the implementation of the government's economic stimulus package, which includes provide elderly care.</p> <p>On 30 July 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$20 million loan to help the Government of Palau prepare for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and implement economic stimulus package. The program helped finance the implementation of the government's economic stimulus package, which includes support for free pre-school and childcare for lower income families, which will particularly benefit women with children.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 6 August 2021, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) and the Government of Palau signed grant agreements for an ADB-supported project which aims to address the needs of poor and vulnerable groups in Palau affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19). The project will roll out deliver food security and income-generating support to agricultural producers besides other goals and estimated to directly benefit 1,650 individuals. The \$3.71 million project is funded by a \$766,442 grant from the Asian Development Fund 13 thematic pool. The Government of Japan is providing \$2.4 million from the Japan Fund for Poverty Reduction and the Ireland Trust Fund is contributing \$550,000.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>On 30 July 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$20 million loan to help the Government of Palau prepare for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and implement economic stimulus package. The program helped finance the implementation of the government's</p>

		economic stimulus package, which includes the assistance of finding temporary work in areas such as tourism and the environment.
	Utility waivers	On 30 July 2020, the Asian Development Bank (ADB) has approved a \$20 million loan to help the Government of Palau prepare for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and implement economic stimulus package. The program will also help finance the implementation of the government's economic stimulus package, which includes subsidies for utilities such as electricity and water.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] On March 31, the President of Palau signed Agreement Implementing the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act. The acts includes an additional amount of benefits, referred to as Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC), to a qualified individual receiving assistance under the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA). Individuals benefiting from PUA will receive an additional \$300 weekly supplemental payment for periods beginning on December 27, 2020 through September 4, 2021.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 31, the President of Palau signed Agreement Implementing the Relief for Workers Affected by Coronavirus Act. The act creates the new temporary Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program provides temporary benefit to individuals whose employment or self-employment has been interrupted or lost as a direct result of COVID-19 pandemic. PUA is payable beginning February 2, 2020 and ending on September 6, 2021. The weekly benefit amount is \$397 a week for up to 79 weeks.</p>
Social security contributions		
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Panama

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March, 2020) Panama Solidarity Plan (Vale Digital): is equivalent to US\$ 100 per month and has been paid to eligible individuals since March 2020. In the first two month of implementation, Vale Digital reached 450,000 individuals aged 18 years old or older. For the poor and vulnerable in urban and peri-urban areas and suspended low-salary formal workers. In August and September, as the consequence of the reduction in the number of suspended workers and the increase of informal workers that recover their activities, Vale Digital was reduced to 225,000 individuals. Vale Digital is expected to last until the state of emergency is lifted. According to the government's website, as of March 27th 2021, there were 8,478,447 digital vouchers delivered.</p> <p>(March, 2020) Panama Solidarity Plan (Solidarity Bonus): Initially, this bonus aimed to help the most vulnerable population with the delivery of an economic amount of USD \$40. This amount was increased several times (USD \$80, USD \$100), and since February 2021 the government delivers a cash transfer of USD \$120. According to the government's website, as of March 27th 2021, there were 3,079,571 Solidarity Bonus delivered.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March, 2020) Panama Solidarity Plan (Food baskets): The government delivered temporary food baskets as part of the PPS to the poor and vulnerable living in indigenous territories and rural areas where the distribution of digital cash transfer turned not feasible. The GoP relied on local authorities to identify the poor and vulnerable households highly affected by reduced income due to the pandemic. Food baskets have delivered monthly to an average of 540,000 beneficiaries using a mechanism that combines local and national food purchase and strategic warehouses. The value of the food basket is equivalent to US\$ 100 per month. Food Baskets are expected to last until the state of emergency is lifted. According to the government's website, as of March 27th 2021, there were 7,047,779 food baskets delivered.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Electricity subsidy of 50 percent to customers who consume up to 300 kWh per month and 30 percent to those who consume between 301 kWh and 1,000 kWh per month.</p>

		<p>A suspension of payments for public services (electricity, landline phones, mobile phone and internet) for March-June.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government reduced the price of fuel by 25% and 5% in electricity.</p> <p>The government introduced a moratorium for three months (April, May and June 2020) for bank commitments, such as mortgage, loans for the purchase of vehicles and personal loans of individuals.</p> <p>Through Law 156 of June 30 2020, the government introduced a moratorium on loans granted by banks, cooperatives and financial, both public and private, until December 31, 2020, for individuals and legal entities affected economically due to the national emergency due to the pandemic.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Paid leave is paid to workers in quarantine or recovery (limited details available)
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[June 2020] It was announced that more than 250,000 independent workers, entrepreneurs and students would be granted free access to 3,800 virtual courses and 400 specializations as a result of a partnership between the National Government, the Specialized Higher Technical Institute (ITSE) and the virtual learning platform, Coursera.
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The government approved the Executive Decree that allowed companies to grant expired or early vacations to groups at risk, such as workers over the age of 60, patients with chronic diseases or pregnant women, for a minimum of 15 calendar days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Through Executive Decree 81, the government announced that employees are not obliged to work, and employers are not obliged to pay a wage for the duration of the lockdown, however, this did not mean that employers were allowed to dismiss workers.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government extended the validity of work permits for foreign workers, which expired from March 12, 2020 until April 30, 2020., [March 2020] The government extended the validity of work permits for foreign workers, which expired from March 12, 2020 until April 30, 2020. [September 2021] This measure has been extended multiple times. Most recently, it was extended till December 31, 2021.</p>

		[August 2020] Through Law 157, the government established temporary employment protection measures in companies affected by Covid-19. This included the prohibition of hiring new workers, in the same or similar position to that of employees whose contracts were suspended.
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The government approved the Executive Decree that allows a temporary modification of working days.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government approved the Executive Decree that allows the use of teleworking according to existing legislation and the nature of work.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Papua New Guinea

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Papua New Guinea spending \$38 million on nationwide food security activities, including distribution of food rations during April–December 2020. The main recipients are those affected by income and job losses, especially in urban areas where they have fewer means to grow their own food; 5,000 individuals in the National Capital District (NCD) are estimated to have received food rations to date (i.e., Nov 2020). Implementation is channeled through churches and local administration bodies to ensure correctly targeted and timely distribution of relief. This scheme draws on the databases of nongovernment organizations involved in volunteer and humanitarian work in the NCD.</p> <p>Approximately, 10,000 smallholder farmers and poor rural households are receiving support to purchase seedlings or home gardening kits, or to manage threats to plant and animal health. The aim is to help them sustain their crop and livestock production for household consumption and/or market sale, and thus prevent income losses from COVID-19-induced disruptions to economic activities.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>(March 2020) The PNG government and its international partners realizing the need for policies benefiting women and youth in the country's cities, applied the Urban Youth Development Project II in 2020. The latest iteration of the project focuses include, contributing to job creation by providing resourcing for the engagement of youth in a range of social and economic development priorities. The project will cost \$35 million dollars and employ 67,000 individuals in Port Moseby and Lae until 2025.</p>
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	The Authorized Superannuation Funds of Papua New Guinea will provide a one-off COVID-19 relief benefit of up to 20% of member contributions (up to PGK10,000, or US\$ 2,890) for members of super funds who have ceased working due to COVID-19.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	The government directed through the State-owned enterprise that no workers should be laid off during the initial 14-day lock-down period. [March 2020] To enforce isolation and prevention of physical contact amongst colleagues for the 14 days lock down period announced by the Government, all public servants are allowed to take paid leave of absence from workplace to work at home, effective from March 24, 2020 to April 8, 2020
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Paraguay

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On March 26th, 2020, the Government of Paraguay (GoP) launched program Pytyvõ, a benefit for the self-employed and informal workers of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MIPYMES). Beneficiaries must not be beneficiaries of other social programs (Tekoporá, Food Pension Program for Older Adults in a Situation of Poverty). The benefit consists of a cash transfer equivalent to 25% of the minimum wage, which was paid up to two months through bank accounts, financial entities, electronic wallets or other electronic payment. The government disbursed PYG \$500,000 to 1.5 million people. Through Law 6587 July 31st 2020, launched a new version of this policy, Programa Pytyvõ 2.0. This version introduced some changes to the original measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) The benefit was extended to those workers who contributed to the Institute of Social Security but lost their jobs during the COVID 19 pandemic. (ii) The monthly benefit amount was established as a PGY \$500,000 up to four months <p>The government planned to reach 700,000 additional beneficiaries through this extension. The third payment started on December 2020.</p> <p>Additional transfers of 50% for one month were given for beneficiaries of the Tekoporá social protection program. This program reached 164,309 families (600,000 individuals approximately) and involved a budget of PGY\$ 31,378 million.</p> <p>The GoP implemented a special bonus equivalent to the minimum wage to health personnel directly affected by the pandemic. The government planned to deliver this benefit up to three times. On November 6th, 2020, the second payment was introduced with the following changes: 1) health workers who held labor contracts prior to August 31st, 2020 received a bonus equivalent to one minimum wage; 2) health workers who held labor contracts from September 1st, 2020 to October 31st, 2020 received a bonus equivalent to 50% minimum wage. According to the press, the government allocated USD \$10,1M in this policy.</p>
	Social pensions	The GoP announced an advance payment of the Elderly Program for 207,000 people. This program consists of a food pension for vulnerable elder people. As of February 2021, this program expanded and reached a total of 221,162 individuals
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	The Ñangareko food security program aims to reach 330,000 families with a one-off cash transfer of Gs. \$230,000 (US\$36) via electronic wallet to purchase food and hygiene products. The program

		<p>is aimed at vulnerable households with informal workers, who are not beneficiaries of any other social program. According to the Secretary of National Emergency's website, as of May 14th, there were 23,319 beneficiaries of the health kits and 277,418 beneficiaries of the cash transfers. As of February 17th 2020, the government spent PYG\$ 165,000 million.</p> <p>The GoP announced a distribution of a food package to 3,500 families benefiting from social programs. This program was also extended to day laborers and self-employed. In total, this measure is valued at \$ 1.4 billion guaraníes (\$211M).</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On March 26th, 2020, the GoP implemented a deferment/exemption on the payment of basic services (water, energy) for the months of March, April and May 2020. Electric energy users with a monthly consumption of 0 to 500 kwh per month were 100% exonerated, and electric power users with a consumption of more than 500 kwh per month were temporarily deferred. Water service (ESSAP SA., Private Aguateras, Sanitation Boards, Sanitation Commissions) were temporarily deferred and have a discount of up to 100% for Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MIPYMES) and vulnerable sectors. Communications services (COPACO SA.) were also temporarily deferred, and unpaid obligations resulting from this temporary measure may be financed up to 18 installments without surcharges or interest.</p> <p>On March 26th, 2020, the GoP announced a moratorium on housing rent evictions until June 2020, provided that the payment of at least 40% of the monthly rent is justified. The amounts that remained pending were prorated and added to the value of the monthly rent paid in full from July 2020. The prorated debts must be paid within a maximum period of 6 months.</p> <p>Through the Central Bank of Paraguay, the GoP implemented a plan for refinancing debts payments of individuals and small, medium and large firms.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	The government deferred the payment of social security contributions for 4 months.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The GoP introduced a measure to allow greater flexibility in the terms of the 15-day notice to allow the use of paid vacations during the COVID-19 pandemic.

	Reduced work time	March 2020] On March 26th, 2020, the GoP introduced a legal regime for teleworking for formal workers at the private and public sector, allowing remote work without requiring the physical presence of the worker in a specific workplace. [May 2021] A new law was enacted to regulate the modality of teleworking. This law includes the workers' right to disconnect and the right to privacy, so teleworkers have the right to disconnect from work for a minimum of 12 consecutive hours daily. During this time, they are not obligated to answer any work-related communications.
	Wage subsidies	

Peru

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Bono Trabajador Independiente. This grant targets 800,000 self-employed households at risk due to the pandemic. The transfer is divided into two installments of S / 380 each, that is, a total of S / 760 is being delivered to each beneficiary. As of June 2020, 644000 have reached.</p> <p>The government launched a subsidy of nearly \$100 to 3M million poor households to stay home (“I will stay at home” program). Is divided into two payments of S / 380 soles each (760 soles in total) (USD \$ 223). Households in conditions of poverty or extreme poverty, which are located in the geographical areas (urban) with the highest health risk during the state of emergency due to the coronavirus (COVID-19). They must have the classification of poor or extreme poor in the register of the Household Targeting System (SISFOH).</p> <p>Bono Rural: new cash transfers for people in extreme poverty in rural area. The transfer of S760 is targeting 980,000 households (384000 hh received the transfers as of June 2020).</p> <p>Advanced monthly payment of the money transfer programs (Juntos, Pensión 65 and Contigo), 3,520,729 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The S / 760 grant (Bono Familiar Universal) is aimed at those households whose members do not receive any income during the state of emergency. The Government announced that this measure would benefit 75% of the country’s households, that is, about 6.8 million families.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tramo 1 reached 1.6 million households - Tramo 2 reached an additional 2.5 million households - An additional transfer in October 2020 plans to reach 8.5 million households (approximately 25 million Peruvians) but has only reached 7.5 million to date. <p>Workers under perfect suspension (suspension perfecta) -- a form of temporal work suspension without terminating the contract -- will receive a cash bonus called “Prestación Económica de Protección Social de Emergencia ante la Pandemia del Coronavirus COVID-19” of up to 760 soles per month if their salary is up to 2400 soles.</p>

		<p>Cash benefit to health care workers and assistants working in the Intensive Care Unit.</p> <p>720 cash bonuses for police officers and military workers for their work of maintaining internal order during the emergency</p> <p>Monetary subsidy that is granted to vulnerable households with independent workers.</p> <p>Cash transfer of 760 soles to beneficiaries of Juntos, Pension 65 and Contigo, that didn't receive the previous transfers.</p> <p>Reimbursement of funeral costs due to COVID for individuals insured under SIS (non-contributory health insurance for the poor)</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (Midis), through the Supreme Decree, ordered the double payment to the users of the social programs Pensión 65 and Contigo to avoid contagion by exposure to queues or crowds of people. Thus, in the next bi-monthly payment in advance they will also receive the payment of the two subsequent months. The double payment of financial support is applied in these social programs by grouping populations at high risk for coronavirus, such as older adults who may have some type of pre-existing disease. The Pension 65 program reaches 557,000 older people, including 40,000 with severe disabilities.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Canasta de primera necesidad to be distributed</p> <p>Free water distribution through water trucks</p> <p>Food donations to the families that are part of Qali Warma school food program.</p> <p>Acquisition and distribution of food donations to Lima and Callao</p>
	School feeding	<p>The National School Feeding Program QaliWarma (PNAEQW) is a program that provides food every day of the school year to girls and boys of public educational institutions of initial, primary and secondary level across the country. PNAEQW has two modalities. The 'rations' modality, implemented in the districts in the 3, 4, and 5 poverty quintiles, typically urban, delivers ready-to-eat breakfasts. The 'products' modality, in the districts of quintiles 1 and 2, delivers non-perishable primary or processed foods, which are used for the preparation of breakfasts and lunches in educational institutions. Faced with the impossibility of attending schools in person, on April 6, 2020, the "I learn at home" strategy began in order to guarantee the educational service through its provision at a distance in public institutions of Basic Education nationwide, in the framework of the health emergency. The normative adaptation was necessary to distribute the rations to the parents. Meals for the program are usually delivered between the last week of February and the first week of</p>

		<p>March to educational institutions in preparation for back to school. Therefore, the PNAEQW foods they were already in warehouses for distribution or educational institutions.</p> <p>The program assisted 4,199,532 boys and girls in 64,490 educational institutions with the new modality and exceeded the annual goal of 4,008,583. PNAEQ served the new students enrolled in public educational institutions in the context of COVID-19, coming from private educational institutions. The program also expanded horizontally and provided assistance to vulnerable adults and children. Legislative Decree 1472 authorizes the PNAEQ to provide Food Complementary (temporary) for people in vulnerable conditions, such as through common pots, using funds from food not delivered as a ration to schools, and later a specific budget was assigned for this task. Unlike the 'products' modality that resumed operations in April, the 'rations' modality observed logistical delays that halted its regular operation until June. This delay resulted in unused resources - since the program pays its suppliers once the product is consumed. Thus, the food that the providers had was supplemented and distributed to vulnerable populations in Lima and other urban areas (shelters for children, elderly people).</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The payment of overdue bills for electricity, natural gas and telecommunications of households is divided into installments, without interest charges, late payment charges, or service cuts.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Relaxes requirement for the validation of Certificates of Temporary Disability for Work</p> <p>Wage subsidy to workers diagnosed with COVID and unable to work. Subsidy for the first 20 month of sickness</p>
	Health insurance	<p>Extension of health service for all health workers</p> <p>Workers under perfect suspension (suspension perfecta) -- a form of temporal work suspension without terminating the contract -- will not lose their contributory health insurance.</p>
	Pensions	<p>The Peruvian Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion (Midis), through the Supreme Decree, ordered the double payment to the users of the social programs Pensión 65 and Contigo to avoid contagion by exposure to queues or crowds of people. Thus, in the next bi-monthly payment in advance they will also receive the payment of the two subsequent months. The double payment of financial support is applied in these social programs by grouping populations at high risk for coronavirus, such as older adults who may have some type of pre-existing disease. The Pension 65 program reaches 557,000 older people, including 40,000 with severe disabilities.</p> <p>Permission to withdraw money from their pension funds up to US\$580 (Soles 2,000) or 25% of fund for individuals that have not been the payroll for the past 12 months, as part of the emergency situation</p>

		<p>Granting and financing pensions to people at risk because of COVID-19</p> <p>An additional withdrawal allowing those who have not contributed to the system in the past twelve months and others with health conditions to withdraw up to S/.17,200 from their private pension accounts was approved in November/20, and a third one allowing the withdrawal of up to S/.17,600 in March/21. In December, Congress passed legislation authorizing exceptional payments by the public pension fund of up of S/. 4,300, and authorizing additional one-off payments to current retirees, and allows those over 65 years of age that have not met the requisites for a pension to withdraw the full amount of their contribution. The law was deemed unconstitutional by the Constitutional Tribunal.</p> <p>The Pension Standardization Office (ONP) will grant pensioners a one-off extraordinary remuneration</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] On March 27, Decree No. 033-2020 was issued which suspended employers' contribution to worker's private pension (10% of wages) in April 2020.</p> <p>Allow workers to take out up to 2000 soles from their individual private pension account due to the pandemic in April.</p> <p>Authorize workers under perfect suspension (suspension perfecta) -- a form of temporal work suspension without terminating the contract -- to access their compensation for work time (CTS) of up to 1 month for every month they stay under this perfect suspension.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 27, Decree No. 033-2020 was issued, which allows workers to access their compensation of work time (compensacion de tiempo de servicio, cts) for a maximum value of PEN 2,400. This compensation is a form of social security paid by the firm to formal workers month to month in individual accounts. [Extended - June 2020] On June 9, the Supreme Decree No. 020-2020-SA extended the Health Emergency which subsequently extended the validity of the provision of Compensation for Time of Services until September 9, 2020. [Extended - April 2021] On April 23, Law No. 31171 was published, by which workers are authorized to dispose of the full amount (100%) of their Compensation for Time of Service until December 31, 2021.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 14, the Government issued Emergency Decree No. 038-2020 which allows employers who are unable to perform their activities remotely or have been very affected by COVID to apply for the perfect suspension of their worker's contract. A perfect suspension is exceptional and only applies when it is verified that the employer sought to adopt other measures that maintain</p>

		<p>the employment relationship such as the granting of vacations (pending or advanced). This measure applies up to 30 days after the end of the health emergency.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2020] Given the extension of the health emergency until September 7, employers will be able to apply for the perfect suspension of work until October 7. [Extended - October 2020] On October 6, based on the Ministerial Resolution No. 229-2020-TR, the Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion (MTPE) authorized the extension of the perfect suspension of work until January 5, 2021. [Extended - January 2021] The Ministry of Labor and Employment Promotion (MTPE) extended the validity of the perfect suspension of work until April 5, 2021. [Extended - April 2021] On April 3, and as part of the Ministerial Resolution No. 058-2021-TR, the validity of the perfect suspension of work was extended until October 2, 2021.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March, the Ministerial Resolution No. 055-2020-TR approved the "Guide for the Prevention of Coronavirus in the Workplace.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 2, and as part of the Ministerial Resolution No. 163-2020-MINSA, firms must submit their plan to observe, prevent and control COVID and register it in the Ministry of Health COVID System to get a sector approval.</p> <p>[July 2020] On June 30, the Ministerial Resolution No. 448-2020-MINSA was issued, which approved the Technical Document: Guidelines for Surveillance, Prevention and Health Control of workers at risk of exposure to COVID-19.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] On March 15, the Government issued the Emergency Decree No. 026-2020, which established various exceptional and temporary measures to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 including authorizing remote work for private and public sector and provides a list of obligations for employers and workers.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] On March 27, according to Emergency Decree No. 033-2020, the Government provided private employers with a subsidy for each worker under 5th category who earns up to PEN 1,500. Each employer would receive a subsidy not exceeding 35% of the workers' total gross monthly remuneration.</p> <p>[November 2020] On November 1, the Government issued the Emergency Decree No. 127-2020 which establishes a new wage subsidy program that covers 35-55% of the wage bill of firms that reported a fall in sales of at least 30% during April/May, and who recall furloughed workers or create new jobs. The program is expected to benefit around 350,000 people. The amount of the subsidy is calculated on a monthly basis based on a percentage that is applied to the gross monthly salaries of</p>

workers that do not exceed PEN 2,400.00. The subsidy will only apply to the hiring of workers which occurred between November 2020 and April 2021, for a maximum period of 6 months per worker.

[March 2021] In March 11, the Supreme Decree No. 004-2021-TR was published which approved the regulatory provisions for the application of Emergency Decree No. 127-2020.

Philippines

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) Under the Social Amelioration Program, the government will provide PhP200 billion to 18 million households out of 24 million households nationwide (low-income families and households working in the informal economy) with P5,000-P8,000 a month for two months (depending on the prevailing regional minimum wage and considering the current CCT grants and rice subsidy in the computation of emergency aid)</p> <p>Under the Bayanihan 2 Act of July 2020, the GoP will provide subsidies and allowances to qualified students in public and private elementary, secondary and tertiary education whose families are facing financial difficulties</p> <p>Under the Bayanihan 2 Act of July 2020, the GoP will provide one-time cash assistance to displaced teaching and non-teaching personnel who have lost their jobs or have not received wages.</p> <p>Individuals with urgent medical and burial needs can avail of financial assistance from the Department of Social Welfare and Development through the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program starting in May 2020. The number of beneficiaries to be accepted for processing every day was limited in adherence to social distancing measures.</p> <p>COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) First Tranche provided affected workers, regardless of status (i.e. permanent, probationary, or contractual), employed in private establishments whose operations are affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic with P5,000 from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in March 2020.</p> <p>The Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) provided cash aid to Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) affected by the travel ban due to COVID-19 as well as those who were repatriated. AKAP is a one-time cash aid of PHP10,000 (USD200) for affected OFWs. Per instruction of the Department of Labor and Employment to OWWA through a memorandum dated February 3, 2020, the cash assistance was distributed through OWWA regional welfare offices. Such assistance aims to “help stranded OFWs ease their burden and assist them back to their places of origin” during the travel ban.</p>

		<p>(September 2020) The CAMP-Bayanihan 2 is a one-time ailment of P5,000 for the formal sector workers. Affected workers, regardless of status (i.e., permanent, probationary, or contractual) employed in private establishments whose operations are affected due to the Covid-19 pandemic to received P5,000 from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Under CAMP-Bayanihan 2, priority beneficiaries are the following: 1. Micro, small and medium establishments who applied for CAMP on or before April 15th, 2020 but did not receive any financial assistance under BAYANIHAN 1; 2. establishments that are not categorized as micro, small and medium establishments who applied for CAMP on or before April 15th, 2020 but did not receive any financial assistance under BAYANIHAN 1; 3. Micro, small and medium establishments that will apply for the first time under BAYANIHAN 2 and other private establishments that are not categorized as micro, small and medium establishments that will apply for the first time under BAYANIHAN 2.</p> <p>(July 2020) Documented and undocumented Filipino workers abroad or in the country would benefit from the Abot Kamay ang Pagtulong (AKAP) program under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act or Bayanihan 2. Qualified applicants will receive a one-time financial assistance of USD200 or PHP10,000 or its equivalent to the local currency of the host country. To be eligible for the program, the DOLE said the OFW must have experienced job displacement onsite or repatriated to the Philippines due to Covid-19 or Balik-Manggagawa/Re-engaged seafarers whose droplet has been suspended due to Covid-19; and must not receive financial assistance from DOLE AKAP under Bayanihan to Heal as One Act or any financial support from the host country or employer. The budget for the program is at PHP2 billion, with some 200,000 target beneficiaries.</p> <p>(September 2020) DSWD, through its 15-page memorandum circular, explained that low-income families in areas placed under granular lockdown on Sept. 13 will receive PHP5,000 to PHP8,000 cash aid. The document provided the guidelines on the implementation of the Bayanihan 2 ESP as well as the agency's Covid-19 response and recovery intervention programs. The agency received PHP6 billion under the Bayanihan 2, which took effect on Sept. 13, to finance its programs.</p> <p>(September 2020) In its website, DSWD said livelihood assistance grants (LAG) is one of the recovery and rehabilitation programs of the government to serve families whose livelihood took a dip due to the quarantine measures amid the health crisis. Qualified beneficiaries of LAG will receive financial assistance not exceeding PHP15,000. DSWD suggested utilizing LAG subsidy as capital or additional fund for the recipient's business. LAG prioritizes households with low-income or whose small business has been affected by the pandemic. Associations or cooperatives may also seek assistance offered under the LAG. The local government unit identifies the potential beneficiaries of LAG. (There is no more SAP for Bayanihan 2 because Bayanihan 1 has expired. But what we have is financial assistance for DSWD for their beneficiaries and indigents so what we call the SLP, an existing DSWD program.) The SLP is a capacity building program to develop the entrepreneurial and</p>
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		<p>labor skills of low-income households by providing them with opportunities to enhance their access to basic social services and improve their standard of living.</p> <p>Emergency cash subsidy to additional non 4P beneficiaries that qualified for SAP under Bayanihan 1 but were not granted.</p> <p>(August 2020) The Department of Agriculture said it is targeting to give assistance to 800,000 farmers through the ₱24-billion budget for the sector under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, or the Bayanihan 2. Aside from this, ₱4 billion will be set aside for other sectors, namely fisheries, upland agriculture, coconut, and sugarcane industries. To qualify, farmers need to be registered in the Registry System for Basic Sectors in Agriculture.</p> <p>(September 2020) In case an HCW gets infected and falls ill due to COVID-19 while performing their assigned tasks, compensation will be provided. The PHP 0.27 billion allocation will cover all HCWs who contracted COVID-19 from February 1, 2021 onwards. Specifically, provisions for an infected HCW will be PHP15,000 for mild or moderate cases, PHP 100,000 for severe or critical illness, and PHP 1 million in the event of death.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Department of Agriculture (DA) will distribute five thousand pesos (P5,000) cash subsidy to 600,000 rice farmers to help augment their needs amid the enhanced community quarantine. Dubbed as the Financial Subsidy to Rice Farmers (FSRF), the P5,000 cash subsidy is part of the DA's initiatives to assist small rice farmers, who plant one hectare or less, located in 24 provinces not covered under the Rice Farmers Financial Assistance (RFFA) program. The P3-B FSRF fund is earmarked under the 2020 General Appropriations Act.</p> <p>The flagship 4Ps conditional cash transfer program waived the program conditionalities for the months of February and March 2020, continuing the provision of full cash grants under the period.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) Emergency Subsidy Program provided families and individuals affected by COVID-19, who did not qualify for SAP, with family food packs and non-food items, including cash. On May 22, 2020 the government announced that second trench of the payment is mainly for those living in the Enhanced Community Quarantine, while households most affected by the continuing restrictions in the operation of certain industries and sectors in areas under General Community Quarantine may also still considered to the second tranche. The second tranche included an additional 5 million eligible households. On September 11, 2020, the GoP approved The Bayanihan to Recover as One Act, more popularly known as "Bayanihan 2, which provide additional PhP6 billion for continued</p>

		<p>provision of the emergency subsidy and other support and including households with recently returned Overseas Filipino Worker (OFW).</p> <p>Under the Bayanihan 2 Act of July 2020 the GoP will provide access to free, healthy meals to undernourished children.</p> <p>(September 2020) The Department of Agriculture (DA) is allotting P400 million (M) under the “Bayanihan to Recover As One Act” or “Bayanihan 2” to further expand the Duterte administration’s urban agriculture program and attain family household food security. “Edible landscaping or EL will now form part of our household food security arsenal,” said Secretary Dar, during the launch of its starter kit at the UPLB Institute of Crop Science (ICropS) on September 18, 2020. The EL starter kit contains a packet of assorted vegetable seeds, a “how to plant” brochure, and sample designs for a pocket garden, container garden, and community garden.</p> <p>(September 2020) About PHP 2.35 billion was spent on the HCW’s accommodations, transportation, and meals, providing them respite from their day-to-day expenses while serving in the line of duty. Free life insurance also allows them to have peace of mind as far as their financial security is concerned, as well as their families’.</p> <p>The initiative under the DTI’s Livelihood Seeding Program-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay aims to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic to small business owners. Each beneficiary received hygiene products, grocery items, or kitchenware worth PHP5,000 this week, said DTI provincial director Ruthelma Samonte, in a statement on Friday. The MSME beneficiaries of the program include sole proprietors, cooperatives, or sectoral associations in different villages. Aside from the provision of livelihood kits, the DTI also offers other services such as facilitation of business name registration, business advisory, and business information and advocacy.</p> <p>(October 2020) The initiative under the DTI’s Livelihood Seeding Program-Negosyo Serbisyo sa Barangay aims to mitigate the economic impact of the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) pandemic to small business owners. Each beneficiary received hygiene products, grocery items, or kitchenware worth PHP5,000 this week, said DTI provincial director Ruthelma Samonte, in a statement on Friday. The MSME beneficiaries of the program include sole proprietors, cooperatives, or sectoral associations in different villages. Aside from the provision of livelihood kits, the DTI also offers other services such as facilitation of business name registration, business advisory, and business information and advocacy.</p>
	School feeding	THR comprised enhanced nutri-bun and milk for national School Based Feeding Program. Rice was discouraged. Adaptations were late in national program but reached all prior recipients. Adaptations

		<p>in BARMM delayed till 2021 – will comprise fortified rice and commodities (eggs, anchovies, and mongo/mung beans).</p>
	<p>Public works</p>	<p>Informal sector workers who have temporarily lost their livelihood due to the enhanced community quarantine, can apply for temporary employment program, limited to 10 days of work involving disinfection/sanitation of their houses and immediate vicinity starting in March 2020. Beneficiaries will have orientation on safety and health, payment of 100% of the highest prevailing minimum wage, and enrolled to group micro-insurance. This measure was extended in the Bayanihan Act 2 in September 2020. As of November 2021, 2.6 million workers had been assisted to the tune of PHP7 billion.</p> <p>(October 2020) More than 800,000 informal sector workers are expected to benefit from the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Disadvantaged/ Displaced Workers (TUPAD) program (public works) of the Department of Labor and Employment with the passage of the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2). The program was active as of November 2021.</p>
	<p>Utility waivers</p>	<p>The Philippine government mandated all lenders to grant a 30-day extension for all loan payments, including credit card dues and pawnshop loans, as the country grappled with the effect of the COVID-19 pandemic in April 2020. A further 60-day grace period was implemented as part of the Bayanihan Heal as One Act in July 2020. Under the stimulus law, loan payment for principal or interest, including amortizations, that fall due between Sept. 15 and Dec. 31 this year may be paid after 60 days, without these incurring interest on interests, penalties, fees or other charges. Interest to be charged per installment period, which is based on the outstanding principal balance of the loan, shall continue to accrue during the grace period and shall be payable on the new due date following the 60-day grace period.</p> <p>The government directed all institutions providing electric, water, telecommunications, and other similar utilities to implement a minimum of 30 days grace period for the payment of utilities falling due within the period of Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) or modified ECQ, without incurring interests, penalties, fees or other charges. The electric utility did not charge low-use customers in March and April 2020 and sustained a policy of no cutoffs as of December 2020.</p> <p>(September 2020) About PHP 2.35 billion was spent on the HCW's accommodations, transportation, and meals, providing them respite from their day-to-day expenses while serving in the line of duty. Free life insurance also allows them to have peace of mind as far as their financial security is concerned, as well as their families'.</p> <p>(September 2020) Dubbed GSIS Multipurpose Loan (GSIS MPL), borrowers may now apply for up to 14-times their basic monthly salary but not to exceed P3 million. First-time availed will enjoy waived surcharges on their outstanding loan balance. Qualified to apply for MPL are active and special GSIS members who have paid at least three months of premiums; are not on leave of absence without</p>

		<p>pay; and have no pending administrative or criminal case. They should also have no arrears under the GSIS Financial Assistance Loan (GFAL) or GSIS housing loan and are working in agencies with existing Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with GSIS. "We urge government agencies to forge a memorandum of agreement with GSIS so that their employees may enjoy MPL's benefits in no time," the pension fund chief said. MPL's interest rate is 7.0 percent per annum computed in advance for members who have at least three years of paid premium. For members whose paid premium is less than three years and for special members with at least three months of total length of service, MPL's interest rate is 8.0 percent per annum computed in advance. MPL is payable in monthly instalments from two to seven years depending on a member's paid premium and status of employment.</p> <p>(October 2020) The Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) will launch the GSIS Computer Loan Program this month to assist GSIS members and their families in purchasing a computer unit for their online work or virtual classes of their children. Under this new loan program, qualified members may borrow Php30,000 to buy a desktop or laptop computer. Even members who have already purchased a computer before the program was launched may apply for the loan. They just need to declare to the GSIS coordinator in their office, called Agency Authorized Officer (AAO), the type of computer they purchased. The payment term is three years with an interest rate of 6 percent per annum. The amortization will be automatically deducted from the borrower's salary. Qualified to apply for the Computer Loan are active members who have paid at least three months of premiums; have permanent appointment; are not on leave of absence without pay; have no pending administrative or criminal case; have no arrears under the GSIS Financial Assistance Loan (GFAL); and have no past due GSIS loan except housing loan. Computer loan proceeds will be directly credited to the borrower's GSIS eCard or Unified Multipurpose Identification (UMID) card. A text message or email will be sent by GSIS to the borrower once the loan has been e-credited."</p> <p>State pension fund Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) is reopening the COVID-19 Emergency Loan program today, September 28, 2020 until Dec 27th, 2020 to its members and pensioners.</p> <p>Under the COVID-19 Emergency Loan program, qualified borrowers with existing emergency loan may borrow up to Php40,000 to pay off their previous emergency loan balance and still receive a maximum net amount of Php20,000. Those without existing emergency loan may apply for Php20,000. However, those who have already availed of the COVID-19 emergency loan are no longer qualified to apply.</p> <p>Suspension of charging of filing, processing, and licensing/registration fees relative to application to provide electronic payment and financial services was provided for in 2020.</p>
	Paid sick leave	Sickness and death cash benefits to public and private health workers who contract COVID-19

Social Insurance	Health insurance	Deferral of contributions and other administrative adjustments - The deadline of payment of contributions for self-paying direct contributors was extended, 45-days coverage policy was waived, and the filing period for claims was extended.
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] To mitigate the economic shock of the COVID-19 pandemic on wage earners, the Social Security System (SSS) is prepared to pay unemployment benefits to some 30,000 to 60,000 workers projected to lose their jobs as a result of the possible layoffs in, or closures of, private companies hit by the economic fallout from the fast-spreading COVID-19 disease. SSS premium-paying members can receive benefits equivalent to half of their average monthly salary credit (AMSC) for a maximum of 2 months, if they are displaced because of redundancy, installation of labor-saving devices, retrenchment, closure or cessation of operation, and disease or illness. The condition for beneficiaries to qualify for this unemployment benefit is that they should have paid the requisite minimum number of monthly contributions for three years, twelve of which should have been made in the last eighteen months. The minimum unemployment benefits that qualified members can is P11,000 and a maximum of P20,000. The estimated budget is P1.2 billion.
	Social security contributions	As of 18 March 2020, PhilHealth released Php 30 billion (USD 590 million) additional funds to accredited hospitals as well implemented administrative measures i.e. extension of payment of contributions and the filing of claims: the state health insurer will also provide its members and service partners with additional relief in view of the recent declaration of a state of public health emergency in the country by extending the deadline of payment of contributions for its self-paying direct contributors. They can now pay their first quarter contributions on or before April 30, 2020 instead of March 31, 2020 without interest. Moreover, its policy on single period of confinement and 45-days coverage are also waived in favor of the member, while the filing period for claims is also extended from the usual 60 days to at least 120 days in favor of the health care provider . Additionally, the Philippine Health Insurance Corporation (Philhealth) may be directed to shoulder all medical expenses of public and private health workers in case of "exposure to COVID-19 or any work-related injury or disease during the duration of the emergency".
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[March 2020] To support affected and temporarily displaced workers through upskilling and reskilling, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) is offering free courses for all who would like to acquire new skills in the convenience of their own homes, mobile phones and computers through the TESDA Online Program (TOP). The TOP is an open educational resource that aims to make technical education more accessible to Filipino citizens through the use of information and communication technologies. It provides an effective and efficient way to deliver technical education and skills development services to a broader audience/wide range of users/all learners at a lesser cost. The estimated budget amounts to P3 billion. [Extension- April 2021] Free data access to the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) online skills training program and other educational platforms of the government has been extended until 2022.

	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] To support government and employees whose services are urgently necessary and who physically report for work during the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine period will be entitled to a coronavirus disease (Covid-19) hazard pay under an administrative order (AO). The Covid-19 hazard pay is worth at the rate of PHP500 per day to a civil servant who physically reports for work. The government workers entitled to the hazard pay are those who occupy regular, contractual, or casual positions, or are engaged through contract of service (COS), job order (JO) in national government agencies (NGAs), including state universities and colleges (SUCs) and government owned or-controlled corporations (GOCCs).</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] To control the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Department of Labor and Employment established a guideline for enterprises to adopt flexible work arrangements (i.e., telecommuting, work from home, reduced work days/hours, rotation of workers and forced leave)</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] To contain the spread of the COVID-19 virus, the government will provide employees in small businesses a wage subsidy of between P5,000 to 8,000 per eligible worker affected by the Enhanced Community Quarantine (ECQ) in Luzon and other parts of the country. The Small Business Wage Subsidy (SBWS) program aims to benefit a total of 3.4 million which comprises of support for 2.6 million workers whose employers are compliant with the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR) and Social Security System (SSS) regulations and some 800,000 workers whose employers are not fully compliant with the SSS or BIR. The subsidy will be for two months and will cost a total of P50.8 billion.</p> <p>[Extension-June 2020] The deadline for claiming the SBWS payouts has been extended to June 28, from the original cut-off date of June 10."</p>

Poland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 11 March 2020, Parents have an additional 14 days of childcare allowance for childcare up to the age of 8 if the nursery, children's club, kindergarten, or school the child attends is closed due to the coronavirus. Cash is payable to parents or legal guardians of children. The allowance is available from 12 March to March 25, 2020 and the period of payment of additional care allowance (14 days) is not included in the general limit of 60 days, which are entitled to care for a sick child under 14 years of age. The care allowance and the additional care allowance are due from the Social Insurance Fund. The care allowance amounts to 80% of gross wages or, in case of self-employed, of average monthly revenue (calculated for 12 months). The availability of the measure was said to be subject to prolongation, in line with the actual needs (that is, if the restrictions forcing parents to stay at home were to be extended).</p> <p>On 21 June 2020, the law introducing the solidarity allowance for people who lost their jobs due to the Covid-19 pandemic entered into force. It is targeted at people whose contract was terminated after 15 March 2020, or whose fixed-term work contract ended after 15 March 2020. The benefits will be paid for three months in the amount of PLN 1,400 (about EUR 316) per month from June to August 2020. Foreigners residing in Poland are also entitled to this allowance.</p> <p>The voucher is a form of social subsidy available on request. The voucher is a form of social subsidy and amounts to PLN 500 (some €115) for each child up to 18 years of age. Children with a certificate of disability are entitled to an additional 500 PLN, for a total of 1,000 PLN. The amount can be spent on holidays in Poland. It can be used multiple times until it is exhausted. It is also exempted from income tax. The distribution of the vouchers started on 1 Aug 2020. Originally, the travel voucher (which is only in electronic form) could be used until March 31, 2022, but the government has adopted a bill extending its validity period until 30 September 2022, as reported on Nov 2, 2021. As reported in October, the Ministry of Development and Technology, using the Polish Tourist Voucher payments for nearly PLN 1.9 billion were made, 7 million children took advantage of the voucher, and the additional benefit was activated for over 171 thousand children with a disability certificate.</p> <p>April 1, 2020, The President of Poland signed the Anti-crisis shield act containing the Benefit for people who are employed under a mandate or specific task contract and self-employed. They are entitled to an amount of up to 2,080 PLN.</p>

	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On Nov 6, 2020, Poland Government announced that teachers will receive vouchers worth PLN 500, which will be used, inter alia, to cover the costs of purchasing IT equipment (such as From cameras, microphones, headphones, tripods, keyboards, mice to software, but also faster internet, if necessary). The support applies to purchases made from Nov 6, 2020 and until December 7, 2020. The teachers are requested to fill in a short, simple application to avail the voucher. This is expected to cost about 300 million PLN, which will go directly to teachers investing in equipment.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	On Dec 15, 2020, Poland's agriculture and rural development ministry has announced that it will subsidize the purchase of computers for children from low-income farming families. The subsidies will cover up to 1,500 zloty (€337) towards the costs of laptops and desktop computers, along with keyboards, mice, chargers and software, purchased between 10 December and 31 March by each family that qualifies for the scheme. The funds will be handled by the Agency for Restructuring and Modernisation of Agriculture (ARiMR), which will accept applications until 30 December 2020. It will then collect invoices until 15 April 2021. The scheme will be limited to low-income households. Only families where monthly income per head – counting both parents and dependent children – was no higher than 1,200 zloty (€270) in 2019 will qualify for the scheme.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Employees can be requested to use half of their annual paid leave during the State of Emergency.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	For employers hiring at least 50 employees as of 30 June 2019, the deadline for entering into employee pension plan agreements is to be extended to September 2020.
	Unemployment benefits	An increase in the unemployment benefit by 39 percent during the first 90 days of unemployment
	Social security contributions	Postponement of payment of social contributions and possible deferral, payment in installments, or cancellation of taxes; Micro enterprises and self-employed entrepreneurs will be exempted from the obligation to pay social security and health premiums for three months. The exemption concerns premiums of employees and it does not apply to the entrepreneur's personal premiums. Aid in the form of exemptions from payment of contributions (e.g. social or health insurance contributions) for the period from 1 to 30 November 2020 will be available to companies that declare a decrease in revenues in November 2020 of at least 40% in comparison to revenues in November 2019.
	Activation measures	

Labor Markets	Labor market regulations	Foreign workers permits are extended to stay in Poland and work.
	Reduced work time	<p>All employers are obligated to ease the conditions for teleworking for persons subject to quarantine or epidemiological surveillance</p> <p>All employers affected by the effects of a coronavirus will be able to reduce the employee's daily uninterrupted rest time from the current 11 hours to 8 (with a guarantee of giving the employee equivalent rest within 8 weeks), and the weekly rest period from 35 to 32 hours.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>Employers meeting specific criteria concerning turnover decline could lower employee's working time to 80% (and get 40% of average wage covered by the state, with firms covering the remaining 40%).</p> <p>In case of significant problems, companies can use economic stoppage with wages reduced to 0.5 of regular level; the government will cover almost half of the remuneration. In addition, one-person companies and people working based on civil law contracts could get up to 80% of the minimum wage.</p>

Portugal

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Portugal announced plans on 13 March 2020 to provide financial support for the self-employed in the amount of Euro 438 for 6 months. This was extended to include workers in the informal sector and those with irregular contracts.</p> <p>Supplementary installment in September of the family benefit (abono de família) for beneficiaries below 16 years of age belonging to the 1st-3rd income brackets</p> <p>(June 2020) Support to parents with children or dependents under 12 years or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness. Employees are entitled to two thirds of their basic remuneration, with the bottom limit of one national minimum wage and the top limit of three national minimum wages. This is paid by the employer but borne in equal parts by the employer and by the Social Security. Self-employed workers who, in the previous 12 months, had contributions for at least three consecutive months, are also entitled to this support.</p> <p>An allowance will be provided in case of prophylactic isolation of dependents, a child under 12 years of age or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness.</p> <p>An extension was provided, from one to three months, of the extraordinary support to artists, authors, technicians and other cultural professionals, provided for in articles 5 to 7 of Ministerial Order no. 37-A/2021, of 15 February 2021, in the monthly amount of one times the social support index, through a request to be submitted in March, April and May 2021.</p> <p>On 1 September 2021, the Commission approved a €10 million scheme to support farmers active in the outermost region of the Azores (Portugal) in the context of the coronavirus outbreak. Under the scheme, the public support, in the form of direct grants, aims to mitigate the liquidity shortages and part of the losses the beneficiaries incurred due to the coronavirus outbreak and the restrictive measures put in place to limit the spread of the virus.</p> <p>The Law no. 75 -B/2020, of 31 December 2020 (State Budget 2021), created an extraordinary income support (Apoio Extraordinário ao Rendimento dos Trabalhadores, AERT), for workers without any economic and social protection. This extraordinary support aims to ensure the</p>

		continuity of income of workers who have lost their income from work and do not meet the conditions of access to social benefits in the event of unemployment, or having accessed them, they have expired. The support is means tested - verification of economic insufficiency on the basis of the average monthly income of the applicant's household - aimed at workers who, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, find themselves with incomes below the poverty line (of 2018 corresponding to €501.16). The measure will last throughout 2021.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Suspension of termination of essential services due to non-payment (water, electricity, natural gas, telecom)</p> <p>Consumers who signed up to the public moratorium until September 30, 2020 can benefit from the suspension of payment of installments between the time the moratorium was requested and September 30, 2021. If the consumer was not benefiting from the public moratorium on October 1, 2020, in relation to a credit agreement, the consumer can request its application with the lending institution until March 31, 2021. For accessions after January 1 2021, the moratorium cannot be in force for a total period of more than nine months.</p> <p>The Regulatory Authority for Energy Services (ERSE) has proposed a set of "extraordinary measures" to operators in the electricity and natural gas sectors to minimise the "adverse effects" of wholesale prices in the energy market in October 2021. The objective is to ensure greater flexibility in the operation in the market, without increased costs or risks for energy consumers. The proposed measures - which should be in force until the end of the first half of 2022 - also allow to avoid any problems with the exit of suppliers from the market, as well as to ensure easier access to energy supply.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	14-day prophylactic isolation status was made equivalent to illness, with a benefit correspondent to 100% of remuneration. The sickness benefits is not subject to the waiting period (3 to 10 days).
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] Extension of unemployment benefits and all benefits of the social security system for which the concession or renewal period ends before the prevention measures cease. Automatic extension of unemployment benefit until the end of 2020. The temporary regime suspended the evaluation of conditions (means test) for maintaining social security system benefits and

		<p>reassessments of the conditions for maintaining the benefits of the Social Security payment system are extraordinarily suspended until July 2020. [Extension - July 2020] The automatic extension of the social unemployment benefit is prolonged until December 2020.</p>
	<p>Social security contributions</p>	<p>Establishment of special support to the self-employed workers whose activity is affected by the COVID-19 and deferral of payment of social contributions. In addition, exemptions from social security contributions are envisaged for lay-off or closure determined by the Health Authority, as well as for the first month after the resumption of activity.</p> <p>Support for a progressive recovery - measure that replaces the simplified temporary lay-off and whose main assumptions are: (i) the progressive convergence of the worker's remuneration to 100% of their wage; (ii) payment by the company of all hours worked; (iii) the progressive reduction of the exemption from employer's Social Security contributions and the compensation of the loss of social security contributions revenue by the State Budget</p> <p>(March 2020) Companies exempted from Social Security contributions. Companies in crises, affected by complete halt in the activity or by abrupt and sharp decrease of activity of at least 40% of invoicing have access to the temporary exemption of payment of Social Security contributions due by employers as well as on the first month after the resumption of activity. The right to this exemption is also applicable to independent workers who are employers benefiting from the exceptional and temporary measures to protect jobs in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as to the respective spouses. This exemption is conferred for one month, being exceptionally extendable up to three months.</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>Support for vocational training, in the amount of 50% of the worker's remuneration up to the minimum wage, for workers not employed in productive activities for a considerable period of time.</p> <p>(August 2020) Internships to support integration of young workers in the labor market and the vocational conversion of unemployed and inactive workers. First call for applications opened from August 1st to December 18th, 2020.</p> <p>(August 2020) Professional Training - based on training and requalification programs: review and reinforcement of training and reskilling qualification program responses for the unemployed; specific training programs for emerging sectors (digital economy, energy and climate change and social sector). On October 23 the "Jovem+Digital" programme was launched directed at the development of digital skills of youth with at least secondary education</p>

		<p>[August 2020] The extraordinary support for the progressive recovery of companies in a situation of business crisis with temporary reduction of the normal working time is cumulative with a training plan approved by the Institute for Employment and Vocational Training (Instituto do Emprego e Formação Profissional, I. P. - IEFP, I. P.). (Decree-Law 46-A/2020, article 10) This training plan confers the right to a grant with the amount of 30% of the Social Support Index (the full amount of this index is €438.81 in 2020) per worker.</p> <p>[Extension - January 2021] This measure was extended by the Decree Law 6-C/2021 of 15 January 2021 for a period of six months, ending on 30 June 2021.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>(January 2021) In order to allow the necessary monitoring of children, the Government, therefore, again defines as justified absences from work motivated by urgent assistance to a child or other dependent under 12 years of age, or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness, arising from the suspension of classroom and non-teaching activities in person at a school or social support equipment for early childhood or disability determined by legislative or administrative governmental source. Thus, for the academic year 2020-2021, absences from work in that area during periods of school interruption or outside of them are considered to be justified absences, according to the school calendar set out in annexes II and IV to Order no. 6906-B / 2020, published in the Diário da República, 2nd series, no. 128, Ordinance No. 181/2019, of June 11th</p> <p>[April 2020] The measure suspends, temporarily and exceptionally, the possibility of terminating the employment contracts of professionals linked to services and establishments integrated in the National Health Service</p> <p>[January 2021] The Decree no. 3-A / 2021 of 14 January that regulates the 'state of emergency decreed by the President of the Republic establishes a rule on the 'Exceptional suspension of termination of employment contracts' Article 9 determines that during the period of validity of the 'state of emergency', the possibility of terminating contracts is temporarily and exceptionally suspended due to imperative service needs, relation to health professionals linked to services and establishments integrated in the National Health Service (SNS).</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[August 2020] Extraordinary support for the progressive recovery of companies in a situation of business crisis, for the temporary reduction of the normal working period, with a view to maintaining employment. The extraordinary support article applies to employers of a private nature, including those in the social sector, who have been affected by the COVID-19 disease pandemic and who are, as a result, in a business crisis situation. The working time reduction lasts for one month, but may be extended monthly while the Decree Law is in force. Companies are allowed to reduce the working time depending of the level of business crisis and of the time of year: by 50% in August and</p>

September and by 40% in the last quarter 2020 - when the break in invoicing is equal to or greater than 40%; and by 70% and 60% in the same periods of the year - when there is a break in invoicing equal to or greater than 60%. The employer is entitled to financial support exclusively for the purpose of paying the compensation to workers. Social security supports 70% of the compensation, the employers are responsible for ensuring the remaining 30%.

[Extension - October 2020] Decree Law 90/2020, of 19 October amends the extraordinary support for the gradual resumption of activity in companies in a situation of business crisis with a reduction of the normal working period.

[Extension - November 2020] Decree-Law no.101-A/2020, of 27 November 2020 gives companies more scope to reduce the level of the normal period of working time, having into account the level of fall in turnover.

[Extension - January 2021] The regime was upgraded and prolonged by more six months. Decree Law 6-E/2021 of 15 January also allows that during the state of emergency, the companies that are currently benefiting from extraordinary support to cease the ongoing support and subsequently opt for the simplified lay off scheme (created by Decree Law 10 -G/2020).

[Extension - March 2021] Decree Law 23-A/2021 of 24 March extends the access to the provisions of Law 6-E/2021 of 15 January also to companies, whose activity has been total or partially (above 40%) suspended in the month prior to the request.

[Extension -May 2021] companies with a billing break equal to or greater than 75% can continue to reduce the normal working time of their workers up to a maximum of 100%, during the months of May and June 2021.

[Extension - July 2021] Decree Law 56-A/2021 of 6 July 2021 amended and extended in time the provisions of Decree Law 4 46 -A/2020.

[Extension - August 2021] Decree Law 71-A/2021 of 13 August 2021 extends the support to the reduction of normal working period extend the support as long as restrictions on economic activity associated with the pandemic remain.

[March 2020] Decree Law No. 10-A/2020 of 13 March, setting the first exceptional and temporary measures concerning COVID-19 pandemic, set new rules concerning teleworking (article 29) - which do not apply to workers performing essential services - establishing that the regime of telework for dependent workers could be determined unilaterally by the employer or required by the worker, without need for agreement by the parties, provided it is compatible with the functions performed.

[Extension -March 2020] Decree Law No. 2-A/2020 of 20 March which proceed with the state of emergency concerning COVID-19 pandemic declared on 18 March 2020 established in article 6 that it is mandatory to adopt the teleworking regime, regardless of the employment relationship, whenever the functions concerned allow it.

		<p>[Extension -May 2020] With the Resolution of the Council of Ministers no. 40-A/2020 the teleworking extraordinary regime becomes mandatory only when requested by the worker, regardless of the employment relationship and whenever the functions in question allow.</p> <p>[Extension -July 2020] Resolution of Council of Ministers no. 55 -A/2020 of 31 July allowed in Article 4 the implementation of turnover between teleworking and work performed in the usual workplace.</p> <p>[Extension - September 2020] Adoption of turnover between teleworking regime and work performed in the usual workplace declared mandatory in Lisbon and Porto.</p> <p>[Extensions - October 2020, November 2020, January 2021, March 2021, June 2021] Several extensions.</p> <p>[September 2021] The Resolution of the Council of Ministers 135A-2021 of 29 September 2021 eliminates the recommendation for the adoption of teleworking, without prejudice to the maintenance of the rules regarding the working time flexibility to prevent health risks.</p> <p>[March 2020] Exceptional regime suspending overtime limits to all bodies, agencies and other entities of Ministry of Health, of security services, of the National Emergency and Civil Protection Authority, of the Hospital of Armed Forces (HFAR), of the Military Chemical and Pharmaceutical Laboratory (LMPQF), of the Institute of Social Action of the Armed Forces, I. P. (IASFA, I. P.), of the Directorate-General for Reintegration and Prison Services (DGRSP) and the National Institute of Legal Medicine and Forensic Sciences, I. P.(INMLCF, I. P.).</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>(March 2020) Simplified lay-off regime for companies (activity substantially affected), whereby workers are entitled to 2/3 of gross wages (30% employer, 70% Social Security), up to max of 6 months. Employers participating in this regime cannot dismiss/fire workers. Extraordinary support to maintain jobs, after the end of lay-off or closure of the establishment by Health Authority (first-month wages supported, up to limit of one min wage per worker).</p> <p>(June 2020) Support for a progressive recovery - measure that replaces the simplified temporary lay-off and whose main assumptions are: (i) the progressive convergence of the worker's remuneration to 100% of their wage; (ii) payment by the company of all hours worked; (iii) the progressive reduction of the exemption from employer's Social Security contributions and the compensation of the loss of social security contributions revenue by the State Budget</p> <p>Extraordinary financial incentive for the normalization of business activity - for companies that have benefitted from the simplified lay-off regime or from the Plano Extraordinário de Formação (PEF)</p> <p>(March 2020) Guarantee that workers receive at least 88% of their salary and doubling grant for</p>

workers studying

(August 2020) Hiring subsidies, especially targeted at young and long-term unemployed, with top-ups for vulnerable groups, job creation in inland territories and larger financial incentives for open-ended contracts (~5,000 euros per employee). Includes also a bonus for the conversion of fixed-term to open-ended contracts. Requires that the employer maintains positive net job creation and that training is offered.

Puerto Rico

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Direct payments (“recovery rebates”) to low- and middle-income families. Because Puerto Rico maintains its own tax system, Puerto Rico’s Treasury Department — rather than the U.S. Treasury — will distribute the payments under a plan that the U.S. Treasury approved on May 1. (Puerto Rico will use the same eligibility criteria as the federal government, providing payments of \$1,200 for most adults and \$500 for children under age 17, with these payments phasing out at higher income levels)
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Roughly \$295 million to supplement Nutrition Assistance Program (NAP). This amount reflects Puerto Rico’s estimated share of the combined \$300 million approved as part of the Families First and CARES Acts for U.S. territories that don’t participate in Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) (Puerto Rico, American Samoa, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands). This will help Puerto Rico partially meet the increased need for nutrition assistance resulting from job and income losses stemming from the economic slowdown — costs that the federal government covers automatically in SNAP for the 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] Unemployed workers benefited from the temporary expansions that Congress enacted regarding the eligibility requirements of unemployment benefits, the benefit levels, and the number of weeks of such benefits that a jobless worker could receive. Between March 14 and April 18, 2020, over 200,000 Puerto Rico residents filed initial unemployment claims, i.e. around 20 percent of Puerto Rico’s civilian labor force. Puerto Rico participates in the Unemployment Insurance program in the same way as other states do. [August 2021] As of August 28th, 2021, there had been 250,632 unemployment claims filed.
	Social security contributions	

Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] Employers were told to implement precautionary measure and prepare a plan to avoid the spread of COVID-19. During the pandemic, employers may require employers not to report to work if they have shown any symptoms or has been under risk of contagion. Since there is officially a pandemic, the provisions under the Americans with Disabilities Act became more flexible. As a result, employers could measure body temperature of employees and request medical certificates before an employee can return to work for absences related to symptoms associated with COVID-19. If necessary and feasible, employers were encouraged to implement remote work policies, flexible work schedules, or rotating shifts to promote a less crowded workplace.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] There were alternatives proposed for employees affected by COVID-19, such as flexible work schedules, reductions in work shifts, and changes to the place of work or make-up time, as established in Article 8 of Act No. 379 of May 15, 1948, as amended, and Article X of Regulation No. 9017 of April 4, 2018 of the Puerto Rico Department of Labor. Employers were told to respond to these requests in the manner required by the applicable laws. The Secretary advised employers to pay special attention to these requests and to evaluate them considering the current special circumstances. Employers could not retaliate, terminate, suspend, or in any way affect the terms and conditions of employment of employees who requested, under the applicable laws, modification of work schedule, amount of hours, or place of work.
	Wage subsidies	

Qatar

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(April 2020) Automatic renewal of Social Security cards that expire from 15th of March until further notice. Beneficiaries of Social Security include vulnerable categories with no source of income or limited income
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) The government has announced that it will exempt food and medical goods from customs duties for six months (provided that this is reflected in the selling price). Price and profits for sanitisers and antiseptics have been set A waiver of rental and utilities fees was granted to households and businesses until February 2021. This was extended to February 2022.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Qatar has set aside over USD800 million to pay the wages of foreign workers who are in quarantine or undergoing treatment for COVID-19 whether they are entitled to sick leave or not.
	Health insurance	Treatment for COVID-19 is provided to anyone free of charge—the possession of a health card and/or the Qatar ID (QID) is not necessary to be tested and/or receive treatment
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[October 2020] The Qatar Chamber of Commerce and Industry created an online platform to make the re-employment of workers easier, including those who had been dismissed due to the pandemic.
	Labor market regulations	[September 2020] The government introduced reforms that would dismantle the “kafala” employment system and permit employees to take up a new job without their current employer’s approval.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Réunion (France)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Introducing benefit for workers and/or dependents. Financial assistance to small businesses and self-employed workers
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	In the district of Gol in Saint-Louis, the food parcel distribution platform was inaugurated on October 8, 2021. Supported by the CLEF association, this platform helps needy families, particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic. The Réunion Region provides support in this fight against food insecurity and poverty by supporting food aid actors authorized by the State. Within the framework of this mechanism, the Collectivity supported the CLAF association to the tune of more than € 60,000 so that it could acquire the equipment necessary for its missions of delivering food packages.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Romania

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 21 March 2020, Romanian government announced and implemented technical unemployment allowance, where employees will receive a temporary unemployment benefit supported from the Unemployment Social Insurance Budget and European Funds for the days not worked while remaining fully employed (technical unemployment) in the amount of 75% of the gross income, but not more than 75% of the gross average salary at the national level (RON 5,429 - approx. US\$1,215). On Oct 4, 2021, Government Emergency Ordinance no. 111/2021 announced the extension and provides employees benefit from an allowance that is 75% of their basic salary corresponding to one working day, but not more than 75% of the average gross income per day used for the state social security budget (RON 5,380; approx. EUR 1,076) until 31 Dec 2021. According to country team's Team Task Lead, the measure had supported 1,175,462 individuals during the first lockdown (Emergency State), and was expected to support 2,365,992 individuals by the end of 2020 (during the Alert State).</p> <p>On 21 March 2020, Romanian government announced and implemented technical unemployment allowance, where employees will receive a temporary unemployment benefit supported from the Unemployment Social Insurance Budget and European Funds for the days not worked while remaining fully employed (technical unemployment) in the amount of 75% of the gross income, but not more than 75% of the gross average salary at the national level (RON 5,429 - approx. US\$1,215). On Oct 4, 2021, Government Emergency Ordinance no. 111/2021 announced the extension and provides employees benefit from an allowance that is 75% of their basic salary corresponding to one working day, but not more than 75% of the average gross income per day used for the state social security budget (RON 5,380; approx. EUR 1,076) until 31 Dec 2021. According to country team's Team Task Lead, the measure had supported 1,175,462 individuals during the first lockdown (Emergency State), and was expected to support 2,365,992 individuals by the end of 2020 (during the Alert State).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	One of the parents who is taking care of children less than 12 years old (whose schools were closed) will benefit from a paid leave of 75% of the salary per working day, but not more than 75% of the gross average salary at the national level (RON 5,163- approx. US\$1,180). 440F440F Starting November 2020, this measure is granted only to the employees that don't have the possibility to telework.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[August 2020] On August 10, the Government Emergency Ordinance No. 132/2020 went into force, granting persons who carry out unskilled activities on an occasional basis (day laborers) an amount from the state budget representing 35% of the remuneration due for a working day for a period of 3 months. The period will be determined by the beneficiary of their work, but must end not later than 31 December 2020. It can only apply to laborers working in sectors highlighted by art. 13 of Law no. 52/2011, and whose activity has been interrupted or restricted due to Covid 19.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 31, the Emergency Ordinance 220/2020 was published, which extends the financial support to day laborers for three months, and no later than June 30, 2021.</p> <p>[June 2020] Under the new Government Emergency Ordinance 92/2020 ("GEO 92/2020"), employers benefiting from the technical unemployment aid and employers whose employee's labour agreements have been suspended (but did not benefit from technical unemployment aid during the state of emergency or the state of alert) will receive reimbursements from the state budget of 41.5% of their employees' gross salary. This amount is limited to 41.5% of the average gross salary, applicable for year 2020 (i.e. RON 5,429). The measure will be applied for three months and is subject to the following conditions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employers benefiting from such reimbursement must keep their employees hired until 31 December 2020 with the exemption of seasonal workers, unless the employment agreements are terminated for reasons not imputable to the employers; • reimbursement will be granted to employers whose employees had their labour agreements suspended for at least 15 days during the state of emergency or state of alert • public institutions or employers under bankruptcy, dissolution or liquidation procedures or those having activities interrupted or restricted for other reasons not related to the spread of the Coronavirus will not benefit of this measure

	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[August 2020] On August 10, the Emergency Ordinance No. 132/2020 was published, which allows employers to reduce the working hours by up to 50% of the working hours provided in the individual labor contract, in case of temporary reduction of the activity caused by the state of emergency, alert, or another exceptional situation regulated by normative act. The employees affected by the reduction of the working time will benefit from an indemnity of 75% resulted from the difference between the gross salary for normal working time and the actual salary.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] On March 21, the Emergency Ordinance no. 30/2020 went into force, which provides a technical unemployment indemnity for qualifying employees on behalf of employers whose activity is reduced or temporarily totally or partially interrupted as a result of the effects of the COVID-19 outbreak during the state of emergency. Affected employees will benefit from an allowance of 75% of their basic salary corresponding to their job position, but no more than the capped amount representing 75% of the national gross average wage (i.e. not more than RON 4,072 / approx. EUR 850). The benefit is expected to remain until June 1. The budget amendment of 17 April provided RON 4 billion for technical unemployment benefit. RON 4 bn has been spent on this purpose until August 2020. [Extended - May 2020] On May 29, as part of Government Emergency Ordinance (GEO) no. 92/2020, the Government extended the technical unemployment benefit for an additional three months, starting June 1, 2020. The payment will be of 41.5% of the gross basic salary corresponding to the job held, but not more than 41.5% of the average gross salary. [Extended - December 2020] On December 7, the Government Emergency Ordinance no. 211/2020 was published, which extended the technical unemployment benefit (75% of monthly gross salary) until June 30, 2021 for employees of companies operating in areas where there are still restrictions.
	Wage subsidies	[May 2020] On May 29, as part of Government Emergency Ordinance No. 92/2020, a monthly aid of 50% of the employee salary, but no more than PEN 2,500, will be provided to employers who employ young people between 16-29 years old and people over 50 years old. The aid is provided for a period of 12 months, since the date of employment which must be no later than December 31, 2020. In order to benefit from these facilities, companies must comply with certain conditions, such as maintaining employment for a further 12 months from the 12 months for which support is provided.

Russia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Monthly cash transfers for families with children under 18 years old with unemployed parents. This entailed an additional payment of RUB 3,000 (US\$38) per each child under 18 years old for the period of April-June 2020. This program supported 2.8M people.</p> <p>Cash transfers for the people who were taking temporary custody for an orphan, disabled or old person in April-June, 2020. The payments were made in the amount of RUB 12,130 (US\$158) per month (limited by the period of April-June 2020), per each person under the custody.</p> <p>All social benefits and special entitlements over the next six months will be extended automatically, without submitting any additional information and no visits to the offices. On May 11, a President Decree established procedures for on-line applications to the new social assistance benefits via government portals</p> <p>An additional one-off cash transfer of RUB 10,000 (US\$136) to a child under 16 years old, irrespective of the family income, was paid in July 2020. Entitled are all children born from 05/11/2004 to 06/30/2020. No applications need to be submitted in case parents previously applied for one-off cash transfers for children aged 0-3 and 3-15. RUB 197.2 billion (\$2.9 billion) will be allotted from the federal budget for this program.</p> <p>Monthly cash transfers were provided for families with children 0-3 years old (born between 04/01/2017 to 06/30/2020) for each child under the age of three and was paid for 3 months (April, May, June 2020). The benefit amounted to RUB 5,000 (US\$63).</p> <p>Lump-sum cash payments for medical workers who work directly with COVID-19 patients (470000 people)- paid in April-Sept 2020 on monthly basis amounted to: RUB 80K (US\$1000) for doctors, RUB 50K (US\$625) for nurses, RUB 25K (US\$313) for junior medical staff, and RUB 25-50K (US\$ 313-625) for ambulance drivers per month.</p> <p>The government increased minimum amount of child care allowance for children under 18 months entitled for non-working mothers, fathers or caregivers. The amount of Child Care Allowance (CCA) for children under 18 months depends on whether or not the child is firstborn and on mother's wage</p>

prior to maternity/childcare leave. Non-working mothers, fathers or caregivers (or mothers, fathers or caregivers pursuing studies) are entitled to the minimum amount of CCA. On May 11, 2020, the minimum amount of allowance was increased from RUB 3375 (US\$46) to RUB 6751 (US\$92) per month. RUB 14 billion (\$0.2 billion); this is the increase of federal budget expenditures due to this change (NIFI estimate).

An additional lump-sum benefit for all kids under 8 years of age was announced at the end of December 2020. By decree of the President, families with children under 8 years old will receive 5,000 rubles for each such child. Prime Minister ordered to allocate more than 73.5 billion rubles for this purpose.

An additional 2.9 billion rubles were allocated in September 2021 for special one-time payments for medical workers who help patients with coronavirus.

Over 21.5 billion rubles will be additionally allocated to the regions for monthly payments for children from 3 to 7 years old. Monthly payments for children from 3 to 7 years old were introduced by presidential decree in 2020. They are received by low-income families. Then the head of state instructed to make such support more targeted. In this regard, in 2021, the rules for providing payments were improved. Now, depending on the situation in the family, their size can reach not only 50%, but also 75% and 100% of the regional cost of living per child. Prior to this act, 254.3 billion rubles had been allocated for this purpose in 2021.

An additional 1.44 billion rubles will be allocated to support families raising three or more children. This act involves funds for monthly payments that such families receive until the child turns three years old. The amount of payments depends on the specific region and is equal to the child's subsistence minimum. On average in Russia, it is 11.3 thousand rubles. Additional funds will go to 17 regions and will provide benefits for another 12.5 thousand children.

By the decree of the President, all families in which school-age children grow up will receive 10 thousand rubles for each such child by the beginning of the school year. More than 204 billion rubles was allocated for this purpose. Payment will begin in mid-August 2021. A lump sum payment can be received by parents, adoptive parents, guardians, guardians of children from 6 to 18 years old, if the child is 6 years old before September 1, 2021 (inclusive). In addition, young people with disabilities from 18 to 23 years old can apply for a payment if they study in schools or boarding schools according to basic general education programs.

Over 9 billion rubles will be spent on payments to employees of social institutions who work in shift mode with patients with coronavirus and people at risk. The money will be used to provide special payments in the first half of 2021. They are intended for those who care for the wards of nursing

		homes, boarding schools for the disabled and other social organizations. The funds will come from the Government's reserve fund.
	Social pensions	<p>The Russian government increased the social pensions starting from April 1, 2020 (indexation coefficient is 1,061).</p> <p>More than 21.1 billion rubles will be allocated for one-time payments of 10 thousand rubles to military pensioners. The money will go to citizens who receive a pension for military service or service equivalent to it. Similar payments have already begun to be received by "civilian" pensioners, including those who are employed, the disabled and those who have lost their breadwinner. On August 25th, 2021, by order of the Government, more than 433.3 billion rubles were allocated from the reserve fund for this. Thus, the total amount of funds for one-time payments to all pensioners will amount to 454.4 billion rubles. The money will be received by about 45 million people.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Citizens over 60 years old will be able to order food and medicine delivery by (hotline) phone and get it delivered to their homes. This measure is being implemented with the support of the All-Russia People's Fund (ONF), the Roscongress Foundation and Rostelecom (Russia's leading long-distance telephony provider). The volunteers are coordinated by the All-Russian Public Movement "Medical Volunteers" and the Association of Volunteer Centers. The food and medicine delivery is organized by the Moscow City government for people over 65 years of age. By the end of last week, 40,000 people claimed this benefit over Moscow City government hotline.</p> <p>To cope with the ongoing medical emergency due to COVID-19, more than 5.1 billion rubles will be allocated to the regions to provide free medicines to patients with coronavirus infection. The money will come from the Government's reserve fund. This will provide drugs for more than one and a half million people.</p> <p>More than 1.6 billion rubles will be allocated for free medicines, medical products and medical food for citizens of privileged categories. This amount is an unallocated reserve of federal budget funds provided for in 2021 to provide beneficiaries with free medicines. This social service is provided to people with disabilities, including participants in the Great Patriotic War, disabled children, Chernobyl victims. Medicines and medical devices are determined individually for each citizen. Earlier, the Government indexed the amount for which beneficiaries can receive medicines and medical products. Now it is 929.8 rubles per person per month.</p>

		<p>More than 2.4 billion rubles will be allocated to the regions to provide free medicines to patients with coronavirus infection in July 2021. The money will be directed from the Government's reserve fund. This will provide drugs for almost 790 thousand people.</p> <p>Over 17.9 billion rubles will be spent on the purchase of medicines for children with serious and rare diseases, which are supported by the Circle of Kindness Foundation, created at the initiative of the President. This is the third tranche that the Government will send in 2021 for expensive drugs for children with severe pathology.</p>
	School feeding	For the duration of remote school instruction, pupils from vulnerable families are provided with food packages that replace school feeding. Eligibility criteria are determined by regional governments, as school feeding in the responsibility of the regions. Usually these include low-income families, primary school pupils, children from big families.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>A moratorium was introduced on cutting utility services for debts and fines for late payments (from April 1 to December 31, 2020).</p> <p>The Moscow city Government abolished contributions of citizens for overhaul (capital renewal) for 3 months (April 1 – June 30, 2020).</p> <p>An extension of 60 rides transport cards and no limit cards for 30 days, 90 days, 365 days (metro, busses, trolleys) in case they were not used for the period equal to the validity period of such tickets from March 30, 2020 to May 1, 2020 (self-isolation period), but not less than 5 calendar days from the day following the expiration date of these tickets, was issued.</p> <p>Provision of the right to temporarily stop debt servicing and reschedule it for people whose monthly income declined by over 30%</p> <p>The government decided to allocate another 2.7 billion rubles for free medicines for patients with coronavirus in March 2021.</p> <p>The government introduced constant monitoring of prices for consumer goods and services. The new tool will allow the establishment of a systematic analysis of the market situation, predict the risks of rising prices for significant products and take timely measures to curb price increases.</p> <p>In response to mounting cases of COVID-19 in Russia, President Vladimir Putin signed a decree, on April 17, 2020 providing a financial reprieve for the majority of the seven–eight million foreign migrant</p>

		workers believed to still reside in in the country. In particular, this measure affected the two million or so migrants from Uzbekistan and 700,000 from Tajikistan, the two Central Asian countries who send the largest numbers of migrant workers to the Russian Federation. The Kremlin decree allows for a three-month long “financial holiday”—back-dated from March 15 to June 15—during which migrant workers are freed from buying work permits, commonly known as “patents,” to legally stay and work in Russia.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>A higher level for the sick leave pay was introduced. Sick leave payments became equal to at least one minimum wage 12,130 (US\$152) per month until the end of this year, as well as automatic prolongation of benefits without beneficiaries having to file additional paperwork. Prior to this change, cash sickness benefits were calculated on the employee's length of service and salary. Previously, some employees were entitled in the past to very low payment for sick leave.</p> <p>Citizens who are quarantined after a trip abroad can apply for an electronic sick leave through the Unified Portal of Public Services. The government approved temporary rules for processing sick leave certificates, appointments and sick leave/temporary disability payments during the quarantine period. The new rules apply to persons who arrived in Russia from countries where cases of new coronavirus infection were registered, as well as to persons living with them.</p> <p>Working citizens over 65 who have chosen self-isolation will be able to get sick leave from April 6 to 19. The appointment of temporary disability benefits due to quarantine will not require citizens to fill out any documents. Payment for sick leave will come to citizens directly from the funds of the Social Insurance Fund.</p>
	Health insurance	As of May 6, all medical workers involved in controlling the epidemic and treating its victims are entitled to increase health insurance coverage (equivalent to the maximum coverage of the military personnel).
	Pensions	<p>Social pension: Russian government increased the social pensions starting from April 1, 2020 (indexation coefficient is 1,061) .</p> <p>An increase in the amount of temporary disability benefits for persons with a short insurance record and earnings by establishing its minimum amount - not less than the minimum wage established by federal law, and in areas in which the district coefficients are applied in the established manner wages, - in the amount not lower than the minimum wage, determined taking into account these district coefficients</p>
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] The benefit amount was increased for people who lost their job with extended period for receiving payments. The maximum amount of payments for unemployed citizens was increased from RUB 8,000 (US\$100) to RUB 12,130 (US\$158) per month - until the end of 2020. All those dismissed from March 1, 2020 were assigned to the maximum amount for the period of April - August 2020. In parallel, the minimum benefit amount for May - July, 2020 was increased from 1,500 (US\$ 19) to 4,500 rubles (US\$ 57) per month that affected those who were dismissed prior to

		<p>March 1, 2020 and assigned to the minimum rate. Individual entrepreneurs who ceased their activities after March 1 and were recognized as unemployed were to receive RUB 12,130 (US\$158) per month for the period not exceeding three months, but no later than October 1, 2020. For those unemployed citizens whose benefits expired after March 1, 2020, the payments were automatically extended for up to three months, but no later than October 1, 2020.</p> <p>For those who lost a job after March 1, 2020, including for sole proprietors, the standard unemployment benefit was to equal the minimum wage for five months; the minimum unemployment benefit was to be tripled until end-August; and eligibility was extended by 3 months; the maximum unemployment benefit, which was increased in March 2020 to the minimum wage, was to remain at the same level in 2021.</p> <p>(March 2020) Compensation payment is established in Moscow for unemployed people for the period of April 1 – September 30, 2020. The amount of compensation is established in such a way that the total amount of payments, taking into account the unemployment benefit, payments under additional material support for unemployed citizens and regional compensation was 19 500 rubles (-\$250). No additional applications are needed to receive this compensation for unemployed citizens as of March 31, 2020 registered with the Moscow city employment service. Regional compensation is not taken into account when calculating citizen's (family's) income aimed to determine the right to receive other measures of social assistance support, including targeted social assistance, state social benefits, compensations, co-payments to pensions, other social benefits, social services, subsidies for payment housing and utilities. Russian government increased the social pensions starting from April 1, 2020 (indexation coefficient is 1,061).</p>
	<p>Social security contributions</p>	<p>[March 2020] The government announced that social insurance contributions were being reduced for small and medium-sized businesses from 30% to 15% on the portion of wages that is above the minimum wage for a period of 6 months. This measure was introduced to encourage employers to raise wages with the expectation that these reduced contributions would be made up later by employers.</p> <p>[May 2020] It was announced that 3 months worth of contributions for eligible enterprises would be written off from April to June 2020.</p> <p>Social contributions by SMEs on wages in excess of the minimum wage were permanently reduced and a tax holiday on all taxes (excluding VAT) and social contributions for Q2 2020 for SMEs, sole proprietors, and NGOs providing social services was granted.</p> <p>(May 2020) All enterprises in the sectors affected by COVID-19 are eligible for deferral of all social security contributions and taxes by 6 months</p>
<p>Activation measures</p>		

Labor Markets		<p>The government introduced remote procedures for finding suitable jobs, registering unemployed citizens, and paying unemployment benefits.</p> <p>The government announced the provision of advanced professional training and apprenticeship/internship opportunities to those who were at the risk of dismissal.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[May 2020] The government announced the automatic extension of work permits of foreign workers and stated that there would be no need to make any payments to renew the permit.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Rwanda

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Government of Rwanda has expanded the coverage of Direct Support (DS) unconditional cash transfers under VUP, which supported the informal sector works/families affected by the lockdown and containment measures, to additional families with old age, disability, and critical illness as part of COVID-19 response. As of October 2021, it reached 111,265 families, which translates into 473,989 people.</p> <p>As Covid-19 response and also for promoting human capital, the eligibility of Nutrition Sensitive Direct Support (NSDS) program was extended to category 2 (Initially, NSDS was meant for Ubudehe category 1). For NSDS, those under Ubudehe category 2 are considered new or additional beneficiaries. This adaptation allowed the expansion in its coverage from 20,353 beneficiaries households (March 2020) to 191,119 beneficiaries (October 2021)—more than 9 times expansion in the coverage of a mainstream program with both nutrition and human capital development objectives.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Government of Rwanda is capitalizing on its well-established decentralized structures to implement the Social Protection response, starting with in-kind distribution of food and other essential items to 20,000 families. - The target group includes casual laborers whose livelihoods depend on daily wage and self-employed mainly in the informal sector who can't work due to COVID-19 containment measures. - Beneficiaries are identified by the local level administrative committees at the lowest local administrative entity known as "isibo" which covers 15-20 HHs. HHs in need of food can as well self-report to any committee member by calling them directly or dialing a dedicated toll-free number. Verified list of beneficiaries moves up to the central level and accordingly food and other essential items are distributed down through different administrative levels (District-Sector-Cell-Village-Isibo). - To avoid crowds and in line with social distancing protocols, the distribution is done house to house by "Youth Volunteers" and persons of integrity within the communities, with coordination of local leaders. - To supplement these efforts, the communities / individuals who can afford have mobilized amongst themselves to voluntarily support this initiative but in a coordinated manner, by donating money, food and essential items through the head of "Isibo".</p>
	School feeding	

	Public works	VUP work requirements for public works beneficiaries were temporarily waived off to comply with Covid-19 lock down and containment measures and to ensure continuity of cash transfers while social distancing protocols are in place in the country, benefiting more than 50,000 beneficiaries.
	Utility waivers	<p>Fast-tracking of digitization and delivery of cash transfers. In order to allow and promote the use cashless modes of payment as part of measures to prevent the transmission of the Covid-19, the GoR in collaboration with Banks and Telecom companies waived the charges on Mobile Money transactions as well as charges on push and pull services between bank accounts and mobile wallets, for an initial period of 90 days, starting March 18. Mobile Money transaction amount limits were raised.</p> <p>For the purposes of COVID-19 mitigation, all patients and suspected people (citizens and foreigners) are given free treatment during quarantine and isolation process.</p> <p>The government's Economic Recovery Plan in response to the pandemic includes subsidized access to agricultural inputs.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	The Community Based Health Insurance (CBHI) commonly known as "Mutuelle" is the main insurance scheme for the majority of Rwandans, up to around 80% of the population. The enrollment for the poorest is subsidized by the Government. Usually, upon paying the premium, the insurer had to wait for a month for the health insurance to become effective. In order to facilitate easy access to health service amidst Covid-19, amendments were made to the scheme to remove the waiting period prior to accessing medical services using CBHI
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The government announced that all employees working in the public and private sector should work from home, except for those providing essential services.</p> <p>[Extension - April 2020] This measure was extended to contain the outbreak of COVID-19.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Saint Martin (France)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The French government has set up a solidarity fund. It will be 800 euros for Saint-Martin (000 € contributed by the State and 200 € by the COM). The declarations can be transmitted from April 2020.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Saint Pierre and Miquelon (France)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(May 2020) Introducing benefit for poor or vulnerable population: 100 euros for beneficiaries of the back-to-school allowance (May 2020) Beneficiaries of solidarity allowance will receive an exceptional assistance of 150 euros
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Samoa

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 26 May 2020, in the budget speech of 2020-21, the Government intends to merge the 2020 Census with the registration for the National ID project and each citizen to come in for registration will be given \$50 tala. It is estimated to cost 12,125,300.00 talas and will use funded through COVID-19 funds. In the longer term, the national ID scheme may provide the basis to establish a registry to support vulnerable people quickly and effectively in response to future economic shocks or natural disasters.</p> <p>On 26 May 2020, in the budget speech of 2020-21, The Ministry of Finance will work in collaboration with the Samoa Chamber of Commerce to distribute monetary compensation for all workers who have been laid off, been put on leave without pay or have had their working hours reduced due to the COVID19. It is expected to cost 2,000,000.00 Tala and will be funded using COVID-19 Plan.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>On 7 April 2020, \$300 one-off special pension to be added to the next monthly pension of \$145 tala. This monthly payment was topped up by SAT 300 in May 2020 and SAT 100 in July 2020.</p> <p>In the Budget address 2020-21, on 26 May 2020, government announced to increase the monthly pension for the country's senior citizens will now be increased by \$15 from \$145 a month to \$160. In the subsequent Budget 2021-22, on Sept 14 2021, government of Samoa has decided to increase the benefit amount from \$160 Tala a month to \$200 Tala for its senior citizen Benefit Scheme/ Pension.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Temporary exemption on import duties on most commonly bought food items for households

		<p>In the budget 2020-21, on 7 April 2020, government announced reduction in the utility prices (electricity and water). 10 sene (or cent) reduction in the price of electricity, the Ministry of Finance will carry 7sene and the Electric Power Corporation is to carry 3sene for 6months. 20sene reduction in water rates for 6months which will be covered by the Ministry of Finance. This was extended until December 2020. To further assist the country's recovery, on Sept 14 2021, government announced that electricity and water prices will be reduced by 20% effective on 1 November 2021.</p> <p>On April 7 2020, government announced a Two-month free rent for all private-sector Samoa National Provident Fund property tenants: All private-sector rental tenants of the Fund at the Main Building, Plaza, ACE and all other properties of the Fund were granted two month's free rent. This meant an estimated total assistance of \$604,000 tala.</p> <p>In 01 July 2020, Fair Trading Inspectors from the Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Labor, Samoa have put in place regulations for Price Control which commenced on the 24th of June 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The government introduced a special Leave with Pay for the following employees:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Employees aged 60 years+; 2. Employees with underlying medical conditions; 3. Employees affected by restrictions placed on public transportation and are disadvantaged due to buses not operating within their area of residence and the Government agency was unable to provide transportation to the requesting employee. 4. Employees unable to travel back to Samoa due to border shut down or as a result of travel restrictions put in place as a result of the State of Emergency Order; 5. Employees who need to care for family members suspected or confirmed with the COVID19; 6. Employees suspected or confirmed with the COVID19; 7. Employees with returning family members who have travelled from an MOH restricted country.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	A special one-off pension payment
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	The government allowed a 20% early withdrawal for members in the Hospitality sector who have lost employment due to COVID-19 pandemic. The benefit amount was the lesser between 20% of net contributions and \$4000 tala.

		[April 2020] On April 7, the Minister of Finance announced a six-month moratorium on contribution payments for hospitality sector employers. The six-month period will start in January until June 2020 to be payable only in July 2020. The total value of this assistance was estimated to be WST 2.6 million.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[May 2020] On May 26, the Minister of Finance announced that the government will provide a 4 week training program on soft and minor skills for workers in the hospitality sector who have been laid off due to the COVID19. To compensate for travel, food and other expenses each participant will be paid \$100 per week of attendance. According to the government's website, as of February 2021, 700 individuals were benefited with this policy.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

San Marino

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On April 21, 2020, The San Marino government introduced guaranteed minimum income for households starting from 1 March 2020 until the end of the health emergency. Families in economic difficulty or with insufficient means for subsistence will receive a minimum monthly income of 580 Euros, plus 150 Euros for the spouse, civil union, or cohabiting partner and 50 Euros for other cohabitants of the family unit. The minimum income of the family unit is further increased by the amount equal to 50% of the monthly rent of the housing unit in which the family unit resides. The amount will be paid using the Extraordinary Solidarity Fund" and will be credited to the applicant's San Marino Card and partially paid by bank transfer to the current account indicated on the form. request that must be submitted using the specific form prepared by the Secretariat of State for Finance and Budget. On 25 May 2021, government has announced that from the June 1, 2021, the minimum income support for household will be increased from 580 to 650 Euros for each family unit, plus €150.00 for the spouse, civil union, or cohabiting partner and 100 Euros for other cohabitants of the family unit. The minimum household income is further increased by the amount of the monthly rent of the housing unit in which the family unit resides as resulting from a registered contract, up to a maximum amount monthly of € 400.00. By December 31, 2022, the Management Committee will carry out checks on the applications presented and the sums paid to verify the accuracy and veracity of the data declared in the application and the use of the sums paid. In the event of discrepancies or lack of requirements, the refund of the sums unduly received by the applicant is envisaged.</p> <p>On April 21, 2020, Following the extraordinary extension of the deadline for submitting the declaration of the income of individuals for the tax period 2019, as at 31 August 2020, exclusively for the current year. Therefore, the deadline for the submission of the supplementary family allowance application is extended until 30 September 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	

	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 21, 2020, the San Marino government announced that the tax bills issued in the period between 1 January 2020 and 31 December 2021, can be paid in installments or agree on a deferral (or repayment plan), at the request of the taxpayer in agreement with the Tax Collection Department of the Central Bank of the Republic of San Marino on a repayment plans with a maximum duration of:- 36 months if not supported by any guarantees provided for by article 6 of Decree no. 39/2004; 48 months if not supported by one of the guarantees provided for by article 6 of Decree no. 39/2004, up to the maximum amount of € 50,000.00 ;or 120 months if supported by one of the guarantees provided for by article 6 of Decree no. 39/2004. The provisions referred apply with exclusive reference to the tax bills issued from 1 January 2020 to 31 December 2021, also in compliance with the provisions of paragraph 1 of the same article. The provisions of extension of the deadline also apply to tax bills that expire on April 30, 2020. The Tax Collection Department is authorized, at the request of the interested party, to extinguish or restructure extensions already granted. This provision applies exclusively to tax bills issued with effect from 1 January 2020.</p> <p>On April 21, 2020, The San Marino government introduced the guarantee of the Very Excellent Chamber of the Republic of San Marino, on loans granted by financial institutions of San Marino to families in difficulty and to support the liquidity needs of households. The maximum amount of the loan is € 10,000 with a duration of no more than 3 years, with the possibility for the applicant to take advantage of a pre-amortization with a duration of up to 6 months. Subjects who, as of 31 December 2019, have bank exposures for non-performing loans are excluded from this initiative. The applicant's family shouldn't have liquid asset or financial instruments exceeding € 10,000.00. Please note, the guarantee is issued by 31 December 2020, up to a maximum amount of € 10,000.00(ten thousand / 00) for loans with a duration not exceeding 3 years.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Temporary allowance for sick leave (30% for the first five days, 45% from the sixth to the tenth day, 60% from the eleventh to the fifteenth day and 86% for subsequent periods).
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] On April 21, the Decree Law no. 63 was issued which delayed social security contributions. For self-employed workers the first advance on social security contributions is not due and the calculation of the second advance referring to the period of activity for the purpose of

		determining the advances due, is made, in an extraordinary way, with rates reduced to 50% on the basis of the expected minimum income
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[April 2020] On April 21, the Decree Law no. 63 was issued which introduced an "extraordinary parental permit" that could be used by parents who are employees of the private or public sector, for care of children under the age of 12 during the period of suspension of educational services for children and teaching activities in schools of all levels or for disabled or non-self-sufficient family members. The permit can be used by 31 December 2020 for a continuous or in separate periods, even in single hours, not exceeding 150 working hours.
	Reduced work time	Extension of supplemental wage scheme to support workers displaced by COVID-19 containment measures [March 2020] On March 20, the Decree no. 52 was issued. In Art. 7 the Decree introduced an extraordinary employment retention scheme in response to the suspension of some working activities during the pandemic. A worker under an employment retention scheme receives 30% of their salary for the first week, 45% for the second week and 60% for the third and subsequent weeks. For part-time workers, the financial support is based on working hours in their employment contract. However, the financial support cannot be lower than EUR 500 per month in order to guarantee personal dignity and sufficient resources.
	Wage subsidies	

Sao Tome and Principe

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The São Tomé government, through the Ministry of Labor and Solidarity, decided to anticipate, as of this Friday, the payment of two bimonths [2,400 Dobras] to the beneficiary mothers of the "Program Family as a way to mitigate "the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The program involves 2600 needy families in the country
	Social pensions	São Tomé authorities will subsidize more than three thousand elderly people who have not contributed to social security, with financial assistance to ensure social inclusion in São Tomé and Príncipe in February 2021.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	(May 2020) As part of the response measures, the Ministry of Labor, Solidarity, Family and Professional Development will distribute food baskets (containing food staples and basic hygiene products) equivalent to 600 dobras (24 euros) to vulnerable families. At least 5000 vulnerable families are expected to receive the baskets.
	School feeding	(October 2021) The United Nations World Food Program (WFP) is increasing support to 25,000 school-aged children enrolled in the National School Feeding and Health Program (PNASE) in Sao Tome and Principe thanks to a USD700,000 contribution from the Chellaram Foundation. The operation began a week after the Government had declared a nation-wide State of Calamity and aims at meeting the immediate food and nutrition needs of children and their families while also supporting education goals as schools are reopening. With the reopening of schools on October 6th, 2021, the WFP will continue providing on-site meals to the school children registered under the National School Feeding Program. The funding will last until February 2022.
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

Wage subsidies

Saudi Arabia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(April 2020) Self-Employed drivers will receive monthly cash assistance of SAR 3000 for a period of 3 months
	Social pensions	<p>(May 2020) Beneficiaries of the Social Insurance Pension received a one-off top-up during the month of Ramadan equaling 1,000 riyals for the head of family and 500 riyals for dependents. 1,000 riyals for the head of family and 500 riyals for dependents</p> <p>The conditionalities of the Social Insurance Pension program which provides monthly assistance to vulnerable groups were eased during April 2020 . Consequently vulnerable groups who were no longer eligible in April remained as beneficiaries and received their assistance</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The 'Ramadan Iftar' initiative (Ramadan meals) is a national initiative funded by the social fund of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development and directed at those affected by the pandemic during the holy month of Ramadan. Benefits consist of hot or dry meals or food baskets, according to each category of beneficiaries, and the conditions of the curfew in each region. The Ministry invited all private sector companies, businessmen, businesswomen, and citizens to contribute to the community fund to support these societal humanitarian initiatives.</p> <p>(April 2020) The Community Fund of the Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development has also distributed food baskets under the name "Our Food is One", which aims to help all affected families of citizens and others in all regions and governorates of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia who were affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, and alleviate this crisis by distributing food baskets to them (more than 142,000 food baskets were distributed to families in need, benefitting both citizens and residents alike). Through this initiative, the Community Fund seeks to help the most vulnerable groups affected by the pandemic—poor people, people with disabilities, widows, divorced women, prisoners' families and the elderly, ensuring their stability, providing them with a decent living, and supporting and assisting them in overcoming this crisis.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	New special provisions allow for delaying rent payments and utility bills requests (by 3 months). This applies for 6 months, from March 20 to September 20.

		<p>The Kingdom is taking various measures in support for expat/migrant workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiving expats dependents levies of SAR 900/dependent for three months from Mar.20 to June.20. Extended for another 3 months. <p>The Kingdom is taking various measures in support for expat/migrant workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiving SAR 2,400 for the residence visa renewal fees per visa and giving the violator a grace period to take a corrective action <p>The Kingdom is taking various measures in support for expat/migrant workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Waiving SAR 1,200 exit and return visa per resident and allowing the return of those who are unable at the moment, after the situation settles. <p>The Kingdom is taking various measures in support for expat/migrant workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delaying rent requests and allowing the renter to vacate the rental property regardless of lease length (3 month) <p>The Saudi Arabian Monetary Authority (SAMA) has directed Saudi local banks to postpone three months installments of all financing products for Saudi workers registered in the support of unemployment insurance (SANED) without any additional costs or fees.</p> <p>(July 2020) Social security beneficiaries who are orphans or people with disabilities, among others are exempted from paying housing development benefits for a period of three months</p> <p>Saudi Arabia's Monetary Authority has instructed the kingdom's banks to delay by three months the payment of instalments due on all financing facilities extended to Saudi employees, without additional fees.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Special paid sick leave for all workers who, as of March 15, 2020, entered the Kingdom from countries abroad shall stay home or covered by the government accommodation on sick leave (quarantined) (from March to June). MOH developed a mobile application called "Sehhaty" to register and apply for the sick leave</p> <p>Compulsory two-week sick leave for pregnant women, sick people and returnees from abroad. Private sector workers such as Pregnant women and people with respiratory and chronic diseases, immunodeficiency and users of immunosuppressant drugs, workers coming from abroad. Not to be deducted from employees' leave allowance</p>
	Health insurance	<p>The KSA mandated an automatic renewal of health insurance cards for 6 months, hence allowing families to make hospitals and clinic visits.</p>

		As per Announcement of King Salman of March 30, 2020, all Saudi citizens, residents, visitors, tourists and illegal immigrants will access testing and treatment services for Coronavirus for free. The government through the ministry of health will cover related expenses
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] The Minister of Human Resources and Social Development announced that the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund will allocate SAR 2 billion to support 100,000 job seekers in the private sector (in addition to offering and activating remote work tools as available and alternative options for regular work).</p> <p>[March 2020] The Minister of Human Resources and Social Development announced that the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund will allocate SAR 1.5 billion to support an additional 100,000 new job seekers.</p> <p>[March 2020] The Minister of Human Resources and Social Development announced that the Saudi Human Resources Development Fund will allocate SAR 800 million to provide 100,000 beneficiaries with training support.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[June 2020] On June 25, the Government decided to reinstate the Wage Protection System (WPS), which enables the government to determine the degree to which private sector establishments are disciplined in paying their employees' salaries on time and consistent with the amount agreed to by the parties. The WPS was suspended during early months of pandemic to ensure that employers can access and continue government services even if wages are delayed or reduced.</p> <p>[April 2020] On 6 April 2020, MHRSD issued a decision to regulate contractual relationship between worker and employer, allowing private sector employers to agree with their employees on reducing wages to reflect actual working hours. Once the employer has benefited from government subsidy, termination of the employee's contract is not legitimate. A new clause 41 was accordingly added to the implementing regulation of the labor law..</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 6, the Ministry of Human Resources and Human Development decided to offer a temporary benefit which allows expatriate workers in Saudi Arabia to switch employers through "Ajeer" portal if employment is found during the pandemic. The Ministry aims to protect workers through decision from being terminated or losing their contractual benefits. The portal will soon</p>

		<p>offer business the opportunity to publish names of their excess workers, for other businesses to see, as an alternative to recruiting from abroad.</p> <p>[April 2020] On 6 April 2020, MHRSD issued a decision to regulate contractual relationship between worker and employer, allowing private sector employers to agree with their employees on granting them leave to be deducted from their annual leave, or an exceptional leave. Once the employer has benefited from government subsidy, termination of the employee's contract is not legitimate. A new clause 41 was accordingly added to the implementing regulation of the labor law.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] On April 3, King Salman announced that the government will cover 60% of Saudi employees' salaries for a period of 3 months amounting up to SAR 9 billion. Employers in private sector industries hit by the COVID-19 pandemic can apply for the General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) and request a monthly compensation for their employees up to SAR 9,000 per month. The decree is conditional on the employer's continuation of the payment of salaries once this aid is stopped. If the employer has 5 employees or less, then all of them will be covered, otherwise up to 70% of the employer's national workforce may be covered through this initiative.</p> <p>[Extended - September 2020] The Government extended the program by 3 months until January 2021, but rolled back its scope, supporting only 50% of Saudi employees working for businesses impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, such as tourism, travel, sports, and entertainment sectors.</p> <p>[January 2021] The General Organization for Social Insurance (GOSI) has confirmed that the SANED compensation is paid at the rate of 60% the average monthly wage during the first three months, and 50% during each months beyond that, up to a maximum period of 12 months.</p>

Senegal

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) Senegalese nationals living abroad could apply for financial support via their nearest embassy or consulate or using an online form. Applications were reviewed and verified by embassy staff and payments were made via bank transfer. Payments to students and other applicants were made in two tranches in April and May 2020, followed by a third round which was on-going as of late June 2020.</p> <p>(June 2021) In line with the shock response programs piloted in the parent project, the core elements of the safety net system developed since 2013 will be leveraged to ensure rigorous poverty targeting through the RNU and efficient implementation through cash transfers delivered using existing payment systems. The assistance will be delivered at large scale, possibly covering the entire RNU (580,000 households). Digital payments through mobile accounts will be prioritized, to promote financing inclusion and enhance security of payments. Some exceptions might arise in areas with no internet/phone coverage and for households not meeting the national know-your-customer standards. Women will still be prioritized to receive the transfer amount. About 70 percent of the recipients are expected to be women as per previous shock responses. The assistance will be implemented in 2021.</p> <p>(June 2021) The proposed additional financing will also enhance the government's capacity to provide full-scale responses to climate shocks (food insecurity due to droughts, floods and fires) in 2021 and 2022. Based on the methodology successfully piloted in 2019 and 2020, the project will support the households affected by floods and fires at a national level with a one-off 200,000 CFA cash transfers targeted using the RNU. About 15,000 households affected by floods; 5,000 households affected by drought-induced food insecurity; and 1,000 households affected by fires would be supported. These responsive assistance operations would complement regular cash transfers, which in themselves increase resilience and help households deal with climate variability.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The government is allocating 69 billion FCFA devoted to the purchase food for 1 million poor households (including the daraas). This includes one-off distribution of food kit of basic necessities (pasta, rice, soap, sugar) and costs around FCFA 66,000 per household. Terms of this measure summarized below:</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Frequency: once • Coverage: national • Beneficiaries: 1,000,000 poor households (including daraa) • Budget: 69 billion FCFA (logistics costs included) • Start: April 2020 <p>(January 2021) With UNICEF support, over 1.5 million children received two doses of Vitamin A Supplementation (VAS) in 2020 through routine services. Additionally, some 6,179 children under five were given life-saving therapeutic feeding in the first quarter of 2021.</p> <p>(June 2021) The General Delegate for Social Protection and National Solidarity (DGPSN), Ms. Aminata Sow chaired on behalf of the Minister of Community Development, Social and Territorial Equity, the distribution ceremony of 5,227 food kits for a total of 361.7 tons to populations affected by the 2020 floods or in a vulnerable situation in the Matam region.</p> <p>(May 2021) A large donation made up of 200 food kits intended for the populations of Niague Tawfekh, located 35 km from Dakar, was distributed.</p>
	School feeding	WFP provides nutritious meals for 294,500 school children in areas with high levels of food and nutrition insecurity, with additional activities to promote attendance by girls, as well as good nutrition practices. Food is procured through local producers, which stimulates agricultural production and the local economy.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020) To promote the use of electronic payment tools the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money and making transfers between people backed by the electronic money free. Measures effective for 30 days renewable.</p> <p>(May 2020) Economic and Social Resilience Program to strengthen the health system and support households, businesses and their employees. Providing utility subsidy to vulnerable groups to pay for electricity and water bills. The measure aims at helping 975,522 households for paying electricity bills and 670,000 households for paying water bills for two months starting in May (15.5 billion FCFA)</p> <p>(May 2020) Economic and Social Resilience Program to strengthen the health system and support households, businesses and their employees. Providing utility subsidy to vulnerable groups to pay for electricity and water bills. The measure aims at helping 975,522 households for paying electricity bills and 670,000 households for paying water bills for two months starting in May (3 billion FCFA)</p>

		<p>Deferred payment of taxes until July 15, 2020</p> <p>Partial remission of the tax debt noted on December 31, 2019 owed by companies and individuals, for a total amount of 200 billion.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>(April 2020) Ordinance n ° 001-2020 of April 8, 2020 Art.1.- By way of derogation from the provisions of articles L.49, L.60 and L.214 of the Labor Code, during the Covid - 19 pandemic and within the time limits of enabling law n ° 2020- 13 of April 2, 2020, any dismissal other than that motivated by gross negligence on the part of the worker is null and void.</p> <p>A number of initiatives and measures have been taken by the Ministry of Labor, Social Dialogue and Relations with Institutions as well as certain companies and relate to memos, the development of conduct guides in connection with the COVID 19 and the revitalization of occupational hygiene, health and safety committees.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>(April 2020) Art.2.- Notwithstanding the provisions of article L.65 of the Labor Code, the employer, in order to avoid layoffs, must seek with the staff representatives or, at default, staff representatives, alternative solutions such as reduction working hours, shift work, anticipation of paid holidays, redeployment of staff, part-time work. Under no circumstances can the remuneration paid for these alternative measures be lower than the percentage provided for in article 3 of this Ordinance.</p> <p>(April 2020) Art.3.- If the employer decides to resort to technical unemployment, the duration of the latter shall not exceed the time limits of the aforementioned enabling law. During this period, the worker receives remuneration which cannot be lower than the guaranteed minimum interprofessional wage nor to 70% of his average net salary of the three last months of activity. In return, the employer benefits from support measures from the State.</p> <p>(April 2020) Art.4.- During the entire period of inactivity, the worker is required to remain available to the employer. The latter can occupy it with occasional work falling within the scope of its area of</p>

		expertise. A worker who refuses to make himself available to his employer loses his right to a remuneration.
	Wage subsidies	

Serbia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(Cash-for-jobs scheme) Serbia announced on May 5th, 2021, that would pay each citizen who gets a Covid job before the end of May. All those who received the vaccine by May 31, 2021, will get 3,000 dinars (25 euros, \$30). The program was implemented in the period between 1 and 15 June 2021.</p> <p>In early November, the authorities announced that public-sector health workers will receive a one-off assistance of RSD 10,000 by the end of the year (estimated cost of about 0.02 percent of GDP). The cash was transferred in December 2020.</p> <p>For SA beneficiaries whose entitlement to SA benefits expire on March 15, 2020 and later, the government extended their entitlement on the basis of previously issued decisions, for a maximum of three months (i.e. During a state of emergency). All beneficiaries of social assistance, child benefits, personal care benefits and compensations related to special care of the children whose entitlement to these social protection benefits has expired on March 15 have got an automatic extension of those benefits until the end of the state of emergency. The decision applies to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Financial Social Assistance- Caregiver Allowance- Child Allowance,- maternity leave benefit for the purpose of child care. <p>The government issued a decision for the new method of submitting application for child-related benefits (all benefits defined under the Law on Financial Support to the Families with Children). The applicants can submit their requests via email or by post.</p> <p>The government aimed to give all adults (18+ years of age) E100 as a one-off payment (about RSD 71bn in total funds). 6,145,529 received the payment as of Dec. 2020, however not all adults received it (the total number of adults is around 6.2 million).</p>

		<p>As of April 6th, 2020, the government announced that it will pay each worker employed by a small business about EUR 750, or over RSD 90 000, which is equivalent to the minimum wage for three months. The government also recommended that all employers give their employees full compensation for those who are in self-isolation or have contracted COVID-19 due to direct exposure to the virus at work.</p> <p>The government decided that all pensioners and temporary benefit beneficiaries who have exercised their rights will be paid a one-off financial assistance (RSD 7 billion) in the amount of RSD 4 000 in April 2020.</p> <p>A humanitarian cash benefit program was implemented in Southern and Eastern Serbia by UNICEF and the Red Cross of Serbia thanks to the financial support provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) in the amount of \$600,000 USD in April 2021. The Red Cross distributed debit cards, with a predetermined amount of funds, to families with children from Boljevac whose incomes were significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>As part of the economic stimulus package of April 2021, an additional 50 Euros will be paid to all pensioners.</p> <p>As part of the economic stimulus package of April 2021, funds have been planned to pay an additional 60 Euros solely to the unemployed.</p> <p>As part of the economic stimulus bill of April 2021, 100 Euros will be provided for all Serbian citizens in Kosovo and Metohija (including children), and 200 Euros if the person is also unemployed.</p> <p>Support to the tourism sector: 160 000 holiday vouchers distributed by the government, as well as direct aid to the hotel and leisure sector amounting to approximately RSD 1.4 billion.</p> <p>The economic assistance package of April 2021 promised cash transfers in total of €60 to all adult citizens of the Republic of Serbia. The benefit is split into two payments, with the first payments taking place in May and the second beginning on November 1st, 2021. The money will first be paid to pensioners and recipients of financial social assistance and then to other adult citizens who have fulfilled the conditions for this type of financial support from the state on 2-3 November 2021. In total, the measure covers more than 5.7 million citizens, of whom 1.6 million are pensioners. All will receive 3,527 dinars.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	<p>This was organized at the municipal level, without the uniform response through the country - for example, capital city (Belgrade) - provided basket of food for pensioners with or below the minimum pension</p> <p>The Gender Coordination Body, the Ministry of European Integration and the EU Delegation in Serbia announced that 14 000 most vulnerable women in 50 municipalities will receive assistance worth EUR 100 000 in hygiene packages and essential foodstuffs. In order to provide better protection for children without parental care, UNICEF has provided hygiene packages for 19 institutions in Serbia.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>Furthermore, the government issued decision for the new method for pensions payment. The pensioners will give special authorization to someone to raise pension instead of them. The other option is that the pension is delivered to pensioners in cash and the cost of the delivery will be covered by the government</p> <p>All pensioners will receive one off support in the amount of 4000 dinars (around 35 EUR).</p>
	Unemployment benefits	The government issued a decision for the new method of submitting application for unemployment benefit and for registering with NES. The applicants can submit their requests via email or by post. The decision making for the received requests is extended too
	Social security contributions	[April 2020] On April 10, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a new regulation that legal entities have the right to defer payments of taxes and contributions on salaries and wages up to a maximum of 24 equal monthly installments without interest payments.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The Minister of Finance has announced that the Government will allocate approx. EUR 10.2 million for the program of professional retraining and skills development through educational vouchers
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] The Serbian government issued a decision that secured the right of healthcare workers, the police, and army for 100% of their monthly wage compensation if they are sick or in self-isolation due to exposure to COVID-19.</p> <p>[July 2020] The Ministry of Labor has adopted a new Rulebook on preventive measures for safe and healthy work which was published in the Official Gazetta of RS No. 94.2020 and entered into force</p>

		<p>on July 11, 2020. Companies have received an instruction to introduce OSH measures related to Covid-19, mostly related to maintenance of hygiene and provision of personal protective equipment to the workers.</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 2020, a new regulation on fiscal benefits and direct grants to business entities was published in the Official Gazette of the RS, No. 54/2020 setting a limit to the number of dismissals a firm can make. The regulation highlights that entities which opted for this measure cannot decrease number of full time employed for more than 10% before expiry of the period of three months from the last payment of direct benefits.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2020] On July 30, the Serbian Government adopted the Conclusion no.05 401-605/2020 which extends the application of the first package of direct and fiscal benefits to business entities in the private sector. The 10% limitation on decreasing number of full time employed has been extended for an additional three months from the last payment of direct benefits (no later than 31 December 2020). Companies can not pay out any form of dividend until 31 December 2020, or will have to return received funds increased for a late payment interest.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 31, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a decision to increase the salaries of all health care professionals by 10% as of April 1, 2020</p> <p>[April 2020] On April 10, the Government adopted a regulation that allows employees in the medium and large private enterprises for whom a decision on work termination has been issued from 15 March 2020 in line with the Articles 116 and 117 of the Labour Law to be given 50% of their monthly wages.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] The ministry of State Administration and Local Self-Government, has issued a recommendation to allow parents of children under the age of 12 to work for home. This recommendation applies primarily to which primarily to employees of state bodies, public agencies, public services and local self-government units. The recommendation also applies to private sector employers, only if the employer's work permits it. In cases where the activities and nature of the job cannot be organized from home (both in the public and private sectors), the employer is obliged to provide measures for the protection and health of employees, as well as to organize the work in shifts, with as few workers gathering in the same premises as possible.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 16, the Government of the Republic of Serbia adopted a Regulation on Organizing Employers during the State of Emergency which introduces an obligation for employers to allow employees to perform work outside their premises (from home) during the state of</p>

		<p>emergency. This applies to all employees who work on such positions where working from home is feasible.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] On March 31, the Finance Minister announced a group of economic measures that included providing all entrepreneurs, micro and small enterprises with grants in the amount equivalent to one minimum wage per employee for each of the three months of duration of the state of emergency with a total of RSD 90,000 per employee, provided that companies haven't laid off more than 10% of their workers</p> <p>[Extended - July 2020] On July 30, the Serbian Government adopted the Conclusion no.05 401-605/2020 which extends the application of the first package of direct and fiscal benefits to business entities in the private sector. All MSMEs which benefited from the first package shall be automatically eligible for the second package and shall receive 60% of the minimum wage (received in the first package) for two months, August and September 2020. The 10% limit on reducing employment still applies to the second package.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 1, the Finance Minister announced a third package of economic support in which MSMEs will receive 50% of the minimum wage (around RSD 16,000) for the three months of April, May, and June. The aid package is expected to support around 1.5 million people employed by MSMEs and it will cost the ministry around RSD 69.8 billion. The 10% limit on reducing employment still applies to the third package.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 31, the Finance Minister announced a group of economic measures that included providing large enterprises with 50% of the minimum wage for the three months of May, June, and July, to employees who were sent on forced leave due to partial/complete suspension of operations.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2020] On July 30, the Serbian Government adopted the Conclusion no.05 401-605/2020 which extends the application of the first package of support to business entities in the private sector. Large companies that benefited from the first package and are still eligible for direct aid, can apply to continue receiving 50% of the minimum wage for every employee on paid leave due to work disruption.</p> <p>[Extended - March 2021] On March 1, the Finance Minister announced a third package of economic support in which large enterprises will now be entitled to receive 50% of the minimum wage (around RSD 16,000) for the three months of April, May, and June.</p> <p>"[August 2020] On 13 August 2020, the Government adopted the Decree on the Youth Employment Incentive Program "My First Salary" aiming to help youth employment during and after the crisis. As a part of the program, the Government will fund part of salary for up to 10,000 people younger than 30 years, without previous working experience. In line with this, for the high school graduates the Government will provide RSD 20,000 (approx. EUR 170), and for the University graduates the</p>

		<p>Government will provide RSD 24,000 (approx. EUR 205) during the nine months period. Funds will be paid directly to program participants by the National Employment Service.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2021] On August 20, the National Employment Service issued a public call for the Youth Employment Booster Programme "My First Salary" in 2021. The program design is the same, however, the cash compensation increased with high school graduates receiving RSD 22,000 and university graduates receiving RSD 26,000."</p>
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Seychelles

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(May 2020) Cabinet approved an increase in the one-off assistance paid under social welfare assistance.</p> <p>(March 2020) A special allowance was provided for frontline health workers, immigration staff and customs officials at the airport and seaport and the government established a National Disaster Relief Fund to raise funds from governments, private individuals, corporations and institutions aimed at providing emergency relief supplies</p> <p>(March 2020) The 3800 home carers looking after the elderly will also receive a special allowance during this period on the condition that they continue to work.</p> <p>(March 2020) For those children receiving financial assistance through the dedicated fund, the Agency for Social Protection will make a direct transfer to parents during this period to ensure no child is affected.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) In exceptional cases, loan repayments will be reduced for a period of 6 months, following work that the Central Bank has done with the commercial banks. If necessary, an individual can get a moratorium for loan repayments over this period. This will cover capital repayments and interest repayments during this 6-month period.</p> <p>(March 2020) Following a drop in international oil prices, PUC has seen a reduction in their cost of electricity production by 25 cents per unit. Government has decided that the electricity tariff for the public sector will remain the same. This will allow PUC to pass this extra benefit to the other sectors so that in the domestic sector people see a reduction in electricity tariffs by more than 25 cents per unit.</p> <p>(May 2020) In a bid to better help persons who are struggling to meet financial obligations, namely,</p>

		<p>rent on private accommodation, the Ministry of Habitat, Infrastructure and Land Transport (MHILT) together with the Agency for Social Protection (ASP), under the Ministry of Family Affairs, are widening the scope of the part-rental assistance policy under the housing department, and enabling the migration of the service to ASP to cater to all groups, as a means of social assistance. The ministry already had a policy, part-rental policy, which permits us to assist applicants with part of the rent payment on a monthly basis, based on criteria directly associated with the mandate of the ministry, and these were applicants who have applications for housing with the ministry. The policy now is not much different but has been widened to accommodate applicants other than those who have a housing application, and at the same time, we have increased the monthly ceiling slightly from R5,000 to R7,000.</p> <p>(March 2020) Removal of all charges pertaining to the use of the Seychelles Electronic Funds Transfer (SEFT) customer platform and fees associated with SEFT payments made through the banks' mobile banking applications, internet banking, and interbank platforms.</p> <p>The High-Level Committee took the decision for immediate Government intervention to further financially support citizens with Housing Loans with the Housing Financing Corporation (HFC) as well as those paying for House Purchase through the Property Management Company (PMC). These citizens will benefit from a 25% reduction on their monthly housing payments to these two institutions. The Government assistance will provide much-needed relief and ease the financial pressures currently affecting households – particularly those with a lower income and/or earning less than usual due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The measures will take effect from 1 September 2020 to 31 December 2021.</p> <p>(March 2020) For those citizens on welfare with a special STC card, the government have made arrangements so that the same card can be used to purchase gas.</p>
<p>Social Insurance</p>	<p>Paid sick leave</p>	<p>Allows workers to take special leave of absence from work in certain specific situations, such as to take care of their social responsibilities.</p> <p>Working parents with children from the age of three and a half months to 14 years old who were in a relevant institution immediately before March 16 such as day care and the institution has closed temporarily, workers who are required to go into isolation or have contracted the virus and workers who works for businesses that have temporarily stopped operations fully or partially and their employers do not require their presence at work are entitled to take the special leave. This is applicable only as from March 16, 2020 until the Minister indicates an end date, by way of a notice published in the gazette. The leave is an entitlement on its own, which means that the employer cannot deduct the leave from a worker's annual leave even though the worker has been on leave in connection with COVID-19 prior to the enactment of this new law.</p>

		<p>The law applies to workers who are on a continuous contract or fixed-term or is working part-time. It also applies to non-Seychellois workers with a valid contract of employment and GOP who are in Seychelles on coming into force of this law.</p> <p>The law does not apply to workers who are exempt from the application of the Employment Act 1995 and non-Seychellois workers with a valid contract of employment and GOP but who are outside Seychelles.</p> <p>In the case of employees placed in quarantine, the employer would continue to pay the salary of the worker until the employee is released. This amount could be claimed back by the employer from the Agency for Social Protection (ASP) following certification from the Department of Health that the employee was in quarantine.</p> <p>(1st September 2020) Regulation is also underway to enable working parents with children below 15 years to proceed on emergency leave until all schools and child care facilities are allowed to be re-opened.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] On March 20, the president announced that the Government will increase the budgetary allocation for the Unemployment Relief Scheme (URS). A sum of SCR10 million will be allocated to the Department of Employment. On January 26, the Government made the decision to shut down the Unemployment Relief Scheme (URS) in February 28, 2021. Between June until December 2020, the number of people benefiting from the scheme was over 1,000.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] On March 20, the President announced that the Pension Fund has postponed contributions – the 3% on the salary of their employees – for 3 months, for those due April to June 2020 will now be due July-September 2020.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[June 2020] The government proposed establishment of a company called Seychelles Employee Transition Scheme (SETS) to support those made redundant following the economic impacts of COVID-19. The main objective of SETS would be to facilitate retraining, up-skilling, and temporary work placement services, supporting re-entry into the labor market as job openings become available whilst providing financial support. SETS started in July 2020 and while it was expected to expire by December 2020, SETS will now operate up until February 2021. Since SETS started its programs, about 900 redundant workers have signed up with Sets among whom approximately 300 have gained employment.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] On March 23, the Cabinet approved a framework to guide private and public sector employers in implementation of the social distancing measures during the COVID 19 pandemic.</p>

[June 2020] On June 1, the President assented to the Employment (Amendment) Act 2020. The Amendment regulates the deferment of payment, and reduction of wages of a worker pending the termination or during the period of the government programme for salary support to workers as a result of COVID-19.

"[June 2020] On June 1, the President assented to the Employment (Amendment) Act 2020. The amendment includes a restriction on employers to temporarily lay off or make redundant a Seychellois worker, if the employer:
(a) is employing a non-Seychellois worker in a similar post as the Seychellois worker; and
(b) has not initiated the negotiation procedure to temporarily lay-off or make redundant, as the case may be, the non-Seychellois worker"

(May 2020) Sectoral Guidelines for Workplaces to safeguard against the spread of COVID-19.

[June 2020] On June 1, the President assented to the Employment (Amendment) Act 2020. The amendment revised an earlier decision that prevented furloughing or redundancies during the period April – June 2020. The revision became effective from 1st July 2020, whereby private sector could negotiate redundancies with the Ministry of Employment.

[June 2020] On June 1, the Government announced that all foreign workers holding a Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) and outside of Seychelles as of 20th March 2020, not allowed to return until further notice. Also, no new GOPs to be issued. That was a reversal of an earlier decision to extend the GOP of stranded migrant worker for 3 months. Government has not placed the same restrictions on Gainful Occupation Permits (GOPs) for foreign workers in the agricultural sector as it has done for most other sectors. Government has also not placed GOP restrictions on workers in the fisheries and health sectors.

[August 2020] On August 3, the Government announced that the permits of all non-Seychellois nationals currently out of Seychelles have been revoked with immediate effect.

[February 2021] On February 18, the Seychelles authorities revised the framework for the Gainful Occupation Permit (GOP) to increase local workers' access to the labor market during unprecedented unemployment levels. The new changes eliminated COVID-10 related concessions for foreign nationals. Also, non-local workers will not be allowed to change employers when their contracts end. The decision also added some new requirements for employers who intend to recruit foreign workers.

[March 2020] On March 23, the Cabinet approved a framework to guide private and public sector employers in implementation of the social distancing measures during the COVID 19 pandemic.

		<p>[June 2020] On June 1, the President assented to the Employment (Amendment) Act 2020. The Amendment regulates the deferment of payment, and reduction of wages of a worker pending the termination or during the period of the government program for salary support to workers as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 30, the Minister for Employment, Immigration and Civil Status signed a law introducing a new category of leave for working parents with children from the age of 3.5 months to 14 years old who were in a relevant institution immediately before March 16 such as day care and the institution has closed temporarily, workers who are required to go into isolation or have contracted the virus and workers who works for businesses that have temporarily stopped operations fully or partially and their employers do not require their presence at work are entitled to take the special leave. This is available to both public and private sector workers, and the leave is an entitlement on its own, which means that the employer cannot deduct the leave from a worker's annual leave.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[March 2020] On March 20, the President announced that the Government will provide financial assistance to struggling businesses and guarantee the salaries of their employees for the months of April, May and June. A total of SCR1.2 billion has been budgeted for this intervention. Individual salary assistance is being capped at SCR30,000. All private businesses, including self-employed individuals, in the formal sector can apply and will be assessed on certain criteria. No redundancies will be approved and the assistance will also cover foreign workers currently in Seychelles.</p> <p>[Extended - May 2020] On May 21, the Minister of Finance announced that the government will continue providing the salary assistance from July to end of December 2020. However, expatriate workers will not be included as from July.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 14, the Secretary of State for Finance announced that the salary assistance program will continue until February 2021.</p>

Sierra Leone

<p>Social Assistance</p>	<p>Cash-based transfers</p>	
	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p>	<p>The Government plans to roll out the “COVID-19 Social Safety Net (SSN) Cash Transfers” to vertically and horizontally scale up the Ep Fet Po cash transfer program to provide double the monthly benefits amount from US\$ 15 (an estimated 15 percent of the average household consumption) to US\$ 30 for a period of nine months (Four payments: one of SLL 1,309,000 (£92), followed by three of SLL 450,000 (£32), plus a fifth payment of SLL 450,000 for households with a PWD). This is the same strategy that the Government had employed in response to the Ebola Crisis. This response effort is expected to reach 65,000 (5 % of population) extreme poor households and households with Persons with Disabilities. (US\$26 million of funding)</p> <p>One of the most high-profile responses to the covid19 crisis in Sierra Leone has been the Emergency Cash Transfer program targeting Informal workers, low-wage employees in services sector, workers in small and micro enterprises in urban areas. This program was administered by the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA), using a contingency fund of USD 4 M that was built into existing IDA financing agreement for the Social Safety Nets Project. The program targeted informal sector workers (mainly traders) in Freetown and 4 other major cities, distributing one-time payments of USD 135 (level of minimum wage in Freetown for 2-months) to 29,000 households in July and August 2020 (Targeting and beneficiary enrollment began at the end of May in the four cities, with payments reaching the first 10,000 beneficiaries in early June). Potential beneficiaries were compiled from a variety of sources, such as existing registers of market traders, and then a 10 proxy means test was applied to select the most vulnerable. These payments were made as restrictions on movement were being lifted, with the intent to allow traders and other self-employed people to re-invest in their businesses. Following the successful implementation of the ECT in Freetown, Bo, Kenema, Makeni, and Port Loko in launched in June 2020, the Second Phase of the ECT financed by the European Union was conducted in May and June 2021, providing one-time cash transfers to 35,816 households (as of December 2021) in the informal sector workers who lost their businesses and employment in Freetown due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The government introduced incentives for healthcare workers, including a risk allowance and a COVID-19 weekly allowance, including compensation for daily food, board and lodging, to frontline healthcare workers in treatment centers (Acute), Isolation centres (Mild), Laboratory and quarantine centres/homes.</p>

		Households with The People with Disability Lockdown Handout (PWDLH), albinos, poor and destitute people, orphans in institutions, and children with mental disabilities received a one-off equal to (SLL) 250,000 (£18) for 10,983 households
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	Households with The People with Disability Lockdown Handout (PWDLH), albinos, poor and destitute people, orphans in institutions, and children with mental disabilities received 25 kg rice and one bar of soap for recipients during first lockdown Households with The People with Disability Lockdown Handout (PWDLH), albinos, poor and destitute people, orphans in institutions, and children with mental disabilities received 25 kg rice and one bar of soap for recipients during first lockdown Food vouchers, food parcels and locally produced face masks were distributed to vulnerable individuals and households, as well as to informal traders in Freetown. The program was launched by the Freetown City Council in April and was rolled out with the support of various donors and international organizations. In addition, the Freetown City Council announced the launch of an urban farming initiative to increase food security.
	Food, vouchers, others	On 4 April 2020, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, distributed 25 kg bags of rice, 250,000 leones (\$25.77), Veronica buckets, and other items to people with disabilities in district headquarter towns. This support reached 1,891 individual and group beneficiaries. Outreach to people with disabilities is now continuing, and the Government expects to reach approximately 10,000 PWD (500 per district and 2,500 in the Western Area), for a cost of 4 billion leones. Food vouchers, food parcels and locally produced face masks were distributed to vulnerable individuals and households, as well as to informal traders in Freetown. The programme was launched by the Freetown City Council in April and was rolled out with the support of various donors and international organizations. In addition, the Freetown City Council announced the launch of an urban farming initiative to increase food security.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Free tuition and other forms of educational support for a maximum of three (3) children up to 1 st degree level, for any healthcare worker who loses his/her life in the discharge of their duties.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Health workers: A life insurance policy encompassing payment to the next-of-kin of any frontline healthcare worker that loses his/her life in providing treatment to persons infected with COVID-19.

	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>(January 2020) The Sierra Leone Employers Federation (SLEF) because of the close collaboration between SLEF and the Sierra Leone Labour Congress, two wage re-openers negotiations were concluded quickly, and the outcome reflected the collaboration. These increases were in respect of staff below Supervisory Grade.</p> <p>1) Industrial Trade Group Negotiating Council -Wage Re Opener. Agreed an increase of Leones 50,000.00 per month (approximately US\$5.00)</p> <p>2) Public Utilities Trade Group Council -Wage -Re-Opener. Agreed an increase of Leones ,170,0000.00 (approximately US\$ 17 per month)</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Singapore

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The new (second) stimulus package of S\$48 billion (\$33 billion) includes cash transfers to self-employed and low-income people. April 2020: Temporary Relief Fund to provide one-off cash assistance of \$500 for those who need urgent help with basic living expenses</p> <p>On 18 Feb 2020, as part of the “Unity budget,” Singapore government announced that all Singaporeans aged 50 and above in 2020 will receive \$100 top to their PAssion card. This can be used to pay for groceries, activities and facilities at Community Clubs, and more. Those who do not currently have a PAssion Card can get one for free to receive the top-up. This is to enable them to enjoy the other benefits of the PAssion Card, and exclusive discounts at 2000 PAssion merchants. In view of COVID-19, on 26 March 2020, as part of “Resilience Budget”, Singapore government announced that all Singaporeans aged 50 and above in 2020 will receive \$100 top to their PAssion card in the form of cash instead as this will eliminate the need for physical redemption in person. Application for the card must be made between 1 March 2020 to 31 December 2020. Note the payment will be made by June 2020.</p> <p>On 18 Feb 2020, as part of the “Unity budget,” Singapore government announced a one-off cash transfer payout of S\$100-300, depending on income, for all residents aged 21 and above. However, on 26 March 2020, as part of “Resilience Budget”, government announced that one-off cash assistance for all residents aged 21 and above will be tripled from S\$100 to S\$300, from 200 to 600 and from \$300 to 900, depending on recipient’s income. If a recipient has a property then (s)he is eligible of only S\$300 irrespective of the income.</p> <p>On 26 March 2020, as part of “Resilience Budget”, government announced it will introduce a COVID-19 Support Grant from May to September 2020, to help workers who become unemployed due to COVID-19. Low- and middle-income employees who lose their jobs can receive a grant of \$800 per month for three months, to tide them over while they find new jobs or go for training. In total, government kept aside \$145 million for the new schemes and increased flexibilities to ComCare.</p>

On Oct 5, 2020, Government announced that Parents of Singaporean children born from Oct 1, 2020 to Sept 30, 2022, can get a one-off \$3,000 grant to help them defray the cost of raising a child amid the pandemic. The Baby Support Grant will supplement the existing Baby Bonus cash gift - which can go up to \$10,000 - and will be deposited into the same bank account that parents have nominated for receiving the cash gift. Payments will start from April 1 next year or within one month of enrolment into the Baby Bonus scheme, whichever is later.

On 26 March 2020, as part of "Resilience Budget", government announced that the Workfare Income Supplement (WIS) scheme supplements the salaries of Singaporean lower-wage workers and helps them save for retirement. It is targeted at Singaporean workers whose earnings are in the bottom 20% of the workforce, with some support for those slightly above. Eligible to receive a \$3,000 WSP, which will be paid over two equal payments of \$1,500 each by 28 Oct 2020 and by 15 Nov 2020 for Singaporeans who received WIS for WY2019. As announced on 17 August 2020, the Government will extend WSP to those who'll receive WIS payments for WY2020 but previously didn't qualify for WSP for WY2019. Eligible to receive a \$3,000 WSP, which will be paid in full by 15 Nov 2020 for Singaporeans who received WIS for WY2020, but not WY2019. On 23 Aug, 2020, government announced that about 470,000 lower-income Singaporean workers will receive their Workfare Special Payment payouts which will cost receive \$810 million starting from Oct 28, 2020 or through a cheque mailed to their residential address, by 15 November 2020.

On May 20, 2020, as part of its Fortitude Budget, the Singapore Government has provided a one-off \$100 Solidarity Utilities Credit with at least one Singapore citizen living in the residential property, to thank all Singaporean households for doing their part in staying home for Singapore during the period of heightened safe distancing measures. Eligible households will receive the Credit automatically in their SP Group utilities account for their residential property. The Credit will be shown in their July or August 2020 bills with SP Group. On 1 July 2020, the Government announced that 1.4 million eligible Singaporeans will receive their GST Vouchers payout in Aug 2020. Government mentioned that S\$ 0.1 billion is expected to be spent.

On 18 Feb 2020, as part of the "Unity budget," Singapore government announced an additional \$100 cash payout for every adult Singaporean with at least one Singaporean child aged below 21 years.

However, on 26 March 2020, as part of “Resilience Budget”, government announced that an additional cash pay-out for each parent with a child below 21 is tripled, from \$100 to \$300.

On Feb, 16, 2021, as part of the budget for 2021, Government announced that all Singaporeans who are eligible for GST Voucher – Cash will receive an additional one-off GST Voucher – Cash Special Payment of \$200. This is on top of the regular GST Voucher – Cash payment in June 2021. In total, lower-income Singaporeans can receive up to \$500 in GSTV – Cash and Cash Special Payment this year, to help them with their daily living expenses.

On Feb, 16, 2021, as part of the budget for 2021, government announced an S\$200 top-up for children under 21 years and it is planned to benefit about 780,000 children. It is an additional support for their children’s education-related expenses. Top-ups to Edusave Account and Post-Secondary Education Account in May ’21; top-up to Child Development Account in Sep ’21.

On Feb, 16, 2021, as part of the budget for 2021, government announced a \$100 in vouchers for each Singaporean household, to be used at participating heartland shops and hawker centers to support heartland businesses and hawkers. This scheme will benefit about 1.3 million Singaporean households.

On 18 Feb 2020, as part of the “Unity budget,” Singapore government announced point-to-point support package (PPSP) to provide targeted assistance to the Point-to-Point (P2P) sector and its drivers. On March 28, 2020, Singapore Government announced a \$78 million in Government funding will go towards the Special Relief Fund (SRF). The SRF helps active taxi and PHC drivers defray business costs through relief of \$300 per vehicle per month (i.e. \$10 per day). The SRF, which was to have ended in end May 2020, will now be extended to end September 2020. Over 40,000 drivers will qualify for the extended SRF. On Sept 15, 2020, \$106 million will go towards a six-month extension of the Special Relief Fund (SRF) to March 2021. The SRF, which started in February, helps active taxi and PHC drivers defray business costs by providing monthly payouts of \$300 per vehicle per month (i.e. \$10 per day). Drivers who are currently receiving SRF payouts will continue to receive SRF payouts during the extended period. On Feb, 16, 2021, as part of the budget for 2021, government announced that eligible taxi and private hire drivers will get \$750 per vehicle per month, up from

	<p>\$450, from 16 May 2021 to 30 June 2021. From Jul 2021, \$300 per vehicle per month for two months, and \$150 per vehicle per month for the next one month. Government has set aside \$133 million for this Fund. On 20 Oct 2021, duration of COVID-19 Driver Relief Fund (CDRF) has been extended and it provides support for drivers with \$10 per vehicle per day for 31 days from October 2021, and \$5 per vehicle per day for the next 30 days. CDRF provides support for drivers with \$10 per vehicle per day for 31 days from October 2021, and \$5 per vehicle per day for the next 30 days. Taking into account the extension of the Stabilization Phase and its likely impact on ridership, the Government will increase the current tranche of CDRF for November 2021, and extend the CDRF when the current tranche ends after November 2021. Eligible drivers will receive \$10 per vehicle per day for 30 days in November 2021 (i.e. an additional \$5 per vehicle per day), and \$5 per vehicle per day for 31 days from December 2021. This extension is expected to cost an additional \$16 Million to Continue Support for Taxi and Private Hire Car Drivers.</p> <p>On 6 April, 2020, as part of its Solidarity Budget, the Singapore Government announced that for self-employed persons, they are providing direct cash assistance through the Self- Employed Person Income Relief Scheme, or SIRS. Over 100,000 self-employed persons will receive three payments of \$3,000 each, starting from May 2020. As part of this policy the government has extended SIRS to automatically include self-employed persons who also earn a small income from employment work. Increased the current Annual Value threshold up from \$13,000 to up to \$21,000, to include those who live in some condominiums and other private properties.</p>
Social pensions	
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>On May 26, 2020, as part of the Fortitude budget, Singapore government provided in-kind assistance in the form of electronic devices to students from poor households during home-based learning. To support students from lower-income families, who may not have digital access at home, MOE loaned over 22,000 computing devices and internet dongles to enable all students to benefit from full home-based learning and continue to connect with their teachers and friends.</p>
School feeding	
Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>Accommodation, food, transport and daily necessities provided by employers due to the COVID-19 pandemic would be exempted from tax subject to meeting the qualifying conditions. The tax exemption is capped at S\$75 per day per employee for accommodation and a total of S\$50 per day</p>

per employee for food, transport and daily necessities.

On March 28, 2020, Singapore Government announced that it will freeze all government fees and charges for one year, from 1 April 2020 to 31 March 2021. This will apply to all fees for government services. To help graduates who are worried about having to pay off their student loans while finding jobs in this economic climate, government will suspend all loan repayment and interest charges for one year, from 1 June 2020 to 31 May 2021. This will apply to all graduates who have taken a government loan for their university and polytechnic studies.

On 18 Feb 2020, as part of the "Unity budget," Singapore government announced that the GST Voucher is given to lower- and middle-income Singaporeans to offset some of their GST expenses. One of its component include -- U-Save (utilities rebates) for eligible HDB households. HDB households who are eligible for regular GSTV – U-Save will be eligible for the U-Save Special Payment. They will receive double their regular amount of GSTV – U-Save in FY2020 (April 2020 to March 2021). Larger households with five or more members will receive an additional GSTV – U-Save rebate. In total, these households will receive 2.5 times their regular GSTV – U-Save. Eligible households will receive their regular GSTV – U-Save for FY2020 over four quarters, in April 2020, July 2020, October 2020 and January 2021. On top of the regular GSTV – U-Save, eligible households will receive their GSTV – U-Save Special Payment over two quarters in April 2020 and July 2020, and eligible larger households with five or more members will receive their additional GSTV – U-Save rebate over two quarters in October 2020 and January 2021. The rebates will be credited to the eligible households' utilities account to directly offset their utilities bills. On Feb, 16, 2021, as part of the budget for 2021, Government re-introduced all eligible HDB households will receive an additional 50% of their regular GST Voucher – U-Save over one year, or between \$120 and \$200 of utilities rebates, in Apr '21 and Jul '21. This will benefit about 950,000 Singaporean households.

On 16 September 2020 that every Singaporean (18 or above) will receive \$100 worth of Vouchers (SRV). The Singapore Tourism Board (STB) announced on 30 April 2021 that the voucher scheme will be extended for another 6 months and vouchers can be used till 31 December 2021. All Singapore citizens 18 years old and above as of 2020 will each get \$100 of these digital vouchers, which can be used for staycations, attraction tickets and tours. Those who qualify can start to redeem through an authorized booking partner like Klook, with the use of SingPass starting 1 December 2020 till 31 December 2021. Government said that \$320 million in credits have been set aside to encourage

		<p>Singaporeans to rediscover our city and support our local tourism businesses. The vouchers can be used for attractions, hotel stays and tours.</p> <p>On March 28, 2020, Singapore Government announced that it will suspend all late payment charges on HDB mortgage (public housing mortgage) arrears for three months, for those who are struggling with their mortgage payments during this difficult period. HDB will continue to exercise flexibility when providing assistance during this period, through existing measures such as deferring payment of loan instalments for six months.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] The Government will provide S\$90 million for tourism recovery support to help the sector rebound strongly "when the time is right", following the COVID-19 pandemic. These include training the industry professionals with tourism grant and enhancing other tourism grants on qualifying costs to ensure a pipeline of events and products.</p>
		<p>[April 2020] Together with the Ministry of Manpower (MOM), the National Trade Union Congress (NTUC) is introducing the NTUC Training Fund (SEPs) to help self-employed Persons to supplement their income and prepare them to be future-ready through skills upgrading and training. This total fund comprised the Government's \$36 million SEP Training Support Scheme and a \$4 million top up from the NTUC Training Fund. This program commenced on the 1st of April, 2020 and ended on the 30th of June, 2021.</p>
		<p>[March 2020] SGUnited Traineeships are designed to support employers in providing traineeships to fresh graduates entering the labor force to help boost their employability. The government announced that there are 21,000 traineeships available. The program provides a monthly training allowance which varies depending on the Traineeship Scope ranging between SG\$1,100 and SG\$2,500.</p> <p>[May 2020] A special \$500 SkillsFuture Credit top-up was introduced for people aged 40 to 60 to improve their access to career transition programs.</p>

	<p>[May 2020] 4,000 traineeships were launched for local mid-career jobseekers to learn new skills and start new careers.</p> <p>[May 2020] A training allowance of \$1,200 per month will be offered for the course duration under the SGUnited Skills program which is aimed at providing training courses to help individuals acquire in-demand skills. This program will be rolled out progressively from July 2020 and aims to support 30,000 jobseekers.</p> <p>[Extension] It was extended to the 31st of March, 2022.</p> <p>[May 2020] The hourly training allowance was increased from \$7.50 to \$10, with effect from 1 May 2020.</p>
Labor market regulations	<p>[July 2020] The Lowest Qualifying Salary (LQS) was raised to \$1,400 for all locals working at firms who have also employed foreign workers.</p> <p>[January 2020] Companies have been asked to step up cleaning of workplace premises and adopt the sanitation and hygiene advisories disseminated by the National Environmental Agency (NEA).</p>
Reduced work time	<p>Employers of workers in quarantine get SG\$100 (US\$68.5) per day throughout the duration of their quarantine. The benefit will also be paid to self-employed workers (Ministry of Manpower of Singapore 2020).</p>
Wage subsidies	<p>[May 2020] There will be hiring incentives for employers that hire local workers who have completed eligible traineeship and training programs. For eligible workers under the age of 40 years, the incentive will be 20% of the monthly salary for 6 months, capped at S\$6,000 in total. For eligible workers 40 years old and above, the incentive will be 40% of the monthly salary for 6 months, capped at \$12,000 in total.</p> <p>[March 2020] As part of the second stimulus package of S\$48 billion (\$33 billion), an expansion of wage support for businesses, including extra support for those in food services, aviation and tourism industries was granted.</p> <p>[February 2020] The government introduced the Jobs Support Scheme which subsidizes the salaries of Singaporeans and permanent residents to help companies affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. A program worth S\$1.3 billion, it is aimed at supporting firms to retain local workers (around 1.9 million Singapore citizens and local residents). Employers will receive an 8% cash grant on the gross monthly wages of each local employee on their Central Provident Fund payroll.</p> <p>[September 2021] It was announced that more than S\$900 million in Jobs Support Scheme (JSS)</p>

payouts would be disbursed to employers from September 30th, 2021. The payouts would be sent to more than 43,900 employers in Singapore to help them pay 570,000 local employees. According to the authorities, with this payout, more than S\$27.6 billion of JSS support would have been disbursed since the inception of the scheme.

[February 2021] The Aviation Workforce Retention Grant, which will cost \$330 million, will enhance that to 50 per cent of wages paid to Singaporeans and permanent residents from April to September. The package will enable aviation companies to preserve core capabilities and tide over the crisis, and preserve Singapore's position as an aviation hub post-Covid-19.

[Extension - September 2021] It was extended until March 2022.

[September 2020] The Jobs Growth Incentive aims to increase the headcount of local workers from September 2020 to March 2022. It is a program worth \$1 billion and for each new local hire, employers will receive wage subsidy for 12 months:

- Up to 25% wage subsidy for new hires below the age of 40 years and
- Up to 50% for those aged 40 and above, both subject to cap

For Phase 3 from October 2021 to March 2022, the salary support for new hires below the age of 40 years will be decreased to six months.

Sint Maarten (Netherlands)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) Under Sint Maarten Support Relief Plan (SSRP), self-employed persons such as independent taxi drivers, vendors, tour operators, and artists, etc., can benefit from income support.</p> <p>(April 2020) COVID-19-specific Unemployment Support Program has been developed. In a scenario in which payroll support is provided further limiting and reducing layoffs, ANG 1,150 will be provided to persons who become unemployed due to COVID-19.</p> <p>(April 2020) Economic income support. On a monthly basis: ANG. 300 for families of two (2) persons or less; ANG. 600 for families of three (3) persons or more. Based on the Statistical Yearbook 2017, roughly 60% are households of two (2) persons or less and 40% consists of households of three (3) persons or more.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Expansion of existing food voucher program, a food boxes program for the most vulnerable groups, and meals for the elderly, (NAf 9.3 million in total)</p> <p>(April 2020) Food boxes for vulnerable groups as a form of direct humanitarian aid</p> <p>(April 2020) Meals services to vulnerable groups which cannot care/cook as a form of direct humanitarian aid</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) CBS: (ii) allowed life insurance companies and pension funds to provide clients a 3 to 6-month payment moratorium on policy premiums without having to make an adequate provision.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[April 2020] The Ministry of Finance of Sint Maarten in accordance with the economic support plan, the "Sint Maarten Relief and Economic Stimulus Plan" or SSRP, has implemented a monthly

		allowance of 650US \$ for people who have lost their job due to the consequences of COVID-19. Unemployment assistance applications have been open since April 24, 2020. To be eligible for assistance for the month of April, applications must be submitted before May 10, 2020
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[October 2020] The St. Maarten Tourism Bureau, St. Maarten Hospitality & Trade Association (SHTA), and occupational health expert company Medwork has announced the launch of the "SAFESEAL – Clean Standard Seal Certification Program". The program has been endorsed by the Ministry of Public Health, Social Development and Labor (VSA), and the Ministry of Tourism, Economic Affairs, Traffic and Telecommunication (TEATT) and will become the immediately recognizable emblem for companies that are verified for their adherence to strict cleanliness and hygiene guidelines to counter the COVID-19 pandemic.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[June 2020] To support the most affected businesses and workers, Government will provide employers with payroll support to cover up to 80% of their workers' salaries for a three-month period. To qualify, businesses have to prove that they have encountered] hardship of at least 20%. [Extension-July 2020]: The government no longer reimburses a maximum of 80 percent of the payroll support, but reduced support to a maximum of 60%.

Slovak Republic

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Subsidies for individuals who do not receive any income during the State of Emergency, maximum amount EUR 210 / month</p> <p>Financial support for families with children is the first announced part of the tax levy reform planned for 2022. Originally, the minister announced the reform in spring 2021, but the public didn't learn the details of the reform until mid-November. The benefits cover an allowance for children's leisure time, a universal allowance, and a tax bonus. In a family where at least one parent works, all of these measures amount to €200 per child per month. Families in which neither parent works get €100 per month per child. The proposed measures should cost a total of €1.2 billion.</p> <p>Families in material need are set to receive a one-off contribution of €333 per child in May 2021. the subsistence level of a four-member family (two adults and two children) is about €560. A family whose total monthly income is lower than €560 is in material need, and thus entitled for various benefits. The government expects that about 45,700 children will receive the contribution, and it will cost more than €15 million in the first phase. It also plans to extend the group later, probably in autumn, to more than 270,000 children, who have also been affected by the pandemic.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Phone lines were set up for food delivery to serve people who cannot leave their homes</p> <p>The retailer Tesco was recognized for its charitable contributions through the course of the COVID-19 pandemic. The retailer donated unsold food and organized food collections. They also gave fresh fruits and vegetables to medical staff in 60 hospitals and provided food gifts worth more than €220,000 as of September 2021.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020) Self-employed persons, small and medium enterprises may request banks for postponement of the mortgage installment by 9 months. Banks are obliged to approve the requests once the formal requirements have been fulfilled. The postponement will not be entered into records of the official debtors register.</p> <p>Individuals may request banks for postponement of the mortgage installment by 9 months. Banks</p>

		<p>are obliged to approve the requests once the formal requirements have been fulfilled. The postponement will not be entered into records of the official debtors register.</p> <p>Rent payment moratorium was imposed until June 30, 2020.</p> <p>Deferment of deadline of tax returns by 3 months for individuals</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>If an employee cannot work because of mandatory quarantine, the employee is eligible to apply for the sick leave benefit.</p> <p>Parents taking care of their family members and employees on sick leave will see the benefits they receive from the state increase. This stems from an amendment to the law on social insurance approved by parliament on March 30. It increases the pandemic benefit for the care of a family member (OČR) and pandemic sick pay, and specifies conditions for receiving Covid bonuses, the TASR newswire reported.</p> <p>Employers (and/or self-employed) receive financial support from the government in some of the following scenarios: To pay their employees' paid leave, if the employer had to shut down business due to the state of emergency, the employer receives 80% of an employee's average wage with a limit amounting to 880 EUR. The employer is required to pay this salary to the employee and cannot terminate the employment relationship within two months following the month for which the contribution is requested.</p> <p>Both employees in quarantine as well as employees who have to stay home to take care of their children (= nursing benefit) receive 55% of their salary paid by the state.</p> <p>Employees who cannot go to work at the moment (for different reasons) can request additional time off from work with wage compensation from the employer and agree to work off the missed days at a later point (if possible).</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>As many other countries represented within ESIP, pensioners living abroad who have not been able to provide the required proof of living due to exceptional circumstances will continue to receive their pension from the SIA. However, pensioners abroad will be called on to respond to a request for confirmation by sending a self-signed certificate of living.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>(April 2020) It is estimated that around 70% of all employees who will lose their job due to COVID-19 will be eligible to apply for unemployment benefits.</p>

	Social security contributions	<p>Deferment of compulsory social insurance contributions for employers with a net turnover decrease of 40% or more.</p> <p>[April 2020] With the aim of helping self-employed persons and employers that are economically affected by the coronavirus crisis (COVID-19), payment of employer levies in situations where sales fall by 40% or more are deferred.</p> <p>[April 2020] To support employers and self-employed to continue work during the COVID-19 pandemic period, compulsory social insurance contributions for employers with a net turnover decrease of 40% or more are deferred.</p> <p>[Extension- October 2021] The Government approved negotiations again for deferred contributions of employers and self-employed in the Social Insurance Agency and extended the maturity date to 30 June 2024. It also shifted dates of deferred premium for the months of May to July 2020 December 2020, January to May 2021 later, gradually at three-monthly intervals ranging from 31 March 2022 to 31 March 2024..</p> <p>The procedures to apply for insurance (including pension) have been simplified and one can apply online.</p> <p>Measures introduced by the coalition government include deferral and waiver of employers' social security contributions for some months for affected companies and self-employed. These measures and the reserve for impacts of the pandemic in the 2021 Budget amount to EUR 3.96 billion, or 4.3 percent of 2020 GDP.</p> <p>Absolute exemption from social and health payments for employers who are unable to assign work to their employees for the reason of adhering to orders putting down the operation as a result of preventive quarantine measures.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	197 million EUR (- USD 215 mil.) from the Operational Human Resources Program allocated to support active labor market measures.
	Labor market regulations	<p>(March 2020) Employers are allowed to request their employees to take leave.</p> <p>[March 2020] To promote flexibility in the workplace as well as improve and enforce workplace safety with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, employers are allowed to request their employees to telework, if the type of work allows for it.</p> <p>Employees receive 80% of their average wage, if their employer had to close down the business due to the ongoing crisis.</p>

		<p>(April 2020) Employees who cannot go to work because they have taken care of a sick family member or child during due to quarantine or isolation obligations cannot have their employment relationship terminated.</p> <p>Measures introduced by the coalition government include easing the administrative burden on businesses and relaxing labor code requirements. These measures and the reserve for impacts of the pandemic in the 2021 Budget amount to EUR 3.96 billion, or 4.3 percent of 2020 GDP.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] To promote flexibility in the workplace as well as improve and enforce workplace safety with regards to the COVID-19 pandemic, employers are allowed to request their employees to telework, if the type of work allows for it.</p> <p>[April 2020] To promote flexibility in working time, the employer is required to inform the employee at least 2 days in advance about the work schedule, unless the employer agrees with the employee on a shorter notification period. The working time schedule needs to cover a period of at least one week.</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>Subsidies for employers who closed or restricted their business operations due to the decision of the PHA, in the amount of 80% (60%) of average monthly salary up to EUR 1100 (880)/month /employee (to whom the employer is unable to allocate work)</p> <p>Subsidies for self-employed persons, whose sales declined during the State of Emergency, maximum amount EUR 540/month</p> <p>Measures introduced by the coalition government include (i) wage compensation for affected businesses and self-employed, and subsidies to individuals without income. These measures and the reserve for impacts of the pandemic in the 2021 Budget amount to EUR 3.96 billion, or 4.3 percent of 2020 GDP.</p>

Slovenia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Self-employed who are unable to operate due to the crisis or whose operations have been significantly reduced will be entitled to a monthly cash transfer in the amount of 70% of the net minimum wage.</p> <p>"Pensioners with pensions up to EUR 714 will be paid the allowance in three different amounts: € for those receiving a pension of up to EUR 510 in the amount of EUR 300, € for those receiving a pension of between EUR 510.01 and EUR 612 in the amount of EUR 230, and € for those receiving a pension of between EUR 612.01 and EUR 714, in the amount of EUR 130. (December 2020), (December 2020) Pensioners with pensions up to EUR 714 will be paid the allowance in three different amounts: € for those receiving a pension of up to EUR 510 in the amount of EUR 300, € for those receiving a pension of between EUR 510.01 and EUR 612 in the amount of EUR 230, and € for those receiving a pension of between EUR 612.01 and EUR 714, in the amount of EUR 130. (December 2020)"</p> <p>Low-income employees, whose last paid monthly salary did not exceed twice the minimum wage must be paid a solidarity allowance of EUR 200 by their employer for the month of December 2020, which is exempt from all taxes and contributions.</p> <p>The childcare allowance is increased by EUR 100 and will be paid for the period from October 2020 until the end of the epidemic.</p> <p>(December 2020) Students and low-income farmers over the age of 65 will receive a one-off solidarity allowance of EUR 150.</p> <p>Families with children will receive a one-off solidarity allowance of EUR 50 for a child under the age of 18. Parents who receive child benefit will be paid the allowance automatically, while the payment to parents who do not receive child benefit will depend on the submission of the application (the deadline is 31 January 2021).</p>

		<p>The amount of the annual allowance for large families is increased by EUR 100 for families with three children and by EUR 200 for families with four or more children for the period until the end of the epidemic (December 2020)</p> <p>A one-off allowance of EUR 500 will also be paid for newborns born between 1 January 2020 and one year after the end of the epidemic.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Slovenia exempts households, small firms from green power surcharge for three months.</p> <p>On March 20th, 2020, the government reduced electricity prices by about 20 percent for the three months. The central and local governments are granted more discretion in using budget funds, including the public procurement and health spending.</p> <p>The informative tax calculation for individuals (prepared by the Slovene Tax Authorities) will be issued to Slovenian residents by June 30, 2020. Taxpayers that do not receive the calculation by July 15, 2020, are not required to file the annual tax return for 2019 until August 31, 2020.</p> <p>The administered price for electricity was cut by a third to ease the burden of the pandemic crisis.</p> <p>Taxpayers will have the option to postpone the payment of their liabilities for up to 24 months or to pay the liability in (a maximum of) 24 monthly instalments due to an inability to gain income as a result of the COVID-19 epidemic. This measure is applicable also for income tax pre-payment and withholding tax. The postponed payment or payment in installments, related to this measure, will not be subject to late payment interest.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Sick pay for all workers during the pandemic from the first day onwards will be covered by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, not the employer pension</p> <p>Generally, employers cover the first 31 working days of sick leave, after than the Health Insurance covers their sickness pay. The draft "Anti-Corona" Act includes the measure to extend this arrangement for all employees.</p>

	<p>The health insurance law stipulates that workers ordered by the authorities to quarantine due to their high-risk status are entitled to full compensation of wages.</p> <p>For persons confirmed COVID-19 positive, the Health Insurance Institute will cover 90% of pay from the first day of absence from work.</p> <p>The authorities rolled out a fifth COVID-19 stimulus package on September 30 to mitigate the effects of the crisis and extend certain existing measures until end-2020. These include measures (iii) support employees who have to be quarantined with full salary replacement</p> <p>The authorities rolled out a fifth COVID-19 stimulus package on September 30, 2020, to mitigate the effects of the crisis and extend certain existing measures until end-2020. These include measures (iv) further support families, with parents receiving 80 percent of their salaries in case of school quarantine.</p> <p>For persons confirmed COVID-19 positive, the Health Insurance Institute will cover 90% of pay from the first day of absence from work.</p>
Health insurance	
Pensions	<p>Pensioners with the lowest pensions will receive a solidarity bonus due to the impact of the coronavirus. One-off solidarity supplement to minimum and low pension recipients (€300 for minimum pension, €230 and €130 for low pensions)</p> <p>On March 29th, 2020, the government adopted a law to reimburse salary compensation for workers affected by COVID-19 and announced a new additional economic stimulus package of 3 billion euro (6.3 percent of GDP). Measures include allowances for pensioners.</p>
Unemployment benefits	<p>(March 2020) The employment status of workers who are unable to work due to force majeure, caring for children and their inability to come to work and other epidemic-related reasons will be equal to that of temporarily laid-off workers. Workers who have lost their job during the epidemic will automatically be entitled to unemployment benefits.</p>
Social security contributions	<p>(March 2020) All contributions for temporarily laid-off employees paid into the healthcare and pension insurance schemes will be covered by the state, and the insured persons' rights will be preserved. The measure is in place until May 31, 2020, with the possibility of an extension. Affected self-employed workers will be exempt from the payment of contributions (also until May 31, 2020). Contributions to the healthcare and pension insurance schemes during this time will be paid on their behalf by the state</p>

		<p>[March 2020] To ensure business continuity, self-employed people will be eligible to receive social contributions on a monthly basis.</p> <p>[March 2020] As part of the Anti-corona packages which aims to save lives and health and preserve the important capacities of the country, the Government has announced the freezing of the payment of social and certain other contributions, without prejudice to people's rights, as the contributions will be paid from the budget.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] Eighth Anti-Corona package - With the goal of mitigating and eliminating the consequences and effects of the epidemic on the economy, labor relations, the labor market, and social protection, employers will be relieved from paying social security contributions for employed workers in the second half of the year.</p> <p>[March 2020] Corporate income tax and social security contributions could be deferred. The deadline for submission of the annual corporate income tax return and the calculation of the advance payment of personal income tax for the year 2019 is postponed to 31 May 2020.</p> <p>Start-ups: The state shall pay the employers' pension and invalidity insurance contributions for employees.</p> <p>Start-ups: Self-employed and one-person companies significantly affected by the crisis getting 3-monthly social contributions paid by the state.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[February 2021] With the goal of mitigating and eliminating the consequences and effects of the epidemic on the economy, labor relations, the labor market, and social protection, minimum wage in the first half of 2021 will be subsidized.</p> <p>[June 2021] Provision of vacation allowance in the amount of 1.024 EUR per employee.</p> <p>[March 2020] Employees in healthcare are prohibited from taking annual leave. Health staff as well as persons employed and activated in sectors that are key in overcoming the epidemic (civil protection, security, critical infrastructure, etc.) will be rewarded with an increase in their basic salary by between 10% and 200%, based on the decision of their superiors, in the form of hazard pay and higher workload bonuses.</p>

		<p>[February 2021] With the goal of mitigating and eliminating the consequences and effects of the epidemic on the economy, labor relations, the labor market, and social protection, minimum wage in the first half of 2021 will be subsidized.</p> <p>[June 2021] Provision of vacation allowance in the amount of 1.024 EUR per employee.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] To ensure job retention and business continuity, employers are recommended to assign work from home (assignment of other types of work and/or place of performing work without employees' consent, but only for the duration of the exceptional circumstances)</p>
	Wage subsidies	<p>Wage subsidies for suspended workers due to pandemic-related closures and quarantined people (about €50 million)</p> <p>[March 2020] To regulate the right of employers to apply for reimbursement of salary compensations paid through the Employment Service to employees who are either unable to work due to business reasons (ordered to work at home) or under mandatory quarantine, the Parliament adopted the Act on Intervention Measures to Salaries and Contributions on a fast track basis.</p> <p>[March 2020] As part of the Anti-corona packages which aims to save lives and health and preserve the important capacities of the country, the Government has announced the provision of additional remuneration up to double the ordinary amount for all those who are additionally exposed in the fight against the epidemic, a partially untaxed wage compensation or remuneration will be available for those who work regularly during the COVID-19 pandemic .</p> <p>[May 2020] With the aim of providing income support to workers, employees whose last paid salary did not exceed three times the minimum wage, the employer is required to pay a monthly crisis allowance in the amount of EUR 200. The allowance will be completely exempt from taxes and contributions.</p> <p>[March 2020] Temporarily laid-off workers getting 80% of their wage, with the state paying all of this sum and the related social contributions (with some conditions).</p> <p>[Extension-June 2020] Compensation for temporary lay-offs is extended for companies/industry and tourism to end June 2020</p> <p>[Extension- July 2020] Compensation for temporary lay-offs is extended for companies/industry and tourism by end July with possible extension to end of September 2020</p> <p>[Extension- September 2020] Compensation for temporary lay-offs is extended for companies/industry and tourism end of 2020 with the goal of safeguarding employment</p>

		<p>[Extension-November 2020] Compensation for temporary lay-offs is extended for companies/industry and tourism</p> <p>[Extension- January 2021] Support for temporary work lay-offs is extended until the end of April with possibility of two additional monthly extensions.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Republic is subsidising up to 50% of the working time under precondition that workers stay at work for at least 50% or 20 hours a week. This measure aims to encourage businesses to restart their production processes and thus help flatten the unemployment curve.</p> <p>[November 2020] Companies will be able to receive funds to partially cover fixed costs for the period from 1 October to the end of 2020. Eligible beneficiaries include legal and natural businesses registered before 1 September 2020 and having at least one employee and the self-employed and managing partners. In addition, companies whose sales revenues in the last quarter of 2020 will fall by at least 30 percent compared to the same period in 2019 will be eligible for aid. An additional condition is that the assistance under this measure may amount to a maximum of EUR 1,000 per employee per month for the said quarter. The maximum amounts that companies can receive are limited to EUR 3 million or up to EUR 800,000 for those companies established from 1 October 2019 onwards, calculated on the basis of a certain percentage of their sales revenue in 2019 calculated on a quarterly basis.</p> <p>[Extension- December 2020] Subsidies were increased.</p>
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Solomon Islands

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	On Sept 28, 2020, it is reported that National Disaster Management Office (NDMO) completed food relief for Malaita Outer Islands (MOI) early Sept 2020 following assessment by the Malaita Province Livelihood Committee, benefiting nearly 5,000 inhabitants, approximately 792 households in Luaniua, Pelau in Ontong Java Atoll and Sikaiana Atoll. The distribution of food include a total of 2,727 bags of rice. Malaita Provincial Government also provided additional 96 bags of rice for Sikaiana.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Government of Solomon Islands, as part of the Economic Stimulus Plan formally launched on 4 May 2020, reduced electricity tariffs by 16% for households for the month of May 2020. On April 7, 2021, it was announced that electricity subsidy will be effective from May 1 2021 with 22 % reduction for the consumers.</p> <p>Government of Solomon Islands, as part of the Economic Stimulus Plan formally launched on 4 May 2020, ordered banks and financial institutions to provide relief on loans and interest repayments for households for a duration of 3 to 6 months</p> <p>On 24 March 2020, the government ordered that the price of basic goods be controlled (or frozen) including for rice products, beef, pork, steak onion, other fisheries canned products, chicken and other poultry products, flour, biscuits, noodles and sugar. The measure was taken considering expectations that imports to the island would freeze for an indefinite period due to the COVID-19 crisis, and the commercial sector would react by increasing prices. Persons who see any breaches in the regulation are encouraged to report it to the Ministry of Commerce, Industry, Labor and</p>

		<p>Immigration. On 17 April 2020, government again introduced price ceiling for basic goods. The price control has been extended each month Until 6 May 2021.</p> <p>On June 17, 2020, Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) distributed seedlings and gardening tools to households/farmers under the Covid-19 Livelihood Sector Agriculture Support to the provinces in Honiara and on the outskirts communities with the financial backing from the Australian Government (DFAT) in partnership with UNDP. With increased funding from the donors, as of Nov 27, 2020, it is reported that MAL extended distribution of vegetable seeds and farming tools to provinces (Guadalcanal, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul, Central Province, Temotu, Isabel and Western province except for Honiara City (Honiara Urban)). The distribution is part of the ongoing agriculture support program that the ministry is implementing to support and encourage households to make gardens around their houses to subsidize food costs as aligned to the national government food security program to counter the impacts of Covid-19. A total of 12,933 packets of seeds has been distributed to all the provinces. As of November 27, 2020, this measure implied a total expenditure of SBD\$1,091,721 (SBD\$214,200 on seeds distribution and SBD\$877,521 on tools distribution).</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[May 2020] As part of the Economic Stimulus Plan formally launched on 4 May 2020, the government announced a relief to the employers for surcharge (penalties) for the National Provident Fund (NPF).
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[September 2020] The National Health Emergency Operation Centre (NHEOC) is putting together a structured Train the Trainer (TOT) training program in COVID-19 Health Emergency Management, where instructors and health staffs from provinces and national, Q-Station management staffs, RSIP staffs, ports of entry managers and Team Leaders, private organization, will be trained.</p>
		<p>[September 2020] A total of 83 people undertook a one-day demonstration training on basic vegetable gardening in Honiara on 4th September 2020. Officers from the Extension Department within the Ministry of Agriculture and Livestock (MAL) facilitated the training for participants who are recipients of the Covid-19 seedling distribution under the Covid-19 Livelihood Sector Program. The focused was mainly on soil mixing, seed sowing, pricking and transplanting. Conducted at three designated zones in Honiara City – West Honiara (Tinge Ridge), Central Honiara (Mbokonavera 2) and East Honiara (Gilbert Camp), the training was intended to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Improve participants knowledge and skills on vegetable gardening at home

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increase participants backyard garden with variety of vegetables - Improve nursery, pricking and transplanting stages - Know the importance of Food Security – having access to fresh vegetables at all times at homes - Prepare themselves (participants) in terms of livelihood in case of a lockdown amidst the COVID19 pandemic. <p>[June 2021] The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) held a 3-day Training of Trainers (TOT) workshop to train selected provincial health workers as part of its preparation for the mass rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Somalia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Somalia launched the first ever cash transfers program in the country. The Baxnano program (which costs \$65 million) is intended to provide cash transfers to targeted poor and vulnerable households and establish the key building blocks of a national shock-responsive safety net system. The program is anticipated to target 200,000 poor and vulnerable households (approximately 1.3 million individuals or 9.6 percent of the population) across the Federal Member States of Somalia and provide them with nutrition-linked cash transfer</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of January 2021, the Baxnaano program had delivered three quarters of cash grants to 73,478 households (\$60 per quarter per household) • The families will be able to use the money for their immediate needs, such as food and basic services. These programs will be executed in areas of fragility due to widespread poverty, acute drought and long-drawn-out conflicts and insecurity. <p>The government is planning on providing nutrition-linked cash transfers and compensation for those engaged in livestock markets</p> <p>The urban safety net program reached 1,000 urban households, with a quarterly transfer of \$105 (the equivalent of \$35/month). During the COVID-19 pandemic, European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (ECHO) was able to support BRA to top up the 1,000 households with an additional \$25 monthly per household, for one quarter.</p> <p>An additional 150,000 vulnerable households that are directly impacted by the locust infestation will receive emergency cash transfer of \$60 a month for six months to help sustain their livelihoods. The support will cushion these households from the negative impacts of COVID-19, drought, climate-induced floods, and locust infestations.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	Government of Somalia distributed food items to the vulnerable groups, however data on number of households reached is not available. In addition, with support from WFP, distributed food items, reaching 1.9 million people as of November 2020
	School feeding	With support from WFP, Somaliland Ministry of Education (MOE) supported 40,000 children with take home rations in rural schools in Somaliland in June and July 2020. From October, I provided

		daily hot meals to approximately 40,400 children attending schools. Safety measures during meals are observed including handwashing before and after meals alongside staggered lunch breaks to avoid crowding at feeding areas.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	Effective April 15, 2020, the authorities introduced a three-month tax holiday on some specific basic commodities (including rice), reduced consumption tax on some additional basic goods by 50 percent and lifted restrictions on imports of rice from Vietnam.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Somalia's civil servants pension policy has been approved by the cabinet of ministries on 11 Feb 2021
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	Government of Somalia introduced flexible working arrangements for civil servants including options to work from home
	Wage subsidies	

South Africa

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The president announced a R500 billion (approximately US\$25 billion or close to 10% of Gross Domestic Product) of emergency expenditure to counter the costs of the lockdown. The package included increased expenditure of R50 billion on social grants.</p> <p>-The Child Support Grant – Originally, the government transferred R\$ 450 per month to 7 million parents or other caregivers, for about 12.5 million children. The government decided to transfer an additional cash transfer of R300 (US\$13) from May and R500 (US\$26) from June to October per month as part of the Child Support Grant. Originally, the government transferred R450 per month to 7 million parents or other caregivers, for about 12.5 million children. This means that in May beneficiaries received R750 and from June to October, R950 per month.</p> <p>The government transfers a grant of R\$ 1,860 to take care of a child who has a severe disability and is in need of full-time and special care. During COVID 19 pandemic, the government decided to add a monthly extra transfer of R\$ 250 from May to October. This means that total cash transfer from May was \$R 2,110.</p> <p>The government transfers a grant of R\$ 450 for those people living on a social grant but cannot look after themselves, so they can pay a person to take care of them full-time. During COVID 19 pandemic, the government decided to add a monthly extra transfer of R\$ 250 from May to October. This means that total cash transfer from May was \$R 700.</p> <p>The government transfers a grant of R\$ 1,040 for those who take care of a foster child. During COVID 19 pandemic, the government decided to add a monthly extra transfer of R\$ 250 from May to October. This means that total cash transfer from May was \$R 1,290.</p> <p>A new “Covid-19 Social Relief of Distress grant”, of R350 per month (US\$18), was introduced for people who are unemployed but not yet receiving any social grant or support from the Unemployment Insurance Fund. This was originally planned to be paid for six months - from May to October 2020. The success of the first rounds of payment as well as the ongoing needs caused by the pandemic have prompted the government to extend the program until March 2022 starting in August 2021.</p> <p>Freelance tourist guides registered with the Provincial Registrars of Tourist Guides were eligible for financial support of R1,500 per month. The scheme was implemented using a ‘no application’</p>

		<p>process and beneficiaries were selected via existing databases. Payments were made via bank transfers, starting in August 2020.</p> <p>The relief fund for artists, athletes and technical personnel was implemented in two rounds and aimed to compensate artists, athletes and technical personnel in the sports and culture sector for income losses due to the pandemic. The program was implemented through the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, using a digital application platform. For the sports component, the Department worked with sports federations to select and verify applicants in the second round of the program. Under the second round, vouchers from the Solidarity Fund were provided to selected beneficiaries in addition to cash payments.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) will provide early payments of social grants to older persons (from March 30-31, 2020). Additionally, the old-age grant was topped-up by R250 per month for six months in 2020, beginning in May. The top-up ended and the benefit reverted to pre-COVID levels in November 2020.</p> <p>The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) will provide early payments of social grants to persons with disabilities (from March 30-31, 2020). Additionally, the disability grant was topped-up by R250 per month for six months in 2020, beginning in May. The top-up ended and the benefit reverted back to pre-COVID levels in November 2020. Temporary Disability Grants that were supposed to lapse from February 2020 were extended to 31 December 2020 in order to cushion affected beneficiaries against the pressures brought about by the State of National Disaster and the subsequent lockdown. The cost of continuing to pay these grants totaled in excess of R1,5 billion.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Department of Social Development, working with the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, has identified vulnerable women and girls who need to access menstrual health products and provided them with sanitary products in June 2020.</p> <p>The Department of Social Development distributed 250,000 food parcels in late April-early May 2020, in partnership with the Solidarity Fund, NGOs and community-based organisations. As of June 25th, 2020, the total number of food parcels distributed was over 1 million. This includes: 105,000 parcels distributed by SASSA under the Social Relief of Distress scheme, 303,000 distributed by the Solidarity Fund, and 627,000 parcels by the Department of Social Development. Each food parcel was valued between R500 and R1,200, depending on the region. In some areas, food parcels were delivered to beneficiaries' homes in order to avoid crowding.</p> <p>According to the President's speech, the South African Social Security Agency will implement a technology-based solution to roll out food assistance at scale through vouchers and cash transfers to ensure that help reaches those who need it faster and more efficiently. As of July 2021, the</p>

		<p>program was still under implementation. Potential beneficiaries must apply at a SASSA office in order to be deemed eligible for a voucher.</p> <p>The Gauteng provincial government distributed food parcels to households earning less than R3,600 a month. As of May 11th, 2020, over 34,000 food and health parcels were distributed, and the balance will be distributed before the end of this month. Initially, this program was aimed at women, children and disabled people, but due to COVID 19 pandemic, this was extended to the unemployed and those earning less than R3,600 per month. Food parcels include the following items: maize meal, rice, oil, baked beans, instant porridge, macaroni, instant soup, sugar, powder milk, soya mince, "phuzo mandla" powder, toothpaste, soap, one wash cloth, condoms and sanitary towels. Health parcels include the following health items: toothpaste, soap, one wash cloth, condoms and sanitary towels.</p>
	School feeding	<p>The National Schools Nutrition Program officials and school principals are liaising with the Department of Social Development regarding learners that need to be fed during the lockdown and a list of such learners has been forwarded to Department of Social Development to provide grocery packs to their families. All 9.7 million learners are expected to benefit from the programme after the schools reopened for all learners during the first week of September 2020.</p> <p>South Africa's Western Cape provincial government has allocated 18 million Rand (c. US\$ 958,000) to go to supporting the 483,000 learners that are beneficiaries of the province's School Nutrition Program. The provincial government will provide take-away meals or take-home food rations, with schools being responsible for the modality used to deliver meals to learners starting in April 2020. Since then, over 1.2 million meals have been served to learners. An average of 65,000 learners receive food on each of the two days a week that meals are served). The government assured the press that school feeding would continue amidst school closures in July 2021.</p>
	Public works	<p>South African President Cyril Ramaphosa announced that the Presidential Employment Stimulus, set up in October 2020 to respond to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic, has provided more than 500,000 job opportunities for the youth since its establishment. The second phase of the Presidential Employment Stimulus, slated to launch on November 1, 2021, will focus on social employment, with 11 billion rands allotted for the current financial year.</p>
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Workers who will be affected by the 21-day lockdown or become ill during the outbreak will receive government assistance. The Basic Conditions of Employment Act rights for employees will be activated; through NEDLAC, employers and unions have agreed to negotiate special leave conditions. More details will be announced.</p>
	Health insurance	

	Pensions	<p>The government transfers a grant of R\$ 1,880 for those former soldiers who fought in the Second World War (1939-1945) or the Korean War (1950-1953) and are unable to support themselves. During COVID 19 pandemic, the government decided to add a monthly extra transfer of R\$ 250 from May to October. This means that total cash transfer from May was \$R 2,130.</p> <p>Government has expanded access to living annuity funds by allowing individuals to adjust the proportion they receive as annuity income, instead of waiting up to one year until their next contract anniversary date. The minimum value of the annuity or part of the retirement interest which an individual can withdraw in the event that there was any previous lump-sum commutation in the fund was amended and replaced with a single threshold of R125 000.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>The Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) will compensate affected workers through a new “National Disaster Benefit” and existing Illness, Reduced Work Time and Unemployment Benefits. In particular, this new benefit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - it is only applicable to employers who are registered with UIF and make monthly contributions as required by the Contributions Act of 2002 - it will be de-linked from the UIF’s normal benefit structure and therefore the normal rule (i.e., for every 4 days worked the employee accumulated 1 credit day and maximum credit days payable is 365 for every 4 completed years) will not apply. - the benefit will range between R\$ 3,500 and R\$17,712 per month, per employee for the duration of the shutdown or a maximum period of 3 months, whichever period is the shortest. - if an employee is ill, temporary lay-off or unemployed for longer than three months, the normal UIF benefits apply. - an employer or employee cannot apply for the “National Disaster Benefit” and any other UIF benefit simultaneously <p>According to the government’s website, as of October 2020 the UIF has reached 11,575,623 beneficiaries, concerning R\$ 51,045,255,369.21 on expenditures, in Covid-19 Temporary Employer-Employee Relief Scheme (Covid-19 TERS) payments to help workers, business and the economy mitigate the worst impact of the national lockdown on workers.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	The government, through the Department of Employment and Labour’s Inspection and Enforcement Services, appealed to employers, supported by employees and organised labour to comply with the minimum requirements of the 4th Direction, “occupational health and safety measures in workplaces, covid-19, 2021,” published on 11 June 2021.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	The aim of the Employment Tax Incentive program is to reduce the cost of hiring young people tax incentives (employers pay less employees’ tax - Pay-as-You-Earn (PAYE)- without affecting wages). On 23rd March 2020 the government announced measures to assist employers to provide financial

		<p>stability to their employees who earn not more than R6500 per month. These measures include an extension of employees who qualifies for ETI, an additional amount up to R750, and the monthly refund payment of any excess ETI claimed for four months (beginning 1 April 2020 and ending on 31 July 2020). In more detail, these measures involve the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1) Increasing the maximum amount of ETI claimable during this four-month period for employees eligible under the current ETI Act from R1,000 to R1,500 in the first qualifying twelve months and from R500 to R1,000 in the second twelve qualifying months.2) Allowing a monthly ETI claim in the amount of R500 during this four-month period for employees of:<ol style="list-style-type: none">2.a.) 18 to 29 who are no longer eligible for the ETI as the employer has claimed ETI in respect of those employees for 24 months2.b.) 30 to 65 who are not eligible for the ETI due to their age3) Accelerating the payment of employment tax incentive reimbursements from twice a year to monthly as a means of getting cash into the hands of tax compliant employers as soon as possible. To apply for the benefit during COVID 19 pandemic, employers must be:<ul style="list-style-type: none">- individual, partnership, trust, company/Close Corporation/Shareblock/Co-operative in the trade sector.- have a gross income of R100 million or less during the year of assessment ending on or after 1 April 2020- fully tax compliant
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South Sudan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP) will expand access to safety net and provide income security for low-income South Sudanese, while strengthening delivery tools and local level capacities. Nearly 430,000 people will receive cash transfers in 10 counties across South Sudan, including Juba. Specifically, the project will provide cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable people for working on public works projects. The total budget allocated is US\$40 million.
	Social pensions	The South Sudan Safety Net Project (SSSNP) will also provide direct grants to those who are unable to work, including people with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant or breastfeeding women, among others.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	WFP extended the duration of support to 77,600 people under the Urban Safety Nets Project in Juba and shifted the distribution modality from cash to in-kind food, due to increase in food or limited food availability in markets due to COVID-19. WFP also provided one-month of in-kind food assistance to 36,700 vulnerable urban residents who had been registered in SCOPE- a beneficiary management system.
	School feeding	In South Sudan, WFP and UNICEF ensured vulnerable school children receive a holistic set of interventions, including a nutritious school meal, improved teaching/learning materials, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and strengthened Parent and Teacher Associations' capacity. Amid closure of schools due to COVID-19, World Vision and the World Food Program (WFP) have distributed 149,079 metric tons of take-home food ration in lieu of school feeding programs to 19,980 children in South Sudan's Western Equatoria and the Upper Nile States as of July 2020.
	Public works	The work requirements of the Labour-Intensive Public Works component were waived during the pandemic. The program is implemented through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	

Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	The High Level Taskforce urged restaurant owners and traders to make provisions for infection prevention procedures in and around their workplaces with a view to protect workers and reduce the risk of their exposure to COVID-19. A measure is also introduced to limit the working time at public institutions to a half day starting from 7:30am ending at 6:00pm Monday to Friday.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] With the view to limit the spread of the virus and sustain the incomes of workers, the High Level Taskforce urged employers both private and public to make provisions for allowing their non-essential staff to stay home on a paid leave basis. [Extension - April 2020] The Taskforce decided to extend this policy due to the surge in COVID-19 cases till April 30th, 2021
	Wage subsidies	

Spain

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) Subsidy for unemployed people over 52: the payment will not be interrupted.</p> <p>€ 60,000.00 for the granting of aid individual and complementary for people with disabilities for social assistance in June 2020.</p> <p>The Government announced the payment of a bonus of \$ 30,000 for all health workers (medical and non-medical personnel). The benefit will be paid in three tranches of \$ 10,000 each, and will reach around 750,000 people, including doctors, nurses, administrators and other workers in the activity who perform tasks in the midst of the pandemic.</p> <p>The right to receive the social bonus by self-employed workers that have ceased their activity or have seen their billing reduced as consequence of COVID-19 was introduced as part of the economic support package of March 2020.</p> <p>In May 2020, the Spanish government launched a new national Minimum Income Scheme, the "Ingreso Mínimo Vital". The MLI is a Social Security noncontributory cash benefit that aims to guarantee a minimum income level to those households (including one-person households) who have insufficient economic resources to cover their basic needs. To receive IMV payments, people must be destitute: annual income of under 5,639.20 euros (less than \$7,000) for a single household, 7,330.96 for married or common-law couples, 8,571.58 for a single person with one dependent, 10,263.34 for a single person with two dependents, 9,022.72 for a couple with one child, and 10,714.42 for a couple with two children. If qualified, depending on household income and dependents, beneficiaries would get anywhere from 469.93 to 1,137.24 euros a month (the latter figure refers to a single parent with four dependents). As of June 2021, the program had reached only a third of the targeted 850,000 households and has faced considerable bureaucratic difficulties.</p> <p>Spain has introduced a family benefit in March 2020 to pay for parents who must take care of their children during the closing of classrooms by Covid-19 and when their company cannot offer them alternatives.</p> <p>Among the measures to support families is to guarantee the basic right to food for vulnerable</p>

	<p>children who are affected by school closures. Specifically, a total of Euro 25M is established to provide income support (wallet cards, wire transfer, voucher in supermarkets).</p> <p>Spain will soon allocate a €25 million investment to ensure that families with children that received school meals, or a scholarship, will receive either financial aid or direct food distribution while schools are closed</p> <p>The Government created a benefit of 430 euros initially for one month addressed to temporary workers whose contracts have been extinguished during the State of Alarm in March 2020 and have not contributed enough to receive the regular unemployment benefit.</p> <p>(October 2021) To cushion the hardships of the corona pandemic, young people in Spain will receive a cultural vouche . Everyone who will turn 18 in 2022 should receive a voucher worth 400 euros from the government. The vouchers are intended to help the country's culture and events industry recover from the loss of income during the corona lockdowns. According to the government, eligible teenagers can spend their 400 euros on cinema and theater tickets, books and concerts, for example. The voucher cannot be spent on bullfights.</p>
Social pensions	
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>300 million euros for an extraordinary contingency fund to support social services with special attention to older people and dependents. Part of this funding includes in-kind support, such as catering at home, home deliveries, opening specific schools as food distribution points.</p> <p>Measures for homeless people provided through social services include hygiene kit, food, drinks, and information about prevention measures</p>
School feeding	Spain will soon allocate a €25 million investment to ensure that families with children that received school meals, or a scholarship, will receive either financial aid or direct food distribution while schools are closed
Public works	
Utility waivers	The Government has suspended until 6 months after the end of the State of Alarm, all evictions without alternative housing in vulnerable homes and no tenant can raise the rent for the next 6 months. Additional support measures allow tenants to reduce (by up to 50%) or postpone the payment of their rent for the duration of the state of emergency (with different conditions depending on the type of landlord, and for a maximum of 4 months starting in March 2020). All of these measures were continued through 2020 and 2021, and in October 2021 were further extended until February 2022.

(March 2020) Tenants can access microcredits guaranteed 100% by the State.

A mortgage moratorium was created to last for three months in March 2020. The accreditation of vulnerability is adapted to the situation derived from the state of alarm, being sufficient in these circumstances with a responsible declaration of the beneficiary about his situation; and it is clarified that the suspended fees are not paid at the end of the suspension, but that all remaining payments are postponed for the same period. The self-employed were added to the groups that can benefit from this moratorium.

The supply of basic utilities (gas, electricity, water, and telecom services) was guaranteed for one month, regardless of accumulated debts, starting in March 2020. Those already entitled to pay a social tariff had their status automatically renewed until 15 September 2020. The government extended this guarantee of service for basic supplies for vulnerable people throughout the duration of the pandemic in 2020 and 2021. In October 2021, the "social shield" was again extended until February 2022.

The group of potential recipients of the social electricity bonus was expanded in March 2020, to individuals, in their habitual residence, with the right to contract the Voluntary Price for the Small Consumer, who have an income equal to or lower than certain thresholds referenced to the IPREM, and which prove to the reference marketer that they have ceased their professional activity as self-employed professionals or having seen their turnover reduced by 75 percent on average compared to the previous semester.

New rental assistance programs for vulnerable renters and additional state contribution to the State Housing Plan 2018-21 (€800 million).

A line of guarantees to provide financial assistance on housing expenses for vulnerable households.

Suspension of launches for vulnerable homes without a housing alternative and the extraordinary extension of the lease contracts for the habitual residence.

(March 2020) The Program to help people in situations of eviction or launching of their habitual residence of the State Housing Plan 2018-2021 will be replaced by the "Program of assistance to victims of gender violence, people who are evicted from their habitual residence, homeless people and other especially vulnerable people". The purpose of this new program will be to facilitate an

		<p>immediate housing solution for people who are victims of gender violence, people who are evicted from their habitual residence, homeless people and other especially vulnerable people.</p> <p>The Council of Ministers announced in October 2021 an increase in the thermal social bonus up to 90 euros on average (35 in the warmest areas and 124 in the coldest) to help vulnerable families to face the payment of heating bills this winter before the escalation of electricity and gas. This support, which will cost 202 million euros to the public coffers, will be channeled through the autonomous communities.</p> <p>(October 2021) The Executive will increase protection for vulnerable households (almost 1.2 million) by doubling the discount of the electricity social bond, which will go from the current 25% to 60% in the case of vulnerable consumers and from 40% to 70 % in that of the severely vulnerable. This additional lifeline will be paid for by electricity companies and will last until the end of March 2022, when winter temperatures have begun to give up and the price of electricity, according to forecasts, will have already started a downward path.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Workers infected by coronavirus; t have the right to a home leave assimilated to a work accident leave. This represents a 75% of the base income from the first day. By collective agreement or other agreements, the company can supplement that amount. The payment of the benefit corresponds to Social Security from the day following the discharge.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>The Government expands the circumstances by which funds can be withdrawn from pension plans (also from company and mutual plans).</p> <p>More flexibility for workers to access savings from their pension plans</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Special unemployment benefit for the self-employed has been created for those affected by the closure of businesses and for those whose turnover falls by 75% compared to the monthly average of the previous semester. The benefit is a minimum of 661 euros per month.</p> <p>The Government has created a benefit for temporary workers whose contracts have been extinguished during the State of Alarm and have not contributed enough to receive the regular unemployment benefit.</p> <p>Subsidy for unemployed people over 52: the payment will not be interrupted.</p> <p>Special benefit for domestic workers registered to Social Security who have lost their jobs during the health crisis or whose contracts are suspended. The amount of this subsidy will be 70% of its contribution base and a maximum of the interprofessional minimum wage. The subsidy is compatible with other salaries if the interprofessional minimum wage is not exceeded.</p>

		<p>Extension of unemployment benefit to cover workers who were laid off during the probation period (since March 9, 2020), as well as those who were switching jobs but with the new offer falling through</p> <p>Given the estimated 100,000 workers facing temporary layoffs as a result of the halt in economic activity in this regard the Government has introduced measures to ease the conditions of the temporary collective layoffs (known as ERTes - temporary contract suspension and temporary reduction of working hour - in Spain). The following are measures which concern all economic activities affected by the COVID related interventions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All people affected by ERTE will benefit from unemployment benefit, even those who are not entitled to it because they do not have a sufficient contributory period. In addition, those benefiting from such unemployment benefits will not consume the benefit rights already accumulated (i.e., will not account towards maximum benefits). - Unemployment benefits collected during the state of alert will not count towards unemployment afterwards. In other words, explains the vice-presidency of Social Rights, these people will not have exhausted their unemployment benefits, and if they are dismissed in the future, they will start collecting them from scratch. - Lifting social security contribution requirements for small and medium businesses who do not lay off workers and adjusting the social security system contributions made by self-employed workers whose income plummets due to the crisis. (Exemption of 75% of employer contribution or 100% for companies with less than 50 employees in so far as the workforce is maintained) (so they've extended existing provisions in case of natural disasters) - Allows workers to adapt and reduce their working hours, by as much as 100%, if necessary, if they need to provide care to dependents - For the self-employed, access to an extraordinary benefit in relation to cessation of activity is eased when they have had to close their establishments or suspend their services equal to 70% of the regulatory base for one month or until the last day of the month when the mandated state of alert ends. It will affect professionals who see their turnover fall by 75% compared to the previous six months. This period will be assimilated to contributory periods and will not reduce future benefits. This benefit will be compatible with the exemption of payment of fees. - Companies under redundancy procedures (ERTE) will not pay contributions to Social Security, to avoid them dismissing workers
	Social security contributions	:

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Special measures to support the extension of the period of activity of workers include a reduction in their share of contributions to the social security system (including unemployment) of 50% between February to June 2020

A six-month moratorium on the social security contributions for the self-employed as of May

"Given the estimated 100,000 workers facing temporary layoffs as a result of the halt in economic activity in this regard the Government has introduced measures to ease the conditions of the temporary collective layoffs (known as ERTes - temporary contract suspension and temporary reduction of working hour - in Spain). The following are measures which concern all economic activities affected by the COVID related interventions:

- All people affected by ERTE will benefit from unemployment benefit, even those who are not entitled to it because they do not have a sufficient contributory period. In addition, those benefiting from such unemployment benefits will not consume the benefit rights already accumulated (i.e., will not account towards maximum benefits).
- Unemployment benefits collected during the state of alert will not count towards unemployment afterwards. In other words, explains the vice-presidency of Social Rights, these people will not have exhausted their unemployment benefits, and if they are dismissed in the future, they will start collecting them from scratch.
- Lifting social security contribution requirements for small and medium businesses who do not lay off workers, and adjusting the social security system contributions made by self-employed workers whose income plummets due to the crisis. (Exemption of 75% of employer contribution or 100% for companies with less than 50 employees in so far as the workforce is maintained) (so they've extended existing provisions in case of natural disasters)
- Allows workers to adapt and reduce their working hours, by as much as 100%, if necessary, if they need to provide care to dependents
- For the self-employed, access to an extraordinary benefit in relation to cessation of activity is eased when they have had to close their establishments or suspend their services equal to 70% of the regulatory base for one month or until the last day of the month when the mandated state of alert ends. It will affect professionals who see their turnover fall by 75% compared to the previous six months. This period will be assimilated to contributory periods and will not reduce future benefits. This benefit will be compatible with the exemption of payment of fees.
- Companies under redundancy procedures (ERTE) will not pay contributions to Social Security, to avoid them to dismiss workers"

Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>Prohibition of objective dismissal due to COVID19</p> <p>Compensation for dismissal goes from 20 days per year worked (objective dismissals) to 33 days per year worked (unfair dismissals).</p> <p>Temporary contracts are suspended.</p> <p>The Government (Ministry of Health) has elaborated a guide of good practices against the Covid-19 on the return to work.</p> <p>Migration. The Government automatically extends and with a validity of six months from the end of the Alarm State, all those residence and / or work authorizations that expire during this period.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>Measures for the Bingo sector (leisure and tourism): it undertakes that companies and workers' representatives negotiate and agree on measures to guarantee the continuity of companies without loss of employment, through temporary employment regulation measures and internal flexibility.</p> <p>The government introduced a guide for the prevention and control of COVID-19 in the agriculture sector for those holdings hiring temporary employees. This is meant to guarantee occupational safety and health in the workplace.</p> <p>The government adopted labor measures in the agricultural sector, aiming at encouraging temporary hiring of workers. This involved the implementation of extraordinary measures of employment flexibility to ensure agricultural activity during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>The government allowed retired health personnel to return to work. This is compatible with receiving their pension.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>Remote work as teleworking is being encouraged to continue with the activity during the COVID19 crisis. In relation to occupational health at home, 'the obligation is considered fulfilled', exceptionally, 'through a self-assessment carried out voluntarily by the worker himself'.</p> <p>Regulation of the right to adaptation and the reduction of working hours (up to 100%) for employees to take care of their dependent relatives.</p> <p>The Government reinforced the procedures for suspension and reduction of working hours, streamlining and making them more flexible, with the aim that the causes are not used to introduce traumatic measures in relation to employment, the termination of employment contracts, but</p>

		temporary measures.
	Wage subsidies	Direct granting of subsidies for the contracting of people with disabilities in the ordinary labor market of Castilla-La Mancha

Sri Lanka

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) The GoS adapted Samurdhi program vertically and horizontally. Vertically, the program increased benefit amount to Rs.5,000 to all 1,793,553 Samurdhi recipients. Horizontally, the program added new 731,975 households and supported them with Rs. 5,000/households. Total number of beneficiaries paid by Samurdhi was 2,525,528 (731K new beneficiaries). This program last for April and May 2020 and has incurred an expenditure of 1653 million.</p> <p>On 30 March 2020, Government announced that 160,675 farmers and 4,600 fishermen enrolled in Farmers and Fishermen’s Insurance Scheme will receive an LKR5,000 emergency withdrawal. UNICEF Sri Lanka estimates that over 60 per cent of the population are covered by the social assistance initiatives described above, plus the ones covered by the adjustment of the Farmers and Fishermen’s Insurance Scheme (IPC-IG, 2020). The coverage is estimated to be quite high, particularly for the poorest decile—namely 97 per cent.</p> <p>(March 2020) The GoS adapted Elderly Cash Transfer Program vertically and horizontally. Vertically, the program increased benefit amount to Rs.5,000 to all 416,667 recipients. Horizontally, the program added new 70,636 beneficiaries and supported them with Rs. 5,000. The new beneficiaries were selected from the waiting list but also through new identification process. The program costed 3,924 million LKR for covering 487,303 (70K new beneficiaries) in April and May 2020.</p> <p>On March 30, 2020, the Sri Lankan government announced that a top-up of Rs.5,000 each will be paid to 84,071 disabled persons and 35,229 newly registered disabled persons. This will be paid for the month of April and May 2020. The program costed 388 million LKR for covering 38,791 beneficiaries in April and May 2020.</p> <p>On March 30, 2020, the Sri Lankan government announced that a top-up of Rs.5,000 each will be paid to 25,320 kidney patients and 13,850 newly registered patients. This will be paid for the month</p>

		<p>of April and May 2020. The program costed 139 million LKR for covering 13,850 beneficiaries in April and May 2020.</p> <p>To caution the impact of COVID on livelihood, the GoS introduced the 'loss of livelihood' program to cover those who lost livelihoods due to lockdown. The GoS introduced and made payments of Rs. 5,000/family only during lockdown periods to eligible beneficiaries (1.3 million families) included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Those engaged in small scale industries – confectionary industry, batik industry, makers of brooms, carpets and providers of raw materials including makers of memorabilia and blacksmiths 2. Local service providers such as Beauticians, People who service motorcycles and three-wheelers, Tailors, Barbers, Three-wheel drivers, suppliers of tents and other festival item suppliers 3. Village level small traders – fish, vegetable, fruits, those on the side of the road selling various items near religious places 4. In addition, central government, provincial council approved Preschool teachers, Private bus drivers, conductors, Traditional Ayurvedic doctors registered at the Ayurvedic Medical Council without holding any government appointments 5. Small scale tea estate owners 6. Regional Correspondents/media personnel 7. People engaged in cottage and handicrafts industry 8. Recipients of court ordered compensation and maintenance 9. Migrant worker families who have not been able to transfer funds to SL and without any savings in their accounts 10. Clothing and other smaller shop workers who have not received salary for the month of April or who have earned less than Rs. 5,000 can be considered as eligible by the rural committee 11. Pensioners receiving less than Rs. 5,000 per month 12. Casual workers in the plantations who lost their daily wages
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 30 March 2020, Government announced that to deliver “triposha” and other nutritious supplements to the households of pregnant mothers and infants with nutrition deficiencies. Now due to COVID-19, Thriposha and other nutritional supplements will be delivered directly to the residences of expectant mothers and families with malnourished children. Before beneficiaries had to pick it up at health facilities., To deliver “triposha” and other nutritious supplements to the households of pregnant mothers and infants with nutrition deficiencies. Now due to COVID-19, Thriposha and other nutritional supplements will be delivered directly to the residences of expectant mothers and families with malnourished children. Before Covid-19 beneficiaries had to pick it up at health facilities. In the pre-COVID-19 days, the program covered 900,000 beneficiaries.</p> <p>The Sri Lankan government, on 30 oct 2020, decided to provide relief packs of dry rations worth of 10,000 LKR (5,000 LKR each on two occasion) to a total of 43,376 families quarantined in their homes island wide. Total amount spent for this purpose is Rs. 438.76 million which is part of the General Treasure. The program was planned to end on Nov 10, 2020.</p> <p>On March 23 2020, Government announced that the Samurdhi Authority must immediately issue Certificates of the Beneficiary for all Samurdhi recipients and Low income families, to facilitate the issuance of nutritious food. Rice, Dhal and Onion must be provided for those families, elders and those with a low income, weekly, through Food Cards. This policy has started from 26 March 2020. These packages will be delivered to homes of Samurdhi recipients through Samurdhi Officers in their respective villages. Samurdhi Managers are entrusted with the responsibility of monitoring and streamlining the process in each respective area. One package is valued at Rs.1000 and includes six essential food items including rice, dhal, potatoes, canned fish and noodles. separate program will also be implemented to supply vegetables and fish at consumer’s doorstep in the Gampaha district during the curfew hours. The program is jointly being organized by three institutions, Gampaha Divisional Secretariat, Samurdhi Authority and Multi-purpose Co-operative Society in Gampaha and a package of essential food items will be provided to nearly 138777 Samurdhi beneficiaries at five locations in the entire Gampaha district.</p>
	School feeding	<p>WFP also continued to provide technical assistance to the National School Meals Program (NSMP) to shift towards a home-grown school feeding model. A pilot project implemented to include fortified rice in the NSMP further helped to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals. THR food pack consisting of eggs, Samaposha or cereal made of corn, soya, green gram and rice, noodles, Marie biscuits, and chickpeas. Adaptations covered all prior recipients., WFP also continued to provide</p>

		<p>technical assistance to the National School Meals Program (NSMP) to shift towards a home-grown school feeding model. A pilot project implemented to include fortified rice in the NSMP further helped to enhance the nutritional quality of school meals.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The Central Bank of Sri Lanka announced on 24 March 2020 that financial institutions shall charge a maximum interest rate of 15 per cent on local credit card transactions of value up to Rs. 50,000; the minimum monthly payment on credit cards shall be reduced by 50 percent and repayment of all credit cards below the limit of Rs 50,000 to be extended until 30.04.2020; extended validity of checks under LKR. 500,000/- until 30.04.2020.</p> <p>On 24 March 2020, President of Sri Lanka announced that personal loan deduction from the salaries of public servants and non-staff employees in the private sector will be deferred until 30 May 2020. This policy is expected to benefit 1,500,000 public sector employees.</p> <p>To meet the challenges faced by the individuals in transportation sector (such as three wheeler, school vans, lorries, small goods transportation vehicles, buses and other tourism vehicles), central bank of Sri Lanka requested the commercial bank to extend concession of lease facilities to covid-19 affected individuals in passenger transportation sector for a period of six months commencing from March 23, 2020. This was further extended for a period of six months as per the announcement on 16 July 2020. On March 10, 2021, central bank requested the commercial banks to extend the concession of lease facilities for another six months commencing from April 1, 2021. Please note, however, debt moratorium does not mean a waive-off of capital and /or interest permanently. The customer should pay the capital and/or interest payments which fall due within the concession periods at a later date according to the revised repayment plan.</p> <p>On 31 March 2020, the Sri Lankan government announced an allocation of Rs. 20 billion to make an advance payment of Rs.10,000 to 2 million Samurdhi beneficiary families. The plan is to distribute Rs.10,000 advance in two Rs. 5,000 phases. The second phase of the program will be completed by April 10. Interest on this balance will not be charged, with a grace period for the first six months. After that, the families will have 18 months to pay back the amount. As well as this, interest on the balance in the accounts of the beneficiaries will be charged as usual. The officials will hand over the Samurdhi advance to the recipients at their place of residence and recipients do not need to visit banks to collect the payment.</p>

Sri Lankan government, as per the cabinet meeting held on 20 March 2020, announced a debt moratorium until 30th of May 2020 on personal loans granted to all private sector non-executive employees.

Sri Lankan government, as per the cabinet meeting held on 20 March 2020, announced a three-month debt moratorium for all personal loans and leasing rentals of value less than LKR 1.0 Mn.

On 17 March 2020, Government of Sri Lanka announced the Price controls on certain essential foods (tinned fish, lentils, eggs), with government absorbing subsidies to traders. This was ended on 30 April 2020. The price control policy was re-introduced on 31 Aug 2021. The Sri Lankan government authorized officers to take steps to provide essential food items at concessionary rate to the public by purchasing stocks of essential food items including paddy, rice and sugar, at government guaranteed prices or based on the Customs value on imported goods to prevent market irregularities which are causing inconvenience to consumers due to concealing of stocks of essential food items including paddy, rice and sugar and to prevent selling them at higher prices. This will be implemented in such a way that the loans granted to purchase stocks from the State Banks could be recovered from the borrowers. This policy will be with effect from midnight 31/08/2021, The objective of these regulations is to prevent the activities such as hiding, interrupting the distribution, charging high prices of especial food bulks including rice and sugar and causing market irregularities which cause inconvenience to the consumers and the welfare of the people.

Sri Lankan Government, on 23 March 2020, announced that deadline for 1st Quarter of electricity and water bills below LKR15,000 are extended to 30 April 2020

On 21 Aug 2020, Government of Every licensed-commercial bank (LCB) and licensed-specialized banks (LSB) was to reduce the penal interest rates charged on all loans and advances.

CBSL imposed caps on interest rates on some loan products and penal charges as a relief for retail customers.

Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	To pay the pension for the 645,179 pension receivers from the public sector.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] In March, the Ministry of Skills Development, Employment and Labor Relations issued "Measures to Prevent the Spread of the COVID-19 Virus" which are guidelines on workplace health and hygiene practices for all industries, following discussion with social partners, on March 17 2020</p> <p>[July 2020] In July, Sri Lanka Tourism Development Authority (SLTDA) extended an open invitation to the tourism industry to be part of "Safe and Secure" certification program, in order to revive tourism. SLTDA, with guidance from the Ministry of Health and WHO, have developed a set of guidelines which enhance cleanliness and hygiene practices at all tourism related venues and services. Entities that are compliant with these guidelines will also be assessed by an independent professional body. When all requirements are met, they will receive a "Safe and Secure" certification to display as a mark of assurance to tourists.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

St. Kitts and Nevis

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020)\$5 million allocated for Poverty Alleviation Program (PAP) for households that might now fall below the XCD \$3,000 per month threshold due to a loss of jobs and income caused by this crisis - part of \$120 billion economic stimulus package. Within this allocation, the government decided to extend the cash transfer delivered through the PAP program, implying an extension of XCD\$ 500, with a total transfer of XCD\$ 3,500 per month.</p> <p>(May 2020)Transfers of XCD \$1,000 (USD 370) for 3 months to 83 overseas students who are nationals.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(October 2020) The Chamber of Industry and Commerce donated food vouchers totaling \$40,000 to the St. Kitts and Nevis Red Cross Society and the Ministry of Community Development, Gender Affairs and Social Services through its COVID-19 Relief Drive Initiative to help vulnerable families affected by the pandemic. Families with two members or less received XCD \$200 in food vouchers per month. Families with three or four members received XCD \$300 while families with more than four members received XCD \$400 per month. No further details were given about how many months this policy was in place.</p>
	School feeding	<p>(April 2020)Government is continuing provision of hot lunches to students in need, through the School Meals Program amid school closures. Pre-packaged meals were collected from the school or other locations.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Water payments for persons laid off over the period April to June 2020 will be waived. In other words water for those affected workers over the next 3 months will be free</p> <p>Property tax payments for the period June to September, 2020 will be deferred.</p> <p>(June 2020)Hospital and related fees for anyone sick from the Coronavirus will also be waived at this time</p> <p>(March 2020)A moratorium on all loan payments to commercial banks including the Development</p>

		<p>Bank of St. Kitts and Nevis for six months as agreed to with the Eastern Caribbean Central Bank together with a waiver of all late charges and fees.</p> <p>The government introduced a moratorium on electricity bills for affected businesses and individuals for a three (3) month period, April to June 2020.</p> <p>(March 2020) 6 months removal of VAT and Import Duty for six months on several hygiene and food items</p> <p>(November 2020) Twenty backyard farmers receive raised seed beds, Grow boxes, through a collaboration between the Inter-American Institute for Cooperation and Agriculture (IICA) and the ministries of Health and Gender Affairs, Social Development and Agriculture, and Agriculture in the Nevis Administration.</p> <p>The National Housing Corporation (NHC) to implement a moratorium on mortgages for an initial period of three (3) months in the first instance for affected homeowners.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	(March 2020) In March, 2020, the government unveiled a stimulus package for people whose income was impacted as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. It was administered by the Social Security Board and provided up to \$1,000 to people who lost their employment, were laid off, or had reduced hours with earnings less than \$1,000 per month. Registered self-employed people also benefited from initiatives paid in March, April and June.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[July 2020] Nineteen teachers participated in the two-week Prospective Teachers Course 2020 from July 13, are the first on Nevis to be trained in online virtual teaching instruction. This included how to use Microsoft Teams as the principle virtual teaching platform, if they are selected to join the teaching workforce.</p> <p>[July 2020] The Federation of St. Kitts and Nevis, in preparation for the reopening of its borders, provided three thousand four hundred and fifty-eight workers in the hotel, hospitality and transport sectors with training on the new norms for living and working safely in a COVID-19 environment</p>

	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	[May 2020] Businesses are allowed to continue operations by letting employees work virtually from home (unless otherwise allowed to operate). Public service employees mandated to do so unless otherwise specified by the Secretary to Cabinet
	Wage subsidies	

St. Lucia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Monthly payment of \$500 for 3 months, preconditioned to enrolling in NIC for informal workers not currently contributing to NIC, unemployed or displaced due to COVID19. Estimated cost of \$16.8 million EC</p> <p>Coverage increase of the main noncontributory cash transfer program, Public Assistance Program (PAP), from approximately 2,400 beneficiary households to at least 3,600 poor households.</p> <p>Temporary increase in benefit amounts of the Child Disability Grant, Foster Care Grant, and assistance for persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). The support was provided from July - September 2020. Persons living with HIV program has been extended to June 2021 and the program period will now be from July 2020 to June 2021</p> <p>The Government of Saint Lucia through the Department of Agriculture continues efforts to support fisherfolk around the island amid the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In an effort to provide support to eligible fisheries boat owners and crew affected by the pandemic, beneficiaries will receive a one-time grant of EC\$500. Fisherfolk must be registered with the Department of Fisheries and also be captured on the 2019- 2021 fishing license application as a boat owner, captain, or crew member associated with the vessel.</p> <p>Temporary increase in benefit amounts of the Child Disability Grant, Foster Care Grant, and assistance for persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</p> <p>Temporary increase in benefit amounts of the Child Disability Grant, Foster Care Grant, and assistance for persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Rollout of the National Meals Program by the Ministry of Agriculture to feed 5,000 underprivileged persons on a daily basis using produce from local farmers.</p> <p>Coverage increase of the Educational Assistance Program, a program that delivers in-kind educational supplies such as uniforms, shoes, and books for primary and secondary students of poor</p>

		<p>households, aiming to reduce school dropout and increase access and quality of education for children of poor households.</p> <p>Hygiene packages including masks, sanitizers, and sanitary napkins to be distributed to 6,000 poor and vulnerable households.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	Public Works workfare program Rural Community Small Project Economic Stimulation Initiative to stimulate economy at community level and provide employment and support household income during the crisis
	Utility waivers	<p>The implementation of Price Gauging legislative to protect consumer. In order to protect consumers from abuse by unscrupulous business persons, who are attempting to maximize earning through price hikes on items which are currently in high demand, price gouging legislation will be developed</p> <p>Suspension of disconnections for unemployed and persons on welfare by LUCELEC electricity utility company</p> <p>Waiver for interests and penalties on all taxes due in March 2020</p> <p>6 month moratorium on commercial bank mortgage payments for displaced workers and businesses adversely affected by COVID19. Similar measures will be sought with credit unions</p> <p>Front line Workers (Police, Nurses, Fire officers and doctors) to benefit from Duty-Free vehicles with special support from financial institutions. The government has taken the decision to provide duty-free concessions on vehicles for a stipulated period of time to essential service staff who have been employed for more than five years</p> <p>Farmers: Assistance to 900 livestock farmers (swine, small ruminant and broilers) and 2,500 crop farmers to be provided with inputs to cultivate short term crops to boost food security.</p> <p>Annual duty-free barrel trade advanced to June. Barrel Concessions - As part of the Government's response to the impact of this pandemic, the annual duty-free barrel trade will take effect much earlier than normal and start in June to allow persons sufficient time to receive much needed items from family members and friends abroad.</p> <p>Further assistance with electricity bills - part of the fuel surcharge of 50 cents currently levied on the use of diesel fuel to be used to finance part or full payment of electricity bills for persons affected by the crisis.</p>

		<p>Qualifying households will start to benefit from a \$75 bill credit under the Electricity Assistance Program (EAP) beginning in October 2020. The Electricity Assistance Program seeks to provide temporary relief to specific households for six months - from Oct. 2020 to March 2021.</p> <p>Relief to minibus operators: ECD 1.1 million(407k USD) in fuel rebate. Provide relief to minibus operators through the payment of \$1.1 million in fuel rebate.</p> <p>.Special needs students receive assistive digital devices to assist in education efforts as they transition to an online learning platform. The procurement of devices was facilitated through the Education Quality Improvement Project (EQUIP) and was co-funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] To provide support to persons who have completely lost their income, with respect to National Insurance Contributors (NIC), a monthly payment relative to salary between \$500 and \$1,500 will be paid, for a period of three (3) months in the first instance, starting in April 2020. The measure is scheduled to end on September 30 following a 3-month extension in June. Conditions include the need to have paid contributions to NIC for at least 1 month before February 2020 and not receiving other welfare support. Estimated to cost between \$33 million and \$80 million [Extension- June 2020] The NIC extended the Economic Relief Program for three more months</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[April 2020] With an aim to strengthen digital literacy amongst Saint Lucian youth by equipping educators, students and at-risk youth with the requisite skills to effectively utilize digital tools and platforms and to prepare them for digitally enabled professions, young persons are trained with workforce-ready digital skills.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

St. Vincent and the Grenadines

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	<p>Within the Economic Stimulus Package, the government implemented an economic support for vulnerable and affected persons by expanding social assistance programs. This included:</p> <p>1) Widening the social safety net Interim Assistance Benefits for persons not on public assistance nor in receipt of a pension (until 31 Dec 2020), involving cash transfers of EC\$ 300 per month for three months. This policy reached 1,539 workers in the informal sector, particularly vendors in towns and those who traditionally dependent on trade adjacent to schools.</p> <p>The government extended this measure to handcart operators. This consisted of a one-off cash transfer of UC\$ 300 for 105 people. As of June 2020, this meant 1,644 beneficiaries, involving a total expenditure of \$460,000 for the Interim Assistance Benefit.</p>
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Within the Economic Stimulus Package, the government implemented an economic support for vulnerable and affected persons by expanding social assistance programs with a total planned budget of EC\$ 5M ECD (1,85 million USD) . This included:</p> <p>2) Providing support for displaced workers in the hotel and tourism sector, including cruise buses and taxis, through a Displacement Supplementary Income for three months in the first instance. Minibus operators received EC 500-600, Taxis, water taxis and tour buses (25-seater and above), registered with the SVG Tourism Authority, received a one-off payment of EC \$500, \$300 and \$2,000 respectively. According to a report published by the government, as of June 12th, 2020, 1,496 people received the Displacement Supplementary Income, which meant a total expenditure of EC\$1.02 M.</p> <p>The government implemented a different type of Interim Assistance Benefit for the elderly and disabled people. This involved transferring EC \$200 for the last part of 2020. According to a report published by the government, 600 received this benefit, involving approximately EC \$260,000.</p> <p>[August 2020] Seafarers who were laid off or disembarked from their ship after December 1, 2019 and reside in St. Vincent and the Grenadines eligible for benefit. Value of EC\$300 (USD 111) per month. Grant to be given for 3 months – August to October 2020. Also to be given to oilrig workers.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>National Insurance Scheme (NIS) will provide a pre-payment of two months pension benefits for all categories of pensioners (contributory and non-contributory; 7,406 contributory pensioners and 783 noncontributory pensioners);</p>

	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>“Love Box” is an initiative which utilizes church and NGO networks to distribute boxes of local agricultural produce to vulnerable families across the country. According to a report published by the government, the Love Box initiative has distributed 5,000 boxes to over 3,500 families nationwide. A total of 370 farmers are selling their products to Love Box aggregators, and approximately \$300,000 has been spent on the initiative to date.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>The government implemented immediate generation of jobs in public works (specifically-funded roads and buildings programs; other physical facilities; second phase of PAVE; painting of some government buildings) with a planned budget of EC \$30 M. The aim is to stimulate local economy and seeks to engage local contractors and tradespersons as much as possible.</p> <p>The government implemented an economic compensation for 60 vendors who traditionally plied their trade along the sea wall. This implied a benefit of \$4,500 for each vendor to remove their structures and vacate the sea wall area as a prelude to the construction of the modern port and cargo terminal.</p> <p>The compensation also included three months of income support of \$715 per month for three months, to amount for the value of their structure, removal allowance and timely removal bonus.</p>
	Utility waivers	<p>The government instituted a regime of duty-free barrels of imports from May 1st to August 31st in the first instance.</p> <p>The government introduced a waiver of duty and VAT on the following items, including electricity for domestic, hotels and guest houses’ consumers, for the period from March 20, 2020 up to June 30, 2020, in the first instance: bleach, disinfectants, liquid hand soap, hand sanitizers, rubbing alcohol, oral rehydrating salts, acetaminophen, hydrogen peroxide, glycerin, soap dispensers, bath soap, toilet paper, and paper towels. The government estimated a revenue loss of EC \$3.8 M.</p> <p>The banks, credit unions, and other financial institutions have agreed to provide a six-month moratorium on the payment of principal and interest on home mortgages, business loans, personal and consumer loans, and credit cards. All these financial institutions arranged specific customized packages of financing/refinancing for their clients.</p> <p>VINLEC (St Vincent Electricity) and CWSA (Central Water and Sewerage Authority) have agreed not to disconnect any customer, who is currently not in arrears for more than two months, for a period of three months. Any indebtedness on those bills after this three month moratorium period must pay on an agreed incremental basis over a period up to two years. Any customer who has been in arrears, and who is currently disconnected, will not be required to pay the reconnection fee either to</p>

		<p>VINLEC or CWSA if the reconnection is effected within the next three months from March 25th 2020. According to a report published by the government, there were 1,520 beneficiaries of this policy.</p> <p>The Department of Inland Revenue has decided to provide certain extensions of deadlines between 3 and 4 weeks for the payment of motor vehicle licenses</p> <p>NIS Back to School Voucher program provided to formal workers and self-employed (insured) parents who have lost their jobs as a result of COVID-19 and have received the temporary unemployment benefit to purchase school supplies for their children. This was implemented in July 2020.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	National Insurance Scheme (NIS) will provide a pre-payment of two months pension benefits for all categories of pensioners (contributory and non-contributory; 7,406 contributory pensioners and 783 noncontributory pensioners);
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] \$1.25 million in the form of temporary unemployment relief across economic sectors for active employee registrants.</p> <p>[June 2020] According to a report published by the government, as of 12th June, 2020, an additional 1,100 Vincentians have received a similar \$300 per month via the Unemployment Benefit offered by the National Insurance Services. This program has transferred a total of \$600,000. This program was extended for another 3 months.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[August 2020] Department of labor disseminated Labor and Employment Guidance for Employers and Employees for COVID-19 including clarifications on layoffs. Section 27 (1) of the Protection of Employment Act 2003 makes provisions for a lay off period. Lay off is a temporary measure to be used in cases where there is a temporary closure or reduction in operations. Notice or payment in lieu of notice is not required for a lay off period. However, employees must be informed if they are going to be laid off. It would be reasonable to inform the employee at least one week in advance. The lay off period was extended up to September 30, 2020 for all workers. If the lay off period prolongs beyond September 30, 2020, an employee can claim to be terminated and seek severance payment for years' of service. After the lay off period, the Act requires that an employer provide work to an employee of substantially similar terms to the previous employment for a period of 13 weeks. If such</p>

		<p>offer is not made within a week following the lay off period, then the employee can claim for severance payment.</p> <p>[August 2020] Department of labor disseminated Labor and Employment Guidance for Employers and Employees for COVID-19 including clarifications on pay. According to Section 28 (2) of the Protection of Employment Act, where an employee has been given employment on diminished wages by his/her employer, the services of the employee in the earlier employment shall be deemed to have been terminated and the employee shall be entitled to severance pay. However, given the pandemic situation, reduced pay can be an option to employers but must correspond with a reduction in hours of work. It is advisable that this measure should not exceed a period of three months. If the person is severed while on reduced pay and eligible for severance payment, then severance will be calculated using the wage/salary prior to the reduction pay.</p> <p>[August 2020] Department of labor disseminated Labor and Employment Guidance for Employers and Employees for COVID-19. The Wage Regulation Orders make provision for vacation leave. An employee can choose to utilize his/her vacation entitlement during this pandemic period, instead of being laid off without pay. However, an employer CANNOT force an employee to take his/her vacation during this time or use it as quarantine period.</p>
	Reduced work time	<p>[August 2020] Department of labor disseminated Labor and Employment Guidance for Employers and Employees for COVID-19 including clarifications on employee rotation. When there is a downturn in operations, a system of rotation of employees could generally be considered in order to maintain some level of employment. However, it is advisable that a rotation system should not exceed a period of three months and the basic rate of pay should remain the same, even though the income will be reduced.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Sudan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(April 2020) The Ministry of Labor and Social Development has proposed an SDG6 billion (USD110 million) program to support 30 per cent of the population for one month, through cash and in-kind transfers. The emergency cash transfer was provided to poor household across Sudan in the informal sector who are mostly affected by COVID-19 lockdown. The cash was transferred to beneficiaries' bank accounts (created specifically for this purpose) and they can get the cash through ATMs.</p> <p>The Sudan Family Support Project cash transfer was officially launched in February 2021. With a fee of about 3.5 percent of cash payments to payment service providers (PSPs), there are enough resources in the project to provide transfers to 11.3 million individuals in two million families for six months in Phase 1. The project will provide cash transfers of US\$5 per person per month. Contingent on additional resources becoming available, the program ramp up is expected to reach 80 percent of the population by September 2021. The total benefit level per family is calculated based on the number of family members (US\$5 for each member of the family each month). The Sudan Family Support Project cash transfer was officially launched in February 2021. The project will provide cash transfers of US\$5 per person per month. Contingent on additional resources becoming available, the program ramp up is expected to reach 80 percent of the population by September 2021. The total benefit level per family is calculated based on the number of family members (US\$5 for each member of the family each month). An additional financing approved in February 2021 raised the total project expenditure on cash transfers to \$US 765 million and expanded the planned beneficiaries of the project to reach 24.7 million individuals, or 4.4 million families, across the geographic regions of Sudan.</p> <p>(April 2021) To mitigate the negative effects of the COVID-19 socio-economic crisis on pregnant women and young children, the economic reforms and natural disasters, the Commission on Social Safety and Poverty Reduction under the Ministry of Social Development, has launched the Mother and Child Cash Transfer Plus (MCCT+) Program. The MCCT+ Program will initially be rolled out in the Red Sea and Kassalla regions in eastern Sudan and aims to target 50,000 pregnant women in its first phase.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) The Ministry of Labour and Social Development has proposed an SDG6 billion (USD110 million) program to support 30 per cent of the population for one month, through cash and in-kind transfers. In-kind assistance (food support) was delivered to informal workers and other categories of disadvantaged individuals (in Khartoum only). Each food basket is expected to cover needs for 3 weeks. 80% of the food baskets were prepared by the Zakat Chamber while the rest was prepared by MoSD and WFP.</p> <p>(April 2021) The President of the Zakat Chamber indicated, on April 28th, that the headquarters of the Zakat Chamber allocated SDG 2 billion and SDG 666 million to distribute food baskets, debt relief for individuals and Ramadan meals as well as Eid/Holiday treats for low-income families. A total of 57,428 beneficiaries were reached, targeting poor and in-need populations, especially 'tea women' and workers relying on transporting goods with wheelbarrows.</p> <p>(February 2021) The Zakat Bureau Secretariat in Kassala State, in cooperation with the Zakat Office in Telkok locality, implemented a number of social programs within debt plans and projects for the first quarter of 2021, and has distributed in-kind materials in support of the citizens of the region. Quantities of corn were distributed targeting the weak segments of orphans, widows and martyrs, as the locality includes a large number of khalawis and centers for memorizing the Holy Quran, in addition to distributing monthly guarantees for orphans in the locality.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>On April 15, the government also announced a significant increase in the salaries of public sector employees. The government is moving ahead with a civil service salary adjustment that will result in a 68 percent increase in the budget allocation.</p> <p>[March 2020] The governor of the Central Bank issued a number of decisions that enhance occupational safety and health in order to circumvent the risk of the virus and to preserve the staff</p>

		<p>and the public dealing with the bank.</p> <p>The Ministry of Culture and Information issued a decision offering a limited vacation for the employees at the ministry during March 16 - 29. The ministry stated that the decision was issued in accordance with the decree (91) of the Council of Ministers for the year 2020 paragraph (8') which stipulated reducing congestion at working places as a precautionary measure to ward off infection with coronavirus.</p> <p>For the protection at the work place, the government applied measures to reduce the number of employees, and to reduce working hours, providing sterilizers and sterilizing offices.</p>
	Reduced work time	Through the Ministry of Finance's instructions, across the public and private sectors, employees are working half time with full payments
	Wage subsidies	

Suriname

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Extra payment to the following existing programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - General Child Benefit: Extra SRD 1000 (US\$ 134) per household (in addition to SRD 525 (US\$ 70) per child); - Financial Assistance People with Disabilities (FB MMB): Extra SRD 675 (US\$ 90); - Financial Assistance for Weak Households (FB ZWH): Extra SRD 250 (US\$ 33); - Deposits: Extra SRD 1000
	Social pensions	General Old Age Provision (AOV): Extra SRD 525 (US\$ 70) for elderly receiving only the AOV;
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The government, through the “drin dresi wakti siki” project, provided villages in total lockdown with an emergency aid package. There were 2,350 packages delivered, which included food and other resources to meet their basic needs. The National Coordination Center for Disaster Management (NCCR) took care of the distribution of the goods and was assisted by the Ministry of Regional Development and the Bureau of People’s Contacts.</p> <p>The government distributed support packages between June 8th and June 21st to socially disadvantaged households. In order to be beneficiaries, citizens needed to make contact by text with the Ministry of Social Affairs and Housing. To be eligible, beneficiaries must be unemployed or not working before March 15th, 2020 and they must not be beneficiaries of another social program. The package included the following items: rice, meat, oil, sugar, tea, onions, kidney beans, jam, potato, flower toilet paper, maggi cubes, Colgate toothpaste and bath soap. Families with a maximum of 5 members received 1 package, while this was increased up to 2 packaged if there were more than 5 members. Families needed to go to particular pick-up points in order to obtain the food parcel. According to the ILO, as of September 2020 the government spent SRD 200 million (USD 27 million).</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	According to the Suriname Central Bank (CBvS), commercial banks provided new short-term loans to companies and institutions in the private sector and to individuals affected by the COVID-19

		<p>crisis. The special interest rate charged for this is 7.5% per year, which is significantly lower than the current market interest rate. Commercial banks were enabled by the CBvS to provide the special loans by reducing the SRD cash reserve requirement once and temporarily by 7.5% (from 35% to 27.5%) for the banks.</p> <p>The Central Bank of Suriname offered commercial banks the option of granting deferment of payment for 3 to 6 months to companies, institutions and private individuals affected by the negative effects of the COVID-19 crisis.</p> <p>Housing fund: The COVID Emergency Fund contributed approximately SRD \$ 50 million to the Residential Building Fund. The target groups are: those who do not have their own home or who pay rent that is unaffordable. A maximum of SRD 100,000 per loan was provided to those seeking to purchase homes with 6 month grace period for repayment. It was also in support of the transfer of homes by the Stichting Volkshuisvesting (SVH) to long-term resident, allowing them to borrow money for minor repairs and improvements (between SRD 5000-SRD 10,000) to improve their living conditions.</p> <p>The government launched the Foreign Currency Small Needs program for those who had to make small currency payments and were experiencing problems with this because of the inflated exchange rates, as of May 18, 2020. These involved people who had financial issues paying their monthly rent, car loan, student loan, and other small monthly foreign currency obligations. The Government has decided to pay the exchange rate difference in SRD directly to the person to whom the rent, redemption or other small currency payment must be paid. In order to be eligible, beneficiaries must show proof of contract/school enrollment and three-month expired payments.</p> <p>The government introduced a waiver of penalties for outstanding water bills. Normal collections resume in September 2020 with charges for 2 months or more of outstanding bills.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	The Ministry of Labor specified that employers have obligation to continue to pay full medical insurance costs (50% employers contribution)
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[May 2020] As of 18 May 2020, the following groups were eligible for unemployment benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Persons who have been dismissed because of the COVID-19 measures by their employer: SRD 1500 (US\$ 201) per person, after approval; - Persons who have no / less work and income because of the COVID-19 measures have their current job: SRD 1500 per person, after approval; - Persons who demonstrably have income problems as a result of COVID-19: SRD 1500 per person, after approval;

		- Persons where, due to COVID-19 measures, the company where they work is closed or partially closed and the turnover of the company has decreased significantly: business loan at soft conditions or SRD 1,500 per person. The government intended at reaching 300 individuals per day with this benefit.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	The government, through the Ministry of Labor, provided training for agricultural instructors.
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The Ministry of Labor issued an advisory that employers cannot oblige their workers to take leave. Leave has to be taken in consultation between the employer and the worker concerned. If the worker is prepared to work, but the employer does not utilize it, the worker still has to pay. [Extension - June 2020] The Ministry of Labor specified that workers cannot be made to take leave and use vacation days
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Sweden

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 21 March 2021, it was reported that Sweden announced to strengthen housing allowance for low-income households by providing an additional amount (equal to 25 percent of the regular housing allowance) from 1 July 2021 until 31 Dec 2021. The amount of housing allowance depends on income, number of children, size of the apartment or house, rent and other similar costs. In Sweden the housing allowance for families is available for families that have low income and that have children under the age of 18 living at the same household. The amount of support depends on their income as well as fixed costs. Families that receive housing allowance received an additional amount between 1 July 2020 and 31 December. This measure was renewed in 2021 and families will receive additional housing allowance between 1 September and 31 December 2021. The eligible families receive the additional amount automatically, there is no separate application process. The estimated cost of this measure in 2021 is SEK 560 million (around €56 million). Between 1 July 2020 and 31 December 2020 (the first time this measure was applied), 138 families received temporarily strengthened housing allowance. The average amount of the additional support was SEK 699 (€70). The average monthly allowance, including the additional support, was SEK 3,500 (around €350).</p> <p>On 25 April 2020, the parental leave benefit (tillfällig föräldrapenning; for sick children) to care for sick children was extended to cover situations in which individual childcare centers or schools were temporarily closed due to the pandemic. As from 1 July 2020, it also covered situations in which the child had to stay at home due to underlying medical conditions implying serious health consequences of a Covid-19 infection; these temporary extensions too are effective until 30 September 2021. The benefit is set at 90% of the ordinary benefit (tillfällig föräldrapenning). Special 'pandemic' leave is available for all workers and the self-employed. For the latter, the income base for calculating benefits is the same as for the sickness benefit.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
Public works		

	Utility waivers	
Social Insurance		<p>In order to support employees and self-employed who belong to risk groups, sickness allowance can now be paid out preventively. The aim is to support those employees and self-employed who cannot work from home but need to refrain from work due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This measure is available for employees who need to refrain from working in order to avoid being infected and who cannot work from home or whose employer cannot assign them to other duties. The maximum amount of support is SEK 804 (approximately €80) per day (before taxes). This support can be paid out for a maximum of 90 days. This applies for the period of 1 July to 30 September 2020.</p> <p>To reduce the risk of the virus spreading, the sick pay standard deduction has been temporarily discontinued. Under normal circumstances the deduction is 20% of sick pay and a one-off amount based on an average work week. The measure aims to incentivize employees to stay home from work if they experience symptoms. The measure is regulated in the Ordinance (2020:195) on certain sickness benefit relating to the illness COVID-19.</p> <p>Doctor's certificate no longer mandatory during the first two weeks of sick leave, Doctor's certificate no longer mandatory during the first two weeks of sick leave. The Swedish Government has decided that a doctor's certificate is no longer mandatory during the first two weeks individuals are absent from work due to illness. This is applicable from the 13th of March, 2020. The aim of this measure is to further encourage all workers to stay at home if sick, even with only mild symptoms. Furthermore, removing the obligation to provide a doctor's note is expected to ease the pressure on the health care system. This measure is regulated in Ordinance (2020:196) concerning change in ordinance (1995:1051) on the duty to provide a doctor's certificate in sickness benefit-related matters (Förordning om ändring i förordningen (1995:1051) om skyldigheten att lämna läkarintyg m.m. i sjukpenningärenden i vissa fall).</p> <p>Temporary parental allowance due to COVID-19 In order to support parents who cannot work since they need to stay at home with their child due to closure of schools or; parents who stay home with a child that has recently been severely ill, the Government has made temporary changes to the parental allowance. This form of parental leave is available for parents that need to stay home due to: closure of school due to COVID-19; and their child has been seriously ill or in case they need to be protected from the COVID-19 virus due to the illness or a treatment they get for the illness. Parents receive approximately 90% of the regular temporary parental leave. The regular temporary parental leave is approximately 80% of the income qualifying for sickness benefit. In addition, a statement from a doctor is not temporarily required for children between 12 and 16.</p>
	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>The following measures have been extended until April 30, 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Compensation for qualifying period deductions with a standard amount of SEK 810 * Compensation to self-employed persons for the first 14 qualifying days with a standard amount of

		<p>SEK 810 per day</p> <p>* Compensation to employers for the part of the sick pay cost that exceeds the normal</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] The requirements concerning who can receive money from an unemployment insurance fund have been temporarily relaxed in terms of how much people need to have worked and how long people need to have been a member of a fund. Both the highest and the lowest amounts paid out by an unemployment insurance fund have been raised temporarily to alleviate the economic impact on people who become unemployed.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2020] As of 29 June 2020, the maximum amount that can be received after the first 100 days of unemployment was increased from SEK 760 (€76) to SEK 1,000 (€100).</p> <p>[Extension - September 2020] The Government has proposed in its budget proposal for 2021 the duration of these temporary changes to the unemployment insurance to be extended by two years.</p> <p>[April 2020] Temporary changes to the right of self-employed to unemployment insurance have been made. As a result of the temporary amendments, self-employed who receive unemployment allowance may continue with some activities related to the business operations during 2020 as long as the activities support the resumption of the operations when the market situation improves (e.g. some contact with clients or updating the company's website). This temporary amendment entered into force 13 April 2020. In addition, the so-called five-year rule has been temporarily removed. This means that self-employed who pause operations in 2020 in order to receive unemployment insurance may do so again within the next five years and still receive unemployment insurance. This has been possible since 1 July 2020.</p> <p>[November 2020] This measure has been extended until 1 January 2022.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>In order to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak for companies, a temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions has been introduced for the period 1 March to 30 June 2020. To provide equivalent relief to sole traders, a reduction of individual contributions was also introduced. This measure can also be used by companies that receive short-term work allowance, new-start job subsidies and other types of financial support from the central government.</p> <p>[March 2020] Deferral of a maximum of three month worth of payments of companies' social contributions for a period of up to 12 months. Temporary reduction in employers' social security</p>

		<p>contributions means that employers are now only obliged to pay the old age pension contribution (ålderspensionsavgift) (10.21%).</p> <p>[March 2020] In order to mitigate the economic impact of the COVID-19 outbreak for companies, a temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions has been introduced for the period 1 March to 30 June 2020. To provide equivalent relief to sole traders, a reduction of individual contributions was also introduced. This measure can also be used by companies that receive short-term work allowance, new-start job subsidies and other types of financial support from the central government.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] Increased funding to the Public Employment Service (Arbetsförmedlingen) (SEK 0.33 billion)</p> <p>[January 2021] The central government has decided to provide financial compensation for training. This measure covers 60% of the costs of training. The maximum amount is between SEK 10,000 – 20,000 per employee (approximately €1,000 – 2,000). Only employers that are eligible for short-time work allowance can receive compensation. Training must take place during downtime. A local collective agreement or another type of written agreement is required. The application process is expected to open in April 2021. Retroactive application will be possible as of January 2021. The total budget of this measure in 2021 is SEK 80 million (approximately €8 Million).</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	<p>[April 2020] Starting 7 April, 2020, it will be possible for employers to apply for financial support for short-time work. This means that individual employers affected by temporary and serious financial difficulties that could not reasonably have been foreseen or avoided will be able to receive support for a limited period of time. The aim of the measure is thus to dampen the effect of the ongoing health crisis and save jobs by easing the financial burden of wage costs for companies experiencing difficulties.</p> <p>[Extension - May 2020] On 27 May the parliament voted through an increase of the measure, now allowing up to 80% reduction in working hours, compared to the previously available 60%. This extension is available in May, June and July 2020.</p>

		<p>[Extension - January 2021] The short-time work allowance has been extended to June 2021. Between January 2021 and March 2021, 80% reduction in working time will be possible. Between April and June 2021, the possible reduction rates are 20%, 40% and 60%. In addition, the 24 month waiting has been removed. As a result, companies that used the allowance in 2020 can apply also in 2021. As of January 2021, a written agreement between the employer and an employee is required.</p> <p>[Extension - June 2021] The short-time work allowance scheme was extended to September 2021. Between January 2021 and September 2021, it is possible to reduce working time up to 80%. During this period, the state covers 75% of the costs.</p> <p>[Extension - September 2021] The temporarily strengthened short-time work scheme, based on temporary amendments in the Act (2013:948) on short-time work, is replaced by the permanent short-time work scheme, regulated by the same Act. As a result, the eligibility criteria changes and the level of compensation decreases. As of October 2021, only companies that face severe, temporary financial challenges, caused by factors that could not be controlled or foreseen by the employer, can apply for support. The employer must have used all available measures to diminish the labor costs. A waiting period of 24 months is applied to companies that have received support during 2020 and 2021. In addition, the level of support decreases. Employers can cut working hours by 20%, 40% or 60%. The state covers one third of the costs. Employees who have been given notice are not covered. Neither are employees who are family members of the employer. On 1 October 2021, the responsibility for administrating the short-time work allowance scheme shifts from the Swedish Agency for Economic and Regional Growth to the Tax Authority.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Switzerland

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	(March 2020) Compensation for loss of earnings for self-employed people (SE) and for some employees affected by official measures to combat the coronavirus (e.g., parents who need to take care of children with the closing of schools)
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] Companies affected by the crisis can be granted a temporary (can be granted for 6 months) interest-free deferred payment for contributions to social insurance (AHV / IV / EO / ALV). The companies also have the option of having the amount of the regular contributions on account adjusted to the AHV / IV / EO / ALV if the total of their wages has decreased significantly. The same applies to self-employed people whose sales have collapsed. The AHV compensation offices are responsible for checking the deferrals of payment and the reduction of contributions on account.</p> <p>It is possible to temporarily and interest-free defer payment of social insurance contributions by affected companies and self-employed persons.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] With the primary goal of continued wages for employees, up to 8 billion Swiss francs can be claimed from the unemployment insurance fund for short-time work compensation. The waiting period for short-time work will be reduced to one day from March 13, 2020 until September

30, 2020. Companies only have to bear one day's loss of work independently before they are entitled to unemployment insurance support.

[Extension-March 2020] The entitlement to short-time work compensation is expanded and the application process is simplified.

Syria

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour announced cash (as well as in-kind) support for elderly, people with disabilities, daily workers and self-employed people, as part of a national campaign. The focus will be on those with lower income professions, including the tourism sector. The campaign will be funded through the National Fund for Social Aid (NSAF) in addition to the contributions from individuals, businesses and civil society through a campaign account. On 16 April, the distribution of the one-time unemployment allowance (SYP 100,000) started. The government indicated that, in coordination with civil society actors, it has supported 650,000 families with cash assistance so far.</p> <p>MOSAL allocated a bank account in its favor to attract financial contributions and allocated it to support efforts to reduce the burdens on workers and address the social repercussions, indicating that the value of the amount of 'unemployment allowance' will be determined according to the data and numbers that will be collected.</p> <p>UNICEF is working with partners and donors to expand its ongoing cash transfer program for basic needs to reach 100,000 more families in impoverished urban areas with a one-time emergency cash assistance</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs announced that it will provide food and health baskets, as well as cash support to the most vulnerable, including elderly people and persons with disabilities. An online platform has been set up for registration. Moreover, the Ministry uses the data from the targeted programs implemented by the Ministry as well as from the disability card program. As of 29 April, 305,695 people had registered in the government's online assistance database. The government is currently analyzing the data. The government further indicated that so far, in coordination with civil society actors, it has provided 700,000 families with food assistance and 300,000 families with hygiene kits</p> <p>The frequency of distribution was increased to reduce the total number of beneficiaries at each site at any given time. Capacity allowing, two distribution shifts per day and an increase in the number of food distribution points have been provided.</p>

		<p>The government has increased access approvals to humanitarian actors for food and in-kind distribution. Four million people inside Syria will continue to receive WFP food assistance and nutrition support through in-kind and CBT. UNICEF is working with WFP to jointly provide e-vouchers for hygiene items for children in accelerated learning programs in the form of a UNICEF-funded top-up in addition to the on-going WFP voucher for the food programme. This joint response was expected to be launched by mid-May, targeting around 45,000 children in Curriculum B programs in eight governorates of Aleppo, Damascus, Hassakeh, Hama, Homs, Lattakia, Rural Damascus and Tartous</p> <p>Citizens have a card to buy subsidized food from supermarkets run by the Trade Foundation. As part of the COVID-19 response, the government is making sure to continue to offer essential foods at prices much lower than the market price</p>
	School feeding	WFP/UNICEF joint vouchers (food and hygiene items) for 44,000 children.
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Citizens have a card to buy subsidized food from supermarkets run by the Trade Foundation. As part of the COVID-19 response, the government is making sure to continue to offer essential foods at prices much lower than the market price.</p> <p>DCI has launched directives to its member companies regarding the need to maintain operational production lines and availability of disinfectants and cleaning material in the Syrian market at affordable prices.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	[July 2020] Within the National Campaign for Emergency Social Response, the Social Affairs and Labour Directorate in Hama, in cooperation with the Syrian Association for Social Development, is implementing a training course for females who are responsible for producing detergent in their household.
	Labor market regulations	[February 2020] The Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour (MOSAL) prepared a draft legislation to amend the Labour Law No. 17 of 2010 and submitted it to the Cabinet. The draft law proposed providing a legal protection framework for workers, as well as limiting the effects of individual and group layoffs due to the precautionary measures that Syria has taken to confront the risks of the proliferation of the COVID-19 pandemic.

		<p>[February 2020] Article 64 of the Amendment of Law 17 stipulates that employees are not to be deprived of their end of service indemnities. The amendment obliges employers to pay dismissed workers who have completed five years or less of employment a compensation equal to three month's wages, and equal to six months' wages to those who have completed five years or more of employment, in addition to the employer's commitment to grant the worker an end-of-service gratuity equal to one month's wages for each year of service for the first five years.</p> <p>The Chamber of Industry (DCI) has affirmed that facilities and factories represented by the DCI will continue to grant salaries to their employees and workers during the lockdown period. The Labour law gave labor inspectors a number of additional powers. If an establishment is found uncompliant with occupational health and safety regulations during the pandemic, this may result in the closure of the facility, especially if the lives of workers are put at risk.</p> <p>Based on the need for continued production lines, Damascus Champer of Industry (DCI) came to an agreement with the Presidency of Council of Ministers to manage permits to company drivers allowing them to transport industrial workers from designated meeting points to companies. The vehicle, the driver and the commuters must abide by the safety code and wear the needed protective gear. Each industrial company must have a doctor that does routine check on workers to ensure they are in good health.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Taiwan, China

Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	<p>Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)</p> <p>On April 22, 2020, Taiwan government announced a relief payment to about 900,000 people. Beneficiaries will receive NT\$1,500 (US\$49.88) remitted directly to their accounts. These payments will be issued for three months (starting in April) to those whose livelihoods have been hardest hit by the pandemic. It is reported to cost NT\$103.5 billion.</p> <p>On April 22, 2020 Taiwan government has announced a special benefit for self-employed workers. 10 percent of the 1 million self-employed workers who have joined the Labor Insurance Fund and have an insured monthly salary under NT\$24,000, will receive a single one-time payment of NT\$30,000</p> <p>On June 2, 2020, government of Taiwan announced that it will launch the vouchers (called triple stimulus voucher) on July 15, 2020, to 22.97 million people, including 1.8 million who opted for the digital form and 21.17 million for the physical form of the vouchers. These people constitute 97 percent of total eligible population to receive the vouchers. The program lasted until 31 Dec 2020. The program allows Taiwanese citizens as well as foreign spouses to purchase vouchers worth a total of NT\$3,000 (US\$101) for the price of NT\$1,000. The total budget of Triple Stimulus Voucher is expected to be 50 billion NTD with an aim to cover 23.15 million Taiwan citizens.</p> <p>March 20, 2020, Taiwan's Ministry of Labor has implemented a subsidy program for the self-employed and those without permanent employers, which is a support program that helps workers mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on the labor market; those workers who meet the subsidy criteria may submit their applications to the Bureau of Labor Insurance through their affiliated labor unions between April 20 and May 22, 2020; once the submission is accepted, each applicant may receive a monthly allowance of NT\$10,000 for three consecutive months.</p> <p>It was reported on 24 June 2021 that Government of Taiwan as part of the 3rd stimulus package provided relief to teachers at cram schools and after-school care centers by offering a one-time payment of NT\$30,000 to compensate for lost salary and NT\$10,000 for living expenses. Only foreigners who have obtained permanent residence in Taiwan are eligible for these subsidies. On May 28, 2021, Families registered as residents of New Taipei City, Taiwan whose average monthly household income is less than NT\$39,000 (US\$1,407) per person will be entitled to</p>

		<p>receive a one-time emergency living allowance of NT\$10,000 per household, if they meet certain conditions.</p> <p>On Sept 9, 2021, Government of Taiwan has announced a new round of government-issued stimulus vouchers, valued at NT\$5,000 (US\$179.56) each and will be released to the public as a way of stimulating the nation's economy hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, starting Oct. 8, 2021 until April 22, 2022. Under the plan, members of the public would apply for the NT\$5,000 vouchers for free, with both physical and digital versions released simultaneously. It is reported that a total of NT\$120.69 billion will be allocated to the Quintuple Stimulus Voucher program.</p> <p>On July 7, 2021, Government of Taiwan, announced that the Ministry of Labor's "Livelihood Subsidy Program for Part-Time Workers Impacted by COVID-19" was amended to relax the eligibility requirements for those who have enrolled in employment insurance and whose monthly insured salary is less than NT\$23,100 (inclusive) as of April 2021 (any 1 day of employment). The applicants shall be granted a livelihood subsidy of NT\$10,000 if they meet certain eligibility requirements.</p> <p>On June 11, 2021, Taiwan government announced online applications for a one-time subsidy for households with children amid a surge in COVID-19 cases can be submitted starting June 15, 2021 until 30 Sept 2021. A subsidy of NT\$10,000 (US\$361) per child will be issued to families with children up to elementary school level and teenage students with disabilities and it is expected to benefit an estimated 2.5 million people. The payment is expected to start from 18 June 2021.</p> <p>On June 3, 2021, a law was passed in Taiwan to introduce one-time subsidy of NT\$10,000 for individuals, including farmers and fishermen among others. In total 7.3 million people benefit from the subsidy for individuals, which also includes farmers and fishermen.</p> <p>On June 3, 2021, a law was passed in Taiwan that Middle and low-income households are eligible for an additional NT\$4,500 (US\$163) of monthly subsidy per household member for three months.</p> <p>On June 3, 2021, a law was passed in Taiwan to where self-employed – street peddlers, and tourism-related workers (such as tour operators, tour guides, and tour bus drivers) – are eligible for the NT\$10,000 (US\$362) monthly subsidy for three months. In total it is estimated that 7.3 million people will benefit from this policy (which also includes self-employed workers).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	

	Food, vouchers, others	On Feb 1, 2020, The Government of Taiwan provided NT\$2 billion (\$66.1M) of coupons to be used at night markets, shops, and restaurants. originally, each individual would have to spend at least NT\$4,000 (US\$134) before they could use an NT\$1,000 coupon. On May 4, 2020, Government has made a slight change since February and that individuals will now be able to enjoy an NT\$500 discount with each NT\$1,000 that they spend.
	School feeding	
	Public works	On 24 June 2021, Taiwan's Ministry of Labor's Formulated and announced an immediate part-time job program for workers impacted by COVID-19; the program provides part-time jobs in government agencies for workers who have had their hours cut due to the pandemic's impact on the economy; the program ensures that workers can maintain stable livelihoods and stay engaged in the labor market.
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 21, 2020, Government of Taiwan announced that Individuals may defer payments on principal or interest due on loan statements for three to six months. On July 14, 2020, Government of Taiwan has introduced deferral policy for loans. Individuals having trouble with repayment of loans due to COVID-19 are allowed to apply for three to six months of deferrals of principal or interest payments. Default penalties and default interest may be waived during the deferral period. Until the obligation becomes due, it will not be treated as a bad debt and an instance of late payment will not be included in the debtor's credit record. Since the application deadline will end on July 31, 2020, Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) Taiwan coordinated with banks on May 12, 2020 to extend the debt workout mechanism for personal loans until December 31, 2020. FSC Taiwan extended the timeline for COVID-19-related payment deferrals from December 31, 2020 to June 2021. The relief measures apply to home loans, auto loans and unsecured consumer loans. On June 3, 2021, it is reported that FSC Taiwan has extended the timeline for COVID-19-related payment deferrals from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021.</p> <p>On April 21, 2020, Government of Taiwan announced that Individuals may defer payments on principal or interest due on credit card statements for three to six months. On July 14, 2020, Government of Taiwan has introduced deferral policy for credit card. Individuals having trouble with repayment of loans due to COVID-19 are allowed to apply for three to six months of deferrals of principal or interest payments. Default penalties and default interest may be waived during the deferral period. Until the obligation becomes due, it will not be treated as a bad debt and an instance of late payment will not be included in the debtor's credit record. Since the application deadline will end on July 31, 2020, Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) of Taiwan coordinated with banks on May 12, 2020 to extend the debt workout mechanism for credit card debts until December 31, 2020. FSC Taiwan extended the timeline for COVID-19-related payment deferrals</p>

on credit cards from December 31, 2020 to June 2021. On June 3, 2021, it is reported that FSC Taiwan has extended the timeline for COVID-19-related payment deferrals from June 30, 2021 to December 31, 2021.

On March 11, 2020, Taiwan government announced coronavirus rent relief that all its renters can apply to defer rent payment deadlines to the end of 2020.

On March 25, 2020 Taiwan Ministry of Finance (MOF) announced a special guideline allowing taxpayers having difficulties to make tax payments to apply for deferral of tax payments or by monthly installments. The special guideline is applicable to tax payments due date fall between January 15, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

On April 20, 2020, Government of Taiwan announced "Special Act on Prevention, Relief, and Recovery of Severe Special Infectious Pneumonia" (from Jan 15, 2020 to Jun 30, 2021), those who are affected by the severe special infectious pneumonia (COVID-19) epidemic and fail to pay the tax within the statutory tax-paying period, may, within the statutory period for tax payment, apply to the taxation bureau for the deferral of the tax payment or for payment by installments. After acceptance by the taxation bureau, it may approve the extension of payment at its discretion by 1 to 12 months or the payment by 2 to 36 installments (each period is calculated as 1 month).

On March 5, 2020 Taiwan MOF announced a tax ruling which grant affected taxpayers (under special circumstances of quarantine or isolation) an extension to file and pay their taxes. This ruling is applicable to tax filings or payments originally due in March to May 2020. No pre-application is required but taxpayers should attach the notice of isolation, quarantine, medication or other relevant documents during the tax filing procedures under the extended deadline. For taxes levied under special assessment basis (e.g. compared to self-reporting mechanism), taxpayers may also provide the above supporting documents to the relevant in-charge tax authorities before the above extended deadline to facilitate relevant tax assessment arrangements. In case the above personnel is still under isolated medication by the extended deadline, further 20 days extension is granted following the end of the isolated medication period.

On 28 Oct 2020, the Taiwan's Ministry of Labor expands tuition subsidies for Children of unemployed workers from Academic Year 2020-21. The subsidy amount per semester for a child of an unemployed worker is NT\$4,000 for a child attending public senior high school or vocational school, NT\$6,000 for a child attending private senior high school or vocational school, NT\$13,600 for a child attending public college or university, and NT\$24,000 for a child attending private college or university. In addition, unemployed workers who are sole breadwinners of the family (for example, those who are divorced or widowed, or whose spouse cannot work owing to disabilities or major illnesses) or have two or more children in college or university will receive an additional 20% in subsidies. The application period for the tuition fee subsidies for children of unemployed workers for the second semester of the 2020 Academic Year was from February 22 to March 17, 2021. After reviewing the applications of second semester, a total of 3,042 workers were eligible

		<p>for subsidies. A total of 3,662 children were eligible for subsidies, amounting to NT\$80.74 million in subsidies, as of Aug 24, 2021.</p> <p>Announcement for the "2021 Labor Insurance Relief Loan Program for the Insured" with a total loan size of 20 billion NT dollars and a maximum loan amount of 100,000 NT dollars per person. The application period lasted from January 8 to January 22, 2021.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	[March 2020] On March 5, and in response to COVID-19, the Government announced a group of measures that include the provision of unemployment benefits at 60% of the average monthly insured salary for (based on the average salary for the last six months before unemployment) for a period of 6 - 9 months. Unemployment individuals with dependents are eligible to an additional benefit, up to 20% of their average monthly salary.
	Social security contributions	Deferred payment of labor, insurance premiums and labor pension
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>On Aug 16, 2021, Taiwan government launched the 2021 Job Search Subsidy Program for New graduates. It will run until December 31, 2021, providing employment counseling resources and subsidies to support fresh graduates in their job search. Eligible youths (between the age 20 to 30 years) who complete their job search preparation process will receive a one-time cash subsidy of NT\$2000.</p> <p>[February 2020] On February 21, the Ministry of Labor expanded the Recharge and Restart Training Program, available to workers with reduced working hours, by increasing the training subsidy to TWD158 per hour, and the maximum number of hours to 120 hours per month, up to TWD18,960 per month. The cost of the training program will be capped at TWD3.5 million. The training program will be open until June 30, 2021.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2021] The number of training hours per month was increased from 120 to 144 hours, with a maximum monthly training allowance of TWD23,040 (calculated based on a monthly rate of TWD160 per hour, given the increase in minimum hourly salary from 158 to 160 starting January 2021)"</p> <p>[June 2020] On June 30, the Ministry of Labor amended and announced the "Pilot Program for Top New Talents in Industries", which further incorporated colleges, universities and industrial/business organizations as training units; training expenses are fully subsidized; and registration and payment methods are also revised.</p>
	Labor market regulations	

[January 2021] The monthly Basic Wage (Minimum Wage) Adjusted to NT\$24,000 and Hourly Basic Wage (Minimum Wage) to NT\$160 Starting January 1, 2021

[December 2020] The Middle-aged and Elderly Employment Promotion Act which went into effect on December 4, 2020, is the first law in Taiwan aimed at protecting the labor rights of middle-aged and senior citizens, with provisions prohibiting employers from using age-based discrimination against middle-aged and senior employees or employment seekers from age-based discrimination. The Act also incentivizes employers to hire/retain middle-aged and senior-aged employees, the Act provides subsidies/awards to the employer if it does any of the following:
(1) Keeping middle-aged and senior-aged employees gainfully employed;
(2) Employing unemployed middle-aged and senior-aged people, and/or
(3) Assisting or re-employing retirees."

[October 2020] On October 26, the Ministry of Labor amended the "Guidelines for Employment of Part-Time Workers" to continue to emphasize and protect the labor rights of part-time workers

[April 2020] On April 17, the ministry of labor issued an explanatory order to for the implementation of the "Disease Prevention Isolation Leave" and "Disease Prevention Care Leave" to make sure that wages are not reduced for workers taking the leave and highlight that the leaves should be excluded from calculation of average wages. The order is effective as of January 15, 2020.

[January 2020] On January 30, the Ministry of Labor announced the design of "The Guidance for Workplace Occupational Safety and Health Protection in Response to COVID-19 (Wuhan Pneumonia)" to support enterprises in complying with relevant laws and thoroughly implementing necessary safety and health measures to prevent and control the epidemic outbreak.

[May 2020] On May 21, The Ministry of Labor announced the development of the "Implementation Guidelines to Subsidize Administrative Agencies in Providing Legal Assistance for Occupational Injury Workers in Labor Dispute Mediation"; by subsidizing administrative agencies to provide legal assistance for individuals in labor dispute cases concerning occupational accidents, disadvantaged workers could receive support and have their labor rights safeguarded.

[June 2020] On June 17, the Ministry of Labor formulated and announced the "Stable Employment Plan" to ensure job security in response to the pandemic's labor market impact; for employers who have hired workers referred by public employment service agencies (or those covered under occupational unions) and with at least 30 days of unemployment, employers must provide each worker with an additional NT\$5,000 monthly employment allowance, with NT\$30,000 as the maximum amount.

	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] To support those who experienced an involuntary reduction in their working hours, the “Plan for Employment at Ease” (安心就業計畫) was introduced to subsidize 50% of the monthly salary gap. Workers whose hours have been reduced for more than thirty days are eligible to apply for the wage subsidies of up to a maximum of TWD 11,000/month for up to 6 months. On September 30, more than 40,000 workers received the subsidies amounting to TWD 280.6 million.</p> <p>[Extended - June 2021] On June 9, the program was extended from 12 months to 24 months. Starting July 1, the subsidy amount will change from 50% of the original salary to a three-tier fixed subsidy, with each person receiving TWD 3,500, TWD 7,000, or TWD 11,000 per month.</p> <p>[June 2021] On June 23, the “Occupational Safety and Health References Guidelines on Working from Home” to provide the safety and health precautions for working from home in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Tajikistan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government of Tajikistan is working with the World Bank to provide support to low-income families in Tajikistan through the Tajikistan Emergency COVID-19 (TEC-19) Project. Up to 50,000 families with young children, who are registered as poor in the national program of the Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) will receive 500 TJS in order to offset the impacts of the pandemic (October 2020). In February 2021 an additional financing for the project was approved, allowing 70,000 further vulnerable households to receive cash benefits on top of the 65,000 who already had to that date.</p> <p>Through Decree 1544 June 5th, 2020, the government decided to pay allowances to the official salaries of medical personnel directly involved in the diagnosis and treatment of patients infected with the infectious disease COVID-19.</p> <p>The Targeted Social Assistance Program, introduced in 2011, which provides poor households with cash assistance has been expanded in August 2020 from 40 districts to 68 and it currently covers the entire country. Similarly, the amount per household has been increased from 35 USD to 41 USD. A total of 215,538 households received cash assistance in the amount of 4.9 million USD.</p> <p>To mitigate the impact of the COVID-19, the government introduced one-time emergency cash support to poor families, elderly, persons/children with disabilities, refugees and stateless persons, families left behind by labor migrants, persons living with TB, HIV/AIDS, and those recipients of social pensions. The amount of the cash assistance is equivalent to 35 USD. A total of 22.1 million USD has been transferred to over 700,000 households</p> <p>In June 2020, USAID provided \$3,000 to the International Organization for Migration to help more than 600 Tajik migrants stranded at the Kazakh-Uzbek border return home.</p> <p>Over 3,000 households affected by migration received cash assistance in the amount of 35 USD</p> <p>Through Decree 1544 June 5th, 2020, the government established a one-time assistance in the amount of the minimum wage to vulnerable groups of the population, including participants in the Great Patriotic War of 1941-1945, citizens receiving social pensions, disabled people, orphans, street</p>

		children, low-income families and families of migrant workers without a breadwinner. No information was found related to the benefit amount.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	In April 2020, USAID collaborated with the local organization, Avesto, and the American organization, Resource and Policy Exchange, to deliver 56,280 kg of food assistance to more than 100 health and social protection facilities in the country, totaling \$171,000.
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Tariff increases on electricity, water, and communal services were postponed until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Through Decree 1544 June 5th, 2020, the government implemented a regulation to prevent price increases in consumer and medical products and medicines. This included medicines, objects of medical appointment, masks, antiseptics, and also flour and flour products, sugar, vegetable oil, bean, potatoes, soap and fuel.</p> <p>The government exempt quarantined labor migrants in foreign countries from paying the patent fee during their quarantine.</p> <p>Through Decree 1544 June 5th, 2020, the government established tax exemptions for individuals in the payment of taxes on real estate.</p> <p>The government continues to exempt essential products from VAT requirements. This is an effort to maintain price control due to COVID-19-related price increases. This includes diesel fuel and gasoline, as well as food products including sugar, oil, meat, flour, and rice.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Through Decree 1544 June 5 th , 2020, the government announced providing disability certificates and paid leave for citizens undergoing a medical examination related to COVID-19.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	Since September 1, 2020, pensions and salaries of employees of budgetary organizations and institutions, as well as scholarships, have been nominally increased by 15%, and the salaries of law enforcement officers and military personnel have been nominally increased by 10%. Benefits for people with disabilities and those in need of care have been nominally increased by as much as 50%.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	[May 2020] To prevent the impacts of COVID-19 on the social and economic sphere, the government of the Republic of Tajikistan implemented the prohibition of the application of tax liability measures to business entities that have not paid social taxes on time from May 1 to September 1, 2020.

Labor Markets	Activation measures	Create employment opportunities and conditions for entrepreneurship for returning migrants through the organization of short-term courses in professions that are in demand in the labor market.
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Tanzania

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	Conditionalities were waived for August and October 2020 payments of the Productive Social Safety Nets program. The PSSN II cash transfer is bimonthly. A total of TZS 55,000 maximum per household is distributed.
	Social pensions	Zanzibar officials announced in July 2020 that the social pension program will be vertically expanded by 20% (which brings the monthly transfer to TZS 24,000 (US\$ 10.36))
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers	To promote the use of digital payments, the Bank of Tanzania increased transaction and account balance limits for mobile money accounts in May 2020.	
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	To support the private sector, the government has also expanded social security schemes by US \$ 32.1 million to meet the increase in withdrawals benefits for new unemployed due to COVID-19.
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Thailand

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The government aimed to provide a cash handout of 1,000 baht per month from May to July 2020 for 6.8 million vulnerable people, which consist of elderly, children and the disabled. The measure cost 20.3 billion baht.</p> <p>The cash handout scheme, “Rao Mai Ting Gun” or “we do not leave anyone behind”, targets those put out of work by the outbreak such as temporary employees, contractors and self-employed workers, and informal workers not covered by the social security system. Over 15 million people received a cash handout of 5,000 baht per month from April to June 2020 and the program cost 229.5 billion baht or \$4B.</p> <p>The second COVID assistance scheme (total of 112.5 billion baht) provided 5,000 baht monthly from May to July 2020 for 7.5 million registered farmers. The Bank for Agriculture and Agricultural Cooperatives has already disbursed 72.4 billion baht for May and June payments. The final payment will be completed by July 22, 2020.</p> <p>Cash transfers were provided to more than 13 million Welfare Card Holders for 3 months in 2020. The third COVID assistance scheme targeted 1.2 million welfare card holders who did not participate in the first or the second scheme. The government approved a 3.5 billion-baht budget for a cash handout of 3,000 baht distributed over three months, May - July 2020. '</p> <p>Thailand has initiated a multi-prong package for Thai workers forced to return from Korea due to the outbreak starting in March 2020. This includes: (i) those who are members of Overseas Workers Fund will be entitled to THB15,000 compensation (also available to member workers who return from other countries that have announced a Covid-19 outbreak); (ii) the Ministry of Labor will coordinate with labor offices Korea to make sure that Thai laborers receive pending wages and benefits (the Department of Employment has identified over 81,562 domestic jobs for Thai laborers returning from overseas).</p> <p>Low-income persons affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, mainly self-employed persons, farmers, and state welfare cardholders received weekly payments for two months starting in February 2021. In April 2021, it was extended for the duration of another month.</p>

		<p>The People with Disabilities Allowance was topped-up in both 2020 and 2021 to cope with the COVID-19 economic crisis. From October 2020 to September 2021, PWD under 18 years are receiving THB 1,000 per month (126,032 individuals). Those 18 years old or above PWD without Social Welfare Cards (SWC) are receiving THB 800 per month (~830,000 individuals). Those 18 years old or above with SWC will receive 1,000 baht per month (1,103,065 individuals).</p> <p>All SWC recipients received THB 500 per month in October-December 2020 and January-March 2021. Additional THB 200 per month per person for 6 months, will be handed out from July to December 2021.</p> <p>Workers under Section 39 and Section 40 of the SSA will receive cash handouts of 5,000 baht (US\$150), while casual workers will need to register themselves under Section 40 of the SSA to be eligible to receive the same amount as part of the July 2021 economic stimulus package.</p> <p>Beneficiaries of the Child Support Grant received an emergency monthly top-up of 1000 baht for three months between May-July 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Reduction of withholding tax from 3% to 1% from April to September 2020.</p> <p>Reduction of financial contributions by both workers and employers from 5 to 4% for 6 months with an extension of deadline for financial contributions by both workers and employers for 3 months.</p> <p>The filing deadline for individual income tax returns (form PND.90/91) is extended from March 31, 2020 (or April 8, 2020 for e-filings) to 31 August 2020.</p> <p>A series of concessional loans for affected populations made up part of the third COVID assistance package of April 2020. Loans, for 10,000 – 50,000 Thai Baht (THB), with low interest, channelled through the Government Saving Bank (GSB) were provided for affected populations. The grace period of repayment is up to 6 months. Personal Emergency Loan of 10,000 THB per individual (no</p>

		<p>collateral) with fixed interest rate of 0.10% per month, up to two and a half year. Additional Special Personal Emergency Loan of 50,000 THB per individual (with collateral) with fixed interest rate of 0.35% per month, up to three years.</p> <p>Electricity bills were reduced by 3% for all users in 2020. The water meter deposit was returned for households that applied. Water bills received a discount of 3% for users in Bangkok, Nonthaburi and Samut Prakan for three months. Electricity and water subsidies were extended for individuals and businesses as part of the July 2021 economic stimulus package.</p> <p>Under this plan, named Khon La Khrueng, 93 billion baht (US\$2.7 billion) has been allocated for co-payments for consumer purchases. The government will subsidize registered individuals who make purchases for general goods, and food and drink, at participating stores, capped at 3,000 baht (US\$95) each. Approximately 31 million people can benefit from this scheme.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>The Thai social security agency will cover all medical costs of those infected with COVID-19. In addition, Health insurance premiums deduction increased to 25,000 baht from 15,000</p> <p>Tax deduction for health insurance from 15,000 to 25,000 for the 2020 tax year onwards. However, the total deduction combined with life insurance premiums and life insurance savings must not exceed THB 100,000.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] On April 17, the Ministry of Labor announced that employees that have been suspended from work due to quarantine or due to temporary business closure will receive 62% of their wages, capped at THB 15,000 per month, from Social Security for a maximum of 90 days, from 1 March 2020 to 31 August 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - December 2020] On December 30, the Ministry of Labor announced that employees will receive 50% of their wages, capped at THB 15,000 per month, for a maximum of 90 days, effective from December 19, 2020."</p> <p>[March 2020] Effective March 1, the Social Security Office announced that laid-off employees (who are insured) will receive an unemployment benefit of - 50% of the salary for 180 days to 70% of the salary for 200 days.</p> <p>[March 2020] Effective March 1, the Social Security Office announced that for voluntary end of contracts, insured employees will receive – from 30% of the salary to 45% of the salary up to 90 days.</p>

		<p>[March 2020] Effective March 1, the Social Security Office announced that for workers still employed, and are on leave-without-pay due to government instruction to temporarily close down the business, as measures to prevent the spread of COVID-19, replacement income of 50% up to 60 days will be paid.</p>
	<p>Social security contributions</p>	<p>Reduction of financial contributions by both workers and employers from 5 to 4% for 6 months with an extension of deadline for financial contributions by both workers and employers for 3 months.</p> <p>The Thai Ministry of Labor issued guidance with regard to social security relief measures in response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The relief measures include reduced rates for social security contributions and extension of time for submitting social security forms and for remitting social security contributions.</p> <p>The social security contribution rates (both the employer portion and the employee portion) are reduced to 4% for employers and 1% for employees or insured persons of each employee's monthly salary but not exceeding the maximum salary of THB 15,000 for a three-month salary cycle from March to May 2020.</p> <p>The deadline for social security forms due for March 2020 is extended to 15 July 2020 (from 15 April 2020).</p> <p>The deadline for April 2020 is extended to 15 August 2020 (from 15 May 2020).</p> <p>[March 2020] On March 10, the Government decided to reduce the rate of contributions to the social security fund of employers and employees from a rate of 5% to 4% of wages for 3 months (while maintaining the same contribution rate of the government at 2.75% of wages). For voluntarily insured persons who still contribute to the fund after leaving employment to maintain the benefits of the fund, the contribution will be reduced from 9 to 7% of wages (with the contribution amount from the government remaining at before).</p>
<p>Labor Markets</p>	<p>Activation measures</p>	<p>[March 2020] On March 25, the Labor Minister announced that the Department of Skill Development, will provide various training courses for workers for a duration of one month. Workers will receive THB 150 per day while attending the training.</p> <p>As part of the THB 100 billion approved for tourism-related, trainings of workers in return for income to help with daily expenses will be provided.</p>

	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Timor-Leste

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On April 20, 2020, Government of Timor Leste, approved a one-off cash transfer of USD 200 per household – equal to USD 100 for the first 2 months of the state of emergency (April and May 2020). This transfer is near-universal targeting at all households with a monthly income of USD 500 or below (approx. over 334,000 households) in all of the 452 villages in the country. This pay-out finally started on 09 June 2020. This is the first ever near-universal cash transfer in the young history of the country and is planned to cost USD \$66,856,800 (4.2 % of non-oil GDP); but only \$66,527,692 was spent as of 20 Oct 2020. It was initially planned only for 214,000 households; 334,000 households seem to have receive the payment.</p> <p>On 12 August 2020, Government announced an extraordinary subsidy, equivalent to 60% of the incidence value of the first level of optional membership (60% x 60 USD = 36 USD), for 3 months (October to December) to self-employed and informal sector workers not yet registered within Social Security, and who register between August and September 2020, on the condition that they keep social security contributions for, at least, another 3 months, after the end of the period (that is, until March 2021). The expected expenditure to support self-employed and informal sector workers is USD 3.3 million.</p> <p>On 22 April 2020, it is reported that the Timorese government approved the payment of a remuneration supplement for employees, agents and workers, including effective security forces, which are on the front line of Covid-19. The decree-law, proposed by the Interim Minister of Finance and in Council of Ministers, provides that the supplement has different values "due to the degree of risk" of work. These are employees who are "exposed to an increased risk of being infected" with the new coronavirus and which are active in the implementation of the measures in force of the pandemic response of Covid-19. The remuneration supplement varies between USD 5 and USD 25 a day depending on the degree of exposure to the risks associated with Covid-19. The diploma recognizes the role of "various administration professionals" who continue to "provide their professional activity in a face-to-face and exposed to contact with the public." Among this group, the government highlights health professionals, military, security forces agents, agents of the food and economic safety authority and technical and logistical support staff.</p>

		<p>On June 5th, 2020, Timor Leste announced the temporary monthly cash transfers to Timorese citizens abroad who were not able to return to Timor-Leste due to border closures and in need of financial assistance. The payments will be monthly for the duration of lockdown and the payment amount will depend on the cost of living in the country where they are residing and varies from USD 100 to USD1000. The payments will be made through bank account or other means and will be administered by the diplomatic entities in the country. On Sept 16, 2020, government has increased the number of countries covered by this mechanism, thus increasing the number of Timorese citizens protected (horizontal expansion), at a time when the effects of the pandemic continue to have dramatic effects worldwide. As result, Timorese citizens who temporarily reside in Bangladesh, Belgium, China, South Korea, United Kingdom, Mozambique or Singapore are now covered by this measure.</p> <p>On 20 April 2020, Timor-Leste government announced that it will provide stipends to over 4,200 Timorese students studying overseas</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 23 Sept 2020, Timor Leste announced the Basic Basket and from 27 Oct 2020, it is has started to support families by distributing baskets with basic food, hygiene and cleaning items, or voucher to all households in the country (i.e., universally) in the months of November and December 2020, and has a value of up to 25 US dollars for each of the two referenced months (i.e., the baskets or vouchers are distributed twice, in the months of November and December). It is expected to cost USD 71.5 million. They use the existing system of household registration, the "Ficha da Família". This database was used to identify beneficiaries of the universal emergency cash transfer in Timor-Leste, and the same households in the database were identified to receive this food basket/voucher. For rural areas the food products will be put in a food basket, a recyclable box, and will be distributed in the communities. For municipalities' capitals, the government distributed vouchers that can be used in selected markets for purchase of basic food or hygiene items. Where the basic basket is delivered in the form of basket, the foods that comprise it must be at least partially (At least 50%, whenever possible) purchased from local farmers or traders, and when it is not possible, due to insufficient local supply, it should be purchased from local businesses. In places where the basic baskets will be delivered in the form of vouchers, it is necessary to close agreements with the local stores so that vouchers can be exchanged for goods and the local vendors can also benefit.</p>
	School feeding	<p>It is important to note that most school feeding programs were paused until end of 2020 either due to approval of government budget for the program or school closures due to COVID-19. On 13 August 2020, WFP supported the Ministry of Education, Youth and Sports to distribute take-home</p>

		<p>rations to 189 students at the EBF 1.2.3 Lelaus school. The rations were reported to last for 30 days. The second distribution (of rice, beans, eggs, and vegetables) was scheduled to be launched on 8 October 2020 along with the launch of the home-grown school feeding program to primary students of the EBC Metinaro. WFP has been interested in piloting home-grown school feeding program and has been getting postponed during pandemic.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 20, 2020, Timor-Leste Government plans to provide 15 dollars of free electricity monthly, for three months, to an estimated 160,000 families, and also provide free water for the entire population. The planned costs of the subsidies are \$7,686,675 and \$262,680 for electricity and water respectively. Within days of the creation of a state of emergency, electricity subsidies were being implemented and water was being provided free of charge.</p> <p>On April 20, 2020, Timor-Leste Government announces to provide waiver for three months (for low-income households) on payment of rental property owned by the government to 4,057 tenants and the expected expenditure for this program is USD 1,217,100.</p> <p>Creation of credit lines at reduced interest rates and financial support for citizens</p> <p>On April 17, 2020, Timor-Leste Government plans to spend around 600 thousand dollars on internet subsidy to pay for internet access to 67,500 higher education students and teachers and 165,000 secondary school students. Similarly, on April 30, 2020, government has announced free internet for 65,000 students from 18 public and private institutions. The free internet is worth \$10 per month to access online learning due to the implementation of the lockdown to avoid the spread of COVID -19 in Timor-Leste. It is mentioned that 5.4 million for internet subsidy.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The measure is without prejudice to the obligation of employers to keep submitting Remuneration Statements every month, and the Payment Guides issued will only refer to the contributory rate borne by workers (4%), exempting the employer from their own contribution (6%). In the case of workers enrolled in optional membership - including domestic service workers, self-employed workers, self-employed entrepreneurs and managers and administrators - the contribution waiver is only 6%, while the social contribution corresponding to 4% continues to be charged.</p>

		<p>[April 2020] A waiver for social security contributions for firms was announced for all employers all employers registered in the social security system by February 29, 2020.</p> <p>[Extension - August 2020] The measure was to last until December 2020 and was without prejudice to the obligation of employers to keep submitting Remuneration Statements every month, and the Payment Guides issued will only refer to the contributory rate borne by workers (4%), exempting the employer from their own contribution (6%). In the case of workers enrolled in optional membership - including domestic service workers, self-employed workers, self-employed entrepreneurs and managers and administrators - the contribution waiver is only 6%, while the social contribution corresponding to 4% continues to be charged. The maximum cost of this measure was approximately USD 3.6 million."</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] A wage subsidy of 60% was announced for formal sector workers, on the condition that employers do not terminate their employment.</p> <p>[June 2020] The Ministry of Finance has announced a remunerative subsidy payment to the Timor Leste National Police (PNTL) and Timor Leste Defense Force (F-FDTL) which will amount to 5,395,905 USD out of a total of 6,011 beneficiaries</p> <p>[August 2020] A special program was announced to provide an extraordinary subsidy, equivalent to 60% of the incidence value of the first level of optional membership (60% x 60 USD = 36 USD), for 3 months (October to December 2020) to self-employed and informal sector workers. It was aimed at those who were not registered with the social security system and would register between July and September 2020 on the condition that they maintain social security contributions for, at least, another 3 months, after the end of the program duration (until March 2021).</p>

Togo

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Government of Togo (GoT) will support the ongoing Cash Transfer Program under the Safety Nets and Basic Services Project. The program is in the process of being horizontally expanded to support the GoT's response to the COVID-19 situation in rural and urban areas (in line with the distribution of poverty between rural and urban areas, three quarters of beneficiaries will be in rural areas with the remaining 25 percent in urban areas). The expansion will add 60,000 additional households in Togo to support the poorest as well as those particularly affected by the economic and social impacts of the pandemic and climate change. The additional beneficiaries complement the parent project's 40,280 households benefiting from cash transfers, bringing the total to 100,280 poor and vulnerable households. Beneficiary households will receive quarterly payments over a period of 18 months. In line with transfer amounts under the parent project, households will receive 5,000 CFA francs (approximately US\$9) per month bundled in six quarterly payments of 15,000 CFA francs each. In total, households will therefore receive 90,000 CFA francs.</p> <p>The Novissi program was launched on April 8, 2020 by the government of Togo in response to COVID-19 to compensate for loss of revenue and income by informal sector workers, and was formalized by Presidential Decree on May 18, 2020. The program operates 100 percent digitally through mobile enrollment and payment, providing a transfer equivalent to approximately 30 percent of the minimum wage (12,250 CFA francs for female beneficiaries and 10,500 CFA francs for male beneficiaries). The program is activated in areas where the number of new cases of COVID-19 are of concern and where mobility has been reduced (health state of emergency, lockdown, and curfew) to curb the spread of the virus. Since its launch, the program has been activated three times, Novissi 1, 2, and 3 (Novissi 1 (from April 8 to June 8, 2020) covered the Greater Lomé and the Tchoudjo Prefecture and reached 567,002 beneficiaries and costed 11,362 million CFA francs. Novissi 2 (August 3 to September 1, 2020) covered Soudou Canton and reached 5,850 beneficiaries. Novissi 3 (February 22 to March 8, 2021) covered 202,339 beneficiaries and costed 1,407 million CFA francs.) It reached 819,972 beneficiaries (64 percent of which are women) and it spent over US\$23 million from the government's own resources. In addition, the French Development Agency (Agence Française de Développement, AFD) provided financial support in the amount of three million Euros, while the international NGO GiveDirectly covered through the Novissi platform 35,851</p>

		<p>additional beneficiaries in the 100 poorest cantons in the country between November 2020 and March 2021 and plans to cover 79,000 additional beneficiaries starting in April 2021 for five months. In total, GiveDirectly plans to provide support to 134,500 beneficiaries with US\$8 million.</p> <p>The WFP outlined a provisional interim plan for 2021-2022 which consists of strengthening social protection and social safety nets. In this sense, around 170,000 Togolese who are in difficult situations caused by the health crisis and climatic shocks will benefit from support. Through this initiative, 150,000 people will be assisted with the cash transfers.</p> <p>An additional financing of the Safety Nets and Basic Services Project from the World Bank aims to strengthen the government's response to the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic through an expansion of the parent project's cash transfers to the poorest and most vulnerable, in both rural and urban areas.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>WFP provided food and nutrition assistance to 252,500 people between November 2020 and January 2021.</p> <p>The WFP outlined a provisional interim plan for 2021-2022 which consists of strengthening social protection and social safety nets. In this sense, around 170,000 Togolese who are in difficult situations caused by the health crisis and climatic shocks will benefit from support. Through this component, it will assist with the food team 20,000 people, and 150,000 people with the cash transfers.</p> <p>School Assur was launched in 2017. As a presidential initiative, it aimed to provide free healthcare services to public primary and secondary school students. It mainly covers sickness and liability risks. Set to end next December, the School Assur program has covered 2,615,962 healthcare services as of August 29, 2021.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	To promote the use of electronic payment tools, the Western Africa Central Bank (BCEAO) is providing more flexible measures to open a mobile money account and making it free for people to transfer money between electronic accounts. Measures include no fees for minor transactions.

		<p>withdrawal and transfer fees at ATMs cut by 50% e-wallet creation and transaction made easier. These measures were effective for 30 days and extended for an additional 30 days as of May 3, 2020.</p> <p>Low-volume users of water and electricity, i.e. those using the 'social tariff' (whose consumption is between 0 and 10 m³ per month), benefitted from a 3-month subsidy of 50-100% on their utility bills, starting in April 2020. In addition, access to water at public standpipes was available free of charge.</p> <p>The GoT announced a reduction of running water connection costs from 75,000 F CFA to 25,000 F CFA for 5000 households.</p> <p>The GoT announced price caps for rice, sugar, vegetable oil, wheat flour and hydro-alcoholic solutions.</p> <p>After making available more than 80,000 tons of inputs for the new agricultural season, the government continues to support producers. Indeed, despite the soaring world prices, the executive decided to keep fertilizer prices low. Throughout the territory, the 50 kg bag of fertilizer is sold at 12,500 FCFA. An effort that has made it possible to substantially increase the volume of fertilizer use.</p> <p>In Togo, the measure featuring the exemption from registration fees for candidates in the 2021 sessions of the various school and university exams cost the State CFAF 1.9 billion overall. This free promise of the Head of State entered into force at the start of the 2020-2021 academic year. In all, nearly 485,000 candidates enrolled in about ten academic (CEPD, BEPC, BAC1, BAC2) and professional (BTS CFA, BT, CQP, BEP, CAP and DTSA) diploma assessments have benefited, thereby relieving many parents and learners.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The first exceptional measure concerns the suspension of the calculation of surcharges for late payment of social security contributions from April to July 2020 for employers.</p> <p>[April 2020] The second exceptional measure concerns the remission of surcharges for late payment of back owed social contributions. All companies that pay their social debts until October 31, 2020</p>

		will benefit from the reduction of late payments as follows: for the informal sector, a 100% discount on late payment surcharges; for SMEs and SMIs, a 75% discount on late payment surcharges; for large companies, excluding hotels, restaurants, drinking establishments, school establishments, hospital establishments and pharmacy, a 50% discount on late payments; for hotels, restaurants, drinking establishments, schools, hospitals and pharmacies, a 100% discount on late payments
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	The GoT announced it would require individual and collective protection devices in the workplace, such as hand washing device, gels, masks, etc. It would also require information and awareness on prevention and protection measures to be provided in each workspace.
	Reduced work time	[April 2020] The GoT announced it would adjust working hours in the public administration with the establishment of the continuous day from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. The GoT announced a measure to promote teleworking and the possibility of forming rotating teams to strengthen social distancing in the workplace.
	Wage subsidies	

Tonga

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 23 June 2020, it was announced that as part of the Skills and Employment for Tongans (SET) Project, the World Bank is supporting the Tongan government at assisting secondary school students of families who are faced with financial constraints. More than 2000 students from 1142 households in Tonga were provided conditional cash transfers as part of an effort to address the financial constraints many households face in keeping their children in secondary school. Through this program, eligible households with up to three students will receive direct deposits of \$250 school per term into their bank accounts for the next four years. The families who received payments were identified through a nationally run poverty means test.</p> <p>On 23 June 2020, it was announced that as part of the Skills and Employment for Tongans (SET) Project, the World Bank is supporting the Tongan government with an additional one-off payment of TOP200 provided to secondary school conditional cash transfer (CCT) program to assist vulnerable Tongan families to deal with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 (coronavirus) pandemic. The families who received payments were identified through a nationally run poverty means test. As of 13 Nov 2020, 988 of the 1,142 CCT top-up payments were deposited in bank accounts of female household members.</p> <p>On 2 April 2020, Tonga government provided one-off payment of TOP\$100 to 4,402 Social Welfare Scheme for the Elderly (SWSE) beneficiaries.</p> <p>On 2 April 2020, Tonga government provided one-off payment of TOP\$100 1,065 Disability Welfare Scheme (DWS) beneficiaries</p>
	Social pensions	<p>On 2 April 2020, Tonga government provided one-off payment of TOP\$100 to 4,402 Social Welfare Scheme for the Elderly (SWSE) beneficiaries.</p> <p>On 2 April 2020, Tonga government provided one-off payment of TOP\$100 1,065 Disability Welfare Scheme (DWS) beneficiaries</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	

	Utility waivers	<p>On April 2, 2020, Tonga's Ministry of Customs and Revenue tax announced that tax on goods and services within Tonga would be deferred until 30 June 2020.</p> <p>On 23 March 2020, Tonga government (through Tonga Power Ltd) announced the reduction of power tariff to 75.67 seniti per unit effective 1 April 2020. This is a 7.49 seniti per unit or 9.01% reduction (or subsidy) from the tariff of 83.16 seniti per unit in Nov 2019. On 29th June 2020, the new electricity tariff of \$0.6102 per kWh was approved by the Electricity Commission to be effective from 1st July 2020. This new price will last for 3 months unless otherwise reviewed and is the lowest electricity price in 14 years. Since the new electricity price is less than \$0.65 per kWh, there is no Lifeline-Tariff GPO effective from 1 July 2020. Tonga Power Limited's Board of Directors have approved on the 29th December 2020 a Subsidy to cover 2.47 seniti per kWh over the next quarter for all Electricity Consumers. The new starting tariff of 68.93 seniti/kWh is the new electricity tariff to be adopted by Tonga Power Limited. On July 7 2021, The Government announced that it will continue to subsidize the 'Lifeline Tariff Discount Scheme'. The discounted tariff of 7.67 seniti/kWh is to apply to the regulated tariff of 80.71 seniti/kWh, only to the power customers consumed between 0-100 kWh/month, to maintain the electricity tariff at 73.04 seniti/kWh. On Oct 1, 2021, the Government continued to subsidize the 'Lifeline Tariff Discount Scheme' to maintain the 73.04 seniti per kWh by deducted discount of 11.08 seniti kWh. The discount only applies to those that using the electricity less than 100 kWh for others the new starting tariff of 84.12 seniti/kWh."</p> <p>Government of Tonga (GoT) provides school fee relief to all secondary school students with an upper limit of TOP\$250 per student, which is sufficient to fully cover student fees in most schools. The initiative has supported the ongoing attendance of 12,238 students. Although there are more male than female students enrolled in secondary school (males comprise 54 percent of the student population), fee relief will disproportionately benefit females given they are more likely to attend non-government schools where fees are higher but still within the bounds set by the fee-relief program (71 percent of female students attend non-government schools compared to 61 percent of male students). GoT paid the fees of all secondary school students in both government and private schools (including church schools) for Term 2 of the 2020 school year (April—June). Payments were made directly to schools. Schools were prevented from 'double charging' parents this amount or from adjusting their fees upwards in response to the subsidy. Households that had not paid fees for the term were exempted from doing so. Those that had paid for the full school year were reimbursed for the term, while those that had paid fees for Term 2 alone had their fees credited towards Term 3.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	Deferral of retirement contributions and hardship allowances for laid-off employees (up to 3 months).
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>As part of the scheme, wage subsidies have been provided to 5,326 affected workers across 673 businesses—representing over 13 percent of the labor force. The services sector, including tourism—which has been hit especially hard by the dual economic shocks—has received almost 70 percent of total support provided. Workers received one-off payments valued at TOP\$535, calculated to be equivalent to two-thirds of average monthly expenditure for a family of five in the bottom quintile of the income distribution. The program was available to anyone who lost employment or had reduced hours of work due to the crises, with both formal and informal sector workers eligible.</p> <p>A total of \$9.2 million was committed for the business and wages support fund assistance program with support provided by various development partners, and the Government of Australia. This includes helping family-based informal businesses, registered businesses, and assistance to wage subsidies. The assistance hopes to benefit them as finding cash to continue operations in a context where the COVID 19 restrictions are still ongoing.</p>

Trinidad and Tobago

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) Existing disability assistance applicants with applications on hold to receive interim assistance of TTD 1,500 and TTD 1,000 respectively for 3 months beginning April 2020.</p> <p>Income Support Grants of up to \$1,500 per month per household, for persons who are outside of the National Insurance Scheme (NIS) and Board of Inland Revenue (BIR) systems who have lost their jobs or incomes as a result of Covid-19 measures, that is, persons in the informal economy. 25,000 such grants have been paid so far. On October 5, the Ministry of Finance announced an extension to December 2020 income support grants</p> <p>(June 2020) Assistance to UWI students at Mona, Jamaica and Cave Hill, Barbados with grants for the purchase of food and plans to assist students at other regional universities in due course.</p> <p>(July 2020) Cultural and creative industry – Cultural Relief Grant: one-off payment of TTD 5,000 (USD 740) for artistes and creatives in selected areas who lost income as a result of the crisis. Must not have received any other grant.</p> <p>Three-month top-ups for Public Assistance ranging from TT\$150 to TT\$500 (\$22-US\$67) per month for three months since April 2020, depending on household size.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>(June 2020) Suspension of the life certification requirements for elderly social pension recipients (normally required to visit their local board to sign a life certificate register).</p> <p>Existing pension assistance applicants with applications on hold to receive interim assistance of TTD 1,500 and TTD 1,000 respectively for 3 months beginning April 2020.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(March 2020) Families using the Food Card program receive additional transfers (510TTD value) for a period of three months, in one payment. Temporary Food Cards are also distributed for new families, for 3 months. By June 12, 2020, 25,000 existing beneficiaries under the food support program have received additional funding plus 50,000 individuals who have been retrenched or who have had their incomes reduced have become additional beneficiaries under the food support program. In addition, almost 3,000 citizens who have not yet received their Senior Citizens pension are receiving \$1,500 in</p>

		<p>food support; Almost 500 individuals who have not yet received their disability assistance grants are receiving \$1,000 in food support.</p> <p>The Government has expanded the reach of its food support programs by enlisting the assistance of our churches and religious bodies. Grants totaling \$10 million per month for three months, May, June and July 2020 have been made available to religious bodies in proportion to the size of their congregations to allow them to distribute food to the poor and to the needy in accordance with their existing procedures and programs.</p> <p>The Ministry of Rural Development and Local Government is distributing \$30 million for food support within the 14 Municipal Regions in Trinidad. This program began in May 2020 and will end in July 2020. Emphasis on those food support programs will be placed on the supply of fresh produce, as well as on traditional processed foods.</p> <p>National Seed Initiative – 50,000 seeds made available for distribution to the national community to encourage household gardening and food production</p>
	School feeding	<p>(March 2020) The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services will be distributing food cards to families with children registered to receive school meals under the government’s school-feeding program. These food cards were given in March and April, and they contained top-ups in the value for 2 and 3 months. Food support cards are valued at 510 Trinidad and Tobago dollars. By June 12, 2020, 20,000 households have become beneficiaries under the food support program - households which receive meals from the School Feeding Program.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) Rental assistance up to TT\$2,500 (US\$367) per month for an initial period of 3 months but not more than 6 months, for households where a wage earner was laid off or whose income reduced.</p> <p>The banks are providing a moratorium on mortgages and instalment loan payments. Penalties are being waived on an overdraft facility on a month-by-month basis.</p> <p>Credit cards now have reduced rates and increased credit limits.</p> <p>Moneylenders have reduced interest rates and deferred payments.</p>

		<p>The Trinidad and Tobago Mortgage Finance Limited (TTMF) and the Home Mortgage Bank (HMD) are deferring mortgage payments up to 3 months in the first instance</p> <p>The Housing Development Corporation (HDC) is deferring mortgage payments of up to two (2) months, which will be extended in the context of the evolving situation.</p> <p>Waiver of VAT and Online Purchase Tax on laptop, notebooks and tablet devices (September 2020)</p> <p>Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission relaxed conditions (payments deferred) for disconnections – 87% of residential customers due for disconnection were deferred (March 2020).</p> <p>(June 2020) Soft Loans for credit unions: With these funds, credit unions will now be able to provide affordable loans of up to \$5,000 per month for 3 months or \$15,000 in total to their members to carry them through this period. These loans will be priced at half the usual interest rate and will have very favorable repayment terms, with a suitable moratorium.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	Trinidad and Tobago's Ministry of Labor has introduced a "pandemic leave" as a new classification of paid leave for public officers, including those not eligible for sick leave. People who have fallen ill and exhausted their sick leave will proceed on extended sick leave, followed by pandemic leave. Pandemic leave will also apply to those workers who are not eligible for sick leave.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[June 2020] Salary Relief Grant of \$1500/month for 3 months. Grants are designed to assist people in the NIS system who have lost their jobs or incomes as a result of COVID-19.</p> <p>[October 2020] Cultural and creative industry Salary Relief Grant and Income Support Grant Programme to be extended for persons in the creative and culture industries. This will supplement the one-off payment previously released.</p> <p>[May 2021] The Salary Relief Grant (for persons in the formal/NIS system) will be administered by the National Insurance Board of Trinidad and Tobago (NIBTT) on behalf of the Ministry of Finance. Once eligible, persons whose income was suspended/terminated at the beginning of May 2021, will receive \$1,500 for the month of May and \$1,500 for the month of June. Persons whose income was suspended/terminated from May 8th, 2021 will receive \$1,000 for the month of May and \$1,500 for the month of June.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	<p>[March 2020] Workplace guidelines on the closure of schools encourage employer to implement remote work for employees with children. If it is not possible, unions/employees and employers are required to explore options of shift work, staggered hours of work and/or rostering. Conciliation service is available if discussion fails. They also require employers to implement Pandemic Leave in a compassionate manner which ensures business continuity whilst securing the national interest.</p> <p>[May 2020] Phase 3 (7th-20th June) of the relaxation of COVID restrictions includes accommodations for flexi-time and other flexible work arrangements in the public service.</p>
	Wage subsidies	

Tunisia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The "aide exceptionnelle de 200 dinars" is a one-off cash transfer of TND200 (USD68) to approximately 370,000 AMG2 households working in the informal sector, who are not covered by any social assistance program and who are vulnerable to shocks (households registered in the social security system with low-cost healthcare card).</p> <p>One-off cash transfer of TND50 (\$17) * 2 times to 260,000 poor beneficiary households of AMG1/PNAFN program (cash transfer and non-contributory indigent health insurance card). This was a top-up of the already received monthly transfer of TND180 in March 2020.</p> <p>The GoT announced a one-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting an elderly person.</p> <p>The GoT announced a one-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households fostering children without parental support.</p> <p>The GoT announced a one-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting a person with handicap.</p> <p>The GoT announced measures to ensure the maintenance of healthcare insurance for all workers, maintenance of the family allowance program, and a wage premium for those who can't continue their business (formal sector).</p> <p>(September 2020) 50 dinars (16 euros) will be awarded to each student or learner enrolled in a vocational training cycle and an amount of 120 dinars (37 euros) will be awarded to each student. All in all, a total of 32 million dinars was mobilized for this aid, including 15 million dinars allocated by the Ministry of Social Affairs. The rest of the amount will be released as part of international cooperation with UNICEF and the German Development Bank.</p> <p>(November 2020) A monthly bonus of 200 dinars will be granted to employees of the tourism sector who are unemployed and to tourist guides. This measure will only be available to certain workers, such as work-study employees and those whose working hours have been reduced.</p> <p>The Tunisia First Resilience and Recovery Emergency Development Project aims to support the GoT's response to the COVID-19 crisis and lay the foundation for strong post-crisis recovery. As a</p>

		<p>part of its several measures, the program will include cash transfers that reach 4.2 million poor and vulnerable individuals (36 percent of the population).</p> <p>(April 2020) The GoT provided emergency cash transfers for those self-employed, including small businesses and artisans.</p> <p>(May 2020) Under the Famille Istimarat program, the GoT provided emergency cash transfer for families not listed in the MAS database.</p> <p>The GoT provided back-to-school support to 307,000 children 6-18 years old with two transfers of TND50 between September and November 2020.</p> <p>Approximately 50,000 children 0-5 years old registered in the social assistance registry began receiving TND30 per month. The program began in December 2020 and continued for 8 months.</p>
	Social pensions	The GoT announced a pension top-up of DT100 per month for 133,000 retirees whose monthly pension is below DT180.242.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) The GoT announced a deferral of payment on loan maturities for a period of six months for employees who have an income not exceeding one thousand dinars.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	The GoT announced measures to ensure the maintenance of healthcare insurance for all workers, maintenance of the family allowance program, and a wage premium for those who cannot continue their business (formal sector).
	Pensions	<p>Pensioners receiving less than 180 TND received a top-up in April. Laws changed in June stipulating that all pensioners receiving less than 180 TND will permanently receive a top-up to bring the value of their pensions to 180 TND.</p> <p>Pension top-up of 100 TND per month for 133,000 retirees whose monthly pension is below 180.24 TND.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	The GoT announced unemployment benefits for technically unemployed workers. The fund allocated amounted to TND 300 million.

	Social security contributions	[March 2020] The Caisse Nationale de Sécurité Sociale (CNSS) announced a 3-month waiver for employer social security scheme contributions for businesses and companies operating in the formal sector.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	The GoT announced measures to ensure the maintenance of healthcare insurance for all workers, maintenance of the family allowance program, and a wage premium for those who can't continue their business in the formal sector.

Turkey

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The Turkish government has announced 3 phases for financial aid to families in need starting in April 2020. A one-time transfer of 1000 TL (around \$150) are made to over 4 million current social assistance beneficiary households in two separate phases. All existing beneficiary households were eligible for this payment without the need for a separate application and cash payments were delivered to the households. The third phase of the one-time transfer of 1000 TL targets households that are not currently benefitting from any social assistance program but are adversely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Individuals except public sector employees, formally registered or retired workers, and those that benefit from the short-term work allowance or unpaid leave support can apply to nominate their households for this cash transfer, and applications are currently being evaluated on a case-by-case basis. , The Turkish government has announced 3 phases for financial aid to families in need starting in April 2020. A one-time transfer of 1000 TL (around \$150) are made to over 4 million current social assistance beneficiary households in two separate phases. All existing beneficiary households were eligible for this payment without the need for a separate application and cash payments were delivered to the households. The third phase of the one-time transfer of 1000 TL targets households that are not currently benefitting from any social assistance program but are adversely affected by the Covid-19 outbreak. Individuals except public sector employees, formally registered or retired workers, and those that benefit from the short-term work allowance or unpaid leave support can apply to nominate their households for this cash transfer.</p> <p>Monthly budget allocated to the 1003 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, who provide social assistance to various disadvantaged groups, was increased from 135 million TL (around \$21 million) to 180 million TL (around \$27 million) in total starting in March 2020.</p> <p>Cash transfers targeted for women are increased. Amounts of conditional cash transfers are increased by 29% for health, postnatal and pregnancy payments. Cash transfers for new mothers are increased to 100 TL (around \$15.5) and monthly transfers for women who recently lost their husbands to 325 TL (around \$50).</p> <p>One time cash transfer of 2,500 TRY to be paid to workers in TV and cinema industry by Istanbul Foundation for Culture and Arts and Trade Union of TV and Cinema Workers.</p>

		<p>The government provided an additional TL 1,100 to more than 2 million households during the 17-day lockdown period of April 2021.</p> <p>Performance payments of health professionals is paid from its maximum wage by 3 months. For this, an additional source of 4.5 billion TL is provided.</p>
	Social pensions	Social Assistance of elderly and disabled persons and social assistance for elderly care will be made for three months (until the end of May 2020) without seeking income criteria and severe disability.
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The Ministry of Agriculture will provide hygiene and protection equipment against COVID-19 as well as appropriate housing and transportation conditions for seasonal agricultural workers.</p> <p>Potatoes and onions that farmers were unable to sell during the pandemic were purchased from them by the state and were delivered for free to about 3.5 million families in April 2021. Over 1,200,000 tons of potatoes and 300,000 tons of onions were distributed to support farmers and the growing number of poor families.</p> <p>A government scheme to provide a lifeline to people confined at home due to the coronavirus pandemic reached more than 20 million people since March 2021. Vefa Social Support Groups, which are made up of crews of volunteers, have served the public in 81 provinces since the outbreak began in Turkey. Overall, 20.7 million people had their needs met by the volunteers, from food to medicine and hygiene kits to simple tasks like withdrawing money from the bank.</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Tax payments for individuals over 65 years old or those with chronic conditions were postponed during the time they were not allowed to go outside. They are allowed to go outside since mid-June 2020.</p> <p>University Students' loan debts were postponed for three months in April 2020. No evidence was found of an extension of the program.</p> <p>University Students' income tax debts of municipalities were postponed for three months in April 2020. There was no evidence found of an extension of the program.</p> <p>Water bill debts of residences and businesses whose activities have been suspended due to COVID-19 may be postponed by the municipalities for three months.</p> <p>Tax declarations for individuals were postponed for three months as part of the Economic Stability Shield support program of March 2020.</p>

		<p>A periodic follow-up program for social services and home health services will be implemented for people above the age of 80 who are living alone as part of the Economic Stability Shield Program of March 2020.</p> <p>The ride-hailing company Uber launched a campaign in Turkey offering two free rides to passengers traveling to hospitals to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. Passengers are able to benefit from free rides with a code supplied by the Uber app. A budget of TL 1 million (\$119,000) was allocated for the campaign. The campaign covers the rides to and from the hospitals with a cap of TL 40. The company said those receiving vaccines, as well as people accompanying relatives, will be able to benefit from the campaign.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>Minimum pension level will be increased to Turkish Lira 1,500 (US\$230)</p> <p>A holiday bonus was planned to be paid to retirees just before the religious holiday, but it will be paid earlier (at the beginning of April 2020).</p> <p>To get the above bonus, the retiree had to go to the Bank Branch. But now, the bonus will be deposited to their Bank accounts.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>With the law no 7244 dated April 17, 2020, a cash wage support of 39.24 TL was provided for those who were released for unpaid leave and whose jobs were terminated. As of April 17, 2020, employees who have been granted unpaid leave by the employer and who cannot benefit from short term work allowance can benefit from this cash support. In addition, those who have been terminated after March 15, 2020, have also been covered by this wage support. Here, as in the short-term work allowance, those who receive old-age pension cannot benefit from the cash wage support. The employer has the right to choose between short term work allowance and unpaid leave support payments. However, if the worker fulfils all the conditions for both, giving priority to the short-term work allowance is in favor of the worker.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>Postponed for six months the VAT withholdings and Social Security Insurance for April, May, and June for the retail, iron and steel, automotive, logistics and transportation, cinema and theatre, accommodation, food and drink, textile and clothing, event and organizational sectors.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[April 2020] Layoffs are not allowed for three months. If needed, firms can force employers to take unpaid leave. Provisional Article 10 added to the Labor Law No. 4857 ("Labor Law") with the Article 9 of the Law No.7244. Within this scope, regardless of whether or not it is covered by the Labor Law, any kinds of employment agreement of employer cannot be terminated by the employer for three (3)</p>

months starting from April 17, 2020 until July 17, 2020 ("Termination Prohibition Period") except for terminations arising from the employee's behavior contrary to the rules of ethics and goodwill and similar cases in paragraph (II) of the first paragraph of Article 25 of the Labor Law and the respective provisions of other law. The President is entitled to extend the Termination Prohibition Period for up to a total of six (6) months.

[Extension - July 2020] Parliament approved a law allowing the President to extend the layoff ban until July 2021.

The Ministry of Family, Labour and Social Services (MoFLSS) introduced a guidance for all workplaces to combat COVID 19. This include, the establishment of a Preparedness Team at Workplaces, Introduction of an Emergency Plan and Risk Evaluation, Preventions to Control the Spread of the Pandemic, Hygiene, Personal Protective Equipment and the Procedures on How to Respond if any Employee shows signs of sickness.

The MoFLSS introduced new guidelines for OSH experts and professionals on OSH preventive measures against COVID-19 in the workplaces. Please see relevant web news here.

The MoFLSS with 44.986 OSH experts and 2.446 health professionals provides regular training on prevention from COVID-19 and hygiene in the field.

The MoFLSS introduced guidance for the specific sectors and workers played a critical role at the time of COVID-19 pandemic including private security, transportation and courier services, pharmacies, retail, baking, agriculture, waste collection, call centres, food sectors.

Globally and in Turkey, trade unions are calling for SARS-CoV-2 to be recognized as an occupational hazard, and Covid-19 as an occupational disease to ensure full implementation of occupational safety and health (OSH) rights as well as the implementation of agreed measures to reduce safety risks.

Under the latest decision taken by the Social Security Institution, dated 7 May 2020, Covid-19 is not classified as an occupational disease in Turkey.

"Immunity Certification System" will be introduced to certify touristic areas and facilities to enable to open tourism season by end of May 2020. "Healthy Tourism Certification Programme" is introduced by the Ministry of Tourism,

Healthy Tourism Certification program covers a broad range of measures which shall be taken towards transportation, accommodation, health condition of employees of the facilities and passengers. This certificate, which shall be granted by international certification institutions, will document the fulfilment of high level of health and hygiene requirements at airline companies, airports and other transportation, accommodation and food & beverage facilities.

Certification program of Türkiye consists of 4 main pillars which are "Health and Safety of the Passenger", "Health and Safety of the Employee", "Precautions taken at Facilities" and "Precautions taken in terms of "Transportation

		<p>Turkish Airlines has seen significantly improving fortunes and has decided to restore wages and add more compensation to employees. The airline will be rolling out a minimum wage increase of 10% on top of the restored salaries, Turkish airlines and HAVA-IS agreed to protect the vested rights of the employees, whereas a decrease will be made in their salaries up to 35-50%, until the end of 2021.</p> <p>40 thousand beetroot producers will be paid in advance on 3 April 2020 of nearly 250 mln TRY.</p> <p>A regulation is put in place to control the working conditions and accommodation of seasonal agricultural workers as well as to ease the process of transport of agricultural products to the market.</p>
	<p>Reduced work time</p>	<p>The compensatory working period will be increased from 2 to 4 months. Compensatory working is compensating for the decrease or stop in working hours due to coercive reasons. The employer can request an increased number of working hours by a daily maximum of 3 hours to compensate for this loss, for a maximum of 2 months after the decrease in working hours has occurred. This duration is now increased to 4 months under the Coronavirus measures to increase employment sustainability.</p> <p>Pursuant to Article 64 of the Labour Act, employers can impose compensatory working for unworked periods within two months (such work does not qualify as overtime) if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work is stopped for compulsory reasons. the workplace is closed before or after national and general holidays. an employee's normal working hours have significantly decreased. the workplace is closed completely; or an employee is granted leave on request. <p>However, pursuant to Law 7226 on Amendment of Certain Laws, published in the repeated Official Gazette on 26 March 2020 (Number 31080), employers can impose compensatory working within four months instead of two months. Further, the president can now increase this term up to two times.</p> <p>All public employees regardless of their employment situation are given the right to flexible work. Due to decreasing numbers in the infected people most of the public institutions shifted to normal working arrangements. Nevertheless, with the presidential decree issued on 26 August 2020, state institutions may now implement flexible working methods. All public institutions are allowed to implement teleworking or design new shifts arrangements, including rotational basis, for employees. Private sector is called to apply flexible work.</p> <p>With the decision of the Government on normalization process as of 1 June 2020, all public</p>

		<p>employees have returned to the office based work under the condition of application of strict safety and health conditions.</p> <p>With removal of restrictions in certain sectors under the new normalization process, private sector workers are allowed to return to the office based work under the condition of application of strict safety and health conditions.</p>
	<p>Wage subsidies</p>	<p>[March 2020] As part of the Economic Stability Shield Package, Monthly minimum wage support of 75 TRY will continue to be provided to all employers (around 7.8 million) until the end of 2020.</p> <p>Wage payments for contracted teachers in state schools that receive wages based on the hours they teach will continue to receive wages during the school closure period</p> <p>[March 2020] As part of the Economic Stability Shield Package, Monthly minimum wage support of 75 TRY will continue to be provided to all employers (around 7.8 million) until the end of 2020.</p> <p>The government relaxed short-term work allowance rules to enhance employment protection. For firms that reduced working hours or halted operations during the outbreak, a Short-term Work Allowance covers the wages of workers. The allowance provides 1,752 TL/month (around \$271) for those that receive minimum wage in the last 12 months. The allowance can be provided for a maximum of 3 months and can be extended to 6 months through a Presidential decree. Access: Short-term working allowances will be made in accordance with the employers' declaration, without waiting for the completion of the eligibility assessment for the short-term working applications for compelling reasons arising from COVID-19 made by the employer.</p> <p>Conditions: In order to benefit from the short-term work allowance, it is sufficient to have 60 days of service contract and 450 premium days in the last 3 years. Employees who receive a pension cannot benefit from a short-term work allowance. Short term work allowance is deducted from the unemployment benefit entitlement duration of the employees.</p> <p>Amount: The daily amount of the short-term working allowance is 60% of the average daily gross income of the employee, calculated based on the employee's earnings subject to social security premiums in the last 12 months. The monthly amount of the short period working allowance cannot exceed 150% of the monthly minimum gross salary, which is currently TRY 2,943.</p> <p>In addition, Provisional Article 23 added to Unemployment Insurance Law No.4447 ("Law No. 4447") with the Law on the Amendment of Certain Laws No.7226 ("Law No. 7226") published in the (Repeated) Official Gazette No. 31080 and dated March 6, 2020, it is regulated that employers who want to benefit from the short-time working allowance should comply with the prohibition of termination during the short-time work period.</p>

		<p>With the law no 7244 dated April 17, 2020, a cash wage support of 39.24 TL was provided for those who were released for unpaid leave and whose jobs were terminated. As of April 17, 2020, employees who have been granted unpaid leave by the employer and who cannot benefit from short term work allowance can benefit from this cash support. In addition, those who have been terminated after March 15, 2020 have also been covered by this wage support. Here, as in the short-term work allowance, those who receive old-age pension cannot benefit from the cash wage support. The employer has the right to choose between short term work allowance and unpaid leave support payments. However, if the worker fulfills all the conditions for both, giving priority to the short term work allowance is in favor of the worker.</p> <p>Pursuant to Provisional Article 24 added to the Law No. 4447, the employees listed below will receive monetary financial aid in the amount of TRY 39.24 per day from the unemployment fund while they are on unpaid leave or are unemployed for the periods of prohibition of termination provided that they do not receive a pension pay from any social security organization:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Employees sent on unpaid leave under the provisional article 10 of the Labor Law by Employer and who cannot benefit from the short-term working allowance; and• Employees who are covered by Article 51 of Law No. 4447, whose employment agreements are terminated after March 15, 2020, and who cannot benefit from unemployment insurance benefits. <p>The payments will not be subject to any deduction, excluding stamp tax.</p> <p>e.</p>
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Turkmenistan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The government announced that the bonus salary of 20, 15, and 10 percent will be given to healthcare professionals working in the remote rural facilities, frontline facilities, and other rural facilities, respectively.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
Utility waivers		
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	According to the Law on amendments to the Law on "State pension insurance" (22 Aug 2020) Clause 2 of the first part of Article 20 was amended as follows: "2) for individuals engaged in entrepreneurial activities without the formation of legal entity-individual entrepreneurs, self-employed individuals, from the date of registration to the day of deregistration as an insured person, regardless of income (social insurance tax will be) in the amount of at least 10 percent of the minimum wage in Turkmenistan established by the legislation of Turkmenistan for each month of the reporting period". With this the self-employed individuals and entrepreneurs could have a choice to contribute less to the state pension insurance, in case if their business was stagnating.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[August 2020] An amendment to the Labor Code was adopted on 22 August 2020 and entered into force in September 2020 to protect workers stuck abroad and not being able to come back to their work during the business trips or official leave. The amendment stated that in the event that an employee cannot perform his labor duties (due to the occurrence of circumstances beyond the control of the parties) his labor relations are considered continued during the period when he could

		not perform his labor duties. In such cases, salary and other payments are paid in accordance with the legislation of Turkmenistan.
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Turks and Caicos (UK)

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Within the Stimulus Package in Response to COVID, the government allocated USD \$15 million to direct assistance to employees and self-employed within the hospitality industry that would have been laid off, seized operations or terminated since March 16, 2020, with a proposed one-off payment of \$1,200 (per employee, not household). This is in addition to the payouts that they may be receiving from their employers.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government also increasing the social welfare budget by 100 percent, including an additional \$500,000 that has been added to the budgetary allocation to further boost the Home-help Program (doubling its allocation) managed through the social welfare program for additional persons that may become destitute due to the fall out in global economic activities.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>A payment moratorium will be placed on existing TC Invest mortgages for the period April to September 2020. This moratorium will be offered to all mortgages holders who are not in arrears with mortgage payments.</p> <p>Waiver for all charges for water for the months of April – June 2020; No disconnections would be carried out during the period April to June 2020. (\$9.7m Write Off of Long Outstanding Water Arrear).</p> <p>(March 2020) In order to introduce a price ceiling on basic food items and essential medical supplies, the government introduced the Covid-19 Basket of Goods, which involves items exempted from Customs import duties and the Customs Processing Fee for a period of two months.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government committed to continue providing health access to the unemployed for a period of 18 months. All the employee has to do is register with Labor and NHIP.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government and the telecommunications firm (FLOW) agreed to avoid telephone</p>

		<p>services.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government and the electricity firm (Electricity Service Provider Fortis TCI) agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wave all Penalties for 60 days. - Work with all persons most impacted and extend credit packages, including customers referred by Social Services Department - Delay the rate increase for a period of 3 months. <p>(March 2020) The government prohibited the sale of goods at unconscionable price, meaning a gross disparity between the price of goods charged and the average price of the same products during the thirty days immediately prior to the declare of state of emergency.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Tuvalu

<p style="text-align: center;">Social Assistance</p>	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 30 April 2020, Tuvalu government provided Cash payment of \$40 per person per month to all citizens for the duration of the crisis (2 months – April and May). The pay-out is applied retrospectively to the commencement date of the State of Public Health Emergency (SOE) on 20 March, 2020. The pay-out will cease once the State of Public Health Emergency (SOE) is lifted. The resident population of Tuvalu based on the 2017 Population and Housing Mini-Census is equivalent to 10,507. The amount of \$40 per person is based on Tuvalu Poverty Line of \$1.47 per day per adult equivalent. The 2-month payout was provided to all Tuvaluans, including those who are receiving a monthly pension and even the more affluent individuals. The government decided to limit beneficiaries to people without regular incomes only in June.</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, government of Tuvalu announced relief package of \$315,900 for affected civil servants who are stationed in Tuvalu but went on leave and duty travel.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Civil servants who went on leave but cannot travel back to Tuvalu because of the lock-down will receive \$120 per day per person. These civil servants will receive their fortnightly pay and need to meet their daily outputs as required by their ministries. About 39 civil servants are expected to benefit from this relief measure. 2. The same level of allowance will be applied to those civil servants who went on duty travel but cannot make it back to Tuvalu because of the lock-down. One civil servant falls under this category. <p>On 30 April, 2020, Tuvalu government announced risk allowance equivalent to \$1.7 million for front line workers. A risk allowance will be provided to front line workers during the repatriation of students and civil servants (7 operations with quarantine period), cargo vessels and oil tanker. Medical professionals, police, stevedores, airport staff are all expected to receive a risk allowance. About 74 civil servants will benefit from policy measure.</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, the government announced Tuvalu National Provident Fund relevant COVID-19 policy measures. These measures will be financed by Development partners (such as Australian DFAT, Asian Development Bank, New Zealand MFAT, Republic of China, Taiwan (ROC) and World bank) and will be implemented from 01 May 2020 to 31 July, 2020 with members to apply in order to qualify:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Monthly compassionate benefit (access to pension accounts for affected employees) of \$500 for a period of three months to each member, particularly in particularly in the tourism,

		<p>hospitality, marine and aviation sectors. The financing of this policy is equivalent to \$225,000.</p> <p>2. Monthly compassionate benefit of \$250 for employees with reduced hours for a period of 3 months. The financing of this policy is equivalent to \$225,000.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On April 30, 2020, government of Tuvalu announced relief measures equivalent to \$310,200 for students studying overseas</p> <p>1) Un-accompanied students who are sponsored either by the government or by development partners are to receive \$100 per month per student, involving an estimated of 151 students.</p> <p>2) Accompanied students who are sponsored either by the government or by development partners are to receive \$150 per month per student, involving an estimated of 43 students.</p> <p>3) Private students will receive \$200 per month per student, involving an estimated of 200 students. Private students living with their parents overseas (and who are students themselves) are not entitle to this relief measure.</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, the government announced Tuvalu National Provident Fund relevant COVID-19 policy measures. These measures will be financed by Development partners (such as Australian DFAT, Asian Development Bank, New Zealand MFAT, Republic of China, Taiwan (ROC) and World bank) and will be implemented from 01 May 2020 to 31 July, 2020 with members to apply in order to qualify: Members are given the opportunity to request to defer, reduce or suspend their loan repayment and the amount of finance for this policy is equivalent to \$54,516.</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, Tuvalu government announced policy measures for the National Bank of Tuvalu (NBT) worth \$1.4 million. These measures will be implemented from 01 May, 2020 to 31 October, 2020 with clients to apply in order to qualify: Development partners (such as Australian DFAT, Asian Development Bank, New Zealand MFAT, Republic of China, Taiwan (ROC) and World bank) are also expected to finance most of the policy measures. Clients can apply to restructure their loans, reduce, or suspend loan repayment and interest. The financing required for this policy measure is equivalent to \$183,264. Please note, this measure is also applicable for firms (therefore also a labour market measure)</p> <p>On April 30, 2020, Tuvalu government announced policy measures for the National Bank of Tuvalu (NBT) worth \$1.4 million. These measures will be implemented from 01 May, 2020 to 31 October,</p>

		<p>2020 with clients to apply in order to qualify: Development partners (such as Australian DFAT, Asian Development Bank, New Zealand MFAT, Republic of China, Taiwan (ROC) and World bank) are also expected to finance most of the policy measures. NBT is also planning to offer concessional loans (which are simplify and relax in terms of conditions) for those who are affected by impact of the COVID-19. The financing required for this policy measure is equivalent to \$260,892 with development partners to finance this measure.</p> <p>In Tuvalu, additional Price Control Inspectors have been recruited to provide additional enforcement on price of food and commodities to control prices as per the Price Control Act. Since 26 March 2020, quotas on basic foods have been set to control panic buying of four main basic food items of rice, flour, sugar and biscuits. Plans are in place to extend this control measure to the outer islands. Relevant regulation and orders are part of annexes for this document. Control selling of basic food items in shops by instigating a food voucher system to limit the number of basic food items a household can purchase within a two week period.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>[May 2020] A set of measures to be implemented from 01 May, 2020 to 31 July, 2020 include a reduction in the contributions of employers and employees by 2% and 5%, respectively, with development partners to finance the difference. The financing of this policy measure is equivalent to \$1.2 million and is dependent on funding from development partners.</p> <p>These measures will be implemented from 01 May, 2020 to 31 July, 2020 with members to apply in order to qualify:</p> <p>Alert Level 3:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Monthly compassionate benefit of \$500 for a period of three months to each member. The financing of this policy is equivalent to \$225,000. 2) Monthly compassionate benefit of \$250 for a period of three months to each member. The financing of this policy is equivalent to \$225,000. 3) Members are given the opportunity to request to defer, reduce or suspend their loan repayment and the amount of finance for this policy is equivalent to \$54,516. <p>Alert Level 4:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4) Reduction in employers and employees contributions by 2% and 5% respectively with development partners to finance the difference. The financing of this policy measure is equivalent to \$1.2 million. This policy measure depends on funding from development partners."
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	

	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Uganda

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The “Girls Empowering Girls” urban cash transfer and mentoring programs for adolescent girls, implemented by the Kampala Capital City Authority (KCCA), transitioned to remote coordination, adopted a virtual mentoring model to ensure delivery continuity, and implemented remote enrolment for pre-registered beneficiaries. This was the first government-led social protection program to pivot in response to the pandemic, ensuring immediate service delivery continuity.</p> <p>The WFP, through a Sida-funded joint partnership with UNICEF called “Child-Sensitive Social Protection in Refugee-Hosting Districts of West Nile Region, Uganda” provided one-off emergency cash transfers to women and children impacted by COVID-19 in West Nile (both refugees and citizens). A total of 56,500 women received a one-off cash transfer in response to the COVID-19 pandemic (59% refugees and 41% of them Ugandan citizens).</p> <p>Beneficiaries of various existing social protection programs will receive emergency cash transfers in response to COVID-19. This includes beneficiaries of the Mother and Child Health and Nutrition initiative, the Development Response to Displacement Impacts Project and the Third Northern Uganda Social Action Fund 3 public works programs. The response is largely donor-funded but implemented through joint government/donor program structures.</p> <p>As part of the ACT Alliance global response to COVID-19, the Church of Uganda received \$100,000 USD in Rapid Response Funds from ACT which they have used to fund health education around COVID-19, community hygiene stations, and cash transfers for over 1000 vulnerable households around the country.</p> <p>WFP rolled out cash-based transfers (CBT) in Imvepi refugee settlement thanks to agent banking. 6,980 refugees received their entitlements in the first round of distribution. Enrollment and registration of beneficiaries into digital cash continues aiming at reaching 16 percent of the 65,000 beneficiaries living in the settlement, as recommended by the December 2020 market assessment for Imvepi and Palorinya refugee settlements.</p> <p>WFP introduced digital cash via agency banking to refugees in Rwamwanja and Kyangwali, distribution cash entitlements to 5,860 and 2,016 people respectively.</p>

		<p>On 29th June 2020, following cabinet approval the new Minister of Gender, Labour and Social Development (GLSD) issued a plan outlining the implementation guidelines for the COVID-19 Relief Fund (also known as the direct cash transfer program). According to the plan, the government will reach out to 501,107 households in the Kampala metropolitan areas, all cities, and municipalities. Each household is set to receive a net of UGX. 100,000 (\$28.5).</p> <p>A National Special Grant for people with disabilities (PWD), led by the MGLSD, was disbursed to PWD groups of five to 15 people across Uganda. Initially, UGX 2 billion was set aside to reach 200 PWD groups, but this was later increased in December 2020 to UGX 5 billion to support 800 PWD groups. While the grant was designed before the onset of the pandemic, the decision to make payments during the crisis was taken in order to support the livelihoods and economic activities of PWD during the lockdown.</p> <p>Cash assistance provided by the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees to all registered urban refugees and asylum seekers in Kampala (around 80,000) to contribute towards rent and essential items in 2020.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>The Senior Citizens' Grant national roll-out was halted due to the pandemic, but resumed implementation in Q4 2020 with adjusted protocols, including the provision of cash transfers in six-month lump sums (as opposed to monthly distribution). It is now providing transfers to a total of 379,801 recipients (57% women, 43% men) across the country in all 135 districts. Another payment was made in October/November 2020 to cover the July to December 2020 payment cycle.</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>The GoU delivered food packages to 1.5 million vulnerable people in Kampala and Wasiko districts. The food packages include six kilograms of maize flour and three kilograms of beans and salt per head. Lactating mothers and the sick also receive two kilograms of powdered milk and two kilograms of sugar.</p>
	School feeding	<p>The school feeding programme in Karamoja is run by the WFP in collaboration with government. During the month of July, beneficiaries received take home food rations instead of cooked meals.</p>
	Public works	<p>The Government of Uganda (GoU) is implementing a time-bound expansion of labor-intensive public works program ("Urban Cash for Work Program" (UCWP)) to the main urban areas of the country as well as flood-affected districts. This is the first attempt in the country to cover new beneficiaries in major urban areas particularly in parts of the districts where many informal sector workers live. Within the selected urban locations, the program will target beneficiaries using a mixture of poverty and jobs-related criteria. The program is designed to benefit an estimated 462,000 beneficiaries who will work on selected public works projects (maintaining social distancing requirements) for 12 days a month for 2 months for a daily wage of \$1.75. As of January 2021, the Ministry of Finance had not yet released funds, and a pilot program in Arua is planned by ILO through the PROSPECT program. Beneficiary profile: Ugandan citizens with a national ID affected by COVID-19: female-</p>

		headed households with 4+ family members, one child under five, or a member who lost paid work; or the household faces eviction
	Utility waivers	<p>To promote the use of digital payments, the Bank of Uganda recommended to waive transaction fees on person-to-person payments of up to UGX 30,000. In addition, individual mobile money providers have implemented additional measures, e.g. the zero-rating of merchant payments until June 2020.</p> <p>A temporary ban (final quarter of financial year 2020) was implemented by the GoU on disconnecting utility services (water, electricity) for vulnerable consumers.</p> <p>A Presidential request that landlords not evict tenants who have failed to pay their rent, resulting in some landlords offering a three-month grace period during the lockdown.</p> <p>Repayment holidays, loan tenor extensions, and other debt restructuring options were granted by the Bank of Uganda on a case by case basis.</p> <p>A fee waiver was provided by Stanbic Bank for 30 days during the lockdown on payments for utilities, television, online banking, and mobile money transactions.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	President Yoweri Museveni has agreed to the workers mid-term access to their saving in the National Social Security fund. It has now been agreed that somebody who is 45 years old and has saved for ten years can access up to 20% of their savings.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	(March 2020) The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) of Uganda announced measures that allow businesses/employers facing economic distress due to COVID-19 to reschedule NSSF contributions for 3 months without accumulating a penalty.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Ukraine

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Temporary child benefits to support families of individual entrepreneurs, which is one of the most affected groups in terms of income loss, for the duration of quarantine plus one month. As of September 3, 2020, 88.7 thousand entrepreneurs (115.2 thousand children) received the assistance. It was provided for each child up to 10 years old in the amount of subsistence minimum (SM for children under 6 years old - US\$ 66, for children 6-10 years old - US\$ 82). The measure was extended from Nov 1 to Dec 31, 2020, with automatic re-enrollment of those who received assistance during the first stage of the program. During this period around 110 thousand beneficiaries (more than 130 thousand children) received the assistance.</p> <p>One-off assistance to the 174.0 thousand social pensioners (those who are not entitled to old age pension) and to 306.4 thousand disability programs' beneficiaries (persons disabled from childhood and children with disabilities).</p> <p>Relaxed eligibility rules of the Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI) Program allowing to: extend duration of payments; scale up activities aimed at increasing coverage of the poor; make individuals who have lost their jobs during quarantine, informal sector workers and returning migrants eligible for the GMI benefit.</p> <p>E-platforms allowing remote enrollment in social assistance programs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• E-Service online platform, operated by the Ministry of Social Policy, allows remote registration and enrollment to: Housing and Utilities Subsidy program, birth grants and child benefits to children of individual entrepreneurs under 10 years old;• Social Community integrated information system allows remote enrollment in 23 social assistance programs for the citizens of amalgamated territorial communities <p>From April 2021, sole proprietors and employees whose activities were suspended because of region's status as "COVID red" zone are able to apply for a once-off financial assistance from the State Budget of Ukraine in the amount of 8000 UAH (around 300 USD). The service is available throughout the year, including for those who received financial assistance last year. The aid does not need to be returned to the state or taxes paid from it. Registration is done using the software of the portal "Action" ("Dia"). That is, the information that the applicant indicates in the application is checked automatically. Registration time – around 5 min. The application for financial assistance also</p>

		<p>allows to receive additional payments from the local budget. Decisions on the appointment of aid and its amount are made by local governments.</p> <p>The Government introduced one-off cash assistance (UAH 1000 = \$35) for 10.6 million vulnerable pensioners (whose pension is up to UAH 5000 = US\$185). The total amount of funds received as of May 18 was UAH 9.88 bln (US\$ 365 mln).</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Increased access to the Housing Utilities Subsidy program, through: (i) increasing norms (by 50 percent) for energy consumption used to determine the amount of subsidy; (ii) relaxed eligibility rules; (iii) automatic re-enrollment into the program for the heating season 2020-2021; and (d) extending benefits for the period of the quarantine without the need to reapply. In total, over 3 million beneficiary households (over 7.9 million individuals) were provided temporary increased benefits under the existing Housing and Utilities Subsidy Program. Cost of measure – US\$ 914 million</p> <p>Additional payment to the beneficiaries (around 3 million households) of the Housing Utilities Subsidy program to mitigate the impact of increased utilities' expenses during the COVID-19 quarantine. Cost of measure – US\$ 33,3 million</p> <p>Non-residential real estate owned by individuals or legal persons was not subject to real estate tax for the month of March, 2020</p> <p>Land fees (land tax and rent) for the land plots owned or used, including on lease terms, by individuals or legal entities to perform economic activities, are neither charged, nor paid for the period from March 1 to March 30, 2020, and they are used in economic activities</p> <p>The government has introduced a moratorium on penalties and disconnection of consumers who are late on utility payments., The government has introduced a moratorium on penalties and disconnection of consumers who are late on utility payments (from March 21 to August 20, 2020)</p> <p>Price regulation for the period of the quarantine for 10 socially important food products, 20 categories of personal protective equipment, 7 medicines, and 10 types of antiseptics.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Government allocated UAH 2.28 billion (US\$ 84.44 mln) to the Social Insurance Fund to finance paid sick leaves and one-off assistance for the families of doctors and medical workers, who died

		<p>from COVID-19.</p> <p>The Government introduced temporary out-of-work support through Social Insurance Fund to those who are sick with COVID-19 or are self-isolating under medical supervision (50% of average salary; 100% - for medical personnel)</p>
	Health insurance	<p>Parliament has introduced a state insurance for medical professionals who become disabled as a result of COVID-19-related sickness. This insurance also covers the families of doctors and nurses who die as a result of COVID-19. Overall, more than 300 health care professionals have fallen victim of Covid-19 while some 26,000 have been infected.</p>
	Pensions	<p>The Government introduced a regular monthly UAH500 pension top-up for retirees aged 80 years or more (incorporating seniors 75+ with a UAH 400 top up starting starting July 2021).</p> <p>Slight increase in pensions for pensioners with incomes below the threshold UAH 5000, or \$ 180; it is also considered to extend this measure to children with disabilities.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>Minimum unemployment benefit was increased from UAH 650 to UAH 1000 (from US\$24 to US\$37, respectively). The maximum unemployment benefit under this measure is equal to four-fold subsistence minimum for the work-able individuals - UAH 8,408 (US\$ 311) as of March 31, 2020. Unemployed are eligible for the program regardless the number of years worked and the level of social insurance contributions. Graduates of the educational institution, informal workers and those who were fired because of work absence also qualify for this type of assistance. The cost of measure - US\$ 47.3 mln. The amount of payments for persons receiving the minimum unemployment benefit without taking into account wages and seniority, for the period of quarantine has been increased from UAH 650 to UAH 1,000. Such an increase is envisaged by the Resolution of the Board of the Compulsory State Social Insurance Fund of Ukraine which came into force on April 18, 2020. The ordinance applies from the beginning of the quarantine announcement, i.e. from March 12, and will be valid for 30 calendar days after the quarantine terminates. The minimum amount of unemployment assistance is raised to UAH 1,000 UAH for the following categories:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • those who, during the 12 months preceding registration with the employment service, have the insurance period under 6 months or are dismissed from their last workplace for negative reasons (eg. unexcused absence); • young people who have graduated or dropped out of secondary and tertiary education establishment, have been discharged from compulsory military service and who need outplacement to get the first job; • internally displaced persons who don't have a documented confirmation of their employment periods. <p>For all unemployed persons who have been registered during the quarantine period and receive a minimum allowance (UAH 650), the allowance will be automatically reassigned from the first day of</p>

		<p>registration in the employment service.</p> <p>Partial unemployment benefit introduced for the period of quarantine (through 22 May 2020 with a possibility for extension) for workers employed by those enterprises that have reduced or completely stopped activities, with some UAH 4.72 billion (USD 177.2 million) allocated to this end, and financing through the State Employment Service</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>A holiday was introduced for small and medium sized companies for the payment of social security contributions until May 31, 2020 (which does not impact the accrual of their pensionable service)</p> <p>Entrepreneurs, farmers and self-employed (scientists, artists, teachers, attorneys, notary, etc.) shall be exempted from paying the single social contribution</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	State Employment Service moved the key employment service operations, such as outreach to and registration of newly unemployed cohorts, job search assistance, counseling, case management of vulnerable jobseekers, training, skilling, re-skilling activities to e-platforms (admin adaptation).
	Labor market regulations	<p>Quarantine related changes were introduced to the Labor Code of Ukraine to regulate remote work, flexible schedule and salaries for business interruption period</p> <p>State Employment Service simplified administrative procedures by introducing deferred formal registration (online registration of unemployed, which is subject to verification within 10 working days after the quarantine restrictions are officially lifted) and online enrollment in unemployment and part-time employment benefit programs.</p> <p>Parliament has also approved atop-up of 300 percent of the salary for medical personnel working with COVID-19 patients</p> <p>Additional bonuses shall be established for social protection workers that provide social services at the residence place of their clients at the level of 100% in addition to their basic salary</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>Social Insurance Fund introduced temporary compensation for the income losses for COVID-19 patients. All insured employees are eligible to receive 50% of their average wage, regardless of seniority, starting from the 6th day of the confirmed temporary incapacity to work (the first 5 days are financed by employers).</p> <p>Part-time employment status was introduced for employees of SMEs for the duration of the quarantine. In order to maintain jobs, the SMEs will receive support at the amount of 1 minimal wage per employee. The cost of this measure is UAH 4.723 bln (US\$ 175 mln), the funds have been allocated from the state anti-COVID-19 fund.</p>

United Arab Emirates

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) UAE Government have provided 3 months Food & essential needs for 44,500 Families across UAE.</p> <p>On 19 April 2020, the UAE launched the '10 million meals' campaign to support low-income families and individuals who have been affected financially by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. Coinciding with the advent of the holy month of Ramadan, the nationwide campaign enables the public, companies, businessmen, entrepreneurs and philanthropists to make a financial donation towards purchasing cooked meals and food supplies or providing food items and parcels for distributing among hard-hit families and individuals.</p> <p>(April 2020) NGO with Sharjah Islamic Bank provide 1-month Food & essential needs for 4000 Families in Sharjah.</p> <p>(April 2020) Launching the "Meer" initiative to ensure that the needs of senior citizens are met and to deliver essential food items to their homes</p> <p>(April 2020) Delivering 1.6 million meals to workers in Abu Dhabi in collaboration with local families and 70 restaurants</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(April 2020) The current employer must pay housing and other allowances until the worker finds another job or leaves the country.</p> <p>Central Bank urges banks and financial institutions in the UAE to continue to postpone loan payments for clients affected by COVID-19. Central Bank urges banks and financial institutions in the UAE to extend debt delay period and interest on the payments due until December 31, 2020 as part of the comprehensive economic support plan</p>

		<p>The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization implements a package of initiatives to support the operations of the private sector facilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Offering the possibility of refunding bank guarantees for laborers <p>Exempting the Hajj and Umrah campaigns from licensing renewal fees from March to December 31st, 2020</p> <p>(April 2020) Abu Dhabi Housing Authority postpones the payment of government housing loans for citizens working in the private sector for a period of three renewable months</p> <p>(April 2020) Abu Dhabi Housing Authority halts measures taken against citizens who are late in paying due housing loans for a period of three renewable months</p> <p>The Emirates Red Crescent Authority announced the “Among Your Family” initiative for real estate owners to reduce, exempt or postpone rent payment for existing tenants</p> <p>(April 2020) Union Coop in Dubai allocates AED150 million to reduce the prices of 25,000 commodities during Ramadan</p> <p>(April 2020) Providing free internet via satellite to students and teachers in areas that are not covered by the satellite service</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Federal Authority for Government Human Resources (FAHR) has amended the law of Human Resource a regulation that any employee that being hospitalized or being in quarantine period will be paid fully sick leave benefit. Also, a regulation has been set that a spouse of sick employee will be paid fully during the during the period of employee being hospitalized or allocated to quarantine facility due to COVID-19.</p> <p>The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratization has called on private sector establishments to consider workers infected with Covid-19 as sick cases entitled to sick leave</p>
	Health insurance	<p>The government provided full health coverage for all (Citizen, Resident & Tourist) infected or who were exposed to Covid-19, during their treatment and quarantine period.</p> <p>The Government approved that the testing for Covid-19 is free of cost for all (Citizen, Resident & Tourist)</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	The Abu Dhabi Pension Fund on Tuesday announced that private sector companies in the emirate can apply to postpone paying pensions over the next three months.
Labor Markets	Activation measures	Implementing distance learning for all government and private centers for people of determination (disabled) and early intervention centers, and using smart mobile apps that support distance learning, in addition to continuing the vocational training project for people of determination to market their products in various outlets
	Labor market regulations	The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation implements a package of initiatives to support the operations of the private sector facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reducing fees for obtaining internal work permits
	Reduced work time	The Ministry of Human Resources and Emiratisation implements a package of initiatives to support the operations of the private sector facilities: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Restructuring job frameworks in terms of wages, vacations and working remotely
	Wage subsidies	

United Kingdom

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Britain raised the benefit of its main state-paid social protection program, the Universal Credit. The universal credit standard allowance for 12 months, starting in April 2020, increased by 1,000 pounds a year (or 20 pounds per week), with the working tax credit basic element rising by the same amount as well. It is expected that the measures will benefit over 4 million of the most vulnerable households. Universal credit is a benefit for working-age people, which was introduced to replace six benefits and merge them into one payment. For the duration of the outbreak, the requirements of the Universal Credit Program will be temporarily relaxed for those who have COVID-19 or are self-isolating according to government advice. People will be able to claim Universal Credit and access advance payments upfront without the current requirement to attend a job Centre if they are advised to self-isolate.</p> <p>(April 2020) The rules of the Carer's Allowance were relaxed to allow continuation of entitlement where the caring relationship has ceased due to the claimant or the person they care for being in isolation due to coronavirus; additionally, emotional support counts as care. This easement ended on 12 May 2021.</p> <p>In Scotland, over 80,000 carers received a one-off coronavirus Carer's Allowance supplement of £230.10. It was paid twice in 2020 and will be paid twice in 2021.</p> <p>Individuals who are asked to self-isolate by the NHS on or after 28 September 2020 and are on a low income, unable to work from home and will lose income as a result, may be entitled to a payment of £500 from local authorities under the Test and Trace Support Payment scheme. This lump sum payment aims to provide additional financial support to those on low incomes so they can self-isolate and help stop the spread of the coronavirus. The scheme is ongoing as of November 2021.</p> <p>New payment for people self-isolating in highest risk areas. People on low incomes who need to self-isolate and are unable to work from home in areas with high incidence of COVID-19 will benefit from a new payment scheme starting on Tuesday 1 September, the Health Secretary has today. Starting with a trial in Blackburn with Darwen, Pendle and Oldham to ensure the process works, eligible individuals who test positive with the virus will receive £130 for their 10-day period of self-isolation. Other members of their household, who have to self-isolate for 14 days, will be entitled to a payment of £182. And £13 per day (up to a maximum of £182) if an individual is identified as a non-household</p>

		<p>contact of another person who has tested positive for coronavirus and is asked to self-isolate up until 14 days after they were most recently in contact with the person who tested positive</p> <p>The government launched a one-off cash transfer of £500 for those working households that receive tax credits, either: Working Tax Credit, Child Tax Credit and were eligible for Working Tax Credit but did not get a payment because household income is too high to get Working Tax Credit payments. The benefit is directly paid to beneficiaries' bank accounts by 23 April 2021. The payment is non-taxable and beneficiaries do not need to declare it as income for Self Assessment tax returns or for tax credit claims and renewals.</p> <p>Vulnerable households across the country will be able to access a new £500m support fund to help them with essentials over the coming months as the country continues its recovery from the pandemic. The new Household Support Fund will support millions of households in England and will be distributed by councils in England, who know their local areas best and can directly help those who need it most, including for example, through small grants to meet daily needs such as food, clothing, and utilities. Cash will be made available to Local Authorities in October 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>On 8 November 2020, the government announced that the holiday activities and food programme will be expanded across the whole of England in 2021. The programme has provided healthy food and enriching activities to disadvantaged children since 2018. The programme will cover the Easter, summer and Christmas holidays in 2021. The government will make up to £220 million available to local authorities to coordinate free holiday provision, including healthy food and enriching activities. The programme will be available to children in every local authority in England.</p> <p>In Britain, 18 to 30-year-olds will be offered discounted takeaway meals as part of a government-led initiative to boost the uptake of vaccines (2021).</p> <p>In Britain, 18 to 30-year-olds will be offered free travel to their COVID-19 job as part of a government-led initiative to boost the uptake of vaccines.</p>
	School feeding	<p>On March 20, 2020, schools across the United Kingdom were closed. By March 31, 2020, the government formally launched a national voucher scheme to ensure that the 1.3 million eligible school-aged children will continue to have access to meals during COVID-19-induced school closures. Under the scheme, each school-aged child would receive £15 per week voucher (equivalent to £3 per day), with the vouchers being redeemable at all major supermarkets. The value of the vouchers exceeds the costs of free school meals, as the government recognizes the increased costs placed on parents given that they will not be purchasing food in bulk and thus will incur higher costs. Families with school-aged children can know their eligibility through the government website. The delivery of</p>

		<p>the vouchers will be under the responsibility of schools. The government has also provided the flexibility for schools to utilise their existing in-house caterers and hire a local meal delivery service provider, with the government reimbursing the additional costs. The program was reintroduced in January 2021 under the COVID Winter Grant Scheme.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>Temporary suspension of mortgage payments, fuel duty (for a year and for homeowners only), and suspension of new evictions from social or private rented accommodation. This measure involved over 1.8 million mortgage payment holidays. This was extended in May 2020 for three more months and again into 2021 as the new lockdown was reinstated in November 2020. The ban on evictions was extended into 2021 and ended in May.</p> <p>(April 2020) Workers working from home during coronavirus can get tax relief. The measure implies that workers can claim tax relief for additional household costs (heating, metered water bills, home contents insurance, business calls or a new broadband connection) if they have to work at home on a regular basis, either for all or part of the week. This program was ongoing as of November 2021.</p> <p>The government's COVID Local Support Grant, first introduced in December 2020, has been extended through to September 2021 bringing it in line with the end date for furlough and other COVID-related support. This is beyond the planned ending of restrictions, to help families get back on their feet as the economy recovers and the vaccine rollout continues. The funding is ring-fenced so that 80% is used to support families with bills for food, key utilities and other essentials.</p> <p>The COVID Winter Grant Scheme, which was introduced in response to the pandemic in December 2020, primarily focuses on food and essential utility bills for low-income families. It has meant that councils can ensure that children in their area have the essentials they need. The scheme ran until Friday 16 April 2021. The grants are primarily for helping families buy essentials, with at least 80% of funds ring-fenced to be spent on food, energy and water bills, with 20% available for other associated essential costs. The total value of the scheme reached 229.1 million GBP.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>The Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), paid by the employers and refunded by the state, will now be available for eligible individuals diagnosed with COVID-19 or those who are unable to work because they are self-isolating in line with government advice. SSP will be made available from day one when self-isolating, instead of day four. This is in addition to the change that SSP will be payable from day one instead of day 4 for affected individuals. Beneficiaries can get £95.85 a week Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) for up to 28 weeks.</p>
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	<p>Pensions schemes will not have to face a planned 10% hike on their general levies due to the financial stress caused by the COVID-19 crisis. The government announced that it will hold off on the planned</p>

		<p>10% increase on the General Levy on Occupational and Personal Pension schemes, which was scheduled to take effect on April 1.</p> <p>Treasury considering freeze on pensions and public sector pay to cover coronavirus bill</p>
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	<p>The pensions regulator in UK (TPR) has recently published guidance to help UK pension trustees, employers and administrators deal with the financial and regulatory risks posed by coronavirus. In its guidance the TPR also allowed employers and scheme trustees to put pension funding payments on hold where absolutely necessary and to delay the submission of recovery plans where such information is currently expected. The Pension Regulator had given defined benefit transfers a three-month hiatus while also allowing employers to halt contributions in response to the Covid-19 crisis. The regulator published guidance on March 27 allowing DB schemes to delay member requests to transfer out of the scheme by up to three months. This is to give trustees more time to calculate cash equivalent transfer values (CETVs) as due to falling markets caused by the coronavirus pandemic, it is now more difficult for them to be sure of the underlying value of pension funds. Some schemes may have also experienced an increase in demand for CETV calculations which would place additional strain on administration teams. Therefore, the three-month delay will allow schemes to focus on other administrative tasks such as pension payroll and retirement quotations. Freezing DB transfers should also prevent individuals being targeted by scammers or making poor financial planning decisions in response to the crisis.</p> <p>[September 2020] The Kickstart Scheme gives firms financial support to create new 6-month job placements for young people (16-24) who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The scheme is open to all organisations. This financial support is used to pay among others employer National Insurance and minimum automatic pension enrolment contributions.</p> <p>[Extension - February 2021] The minimum number of job placements was removed. All employers can now apply directly for a grant. As of 25 February 2021, over 30,000 job placements had been approved.</p> <p>[Extension - October 2021] It was announced Kickstart Scheme applications are closing on 17 December 2021 and that job start dates have been extended to 31 March 2022.</p> <p>TPR extended the maximum period defined contribution (DC) pension schemes and trustees had to report late contribution payments from 90 to 150 days.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>The Kickstart Scheme gives firms financial support to create new 6-month job placements for young people (16-24) who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The scheme is open to all organisations. This financial support is used to pay:among others £1,500 per</p>

job placement for setup costs, support and training. Applications have to be for a minimum of 30 job placements.

[Extension - February 2021] The minimum number of job placements was removed. All employers can now apply directly for a grant. As of 25 February 2021, over 30,000 job placements had been approved.

[Extension - October 2021] It was announced Kickstart Scheme applications are closing on 17 December 2021 and that job start dates have been extended to 31 March 2022.

The government introduced the Job Entry Targeted Support program which is an employment measure. This initiative is aimed at people who have been out of work and claiming either Universal Credit or New Style Jobseeker's Allowance for at least 13 weeks. JETS will provide personalised employment support for 6 months, boosting the return to employment. This might include:

- 1) a personal adviser – including regular contact to agree a tailored action plan to help get beneficiaries back into employment
 - 2) assessment of employment support needs
 - 3) help with IT skills, job search, CV writing, interview support
 - 4) support to consider different employment sectors/routes and ways of working including home working
 - 5) building confidence, self-belief and self-motivation
 - 6) support for anxieties about working in a Covid-19 environment including potential access to mental health and wellbeing support
 - 7) signposting to skills support and other specialised help and training
- The government planned to spend £238 M in this policy.

[November 2020] The Restart programme was announced. It will support unemployed people to find work. As part of the 2020 Spending Review, the Government announced the Restart Scheme across England and Wales. The scheme will provide "intensive and tailored support to over 1 million unemployed people". Individuals have been referred to the scheme from July 2021. The scheme will offer "enhanced support" to Universal Credit claimants who have been out of work for at least 12 months. It will give this support to people who have been claiming Universal Credit in the Intensive Work Search Regime for between 12 and 18 months, with the intention of getting them back into work as "quickly and efficiently as possible". Work coaches may also give early access to the scheme to some claimants, if this is felt to be the most appropriate route for them.

The Government said that the scheme will provide up to 12 months of tailored support. Participants will receive a personalised offer, which will be tailored to individual and local need, with regular contact.

The three-year programme will provide £2.9 billion of funding, with around £400 million in 2021/22.

		<p>On the 29 September 2020, the Prime Minister announced the lifetime skills guarantee. Under this guarantee, from April 2021, adults without an A-level or equivalent qualification have been able to access a fully-funded college course.</p> <p>The courses available to study are only those considered to be “valued by employers”. This initially excluded any courses in the hospitality and catering sector, but courses in this sector were added in July 2021.</p> <p>The list of qualifications included are published by the Education and Skills Funding Agency, and will be updated as more qualifications are added. As of April 2021, almost 400 courses were available and a list of the subject areas that have been included have been published in the DfE’s National Skills Fund guidance. The table in Annex A also shows which subject areas have been included and excluded as of August 2021.</p> <p>The guarantee will be paid for through the £2.5 billion National Skills Fund. It was announced at the November 2020 Spending Review that £375 million would be invested from this Fund in 2021-22. This included £95 million for the Lifetime Skills Guarantee.</p>
	Labor market regulations	Treasury considering freeze on pensions and public sector pay to cover coronavirus bill
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>Employers will be able to contact HMRC (revenue and customs) for a grant to cover most of the wages of people who are not working that are furloughed and kept on payroll rather than being laid off. Government grants would cover 80% of the salary of retained workers to a total of 2,500 pounds a month. The scheme will cover the cost of wages backdated to March 1 and will initially be open for three months (might be extended if needed). According to the Commons Library Briefing, as of February 15th 2021, a total of 11.2 million jobs had been furloughed, costing £53.8 billion.</p> <p>(Note: This measure was extended several times. The last extension was placed until September 30th 2021, with some changes in the policy: the grant will continue to cover 80% of an employee’s wages until 30 June 2021. From 1 July 2021, the grant will cover 70% of wages and employers will be required to top up an additional 10%. From 1 August the grant will cover 60% of wages and employers will be required to top up 20%.)</p> <p>[July 2020] Incentive announced as part of the Plan for Jobs (July 2020). This paid £2,000 for new apprentices under 25 and £1,500 for those aged 25 and over if they were employed from August 2020 to the end of March 2021. In response to the pandemic, two increases to the incentive payments that are paid to employers when they take on new apprentices have been announced.</p> <p>[Extension - March 2021] In the March 2021 Budget, the Government announced that it will pay employers in England £3,000 for every new apprentice they hire between 1 April 2021 and 30 September 2021.</p> <p>Prior to the pandemic, the Government was providing £1,000 to employers for every apprentice they took on who was either aged between 16 and 18 or aged between 19 and 24 and had previously been</p>

		<p>in care or had a Local Authority Education, Health and Care plan. The new payment will be in addition to this.</p> <p>As of the 9 July 2021, incentive claims had been submitted for 79,850 apprentices.</p> <p>[September 2020] The Kickstart Scheme gives firms financial support to create new 6-month job placements for young people (16-24) who are currently on Universal Credit and at risk of long-term unemployment. The scheme is open to all organisations. This financial support is used to pay 100% of the relevant National Minimum Wage for 25 hours a week.</p> <p>[Extension- February 2021] The minimum number of job placements was removed. All employers can now apply directly for a grant. As of 25 February 2021, over 30,000 job placements had been approved.</p> <p>[Extension - October 2021] It was announced Kickstart Scheme applications are closing on 17 December 2021 and that job start dates have been extended to 31 March 2022. The £3,000 incentive payment awarded to organisations employing apprentices will also be extended to business hires up until 31 January 2022</p>
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United States

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>First Economic Impact Payments (CARES Act): The first round of stimulus payments were authorized under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act. In 2020, the IRS had issued 162 million payments — totaling \$271 billion. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that those first-round payments will eventually cost a total of \$292 billion. Those initial payments issued earlier in 2020 were \$1,200 per person, or \$2,400 for those filing jointly, plus \$500 per qualifying child. The payments began phasing out at the same income levels as the current payments, but since the payments authorized under the CARES Act were larger, the maximum income levels to receive a payment were also larger:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* \$99,000 for single taxpayers* \$136,500 for taxpayers filing as head of household* \$198,000 for married couples filing jointly <p>Second Economic Impact Payments (Consolidated Appropriations Act): The second round of stimulus payments were authorized on December 27, 2020 as part of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021. Those payments typically totaled \$600 per person, or \$1,200 for married individuals, plus \$600 for each qualifying child. The payments began phasing out at the same income levels as the current payments, but the maximum income levels to receive a payment were slightly higher. Taxpayers were ineligible for any payment, unless they had a qualifying child, above the following income levels:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">* \$87,000 for single taxpayers* \$124,500 for taxpayers filing as head of household* \$174,000 for married couples filing jointly <p>As of March 5, 2021, about \$135 billion of the second round of payments have been sent out; overall, such payments are expected to cost a total of \$164 billion according to the Congressional Budget Office.</p> <p>Third Economic Impact Payments (American Rescue Plan): The most recent checks were included in the American Rescue Plan, which was enacted on March 11, 2021. Eligible individuals will receive a payment of \$1,400 (\$2,800 for married couples), plus an additional \$1,400 per eligible child. However, those payments phase out quickly for incomes above \$75,000 for single taxpayers, above \$112,500 for taxpayers filing as head of household, and above \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly. Taxpayers would be ineligible for any payment, unless they have a qualifying child, above the following income levels:</p>

		<p>* \$80,000 for single taxpayers * \$120,000 for taxpayers filing as head of household * \$160,000 for married couples filing jointly</p> <p>Similar to previous iterations of the payments, most taxpayers will receive the funds by direct deposit. For Social Security and other beneficiaries who received previous payments via debit card, they will receive this third payment the same way. Overall, such payments are expected to cost \$411 billion through 2030 according to the Congressional Budget Office.</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan of March 2021 makes several changes to the Child Tax Credit for tax year 2021. It makes the credit fully refundable, increases the amount to \$3,600 per child under age 6 and \$3,000 per child age 6 and older, allows the credit to be taken on behalf of a 17-year-old (the prior maximum age was 16), and provides for monthly advance payments of the credit beginning in July. The increased amount of the credit (the additional \$1,000 or \$1,600 per child above the current-law amount of \$2,000) begins to phase out at income levels of \$75,000 for single filers, \$112,500 for head-of-household filers, and \$150,000 for married couples. Half of the credit would be issued in advance payments beginning in July 2021; the remaining credit would be delivered in 2022.</p> <p>The American Rescue Plan of March 2021 increased and expanded the Child and Dependent Care Tax Credit, making more people eligible and increasing the total credit to \$4,000 for one qualifying individual and \$8,000 for two or more.</p> <p>For those without children, the American Rescue Plan of March 2021 increased the Earned-Income Tax Credit from \$543 to \$1,502. West Virginia Will Pay Young People \$100 To Get Vaccinated Against COVID-19. The state will offer a \$100 savings bond to everyone between the ages of 16 and 35 who gets vaccinated. The initiative will apply retroactively to people in this age group who have already gotten their shots. It is funded with money from the CARES Act</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>SNAP (formerly known as “food stamps”) benefits: The December 2020 legislation increased the maximum monthly SNAP benefit 15 percent through June 30, 2021. The American Rescue Plan extended the period for increased SNAP benefits by three months, to September 30, 2021.</p> <p>Provisions of the Families First Coronavirus Response Act of March 2020 temporarily suspended the time limit for able-bodied adults without children who do not meet work requirements to access SNAP benefits and that allow states to request emergency allotments that provide all SNAP participants with the maximum benefit for their household size. Families First and subsequent legislation allowed states to temporarily adjust their operations to help manage their workloads and help participants gain and maintain access to the program. Nationally, the number of SNAP</p>

		<p>participants rose from about 37 million in February 2020 to about 43 million in May; this number stayed steady through September, before dropping slightly to about 42 million in December 2020 and remaining at roughly that level through June 2021.</p> <p>In August 2021 USDA announced it had completed the congressionally mandated revision of the Thrifty Food Plan (TFP), the basis for SNAP benefits, which will raise benefits for SNAP households beginning in October 2021 (and for future years). This update, which will enable the program to provide benefits that more accurately reflect the cost of a healthy diet, raised the maximum SNAP benefits by 21 percent compared to what they would have been. Because the 15 percent SNAP benefit increase ended at the same time, in October 2021, households are receiving a modest increase in their SNAP benefits.</p> <p>States can give SNAP households emergency supplementary benefits as part of the Families First Act of March 2020; all states have used this option. (Originally, a Trump Administration interpretation of this Families First policy left out the lowest-income SNAP households from these benefits when states began issuing them in March 2020. The Biden Administration reversed this policy, and beginning April 2021 all households in states with these benefits have received emergency allotments of at least \$95.)</p> <p>As part of the March 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Department of Agriculture was obligated over \$1,000,000,000 to provide food and nutritional assistance. Half of this amount went to the "Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children" (WIC). An additional \$400,000,000 was provided for the "Commodity Assistance Program" for The Emergency Food Assistance Program (TEFAP).</p> <p>As part of the March 2020 Families First Coronavirus Response Act, the Department of Health and Human Services was obligated \$250,000,000 to provide nutrition services for "Aging and Disability Services Programs". Of which, \$160,000,000 is for Home-Delivered Nutrition Services, \$80,000,000 is for Congregate Nutrition Services, and \$10,000,000 is for Nutrition Services for Native Americans.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">School feeding</p>	<p>March 18th 2020, the United States Federal Government passed the Families First Coronavirus Response Act. As part of the bill, during FY 2020, whenever a school is closed for at least 5 consecutive days during a public health emergency designation during which the school would otherwise be in session, each household containing at least 1 member who is an eligible child attending the school is eligible to receive assistance pursuant to a state agency plan approved by the Secretary of Agriculture. An "eligible child" means a child who, if not for the closure of the school attended by the child during a public health emergency designation and due to concerns about a COVID-19 outbreak, would receive free or reduced price school meals under the National School Lunch Act at the school. In October 2020, this benefit was extended until September 2021.</p>

	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>For taxpayers under an existing Installment Agreement, payments due between April 1 and July 15, 2020 are suspended. Taxpayers who are currently unable to comply with the terms of an Installment Payment Agreement, including a Direct Debit Installment Agreement, may suspend payments during this period if they prefer. Furthermore, the IRS will not default any Installment Agreements during this period. By law, interest will continue to accrue on any unpaid balances.</p> <p>(CARE ACT): A number of tax benefits, such as deferring payroll taxes will be provided. (total \$300 billion)</p> <p>The original coronavirus relief bill, known as the CARES Act and signed into law on March 27, 2020, helped most federal student loan borrowers by temporarily pausing payments and involuntary collections on federally held student loans through Sept. 30, 2020, as well as providing borrowers with a 0% interest rate. The aid was extended multiple times until a final extension was announced on August 6th, 2021. Normal repayment will resume on January 31st, 2022</p> <p>The Center for Disease Control instituted a national eviction moratorium by building on a 1944 public health law intended to curb the spread of a pandemic. The CDC originally imposed a nationwide, temporary federal moratorium on residential evictions for nonpayment of rent on September 4, 2020 ("initial order"). The CDC extended the initial order several times, until it expired on July 31, 2021. On August 3, 2021, the CDC issued a new order implementing another eviction moratorium through October 3, 2021 ("new order"), which was struck down by the Supreme Court and the order has subsequently ended.</p> <p>The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) on July 23, 2021 announced streamlined COVID-19 Recovery options to help homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages who have been financially impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic bring their mortgage current and remain in their homes. The simplified COVID-19 Recovery waterfall allows mortgage servicers to offer eligible homeowners who cannot resume making their mortgage payments a reduction in the principal and interest portion of their monthly payments.</p> <p>The Federal Housing Administration (FHA) on June 25, 2021 announced more measures to help homeowners with FHA-insured mortgages who are struggling financially due to the COVID-19 pandemic. These include Extended COVID-19 Forbearance Request Timeframes, the COVID-19 Advance Loan Modification, and Home Equity Conversion Mortgage COVID-19 Extensions.</p> <p>The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), Administration for Children and Families (ACF), Office of Community Services (OCS), Division of Energy Assistance (DEA), is releasing \$4.5</p>

		billion in supplemental funding for the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) for federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2021. Grantees may use these funds for any purpose normally authorized under the federal LIHEAP statute (42 USC 8621 et seq.), including heating, cooling, crisis, weatherization assistance, case management for the reduction of home energy burden, and administrative costs. This is likely to expand access to the program.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Families First Coronavirus Response Act allows parents who are caring for children whose schools have closed to have a maximum of 12 weeks of paid family leave. This includes two weeks of paid sick leave at 100% of the person's normal salary, up to \$511 per day. It would also provide up to 12 weeks of paid family and medical leave at 67 percent of the person's normal pay, up to \$200 per day. Gig and self-employed workers also get these benefits in the form of a tax credit.
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>American Rescue Plane: Expansion of the unemployment benefits with \$203 billion by extending unemployment programs, such as enhanced weekly benefit of \$300, through Sept 6th, 2021</p> <p>(CARE ACT): Further expansion of unemployment benefits (\$270 billion). Such benefits were significantly expanded under the legislation — extending unemployment insurance by 13 weeks, boosting benefits by up to \$600 per week for four months, and expanding eligibility requirements to include more categories of workers.</p> <p>(Consolidated Appropriations Act): Increased unemployment benefits (\$119 billion). The earlier relief legislation provided several enhancements to unemployment insurance benefits that were ultimately allowed to expire. This package restored those enhancements, albeit at more modest levels. It added \$300 per week to unemployment benefits, continued “gig” worker eligibility for unemployment benefits, and lengthened the maximum period that a worker could collect unemployment to 50 weeks.</p> <p>The Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which assists individuals who do not qualify for regular unemployment compensation and are unable to continue working as a result of COVID-19, such as self-employed workers, independent contractors, and gig workers</p>
	Social security contributions	The CARES Act includes penalty-free coronavirus-related distributions. The 10% early withdrawal penalty under Internal Revenue Code (Code) Section 72(t) is waived for “coronavirus-related distributions” of up to \$100,000. In addition, the 20% withholding requirement on these distributions does not apply. A coronavirus-related distribution is a distribution made in 2020 from a qualified retirement plan (including a 401(k) plan, 403(b) plan, 457(b) plan, individual retirement account, or individual retirement annuity) to a “qualified individual” (see the definition of a qualified individual below). A plan administrator may rely on an employee’s certification that the distribution is a coronavirus-related distribution. A coronavirus-related distribution is not treated as an eligible

		<p>rollover distribution and may not be contributed as a rollover contribution to an individual retirement account or another employer retirement plan.</p> <p>Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021: Deferring collections of employee social security payroll taxes</p> <p>Defined benefit plan sponsors gained a one-year holiday from making their 2020 contributions, but did not get other measures sought, including delayed reporting or premium payments to the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corp. or longer periods for measuring plan liabilities. Defined contribution plan participants will get relief from rules on taking required minimum distributions and limits on hardship loans.</p> <p>The Consolidated Appropriations Act 2021 stipulates additional 2020 recovery rebates for individuals. The provision provides a refundable tax credit in the amount of 600 USD per eligible family member. The credit is 600 USD per taxpayer (1,200 USD for married filing jointly), in addition to 600 USD per qualifying child.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has provided and maintained guidance for businesses and employers to plan for and respond to COVID-19-related situations. Businesses and employers are required to take into account workplace factors such as feasibility of social distancing in the workplace, ability to stagger employee shifts, degree to which employees interact with the public in person and the feasibility of accomplishing work by telework.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Uruguay

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Extra payment for two months for Asignación Familiar Plan de Equidad beneficiaries (372,231). The benefit was doubled 5 times. The first in April-May 2020, the second in June-July, the third in August-September, the fourth in November-December, and a fifth for January-February 2021.</p> <p>Extra payment for two months for Tarjeta Uruguay Social beneficiaries (417,602). Help between UYU 1,201 and UYU 6,460 according to the family composition. The payment was made in two installments and on August 11 it was decided to extend the duration for the third time. The benefit was extended for a fourth time in November-December 2020, and for a fifth in January-February 2021.</p> <p>(April 2020) The government introduced a subsidy for those entrepreneurs' holders of monotributo social who had to cease their economic activities. The policy involved a monthly subsidy of \$ 6,779 corresponding to the period of April and May, although it was paid from June in local decentralized networks and bank accounts.</p>
	Social pensions	<p>(April 2020) The government extended the validity of disability pensions and Temporary Subsidies for Partial Disability (STIP) for 180 days. It was resolved to extend the validity of disability pensions and Temporary Subsidies for Partial Disability (STIP). In the case of disability pensions and STIP with expiration date between 1 March and 30 June 2020, it was resolved to extend them for 180 days. The beneficiaries will be able to continue receiving their benefits without the need to carry out any formalities at the agency, since the extension will be made automatically. Likewise, the validity of collection or processing powers of attorney expiring between 1 March and 20 July 2020 was extended for 180 days</p>
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April, 2020) Canasta de Emergencia Alimentaria: Voucher to purchase food products for purchases in large supermarkets and small businesses, which is made a mobile application. The top-up (\$1200) of mobile through TuApp to buy food and essential items in local shops. For those who do not have a mobile, they can opt for a food basket that will be delivered to their houses. The benefit can be</p>

		received 2 times. Those who have already obtained the first basket should not do the registration process again. After 30 days of having collected the first voucher, the next one will be enabled.
	School feeding	<p>(April 2020) In Uruguay, families receiving the family allowance (targeted cash transfers) will receive a top-up for school meals during Tourism Week. This one-off top-up involved an extra \$424 for food security, involving 43,000 planned children beneficiaries. This benefit was paid through digital money card, bank accounts or local decentralized networks. On the other hand, other families with children will receive a voucher, which will be delivered at schools</p> <p>(April 2020) Operational adjustments in the national school feeding program; the government of Uruguay provides meals to school-aged children from the most vulnerable families that were benefiting from the national School Feeding Program. Schools that are taking part in the PAE remain open to serve as distribution points for take-home rations provided to families, which consist of a lunch, bread, and fruit or dessert.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>The government introduced a postponement of loan installments for retirees and pensioners. This measure aimed at reaching 97,000 beneficiaries who receive benefits of less than 3 BPC, equivalent to \$ 13,557 nominal and who only have loans requested before March 31st 2020. The benefit involved the suspension of the payment of the fees for May, June and July, which would be paid the first days of June, July and August respectively.</p> <p>(February 2021) The government introduced 25% discount on mobile and internet services in Antel to workers beneficiaries of unemployment benefits for three consecutive months. This will be available until March 31st 2021 and those who enter unemployment benefit within this period will also be able to access the discount.</p> <p>(May 2020) Payment is postponed for 30 days for BROU credit card payment. The installments of Banco Hipotecario for April and May will be reduced by 50% for the entire portfolio of mortgage loan clients and promises of sale whose operations are in force. Extensions, bonuses are established and extrajudicial auctions are postponed for different cases for the National Housing Agency. Maturities are eliminated for the MEVIR installments, they are not collected and there will be no judicial or extrajudicial actions derived from the delay in payment in these two months.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	The Social Security Bank introduced a new mechanism through which the beneficiaries of the sickness subsidy for workers over 65 years old, will be able to access the subsidy without the

		intervention of the health provider. Beneficiaries receive the equivalent of 70% of all their taxable income, with a cap of \$ 48,071.29.
	Health insurance	Workers who lose coverage from the National Health Fund between August 1 and October 31, will retain that right for three months. This measure is intended for people who lost health coverage due to activities ceased or termination of unemployment benefit, except in cases of dismissal for notorious misconduct.
	Pensions	<p>The government allowed another person to collect old-age pension benefits in name of people over 65 years old. This measure aimed at reaching 118,000 people over 65 years. This measure was extended several times.</p> <p>The government extended the validity of disability pensions and Temporary Subsidies for Partial Disability (STIP), as well as to facilitate the procedures for beneficiaries who need to request prostheses. In the case of disability pensions and STIPs with an expiration date between the 1st. March and June 30, it was decided to extend them for 180 days. The beneficiaries will be able to continue receiving their benefit without having to carry out procedures in the organization since the extension will be carried out automatically. This measure ended on July 20th, 2020.</p>
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[March 2020] The government announced a partial unemployment subsidy for dependent workers who are in a situation of partial suspension of activities. It is targeted at monthly workers, day laborers and workers with mixed remuneration who have a reduction of at least six full days of work and a maximum of 19 in the month or a reduction of the working day of at least 50% of the usual schedule will be entitled to the subsidy. Also, this policy included workers with part-time or commission-type remuneration with a partial reduction of 50% or more in their average income (of the six immediately preceding months).</p> <p>The reduction of hours must take place during the validity of the ministerial resolutions till June 30th, 2021. The subsidy is calculated as 25% of the monthly average wage received in the six months immediately prior to suspension or reduction of hours. The amount to be received, which includes the subsidy and the amount paid by the company for the period actually worked, will in no case be less than 75% of the base calculation. The payment will be made during the month following the reduction in the premises enabled for the local decentralized networks.</p> <p>[June 2021] It was extended till September 30th, 2021.</p> <p>[May 2020] The government relaxed the requirements to access to the unemployment benefit for workers for who had a total suspension of tasks.</p> <p>[May 2021] The government announced that special unemployment insurance is available until September 30th, 2021 for workers who have suspended activities. The activities covered by this</p>

		subsidy belong to the following groups: Processing and preservation of food, beverages and tobacco; General trade; Hotels, restaurants and bars; Transportation and storage; Teaching Services; Cultural, entertainment and communication services; Professional, technical, specialized services and those not included in other groups; Union, social and sports entities.
	Social security contributions	<p>[April 2020] The government decided to exempt 40% of social contributions paid by employers and non-dependent workers and provided financing for the remaining 60% in 6 installments, the first installment being paid in June 2020.</p> <p>[May 2020] Banco de Prevision Social decided not to charge fines and surcharges from domestic service employers who, due to the health emergency, were unable to pay their obligations in March 2020. The contributions for the month of March will be included in the April invoice without any penalties or surcharges.</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	[March 2020] The Ministry of Labor and Social Security signed a resolution by which firms were allowed to carry out licenses in advance to workers, paying the corresponding amount for leave and vacation salary as established by regulations. To take advantage of this measure, firms must have an agreement with their employees in the first place.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The government established a system for teleworking. The General Labor Inspectorate must be informed and the employer must supply the necessary implements. (Decree No. 94/2020)
	Wage subsidies	[July 2020] The Social Security Bank launched an income support program for those firms who reincorporate workers under the unemployment subsidy or who incorporate new workers between July and September 2020. The measure involves a cash transfer of \$5,000 for a period of three months.

		[December 2020] The government announced a contribution to companies of \$5,000 per month for each reinstated worker under the special unemployment benefit.
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Uzbekistan

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>Effective September 2020, a 10% increase in the base amount of the following benefits:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Allowances for persons with disability from childhood (UZS 513,350) - Allowances for people with disabilities and elderly failing to have enough length of service to assign a pension (UZS 315,030)* <p>Note: By Decree No UP-6038 of July 7th 2020, the government implemented a 10% increase in allowances for people with disability from childhood to UZS \$513,350 per month and to UZS \$315,030 for those elderly and disabled citizens who do not have the necessary work experience. The measure began on the September 1st 2020.</p> <p>(March 2020) The number of beneficiaries receiving allowances will increase by at least 10% or to 60,000 households included through the Council of the Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan. Extension of the duration of the social allowances for low-income families that expire in March-June for 6 months (or until a child reaches age of 2 or 14, depending on a social allowance) (additional USD 60 million). Until the end of 2020, gradually increasing the number of households receiving the below three types of social benefits to reach 1 mln. 200 thousand families</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Childcare allowance until they reach the age of 2 y.o. (up to 400 thousand) - Benefits for families with children under 14 y.o. (up to 700 thousand) - Financial assistance to low-income families (up to 100 thousand) <p>(May 2020) Government is about to approve amendments to simplify the application process and relax the income test (by disregarding certain incomes and categories) to determine eligibility to family allowances</p> <p>Support to women in low-income families through UZS 100 bln. transfer to Federation of Trade Unions of Uzbekistan, Funded from Anti-Crisis Fund</p> <p>(July 2020) One-off cash transfer in the total amount of UZS 580 bln. to support 400 thousand vulnerable families (1.7 million people)</p> <p>(July 2020) One-off cash transfer in the total amount of UZS 150 bln. to support religious servants</p> <p>(July 2020) One-off cash transfer in the total amount of UZS 100 bln. to remunerate medical emergency personnel</p>

		<p>(August 2020) One-off cash assistance of 500,000 UZS (\$50) to every child under 16 y.o. from either a low-income family or a family receiving breadwinner-loss allowance or pension, or if he/she had a disability (formal status). The purpose of the cash transfer is to help families to meet the out-of-pocket expenses related to education.</p> <p>(May 2020) The government launched a cash-transfer of UZS \$500,000 for each family participating in agricultural cooperation, needing social protection and belonging to the category of needy families gets additional support from Fund of social jobs during cultivation of bird (40 days).</p> <p>(July 2021) One-time financial support was provided in the amount of 500 thousand sum on each child aged up to 18 years from the families included in "Iron notebook", as well as to the following segments of the population: children who did not reach age of 18 years from the families receiving pension or benefit on the occasion of loss of the supporter; children with disability who did not reach age of 18 years.</p> <p>(August 2021) The children's benefit to needy families has been altered to increase the program's coverage in the following ways: the considered age of children increases from 14 to 18 years; the payment due date increases from 6 months to 12 months; the procedure for determination of its size proceeding from the number of children in family is applied. In addition, financial support to lonely citizens, the families which do not have children or needy families which age of all children is higher than 18 years is appointed.</p> <p>(August 2021) The children's benefit and payments of financial support to needy families will increase to the following levels as of September 1, 2021: a) monthly size of children's benefit: 250 000 sum - on one child aged from 3 years up to 18 years, 325 000 sum - on one younger child aged up to 3 years; 150 000 sum - in addition on the second child of family; 100 000 sum - on third and each following child of family; b) the monthly amount of financial support for needy families - 380 000 sum.</p>
	Social pensions	Effective 01 September 2020, 10% increase in the base amount of the minimum amount of age pension (UZS 513,350)"
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) Disposable facial masks, antiseptic sanitizers and antibacterial soap have been added to a list of 18 essentials foodstuffs and hygiene products provided to beneficiaries of regular goods baskets. Eligible populations include the elderly (men over 60 years and women over 55) and people with disabilities (groups 1 and II) who need outside care, do not have children (except for minors or people with disabilities), spouses and parents (with the exception of the elderly or disabled), or guardians, trustees, or persons entrusted by the court to provide care.</p>

		(May 2020) The UNDP is delivering personal protective equipment (PPE) and disinfectants to more than 30,000 people in remote regions.
	School feeding	
	Public works	Expansion of the public works programs (US\$21m)
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2020) The government suspended from April 1 to July 1, 2020, the calculation and payment of the tourist (hotel) tax. This was extended up to January 1st, 2021.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government extended the deadline for the payment of property tax and land tax of individuals until October 15, 2020</p> <p>(March 2020) The government conducted daily monitoring of the prices of the medicines, products of medical appointment, medical equipment, materials and substances used in their production and essential goods and also established strict control of artificial overestimate of the prices, non-admission of formation of artificial deficit and the increased demand for these means.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government implemented the privilege on the value added tax for the separate finished pharmaceutical products and products of medical appointment for a period of up to three months.</p> <p>Consumer/bank loan and mortgage holidays.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government undertook multiple measures to control rising food prices, including: ensuring daily monitoring of prices in the markets and establish tough control over the prevention of artificially high prices for socially important food products, creation of shortages and excessive demand for them. Production and import of essential consumer goods was encouraged to avoid shortages and unnecessary price increases. When necessary, utilization of the government reserves is allowed. Governmental price-fixing for specific products (rice, pasta, sunflower oil, flour, sugar, wheat, buckwheat, beans, milk powder and its products) by subsidizing corresponding businesses was enacted.</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	<p>Sick leave is normally paid at the rate of 60-80% salary depending on the employment history. For the duration of quarantine, it is increased to 100% of the salary for everyone and covers parents whose child is in quarantine.</p> <p>A working parent (only one of the two) is given a paid leave for the duration of schools and kindergartens shutdown without affecting the regular annual paid leave schedule.</p>
	Health insurance	Additionally, every 14 days an extra USD500-2,600 per person are to be paid. If a member of the healthcare or medical staff is infected with COVID19 while dealing with patients, the person receives

		one-off compensation of USD 10,400. If the infection results in severe health damage or death, then the person or his/her family members receive USD 26,040 as compensation
	Pensions	Organization of a simplified system for issuing documents on temporary disability. Effective 01 September 2020, a 10% increase in the base amount of the base amount to calculate the pensions (UZS 262,470)"
	Unemployment benefits	The Government of Uzbekistan simplified the procedures to apply and access unemployment assistance benefits during the quarantine measures (since April 17, 2020)
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[March 2020] The government announced labor market interventions under the 10 trillion soum Anti-Crisis fund which included the organization of Ishga Markhamat monocenters and vocational training centers, as well as support for labor migrants by organizing their vocational and language training.</p> <p>[May 2021] An Ishga Markhamat monocenter was opened in Samarkand and it was announced that an additional 30 centers would be opened across the country.</p> <p>According to Decree No UP-5969 on March 19th 2020, the Anti-Crisis Fund has the following purposes:</p> <p>a) financing of measures to combat the spread of coronavirus infection, including: provision of medical and other institutions with medicines and medical products, protective drugs and test systems necessary to combat the spread of coronavirus infection; covering the costs of keeping in quarantine persons at risk of or in contact with infected persons; the allocation of additional funds for material incentives for medical workers involved in the fight against the spread of coronavirus infection, the costs of the sanitary and epidemiological service of the republic for taking protective measures; construction, repair, reconstruction and equipping of medical and other institutions involved in measures to identify, prevent and treat infectious diseases;</p> <p>b) support of entrepreneurship and employment of the population by: expanding the provision by the State Fund of Support for the Development of Entrepreneurship under the Agency for the Development of Small Business and Entrepreneurship of guarantees and compensation to cover interest expenses on loans issued primarily for the production, purchase and sale of socially significant consumer goods; implementation of additional infrastructure projects in the regions of the republic, aimed at expanding economic activity and employment, as well as the construction of engineering communications, primarily in small industrial zones;</p> <p>c) expansion of social support for the population, including the allocation of additional funds: to strengthen measures to support low-income families and increase the number of benefit recipients. The Public Works Fund under the Ministry of Employment and Labor Relations to expand public works;</p>

		<p>to organize mono-centers "Ishga Markhamat" and vocational training centers, as well as to support labor migrants by organizing their vocational and language training;</p> <p>d) ensuring the sustainable functioning of sectors of the economy through: provision of measures of state support to strategic enterprises by allocating interest-free budget loans to repay loans attracted under the state guarantee of the Republic of Uzbekistan, as well as to carry out priority expenses; reimbursement of part of the transportation costs of business entities engaged in foreign trade activities; provision of additional measures to support industries and sectors of the economy most susceptible to the negative impact of the spread of coronavirus infection, as well as commercial banks in the event of a deterioration in the quality of the loan portfolio; replenishment of shortfalls in revenues of the budget of the Republic of Karakalpakstan, local budgets of regions and the city of Tashkent in connection with the provision of deferrals for the payment of taxes and a decrease in entrepreneurial activity by providing interest-free budget loans for up to three years.</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>[March 2020] The termination of the employment contract for an employee who is the parent (person, substitute, guardian, trustee) of a child under the age of 14 who is infected with coronavirus infection or placed in quarantine is prohibited.</p> <p>[March 2020] The government introduced a daily supplement of 6% of the monthly official salary for medical, sanitary-epidemiological and other workers for the period of their involvement in measures to counter the spread of COVID-19.</p>
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] The government urged employers to transfer workers, especially pregnant women, the elderly, persons with disabilities and chronic diseases, with their consent, to teleworking, flexible working hours or work-from-home arrangements.
	Wage subsidies	Interest-free loans for the payment of wages to employees of business entities that have suspended their activities in connection with the announcement of quarantine.

Vanuatu

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	On Nov 20, 2020, it is reported that the Vanuatu government introduced a cash transfer in the form of risk allowance, aimed at frontline health workers who are risking their own health to take care of patients during the COVID-19 pandemic. This meant a cash transfer of VUV \$18,000, on top of their usual pay and is estimated to cost VUV \$200 M.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 30 March 2020, the Government of Vanuatu had announced that parents no longer need to pay school fees for 2020 and that any fees they've already paid will be held for next year, 2021. It announced that each student will receive a tuition fee exemption of Vt42,000 for the 2020 academic year. As of Sept 14, 2020, it is reported that Vt264, 850, 070 was paid to 40 secondary schools for subsidizing tuition fee for 6, 324 students. On 21 May 2021, the government of Vanuatu has announced that the Australian Government will provide an additional Vt734 million to fund this subsidy for 26,000 students in years 11-14 (Francophone) in both private and government assisted schools. In 2020, the tuition fee subsidy was only applicable for government schools but in 2021, it was applicable for both.</p> <p>On 13 Oct 2020, Vanuatu's Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) in collaboration with the Australian Government announced a new, one-off Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant totaling over 320 million vatu to help local communities in challenging times. It aims to provide an economic boost to local communities. The grant encourages the use of local resources to meet school needs outlined in the School Improvement Plan (SIP) or to conduct other activities that will benefit the community. All registered Government and Government-assisted primary schools will receive in November 2020 a one-off bonus grant of 5,780VT per student, based on their school</p>

		enrolment in Open VEMIS. Principals must consult the School Council and the School Community Association on the use of the grant following the grant criteria. Some examples of the use of the Vanuatu Australia School Community Grant could be community gardens, meals for students, maintenance or minor repairs of buildings or building toilets or handwashing facilities. It is reported on Feb 13, 2021 that a total of 53,519 students from 407 government registered and non-government assisted primary schools will benefit from a Vt309.3 million one-off grant to help meet urgent needs and boost local communities responding to impacts of COVID-19 and TC Harold.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	The VNPF offered interest-free loans to members; members could withdrawal their own funds during the pandemic, up to VUV100000 for 6 months. After this period members needed to repay the funds with interest or permanently withdraw the fund with a penalty.
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	The government of Vanuatu has launched the Employment Stabilization Program, which will reimburse employers for up to VT 30,000 (US\$ 249) per employee on their payroll for 4 months (March-June 2020). Employers will also receive a payment of 15% of the amount they are reimbursed for wages as an additional incentive to maintain employment. According to the press, as of August 2020, 340 firms involving 6,000 employees have benefited from this policy, particularly the tourism sector. The measure was extended until September 2020.

Venezuela

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>The president announced “Cuidar y Cuidarse” which is a bonus of 900,000 bolivars. The delivery will take place between July 14 and 18, 2020. This bonus should be used to pay for gasoline, pay in stores using BiopagoBDV points of sale, save on Sovereign Gold titles, pay the Corpoelec bill and water service or participate in the Exchange System among other available options. The delivery was direct and gradual. Beneficiaries received a text message to their mobile phones or to the veMonedero application. No further information is given.</p> <p>Unidos por la Vida: 1,690,000 bolivars, about 4 dollars, will be delivered by the end of September through the Patria Platform. The delivery was direct and gradual. Beneficiaries received a text message to their mobile phones or to the veMonedero application. No further information is given.</p> <p>Bono Disciplina y Voluntad: 1,560,000 bolivars will be delivered to the population most affected by the economic crisis between September 9-19. Beneficiaries need to own the "patria" card and be registered in its platform.</p> <p>Increased monthly cash transfers, plus a one-off transfer (reaching 80% of the population), through existing programs and paid through the Sistema Patria platform.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bono Salud y Vida: 350,000 bolivars (\$2,4) will be delivered to the most disadvantaged people between April 22-30. The delivery was direct and gradual. Beneficiaries received a text message to their mobile phones or to the veMonedero application. No further information is given - Quedate en Casa: Stay at home payment for workers in the informal sector with 450,000 bolivars. This was particularly aimed at workers in small and medium firms. Independent as well as self-employed worker were reached with this initiative (according to the blog "patria", the cash transfer was delivered to 4,000,000 independent and self-employed workers). - Initially, the delivery of the bonus was scheduled for March 2020 only, but it was monthly extended until October 2020. • Bono Normalidad Relativa: new payment of \$600,000 bolivars aiming to help the population more disadvantaged and affected by coronavirus payment will be made June 12-19. • Bono Disciplina y Solidaridad: cash transfer of \$350,000 bolivars to informal workers implemented until March 29th 2020.

	<p>Bono Venezuela Decidió Cuidarse: one-off cash transfer of \$1,950,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from October 15th 2020.</p> <p>Bono 7+7 Perfecto: one-off cash transfer of \$464,291.48 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from October 26th 2020.</p> <p>Bono Amor por Venezuela: one-off cash transfer of 3,120,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from October 16th 2020. Not the entire population received this cash transfers, as its delivery was random.</p> <p>Bono Conciencia y Prevención: one-off cash transfer of \$3,380,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from November 23rd 2020.</p> <p>Bono Navidades felices y seguras: one-off cash transfer of \$4,680,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from December 11th 2020.</p> <p>Bono Felicidades Venezuela: one-off cash transfer of \$5,070,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from December 21st 2020.</p> <p>Bono Cuarto aniversario del Carnet de la Patria: one-off cash transfer of \$5,600,000 bolivars to each beneficiary through the Patria Platform or veMonedero, which was delivered from January 21st 2021.</p>
Social pensions	
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	Increase in deliveries of subsidized food parcels through the Local Committees for Supply and Production (CLAP) program. According to the press, this increase aimed at reaching 7,000,000 households.
School feeding	
Public works	
Utility waivers	<p>Residential and commercial rent payments suspended for 6 months (for businesses and persons affected by COVID-19). Landlords will be reimbursed.</p> <p>Moreover, ban on service disconnection for lack of payment by telecommunications companies (cable TV, telephone, mobile phones, internet)</p>
Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	Through Extraordinary Decree 4167 March 23rd 2020, the government banned dismissals of workers in public and private sector until December 31st 2020, unless these were approved by the Ministry of Labor or the total amount of severance payments is doubled.
	Reduced work time	[March 2020] Employees are allowed to telework if their activities allow it. With the exception of vital sectors, activity is suspended for sectors where it's not possible to work from home. Workers in the public sector over the age of 70 years or those belonging to groups at risk can telecommute.
	Wage subsidies	[March 2020] The government will pay payroll for SMEs for six months (March to August), through the same online platform used for social transfers (Sistema Patria platform)

Vietnam

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that VND 1,800,000 (about USD 70) per month will be given to 5 million employees working under labor contracts who have had to agree with their employers (which, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, do not have sources of income to pay salaries) to suspend their contracts or take unpaid leave for a period of one month or more. The period for the support is based on the actual duration of the contract suspension or the amount of unpaid leave taken, calculated from April 1, 2020, but shall not exceed three months. However, 947723 beneficiaries were actually allocated. Also, in terms of expenditure, VND 15 trillion was allocated but only VND 823.373 billion were allotted.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that VND 1,000,000 (about USD 43) per month will be given to 1 million employees whose labor contracts are terminated and are not eligible for unemployment insurance, and employees working without a labor contract who lose their jobs. The period for support will not exceed three months, calculated from April to June 2020. However, 117,007 beneficiaries were actually allocated. Also, in terms of expenditure, VND 117.007 billion was allocated but only VND 123.597 billion were allotted.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that household businesses that earn an annual revenue of under 100 millions VND/year and has to suspend business operation from April 01, 2020 will receive 1,000,000 per month for up to 3 months according to the pandemic situation.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that 9,200,000 people from poor or near-poor households across the country will receive VND 500,000 per person per month for 3 months from April to June 2020. This will be paid in a lump sum. However, in reality, only 7,953,060 actually received it. It was 6.9 trillion was planned to be spent however, they spent only 5.95 trillion.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that 1,135,000 people with meritorious services to the revolution who is receiving monthly benefits will receive an additional amount of 500.000 per month for 3 months from April to June 2020. This will be paid in a lump sum. However, only 1,031,519 people actually received it. Also in terms of expenditure, VND 1.703 trillion was allocated but only VND 1.528 trillion were allotted.</p> <p>On 9 April 2020, Government of Vietnam announced that 3,000,000 social protection beneficiaries who were receiving monthly benefits will receive an additional amount of 500.000 per month for 3</p>

months from April to June 2020. This will be paid in a lump sum. However, 2,885,938 beneficiaries were actually allocated. Also in terms of expenditure, VND 4.5 trillion was allocated but only VND 4.29 trillion were allotted.

On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced relief for employees who temporarily cease working without salary for 15 consecutive days or more, in the period from 1 May 2021 to the end of 31 December 2021, by the reason of business operation cessation of the organizations they are working for, following the requirement of competent authority in response to COVID-19, and who participate in compulsory Social Insurances (up to the date right before their cessation date) are entitled to a lump- sum allowance of: 1,855,000 VND per person if the cessation period is 15 consecutive days or more and 3,710,000 VND per person if the cessation period is 1 month or more

On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced relief for Employees working under labor contracts are entitled to a one-time support of 1,000,000 VND per person if they meet the following conditions: (1) Suspended from work and subject to quarantine or in blocked areas at the request of a competent authority for 14 days or more during the period from 1 May 2021 to the end of 31 December 2021; and (ii) Participating in compulsory Social Insurance (up to the date right before the working cessation date)"

On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced relief for Employees of enterprises, cooperatives, public non-business units, and educational institutions are entitled to one-time allowance of 3,710,000 VND per person if they meet the following conditions: (I)Have their labor contract terminated by the reason of business operation cessation of the organizations they are working for, during the period from 1 May 2021 to the end of 31 December 2021, following the requirements of a competent authority in response to COVID-19; and (ii) Participate in compulsory Social Insurance but ineligible for unemployment benefits.

On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced relief for Pregnant women, or Parents or substitute caregiver taking care of children less than 6 years old are entitled to 1,000,000 VND per child (under 6 years old), and the entitlement is only applicable to either mother or father of the child. Similarly, Children subject to treatment for COVID-19 or in isolation or quarantine under a decision of a competent authority are guaranteed by the state budget for treatment expenses and meals, and are entitled to an additional support of 1,000,000 VND per child during the treatment and isolation/quarantine period from 27 April 2021 to 31 December 2021.

On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced food allowance of 80,000 VND per person per day for those who need to be treated for COVID-19 infection (F0), and for those who have to undergo medical isolation (F1) under a decision of a competent authority from 27 April 2021 to 31 December 2021. The entitlement period is no more than 45 days for F0 and 21 days for F1.

		<p>On July 1, 2021, Government of Vietnam introduced Lump-sum support of 3,710,000 VND per person for: (i) Art directors, actors, and painters holding professional titles at level 4 in public non-business units engaged in performing arts (excluding art units of the armed forces) which must stop working for 15 days or more due to the impact of COVID-19 from 1 May 2021 to 31 December 2021. (ii) Tour guides holding tourist guide practice cards affected by COVID-19 during the period from 1 May 2021 to the end of 31 December 2021.</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>On 16 April 2020, government of Vietnam announced and implemented that it will cut electricity prices by 10% to bills of 22.8 million households with consumption below 300 kWh/month for 3 months (April, May and June 2020; or May, June and July 2020) as part of efforts to ease burden caused to citizens and businesses by the Covid-19 pandemic. It is expected to VND2.9 trillion (US\$125 million) for households. On Dec 17, 2020, this policy was reintroduced for the duration of Oct to Dec 2020. On 02 June 2021, it was re-introduced for the second time from June to Dec 2021 and is estimated to total 1.57 trillion VND (67.74 million USD), according to Vietnam Electricity (EVN).</p> <p>On May 29, 2020, the government of Vietnam that it will reduce 15% of the payable land rent in 2020 for land plots leased by households and individuals directly from the state, applicable to renters making annual rent payments who were forced to suspend their operations due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>On March 25, 2020, Vietnam has waived/reduced fees for consumers in financial switching and clearing services for the second time (once before in Feb 25, 2020) and takes effect according to the policy of the State Bank of Vietnam. It is proposed to continue adjusting the fee (either fully waived off or 50 percent) for financial switching and clearing services for transactions with a value of over VND 500,000 to VND 2,000,000 of National Switching Payment Joint Stock Company (NAPAS), Vietnam's inter-bank transfer/payment system until the end of December 2020. There are currently in the second time, 37 banks that have confirmed to waive/reduce fees for customers, accounting for 98.9% of the total number of money transfer transactions via NAPAS. In March 2020, the total number of small value interbank fast money transfer transactions via NAPAS increased by more</p>

		than 32% compared to February 2020. This shows that customers have shifted from spending in cash to using non-cash payment channels to limit the impact of Covid-19. With the second fee waiver program in 2020, NAPAS received a very strong and synchronous response from commercial banks. On 2 Aug 2021, it was re-introduced, as State Bank of Vietnam (SBV) had issued Official Letter on service fee exemption or reduction as before which was applicable from Aug 1, 2021 until Dec 2021.
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	Free care for persons (national and foreigners) under mandatory quarantine at isolation facilities
	Pensions	Change in payment modality: cash payments of social security benefits at home
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[July 2021] The Government unveiled several financial support packages under Resolution 68/NQ-CP, which includes providing employees without labor contract or who are self-employed with financial support not lower than VND 1,500,000 (US\$65) per person for one time or VND 50,000 (US\$2) per person/per day based on the actual number of suspended days. This will depend on each provincial authority or city.</p> <p>[July 2021] The Government unveiled several financial support packages under Resolution 68/NQ-CP, which includes supporting employees whose labor contracts were terminated and are not eligible for unemployment allowance between May 1, 2021, to December 31, 2021, due to the pandemic, by providing them with a one-time payment of VND 3,710,000 (US\$161) provided they were contributing to social insurance.</p>
	Social security contributions	<p>[March 2020] On March 24, the Government announced a temporary suspension of social insurance contributions for COVID-19 affected firms and entities until the end of June 2020. This will be applied for entities that operate in passenger transport, hospitality, food and drink, and other business sectors affected by the pandemic that have had to lay off employees -- including at least 50% of the total number of employees who had social insurance before the business suspension or their lay-off -- or lose more than 50% of their total assets (excluding land), are entitled to interest-free suspension of their contributions to the pension fund and death benefit fund until the end of June 2020. Affected business are also suspended from making contribution to Labor Union fund. Requests must be made for the suspension and suspended amounts must be paid after the suspension period, without penalties for late payment.</p> <p>[Extended - August 2020] On August 10, the Social Security Authority announced the extension of the social security contribution relief until the end of December 2020.</p> <p>[Extended - July 2021] On July 7, the Prime Minister announced the temporary suspension of contributions to the retirement and survivorship for the duration of 12 months from application submission. The eligibility criteria for firms has changed in this support policy.</p>

		<p>[July 2020] On May 27, the Government issued Decree 58/2020/ND-CP which allows employers operating in specified industries with a high risk of occupational diseases and accidents to be entitled to a reduction in the occupational diseases and accidents fund contribution from 0.5% to 0.3%. Employers meeting the eligibility criteria will receive a three-year approval which is renewable.</p> <p>Temporary suspension of social insurance contributions for COVID-19 affected firms and entities for a maximum of 12 months (Initially up to June 2020, depending on how situation progresses, could be extended to December 2020). This will be applied for those firms and entities that have at least 50% of labor force being on temporarily leave as a result of the pandemic (More specifically: Agencies, units, and organizations (so-called "enterprises") that operate in passenger transport, hospitality, food and drink, and other business sectors affected by the pandemic that have had to lay off employees -- including at least</p> <p>50 percent of the total number of employees who had social insurance before the business suspension or their lay-off -- or lose more than 50 percent of their total assets (excluding land), are entitled to interest-free suspension of their contributions to the pension fund and death benefit fund until the end of June 2020). Affected business are also suspended from making contribution to Labor Union fund. Requests must be made for the suspension and suspended amounts must be paid after the suspension period, without penalties for late payment. total delayed contribution is estimated to reach VND9.5 trillion or 0.2% of GDP</p>
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[July 2021] The Government unveiled several financial support packages under Resolution 68/NQ-CP, which includes providing employers with financial support for training and improving vocational skills of employees using the unemployment insurance fund. The maximum value is set at VND 1,500,000 (US\$65) per employee per month with a maximum duration of six months. A request document must be submitted to the relevant authorities between July 1, 2021, and June 30, 2022.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	<p>[April 2020] On April 9, the Government passed Resolution No. 42/NQ-CP which includes providing a monthly VND 1,800,000 to employees who were suspended or had gone on unpaid leave due to COVID-19 for a one month or more. The scheme is managed by Vietnam Social Security (VSS). The period of support shall not exceed three months, starting April 1, 2020.</p>

		<p>[Extended - July 2021] In July, the Government issued Resolution 68 which includes a decision to provide employees who take unpaid leave, or their work contracts are suspended due to the pandemic with a one-time support of VND 1,855,000 (US\$80) per person. The period of suspension or unpaid leave must be at least 15 continuous days to less than one month between May 1, 2021, and December 31, 2021, period and employees must be contributing to the social insurance of the month before starting the work suspension.</p>
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Virgin Islands (U.S.)

	Cash-based transfers	
Social Assistance	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(July 2020)The V.I. Department of Human Services is waiving income requirements for childcare assistance for parents who need to return to work amid the COVID-19 outbreak. The department is utilizing a federal childcare grant in the amount of \$3.3 million awarded to provide assistance to families and childcare providers</p>
		<p>(March 2021) The Department of Finance has paid out approximately 39,000 checks under the \$600 Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act 2 stimulus. The government anticipates approximately 6,000 more checks, primarily owed to people who filed their 2019 income taxes late, will be paid out by mid-April, ending the payout of the CARES Act 2 stimulus funding.</p>
		<p>(April 2020) The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides for Economic Impact Payments to households of up to \$1,200 per adult for individuals whose income was less than \$99,000 (or \$198,000 for joint filers) and \$500 per child under 17 years old – or up to \$3,400 for a family of four. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$84,700,000.</p>
		<p>(April 2020) Funding provided under the CARES Act to the Dislocated Worker Grants for temporary employment & training programs through state & local workforce programs. The DWG funding may be used to assist dislocated workers, workers who were laid-off due to COVID-19, self-employed individuals who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of COVID-19, and long-term unemployed individuals. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$1,500,000.</p>
		<p>(April 2020) The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act provides for Economic Impact Payments to American households of up to \$600 per adult for individuals whose income was less than \$99,000 (or \$198,000 for joint filers) and \$600 per child under 17 years old – or up to \$2,400 for a family of four. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$29,645,000</p>
		<p>(2021) In addition to the general vaccination drawing for \$100,000 for 10 weeks open to all residents, the Government of the Virgin Islands will also sponsor a drawing limited to employees who work in the Territory’s Education system and will feature three cash prizes in each district: \$25,000 for 1st place; \$10,000 for 2nd place and \$5,000 for 3rd place.</p>

	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>(April 2020) Some examples of meeting the purpose of this grant include increasing the amount of TEFAP food distributed due to the national public health emergency, replacing foods previously distributed during the national public health emergency (except those foods replaced as a result of approved Disaster Household distribution programs), or increasing administrative expenditures due to changed procedures, such as distribution changes to accommodate social distancing. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$529,635.</p> <p>(April 2020) The purpose of this grant is to assist with containing the spread of COVID-19 among homeless individuals. - Build more emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families - Operate emergency shelters by providing maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation. - Provide hotel/motel vouchers for homeless families or individuals. - Provide essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, outreach, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and transportation. - Prevent individuals from becoming homeless and rapidly re-house homeless individuals. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$2,243,982.</p> <p>The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, provided the additional funding for the nutrition services programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA). These programs provide meals, and a wide range of services such as, home assistance, education on managing chronic illnesses and much more. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$49,999.67</p>
	School feeding	<p>(April 2020) In response to the COVID-19 pandemic the U.S. Department of Agriculture issued reimbursements to state, local and territorial education agencies. The National School Lunch Program (NSLP), The School Breakfast Program (SBP), and The Special Milk Program (SMP) provides nutrition supplements to state education agencies. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$925,638.</p>
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	<p>(March 2021) The Emergency Rental Assistance Program aimed to assist families who have fallen behind on rent payments as a result of the pandemic. To qualify, residents must:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Owe at least one month rent or utility payment or anticipate a need for future rental assistance - Prove they have suffered loss of income because of COVID-19 - Have one or more household members at risk of homelessness because of nonpayment of rent - Have an annual income at or below 80% of area median income.

		<p>(April 2020) The purpose of this grant is to assist with containing the spread of COVID-19 among homeless individuals. - Build more emergency shelters for homeless individuals and families - Operate emergency shelters by providing maintenance, rent, repair, security, fuel, insurance, utilities, food, furnishings, and supplies necessary for the operation. - Provide hotel/motel vouchers for homeless families or individuals. - Provide essential services to people experiencing homelessness including childcare, education services, outreach, employment assistance, outpatient health services, legal services, mental health services, substance abuse treatment services, and transportation. - Prevent individuals from becoming homeless and rapidly re-house homeless individuals. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$2,243,982.</p> <p>Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Funding will be used to supplement the electrical bills of low-income seniors and persons with disabilities; With the supplemental funding, the Department of Human Services (DHS) may also be able to assist very low-income non-seniors who are experiencing hardship because of loss of employment due to COVID 19. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$155,248.</p> <p>The Families First Coronavirus Response Act, provided the additional funding for the nutrition services programs authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA). These programs provide meals, and a wide range of services such as, home assistance, education on managing chronic illnesses and much more. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$49,999.67</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	<p>[April 2020] Federal Pandemic Unemployment Compensation (FPUC) is an emergency program established by the CARES Act to increase unemployment benefits for those who are out of work because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Under FPUC, eligible people who collect certain unemployment insurance benefits, including regular unemployment compensation, receive an extra \$600 in federal benefits each week through July 25, 2020, or July 26, 2020. This involved a total budget of USD \$50,599,440.</p> <p>[July 2020] The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act also established the Pandemic Emergency Unemployment Compensation (PEUC) program, which extended benefits for an extra 24 weeks after regular unemployment compensation benefits are exhausted. PEUC was</p>

		<p>available from April 4, 2020, through March 13, 2021. This program involved a total budget of USD \$6,435,720.</p> <p>[July 2020] The Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act also established the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) program, which expands unemployment insurance eligibility to self-employed workers, freelancers, independent contractors, and part-time workers impacted by the coronavirus. The program provides up to 39 weeks of benefits and permit states to extend unemployment benefits up to an additional 13 weeks which is available retroactively beginning on or after Jan. 27 to Dec 31, 2020, and calculated based on the weekly benefit amounts provided under a state's unemployment insurance laws. This involves an estimated budget of USD \$13,585,699.</p> <p>[September 2020] The Lost Wages Assistance (LWA) program is a federal-state unemployment benefit that provided \$300 to \$400 in weekly compensation to eligible claimants. The federal government contributed \$300 per claimant per week from the Disaster Relief Fund (DRF), and states were asked to pay the remaining \$100, which could be in the form of additional funds or as part of the claimant's regular weekly unemployment compensation. Due to budget constraints, most states elected to count regular compensation as their contribution. The program, part of the federal government's response to the COVID-19 pandemic, was administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). The LWA program was meant to address unemployment for the period Aug. 1, 2020, to Dec. 27, 2020. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$7,384,216.</p>
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>[May 2020] Provision of funding under the CARES Act to the Dislocated Worker Grants for temporary employment & training programs through state & local workforce programs. The DWG funding may be used to assist dislocated workers, workers who were laid-off due to COVID-19, self-employed individuals who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of COVID-19, and long-term unemployed individuals. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$1,500,000. [May 2020] Provision of funding under the CARES Act to the Dislocated Worker Grants (DWG) for temporary employment & training programs through state & local workforce programs. The DWG funding may be used to assist dislocated workers, workers who were laid-off due to COVID-19, self-employed individuals who are unemployed or underemployed as a result of COVID-19, and long-term unemployed individuals. The estimated budget is USD \$1,500,000.</p>
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	

Wage subsidies

West Bank and Gaza

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>In April 2020, the Ministry of Social Development included 10,000 new families who were on the waiting list in the Cash Transfer Programme (CTP). After this procedure, the number of households covered by the programme reached 114,658. The benefit amount ranges from ILS750 to ILS1,800 per household and is paid every three months. The first payment in 2020 started in April and already included the new beneficiaries, who received a message confirming the receipt.</p> <p>On 16 May 2020, the Ministry of Labour started the distribution of cash assistance to 40,000 workers affected by the COVID-19 crisis. A total of 276,000 workers in the West Bank and Gaza registered through a digital platform launched by the Ministry. A technical committee was created to verify the eligibility conditions. The benefit targets: workers in the local market; workers affected by COVID-19 (mainly daily wagers); workers in the most affected areas; workers who are less than 65 years old; married couples with more than 2 children; workers in Jerusalem and the Palestinian refugee camps. The sectors benefiting from the aid are distributed as follows: construction, tourism, services, transportation, kindergarten, the trade sector (workers who work at merchants), industry and crafts, agricultural workers, quarries, spinning, weaving, and health. Groups excluded from the program: workers inside the Israeli settlements and Israeli industrial areas; workers who are more than 65 years old; people receiving benefits of the Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Social Development; Ministry of Economy; public employees. The Ministry of Labour, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Transport and Communications, Ministry of Economy and Ministry of Social Development crossed their databases to identify the beneficiaries. The Waqfa Fund finances this intervention, in coordination with the General Union of Transportations Workers Syndicates</p> <p>Financial aid of USD100 for 3 months will be distributed to female workers in nurseries and creches that have stopped working (and whose salaries have been cut off).</p> <p>(April 2020) The Ministry of Social Development announced an urgent financial aid of ILS500 (one-off) for families affected by the COVID-19 crisis. The benefit targets everyone who has lost their job and has no source of income, or who has an income of less than ILS1,400. Potential beneficiaries registered their information in a new form provided by the Ministry, which feeds into a database, and has been distributed to social development offices and their directorates, in addition to the municipalities and the Workers' Union. A total of 9,504 low-income households were considered eligible. The total cost of the intervention was ILS4,752 million, provided by the Ezz Waqf Fund</p>

		<p>165,000 people who are regularly assisted through its CBT assistance in Gaza and the West Bank were provided an extra monthly cash top-up (USD5) per capita. This aims at alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on people’s already fragile livelihoods, helping them offset some of their scarce resources to spend on other essentials, such as health care and hygiene</p> <p>(July 2020) The WB is supporting the launching of new emergency cash transfers (one-off) program. This program This subcomponent will provide one-time emergency cash transfers to eligible beneficiaries located in areas especially affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. One time cash transfers will be provided for about 68,000 vulnerable households from the West Bank that are currently not benefiting from the CTP program. The subcomponent aims to reach households that were vulnerable to poverty prior to the pandemic or have lost their income due to the pandemic (whether from formal jobs, daily activities, or informal sources), or potentially other households with vulnerable members, such as children and disabled persons, in areas especially affected by the COVID-19 outbreak. (budget US\$13.9 million)</p>
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	<p>Hygiene kits to the elderly and people with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza[129] MoSD, in cooperation with international and local partners, provided 46 residential centres for persons with disabilities, children and the elderly with necessary food and hygiene supplies.</p> <p>In May 2020, 314,173 poor, food-insecure people received Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the form of electronic food vouchers: 223,762 in Gaza and 90,411 in the West Bank. This included around 40,000 of the newly targeted people who redeemed their vouchers in May. WFP distributed electronic vouchers to 67,600 newly registered beneficiaries who have been affected by COVID-19. As of May, 40,000 were able to redeem their vouchers. Almost all the targeted affected people (99 per cent) live in the West Bank, where the closures and movement restrictions have been more impactful on the labour force. Women head nearly half of the targeted households in the West Bank; 12 per cent are older adults and 9 per cent are persons with disabilities.</p>
	Food, vouchers, others	<p>Expansion of the National Cash Transfer Program (CTP) to cover additional 70,087 beneficiaries to meet their food needs for three months—e-voucher; MOSD will also distribute hygiene items.</p> <p>Top-up of hygiene materials to current support provided under social safety net to vulnerable households in the West Bank and Gaza.</p> <p>Food aid to 522 families of divorced or abandoned women (or whose cases are still in court over alimony)—female headed households.</p> <p>Hygiene kits for the elderly and people with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza.</p>

		<p>Food and hygiene items for the residents and workers of 47 residential centers that are still operating in the crisis in the West Bank and Gaza</p> <p>MoSD, in cooperation with international and local partners, distributed food parcels to more than 150,000 vulnerable registered households.</p> <p>In May 2020, 314,173 poor, food-insecure people received Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the form of electronic food vouchers: 223,762 in Gaza and 90,411 in the West Bank. This included around 40,000 of the newly targeted people who redeemed their vouchers in May</p> <p>WFP distributed electronic vouchers to 67,600 newly registered beneficiaries who have been affected by COVID-19. As of May, 40,000 were able to redeem their vouchers. Almost all the targeted affected people (99 per cent) live in the West Bank, where the closures and movement restrictions have been more impactful on the labor force. Women head nearly half of the targeted households in the West Bank; 12 per cent are older adults and 9 per cent are persons with disabilities.</p> <p>UNRWA will also provide food to 10,445 refugee households in the West Bank for three months</p>
	School feeding	
	Public works	<p>(July 2020) The WB is supporting the launching of new Public Works program (C4W). Selected NGOs will be provided with sub-grants to implement cash for work sub-projects employing targeted vulnerable population, through temporary employment, including health and other social services to address COVID-19 related health and social needs. It is expected to provide short temporary employment opportunities for approximately 3,060 (of which at least 50 percent will be women. Each beneficiary will work for six months and receive a stipend equivalent to US\$413 per month, an amount that is slightly below the minimum wage. To spread the benefits of C4W across households, only one qualifying person per household will be allowed to benefit from C4W, with a target of at least 50 percent women among the C4W participants.</p>
	Utility waivers	The Palestine Monetary Authority has postponed monthly/periodic loan repayments to all borrowers for the next four months
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	

	Social security contributions	The Palestinian Authority has stopped collecting contributions from Palestinian workers, leaving compliance with sick pay rules to employers instead. Note: For workers in the West Bank and Gaza, there are no sick leave provisions
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	[April 2020] The Minister of Labour launched a Fund to provide support to workers affected by the pandemic. A two-month temporary employment program will be launched for unemployed workers, noting that agreements have been concluded with the relevant authorities to maintain the employee and employee wages for the months of March and April. In partnership with the World Bank, the initiative aims to employ 10,000 workers for 3 to 6 months and indicated that the Ministry will cover 30 per cent of the wages for 20,000 workers.

Yemen

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	The eighth payment cycle of the Yemen Emergency Cash Transfer (ECT) project was launched on 27 June. During this payment cycle, humanitarian support was provided for a onetime top-up to the beneficiary amount to help beneficiaries cope with the COVID-19 global pandemic. The top-up amount was approximately 45 per cent of the beneficiaries' quarterly base amount. As of 22 July, 1.418 million beneficiaries received their benefits with this top-up, which correspond to about 89 per cent of all cash recipients. Different COVID-19 preventative measures, identified through a thorough risk mitigation exercise, are in place to ensure the safety of beneficiaries and project personnel. Beneficiaries were requested to cover their nose and mouth, to maintain physical distancing while queuing and inside the payment sites and to use the provided hand sanitiser before entering and after collecting their cash. All project staff are using protective gear (masks and gloves) and a strong scheduling and crowd management mechanisms were put in place to prevent crowding at the payment sites
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	
	School feeding	In response to the curfew, the school feeding programme modality from WFP has been shifted to take-home rations, covering more than 393,000
	Public works	
	Utility waivers	The authorities have also reduced prices of gasoline (to YER220/litre in Aden and YER295/litre in Sana'a) and Diesel prices to (to YER240/litre in Aden and YER345/litre in Sana'a).
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	

Zambia

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	In July 2020, Zambia launched an emergency COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme to help vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic. Kampamba Mulenga, Minister of Community Development, said the emergency social cash transfer will help mitigate the impact of the pandemic in vulnerable homes of the elderly, women and their children. The beneficiaries will be given money for a period of six months. The program features both a vertical expansion by increasing benefits for existing SCT beneficiaries, as well as a horizontal expansion for vulnerable populations such as informal workers, orphans, the disabled, and the elderly. As of August 2021 the program was still under implementation.
	Social pensions	
	In-kind transfers	
	Food, vouchers, others	In July 2020, Zambia launched an emergency COVID-19 social cash transfer scheme to help vulnerable communities affected by the pandemic. Kampamba Mulenga, Minister of Community Development, said the emergency program will help mitigate the impact of the pandemic in vulnerable homes of the elderly, women and their children. The beneficiaries will be given food hampers for a period of six months as part of the program.
	School feeding	
	Public works	(June 2021) The Mitigating Impacts of Covid-19 on Household Food Security Project will create about 150 permanent skilled or semi-skilled positions and 40 part-time unskilled jobs in crop, livestock and fisheries value chains. The project will supply inputs for crops, livestock and aquaculture enterprises to promote good agricultural practices and increase food production. There will also be a capacity building component. The project is the result of a US\$1.4 million grant from the African Development Bank.
	Utility waivers	(March 2020) Waived charges for person to person electronic money transfers of up to K150. These transactions are now free of charge. Revised upwards transactions and balance limits for individuals, small scale farmer and enterprises. The limits by agents have been revised upwards to give agents more float to deal with transactions. This is made to decongest banks. Removed the transaction and balance limits on agents and corporate wallets and reduced the processing fees for Real Time Gross Settlement System.
	Paid sick leave	

Social Insurance	Health insurance	
	Pensions	K500 million to the public service pensions fund to pay over 1,500 retirees or their beneficiaries
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	
	Labor market regulations	<p>All employees sent on forced leave must be paid basic pay during the period of the forced leave in accordance with section 48 of the Employment Code.</p> <p>Termination of employment due to Covid-19 falls within the meaning of redundancy and notice must be given provided for in section 55 of the Employment Code Act No. 3 of 2019.</p> <p>To limit forced leave to employers in the tourism and hospitality sector that has been significantly impacted negative by the pandemic due to cancellations of booking and demands for refunds in some cases. Section 48 of the Employment Code No.3 of 2019 shall only be invoked for other sectors after assessments have been conducted by authorised officers.</p> <p>The Minister of Labour issued the Employment Code (Exemption) Regulations, Statutory Instrument No. 48 of 2020 on 11 May 2020 - where exemptions and conditionalities for provisions related to annual leave, annual leave benefit formula, forced leave, among others have been added</p>
	Reduced work time	All non-essential civil servants should work on rotation basis or work remotely from home. Secretary to Cabinet has identified critical workers to report for work while others will work remotely or from homes.
	Wage subsidies	

Zimbabwe

Social Assistance	Cash-based transfers	
	Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	<p>(March 2020) One-million households identified through the Social Welfare Department to benefit from the \$600 million kitty availed by the Government to mitigate the effects of Covid-19. These are i) a universal emergency cash transfer to all urban households; ii) a transfer to households employed in the informal sector and iii) a transfer to informal sector vendors organized through their associations.</p> <p>(November 2020) The Emergency Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT) program mirrors the core elements of the Government’s flagship Harmonized Social Cash Transfer (HSCT). The Emergency HSCT will align itself with the existing HSCT, but with design tweaks to enable a more rapid and cost-effective response and will include strong child protection and nutrition focused referral systems. The program will initially aim to reach 25,000 households with \$13 per eligible individual in up to six urban domains most affected by COVID-19 from an economic perspective. The total financial requirements for six months are \$10,140,000. It is slated to last a period of one year starting in December 2020.</p> <p>(Septemeber 2020) This urban cash transfer project builds on WFP’s existing urban food security and resilience program that is already covering over 100,000 beneficiaries with an unconditional cash transfer of US\$9 per person across eight urban domains. The financial assistance from USAID allows WFP to provide support to over 103,700 people with monthly cash-based assistance equivalent to US\$12 each, enabling them to meet almost two-thirds of their daily food requirements for the next six months starting in September 2020. USAID and WFP will reach the most vulnerable and food insecure families, particularly women, people who are unemployed, and people suffering from chronic illness or disability. Additional financing of 3 million EUR was provided by the EU in August 2021.</p> <p>Project – COVID-19 School Children’s Food Security and Nutrition. There is need to transform and adapt school feeding to help safeguard children’s food security and nutrition during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Where schools are to re-open, there are concerns that hygiene standards and social/physical distancing will not be met. The programme will safeguard school children’s food security and nutrition by providing cash transfers to the most vulnerable families with children in primary school.</p>

	<p>All civil sector workers in the country have been receiving an additional COVID-19 allowance since July 2020. Initially set to run for a period of three months, the scheme was later extended until December 2020. Payments are made into special foreign currency accounts, but the funds can only be spent to purchase goods via a special payment cards, i.e. they cannot be withdrawn in cash. The currency crisis in the country has led to problems regarding the value of the payments, as well as the payment modalities, withdrawal fees charged by financial institutions, etc.</p> <p>Athletes whose activities and revenue streams have been negatively affected by the pandemic could apply for financial relief under the scheme. Eligible athletes were considered and recommended through sports federations and clubs. Payment levels were set at four different tiers, reflecting various levels of professional success (from ward to international level). Applications closed in July 2020 and the first payments were reportedly made in September.</p> <p>(March 2020) The government revised the ongoing cash transfer program available to vulnerable households to be raised from \$300 to \$1500 per month per household. This comes in light of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, rising inflation, and food insecurity.</p> <p>The government has distributed over 89 million Zimbabwean dollars to informal workers as part of its COVID relief response, as of February 2021. The informal sector database contains 309,146 beneficiaries of this program.</p> <p>(April 2021) Japan donated US\$1.25 million to be managed by the WFP in Zimbabwe in order to cope with the impact of climate shocks and COVID-19. The support will assist 11,080 people in building community and household assets in Mount Darwin and Matobo districts.</p>
Social pensions	
In-kind transfers	
Food, vouchers, others	<p>The GoZ launched a US\$956 million for food insecurity</p> <p>In April 2020, eight rural districts were reported to have received 7,114 metric tonnes of grain in total to reduce food poverty which was seen as being worsened by the pandemic.</p> <p>(March 2021) Standard Chartered Bank donated \$US 508,000 to Oxfam in order to deliver food aid to vulnerable communities coping with the impact of COVID-19.</p>
School feeding	
Public works	<p>The National Development Strategy includes plans for a labour intensive public works program (Jan. 2021)</p>

	Utility waivers	<p>Government had deferred rent and mortgage payments during the lockdown period starting from 1 April 2020 however, this right to defer rentals and mortgage repayments was then terminated with effect from 30 June 2020.</p> <p>(April 2020) The GoZ is assisting the safe return of migrant workers from Botswana and South Africa with transportation and safe integration in communities after quarantine. A total of 20 000 migrants are expected to have returned to Zimbabwe Some of the migrants were deported (specially from Botswana and South Africa)</p>
Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	
	Health insurance	<p>Old Mutual Zimbabwe has a set-up a 6-month ZWL\$2 billion 'free' life insurance cover for COVID-19 deaths and accidental deaths for health sector workers.</p> <p>The GoZ has promised to put in place a comprehensive insurance cover for all civil servants whose work involves direct interaction with Covid-19 patients, in line with international best practices.</p> <p>National Development Strategy: Expanding the coverage of occupational health and safety programmes to include the informal and public service sectors.</p>
	Pensions	
	Unemployment benefits	
	Social security contributions	
Labor Markets	Activation measures	<p>(November 2020) Support to Smallholders. WFP conducted a training for trainers workshop for smallholder farmers, ward-based district agricultural extension officers, agro-traders and district council representatives on new market information systems under the Small Grains Project, funded by the South-South Cooperation Opportunity Fund.</p> <p>National Development Strategy 9) Engaging the private sector in the establishment of incubation hubs, labour intensive public works programmes, remodelling of skills and entrepreneurship development;</p>
	Labor market regulations	<p>Government has also unfrozen 4000 health sector posts and created an additional 200 to ensure a full-scale response to the pandemic.</p> <p>[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is developing and implementing a national action plan for the formalisation of small and medium-sized enterprises active in the informal economy.</p> <p>[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is strengthening labour migration governance.</p>

[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is synching labour laws with labour dynamics.

[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is reviewing the Employment Policy including active labour market policies.

[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is developing a functioning Labour Market Information System.

[April 2020] The National Social Security Authority (NSSA) have developed guidelines for the protection of workers in the workplace from COVID-19. Guidelines on the manufacture and distribution of COVID-19 PPE and medical consumables have also been developed. The Ministry of Labour has started joint inspections with the NSSA based on guidelines following easing of lockdown restrictions.

Legislation has been introduced for employers in the formal and commercial sector for testing their employees and maintaining Covid-19 lockdown rules at their work stations. Restrictions have also been eased for all 'businesses in the formal commercial and industrial sector' subject to screening and testing for the Covid-19 disease; 7-hour operating day; observance of social distancing, wearing of protective masks and availability of sanitisation consumables.

(April 2020) In a statement the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare has called for dialogue at various levels to ensure the protection of the rights and job security for workers while also ensuring continued business viability. This includes a moratorium on retrenchments during the lockdown period. This is expected to ensure fair labour practices are upheld in line with Section 65 of the Zimbabwe Constitution and Section 2A of the Labour Act (Chap. 28:01).

(April 2020) The Ministry of Labour has indicated that COVID-19 is a compensable disease for health workers under the Accident Prevention Workers' Compensation Scheme. Guidelines for the compensation of work-related infections have also been developed. The Ministry of Labour has urged Employers to refrain from retrenchments and unfair terminations; and to implement unpaid leave measures based on mutual agreements with workers. (Access to paid leave/access to health care)

Workers in collaboration with the Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe (LEDRI) and the ILO Country Office for Zimbabwe and Namibia have drafted a working paper that has provided recommendations for an effective response to the COVID-19 pandemic. The paper has now been proposed for discussion by the (TNF) and to distill policy briefs to Government

		<p>and social partners for a more pronounced and effective response to world of work issues.</p> <p>National Development Strategy 2) Operationalising the national Tripartite Negotiating Forum</p> <p>National Development Strategy 4) Modernising Zimbabwe's Labour Case Management System</p> <p>[January 2021] As part of the National Development Strategy the government is strengthening the Labour Inspectorate System to upscale the protection of labour rights and the promotion of safe work environments.</p>
	Reduced work time	
	Wage subsidies	