

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

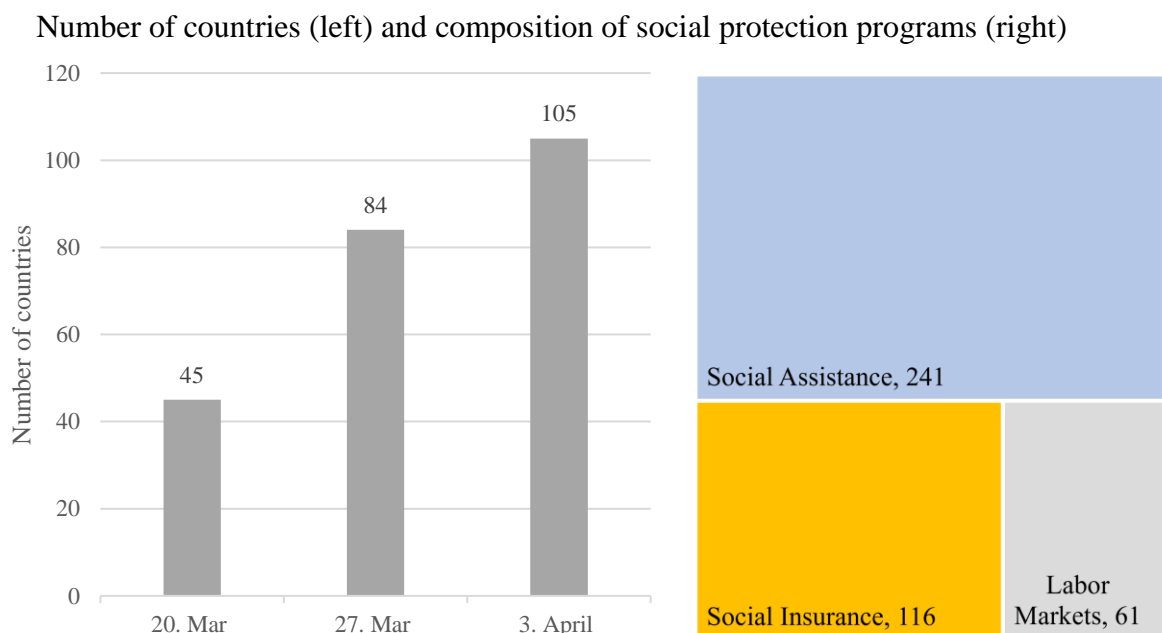
“Living paper” version 3 (April 3, 2020)

Ugo Gentilini (World Bank), Mohamed Almenfi (World Bank) and Ian Orton (ILO)

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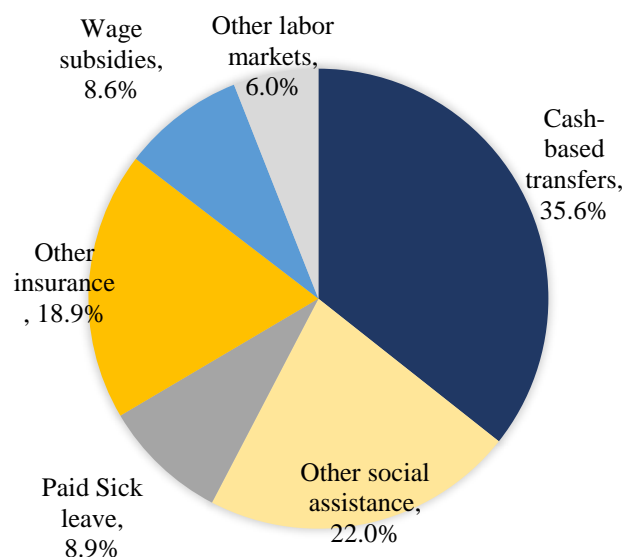
## Key findings

- As of April 3, 2020, a total of 106 countries have introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programs in response to COVID-19. This is an 26% increase since last week (when countries were 84), while the number of programs grew by almost 50%, i.e., from 283 to 418. Among classes of interventions, social assistance (non-contributory transfers) keeps being the most widely used (including a total of 241 programs), followed by actions in social insurance (116) and supply-side labor market interventions (61).



- Within social assistance, cash transfer programs are clearly the most widely used intervention by governments: these include 124 programs in 71 countries, with 54 *new* initiatives introduced specifically as COVID-19 response in 36 countries. Those 124 programs would increase to 149 if social pensions, public works, childcare support and one-off universal basic income (or helicopter money) are considered. Such overall cash-based portfolio represents over one-third of total social protection programs (35.6%) (see pie below) and 61.8% of social assistance schemes.

Social assistance by program	N. of programs
Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	124
Universal one-off cash	3
Childcare support	9
Cash for Work	3
in-kind food/voucher schemes	29
Social pensions	10
School feeding	14
Utility/fin obligation support (waiver/subsidy)	49
<b>Total SA measures</b>	<b>241</b>

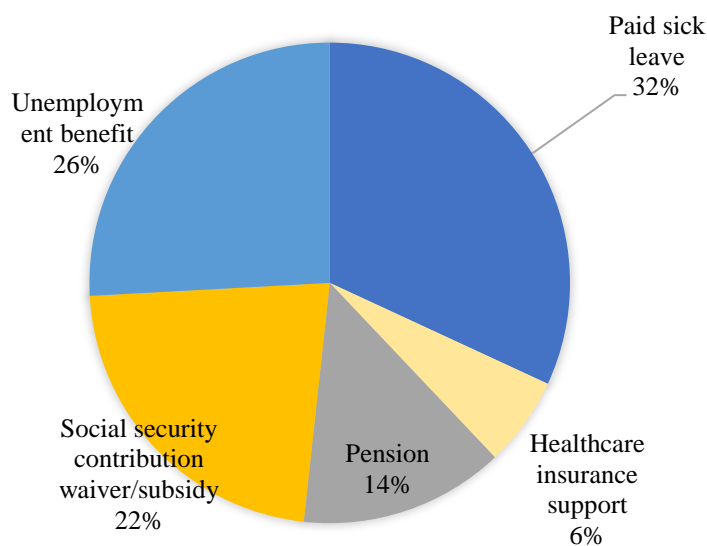


- More data points on coverage levels are also starting to emerge, especially in social assistance. A preliminary estimate of the number of beneficiaries specifically supported via COVID-related introductions, expansions, and adaptations of programs is 594 million. Those beneficiaries include both individuals (for programs like public works) and households (e.g., for conditional cash transfers), pending on how they are reported. On one hand, such estimate is conservative given that not all programs report coverage (especially planned schemes); on the other hand, the estimate also includes schemes for which programs envisioned administrative adaptations, such as providing the same level of benefits but paid in a more user-friendly way. Clearly, global coverage levels are largely driven by India, but sizable levels can be observed in several countries, especially in Asia.

Top-10 countries by social assistance coverage	Coverage
India	439,500,000
Malaysia	19,770,000
Philippines	18,000,000
Indonesia	15,000,000
South Korea	14,000,000
Peru	12,000,000
Argentina	10,654,327
Pakistan	10,000,000
Thailand	9,000,000
Colombia	8,904,000

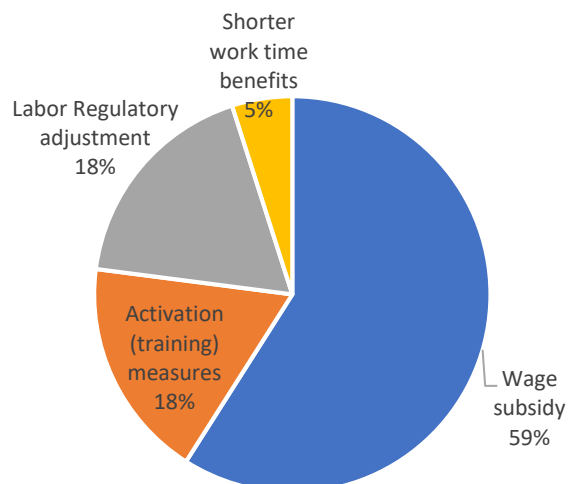
- In terms of social insurance, paid sick leave is the most frequently-adopted measure, including in countries like Algeria, El Salvador, Finland and Lebanon. Unemployment benefits are also widely used, including for example in Romania, Russia, and South Africa. Deferring or subsidizing social contributions are observed in Montenegro, Germany and the Netherlands among others.

Social insurance by program	N. of measures
Paid sick leave	37
Healthcare insurance support	7
Pension	16
Social security contribution waiver/subsidy	26
Unemployment benefit	30
<b>Total SI programs</b>	<b>116</b>



- Labor market interventions are another key way in which governments are providing support to formal and informal sector workers (i.e., we don't include demand-side actions on the labor markets). Wage subsidies account for 59% of the global labor market portfolio, with programs being implemented in Jamaica, Kosovo, Malaysia and Thailand. Activation measures (worker trainings) are also being considered inter alia in Bosnia and Herzegovina, China and Romania.

Labor market interventions by program	N. of measures
Wage subsidy	36
Activation (training) measures	11
Labor market institutions/regulation	11
Shorter work time benefits	3
<b>Total LM programs</b>	<b>61</b>



- Compared to last week, programs are less unevenly distributed across regions and country income groups. Importantly, measures are being introduced in low-income countries, although only on social assistance and insurance. In those contexts, social assistance measures mostly include administrative adaptations, in-kind transfers, school feeding, and utility waivers. As such, there appears to be very limited cash transfer program expanded or introduced (Tajikistan is one example).

Region	Social Assistance		Social insurance		Labor Markets	
	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs
<b>AFR</b>	14	21	3	3	1	1
<b>EAP</b>	15	53	12	20	11	22
<b>ECA</b>	32	73	30	65	24	30
<b>LAC</b>	17	52	8	10	5	5
<b>MNA</b>	10	19	8	13	1	1
<b>North America</b>	2	4	2	2	0	0
<b>SAR</b>	5	19	3	3	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>

	Social Assistance		Social insurance		Labor Markets	
	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs
<b>LIC</b>	9	10	2	2	0	0
<b>LMIC</b>	20	59	11	15	7	9
<b>UMIC</b>	34	106	22	46	15	16
<b>HIC</b>	32	66	31	53	22	36
<b>Total</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>241</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>116</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>61</b>

### **About this review**

This third edition of the “living paper” contributes to the global knowledge on how countries are responding to the pandemic by documenting real-time actions in a key area of response – that is, social protection measures planned or implemented by governments.

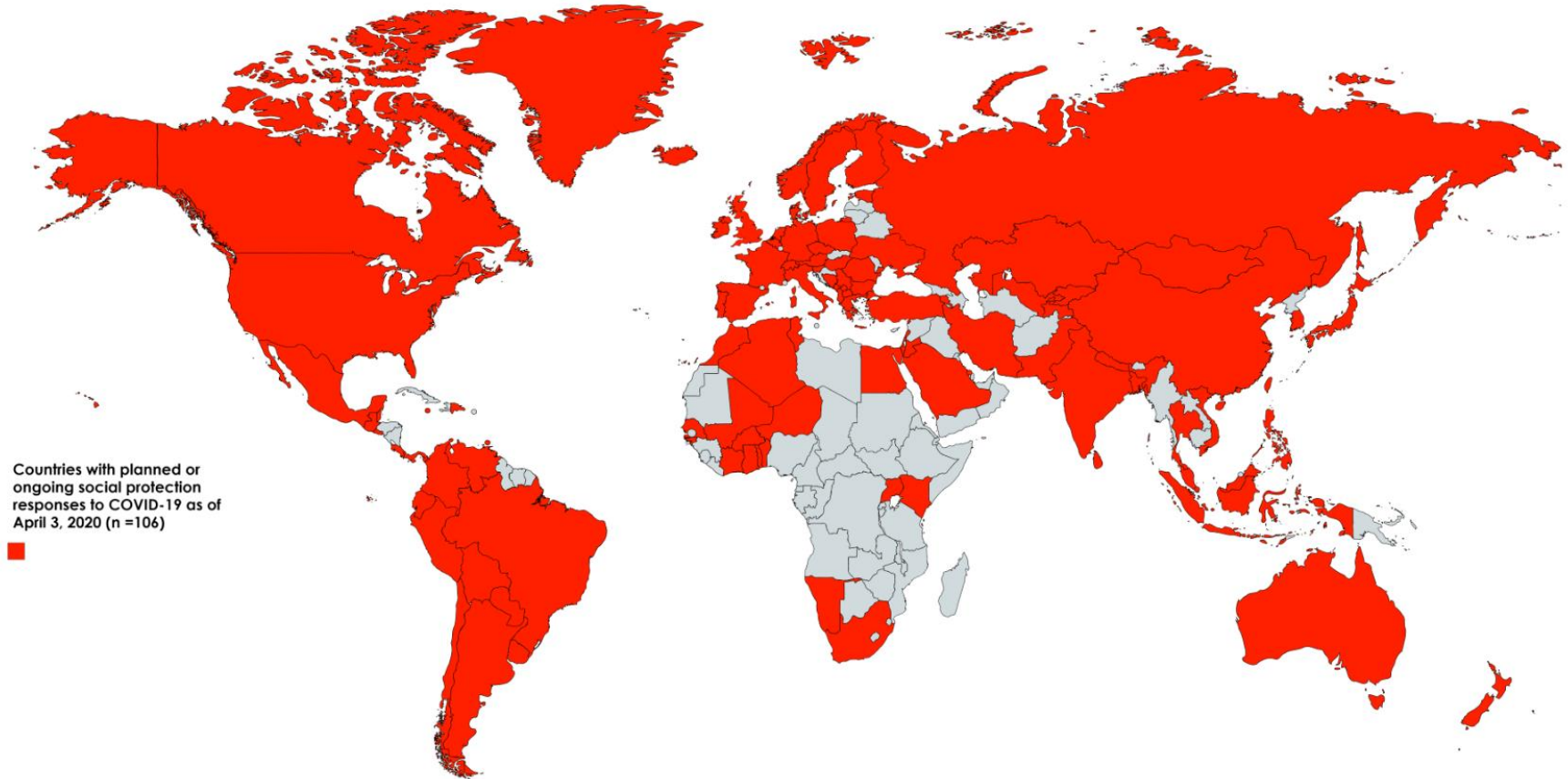
For the purpose of this review, we organized interventions by social assistance, social insurance and labor market programs. For the latter measures, we deliberately focused on supply-side programs (e.g., mostly wage subsidies and other activation programs). In most cases, data sources include official information published in government websites, while in many cases we reported information from global and national news outlets. In some cases, information was provided directly by country-based experts, while the full database was validated and integrated by regional and country social protection teams at the World Bank. Overall, findings should be considered preliminary and interpreted with caution.

The information on country-level measures presented in this review is continuously verified, triangulated and enriched, with updated versions being released on a weekly basis (i.e., every Friday). This would help provide a “situation room” with a view to inform decisionmakers, practitioners and the broad public about the most recent policy and operational developments in the sphere of social protection responses to COVID-19.

The reminder of the note zooms into a country-by-country examination of measures presented in tabular form. The structure by social assistance, insurance, and labor interventions is accompanied by more granular reporting of specific schemes and their summary description. Sources are provided as weblinks in footnotes.

For information or clarifications on the text, as well as suggestions for including additional experiences, please contact us at [ugentilini@worldbank.org](mailto:ugentilini@worldbank.org), [malmenfi@worldbank.org](mailto:malmenfi@worldbank.org), and [orton@ilo.org](mailto:orton@ilo.org).

**Map. Countries with planned or ongoing social protection responses to COVID-19 (as of April 3, 2020)**



Countries with planned or ongoing social protection responses to COVID-19 as of April 3, 2020 (n = 106)



## Countries

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Country	Social protection category	Core COVID19 measure	Descriptive summary
Albania	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Recipients of Ndihma Economike (flagship cash transfer program) will receive double the amount of benefit
		Cash transfers (new)	Self-employed families will receive a special benefit equivalent to a state-set monthly salary
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	Unemployed people will receive double the unemployment benefit. <sup>1</sup>
	Labor markets		
Algeria	Social assistance	Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	To avoid crowding in post offices, beneficiaries (1M) can receive Solidarity Allowance benefits at any time without a specific deadline (in normal circumstances on the 30 <sup>th</sup> /31 <sup>st</sup> of the month the uncollected benefits to beneficiaries is automatically returned to the Social Development Agency).
		In-kind food/voucher schemes	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
	Social insurance		To reduce exposition risk for elderlies, 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.).
	Labor markets		
Argentina	Social assistance	Social pensions	Beneficiaries of the non-contributory system (including those from Pension Universal para el Adulto Mayor, PUAM): 1,597,100 people beginning April. Cost estimated at 4.7B pesos
		Cash transfers	Beneficiaries of AUH include 4,357,227 minors and other beneficiaries (more for children with disabilities,) and with an expenditure estimated at 14B pesos. (In other words, benefits will be doubled for March). Women who receive the universal maternity benefit will also receive this payment. <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> <https://exit.al/2020/03/qeveria-pagese-direkte-per-te-vetepunesuarit-sa-2-here-rroga-e-deklaruar-dyfishon-pagesat-e-ndihmes-ekonomike-dhe-papunesis/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.lanacion.com.ar/economia/quienes-cuando-cobraran-bono-extraordinario-anunciado-anses-nid2344443>



		Cash transfers (new)	<p>The government introduced the Emergency family Income (Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia) (non-contributory). A lump sum payment of \$10,000 (US\$155) provided for the month of April to one member of the family. The total number of expected beneficiaries: 3.6 million families including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Informal workers</li> <li>- “Monotributistas” of category A and B</li> <li>- Domestic workers.</li> </ul>
		In-kind food/voucher scheme	<p>The Ministry of Social Development ruled that families who have not yet received the food support can card (Tarjeta de alimentar) receive the value of this amount through the Universal Child Allowance (AUH), a temporary measure that is part of a series of provisions to strengthen food policies, after Social, preventive and compulsory isolation be decreed for the entire population until March 31. The plan is to deliver more than 1,500,000 cards (2,800,000 recipients).<sup>3</sup> To date the food card has reached 1,100,000 people, with nearly 400,000 households will receive this additional amount through the AUH until they receive their food support card.</p>
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	<p>To guarantee the basic rights of Argentines, the Government has prohibited the eviction of persons renting accommodation until the 30th September. Simultaneously, all rental contracts are extended until the same date regardless of current expiration of date. In turn, the freezing of the price of the rental contracts is provided, and the amount corresponding to the month of March of the current year must be paid until September 30th.<sup>4</sup></p>
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	<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. The measure will govern for 180 days and includes users who are holders of the AUH and AUE, retirees and pensioners, those who receive unemployment insurance, and other groups<sup>5</sup></p>

<sup>3</sup> <https://agenciapais.com/2020/03/20/quienes-aun-no-recibieron-la-tarjeta-alimentar-recibiran-el-dinero-por-medio-de-la-auh/>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/coronavirus/medidas-gobierno>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227120/20200325>

		In-kind support (price control)	In order to guarantee supply and control the abuse of prices during the health emergency, the Ministry of Productive Development ordered that from March 20 and for 30 days, the Basic food basket prices, beverages, toiletries and cleaning will maintain, at most, the price they had as of March 6. The measure covers hypermarkets, retail and wholesale supermarkets, mini-markets, warehouses and self-services <sup>6</sup>
		School feeding (take-home adjustment)	The government is distributing the remaining school feeding food stocks as take-home rations. <sup>7</sup>
	Social insurance	Pensions	Beneficiaries of the contributory system: those who receive the minimum pension (15,892 pesos) will receive an additional 3,000 pesos for April only. This concerns 2,774,465 beneficiaries and an expenditure estimated at 8.3B pesos. Beneficiaries who receive a pension of more than 15,892 pesos and up to 18,892 pesos will receive an additional benefit equal to the difference to reach 18,892 pesos. This affects 277,252 beneficiaries and with an expenditure estimated at 416M pesos.
		Social security contribution waiver/subsidy	Emergency Work Assistance Program envisaging the following benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- postponement or reduction of 95% of the payment of contributions employers to the Argentine Integrated Social Security System.</li> <li>- Compensatory Salary Allowance: Allowance paid by the State for all workers and female workers in the private sectors for companies up to 100 workers.</li> <li>- A Comprehensive unemployment benefits system: the workers who meet the requirements will receive an economic unemployment benefit.</li> </ul>
		Unemployment benefit	
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	See the Emergency Assistance Program for Work above. The allocation amount will be determined according to the following parameters: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For employers with up to 25 workers: 100% of the gross salary, with a maximum value of 1 current Minimum Wage.</li> <li>- For the employers of 26-60 workers: 100% of gross salary, with a maximum value of up to 75% of the current Minimum Wage..</li> </ul>

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227052/20200320>

<sup>7</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

			- For the employers of 61-100: 100% of gross salary, with a maximum value of up to 50% of the current Minimum Wage.
<b>Armenia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The government will provide \$60M as extra social assistance payments. <sup>8</sup> Specifically, the Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs (MLSA) is planning a 3-months emergency benefit (54,000 AMD = \$108) to households registered in the Family Benefit Program, but not yet receiving it (about 20,000 households);
		Cash transfers (new)	MLSA and SRC (State Revenue Committee) are closely cooperating to provide cash payments to those who sent to mandatory leave and/or being laid off (about 70,000 registered employees)
		Cash transfers (new)	On 25 and 30 March 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 envelope of at least 300 mln USD. These included: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assistance to families with children under 14, who face bottlenecks due to the shrinking labor market (formal employees (with certain criteria) released from work after March 13, 100,000 AMD (US\$201) lump sum payment for every child)).</li> <li>• Support to persons in formal employment (receiving less than 500,000 AMD for the past two months) who lost their job after 13 March in the amount of monthly minimum wage.</li> <li>• Support to pregnant women who are not employed until 30 March and whose husband lost the job after 13 March in the amount of a 100,000 AMD (US\$201) lump sum payment.</li> <li>• 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. The amounts would range between 68,000 and 136,000 AMD. (US\$137-274).<sup>9</sup></li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30495643.html>

<sup>9</sup> <https://armenpress.am/eng/news/1010183.html>

		In-kind food/voucher scheme	MLSA in collaboration with the Armenian Red Cross will provide between one and three food and hygiene packages to 1,400 citizens. The packages will mainly go to elderly people living alone and people with disabilities, including Syrian-Armenian refugees and people in social housing. The initiative is funded from the State budget, while the Int'l Red Cross provides volunteers. Also, MLSA is planning 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).
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	The Public Services Regulatory Commission has recognized the coronavirus as force majeure when utility payments can be delayed without the consequence of light, water or gas outages.
	Social insurance	Pensions (admin/delivery adaptation)	All pensioners who receive their pensions in cash will not need to go to the post office and will have their pensions delivered to them by HayPost (Nationwide Postal Office) employees.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	A total of \$50M will be allocated to firms in the form of partial reimbursement of loans taken to cover the salaries of their workers. MLSA proposed amendment to the Labor Code to allow employees to receive compensation from employers equal to the minimal hourly rate (409 AMD) set for the minimum wage (68,000AMD), flexible working hours, etc.
<b>Australia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	The government will provide a one-off \$750 payment to social security, veteran and other income support recipients. This measure will assist around 6.5 million Australians (nearly half are pensioners). If a person qualifies for the one-off payment in multiple ways, they will only receive one payment. The payment will be tax-free and will not count as income for Social Security, Farm Household Allowance, and Veteran payments. <sup>10</sup> The measure, which will start on 31 March 2020, entails a cost of \$4.7B.
		Cash transfers (new, Tasmania)	The State Government will provide a one-off emergency relief payment of \$250 for individuals and up to \$1,000 for families who are required to self-

<sup>10</sup> [https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Overview-Economic\\_Response\\_to\\_the\\_Coronavirus.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Overview-Economic_Response_to_the_Coronavirus.pdf)

			quarantine. This will be available to informal casual workers and those on low incomes <sup>11</sup> .
	Social insurance	Pensions	The government is allowing individuals affected by the Coronavirus to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation in 2019-20 and a further \$10,000 in 2020-21. Eligible individuals will be able to apply online to access up to \$10,000 of their superannuation before 1 July 2020. They will also be able to access up to a further \$10,000 from 1 July 2020 for approximately 3 months (exact timing will depend on the passage of the relevant legislation) <sup>12</sup> .
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy  Wage Subsidy	Wage subsidy of 50% of the wage of apprentices and trainees from January to September 2020; the subsidy is up to AUD 21,000 per person and for a total cost of AUD 1.3 billion.  Wage subsidy of up to A\$1,500 per employee per fortnight in Australia, including casual and part time employees. <sup>13</sup>
<b>Austria</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers  Childcare support (admin/delivery adaptation)	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. Design details to be announced <sup>14</sup> .  Temporary waiving of conditionalities to receive the childcare benefit (i.e. obligatory health examinations that usually have to take place at fixed times during pregnancy until age 5 of the child).
	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 (1/3 of the salary will be reimbursed to the employer by the government) <sup>15</sup> .

<sup>11</sup> [http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial\\_statement\\_covid-19\\_response\\_measures](http://www.premier.tas.gov.au/releases/ministerial_statement_covid-19_response_measures)

<sup>12</sup> [https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact\\_sheet-Early\\_Access\\_to\\_Super.pdf](https://treasury.gov.au/sites/default/files/2020-03/Fact_sheet-Early_Access_to_Super.pdf)

<sup>13</sup> <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2020-03-30/coronavirus-wage-subsidies-government-businesses-workers/12103108>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.wko.at/service/haertefall-fonds-epu-kleinunternehmen.html>

<sup>15</sup> <https://news.wko.at/news/niederoesterreich/coronahotline.html>

		Unemployment benefits (admin/delivery adaptation)	Temporary waiving of the conditionality to regularly meet the case worker at the labor market service to receive unemployment benefits <sup>16</sup>
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	The government is covering up to 90% of wages/salaries of workers to stay employed, rather than being laid-off. <sup>17</sup> Implemented by Austrian Labour market service, companies can register their employees to short-time work over a period of up to 3 months (starting from now onwards) – with potential extension of another 3 months (depending on future developments). The working time of employees registered for short-time work can be reduced down to 10% of their normal working time during this period (Working time can be organized flexibly, e.g. this could also mean that employees do not work at all during the first and second month and 30% during the third month of short-time work) and will usually have to consume their old leave entitlements. Employees will receive 80-90% (depending on their current gross salary) of their net salary over this period (reimbursed to the employer by the labor market service). Employers get incidental wage costs for the non-working time reimbursed (up to gross salaries of 5,370 Euros).
<b>Bahrain</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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). <sup>18</sup>
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	Private sector employees who are registered with the national Social Insurance Organization will have their salaries paid for 3 months from April 2020 from the unemployment fund. A total of 100,000 Bahraini will benefit from the measure (cost of BD 215 million) <sup>19 20</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Bangladesh</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Benefit under key safety net programs will be increased (amount not determined yet).

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.gesundheitskasse.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.857901&portal=oegknportal&viewmode=content>

<sup>17</sup> [https://www.oegb.at/cms/S06/S06\\_0.a/1342627789286/home/rechenbeispiele-zeigen-warum-corona-kurzarbeit-fuer-alle-sinnvoll-ist](https://www.oegb.at/cms/S06/S06_0.a/1342627789286/home/rechenbeispiele-zeigen-warum-corona-kurzarbeit-fuer-alle-sinnvoll-ist)

<sup>18</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3969>

<sup>19</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3969>

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3982>

		In-kind food/voucher schemes	Food subsidies would include selling rice at Tk5/kg through OMS, down from Tk30/kg
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	The government would pay the salaries and wages of select factories (details to me announced) <sup>21</sup>
<b>Belize</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Cash transfers to workers who lost their jobs for B\$25 (\$12M) <sup>22</sup>
		School feeding	Children on national school meal programs will receive take-home rations and high schools are encouraged to do same.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Belgium</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Extension of the seasonal suspension of evictions from dwellings (la trêve hivernale). Some jurisdictions will temporarily cover utility costs for households with a worker facing temporary employment; utilities (water, gas, power) will not be disconnected during the Covid-19 crisis <sup>23</sup> .
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	Temporary unemployment available and the associated benefits are increased 65-70% (the ceiling being set at € 2,754.76 per month). Temporary unemployment due to Coronavirus (force majeure) will be extended by 3 months (till June 30, 2020). In addition to the unemployment benefit, workers get an extra €5.63 per day. A professional withholding tax of 26.75% will be deducted from this compensation <sup>24</sup> .
		Social security contribution waver/subsidy	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.

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/unprecedented-bailout-package-the-way-1885042>

<sup>22</sup> <https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/government-announces-new-measures-in-response-to-covid-19/>

<sup>23</sup> OECD database <http://www.oecd.org/social/Covid-19-Employment-and-Social-Policy-Responses-by-Country.xlsx>

<sup>24</sup> <https://www.onem.be/fr/nouveau/chomage-temporaire-la-suite-de-lepidemie-de-coronavirus-covid-19-simplification-de-la-procedure>

		Healthcare insurance support	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 <sup>25</sup> .
	Labor markets		
<b>Benin</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Bolivia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	The government introduced the Bono Familia program to compensate low-income families who will not have school feeding meals during this time of quarantine. An amount of 500 Bolivianos (US\$ 72.6) will be paid for each child in elementary school. The benefit will be delivered in April. <sup>26</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Families (and companies) that cannot meet financial obligations are exempt from paying their mortgages and credits. This relief will apply for 2 months.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Individual local governments are providing significant sums to assist the elderly and families with low or no income (\$250,000 thus far from Sarajevo municipality Stari Grad). Plans are underway for larger-scale assistance.
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	A total of Eur 5.5M is allocated for unemployment benefits for 2020, but this could increase to another Eur 10M to support job retention and/or increase unemployment benefits.
	Labor markets	Activation (training) measures	The government has allocated Eur 33M for 2020 for activation programs which may be reallocated for immediate assistance to unemployed.
<b>Brazil</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The government is allocating R\$3 billion for the Bolsa Familia program to add 1 million families. <sup>27</sup>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.inasti.be/fr/news/difficultes-suite-au-coronavirus>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.noticiasfides.com/nacional/politica/gobierno-crea-el-bono-familia-flexibiliza-pago-de-adeudos-y-prohibe-corte-de-servicios-basicos-403922>

<sup>27</sup> <https://g1.globo.com/economia/noticia/2020/03/16/ministerio-da-economia-anuncia-novas-medidas-para-reduzir-impacto-do-coronavirus-veja-lista.ghtml>



		Cash transfers (new)	<p>The government will give R\$600 (60% of minimum wage) to all informal workers, self-employed and vulnerable families. Eligibility:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 18 years old or more;</li> <li>- Not a formal worker;</li> <li>- Not a recipient of other gov. transfers, except Bolsa Familia;</li> <li>- Per capita family income lower than ½ minimum wage or total family income lower than 3 min. wage;</li> <li>- Annual taxable income lower than BRL 28.560.<sup>28</sup></li> </ul> <p>Other features of the scheme include: (i) max 2 benefits per family; (ii) women without spouse receive the double BRL 1,200; (iii) the emergency benefit will replace temporarily the regular Bolsa Familia benefit when it is beneficial to the family.</p>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>British Virgin Islands</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	Water and Sewerage customers across the Territory have been given a month's suspension in payment of their water charges. <sup>29</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Bulgaria</b>	Social assistance	In-kind food/voucher scheme	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
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	On Monday (23 March) the National Assembly adopted an Emergency Measures and Actions Act. For the moment, the period of the state of emergency is one month, i.e. from 13 March to 13 April. Over this period, the Unemployment Fund will pay 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 to adopt the criteria and procedures according to which employers will be able to receive support.

<sup>28</sup> <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/mercado/2020/03/contra-pandemia-governo-vai-distribuir-r-200-para-trabalhadores-informais.shtml>

<sup>29</sup> <https://bvi.gov.vg/media-centre/water-charges-suspended-one-month>

		<p>Disability pensions</p> <p>Pensions</p> <p>Unemployment benefits</p>	<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, are automatically renewed for the whole period of the state of emergency + 2 months after that. Approximately 75,000 disability pensioners will benefit from that measure.</p> <p>All pensions of working pensioners will be recalculated officially as of 1 April on the basis of the data in the administrative registers. In Bulgaria, pensioners can work and receive a pension and a salary without restrictions. Now, pensioners are not required to submit any documents and to contact the NSSI's staff. The idea is to limit the number of visitors of the NSSI's offices as a precautionary measure and to reduce the risk COVID-19 spread. Approximately 258 000 pensioners will benefit from that measure.</p> <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. Further measures are under consideration<sup>30</sup>.</p>
	Labor market	Wage subsidies	<p>BGN 1 billion was allocated for paying 60% of the wages of workers who risk being laid off because of the crisis in the course of three months, provided that their employees cover the remaining 40 per cent.</p> <p>Another BGN 200 million was conferred to BBD for providing portfolio guarantees to commercial banks so that they can provide unsecured interest-free loans in the amount of up to BGN 1,500 (EUR 760) to workers who are put on unpaid leave<sup>31 32</sup>.</p> <p>Finally, a supplementary pay in the amount of BGN 1,000 was accorded to medical staff and other front-line responders to the pandemic</p>

<sup>30</sup> <https://dv.parliament.bg/DVWeb/showMaterialDV.jsp?idMat=147150>

<sup>31</sup> <https://www.bnt.bg/en/a/coronavirus-government-allocates-funds-for-increased-costs-of-ministries>

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.investor.bg/ikonomika-i-politika/332/a/dyrjavata-zadelia-45-mlrd-lv-za-podkrepa-na-ikonomikata-zaradi-koronavirusa-301072/>

<b>Burkina Faso</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Cabo Verde</b>	Social assistance	Expansion of existing cash transfers program	Expansion of CTs under the existing SP project to 8,000 families (from original 5,000).
		Cash transfers	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 are guaranteed a value of 10,000 escudos (US\$100) for one month. 30,000 workers are expected to benefit.
		In kind food support	Immediate Food Assistance to 22,500 families (around 90,000 people), whose income is below the minimum wage or without any source of income
		School feeding	Support for school feeding for around 30,000 children who belong to the most vulnerable households. <sup>33</sup>
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	Households and firms that borrow from banks will, according to a decision announced by the Central Bank of Cabo Verde, have a three-month moratorium on payment of debt instalments.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	Employees will get 70% of gross salary in the event of the labor contract being suspended. 35% will be paid by the employer and 35% by INPS (National Institute of Social Security). <sup>34</sup>

<sup>33</sup> <https://expressodasilhas.cv/pais/2020/03/27/governo-garante-rendimento-a-30-mil-trabalhadores-informais/68653>

<sup>34</sup> <https://www.asemana.publ.cv/?MEDIDAS-PARA-APOIAR-AS-EMPRESAS-E-AUMENTAR-A&ak=1>

<b>Canada</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Income support is provided for those who don't qualify for employment insurance, including a payment of \$2,000 per month for the next 4 months. <sup>35</sup> <sup>36</sup>
		School feeding (adjustment)	British Columbia arranged to provide school meals for at-risk students. Moreover, Cayman Islands government will organize voucher and daily lunch Programme with distribution through school cafeteria providers and NGO partners. <sup>37</sup>
	Social insurance	Sick leave benefits	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). 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. <sup>38</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Chile</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	An extraordinary bonus equivalent to the Single-Family Subsidy of P\$13,155 (\$15) is to 2 million people without formal work. <sup>39</sup>
		School feeding (take-home adjustment)	Distribution of food packages out of special buses, at schools or from alternative distribution sites. Some schools remain 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 will be delivered, containing breakfasts and lunches for ten (10) business days <sup>40</sup> .

<sup>35</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/coronavirus-disease-covid-19.html%20%20https://www.canada.ca/en/department-finance/news/2020/03/canadas-covid-19-economic-response-plan-support-for-canadians-and-businesses.html>

<sup>36</sup> <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-trudeau-says-new-merged-benefits-will-help-workers-affected-by-covid/>

<sup>37</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

<sup>38</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

<sup>39</sup> [https://chile.as.com/chile/2020/03/24/tikitakas/1585055113\\_805931.html](https://chile.as.com/chile/2020/03/24/tikitakas/1585055113_805931.html)

<sup>40</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

	Social insurance	Paid leave	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).
	Labor markets		
<b>China</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The latest government policy directive (6 March 2020) instructed local governments to extend coverage of dibao 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): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- In Chongqing, a transfer of twice the monthly Dibao amount was introduced to some recipients if they were infected as temporary assistance.</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>
		One-off cash transfers (new) (Wuhan)	Cash transfer for retention migrant population in Wuhan. One-time cash assistance of RMB 3000
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	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. <sup>41</sup> 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 enterprises may reduce employer contributions to pension, unemployment, and work-related injury insurance schemes by 50%.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	As part of general guidance to provinces, China is encouraging the use of unemployment insurance funds to provide wage and job subsidies to

<sup>41</sup> <https://home.kpmg/cn/en/home/insights/2020/02/china-tax-alert-15.html>

		Activation (training) measures	enterprises, in particular for SMEs. The amount varies by locality, but for example in Nanjing, it has been 100 yuan per worker per day  The measures include: (i) coordination across line ministries and between migrant-sending and receiving regions to provide transportation and employment services to support return to work; (ii) enhanced use of UI funds to provide public employment and online learning and training services; and (iii) expanded online recruitment, online employment guidance and postponing face to face interview to support job search of college graduates.
<b>Code d'Ivoire</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Colombia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Two existing programs will pay additional benefits: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- One additional cash payment to 2.6M households that are beneficiaries of Familias en Acción. Transfer is of COP 145,000 (\$98 in 2011 PPP)</li> <li>- One additional cash payment to 204,000 beneficiaries of Jóvenes en Acción (COP 356,000, or \$240).</li> </ul>
		Cash transfers	Another special measure consists in anticipating the implementation of the VAT Refund to the Poor Program that is expected to distribute 3% of the funds collected as VAT to the most vulnerable families. The transfer is nearly COP 80,000 per household (\$47). This program was scheduled to start on January 2021, with a pilot of 100.000 families; however, now it will start on April 8, 2020, and will include around 1M people among the most vulnerable segments of the population <sup>42</sup> .
		Cash transfers (new)	New cash transfer program, “solidarity income”, includes a one-off payment of COP 160,000 (\$108) <sup>43</sup> for informal workers and their families. These include 3M households identified by via SISBEN and tax collection

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/coronavirus-en-colombia-medidas-del-gobierno-para-evitar-el-pico-del-covid-19-475032>

<sup>43</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/ultimas-medidas-anunciadas-por-ivan-duque-antes-de-la-cuarentena-nacional-476678>

			<p>databases. Payment is planned for week of March 30-April 5 through bank account for half of identified households who have those; through electronic payments through cells phones for others.<sup>44</sup></p>
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation)	<p>On March 24, 2020, the government of Colombia announced that children that benefit from the national school feeding programme - Programa de Alimentacion Escolar (PAE) – will continue to receive meals at home during the COVID-19-induced nation-wide school closures. To put this measure in place, President Iván Duque will be issuing a decree in the coming days. The government intends to implement the measure within the same week of the announcement and will not only cover the next few weeks but also plans to cover the coming few months<sup>4546</sup></p>
		Social pension	<p>Anticipation of cash payment to 1.7M beneficiaries of Colombia Adulto Mayor program to support consumption (This is the old-age subsidy program for the poor and extreme poor over 60+ years old population). This includes 3 monthly payments for March, April, and May (total of COP 70,000) advanced to March 25 and April 6.</p>
		Utilities and financial obligations (waiver/postponement)	<p>Water services are provided free of charge for low income families (strata 1 and 2).<sup>47</sup> Also, financial relief measures will be provided to individuals and families (and all-sized enterprises) that are not able to pay their financial obligations. This relief will be active for around two months. The measure includes the possibility to freeze all credit payments, including mortgages, car loans, credit cards, etc.</p>
		In-kind food/voucher	<p>ICBF delivers “reinforced food baskets for children and women at nutritional risk” to 1.7M household beneficiaries of ICBF programs</p>
		Cash transfers (Bogota)	<p>A program called “Bogotá Solidaria En Casa” will provide poor and vulnerable families of the District with cash for the 23-day quarantine (03/25-</p>

<sup>44</sup> <https://id.presidencia.gov.co/Paginas/prensa/2020/Hoy-tenemos-identificados-3-millones-hogares-en-la-informalidad-sabemos-donde-están-y-en-municipios-afirmo-Diego-Mol-200325.aspx>

<sup>45</sup> <https://id.presidencia.gov.co/Paginas/prensa/2020/Ministra-de-Educacion-anuncia-que-los-estudiantes-beneficiarios-del-PAE-recibirán-alimentos-en-sus-casas-200324.aspx>

<sup>46</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.colombia.com/actualidad/nacionales/ivan-duque-anuncia-medidas-economicas-a-causa-del-covid-19-264409>

		<p>In-kind food/voucher scheme (Bogota)</p> <p>Utilities and financial obligations (waiver/postponement) (Bogota)</p>	<p>04/13) to prevent them to have to get out their home to a daily subsistence income. The transfer is estimated to cover ~70% of their expenditure. Conditions and requirements include comply with quarantine and not having been reported of domestic violence. It will benefit 500,000 families (350,000 'poor' and 150,000 'vulnerable' ones) identified via 2018 Census, SISBEN, and District's own data (plus data from cell phone operators). Transfer includes COP 423,000 (\$286) for the poor, COP 178,000 for the vulnerable (\$120).</p> <p>Voucher 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>The district government will issue a decree that would allow the exemption of the payment of public services for a month for the houses and apartments of Bogotá. The measure would apply to services utilized between March 20 and April 20<sup>48</sup>.</p>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Cook Islands</b>	Social Assistance	<p>Additional payment to existing cash transfers programs</p> <p>Childcare support</p>	<p>One Off Payment to be paid on top of the current welfare payment next fortnight in the amount \$400.00 per beneficiary. 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. The cash is only available to those who are currently on the welfare list of infirm, destitute and pensioners.<sup>49</sup></p> <p>For each child (age 0-16), 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. Application process not required. For each child, not currently on the child benefit, an allocation of \$100 will be allocated for every fortnight during closure of school outside of the school holidays. Application process required.<sup>50</sup></p>

<sup>48</sup> <https://www.dinero.com/pais/articulo/coronavirus-por-que-el-distrito-no-cobrara-un-mes-de-servicios-publicos/283207>

<sup>49</sup> <https://www.intaff.gov.ck/covid19-response-package/family-elderly-children/one-off-support-to-our-existing-beneficiaries-on-welfare-support/>

<sup>50</sup> <https://www.intaff.gov.ck/covid19-response-package/family-elderly-children/school-closure-support/>



	Social Insurance	Paid sick leave	This support will only cover self-isolation as defined under the public health guidelines, where the employee is: (i) not sick, cannot perform work remotely and has been advised by the Ministry of Health to self-isolate; (ii) not sick but has to care for dependents who are required to self-isolate or who are sick with COVID-19. 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. <sup>51</sup>
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy  Activation (training)	Wage subsidy is based on minimum wage for 35hrs/weekly over a period of 3 months: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- \$266 per week for a full-time employee working 20 hours per week or more;</li> <li>- \$133 per week for a part-time employee working between 5 and 19 hours per week.<sup>52</sup></li> </ul> <p>To assist businesses in upskilling their employees to improve their productivity for recovery phase. The training subsidy is based on 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 1 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. 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. Courses may include those provided through the Cook Islands Tertiary Training Institute, University of the South Pacific, and other courses offered by recognized official organizations, such as those offered by online institutions.<sup>53</sup></p>
<b>Costa Rica</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers guaranteed and	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.

<sup>51</sup> <https://www.intaff.gov.ck/covid19-response-package/businesses/self-isolation-and-quarantine-cover/>

<sup>52</sup> <https://www.intaff.gov.ck/covid19-response-package/businesses/wage-subsidy/>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.intaff.gov.ck/covid19-response-package/businesses/training-subsidy/>

		In kind food/voucher schemes	Special food packages and sanitary items are delivered for families in extreme poverty. <sup>54</sup>
		School feeding (take-home adjustment)	Government switched to take home rations, after unsuccessfully piloting to keep school canteens open amid school. Food baskets include perishables and fresh foods sourced from smallholder farmers.
	Social insurance	Pensions	About 70% of pensioners will receive their pension in advance of a week early. <sup>55</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Czech Republic</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance		
	Labor market	Wage subsidy	<p>On Tuesday, March 31, 2020, the government approved a proposal to modify the Antivirus program. Applying for wages and salaries will be easy. The Antivirus employment protection program is designed to help businesses protect their jobs. The state will use the Labor Office of the Czech Republic to compensate companies for the funds paid out. This measure will help employers better manage the current situation and will not have to resort to layoffs. Employers whose economic activity will be at risk due to the spread of the disease will be granted a contribution to pay, in whole or in part, wage compensation due to the employee due to an obstacle on the part of the employee (quarantine) closure) if it is shown that the obstacle to work is due to COVID-19. The contribution will be provided by the Labor Office of the Czech Republic.</p> <p>The amount of compensation paid to employers is derived from the average super-gross wage, including mandatory contributions (CZK 48,400) and depends on the reasons why they had to put employees at a barrier to work.</p> <p>Employers will be able to apply to the Labor Office for a contribution in two modes. Mode A - type of obstacle:</p>

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2020/03/gobierno-declara-estado-de-emergencia-nacional-impide-llegada-de-extranjeros-y-se-suspende-lecciones-en-todos-los-centros-educativos-del-pais/>

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2020/03/gobierno-declara-estado-de-emergencia-nacional-impide-llegada-de-extranjeros-y-se-suspende-lecciones-en-todos-los-centros-educativos-del-pais/>

		Labor regulation (admin/adaptation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- in the case of quarantine, the employee is paid 60% of the average reduced earnings;</li> <li>- in the event of closure of the operation by a government order, the employee receives 100% wage compensation;</li> </ul> <p>Mode B - type of obstacle:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Obstacles to work on the part of the employer due to quarantine or childcare of a significant part of employees (30% or more) - the employee receives 100% of average wage compensation</li> <li>- Restricting the availability of inputs (raw materials, products, services) necessary for the activity - the employee receives a wage compensation of 80% of the average earnings</li> <li>- Reduction of demand for services, products and other products of the company - employee receives wage compensation 60% of average earnings.<sup>56</sup></li> </ul> <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.<sup>57</sup></p>
<b>Denmark</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	The Danish government would cover 75% of employees' salaries if firms committed not to lay off workers. This program will last for three months, or until 9 June 2020. The subsidy will cover a maximum of 23,000 Danish krone/month (\$3,418). <sup>58</sup>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Expansion of conditional transfers under the Comer Es Primer (CEP) program, including a 100% increase in the amount transferred to families. Also, the program will temporarily include an additional 100,000 families. The expansion includes formalized own-account workers who are listed in the

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.mpsv.cz/web/cz/antivirus>

<sup>57</sup> <https://www.mpsv.cz/>

<sup>58</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/danish-corona-hit-firms-get-state-aid-to-pay-75-of-salaries/>

		In-kind food/voucher scheme	Social Security Treasury (TSS) and who are at risk of falling into poverty due to the impact of COVID-19.
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation)	Food support programs adapt their delivery modality to distribute packages at specified points. <sup>59</sup> Government switched to take-home rations for its school feeding program
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Ecuador</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	New cash transfer of \$60 has been introduced for informal workers earning less than \$400 per month <sup>60</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Egypt</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Ministry of Social Solidarity is planning to add 60,000 families to Takaful and Karama programs; also, increased payments are envisioned for women leaders in rural areas (EGP 900 per month instead of EGP 350).
		Cash transfers (new)	An exceptional, one-off payment of EGP 500 is planned for informal workers registered in the workforce directorates databases of governorates.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>El Salvador</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	The government has granted a waiver for utility bills payments for individuals and legal entities directly affected by curfew enacted because of COVID-19 for three months. Utilities include electricity, water, telephone, cable, and internet. <sup>61</sup> 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. <sup>62</sup>

<sup>59</sup> <https://presidencia.gob.do/coronavirusrd>

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/03/21/nota/7790391/coronavirus-bono-contingencia-60-dolares-trabajadores-informales>

<sup>61</sup> <https://twitter.com/PresidenciaSV/status/1240409234854088705>

<sup>62</sup> <https://twitter.com/PresidenciaSV/status/1240409234854088705>

		Cash transfers (new)	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. <sup>63</sup>
	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. <sup>64</sup> Also, private companies (except those in the food, medical and other key sectors) that decide to send all of their workers home on paid leave will be eligible for further government support. <sup>65</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Estonia</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	The Estonian Unemployment Insurance Fund will compensate 70% of the average wages from the last 12 months but no more than Euro 1,000. The compensation is paid to those workers with no work to carry out, or whose wages were already cut because of the lack of workload. The cost of the decreased wages compensation measure is Euro 250M <sup>66</sup> .
		Activation (training) measures	The government offers online job search counselling and intermediation <sup>67</sup>
<b>Finland</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	Workers laid off can claim income-linked benefits, provided they are a member of an unemployment fund through their trade union or independently.

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-health-coronavirus-elsalvador-trfn/lockdown-broken-in-el-salvador-as-crowds-gather-for-government-aid-idUSKBN21H3IB>

<sup>64</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article241249651.html>

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article241249651.html>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.sm.ee/en/news/government-approved-measure-supporting-employers-and-workers-difficulties-because-corona-virus>

<sup>67</sup> <https://www.tootukassa.ee/eng/content/estonian-unemployment-insurance-fund-stop-serving-customers-all-office>

		Paid sick leave	<p>In addition, the government will eliminate the waiting period before people can claim unemployment benefits, and allow freelancers and sole traders to claim unemployment benefits without shutting down their businesses<sup>68</sup>.</p> <p>Kela (the national Social Insurance institution) can pay a sickness allowance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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.</li> <li>– 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</li> </ul>
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<sup>68</sup> [https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/finland\\_announces\\_15bn\\_support\\_package\\_to\\_prop\\_up\\_economy/11267534](https://yle.fi/uutiset/osasto/news/finland_announces_15bn_support_package_to_prop_up_economy/11267534)

			telecommuting would be an option. Proof of the loss of income must be presented in the form of documentation from the employer. <sup>69</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>France</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	A transfer of Euro 1,500 will be provided to the self-employed and other SMEs as part of the solidarity fund <sup>70</sup>
	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.
		Unemployment benefits	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 minimum wage <sup>71</sup> .
	Labor markets		
<b>Germany</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	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 <sup>72</sup> .
		Childcare benefit	Parents who lose income due to COVID-19 can get easier access to child benefits. In addition, simplified process for a 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.
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Social insurance contributions that employers must normally pay for their workforce will be fully reimbursed by the Federal Employment Agency. <sup>73</sup>

<sup>69</sup> [https://www.kela.fi/web/en/news-archive/-/asset\\_publisher/IN08GY2nIrZo/content/sickness-allowance-on-account-of-an-infectious-disease-provides-loss-of-income-compensation-for-persons-placed-in-quarantine](https://www.kela.fi/web/en/news-archive/-/asset_publisher/IN08GY2nIrZo/content/sickness-allowance-on-account-of-an-infectious-disease-provides-loss-of-income-compensation-for-persons-placed-in-quarantine)

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>

<sup>71</sup> [https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/brochure\\_fiches\\_pratiques\\_sur\\_les\\_mesures\\_de\\_soutien.pdf](https://www.gouvernement.fr/sites/default/files/contenu/piece-jointe/2020/03/brochure_fiches_pratiques_sur_les_mesures_de_soutien.pdf)

<sup>72</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/coronavirus-bundesregierung-beschliesst-umfangreiches-rettungspaket-a-2e96dfed-b307-4a47-a62b-ca81cf7be4a9>

<sup>73</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/kabinett-kurzarbeitergeld-1729898>.

		Paid sick leave	Where the Infection Protection Act applies, for the first six weeks the amount provided as sick leave corresponds to the net salary, after which the amount equals to sick leave benefits. <sup>74</sup>
	Labor markets	Reduced work time (subsidized)	Further extensions to Kurzarbeit regulations (short-time work) allow companies to keep employees instead of laying them off. Employees work a reduced number of hours and get 60% of salary from the employer for up to 12 months (and the government pays their public social insurance contributions). Workers with children get 67% of the salary <sup>75</sup> . (The government expects that, for economic reasons alone, 2.15 million employees will benefit from such arrangements in 2020) <sup>76</sup> .
<b>Ghana</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Beginning on Friday March 20, 2020, all mobile money transfers of GH¢100 and below will be free of charge from service providers for the next 3 months <sup>77</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Greece</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfer	A transfer of Euro 800 (to be made in the first half of April) to about 500,000 employees in companies/businesses closed because of COVID (also self-employed workers); this also includes payment of their social security contributions <sup>78</sup> .
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Allows tenants whose employment contract is suspended to pay only 60% of their monthly rent on main residence in March and April.
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	Unemployment benefit payments will be extended by 2 months for those whose entitlement ends on 31 March.

<sup>74</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>

<sup>75</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/coronavirus-bundesregierung-beschliesst-umfangreiches-rettungspaket-a-2e96dfed-b307-4a47-a62b-ca81cf7be4a9>

<sup>76</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/corona-krise-bundesregierung-erwartet-mehr-als-zwei-millionen-kurzarbeiter-a-5257c27d-33cc-4679-8c2d-af23f271d177>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.graphic.com.gh/business/business-news/coronavirus-it-is-now-free-to-send-gh-100-and-below-via-mobile-money.html>

<sup>78</sup> [https://www.minfin.gr/web/guest/deltia-typou/-/asset\\_publisher/4kjvD0lBldee/content/d-t-topothetese-tou-ypourgou-oikonomikon-k-chrestou-staikoura-gia-te-deutere-desme-metron-antimetopises-ton-epiptoseon-tou-koronoiou?](https://www.minfin.gr/web/guest/deltia-typou/-/asset_publisher/4kjvD0lBldee/content/d-t-topothetese-tou-ypourgou-oikonomikon-k-chrestou-staikoura-gia-te-deutere-desme-metron-antimetopises-ton-epiptoseon-tou-koronoiou?)



	Labor markets		
<b>Guatemala</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Transfer are planned to seniors and families with children for a total of Q350M or \$46M.
		School feeding (admin adaptation/simplification)	Parent associations, which already received for the school meals program to organize take-home rations for pick up at school level. <sup>79</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>-Bissau</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
		Social insurance	
	Labor markets		
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfer	An extra 1-month allowance is planned for CSSA payment, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance, or Disability Allowance. Similar arrangements will apply to the Work Incentive Transport Subsidy. <sup>80</sup>
		One-off universal cash transfer	A one-off transfer of HK\$10,000 (\$1,280) is planned for permanent residents over the age of 18. This measure, which involves a cost of about \$71 billion, is expected to benefit about 7 million people. <sup>81</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	The government will cover one month of rent for lower-income tenants living in public rental units. <sup>82</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Hungary</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Loan repayment moratorium (both principal and interest) for both private individuals and companies until the end of the year. <sup>83</sup>

<sup>79</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/03/P2020010300231.htm>

<sup>81</sup> <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/26/P2020022600420.htm>

<sup>82</sup> <https://www.budget.gov.hk/2020/eng/nt.html>

<sup>83</sup> Government decree [47/2020](#).

	Social insurance	Paid maternity leave  Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	Expiring benefits for persons currently on maternity leave will be extended until the end of state of emergency.  Sectors particularly affected by the crisis (tourism, hospitality, entertainment, sport, cultural services, personal transportation/taxi companies) are exempting employers from paying social security contributions. Employees' contributions are significantly reduced until 30 June; also, the health insurance premium is reduced to the statutory minimum.
	Labor markets	Labor regulation	A plan to relax labor regulations and facilitate collective negotiations in order to allow for easier altering of work schedule and to allow for remote work.
<b>Iceland</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (planned)	Tentative plans are underway to stimulate private consumption via tax reduction or increased benefits. <sup>84</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>India</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Rs1000 to all beneficiaries under the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) for elderly, widows and disabled receiving social pensions (35M beneficiaries)  Rs500 per month to all female Jan Dhan Accounts for 3 months  Topping up PM-KSN by Rs2000 for 87M farmers for 3 months
		Cash transfers (new)	Cash transfers of Rs 500 (\$6.5) for 3 months from April to June to 200M women with a Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) (financial inclusion) account
		Public works	Increasing NREGS wage rates from Rs180 INR to Rs202
		Cash support (new) (Uttar Pradesh)	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 <sup>85</sup> .

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=a17058af-62d6-11ea-9455-005056bc530c>

<sup>85</sup> <https://news.trust.org/item/20200318171315-hrvio/>

		In-kind food/voucher scheme	Scaling up PDS allocations for all AAY priority households for three months (1kg pulses per household, 5kg wheat or rice per individual)
		Cash transfers (Uttar Pradesh)	Providing free cylinders for three months to poor UJWALA beneficiaries (83M households). The state of Uttar Pradesh transferred Rs 611 crore (\$80M) in cash transfers directly to 27.5M workers of the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme.
		In kind food/voucher scheme (Delhi)	Delhi is providing two in-kind measures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Free rations, with 50% more quantity than normal entitlements, to 7.2M beneficiaries.</li> <li>- Lunch and dinner will be served free to each and every person at all Delhi Government night shelters.</li> </ul>
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation) (Kerala)	The Kerala state government will deliver food ingredients for mid-day meals to over 300,000 children studying in 33,115 <i>anganwadis</i> (rural child care center) 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. <sup>86</sup>
		Social pension (Delhi)	Rs 4000- 5000 pension will be paid to 850,000 beneficiaries by April 7, 2020.
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	GOI will pay 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 is expected to cover 1.8M employees and 400,000 firms.
	Labor markets	Labor regulation	GoI will amend EPFO regulations to allow workers to access a non-refundable advance from their accounts. The regulations will allow workers to withdraw 75% or 3 months wages (whichever is lower). This is expected to benefit 48M workers covered by the EPFO.

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/covid-19-anganwadis-shut-kerala-govt-home-delivers-mid-day-meal-supplies-kids-120151>

<b>Indonesia</b> <sup>87</sup>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Indonesia's flagship CCT program, PKH, will receive an additional budget allocation of IDR 8.3 trillion, which will be used to temporarily increase the benefit level by approximately 25 percent for three months and expand the program from 9.2 to 10 million beneficiaries, or 15 percent of the population, starting in April. Payments have been brought forward and will be disbursed monthly instead of quarterly.
		In-kind food/voucher schemes	The food voucher program, Sembako, will be expanded from 15 million to 20 million low-income households; bringing the coverage of the program to just short of 30 percent of the population. The expansion of Sembako also includes a 33% increase in benefits for a period of nine months. The additional budget allocated comprises IDR 10.9 Trillion
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	Between April and June: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Electricity - IDR 3.5 Trillion to finance the electricity bill 24 million households, or approximately 40 percent of the population, with a 450 Volt-Ampere (VA) connection. Those with a 900VA connection (another 7 million households) will receive a 50 percent discount.</li> <li>- Mortgage - IDR 1.5 Trillion to support up to 175,000 low-income households requesting a mortgage through both an interest rate subsidy and down-payment subsidy.</li> </ul>
Social insurance	Social security contribution wavers/subsidies	IDR 3 Trillion to finance contributions to the national health insurance scheme for 30 million non-salaried workers.	
Labor markets	Activation (training)	Kartu Pra-Kerja, 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.	

<sup>87</sup> Ministry of Finance Indonesia (2020) Actions to strengthen Social Protection and Economic Stimulus package to mitigate COVID-19 Impacts. Presentation at a press conference, April 1<sup>st</sup> 2020.

<b>Iran</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	Iran is planning to support around 3 million lower-income families with no permanent jobs with cash transfers up to 6 million rails (around \$400) in 4 stages <sup>88</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Ireland</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	A benefit of Euro 203 per week will be paid to the unemployed (be they self-employed or employees) for six weeks. It is designed to provide income security for a period during which the unemployed can apply for a full Jobseekers payment.
		School feeding (take-home adjustment)	Students in Ireland are being sent home packages with fresh foods, including bread, eggs, fruit, and yogurt. However, there is concern about how parcels can be delivered safely. <sup>89</sup>
	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. <sup>90</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Israel</b>	Social assistance		
	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 <sup>91</sup> .
	Labor market		

<sup>88</sup> <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN21410M>

<sup>89</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

<sup>90</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/eca524-covid-19-information-for-employees/>

<sup>91</sup> <https://en.davar1.co.il/213123/>

<b>Italy</b>	Social assistance	<p>In kind food/voucher scheme</p> <p>Childcare benefits</p> <p>Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)</p> <p>Cash transfers (new)</p>	<p>On March 29, the National Civil Protection transferred €400 million to 7,904 municipalities to purchase food vouchers and/or 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>The “Cura Italia” (Cure Italy) stimulus – a package of €25B – includes €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 €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<sup>92</sup>.</p> <p>The CuraItalia decree suspends all conditionalities related to the Guaranteed Minimum Income program, or Reddito di Cittadinanza (RdC), for two months. The rationale introduced to minimize movement of beneficiaries to social services or to public employment services, where they are expected to sign a social inclusion pact or a labor pact.<sup>93 94</sup> A separate note<sup>95</sup> stressed the importance of ensuring continuity of social services during the emergency, paying special attention to protecting social workers and beneficiaries from contagion, promoting the use of telephone and technology to maintain contact with families, and paying special attention to situation of vulnerability for women and minors. Existing resources aimed at strengthening services for Rdc can be reoriented towards the areas most in need after the pandemic.</p> <p>Workers with income less than Euro 40,000/year are entitled to a nontaxable, on-off benefit of €100 for March 2020 only if the job required the worker to go to the regular workplace. Workers who carried out their job regularly in smart working are not entitled to the bonus.</p>
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<sup>92</sup> <https://www.gazzettaufficiale.it/eli/id/2020/03/17/20G00034/sg>

<sup>93</sup> <https://www.cNBC.com/2020/03/16/italy-supports-coronavirus-hit-economy-pm-hails-italian-model.html>

<sup>94</sup> <https://www.anci.piemonte.it/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Nota-2191-del-19-03-2020-Sospensioni-Rdc-DL-18-2020.pdf>

<https://quifinanza.it/lavoro/reddito-di-cittadinanza-pagamenti-regolari-stop-obblighi-di-lavoro-per-due-mesi/363012/>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/redditocittadinanza/Documenti-norme/Documents/Circolare-27-03-2020.pdf>

			One-off €600 bonus to self-employed and professional workers, including agricultural, tourism, cultural sector workers. Applications are open as of April 1.
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	Parents of children younger than 12 are allowed to take leave for up to 15 (combined) days starting from 5 March 2020 while receiving 50% of the salary paid by the state. Absence from quarantine would be considered as sick leave, with the costs paid by the state. <sup>96</sup> Paid leave increases by 12 days for each month in March and April 2020.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	To discourage layoffs during the crisis, employees of companies that have interrupted their activities will be entitled to receive a benefit in the amount of 80% of the salary paid by the state. The measure would be valid for up to nine weeks – and no longer than August 2020.
		Labor market regulation	Suspension of all firing procedures initiated after 23 February.
<b>Jamaica</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	PATH payments will be paid earlier than scheduled. <sup>97</sup>
		Cash transfers (new)	A direct transfer will be made to workers who lost their jobs (details to be announced). <sup>98</sup>
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation)	The Ministry of Education will be providing nutritional support through Nutrition Products Limited to students as part of the Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH) – a flagship cash transfer scheme. This applies to the period that they will be out of school over the next two weeks. Specifically: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- snacks comprising baked products, fruit juices, milk, and water will be distributed for students on PATH at the primary and secondary levels.</li> <li>- Certain schools will be used as distribution points for two weeks, and later the private sector (food suppliers, supermarkets) will be used to</li> </ul>

<sup>96</sup> <https://www.time24.news/i/2020/03/italian-government-proposes-vouchers-for-babysitters-and-payment-of-80-of-wages-in-response-to-coronavirus-3-15-2020-world.html>

<sup>97</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>98</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

			distribute food packages at specific drop off points in each community. <sup>99</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	Several incentives are planned to mitigate employment losses, including direct transfers to businesses to maintain employees (details to be announced). <sup>100</sup>
<b>Japan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (planned)	Japan's planned spending package of up to 20 trillion yen (\$190 billion) may likely include cash transfers to households. <sup>101</sup>
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation) (Osaka)	The city of Osaka will offer free lunches for all students at government-run elementary and junior high schools (from April). The program would save parents between 50,000 yen (\$470) and 60,000 yen per child each year, he said. The city estimates the annual cost of covering all 165,000 students at 7.7 billion yen, with funding for fiscal 2020 starting April coming 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. <sup>102</sup>
	Social insurance	Paid leave	A planned subsidy will reimburse two-thirds of the leave allowance for an SME employer, or half for a large enterprise. The subsidy is capped at JPY8,335 a day per employee on leave as of late February 2020. <sup>103</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Jordan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The Jordanian National Aid Fund (NAF) announced the following measures: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Due to the curfew, the government will deliver the cash to the houses of all the current beneficiaries of the National Aid Fund (NAF) monthly cash transfer program for March 2020 [around 100,000 households]. The payment will start on 29 March.</li> <li>- Payments will be made for Quarter 1 of 2020 payment cycle [around 24,000 households]. Payment to be made early April.</li> </ul>

<sup>99</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>100</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>101</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-stimulus/japan-vows-bold-step-to-beat-virus-fallout-signals-big-spending-package-idUSKBN2100GP>

<sup>102</sup> <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200318/p2g/00m/0na/020000c>

<sup>103</sup> <https://en.an-japan.com/2020/02/27/emp-subsidy/>



		<p>Cash transfers (new)</p> <p>In-kind food/voucher schemes</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Completing the enrolment of additional 25,000 household beneficiaries of the Takaful Program to make the payment in April 2020. The government is considering online enrolment and digital payment.</li> <li>- 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. Registration is using the same form of the Takaful Program<sup>104</sup>.</li> </ul> <p>The government announced that 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<sup>105</sup>.</p> <p>In kind distribution of bread (universal) will occur at reduced subsidized price (JD1 per 3 kg, instead of JD1.5). The Ministry of Local Affairs is coordinating distribution from local bakeries. Bread delivered door to door by buses that patrol localities, escorted by police officers to deter crowding.<sup>106</sup> NAF beneficiaries will receive the bread for free with the support from municipalities.<sup>107</sup></p> <p>The Social Security Corporation (SSC) will provide in-kind support to about 100,000 (other reports indicate 35,000-50,000) vulnerable families that include an individual over the age of 70 and casual workers. Food parcels have a monetary value of JD40-50. The program may be extended to persons with chronic illnesses. SSC is also studying to expanding the list to include families whose breadwinners have lost their work, especially those working in the informal sector, in case the government decided to extend the suspension<sup>108</sup>.</p>
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<sup>104</sup> <https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=131465&lang=ar&name=news&fbclid=IwAR336Vpt349-96-tjilk4NhsqXnVuoPI728Q- mNiJYIK --B-MJ-i5aa1s#.XnlqcoftuZ9.facebook>

<sup>105</sup> <https://alghad.com/%D9%85%D9%82%D8%AA%D8%B1%D8%AD-%D9%84%D8%AA%D8%AE%D8%B5%D9%8A%D8%B5-70-%D8%AF%D9%8A%D9%86%D8%A7%D8%B1-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%A8%D9%88%D8%B9%D9%8A%D9%86-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%B3%D8%B1/>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/%E2%80%9825000-tonnes-bread-produced-tuesday-demand-likely-drop-starting-wednesday%E2%80%99>

<sup>107</sup> <http://alrai.com/article/10529901>

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/govt-working-ensure-smooth-flow-bread-delivery-%E2%80%94-masri>

	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	<p>Companies will have the option of stop contributing for the Old Age Program (keeping only disability and health insurance). In the case where firms will choose to do so (they can do it for all or some employees only), they will only pay 5.25% as contribution rate, instead of 21.75%. However, this is only valid over March-June 2020. All employees will still be covered with Disability, Death, Unemployment, and Maternity insurance (regardless of the choice). Those employees who would be affected by this employer's choice, will still be able to contribute voluntarily during this period. Firms will also be given the choice to pay such contributions amounts in instalments until the end of year 2023.</p> <p>Half of the Maternity Insurance Contributions in 2020 will be used to support vulnerable groups, mainly old age and sick people. The allocated amounts will be used for cash transfers and in-kind aids. Companies that owe contributions to SSC from the past (arrears amount to JD 340M) will be legally allowed to make such payments into the future<sup>109</sup>.</p> <p>MOL announced a two-week paid leave for all public sector workers. This will not be deducted from the normal allocation of sick leave<sup>110</sup>.</p>
		Paid sick leave	
	Labor markets		
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	Monthly payments of \$100 for up to 1.5 million people will be made to those who have lost income for amount of one minimum wage (45,000 tenge or 110 USD) as a result of COVID-19.
		In-kind food/vouchers schemes	In kind support in the form of free grocery packages is planned for large families with children, persons with disability and other vulnerable families <sup>111</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		

<sup>109</sup> <http://ncfa.org.jo:85/NCFA/sites/default/files/Publications/National-Strategy-Senior-Citizens-English-final.pdf>

<sup>110</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/labour-ministry-announces-2-week-official-paid-leave-public-sector-employees>

<sup>111</sup> <https://twitter.com/TokayevKZ/status/1242100677838606337>

<b>Kenya</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The National Treasury appropriated an additional Ksh10B (equivalent to \$100M) for supporting the elderly, orphans and other vulnerable members with cash transfers.
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Fee waivers on person-person mobile money transactions on M-PESA were approved <sup>112</sup> . Also, a 100% tax relief for persons earning less than Ksh.24,000 is planned <sup>113</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Kosovo</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Early payment of 2 months-worth social assistance benefits. A measure amounting to €7.65M. Also, early payment of farming grants and subsidies (for 1,702 farmers) is planned.
		Cash transfers	Payment of an additional sum of thirty (€30) Euros per month to all beneficiaries of social assistance and pension schemes who receive a monthly payment lower than €100, for April, May and June, provided that they are beneficiaries of only one scheme.
		Cash transfers (new)	Payment of monthly assistance in the amount of €130 to citizens who lose their jobs due to the public health emergency situation, for April, May and June, amounting up to €4M.
		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	All verification procedures for social assistance (and pensions) benefits are suspended until further notice (beneficiaries are required to visit public offices, etc.). <sup>114</sup>
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	Rent subsidy up to 50% of the rent value for small and medium enterprises for April and May, a measure amounting to €12M.
	Social insurance	Pensions	Early payment of pensions (Euro 35M monthly) <sup>115</sup>

<sup>112</sup> <https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/16/kenya-turns-to-its-mobile-money-dominance-to-stem-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

<sup>113</sup> <https://www.nation.co.ke/news/Coronavirus-in-Kenya-Uhuru-full-speech-/1056-5504094-80g9lqz/index.htm>

<sup>114</sup> <https://mf.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,2,839>

<sup>115</sup> <https://mf.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,2,836>



	Social insurance		
	Labor market		
<b>Lebanon</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Deferred payment of utility bills planned (details to be announced).
	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.
	Labor markets		
<b>Liberia</b>	Social assistance	School feeding (take-home adjustment)	Government switched to take home meals, an approach they used during Ebola alongside their neighbor Sierra Leone.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Malaysia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	As part of the Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) progr related to medical workers. It stipulates that 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, w am, 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. <sup>118</sup> 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. <sup>119</sup> <sup>120</sup>
		Cash transfers	One-off payment of RM600 (US\$144) to taxi, tourist and trishaw drivers and tourist guides.
		Cash transfers (new)	The government will also provide a special monthly critical worker allowance of RM400 (US\$100) for medical doctors and other medical personnel, as well as RM200 (US\$50) for immigration and related frontline staff until the end of

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/03/16/pm-workers-forced-to-take-unpaid-leave-to-receive-cash-assistance-of-rm600-a-month>

<sup>120</sup> <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=ms&u=https://bsh.hasil.gov.my/&prev=search>

			<p>the outbreak. The allowance for medical personnel was increase to RM600 (US\$150) on March 27.</p>
		One-off cash transfers (new)	<p>The Malaysian government has budgeted RM10 billion to provide one-off cash transfer to depending on income level</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- RM1600 to 4 million households earning &lt;RM4000/month</li> <li>- RM1000 to 1.1 million households earning RM4000-8000/month</li> <li>- RM800 to 3 million single individuals aged 21+ earning &lt;RM2000/month</li> <li>- RM500 to 400,000 single individuals aged 21+ earning RM2000-4000/month</li> </ul>
		One-off cash transfers (new)	<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>
		One-off cash transfers (new)	<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>
		One-off cash transfers (new)	<p>120,000 e-hailing drivers will be given a one-off cash transfer of RM500 (US\$125). The allocation for this transfer is RM60 million.</p>
		In-kind food/vouchers (new)	<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. The Government will work with NGOs and social entrepreneurs to distribute food, medical care equipment and shelter.</p>
		Utility and financial obligations waivers/subsidies (new)	<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>Utility and financial obligations waivers/subsidies (new)</p> <p>Utility and financial obligations waivers/subsidies (new)</p> <p>Loan deferral (new)</p> <p>Discount on electricity bill (new)</p> <p>Free internet</p>	<p>The B40 community that own ‘rent-to-own’ units of the PPR will be given a payment deferral of six months from April 2020 to September 2020. This will benefit 4,649 households, amounting to RM5.7 (US\$1.4) million.</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>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%.</p> <p>The Government announced that in collaboration with all telecommunications companies in Malaysia, all mobile internet subscribers will be given free internet access from 1 April 2020 until the end of the Movement Control Order.</p>
Social insurance	<p>Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)</p> <p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Paid sick leave</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>RM 600 (around \$150) will be provided 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).</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</p>

			days. This initiative will also be extended to the B40 who are quarantined as persons under investigation (of COVID-19 symptoms).
	Labor markets	Activation (training) measures	The government is encouraging trainings by: (a) double deductions on expenses incurred on approved tourism-related training; (b) provide RM50 million to subsidize short courses in digital skills and highly skilled courses (expected to benefit 100,000 Malaysians); and (c) through the Employment Insurance System, increasing the claimable training cost from RM4,000 to RM6,000 for affected sectors, and provision of a daily training allowance of RM30 per day to EIS trainees.
		Wage subsidy (new)	The Government will provide a wage subsidy of RM600/month (50% of the minimum wage) for three months, targeted to workers earning RM4,000 or less and have experienced a 50% wage reduction since 1 January 2020. Employers will be disallowed from laying off these workers and from reducing workers' existing wages. This is expected to benefit 3.3 million workers costing RM5.9 billion.
		Wage subsidy (new)	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 which has restricted the movement of all individuals and workers outside of essential services.
<b>Mali</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Mexico</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Pensions	On 18 March 2020, Mexico announced an advance of 4 months of pension to seniors scheduled for the end of March. Usually, pensions are delivered every two months. (Under the new measures, instead of the regular 2,670 pesos older people will receive double that amount <sup>121</sup> ).

<sup>121</sup> <https://plumaslibres.com.mx/2020/03/18/anuncia-amlo-que-adelantan-4-meses-de-pago-a-pension-de-adultos-mayores-por-coronavirus/>



	Labor Markets		
<b>Mongolia</b> <sup>122</sup>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	For a period of three months, the government will increase monthly child support to 30,000 MNT for eligible children under 18 years of age
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	The government will waive personal income taxes for 526,000 entities and individuals between April 1 and October 1, with the exception of public servants, employees of state and local state-owned enterprises, and companies that have received government tenders.
	Social insurance	Social security contribution waiver/subsidy	The government will exempt businesses and entities from paying social insurances fees between April 1 and October 1, however, health insurance fees will need to be paid.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	For a period of three months, the government will provide a monthly 200,000 MNT in financial support to employees of companies that are keeping their workforce and have had their operations disrupted by National Emergency Management Agency mandates.
<b>Montenegro</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Nearly 11,900 pensioners receiving the lowest pension and 8,500 beneficiaries of family allowance (social assistance as per the Law on Social and Child Protection) will receive a one-off amount of Euro50. For this purpose, the Government has committed Eur 1M. Payments are processed through the Post office and home deliveries, to enforce social distancing <sup>123</sup> .
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	The government has announced that it will defer the payment of personal income tax and mandatory social security contributions and other tax liabilities in line with the Law on Rescheduling of Tax Receivables. This measure is yet to be published in the Montenegrin Official Gazette or the date these measures will be applied <sup>124</sup> .
	Labor market		

<sup>122</sup> The stimulus plan is pending parliament approval (Parliament will discuss it next week).

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/ekonomija/drzava-predstavlja-mjere-podrske-paketi-za-gradane-privredu>

<sup>124</sup> <https://home.kpmg/me/en/home/insights/2020/03/montenegrin-government-adopted-economic-measures-due-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>

<b>Morocco</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	<p>The Economic Watch Committee (Comité de veille économique (CVE) members decided to activate 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 GoM compulsory confinement policy).<sup>125</sup> 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 are due to start of Monday April 6th. The speed and scale is facilitated by the use of a health insurance fee waiver registry in the first phase and a simple payment mechanism.</p> <p>Program benefits are structured as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 800 dirhams per month for households of two people or less;</li> <li>- 1,000 dirhams per month for households of three to four people;</li> <li>- 1,200 dirhams per month for households of more than four people.</li> </ul>
	Social insurance	<p>Unemployment benefit</p> <p>Social security contribution Waiver/subsidy</p>	<p>Formal employees who lose their jobs and are registered with the pension fund will receive 2,000 dirhams (\$203) a month (MAD1,000 for March, MAD2,000 for April, May and June) and defer debt payments until June 30<sup>126</sup>.</p> <p>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 for employers in difficulty, affiliated to the Caisse Nationale de Securite Sociale (CNSS). The CNSS will ensure transfer of family allowance/child allowance and reimbursements of medical expenses through the CNSS Compulsory Health Insurance (Assurance Maladie Obligatoire).<sup>127</sup></p>
	Labor Markets		
<b>Nepal</b>	Social assistance	In-kind food/voucher scheme	Food assistance package to be distributed to informal sector laborers and those in need of assistance (including those living in old age homes, places of worship etc.) through ward committees at local level. To be funded by local and provincial level governments with top-ups from federal as required.

<sup>125</sup> [https://telquel.ma/2020/03/23/exclusif-les-travailleurs-de-linformel-seront-compenses-via-smartphones\\_1675273](https://telquel.ma/2020/03/23/exclusif-les-travailleurs-de-linformel-seront-compenses-via-smartphones_1675273)

<sup>126</sup> <http://www.maroc.ma/en/news/coronavirus-series-measures-salaried-employees-and-companies>

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.medias24.com/covid-19-indemnitees-de-2-000-dh-servies-par-la-cnss-voici-tous-les-details-8760.html>

		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	<p>Households to get discount/subsidy on electricity consumption (25% for below 150 units, internet and data packages (25%), and waiver of late fees for one month on all public utility fees (water, telephone, electricity etc.).</p> <p>Private schools asked to waive one month tuition and other fees (except residential).</p> <p>Selected industries to get 30-50% discount on electricity consumed (to make use of excess capacity during lockdown/economic slowdown).</p> <p>Individuals and firms to get a one-month extension for the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- payments of loan (interest + capital) against provident fund and citizen investment fund;</li> <li>- payment of life insurance premium;</li> <li>- entry and payment of trimestral installments of VAT, excise duty, income tax, and other fees (education service, telecommunication service etc.);</li> <li>- renewal and annual reporting of registered firms and companies.</li> </ul>
	Social Insurance	Social Security Contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Social Security Fund (contributory SI program) payment for both employee and employer (total of 31% of wages/salaries) for this month to be provided by the government (MOF).
	Labor Markets		
<b>Namibia</b>	Social assistance	One off cash grant	<p>To support the households cope with reduced income, increased health related spending and other hardships due to the virus outbreak, the following measure has been proposed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- An Emergency Income Grant, to support those employees who have lost their jobs due to the pandemic and its fallout. This is a once-off payment of N\$750 to people who have lost their jobs, either in the informal or in the formal sector, essentially to stave off the vulnerabilities which arise. Applications may be made by Namibians citizens between 18 and 60 years of age who have lost their jobs and not receiving any other social grants.</li> <li>- Payment will be made by Government in collaboration with the Social Security Commission within 7 days utilising the banking sector's ATM infrastructure. The total amount for this measure is costed at a maximum</li> </ul>

		Utility and financial obligations waivers/subsidies	of N\$562.00 million, based on the national poverty line of about N\$250.00 per person per week. <sup>128</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations waivers/subsidies	<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.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Taxpayers 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.</li> <li>- The total guarantee is capped at the maximum of N\$1.1 billion, based on the PAYE tax register and the potential loan size.<sup>129</sup></li> </ul> <p>Government will ensure 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. The purpose of the First lockdown, this amount is estimated at about N\$10.0 million.<sup>130</sup></p>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Netherlands</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfer	The government announced a three-month provision for self-employed persons with financial problems. <sup>131</sup> 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 (Besluit bijstandverlening zelfstandigen).
	Social insurance	Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	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

<sup>128</sup> <https://mof.gov.na/documents/35641/36580/Phase+1+VF+Stimulus+and+Relief+Package%2C+Republic+of+Namibia.pdf/9a2314de-4b39-00a1-b8bd-4ffcfe1f20d3>

<sup>129</sup> <https://mof.gov.na/documents/35641/36580/Phase+1+VF+Stimulus+and+Relief+Package%2C+Republic+of+Namibia.pdf/9a2314de-4b39-00a1-b8bd-4ffcfe1f20d3>

<sup>130</sup> <https://mof.gov.na/documents/35641/36580/Phase+1+VF+Stimulus+and+Relief+Package%2C+Republic+of+Namibia.pdf/9a2314de-4b39-00a1-b8bd-4ffcfe1f20d3>

<sup>131</sup> <https://meijburg.com/news/additional-corona-crisis-measures-government-emergency-package-covering-jobs-and-economy>

			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.
	Labor markets	Reduced work time (subsidized)	Employers can apply for a permit for a reduction in working time (werktijdverkorting) at the Ministry of Social Affairs and Employment, i.e., employees will temporarily work on a reduced schedule. Employees can receive a temporary unemployment benefit for hours not worked, while they remain fully employed. The permit is valid for a period of a maximum of 6 weeks and can be extended for a maximum total period of 24 weeks. Employers must meet the following conditions: (i) the company has been affected by a situation that does not fall under the ordinary business risks (such as COVID-19); (ii) during a period of 2 to 24 weeks sales are at least 20% lower than normal. <sup>132</sup>
<b>New Zealand</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	New Zealand's government has announced a total of \$2.8 billion for income support for the most vulnerable, including a permanent \$25 per week benefit increase and a doubling of the Winter Energy Payment for 2020.
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	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.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	A total of \$5.1 billion in wage subsidies was committed for affected businesses in all sectors and regions. Full-time workers (more than 20 hours/week) will receive \$585/week under the scheme, with \$350 paid to part-time workers. The subsidy is paid as a lump sum and covers 12 weeks per employee. The maximum each business can receive is set at \$150,000. The wage subsidies will apply to all employers in New Zealand – including

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/employment-alert-covid-19-netherlands-39563/>

			self-employed people – providing they do not already work from home and cannot perform their jobs remotely <sup>133 134</sup> .
<b>Niger</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Unemployed and informal sector workers will receive an average of 7,000 denars (US\$124) per household. The estimated coverage is about 20,000 new households from the informal economy and 30,000 existing beneficiaries. <sup>135</sup>
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	The government is subsidizing social contributions for employees in companies from sectors of tourism, transport, catering and other affected companies, for April, May, and June of 2020, with a subsidy of contributions per employee up to 50% of the average salary paid in 2019.
		Unemployment benefits	For citizens who have lost their jobs due to the crisis, the state will pay a monthly allowance of 50% of the average monthly net wage of the employee for the last 24 months under the Employment and Insurance Law in the event of unemployment and Article 68 of this Law, that the unemployed citizens will receive compensation through the Employment Agency according to their years of service. <sup>136</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Norway</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Various measures envisaged, including household income tax payment <sup>137</sup> .
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	The Norwegian parliament agreed on temporary amendments to the rules on unemployment benefit for workers who are laid off from their jobs. Employees

<sup>133</sup> <https://treasury.govt.nz/news-and-events/news/covid-19-economic-package-announced>

<sup>134</sup> <https://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/emergencies/2020/coronavirus.html#null>

<sup>135</sup> <https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https%3A%2F%2Fvlada.mk%2Fnode%2F20813>

<sup>136</sup> <https://translate.google.com/translate?sl=auto&tl=en&u=https%3A%2F%2Fvlada.mk%2Fnode%2F20813>

<sup>137</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/economic-measures-in-norway-in-response-to-covid-19/id2694274/>

		Unemployment benefits	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). 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 <sup>138</sup> .
		Unemployment benefits	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 NOK 300,000 (\$28,350) and 62.4% of income between NOK300,000 and NOK 600,000.
		Paid sick leave	The Norwegian government is currently discussing whether to pay unemployment benefits in advance. Thus, 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 <sup>139</sup> .
			Amount of days of childcare leave for 2020 has been increased <sup>140</sup> . With one or two children (up to 12 years), each parent receives 20 care days (amount doubled from 10 days per year). Single caregivers and parents of children with chronic diseases have an extended number of days of childcare allowance.
	Labor markets	Labor market regulation	Reduced number of days that employers are obliged to pay salary to workers at temporary lay-offs, from 15 to 2 days (government to pay difference).
		Labor market regulation	Remove the three waiting days between the period when employers have to provide salary to workers in temporary layoffs and the period when the workers are entitled to daily unemployment benefits. This will reduce the loss of income for workers.
		Activation (training) measures	Strengthen support for skills upgrade and in-house training for companies affected by the virus outbreak, through increased grants to the counties.
<b>Pakistan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Launch of “Ehsaas Emergency Cash Programme” providing Rs12,000/family and benefit 67 million individuals (10 million families). There are three

<sup>138</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/changes-to-the-rules-for-temporary-layoffs-and-unemployment-benefits/id2694346/>

<sup>139</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/new-measures-to-curb-the-financial-impacts-of-the-coronavirus-outbreak/id2695404/>

<sup>140</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/no/aktuelt/foreldres-rett-til-omsorgspenger-dobles/id2694342/>

			categories of beneficiaries: 4.5 million existing “Ehsaas Kafaalat” beneficiaries (all women) already getting Rs.2000 will get extra Rs.1000 emergency relief (total=Rs.3000) for the next 4 months; 3M affected households will be identified through the national socioeconomic database (eligibility threshold will be relaxed upwards); and those with income below Rs20,000. An SMS campaign will be launched to inform about the program. <sup>141</sup>
	Social insurance		
	labor markets		
<b>Panama</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	Paid leave is paid to workers in quarantine or recovery (limited details available).
	Labor markets	Labor market regulation	On 13 March 2020, the government approved the Executive Decree that allows temporary modification of working days; the use of teleworking according to existing legislation and the nature of work; special consideration with workers over the age of 60; and other measures related to labor mobility and compensation. <sup>142 143</sup>
<b>Paraguay</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Additional transfers are planned for the Tekoporá social protection program for 167,000 families.  An advance payment is set for Senior Citizen Program (del Programa de Adultos Mayores) for 207,000 people.
		In-kind food/voucher scheme	Distribution of food package to 3,500 families benefiting from social programs for a total of \$ 1.4 billion guaraníes (\$211M). This is also provided to day laborers and self-employed. <sup>144</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		

<sup>141</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/633893-sania-nishtar-says-ehsaas-emergency-cash-programme-to-benefit-67-million-people>

<sup>142</sup> <https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/acciones-preventivas-de-contagio-de-covid-19-en-espacios-laborales-seran-obligatorias/>

<sup>143</sup> <https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/ejecutivo-regula-temporalmente-las-modificaciones-a-la-jornada-de-trabajo-ante-pandemia-de-covid-19/>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&id=349597&SEO=anuncian-medidas-en-paraguay-por-crisis-economica-ante-el-coronavirus>



<b>Peru</b>	Social assistance	Social pensions	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. <sup>145</sup>
		Cash transfer (new)	On 16 March 2020, the Peruvian Council of Ministers approved an exceptional payment of about \$107 for each vulnerable family to be affected during the 15-day quarantine period (9M vulnerable people) <sup>146</sup>
		Cash transfer (new)	The government launched a subsidy of nearly \$100 to 3M million poor households to stay home (“I will stay at home” program)
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Philippines</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Under the Emergency Subsidy Program, the government will provide 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). <sup>147</sup>
		Cash transfer (new)	Government provides P100,000 compensation to public and private health workers who contract the disease while in the line of duty. In case of death, their families will receive P1,000,000. <sup>148</sup>

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/midis/noticias/108918-midis-ejecuta-estrategia-preventiva-para-usuarias-y-usuarios-de-programas-sociales-ante-el-coronavirus>

<sup>146</sup> <https://andina.pe/ingles/noticia-peru-government-approves-economic-bond-for-vulnerable-population-788501.aspx>

<sup>147</sup> Ibid.

<sup>148</sup> Section 4 of Republic Act 11469 – Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, 24 March 2020.

	Cash transfer (new)	Individuals with urgent medical and burial needs can avail of financial assistance from DSWD, through the Assistance to Individuals in Crisis Situation (AICS) program. But the number of beneficiaries to be accepted for processing every day is limited in adherence to social distancing measures <sup>149</sup> .
	Cash transfer (new)	Affected workers, regardless of status (i.e. permanent, probationary, or contractual) employed in private firms whose operations are affected by the Covid-19 pandemic will receive P5,000 from the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE)
	Cash transfer (new)	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
	Cash transfer (new)	The P10,000 cash assistance, drawn from the OWWA Trust Fund of member-OFWs, was given to each stranded OWWA member-OFW. 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. The distribution of cash assistance commenced on February 3 for China, Hong Kong and Macau-bound OFWs; and, February 13 for OFWs going to Taiwan <sup>150</sup> .
	Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	The flagship 4Ps conditional cash transfer program waived the program conditionalities for the months of February and March, continuing the provision of full cash grants under the period.
	Public works	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. Beneficiaries will have orientation on safety

<sup>149</sup> <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/294684/dswd-to-continue-offering-urgent-medical-burial-assistance>

<sup>150</sup> <https://www.owwa.gov.ph/index.php/news/central/83-owwa-cash-aid-to-ofws-affected-by-travel-ban-reached-p81m>

		<p>In-kind food/vouchers schemes</p> <p>Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)</p>	<p>and health, payment of 100% of the highest prevailing minimum wage, and enrolled to group micro-insurance.<sup>151</sup></p> <p>Provision of subsidized meals, transportation, and accommodation arrangements to its skeletal workforce responding to the current public health emergency.<sup>152 153 154</sup></p> <p>Banks and other financial institutions may be directed to implement a 30-day grace period for the payment of all loans and credit card payments, falling due within the period of the enhanced community quarantine. Interests, penalties, fees, or other charges shall be waived. A 30-day grace period on paying residential rents may also be ordered.<sup>155</sup></p>
	Social insurance	<p>Unemployment benefits</p> <p>Health insurance support</p>	<p>The Social Security System mobilized existing P1.2 billion to cover unemployment benefits for displaced workers. This will cover unemployment insurance benefits to projected 30,000 to 60,000 workers who will lose their jobs as a result of the possible layoffs in, or closures of, private companies hit by the economic fallout<sup>156</sup>.</p> <p>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</p>

<sup>151</sup> DOLE Department Order 210: Guidelines for the Implementation of the Tulong Panghanapbuhay sa Ating Displaced/Disadvantaged Workers Program (TUPAD) #Barangay Ko, Bahay Ko, Disinfection/Sanitation Project, 18 March 2020.

<sup>152</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/4ps-beneficiaries-continue-to-receive-grants-rice-subsidy-during-quarantine-period/>

<sup>153</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-igus-to-provide-food-non-food-aid-to-families-during-quarantine-period/>

<sup>154</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-provides-food-accommodation-to-skeletal-staff-during-quarantine/>

<sup>155</sup> <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/25/second-headline/read-republic-act-11469-or-the-bayanihan-to-heal-as-one-act/706268/>

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/govt-economic-team-rolls-out-p27-1-b-package-vs-covid-19-pandemic/>

			period for claims is also extended from the usual 60 days to at least 120 days in favor of the health care provider <sup>157</sup> . 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 market	Wage subsidies	The Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) is providing one-time financial assistance equivalent to PHP 5,000 (USD 100) under COVID-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) to affected workers in private establishments that have adopted flexible work arrangements or temporary closure <sup>158</sup> . The payment is made through bank transfers directly to beneficiary payroll accounts. Subsequently, worker beneficiaries can also be provided with job search assistance, coaching, and job referrals for local and overseas placement.
		Labor market regulation	The government approved Administrative Order 26 which entitles all government workers who physically report for work during the Luzon-wide enhanced community quarantine to a hazard pay. <sup>159 160</sup>
		Activation (training) measures	The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA)’s Scholarship Programs amounting to P3 billion will support affected and temporarily displaced workers through upskilling and reskilling. It is also 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 <sup>161</sup> .
<b>Poland</b>	Social assistance	Childcare support	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

<sup>157</sup> [https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2020/fight\\_covid.php](https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2020/fight_covid.php)

<sup>158</sup> DOLE Department Order 209: Guidelines on the Adjustment Measures Program for Affected Workers Due to COVID-19, 17 March 2020.

<sup>159</sup> <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2020/03/23/administrative-order-no-26-s-2020/>

<sup>160</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1097491>

<sup>161</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/govt-economic-team-rolls-out-p27-1-b-package-vs-covid-19-pandemic/>

			guardians of children. The allowance is available from 12 March to 25, 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. <sup>162</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	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%). 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.
<b>Portugal</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	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 is designed for parents with children up to 12 years old, and pays an amount of about 2/3 of the average salary <sup>163</sup> .
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Companies exempted from Social Security contributions in lay-off or closure determined by the Health Authority, as well as on the first month after the resumption of activity. Special support to self-employed (affected activity) and deferral of social contributions
		Paid sick leave	14-day prophylactic isolation status made equivalent to illness for purpose of social protection measures, with benefit correspondent to 100% of remuneration (no waiting period). Also, there is a justified absences scheme for family support, related to impact of COVID-19.
		Unemployment benefits	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.
	Labor market	Wage subsidies	Simplified lay-off regime for companies (with activity substantially affected by COVID-19), whereby workers will be entitled to gross wages equivalent to

<sup>162</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/dodatkowy-zasilek-opiekunczy---pytania-i-odpowiedzi>

<sup>163</sup> <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/comunicacao/noticia?i=governo-toma-medidas-extraordinarias-para-responder-a-epidemia-de-covid-19>

		<p>Activation (training) measures</p> <p>Labor market regulation</p>	<p>2/3 of their wages, of which 30% supported by the employer and 70% by social security, up to a maximum of 6 months.</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>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. There is also special support to maintain jobs after the end of lay-off or closure of firms by Health Authority (first-month wages supported).</p>
<b>Romania</b>	Social assistance	<p>Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)</p> <p>Cash transfers (new)</p>	<p>All social assistance benefits can now be claimed electronically (e-mail, online applications). School attendance conditions have been relaxed. Self-employed will receive a special benefit equivalent to 75% of the gross average salary at the national level (RON 5,163 - approx. US\$1,180, taxable)<sup>164</sup>.</p>
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	<p>During the state of emergency, 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 (technological 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 5,163- approx. US\$1,180). To benefit from the unemployment support, employers must meet one of the following conditions: (i) the company has ceased activity due to the COVID-19 situation and have an emergency state certificate; or (ii) the company reduced their activity because of COVID-19 outbreak and could not pay salaries. In the latter case, the employers should have up to 75% of workers covered by unemployment benefits. declare that the company reduced or suspended their activity because of COVID-19 outbreak. The employers can also supplement the employee's salary. All benefits will be claimed electronically.</p>

<sup>164</sup> <https://lege5.ro/Gratuit/gm3dmnzygi4q/ordonanta-de-urgenta-nr-32-2020-privind-modificarea-si-completarea-ordonantei-de-urgenta-a-guvernului-nr-30-2020-pentru-modificarea-si-completarea-unor-acte-normative-precum-si-pentru-stabilirea-unor->

		Paid sick leave	One of the parents who is taking care of children less than 12 years old (whose schools were closed) were granted paid leave at 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). <sup>165</sup>
	Labor market	Activation (training) measures	During the period of state of emergency, all training activities recognized by the Ministry of Labor and Social Protection can be delivered online. The training provider must meet the following conditions: (i) notify the Authorization Commission; (ii) prove that the participants have the digital infrastructure to access the online training <sup>166</sup> .
<b>Russia</b>	Social assistance	In-kind food/vouchers schemes (admin/delivery adaptation)	Citizens over 60 y.o. 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 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. <sup>167</sup> The food and medicine delivery is organized by the Moscow City government for the people over 65 years of age. By the end of last week 40 000 people claimed this benefit over Moscow City government hotline. <sup>168</sup>
		Cash transfers (admin/adaptability)	Expedition of all organizational procedures so that families with children between three and seven years old receive the means-tested monthly family benefits quicker. These allocations will be paid out to families with incomes below the subsistence level in their regions. The initial plan was to start paying these benefits in July. Now this will be done one month earlier. Almost RUB

<sup>165</sup> <https://legislatiamuncii.manager.ro/a/26294/legea-nr-19-2020-zile-libere-pentru-parinti-pe-perioada-cat-sunt-inchise-scolile-si-gradinitel-stare-de-urgenta.html>

<sup>166</sup> <https://lege5.ro/Gratuit/gm3dmzygi4q/ordonanta-de-urgenta-nr-32-2020-privind-modificarea-si-completarea-ordonantei-de-urgenta-a-guvernului-nr-30-2020-pentru-modificarea-si-completarea-unor-acte-normative-precum-si-pentru-stabilirea-unor->

<sup>167</sup> <https://rg.ru/2020/03/18/otkryta-goriachaia-liniia-po-koronavirusu-dlia-pozhilyh-liudej.html>

<sup>168</sup> [https://www.mos.ru/news/item/71862073/?utm\\_source=yxnews&utm\\_medium=desktop&utm\\_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews](https://www.mos.ru/news/item/71862073/?utm_source=yxnews&utm_medium=desktop&utm_referrer=https%3A%2F%2Fyandex.ru%2Fnews)

			<p>105 billion will be earmarked from the Federal budget to this effect, and regional budgets will provide another RUB 31.5 billion. 169 170</p> <p>All social benefits and special entitlements over the next six months will be extended automatically, without submitting any additional information and going to the authorities. 171 172</p> <p>Cash transfers</p> <p>Over the next three months, starting in April, all families entitled to maternity capital (grant) will be paid an additional RUB 5,000 (US\$63) a month for each child under the age of three, inclusive. This support is especially important for families where children do not attend a nursery or kindergarten, and for parents who are on sick leave or on parental leave.</p> <p>Cash transfers</p> <p>All payments for children aged three to seven will begin to be paid in June, instead of July. Allowances for children from 3 to 7 years are set annually and paid for families with per capita income less than the subsistence level. If a family as of January 1, 2020 had a child aged 3 to 7 years, then the family will receive money in June for the first 5 months of 2020, too. In total, 2 million families will receive a new allowance.<sup>173</sup></p> <p>Social pensions increased (Moscow)</p> <p>The Moscow city Government abolished contributions of citizens for overhaul (capital renewal) for 3 months (April 1 – June 30, 2020).<sup>174</sup></p> <p>Utility and financial obligation waiver/subsidy (Moscow)</p> <p>Extension of 60 rides transport cards (metro, busses, trolleys) for 5 days in case they were not used for the period of March 30-April 3 (self-isolation period).<sup>175</sup></p>
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169 <http://government.ru/en/news/39277/>

170 <https://www.gazeta.ru/business/2020/03/17/13008259.shtml>

171 <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63061>

172 <http://government.ru/en/news/39277/>

173 <https://rosmintrud.ru/social/237>

174 [https://www.mos.ru/upload/documents/docs/35-YM\(2\).pdf](https://www.mos.ru/upload/documents/docs/35-YM(2).pdf) (para 17.6)

175 <https://www.mos.ru/upload/documents/docs/34-YM.pdf> (paras 17.3-17.4)



	Social insurance	<p>Unemployment benefits</p> <p>Unemployment benefits</p> <p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Paid sick leave (admin/delivery adaptation)</p>	<p>Since November 2018 until now the monthly unemployment benefit has ranged from a minimum of RUB 1,500 (US\$19) to maximum RUB8,000 (US\$100). The new proposal is to increase it to the level of the minimum wage which is Since March 27, 2020 the maximum amount is equal to the minimum wage and amounted to RUB 12,130 (US\$1552), but no indication when this would happen, or if everyone would get the same amount while the minimum stays at RUB 1,500 (US\$19).<sup>176</sup></p> <p>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>A higher level for the sick leave pay will be introduced. Sick leave payments will be 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<sup>177</sup>.</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.</p>
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<sup>176</sup> <http://publication.pravo.gov.ru/Document/View/0001202003300022>

<sup>177</sup> <http://en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/63061>

		Social security contribution waiver/subsidies	<p>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> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Each region should appoint no more than 3 medical organizations that will provide remote issuance and registration of electronic disability certificates. An application for extradition of sick leave is submitted through the Unified portal of public services.</li> <li>- If a citizen does not have access to this resource, another person with a personal account on the portal can do it for her/him.</li> <li>- Medical sick leave can be provided without visiting physically. Sick pay will be provided before the end of the sick leave (every 5th working day).<sup>178</sup></li> <li>- The resolution applies from March 20 to July 1, 2020.<sup>179</sup></li> </ul> <p>Social insurance contributions have been reduced for small and medium-sized businesses from 30 to 15% on the portion of wages that is above the minimum wage. This measure is being introduced for a long time to encourage employers to raise wages, but the expectation is these reduced contributions will be made up later by employers.<sup>180</sup></p>
	Labor markets		
<b>Saudi Arabia</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	New special provisions allow for delaying rent requests (by 3 months). This applies for 6 months, from March 20 to September 20.
	Social insurance	<p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Health insurance benefits</p>	<p>Special paid sick leave for all workers who, as of March 13, 2020, entered the Kingdom from countries abroad shall stay home on sick (quarantined). MOH developed a mobile application called “Sehhaty” to register and apply for the sick leave<sup>181</sup>.</p> <p>The KSA mandated an automatic renewal of health insurance cards for 6 months, hence allowing families to make hospitals and clinic visits. As per</p>

<sup>178</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/social/Covid-19-Employment-and-Social-Policy-Responses-by-Country.xlsx>

<sup>179</sup> <http://www.garant.ru/hotlaw/federal/1332594/>

<sup>180</sup> <http://government.ru/en/news/39277/>

<sup>181</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-14-001.aspx>

			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.
	Labor markets	Activation (training) measures	The Saudi Human Resources Development Fund announced the allocation of SR2B 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). A training support track includes SR800M to support 100,000 beneficiaries. And an additional SR1.5B has been allocated to add 100,000 new job seekers in the program. <sup>182</sup>
<b>Senegal</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Serbia</b>	Social Assistance	Cash transfers	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) .
		Cash transfers	Cash transfers will be extended for the following program: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Financial Social Assistance</li> <li>- Caregiver Allowance</li> <li>- Child Allowance,</li> <li>- Maternity leave benefit for the purpose of child care.</li> </ul>
		One-off universal cash transfer	All adults (18+ years of age) will get E100 as one-off payment. <sup>183</sup>
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits (admin/delivery adaptation)	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.

<sup>182</sup> <https://www.hrdf.org.sa/News/4408>

<sup>183</sup> <https://www.nytimes.com/reuters/2020/03/30/world/30reuters-health-coronavirus-serbia-economy.html>

		Pensions	All pensioners will receive one off support in the amount of 4000 dinars (around 35 EUR).
		Pensions (admin/adaptability)	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.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	The government new package of support includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- support to large enterprises: 50 percent of the minimum wage to all employees whose contract ended</li> <li>- cover for three -months wages in Micro and SMEs</li> </ul>
<b>Singapore</b>	Social assistance	One-off universal cash transfer	The government introduced a cash transfer payout of S\$100-300, depending on income, for all residents aged 21 and above.
		Cash transfers (new)	The new (second) stimulus package of S\$48 billion (\$33 billion) includes cash transfers to self-employed and low-income people. <sup>184</sup>
		In-kind food/vouchers schemes	S\$100 for passion card top-up for all seniors, and S\$100 supermarket vouchers for lower-income. <sup>185</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Utility rebates are doubled. <sup>186</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	New stimulus package includes no charges on student-loan interest (for 1 year) & late-payment on public-housing mortgage (3 month). <sup>187</sup>
	Social insurance		

<sup>184</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/fixed-income>

<sup>185</sup> <https://www.gov.sg/article/cushioning-the-impact-of-covid-19>

<sup>186</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/fixed-income>

<sup>187</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/fixed-income>

	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	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).
		Wage subsidies	Launch a Jobs Support Scheme worth SG\$1.3 billion (US\$890 million) to help firms retain local workers. Employers will receive an 8% subsidy on the gross monthly wages of each local employee, made on the Central Provident Fund payroll for the months of October to December (subject to a monthly wage cap of SG\$3,600 (\$2463.8) per worker). Payments to employers will be made by the end of July).
		Wage subsidy expansion	Expansion of wage support for businesses, including extra support for those in food services, aviation and tourism industries. <sup>188</sup>
<b>Slovenia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	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.
	Social insurance	Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	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.
		Paid sick leave	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.
		Pension	Pensioners with the lowest pensions will receive a solidarity bonus due to the impact of the coronavirus.
		Unemployment benefit	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.

<sup>188</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/markets/fixed-income>

			Workers who have lost their job during the epidemic will automatically be entitled to unemployment benefits.
	Labor markets	Labor market regulation	Persons employed and activated in sectors that are key in overcoming the epidemic 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 <sup>189</sup> .
<b>South Africa</b>	Social Assistance	Cash transfers	The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) will provide early payments of social grants to older persons and persons with disabilities (from March 30-31, 2020). Other beneficiaries will be able to access their grants from April 1, 2020. <sup>190</sup>
	Social insurance	<p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Unemployment insurance</p>	<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.<sup>191</sup></p> <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"> <li>- it is only applicable to employers who are registered with UIF and make monthly contributions as required by the Contributions Act of 2002</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- the benefit will be at a flat rate equal to the minimum wage (R3,500 (\$200)) per employee for the duration of the shutdown or a maximum period of 3 months, whichever period is the shortest.</li> </ul>

<sup>189</sup> <https://www.gov.si/en/news/2020-03-24-prime-minister-janez-jansa-together-with-ministers-presents-a-package-of-anti-corona-measures-to-help-the-population-and-the-economy/>

<sup>190</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sassa-pays-april-2020-grants-earlier-amid-covid19>

<sup>191</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/uif-cf-safety-net-intervention-details>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- if an employee is ill, temporary lay-off or unemployed for longer than three months, the normal UIF benefits apply.</li> <li>- an employer or employee cannot apply for the “National Disaster Benefit” and any other UIF benefit simultaneously.<sup>192</sup></li> </ul>
	Labor market		
<b>South Korea</b>	Social assistance	Childcare support	The government will support childcare with W2.4T to low-income households as they shift from child daycare to homecare. <sup>193</sup> Specifically, parent employees get W50,000/day. <sup>194</sup> .
		Cash transfer (new)	W200B to low-income households getting unemployed and to those under COVID-19 treatment/quarantine.
		Cash transfer	Reintroduction of job seekers’ allowance for low-income households, with such allowance being increased from W200,000 to 500,000 for up to 3 months.
		In-kind food/voucher scheme	W2.8T are provided via a 4-month-worth purchase vouchers to households receiving child and social assistance.
		Cash transfers (new)	The government decided to offer emergency relief payments of 9.1 trillion won to households in the bottom 70 percent income bracket. A total of 14 million households to become recipients. 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)
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	The government will also provide a 1.3 trillion won worth of electricity bill payment deferral, which will be given to 3,200,000 small businesses and 1,570,000 low income households for three months from April to June.
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	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.

<sup>192</sup> <https://www.labourwise.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Easy-aid-guide-for-employers-DOLMarch2020-COVID19.pdf>

<sup>193</sup> <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4852>

<sup>194</sup> [http://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20200302\\_policyFocus/popup.html](http://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20200302_policyFocus/popup.html)

		<p>Health insurance support</p> <p>Social security contribution subsidy/waiver</p>	<p>The Korean social insurance agency will allow for payout of industrial accident insurance to workers who are tested COVID-19 positive; deduction of health insurance premium payments by 50% is planned for low-income households.</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 beyond.</p> <p>National HealthCare contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- Expand to bottom 40 percent and give them 30 percent reduction for three months (Additional beneficiaries of 4,880,000)</li> </ul> <p>National Pension contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Temporarily expand the eligibility for the contribution relief</li> <li>- Allow up to 60 month installment payment</li> </ul> <p>Unemployment insurance contributions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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</li> </ul>
	Labor markets	<p>Wage subsidies</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>W84billion to subsidize employers' cost for paid leaves offered to those infected.</p>



		Shorter work time benefits	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).
		Labor market regulation	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.
<b>Spain</b>	Cash transfers	Extraordinary contingency fund support	300 million euros for an extraordinary contingency fund to support social services with special attention to older persons and dependents (transfers to be made to Autonomous communities and localities to this effect) (e.g. cover basic needs including through social assistance, people that need assistance at home, increases resources in centres, etc..) <sup>195</sup>
		Childcare support	Spain has introduced a family benefit to pay for parents who have to take care of their children during the closing of classrooms by Covid-19 and when their company cannot offer them alternatives. More details be released. <sup>196</sup>
		Cash transfers (new)	Among the measures to support families is to guarantee the basic right to food for vulnerable 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).
		Ind-kind food/vouchers scheme	Part of the above funding also includes in-kind support, such as catering at home, home deliveries, opening specific schools as food distribution points. <sup>197</sup>
		Support for homeless populations	Measures for homeless persons provided through social services include hygiene kit, food, and drinks, information about prevention measures. <sup>198</sup>

<sup>195</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3434.pdf>

<sup>196</sup> <https://elpais.com/economia/2020-03-11/escriva-anuncia-una-prestacion-extraordinaria-para-los-padres-que-tengan-que-cuidar-a-sus-hijos.html>

<sup>197</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

<sup>198</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	The government has ruled that key utilities such as energy, gas and water - as well as telecommunication services cannot be suspended to vulnerable persons during the crisis. It has instigated a mortgage moratorium on primary residences for employees who lose their jobs, such as self-employed workers. <sup>199</sup>
	Social insurance	<p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)</p> <p>Unemployment benefits and relaxation of contributions based on the ERE regime</p>	<p>A legal decree permits periods of isolation or infected workers as an exceptional situation assimilated to a work accident (temporary incapacity). This applies to the self-employed worker or an employee who is registered with any of the Social Security regimes and will cover the date from which the worker is in isolation or illness. Sick leave is issued after that date. This is also extended to personnel under the Special Schemes for Civil Servants.</p> <p>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.<sup>200 201</sup></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"> <li>- All persons 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).</li> <li>- 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.</li> </ul>

<sup>199</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3434.pdf>

<sup>200</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3434.pdf> ,

<sup>201</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 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)</li> <li>- Allows workers to adapt and reduce their working hours, by as much as 100% if necessary, if they need to provide care to dependents</li> <li>- 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.</li> <li>- Companies under redundancy procedures (ERTE) will not pay contributions to the Social Security, to avoid them to dismiss workers<sup>202</sup></li> </ul>
	Labor markets		
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	Social assistance	Social pensions	<p>Transfer of LKR 5000 for 416,764 people who are the recipients of the senior citizens allowance and for 142,345 people who have been identified as adults and are in the waiting list.</p> <p>Payment of LKR 5000 for 84,071 people who are the recipients of the disability allowance and for 35,229 people who have been identified as people with disabilities and are in the waiting list.</p> <p>Transfer of LKR 5000 for 160,675 farmers who are registered under the farmers and fishermen's insurance scheme.</p> <p>Payment of LKR 5000 for 25,320 people who are the recipients of the kidney disease allowance and for 13,850 people who are in the waiting</p>

<sup>202</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3434.pdf>

		In-kind support (food)	Delivering “triposha” and other nutritious supplements to the households of pregnant mothers and infants with nutrition deficiencies.
		Expansion of cash transfers programs	Transfer of LKR 5000 to 1,798,655 people who are the recipients of the “samurdhi” allowance (the largest cash-transfer program here) and for 600,339 families who have been identified as recipients of the “samurdhi” allowance and are in the waiting list.
		Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	Assistance will be given for the owners of three wheelers, school buses and vehicles used for self-employment on their leasing payment. Relief will be given for private sector business who face difficulties in paying salaries for the workers.
	Social insurance	Pensions	Payment of pension for the 645,179 pension receivers from the public sector.
	Labor markets		
<b>St Kitts and Nevis</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	Planned injection of EC\$12 million (\$4.44 million) into the Severance Payments Fund. <sup>203</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Sweden</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave (admin/delivery adaptation)	Sweden abolished the qualifying day of sickness due to coronavirus. The decision means that workers will get sickness benefits from the moment they have to be absent from work due to illness, and the state rather than employers will cover the cost of the first day of leave. (Swedish law usually guarantees sick pay from the second day of illness, but concerns had been raised that employees would turn up at work despite feeling ill in order not to lose out on the first day’s salary). The new proposal went into effect from 11 March 2020. <sup>204 205</sup>

<sup>203</sup> <https://www.sknvibes.com/news/newsdetails.cfm/112069>

<sup>204</sup> <https://www.thelocal.se/20200311/sweden-changes-sick-pay-rules-to-help-fight-coronavirus>

<sup>205</sup> <https://www.krisinformation.se/en/news/2020/march/abolished-qualifying-day-of-sickness-due-to-corona-virus>

		Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	A temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions has been proposed which will be effective from March 1 to June 30 2020. This reduction applies to up to 30 employees and when the monthly wage does not exceed SEK 25 000 (USD 2500). For sole traders a reduction of individual contributions is also proposed. The only contribution to be paid is old age pensions.
	Labor markets		
<b>Switzerland</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Unemployment insurance (admin/delivery adaptation)	Unemployment insurance funds can claim up to CHF 8B for short-time work allowances. The waiting period for short-time work will be reduced to one day from March until 30 September 2020. This means that companies only have to bear one day's lost work independently before they are entitled to unemployment insurance support.
	Labor markets	Shorter work time benefits	The Federal Council has instructed SECO to extend the right to short-time work compensation to employees with temporary employment contracts and temporary workers by 20 March. <sup>206</sup>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Social Assistance	Cash transfers	A supplementary temporary cash benefit to certain categories of beneficiaries of the Targeted Social Assistance program.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markers		
<b>Taiwan</b>	Social assistance	In-kind food/vouchers schemes	The Government of Taiwan provided NT\$2 billion (\$66.1M) of coupons to be used at night markets, shops, and restaurants. <sup>207</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Thailand</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	A cash transfer of 5,000-baht (\$153) for 3 months will reach 9M (instead of 3M from last week) workers not covered by the Social Security Fund (21.7M people applied). The total program cost is \$4B.

<sup>206</sup> [https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/de/home/Arbeit/neues\\_coronavirus.html](https://www.seco.admin.ch/seco/de/home/Arbeit/neues_coronavirus.html)

<sup>207</sup> <https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3875674>

	Social insurance	Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	Tax measures will include a reduction in the rate of contributions to the social security fund of employers and employees from a rate of 5% to 0.1% of wages for 3 months (and maintain the same contribution rate of the government at 2.75% of wages and reduce the contribution amount of the insured people while the government pays the same amount) <sup>208</sup> .
		Health insurance benefits	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.
		Unemployment insurance	Workers covered by SSF get increased unemployment compensation up to 50% of salaries
		Unemployment insurance	Thailand has initiated a multi-prong package for Thai workers forced to return from Korea due to the outbreak. 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).
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	SMEs can deduct three times the cost incurred by salary payment from April to July 2020 for the employees who are members of the Social Security Office and receive a salary of up to 15,000 baht/person/month. The SMEs have to maintain the same level of employment during that period as to the number insured under social security end-December 2019. <sup>209</sup>
<b>Togo</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	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 electronic money free.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		

<sup>208</sup> <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/thailand-unveils-us127-billion-stimulus-package-to-ease-coronavirus-impact>

<sup>209</sup> <https://thethaiger.com/coronavirus/400-billion-baht-stimulus-announced-to-boost-thai-economy>

<b>Trinidad and Tobago</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Three-month top-ups for Food Card, Public Assistance and Disability Assistance beneficiaries ranging from TT\$150 to TT\$450 (\$22-US\$67) per month for three months, depending on household size.
		Cash transfers (new)	Cash transfer of TT\$510/month (US75) for 3 months to households with family member that was laid off or whose income reduced. This measure reaches a total of 2,050 households
		Cash transfers (new)	Rental assistance up to TT\$2,500 (US\$367) per month for an initial period of 3 month but not more than 6 months, for households where a wage earner was laid off or whose income reduced.
		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	Suspension of the life certification requirements for elderly social pension recipients (normally required to visit their local board to sign a life certificate register). <sup>210</sup>
	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. <sup>211</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Tunisia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer of TND200 (USD68) to 623,000 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).
		Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer of TND50 (\$17) to 260,000 households working in the informal sector (a top-up of the already received transfer of TND180 in March, i.e., households registered in the social security system with a free healthcare card).
		Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting an elderly

<sup>210</sup> <https://www.opm.gov.tt/media-conference-on-covid-19-monday-23rd-march-2020/>

<sup>211</sup> [https://trinidadexpress.com/newsextra/workers-you-can-get-pandemic-leave/article\\_bebb87fe-66d9-11ea-8cda-af9f2ecf2a9a.html](https://trinidadexpress.com/newsextra/workers-you-can-get-pandemic-leave/article_bebb87fe-66d9-11ea-8cda-af9f2ecf2a9a.html)

		Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households fostering children without parental support.
		Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting a person with handicap. <sup>212</sup>
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	Unemployment benefits for workers (contributory system) who will be affected by partial unemployment.
		Healthcare insurance	Healthcare insurance maintained for all workers, family allowance maintained and a wage premium for those who can't continue their business (formal sector).
		Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	For businesses and companies operating in the formal sector, a waiver of 3 months is granted to the employer's contribution to the social security scheme.
	Labor markets		
<b>Turkey</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The Turkish government has announced an additional 2 billion Turkish Lira (\$300M) for financial aid to families in need according to criteria defined by the Ministry of Family, Labor and Social Services.
		Cash transfers	Monthly budget allocated to the 1003 Social Assistance and Solidarity Foundations, who provide social assistance to various disadvantaged groups. are increased from 135 million TL (around \$21 million) to 180 million TL (around \$27 million) in total.
		Cash transfers	A Short-term Work Allowance provides income support for workers whenever business is slowed down or suspended as a result of a general, sectoral or regional crisis or another coercive condition. 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.

<sup>212</sup> <https://www.tap.info.tn/fr/Portail-Soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9/12474291-une-aide-sp%C3%A9cifique>



		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Tax payments for individuals over 65 years old or those with chronic conditions are postponed until the end of the COVID-19 outbreak.
		In-kind food/vouchers schemes	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.
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Postponed for six months the VAT withholdings and Social Security Insurance for April, May, and June for selected sectors.
		Pensions	Minimum pension level will be increased to Turkish Lira 1,500 (US\$230).
		Pensions	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).
		Pensions (admin/delivery adaptation)	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.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	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 for 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.
		Wage subsidies	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.
<b>Uganda</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Social security contributions subsidy/waiver	The National Social Security Fund (NSSF) of Uganda has announced measures that allow businesses/employers facing economic distress due to

			COVID-19 to reschedule NSSF contributions for the next 3 months without accumulating a penalty. <sup>213</sup>
	Labor market		
UK	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The UK would raise its main state-paid benefit. The universal credit standard allowance for the next 12 months would increase by 1,000 pounds a year, 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.
		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	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. <sup>214</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Temporary suspension of mortgage payments, fuel duty (for a year), and suspension of new evictions from social or private rented accommodation. <sup>215</sup> <sup>216</sup>
		School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation)	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 the vouchers will be under the responsibility of schools. The government has also provided the flexibility

<sup>213</sup> <https://twitter.com/nssfug/status/1244987818314784769>

<sup>214</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>

<sup>215</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/sunak-unveils-support-for-workers-self-employed>

<sup>216</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/key-points-from-budget-2020-at-a-glance>

			for schools to utilize their existing in-house caterers and hire a local meal delivery service provider, with the government reimbursing the additional costs <sup>217</sup> .
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	The Statutory Sick Pay (SSP), paid by the employers and refunded by the stat, 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 <sup>218</sup> . This is in addition to the change that SSP will be payable from day one instead of day 4 for affected individuals.
		Paid sick leave (admin/delivery adaptation)	The self-employed or people earning below the Lower Earnings Limit of £118 per week can now more easily claim Universal Credit or Contributory Employment and Support Allowance (Contributory Employment and Support Allowance will be payable, at a rate of £73.10 a week for those over 25, for eligible people affected by COVID-19 or self-isolating in line with advice from Day 1 of sickness, rather than Day 8). <sup>219</sup>
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	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). <sup>220</sup>
<b>Ukraine</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	The government introduced one-off cash assistance (\$35) for seniors with low pensions.
		Cash transfers	In addition, the state introduced a one-off payment to the current beneficiaries of child disability payments.
		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	Relaxed eligibility requirements for the GMI program to extend duration of payments and enable simplified enrollment online.

<sup>217</sup> <https://cdn.wfp.org/2020/school-feeding-map/>

<sup>218</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sick-pay-from-day-one-for-those-affected-by-coronavirus>

<sup>219</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>

<sup>220</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/sunak-unveils-support-for-workers-self-employed>

		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	Simplify administrative requirements for enrollment in the Housing Utilities Subsidy program (energy social assistance). Remove restrictions preventing enrollment for those who lost their jobs as a result of the introduced COVID19 quarantine measures.
	Social insurance	Pensions	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. <sup>221 222 223</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Uruguay</b>	Social assistance		
	Social Insurance		
	Labor market	Wage subsidy	The Social Security Bank (El Banco de Previsión Social (BPS)) is working to implement the new special subsidy for partial unemployment for monthly workers, arranged by the Ministry of Labor and Social Security. Companies must, within the first 10 days of the month following the reduction in the number of days or hours worked, send the BPS the list of workers who meet the conditions of law. Payment of the subsidy will be made during the month following this reduction. <sup>224 225</sup>
<b>USA</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	Adults will get \$1,200 each and children \$500 each. The benefit will start decreasing at a rate of \$5 for every additional \$100 in income. The phaseout starts at \$75,000 in adjusted gross income for singles, \$112,500 for heads of household, and \$150,000 for married couples filing jointly; it will phase out entirely by \$99,000 for singles and \$198,000 for couples (with no children). <sup>226</sup>
		In-kind food/vouchers schemes (Seattle)	The city of Seattle will provide \$5 million in grocery vouchers to help families impacted by a coronavirus. This includes \$800 per vouchers to 6,250

<sup>221</sup> [http://tvoemisto.tv/news/u\\_kvitni\\_pensioneram\\_vyplatyat\\_dodatkovu\\_tysyachu\\_gryven\\_hto\\_otrymaie\\_107506.html](http://tvoemisto.tv/news/u_kvitni_pensioneram_vyplatyat_dodatkovu_tysyachu_gryven_hto_otrymaie_107506.html)

<sup>222</sup> [https://zik.ua/news/economics/odnorazova\\_sotsdopomoha\\_stalo\\_vidomo\\_khto\\_krim\\_pensioneriv\\_otrymaie\\_1\\_tys\\_hryven\\_962728](https://zik.ua/news/economics/odnorazova_sotsdopomoha_stalo_vidomo_khto_krim_pensioneriv_otrymaie_1_tys_hryven_962728)

<sup>223</sup> <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/timeline-of-ukraines-response-to-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

<sup>224</sup> <https://www.bps.gub.uy/16867/subsidio-especial-por-desempleo-parcial.html>

<sup>225</sup> <https://www.bps.gub.uy/bps/file/16867/3/resolucion-del-mtss-143--18-3-2020.pdf>

<sup>226</sup> <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/3/23/21190955/stimulus-checks-from-government-approved>

			families to help them buy food, cleaning supplies, and other household goods at Safeway supermarkets during the coronavirus pandemic. The program will benefit “eligible families who are currently enrolled in City-supported child care programs and food assistance programs.” The grocery vouchers will be distributed in two \$400 installments by mail. Funding will come from Seattle’s sugary beverage tax revenues. <sup>227</sup>
	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. <sup>228</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	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.
		Public works	Expansion of the public works programs (\$21M).
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	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.
		Paid sick leave	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.
	Labor markets	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.

<sup>227</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/17/us/seattle-vouchers-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

<sup>228</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/03/16/paid-sick-leave-coronavirus-house-bill/>

<b>Venezuela</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Increased monthly cash transfers, plus a one-off transfers (reaching 80% of the population), through existing programs and paid through the Sistema Patria platform.
		In-kind food/voucher schemes	Increase in deliveries of subsidized food parcels through the CLAP program.
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Residential and commercial rent payments suspended for 6 months (for businesses and persons affected by COVID-19). Landlords will be reimbursed. Moreover, ban on service disconnection for lack of payment by telecommunications companies (cable TV, telephone, mobile phones, internet).
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets	Wage subsidy	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)
<b>Vietnam</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	<p>Government has announced an income support package of VND30,000 billion (US\$1.2 billion) on March 31, 2020. The proposal will provide support to the poor, near-poor households, social assistant beneficiaries, merit people. The package will also support employees who are not qualified for unemployment insurance benefit, including those from informal sector such as small and household businesses, part-time workers and those on unpaid leave or have reduced income as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic's impacts on the country.</p> <p>Each poor household will get a monthly allowance of VND1 million (\$43), near-poor household get VND 500,000 per month, while social protection beneficiaries and those with meritorious services would receive VND500,000 per month. Employees, small/household businesses that have had to suspend operation and suffer difficulties due to Covid-19 would also be supported with VND1 million per month. The allowances would be provided over at least three months (until June), and would be taken from the central government and local administrations' budgets, with the total estimated at VND28-30 trillion (\$1.2- 1.3 billion).</p>

			In several large and heavily affected cities like Ha Noi and Ho Chi Minh City, local government cover all expensive related to living, testing and medical treatment for all Vietnamese citizens who were institutionally quarantined.
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Temporary suspension of social insurance contributions for COVID-19 affected firms and entities for a maximum of 12 months. 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. Affected business are also suspended from making contribution to Labor Union fund.
	Labor markets		