

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

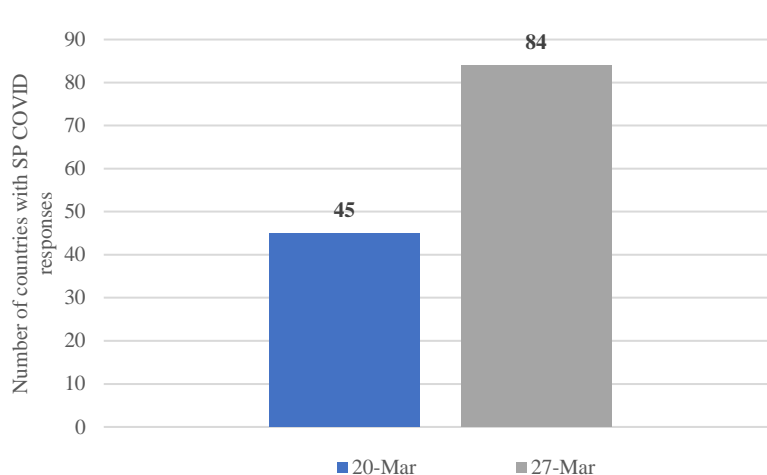
A “living paper”, version 2 (March 27, 2020)

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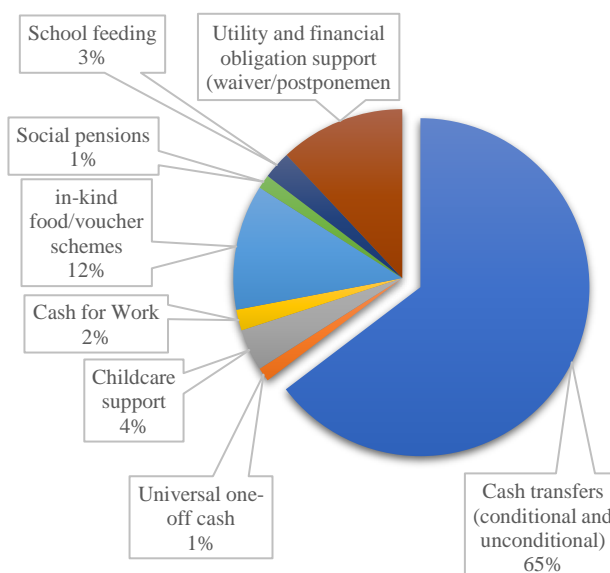
## Key findings

- As of March 27, 2020, a total of 84 countries have introduced or adapted social protection and jobs programs in response to COVID-19. This is an 87% increase since last week (when countries were just 45), with a total of 283 programs currently in place – a fitting testament to the dynamism of pandemic-related responses in the sector.



- Among classes of interventions, social assistance (non-contributory transfers) is the most widely used (including a total of 150 programs), followed by actions in social insurance (91) and supply-side labor market interventions (42). Within social assistance, cash transfer programs are clearly the most widely used intervention by governments (over one-third of total programs, and 65% of social assistance schemes, see figure below). A total of 58 countries have those programs in place, with 35 of them representing *new* initiatives introduced specifically as COVID-19 response.

Social assistance programs	N. of programs
Cash transfers (conditional and unconditional)	97
Universal one-off cash	2
Childcare support	6
Cash for Work	3
in-kind food/voucher schemes	18
Social pensions	2
School feeding	4
Utility and financial obligation support (waiver/postponement)	18
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>



- Countries tend to leverage not only flagship programs, but multiple schemes simultaneously. Overall, we record 97 targeted cash transfer schemes worldwide, as well as 2 universal schemes

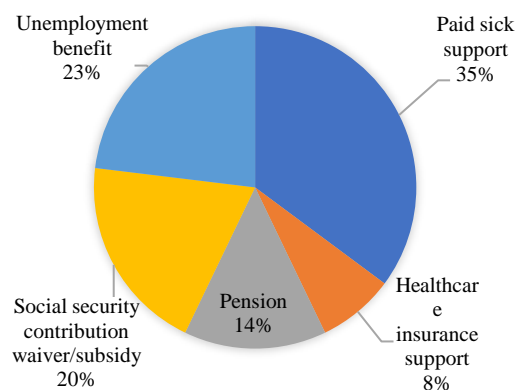
(one-off UBI programs in Hong-Kong and Singapore). Out of these 99 measures, 50 are new initiatives introduced specifically as COVID-19 responses (e.g., Ecuador, Peru, Iran, Jordan and Italy). The Philippines, for example, introduced 5 new cash programs alongside its national Pantawid program. An expanded definition of cash transfer schemes (i.e., also including public works, social pensions and cash-based childcare support) would increase the global count to 110 programs.

- Income support in the form of childcare vouchers or allowances are provided in Italy, Poland and South Korea. Other social assistance programs include support for homeless populations as planned in Spain; utility subsidies waiving fees for basic services are present in El Salvador; wavers for loans and other financial obligations (e.g., Bolivia); and COVID-sensitive public works are being tested in the Philippines.
- In countries that haven't introduced new programs, but instead modified preexisting interventions, such modifications are pursued via six basic strategies, namely (i) increased coverage (e.g., Brazil), (ii) higher benefit levels (e.g., China), (iii) advance payments (e.g., Indonesia), (iv) simplifying administrative requirements (e.g., UK, Romania), (v) plugging COVID-response schemes into existing delivery platforms (e.g., Pakistan, Jordan), and (vi) providing innovative design solutions, such as school feeding programs delivering food directly to children's homes or nearby distribution points (e.g., Jamaica and India's Kerala state).
- Social protection and jobs responses are now present in all regions, including Sub-Saharan Africa (where last week no action was detected). However, *no low-income country appears to have put any COVID-related programs in place*. About one-third of social assistance programs (34%) are from high-income countries, while a somewhat surprising 66% are present in middle-income settings. Instead, between 50-60% of social insurance and labor market programs are from high-income countries.

	Social assistance		Social insurance		Labor markets	
	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs	# of countries	# of programs
<b>AFR</b>	3	4	1	2	0	0
<b>EAP</b>	13	32	9	15	8	15
<b>ECA</b>	34	49	28	51	17	20
<b>LAC</b>	20	37	8	8	4	4
<b>MENA</b>	9	15	7	12	1	1
<b>North America</b>	2	3	2	2	0	0
<b>SAR</b>	3	10	1	1	2	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>LIC</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>LMIC</b>	15	41	8	13	4	6
<b>UMIC</b>	31	57	19	32	9	10
<b>HIC</b>	38	52	29	46	19	26
<b>Total</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>42</b>

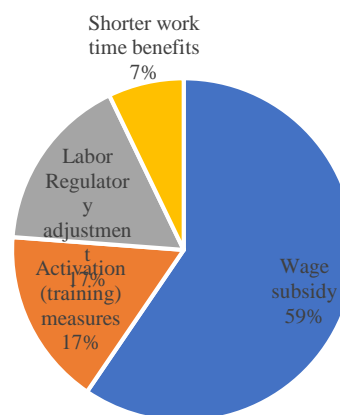
- Many countries provide cash benefits to crisis-affected self-employed workers (e.g., Ireland, Portugal, New Zealand) and those in the informal sector (India). Sweden and Switzerland are reducing the administrative time required for sick-leave and unemployment benefit payments, respectively. Among social insurance interventions, paid sick leave and unemployment benefits are the most frequently adopted, followed by waived, subsidized or deferred social security contributions (e.g., Morocco, Montenegro and Vietnam).

Social insurance programs	N. of programs
Paid sick support	32
Healthcare insurance support	7
Pension	13
Social security contribution waiver/subsidy	18
Unemployment benefit	21
<b>Total</b>	<b>91</b>



- Finally, in terms of labor market programs, wage subsidies play a premier role, such as in Austria, Bulgaria, Jamaica, Poland, and Portugal. Activation measures are also present, with governments investing in such schemes within the COVID context in Estonia, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia. Labor regulations are being adjusted in Hungary, Panama and Slovenia, while countries such as Germany and Netherlands are implementing reduced-workhours programs (with governments covering part of the costs).

Labor markets program	N. of programs
Wage subsidy	25
Activation (training) measures	7
Labor regulatory adjustment	7
Shorter work time benefits	3
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>



### About this review

This second 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,

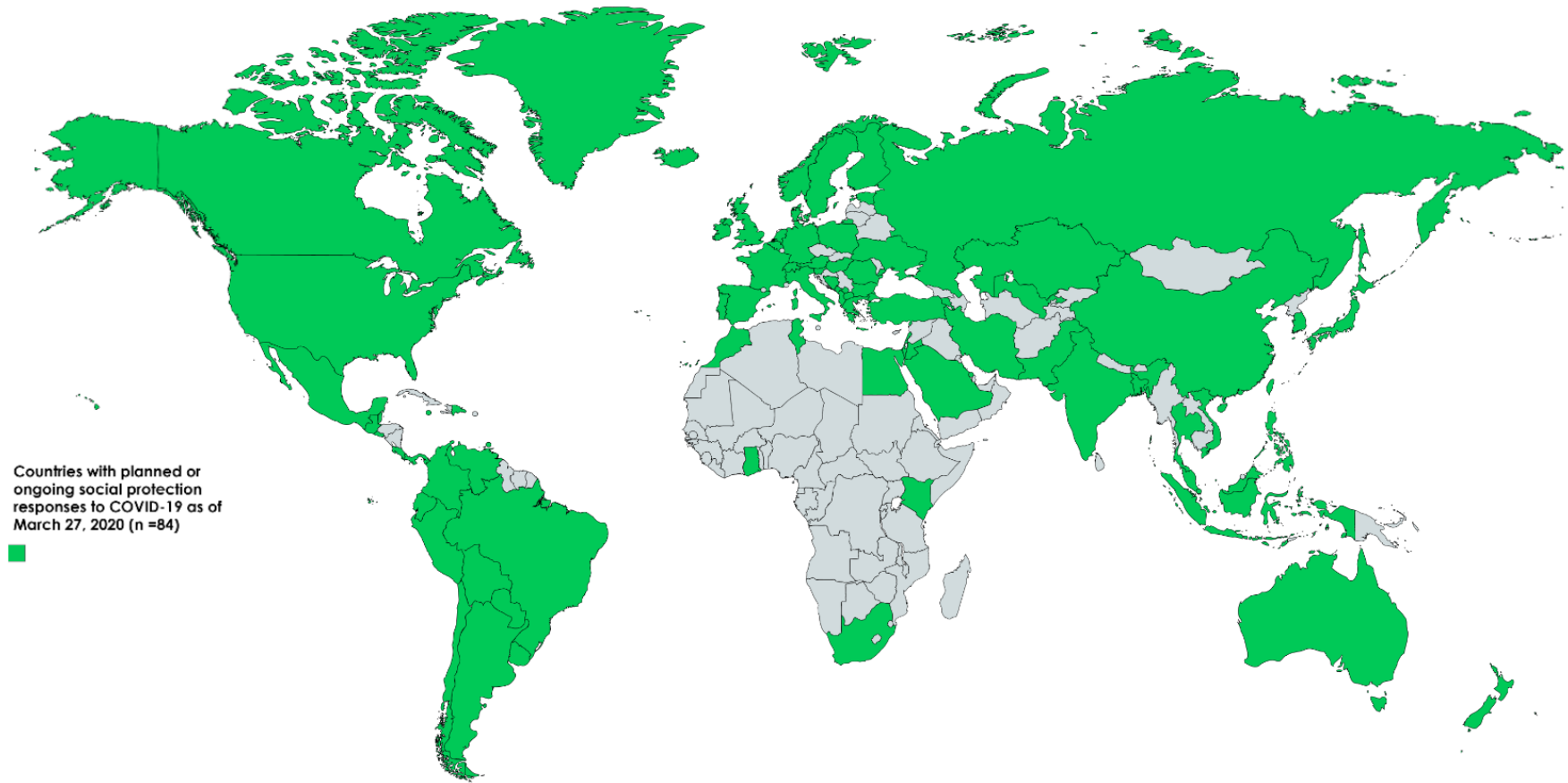
while the full database was validated and integrated by regional and country social protection teams at the World Bank. Overall, findings should be considered preliminary and interpreted with caution.

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 remainder 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 March 27, 2020)



Country	Social protection category	Core COVID19 measure	Descriptive summary
Albania	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Recipients of Ndhma Ekonomike (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		
Argentina	Social assistance	Cash transfers	<p>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</p> <p>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</p> <p>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 concerns 277,252 beneficiaries and with an expenditure estimated at 416M pesos</p> <p>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)</p> <p>Women who receive the universal maternity benefit will also receive this payment.<sup>2</sup></p>
		Cash transfers (new)	The government announced a new measure to support 'monotributistas'. This includes a transfer of AR\$10,000 to informal workers (3.6 million people).

<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	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>
		In-kind food/voucher scheme	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.
	Social insurance		See measures above for support to recipients of contributory pensions
	Labor markets		
<b>Armenia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	The government will provide \$60M as extra social assistance payments. <sup>4</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)
		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.

<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.azatutyun.am/a/30495643.html>



			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).
	Social insurance	Pensions (admin/delivery simplification)	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>5</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-quarantine. This will be available to informal casual workers and those on low incomes <sup>6</sup> .
	Social insurance	Pensions	The government has outlined changes to the pension deeming rate, with an average benefit of \$8.42 a fortnight, or \$219 a year to age pensioner: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The lower deeming rate will be cut from 1% to 0.5% for financial investments up to \$51,800 for single pensioners and \$86,200 for pensioner couples.</li> <li>- The top rate, which only impacts about 40% of payment recipients with deemed assets, will decrease from 3% to 2.5%.</li> </ul>

<sup>5</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)

<sup>6</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)

			<p>- Under the new rates, payment recipients whose income is assessed using deeming could receive up to \$62 a fortnight for couples or \$1,612 extra a year, and up to \$50 a fortnight for singles or \$1,300 a year.<sup>7</sup></p> <p>Also, 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>8</sup>.</p>
	Labor markets	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.
<b>Austria</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	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>9</sup> .
		Childcare support (admin/delivery simplification)	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>10</sup> .

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2019/jul/09/deeming-rates-explained-how-they-work-and-why-pensioners-want-them-changed>

<sup>8</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>9</sup> <https://www.wko.at/service/haertefall-fonds-epu-kleinunternehmen.html>

<sup>10</sup> <https://news.wko.at/news/niederoesterreich/coronahotline.html>

		Unemployment benefits (admin/delivery simplification)	Temporary waiving of the conditionality to regularly meet the case worker at the labor market service to receive unemployment benefits <sup>11</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>12</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>13</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>14 15</sup>
	Labor markets		

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.gesundheitskasse.at/cdscontent/?contentid=10007.857901&portal=oegknportal&viewmode=content>

<sup>12</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>13</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3969>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3969>

<sup>15</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.bh/COVID19/Details/3982>

<b>Bangladesh</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Benefit under key safety net programs will be increased (amount not determined yet).
		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>16</sup>
<b>Belize</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Cash transfers to workers who lost their jobs for B\$25 (\$12M) <sup>17</sup>
	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>18</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>19</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>16</sup> <https://www.thedailystar.net/business/news/unprecedented-bailout-package-the-way-1885042>

<sup>17</sup> <https://www.pressoffice.gov.bz/government-announces-new-measures-in-response-to-covid-19/>

<sup>18</sup> OECD database <http://www.oecd.org/social/Covid-19-Employment-and-Social-Policy-Responses-by-Country.xlsx>

<sup>19</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>20</sup> .
	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>21</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>22</sup>
		Cash transfers (new)	The government will give vouchers of R\$200 to all workers who don't have a formal job and don't receive resources from the two flagship cash transfer

<sup>20</sup> <https://www.inasti.be/fr/news/difficultes-suite-au-coronavirus>

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.noticiasfides.com/nacional/politica/gobierno-crea-el-bono-familia-flexibiliza-pago-de-adeudos-y-prohibe-corte-de-servicios-basicos-403922>

<sup>22</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>programs – Bolsa Familia and BPC. The benefit will be distributed through Cadastro Unico, the national registry.<sup>23</sup></p> <p>Cash transfer for informal workers, self-employed and vulnerable families of BRL600.</p>
	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	<p>Unemployment benefits</p> <p>Disability pensions</p> <p>Pensions</p>	<p>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.</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>

<sup>23</sup> <https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/mercado/2020/03/contra-pandemia-governo-vai-distribuir-r-200-para-trabalhadores-informais.shtml>

		Unemployment benefits	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>24</sup> .
	Labor market	Wage subsidies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– Allocation of BGN 1 billion 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.</li> <li>– Allocation of another BGN 200 million 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>25 26</sup>.</li> <li>– providing supplementary pay in the amount of BGN 1,000 to medical staff and other front-line responders to the pandemic</li> </ul>
<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>27</sup> 28
	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>29</sup>
	Labor markets		

<sup>24</sup> <https://dv.parliament.bg/DVWeb/showMaterialDV.jsp?idMat=147150>

<sup>25</sup> <https://www.bnt.bg/en/a/coronavirus-government-allocates-funds-for-increased-costs-of-ministries>

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.investor.bg/ikonomika-i-politika/332/a/dyrjavata-zadelia-45-mlrd-lv-za-podkrepa-na-ikonomikata-zaradi-koronavirusa-301072/>

<sup>27</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>28</sup> <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/politics/article-trudeau-says-new-merged-benefits-will-help-workers-affected-by-covid/>

<sup>29</sup> <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/corporate/notices/coronavirus.html>

<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>30</sup>
	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	<p>The latest government policy directive (6 March 2020) instructed local governments to increase the coverage and benefits of Dibao, in particular, extending social assistance programs to cover families affected by the COVID-19 and falling into poverty. Examples are available at local level (information collected by WBG):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the Hubei province, RMB 500 for urban Dibao recipients and RMB 300 for rural Dibao recipients were transferred as temporary living allowance subsidies.</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> <li>- In Guangxi, the benefit level of Dibao recipients was increased from RMB 210 to 230 monthly in rural areas, and RMB 370 to 390/month in urban settings.</li> <li>- In Wuhan, temporary assistance was also provided to the quarantined migrant population with difficulties for an amount of RMB 3000. As of 13 March, it supported 5839 people with a transfer of RMB 16.1M.</li> </ul>
	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>31</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

<sup>30</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>31</sup> <https://home.kpmg/cn/en/home/insights/2020/02/china-tax-alert-15.html>



			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 enterprises, in particular for SMEs. The amount varies by locality, but for example in Nanjing, it has been 100 yuan per worker per day
		Activation (training) measures	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>Colombia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Three 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> <li>- One additional 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 80,000, or \$240) advanced to March 25 and April 6.</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>32</sup> .

<sup>32</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/coronavirus-en-colombia-medidas-del-gobierno-para-evitar-el-pico-del-covid-19-475032>

		Cash transfers (new)	New cash transfer program, “solidarity income”, includes a one-off payment of COP 160,000 (\$108) <sup>33</sup> for informal workers and their families. These include 3M households identified by via SISBEN and tax collection 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>34</sup>
		School feeding (admin/delivery simplification)	Students beneficiaries of the school-feeding program will receive it at home <sup>35</sup>
		Utilities and financial obligations (waiver/postponement)	Water services are provided free of charge for low income families (strata 1 and 2). <sup>36</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.
		Cash transfers (Bogota)	A program called “Bogotá Solidaria En Casa” will provide poor and vulnerable families of the District with cash for the 23-day quarantine (03/25-04/13) 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).

<sup>33</sup> <https://www.eltiempo.com/politica/gobierno/ultimas-medidas-anunciadas-por-ivan-duque-antes-de-la-cuarentena-nacional-476678>

<sup>34</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>35</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>36</sup> <https://www.colombia.com/actualidad/nacionales/ivan-duque-anuncia-medidas-economicas-a-causa-del-covid-19-264409>

		In-kind food/voucher scheme (Bogota)	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)
		Utilities and financial obligations (waiver/postponement) (Bogota)	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>37</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<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.
		In kind food/voucher schemes	Special food packages and sanitary items are delivered for families in extreme poverty. <sup>38</sup>
	Social insurance	Pensions	About 70% of pensioners will receive their pension in advance of a week early. <sup>39</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Denmark</b>	Social assistance		

<sup>37</sup> <https://www.dinero.com/pais/articulo/coronavirus-por-que-el-distrito-no-cobrar-un-mes-de-servicios-publicos/283207>

<sup>38</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>39</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/>

	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>40</sup>
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	Social assistance	Increase in coverage and adequacy of main CCT cash transfer to existing and new recipients.	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 include formalized own-account workers who are listed in the Social Security Treasury (TSS) and who are at risk of falling into poverty due to the impact of the shock of the COVID 19.
		In-kind food/voucher scheme	Food support programs adapt their delivery modality to distribute packages at specified points. <sup>41</sup>
	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>42</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 to 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 COVID-19 for three months. Utilities include electricity, water, telephone, cable, and internet. <sup>43</sup> Also, mortgage payments, personal loans, credit card payments, business loans were frozen

<sup>40</sup> <https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/danish-corona-hit-firms-get-state-aid-to-pay-75-of-salaries/>

<sup>41</sup> <https://presidencia.gob.do/coronavirusrd>

<sup>42</sup> <https://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2020/03/21/nota/7790391/coronavirus-bono-contingencia-60-dolares-trabajadores-informales>

<sup>43</sup> <https://twitter.com/PresidenciaSV/status/1240409234854088705>

			for three months for individuals and legal entities directly affected by COVID-19. <sup>44</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>45</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>46</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>47</sup> .
		Activation (training) measures	The government offers online job search counselling and intermediation
<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.  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>48</sup> .
		Paid sick leave	Kela (the national Social Insurance institution) can pay a sickness allowance to:

<sup>44</sup> <https://twitter.com/PresidenciaSV/status/1240409234854088705>

<sup>45</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article241249651.html>

<sup>46</sup> <https://www.miamiherald.com/news/nation-world/world/americas/haiti/article241249651.html>

<sup>47</sup> <https://www.sm.ee/en/news/government-approved-measure-supporting-employers-and-workers-difficulties-because-corona-virus>

<sup>48</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)

			<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 telecommuting would be an option. Proof of the loss of income must be presented in the form of documentation from the employer.<sup>49</sup></li> </ul>
	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>50</sup>

<sup>49</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>50</sup> <https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus>

	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>51</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>52</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>53</sup>
		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>54</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

<sup>51</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>52</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/coronavirus-bundesregierung-beschliesst-umfangreiches-rettungspaket-a-2e96dfed-b307-4a47-a62b-ca81cf7be4a9>

<sup>53</sup> <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/kabinett-kurzarbeitergeld-1729898>.

<sup>54</sup> <https://www.bundesgesundheitsministerium.de/en/press/2020/coronavirus.html>

			12 months (and the government pays their public social insurance contributions). Workers with children get 67% of the salary <sup>55</sup> . (The government expects that, for economic reasons alone, 2.15 million employees will benefit from such arrangements in 2020) <sup>56</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>57</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>58</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.
	Labor markets		
<b>Guatemala</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Special transfer are planned to seniors and families with children for a total of Q350M or \$46M.
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Hong Kong</b>	Social assistance	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>59</sup> .

<sup>55</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/coronavirus-bundesregierung-beschliesst-umfangreiches-rettungspaket-a-2e96dfed-b307-4a47-a62b-ca81cf7be4a9>

<sup>56</sup> <https://www.spiegel.de/wirtschaft/soziales/corona-krise-bundesregierung-erwartet-mehr-als-zwei-millionen-kurzarbeiter-a-5257c27d-33cc-4679-8c2d-af23f271d177>

<sup>57</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>58</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?)

<sup>59</sup> <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202002/26/P2020022600420.htm>



		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>60</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>61</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>62</sup>
	Social insurance	Paid maternity leave	Expiring benefits for persons currently on maternity leave will be extended until the end of state of emergency.
		Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	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>63</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		

<sup>60</sup> <https://www.info.gov.hk/gia/general/202001/03/P2020010300231.htm>

<sup>61</sup> <https://www.budget.gov.hk/2020/eng/nt.html>

<sup>62</sup> Information on Hungary is based on media reports tracked by the WBG.

<sup>63</sup> <https://www.government.is/news/article/?newsid=a17058af-62d6-11ea-9455-005056bc530c>

<b>India</b>	Social assistance	<p>Cash transfers</p> <p>Cash support (new) (Uttar Pradesh)</p> <p>In-kind food/voucher scheme</p> <p>In kind food/voucher scheme (Delhi)</p> <p>School feeding (admin/delivery adaptation)</p>	<p>Rs1000 to all beneficiaries under the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) for elderly, widows and disabled receiving social pensions (35M beneficiaries)</p> <p>Rs500 per month to all female Jan Dhan Accounts for 3 months</p> <p>Topping up PM-KSN by Rs2000 for 87M farmers for 3 months</p> <p>The state of Uttar Pradesh will provide compensation to poor workers via online payments if they lost their job due to the pandemic. Vegetable vendors, construction workers, rickshaw pullers, autorickshaw drivers, and temporary staff at shops will be targeted by this measure<sup>64</sup>.</p> <p>Scaling up PDS allocations for all AAY priority households for three months (1kg pulses per household, 5kg wheat or rice per individual)</p> <p>Providing free cylinders for three months to poor UJWALA beneficiaries (83M households).</p> <p>Delhi is providing two in-kind measures</p> <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> <p>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</p>
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<sup>64</sup> <https://news.trust.org/item/20200318171315-hrvio/>

		Social pension (Delhi)	delivered. The materials are being packed and distributed by the teachers themselves. <sup>65</sup>
		Public works	Rs 4000- 5000 pension will be paid to 850,000 beneficiaries by April 7, 2020.  Increasing NREGS wage rates from Rs180 INR to Rs202
	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.
<b>Indonesia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Low-income households will receive 200,000 rupiahs (US\$13.97) per month in financial benefits, an increase from 150,000 rupiahs (US\$10), for the next six months <sup>66</sup> .
		In-kind food/voucher schemes	The government provided extra funding for the national food subsidy program to support 15M low-income households. The expansion of e-food vouchers includes a 33% increase in benefits for six months. Such additional funding was for 4.6 trillion rupiahs (US\$324 million).
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<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>67</sup> .

<sup>65</sup> <https://www.thenewsminute.com/article/covid-19-anganwadis-shut-kerala-govt-home-delivers-mid-day-meal-supplies-kids-120151>

<sup>66</sup> <https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-unveils-stimulus-package-to-combat-coronavirus-impact/>

<sup>67</sup> <https://mobile.reuters.com/article/amp/idUSKBN21410M>

	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.
	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>68</sup>
	Labor markets		
<b>Israel</b>	Social assistance		
	Social insurance	Paid 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>69</sup> .
	Labor market		
<b>Italy</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	Workers with income less than Euro 40,000/year are entitled to a nontaxable, on-off benefit of €100 for March 2020.
		Childcare benefits	The “Cura Italia” (Cure Italy) stimulus – a package of Euro 25B – includes Euro 13.5B to support families and workers. It offers funds to private-sector workers to pay for babysitters via a childcare voucher of up to Euro 600 for workers with children below the age of 12 who decide not to take parental leave. The voucher can reach up to Euro 1,000 for workers in the health sector.

<sup>68</sup> <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/eca524-covid-19-information-for-employees/>

<sup>69</sup> <https://en.davar1.co.il/213123/>

		Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	The above decree suspends all conditionalities related to the Guaranteed Minimum Income program, or Reddito di Cittadinanza (RdC), for two months. The measure was introduced to minimize the 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, respectively). To minimize the movement of beneficiaries, the Ministry is also planning to relax the rules of the use of the RdC card to allow for online purchases. <sup>70 71</sup>
	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. Workers would have their absence from quarantine work considered as sick leave, with the costs paid by the state. <sup>72</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>73</sup>
		Cash transfers (new)	A direct transfer will be made to workers who lost their jobs (details to be announced). <sup>74</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

<sup>70</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/16/italy-supports-coronavirus-hit-economy-pm-hails-italian-model.html>

<sup>71</sup> <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-03-10/conte-calls-on-ecb-to-do-whatever-it-takes-against-coronavirus>

<sup>72</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>73</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>74</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

			<p>transfer scheme. This applies to the period that they will be out of school over the next two weeks. Specifically:</p> <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 distribute food packages at specific drop off points in each community.<sup>75</sup></li> </ul>
	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>76</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>77</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>78</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>79</sup>
	Labor markets		

<sup>75</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>76</sup> <http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure>

<sup>77</sup> <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-stimulus/japan-vows-bold-step-to-beat-virus-fallout-signals-big-spending-package-idUSKBN2100GP>

<sup>78</sup> <https://mainichi.jp/english/articles/20200318/p2g/00m/0na/020000c>

<sup>79</sup> <https://en.an-japan.com/2020/02/27/emp-subsidy/>

<b>Jordan</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	<p>The Jordanian National Aid Fund (NAF) announced the following measures:</p> <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> <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>80</sup>.</li> </ul>
		Cash transfers (new)	<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>81</sup>.</p>
		In-kind food/voucher schemes	<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>82</sup> NAF beneficiaries will receive the bread for free with the support from municipalities.<sup>83</sup></p>

<sup>80</sup> <https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=131465&lang=ar&name=news&fbclid=IwAR336Vpt349-96-tplk4NhsqXnVuoPI728Q- mNiYIK --B-MJ-i5aa1s#.XnlqcoftuZ9.facebook>

<sup>81</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>82</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/%E2%80%9825000-tonnes-bread-produced-tuesday-demand-likely-drop-starting-wednesday%E2%80%99>

<sup>83</sup> <http://alrai.com/article/10529901>

			<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>84</sup>.</p>
	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>85</sup>.</p>
		Paid sick leave	<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>86</sup>.</p>
	Labor markets		

<sup>84</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/govt-working-ensure-smooth-flow-bread-delivery-%E2%80%94masri>

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

<sup>86</sup> <https://www.jordantimes.com/news/local/labour-ministry-announces-2-week-official-paid-leave-public-sector-employees>



<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>87</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<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>88</sup> . Also, a 100% tax relief for persons earning less than Ksh.24,000 is planned <sup>89</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<b>Kosovo</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Early payment of 2 months-worth social assistance benefits (with 1-month payment as cash bonus). Also, early payment of farming grants and subsidies (for 1,702 farmers) is planned.
		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>90</sup>
	Social insurance	Pensions	Early payment of pensions (Euro 35M monthly) <sup>91</sup>
	labor markets		

<sup>87</sup> <https://twitter.com/TokayevKZ/status/1242100677838606337>

<sup>88</sup> <https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/16/kenya-turns-to-its-mobile-money-dominance-to-stem-the-spread-of-covid-19/>

<sup>89</sup> <https://www.nation.co.ke/news/Coronavirus-in-Kenya-Uhuru-full-speech-/1056-5504094-80g9lqz/index.htm>

<sup>90</sup> <https://mf.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,2,839>

<sup>91</sup> <https://mf.rks-gov.net/page.aspx?id=2,2,836>

<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>Malaysia</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers	As part of the Bantuan Sara Hidup (BSH) program, the payment of RM200 expected in May 2020 will be anticipated to March 2020. Such payments amount to RM760M and will benefit 3.8M BSH households. <sup>92</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>93</sup>
		Cash transfers (new)	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\$96) for medical doctors and other medical personnel, as well as RM200 (US\$48) for immigration and related frontline staff until the end of the outbreak.
	Social insurance	Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	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.

<sup>92</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>93</sup> <https://translate.google.com/translate?hl=en&sl=ms&u=https://bsh.hasil.gov.my/&prev=search>

		Paid sick leave	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).
	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.
<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>94</sup> .
	Labor Markets		
<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>95</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>96</sup> .

<sup>94</sup> <https://plumaslibres.com.mx/2020/03/18/anuncia-amlo-que-adelantan-4-meses-de-pago-a-pension-de-adultos-mayores-por-coronavirus/>

<sup>95</sup> <https://www.vijesti.me/vijesti/ekonomija/drzava-predstavlja-mjere-podrske-paketi-za-gradane-privredu>

<sup>96</sup> <https://home.kpmg/me/en/home/insights/2020/03/montenegrin-government-adopted-economic-measures-due-to-covid-19-pandemic.html>

	Labor market		
<b>Morocco</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (new)	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. Details to be announced <sup>97</sup> .
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	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>98</sup> .
		Social security contribution Waiver/subsidy	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>99</sup>
	Labor Markets		
<b>Netherlands</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfer	The government announced a three-month provision for self-employed persons with financial problems. <sup>100</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>97</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>98</sup> <http://www.maroc.ma/en/news/coronavirus-series-measures-salaried-employees-and-companies>

<sup>99</sup> <https://www.medias24.com/covid-19-indemnite-de-2-000-dh-servies-par-la-cnss-voici-tous-les-details-8760.html>

<sup>100</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>101</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>101</sup> <https://www.idsupra.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>102 103</sup> .
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Social assistance		
	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.
	Labor markets		
<b>Norway</b>	Social assistance	Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Various measures envisaged, including household income tax payment <sup>104</sup> .
	Social insurance		
	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 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

<sup>102</sup> <https://treasury.govt.nz/news-and-events/news/covid-19-economic-package-announced>

<sup>103</sup> <https://workandincome.govt.nz/eligibility/emergencies/2020/coronavirus.html#null>

<sup>104</sup> <https://www.regjeringen.no/en/aktuelt/economic-measures-in-norway-in-response-to-covid-19/id2694274/>

			Rs20,000. An SMS campaign will be launched to inform about the program. <sup>105</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>106 107</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>108</sup>
	Social insurance		
	Labor markets		
<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

<sup>105</sup> <https://www.thenews.com.pk/latest/633893-sania-nishtar-says-ehsaas-emergency-cash-programme-to-benefit-67-million-people>

<sup>106</sup> <https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/acciones-preventivas-de-contagio-de-covid-19-en-espacios-laborales-seran-obligatorias/>

<sup>107</sup> <https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/ejecutivo-regula-temporalmente-las-modificaciones-a-la-jornada-de-trabajo-ante-pandemia-de-covid-19/>

<sup>108</sup> <https://www.prensa-latina.cu/index.php?o=rn&id=349597&SEO=anuncian-medidas-en-paraguay-por-crisis-economica-ante-el-coronavirus>

		Cash transfer (new)	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>109</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>110</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 18M people (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>111</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>112</sup>
		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>113</sup> . Affected workers, regardless of status (i.e. permanent, probationary, or contractual) employed in private establishments whose operations are affected
		Cash transfer (new)	

<sup>109</sup> <https://www.gob.pe/institucion/midis/noticias/108918-midis-ejecuta-estrategia-preventiva-para-usuarias-y-usuarios-de-programas-sociales-ante-el-coronavirus>

<sup>110</sup> <https://andina.pe/ingles/noticia-peru-government-approves-economic-bond-for-vulnerable-population-788501.aspx>

<sup>111</sup> Ibid.

<sup>112</sup> Section 4 of Republic Act 11469 – Bayanihan to Heal as One Act, 24 March 2020.

<sup>113</sup> <https://cebudailynews.inquirer.net/294684/dswd-to-continue-offering-urgent-medical-burial-assistance>



			due to the Covid-19 pandemic to 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>114</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 and health, payment of 100% of the highest prevailing minimum wage, and enrolled to group micro-insurance. <sup>115</sup>

<sup>114</sup> <https://www.owwa.gov.ph/index.php/news/central/83-owwa-cash-aid-to-ofws-affected-by-travel-ban-reached-p81m>

<sup>115</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.

		In-kind food/vouchers schemes	Provision of subsidized meals, transportation, and accommodation arrangements to its skeletal workforce responding to the current public health emergency. <sup>116 117 118</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	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>119</sup>
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	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>120</sup> .
		Health insurance support	As of 18 March 2020, PhilHealth released Php 30 billion (USD 590 million) additional funds to accredited hospitals as well implemented administrative measures i.e. extension of payment of contributions and the filing of claims: the state health insurer will also provide its members and service partners with additional relief in view of the recent declaration of a state of public health emergency in the country by extending the deadline of payment of contributions for its self-paying direct contributors. They can now pay their first quarter contributions on or before April 30, 2020 instead of March 31, 2020 without interest. Moreover, its policy on single period of confinement and 45-days coverage are also waived in favor of the member, while the filing period for claims is also extended from the usual 60 days to at least 120 days in favor of the health care provider <sup>121</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

<sup>116</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/4ps-beneficiaries-continue-to-receive-grants-rice-subsidy-during-quarantine-period/>

<sup>117</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-igus-to-provide-food-non-food-aid-to-families-during-quarantine-period/>

<sup>118</sup> <https://www.dswd.gov.ph/dswd-provides-food-accommodation-to-skeletal-staff-during-quarantine/>

<sup>119</sup> <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/03/25/second-headline/read-republic-act-11469-or-the-bayanihan-to-heal-as-one-act/706268/>

<sup>120</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/govt-economic-team-rolls-out-p27-1-b-package-vs-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>121</sup> [https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2020/fight\\_covid.php](https://www.philhealth.gov.ph/news/2020/fight_covid.php)

			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>122</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>123 124</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>125</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 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>126</sup>

<sup>122</sup> DOLE Department Order 209: Guidelines on the Adjustment Measures Program for Affected Workers Due to COVID-19, 17 March 2020.

<sup>123</sup> <https://www.officialgazette.gov.ph/2020/03/23/administrative-order-no-26-s-2020/>

<sup>124</sup> <https://www.pna.gov.ph/articles/1097491>

<sup>125</sup> <https://www.dof.gov.ph/govt-economic-team-rolls-out-p27-1-b-package-vs-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>126</sup> <https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/dodatkowy-zasilek-opiekunczy---pytania-i-odpowiedzi>

	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>127</sup> .
	Social insurance	Social security contributions (waiver/subsidy)	Establishment of special support to the self-employed workers whose activity is affected by the COVID-19 and deferral of payment of social contributions. In addition, exemptions from social security contributions are envisaged for lay-off or closure determined by the Health Authority, as well as for the first month after the resumption of activity.
		Paid sick leave	14-day prophylactic isolation status was made equivalent to illness, with a benefit correspondent to 100% of remuneration. The sickness benefits is not subject to the waiting period (3 to 10 days).
		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 2/3 of their wages, of which 30% supported by the employer and 70% by social security, up to a maximum of 6 months.

<sup>127</sup> <https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/comunicacao/noticia?i=governo-toma-medidas-extraordinarias-para-responder-a-epidemia-de-covid-19>

		Activation (training) measures	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.
<b>Romania</b>	Social assistance	Cash transfers (admin/delivery adaptation)	All social assistance benefits can now be claimed electronically (e-mail, online applications). School attendance conditions have been relaxed.
	Social insurance	Unemployment benefit	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). 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.
		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). <sup>128</sup>
Labor market			
<b>Russia</b>	Social assistance	In-kind food/vouchers schemes (admin/delivery adaptation)	Pensioners will be able to order food and medicine delivery by (hotline) phone and get it delivered to their homes. <sup>129</sup>
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave (admin/delivery adaptation)	Citizens who are quarantined after a trip abroad can apply for an electronic sick leave through the Unified Portal of Public Services. The government approved temporary rules for processing sick leave certificates, appointments and sick leave/temporary disability payments during the quarantine period. The new rules apply to persons who arrived in Russia from countries where

<sup>128</sup> <https://legislatiamuncii.manager.ro/a/26294/legea-nr-19-2020-zile-libere-pentru-parinti-pe-perioada-cat-sunt-inchise-scolile-si-gradinitele-stare-de-urgenta.html>

<sup>129</sup> <https://rg.ru/2020/03/20/reg-pfo/v-kazani-poiavilas-sluzhba-dostavki-produktov-dlia-odinokih-pensionerov.html>

			<p>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>130</sup></li> <li>• The resolution applies from March 20 to July 1, 2020.<sup>131</sup></li> </ul>
	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>132</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.</p>
	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>133</sup>

<sup>130</sup> <http://www.oecd.org/social/Covid-19-Employment-and-Social-Policy-Responses-by-Country.xlsx>

<sup>131</sup> <http://www.garant.ru/hotlaw/federal/1332594/>

<sup>132</sup> <https://www.moh.gov.sa/en/Ministry/MediaCenter/News/Pages/News-2020-03-14-001.aspx>

<sup>133</sup> <https://www.hrdf.org.sa/News/4408>

<b>Singapore</b>	Social assistance	One-off universal	The government introduced a cash transfer payout of S\$100-300, depending on income, for all residents aged 21 and above.
		In-kind food/vouchers schemes	S\$100 for passion card top-up for all seniors, and S\$100 supermarket vouchers for lower-income. <sup>134</sup>
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Utility rebates are doubled.
	Social insurance		
	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.
<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.

<sup>134</sup> <https://www.gov.sg/article/cushioning-the-impact-of-covid-19>

		<p>Paid sick leave</p> <p>Pension</p> <p>Unemployment benefit</p>	<p>Sick pay for all workers during the pandemic from the first day onwards will be covered by the Health Insurance Institute of Slovenia, not the employer Pension.</p> <p>Pensioners with the lowest pensions will receive a solidarity bonus due to the impact of the coronavirus.</p> <p>The employment status of workers who are unable to work due to force majeure, caring for children and their inability to come to work and other epidemic-related reasons will be equal to that of temporarily laid-off workers. Workers who have lost their job during the epidemic will automatically be entitled to unemployment benefits.</p>
	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>135</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>136</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>137</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>

<sup>135</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>136</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/sassa-pays-april-2020-grants-earlier-amid-covid19>

<sup>137</sup> <https://www.sanews.gov.za/south-africa/uif-cf-safety-net-intervention-details>



			<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> <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>138</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>139</sup> Specifically, parent employees get W50,000/day. <sup>140</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.
	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>138</sup> <https://www.labourwise.co.za/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Easy-aid-guide-for-employers-DOLMarch2020-COVID19.pdf>

<sup>139</sup> <http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4852>

<sup>140</sup> [http://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20200302\\_policyFocus/popup.html](http://english.moef.go.kr/popup/20200302_policyFocus/popup.html)

		Health insurance support	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.
	Labor markets	Wage subsidies	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.
		Wage subsidies	W84billion to subsidize employers' cost for paid leaves offered to those infected.
		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	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>141</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).

<sup>141</sup> <https://elpais.com/economia/2020-03-11/escriva-anuncia-una-prestacion-extraordinaria-para-los-padres-que-tengan-que-cuidar-a-sus-hijos.html>

		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>142 143</sup>
		Support for homeless populations	Measures for homeless persons provided through social services include hygiene kit, food, and drinks, information about prevention measures. <sup>144</sup>
	Social insurance	Paid sick leave	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.
		Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	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>145 146</sup>
	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>147</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

<sup>142</sup>

<sup>143</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

<sup>144</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

<sup>145</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/11/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3434.pdf> ,

<sup>146</sup> <https://www.boe.es/boe/dias/2020/03/13/pdfs/BOE-A-2020-3580.pdf>

<sup>147</sup> <https://www.sknvibes.com/news/newsdetails.cfm/112069>

		Social security contribution (waiver/subsidy)	<p>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>148 149</sup></p> <p>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.</p>
	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>150</sup>
<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>151</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 3M workers not covered by the Social Security Fund.

<sup>148</sup> <https://www.thelocal.se/20200311/sweden-changes-sick-pay-rules-to-help-fight-coronavirus>

<sup>149</sup> <https://www.krisinformation.se/en/news/2020/march/abolished-qualifying-day-of-sickness-due-to-corona-virus>

<sup>150</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>151</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>152</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>153</sup>
<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.

<sup>152</sup> <https://www.straitstimes.com/asia/se-asia/thailand-unveils-us127-billion-stimulus-package-to-ease-coronavirus-impact>

<sup>153</sup> <https://thethaiger.com/coronavirus/400-billion-baht-stimulus-announced-to-boost-thai-economy>

		Cash transfers (new)	Cash transfer of TT\$510/month (US\$75) for 3 months to households with family member that was laid off or whose income reduced.
		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>154</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>155</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
		Cash transfers (new)	One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households fostering children without parental support
		Cash transfers (new)	

<sup>154</sup> <https://www.opm.gov.tt/media-conference-on-covid-19-monday-23rd-march-2020/>

<sup>155</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)

			One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting a person with handicap. <sup>156</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	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.
		Utility and financial obligations support (waiver/postponement)	Individuals over 65 years old or those with chronic conditions are exempt from tax payments until the end of the COVID-19 outbreak.
	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).

<sup>156</sup> <https://www.tap.info.tn/fr/Portail-Soci%C3%A9t%C3%A9/12474291-une-aide-sp%C3%A9cifique>

		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.
UK	Social assistance	Cash transfers	Britain 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>157</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>158</sup> <sup>159</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>160</sup> . This is in addition to the change that SSP will be payable from day one instead of day 4 for affected individuals.

<sup>157</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>

<sup>158</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/sunak-unveils-support-for-workers-self-employed>

<sup>159</sup> <https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/11/key-points-from-budget-2020-at-a-glance>

<sup>160</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/sick-pay-from-day-one-for-those-affected-by-coronavirus>



		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>161</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>162</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.
		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.

<sup>161</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/support-for-those-affected-by-covid-19>

<sup>162</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/03/sunak-unveils-support-for-workers-self-employed>

	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>163 164 165</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>166 167</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>168</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 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

<sup>163</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>164</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>165</sup> <https://www.kyivpost.com/ukraine-politics/timeline-of-ukraines-response-to-coronavirus-outbreak.html>

<sup>166</sup> <https://www.bps.gub.uy/16867/subsidio-especial-por-desempleo-parcial.html>

<sup>167</sup> <https://www.bps.gub.uy/bps/file/16867/3/resolucion-del-mtss-143--18-3-2020.pdf>

<sup>168</sup> <https://www.vox.com/future-perfect/2020/3/23/21190955/stimulus-checks-from-government-approved>

			distributed in two \$400 installments by mail. Funding will come from Seattle's sugary beverage tax revenues. <sup>169</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>170</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.	
<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.

<sup>169</sup> <https://www.cnn.com/2020/03/17/us/seattle-vouchers-coronavirus-trnd/index.html>

<sup>170</sup> <https://www.washingtonpost.com/business/2020/03/16/paid-sick-leave-coronavirus-house-bill/>

		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)	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		