



SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES AND THEIR FAMILIES IN RESPONSE TO THE COVID-19 CRISIS

AN UPDATED OVERVIEW OF TRENDS – JUNE 2021

ACKNOWLEDGMENT AND DISCLAIMER

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It is an update of the [initial overview published in May 2020](#) (UNPRPD, 2020).

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The overview is based on a database which draws on information on two main databases on social protection responses to COVID-19, namely, an [online data dashboard on social protection responses to COVID-19 developed by the International Labour Organization](#) (ILO, 2021) and [a living paper by Gentilini et al](#) (2021)

Additional information has been sourced in forthcoming case studies realised for the ILO in the frame of the same program.

If despite best effort of authors, readers identify inaccuracies, they can send relevant information to Veronika Wodsak at wodsak@ilo.org.

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SUMMARY

This document provides an overview of social protection measures announced in response to COVID-19 that have made specific reference to persons with disabilities. Rather than seeking to provide an exhaustive survey of measures, it identifies the main characteristics and trends for social protection responses that specifically sought to support persons with disabilities during the crisis. This brief focuses on specific crisis response measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledging that persons with disabilities also benefited from access to health care and income support provided through pre-existing social protection schemes and programmes. The document provides an update to an initial analysis in May 2020 (UNPRPD, 2020). This note will be followed by a more comprehensive analytical paper seeking to assess the social protection response for people with disabilities in greater detail.

As of May 2021, out of 222 countries that had announced social protection measures in response to COVID-19, 44 per cent (98 countries) had specifically referred to persons with disabilities. This consisted of 153 relief measures. This represents an increase of 63 per cent in the number of countries having announced measures compared to May 2020 (60 countries) (UNPRPD, 2020).

Key findings include:



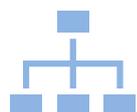
Cash benefits were the most common form of social protection response, channelled through both non-contributory tax-financed schemes and contributory social insurance. Among these, temporary top-ups to benefit payments (vertical expansion) and administrative adjustments were the most common measures. A handful of countries increased coverage of persons with disabilities (horizontal expansion).



In-kind transfers (such as distribution of food, hygiene items, medicine and other basic items) and provision of **services** (such as helplines and care and support services) were also relatively common.



Paid leave for parents and carers of persons with disabilities unable to access school or other care and support services was also a notable response, mainly in high-income countries.



17 countries implemented a **combination of social protection measures** for persons with disabilities. In a small number of countries, the social protection response relating to persons with disabilities **evolved** throughout the crisis.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 crisis has increased pressure on persons with disabilities who already faced greater levels of poverty and social exclusion before the crisis. Underlying health conditions have made many persons with disabilities more vulnerable to the virus, while lockdowns and social distancing measures taken to contain the virus have created significant disruptions to support systems that many rely on. Persons with disabilities in the labour force have tended to be particularly vulnerable to economic shocks such as COVID-19, while they have been less likely to be protected by contributory social insurance schemes (Mitra and Kruse, 2016; Satriana, 2020).

Many countries across the globe put in place social protection measures in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.¹ These measures have varied significantly, including in terms of the channels used for support, the population groups that have been targeted as well as the scope and level of benefits provided.

This paper provides an overview of the social protection measures taken to support persons with disabilities and their families. This overview draws on a database of social protection measures specifically relating to disability, which is provided as an Annex to this paper. The database draws on information on two main databases on social protection responses to COVID-19, namely, [a living paper by Gentilini et al \(2021\)](#), and [the Social Protection Monitor developed by the International Labour Organization \(ILO, 2021\)](#). This brief focuses on specific crisis response measures adopted during the COVID-19 pandemic, acknowledging that persons with disabilities also benefited from access to health care and income support provided through pre-existing social protection schemes and programmes.

INEQUALITIES AND LIMITED SOCIAL PROTECTION SUPPORT PRE-COVID 19 CRISIS

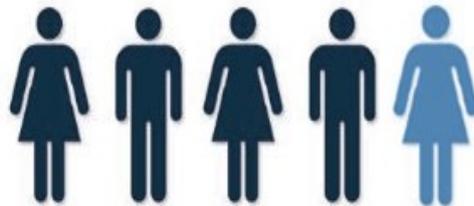
Persons with disabilities already faced significant additional vulnerabilities before the crisis. Estimated to comprise 15 per cent of the world's population, they are more likely to be poor, face catastrophic health expenditures and have lower levels of education and economic participation than the population as a whole (WHO, 2011). Persons with disabilities often face significant disability-related costs and, in many cases, their family members have to reduce or stop paid work to provide the required support, compensating the lack of publicly funded care and support services. Disability is also highly gendered, with women experiencing greater levels of disability on average, and being more likely to take on caregiving roles. This increases their economic insecurity and vulnerability to both life cycle and systemic covariate shocks. Social protection is therefore critical for persons with disabilities in order to reduce their vulnerability, to support their economic empowerment, inclusion, participation and sustainable escape from poverty.

¹ See Gentilini et al., 2020; ILO, 2021; ILO, 2020 for a detailed overview of social protection responses.

In high-income countries, social protection systems offer near-universal coverage of persons with disabilities thanks to a combination of contributory and tax financed schemes (ILO, 2017). On average, public spending for disability-specific social protection schemes and programmes amounted to 2.1 per cent of GDP in EU countries in 2012 (Grammenos, 2016). These expenditures and schemes play a vital role to compensating some of the impact of persistent structural barriers and discriminations. For instance, in 2018, 68 per cent of the EU population with an activity limitation would have been at risk of poverty without social protection support (Eurostat, 2020). Despite the important role of these systems, issues remain in terms of coverage and adequacy of benefits, and an over-reliance on institutional care.

By contrast, the coverage in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) is low with a global average of 19 per cent of persons with severe disabilities receiving disability benefits, but only 1 per cent in low income countries (Durán-Valverde et al., 2019). While most LMICs have contributory disability schemes in place, many of those only cover a minority of the labour force, namely those employed in the formal economy. Less than half of LMICs have a tax-financed disability-specific scheme and very few invest more than 0.3 per cent of GDP (ILO, 2017; Kidd et al., 2019). Tax-financed schemes are often narrowly targeted at poor individuals or households, with low coverage and limited adequacy of support.

While many countries have been developing or reforming their social protection schemes/programmes to provide better support to persons with disabilities and their families, the majority remain unprotected and unsupported. As with other areas of social protection an important issue has been the presence of a “missing middle”, consisting of those not covered by contributory schemes, but not assessed as poor enough to be eligible for poverty-targeted support. This situation did not provide a strong foundation for the response to COVID-19.



**Globally in low and middle countries, only
1 in 5 persons with significant disability
have access to disability benefits**

COVID-19 SOCIAL PROTECTION RESPONSES

This overview refers to countries that have announced measures that specifically refer to or target persons with disabilities and their families. These were identified by analyzing the two main databases on social protection responses to COVID-19, namely, a living paper by Gentilini et al (2021), and the Social Protection Monitor developed by the International Labour Organization (ILO, 2021) and are listed in the Annex to this paper. As of May 2020, out of the 222 countries and territories that had announced social protection measures, 98 countries (44 per cent) had specifically referred to persons with disabilities. This consists of 153 relief measures. This is equal to 5 per cent of the total 3,333 measures surveyed by Gentilini et al (2021) as of May 2021, and 9 per cent of the 1662 measures surveyed by the ILO (2021) as of January 2021. This represents an increase of 63 per cent in the number of countries having announced measures compared to May 2020 (60 countries) (UNPRPD, 2020).

The key criteria for the inclusion of a measure was that it referred to persons with disabilities, or related to programmes which specifically target persons with disabilities. The database thus does not include measures that may benefit persons with disabilities but do not refer to them. This could include for example transfers that target low-income households, which may include persons with disabilities. A conscious decision was also taken not to include old age pension programmes, unless they made specific reference to disability. This is despite the fact that old age pensions disproportionately benefit older persons with disabilities, considering the significantly higher disability prevalence in old age (Kidd et al., 2019).

Another caveat is that the analysis is based on announced measures, often only publicly available via news articles. Best effort is made to correctly interpret the nature of the measures announced in this context although, in some cases where doubt remains, they have not been classified according to the specific nature of the measure. Finally, measures newly introduced in response to the crisis often complement pre-existing social protection schemes and programmes, both contributory and non-contributory that operate as automatic responses during the crisis. In many high income countries, for instance, persons with disabilities may have benefited from a diversity of pre-existing unemployment benefits, sickness benefits, social health protection and social assistance schemes.

Social protection measures for persons with disabilities have fallen into four broad categories, with the numbers of measures falling into each presented in Figure 1:



Cash benefits, primarily channelled via non-contributory tax-financed schemes, but in some cases via contributory social insurance schemes. They relate to a range of benefits including disability allowances (for adults and children), mainstream schemes (such as old-age pensions, sickness benefits, job retention schemes, supplementary unemployment benefits or poverty-targeted social assistance programmes) and **paid family leave** for those providing care and support to persons with disabilities. While paid leave ensures income security, this is separated in Figure 1 as it can be seen to provide a distinct function to other cash benefits. Cash benefits constitute close to half of social protection measures in the database (73), while there were 19 measures relating to paid leave.



In-kind support, commonly relating to the distribution of food, hygiene items (including personal protective equipment), medicine and other basic items (36 measures).



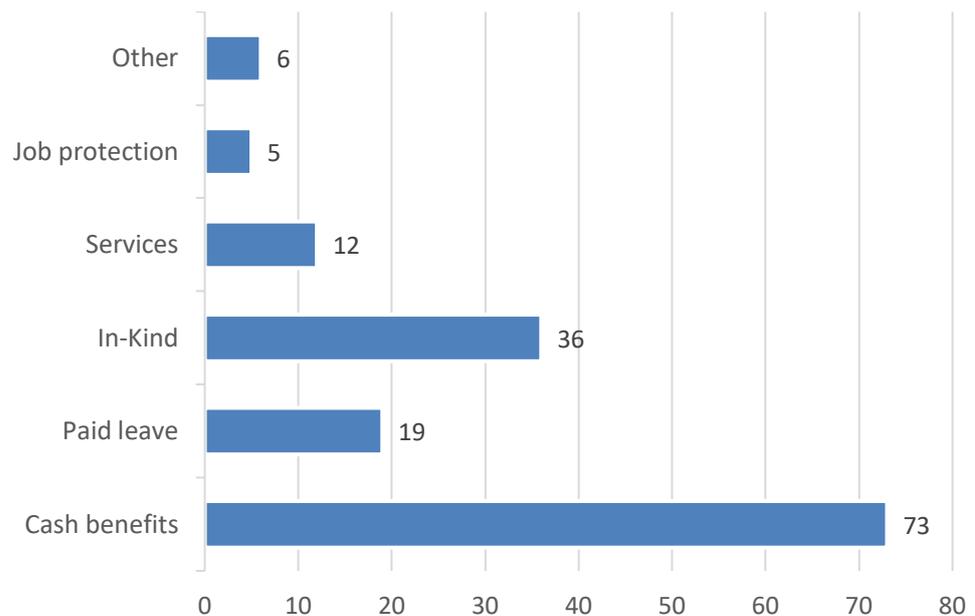
Services, particularly in terms of helplines and care and support services (12 measures).



Job protection measures aimed at supporting businesses to retain employees with disabilities in employment (5 measures).

Most disability-related interventions are non-contributory and financed by taxes or general government revenues, sometimes complemented with additional support from international assistance; only around 10 per cent of measures were linked to previous participation in a contributory scheme.²

Figure 1: Social protection measures to COVID-19 supporting persons with disabilities, by type



Notes: "Other" includes waivers (e.g. for social security, tuition fees), adjustment to sick leave, and measures that were not possible to classify.

While most measures were announced at national level, some countries have seen important measures initiated at sub-national level. It is likely that existing global databases only partially reflect these sub-national initiatives, however, the case of India (Box 1) provides one of the better documented examples.

² Refer Annexure 1

BOX 1: STATE-LEVEL RESPONSES IN INDIA

In the early stage of the pandemic, the Union Government of India announced a one-off top up to all the beneficiaries of the National Social Assistance Program (NSAP) equivalent to INR 1,000 (US\$ 13), an amount expected to cover a period of 3 months. The NSAP is one of the flagship social protection programmes initiated and implemented by the Union Government, which includes persons with disabilities through the means-tested Indira Gandhi National Disability Pension (IGNDP) programme. This pension provides support to persons with disabilities with over 80% of assessed impairment levels and those belonging to families living below the poverty line (BPL) official threshold.

In India, social protection policies and legislations can be the responsibility of both the Union and State Governments. As per the Constitution ensuring social welfare, including welfare of persons with disabilities is considered primarily to be State responsibility.

Many State Governments have since then initiated additional measures such as helplines, waivers from front line duty and in-kind measures supplying provisions and/or hot cooked food in some States. Some States like Delhi, Kerala, Himachal Pradesh, Tamil Nadu announced advanced payment of their state Level pension by 2 months, in addition to the Union-level transfer. Tamil Nadu also announced a one-off cash transfer with horizontal expansion of coverage among other measures (See Box 4 below).

CASH TRANSFERS

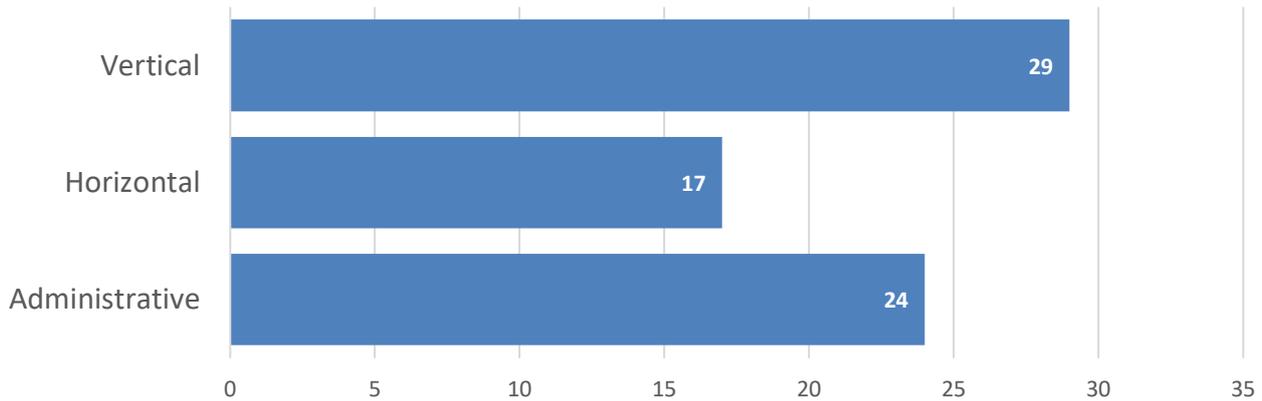
COVID-19 response measures involving cash transfers relate to a variety of different programmes. The most common has been the adjustment of existing disability benefits paid to adults and/or children. In a smaller number of cases, measures have involved adjustment to household-targeted social assistance schemes which include specific eligibility criteria for persons with disabilities, or the initiation of ad hoc schemes making specific provision for persons with disabilities.

These cash transfer measures have involved one of three forms of adjustment: vertical expansion, horizontal expansion and administrative adjustments. *Vertical expansion* involves the top up of existing benefits for a defined period of time. *Horizontal expansion* involves paying benefits to new beneficiaries, either by extending coverage of existing schemes/programmes, or putting in place new, short-term programmes. Various countries also put in place *administrative measures* such as advancing the payment of existing benefits, or relaxing administrative procedures, such as renewal of disability ID cards or certificates.

The most common adjustment made was the vertical expansion of benefits through temporary increases in benefit levels. As illustrated in Figure 2, 29 cash transfer measures involved an increase in benefits. The duration of such measures has varied across countries but mostly they were paid for a limited period during the initial phase of the pandemic. In 14 out of the 29 countries

the response was only for a month or via a one-off payment during the initial phases of the crisis.³ In seven countries, the top-up of the benefits were paid for three months, and just four countries have announced cash transfer measures for a period of six months or more. For example, in South Africa, a top up of ZAR 250 (US\$ 17) per month was provided for recipients of the Disability Grant for a period of six months, for recipients of the Disability Grant.⁴ Another notable example of vertical expansion was Mongolia, where social pensions for persons with disabilities not covered by social insurance were increased by MNT 100,000 (US\$ 35) for eight months (May to December).⁵

Figure 2: Cash transfer measures by type of adjustment



A smaller number of countries have horizontally expanded the coverage of cash transfers during the crisis (17 measures). In Sri Lanka, the means-tested disability allowance was extended to 35,000 persons with disabilities who were on the waiting list for the scheme prior to the pandemic. Rwanda expanded the coverage of the means-tested unconditional cash transfer to additional families including persons with disabilities and those experiencing critical illness, as well as older persons.

In Brazil, early in the crisis it was announced that the income criteria for receiving the means-tested Benefício de Prestação Continuada (BPC) disability benefit would be increased to a family income per capita of up to half a minimum wage (instead of a quarter of a minimum wage before the crisis). However, at the time of writing it appears that this had not been implemented.⁶ Box 2 describes the case of Kenya which expanded its household-targeted disability allowance both vertically and horizontally.

³ In 10 countries the frequency of transfer could not be observed primarily due to the nature of announcements, which include subsidized students’ salary in Canada, daily allowance for giver in France temporary social program was created in Guatemala.

⁴ Government of South Africa (2020c).

⁵ <https://www.unicef.org/mongolia/stories/building-shock-responsive-social-protection-systems>

⁶ Case study report, Brazil, Development Pathways (2021)

BOX 2: VERTICAL AND HORIZONTAL EXPANSION OF DISABILITY CASH BENEFITS IN KENYA⁷

Before the COVID-19 crisis, Kenya already had a small means-tested disability allowance in the form of the Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities (PwSD-CT). The scheme targeted households living in poverty with a member with a severe disability, selected through a combination of community-based selection and a form of proxy means test. By 2020, 51,890 households were receiving the cash transfer of Ksh 2,000 per month (US\$ 18).

Vertical expansion: Early in the crisis, the Kenyan government announced a one-off top up of Ksh 8,000 (USD 74) to existing recipients of cash transfers, including the PwSD-CT. The first payments were made in April 2020.

Horizontal expansion: Based on a national listing exercise by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities during June 2020, the Government of Kenya announced a short-term ad-hoc cash transfer of Ksh 2000/month (USD 18) for 33,000 persons with disabilities for a period of 3 months from June to August 2020. Through this measure, poor and vulnerable persons with disabilities not receiving any other benefit were targeted, prioritizing families with multiple members with disabilities and chronic illnesses. The disbursement of the benefit was conducted via mobile transfers. It is unclear whether recipients have continued to receive the benefit following the end of the 3 month period.

Source: Kenya case study developed under the ILO component of the UNPRPD Joint COVID 19 Response Programme

Administrative adjustments to cash transfers have predominantly related to making assessment processes more flexible, and advancing payments. An important rationale for these adjustments has been to protect recipients of social protection benefits from infection. Such measures are particularly relevant for persons with disabilities given their greater risk of serious disease resulting from the virus.

A total of 24 measures making administrative adjustments to cash transfers were identified, including:

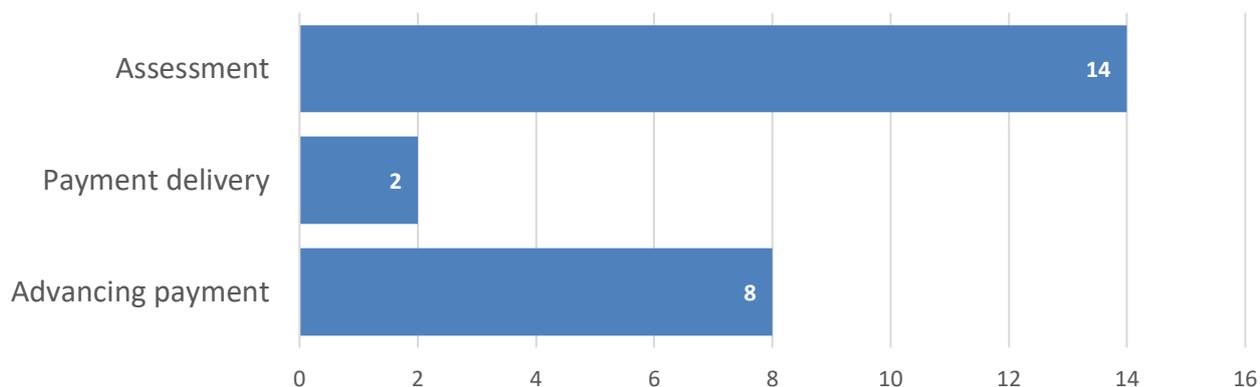
- a. **ELIGIBILITY ASSESSMENT (14 measures)**, including extending the validity of disability ID cards or delaying assessment processes. This is particularly relevant for persons with disabilities who may have been scheduled a review of their disability status during the crisis. For example, Greece allowed for automatic renewal for disability certificate for a period of 3 months, while Saudi Arabia suspended the mandatory medical visits for renewal until the end of the crisis. In Brazil, the decision was made to authorise prepayment of disability benefit (BPC) while applicants were trying to get the required disability assessment and certificate. If, ultimately, the applicant was not considered eligible, it would not be necessary to return the cash already received to the treasury, unless proven fraud or bad faith.

⁷ Ministry of Labour and Social Protection: National Council for Persons with Disabilities, “Messaging on COVID-19 Cash Transfer for Persons with Disabilities”.

- b. **PAYMENT DELIVERY (2 measures)**, including online transfer or home delivery as well as extending entitlements due to expire. Armenia adopted both delivery of benefit at the homes of persons with disabilities as well as an extension of entitlements that were soon to expire.
- c. **ADVANCING PAYMENTS (8 measures)**: Some countries have advanced the payment of their existing cash transfer programmes during the initial phase of the pandemic. In Bahamas, the allowance for children with disabilities is paid every two months. Assistance for the month of April 2020 was advanced to be paid in March as a measure to prepare for the impact of the pandemic. Mexico advanced 4 month's allowance⁸, while Peru advanced its usually bi-monthly pension payment for persons with severe disabilities.

Box 3 provides examples of administrative measures put in place for disability benefits in Brazil.

Figure 3: Administrative adjustments to cash transfers



BOX 3: ADMINISTRATIVE ADAPTATIONS TO DISABILITY BENEFITS IN BRAZIL

Brazil adopted the following administrative procedures for persons with disabilities accessing BPC

- 1 Possibility to anticipate the amount of BRL600 (USD 113) for people who apply for the BPC, so persons with disabilities did not need to wait until the disability assessment to receive part of their payments (Law 13.982/2020) (Vilela, 2020).
- 2 The Government postponed, for 180 days, the schedule for blocking payments and suspending the BPC for beneficiaries who did not enrol in the CadÚnico (Vilela, 2020).
- 3 Exempting the applicants from making personal visits for submission of their application form by allowing electronic signature.
- 4 Providing options to schedule both the medical and social assessments (usually done in 2 different assessments) together until September 2020.
- 5 Allowing beneficiaries to request to receive their funds in a current account instead of the limited simplified INSS bank account (with magnetic card).

Source: Brazil case study developed under the project ILO-UNPRPD Covid 19 response

⁸ The payment for the allowance is made every two months. The May-June and September-October periods were paid in March-April and July-August periods, respectively.

PAID CARE/FAMILY LEAVE

The role of paid leave deserves specific mention. 19 countries established or extended paid leave for parents or those providing care services for persons with disabilities. This usually came in the context of schools and care services being closed during lockdowns. Among the countries that allow for paid leave for parents, Cyprus allowed for 4 weeks of special leave, Italy a month and San Marino allowed 150 hours of paid parental leave until December 2020. In general, the provision of paid leave was more common in high-income countries, and was often channelled via contributory social insurance schemes.

JOB PROTECTION

While job protection schemes have been prominent in the broader social protection response to COVID-19, only in a few cases did these initiatives specifically reference persons with disabilities. Saudi Arabia announced incentives to SME's employing persons with disabilities in small cities and towns, while Fiji announced an increase to tax deductions for businesses employing Fijians living with disabilities. While these are not disability-specific, workers with disabilities also benefited from the partial unemployment benefits introduced in some countries.

IN-KIND MEASURES AND SERVICES

There have been 36 measures⁹ announced providing in-kind support such as provision of hot cooked food, hygiene kits or vouchers and supply of dry rations. Jordan announced the supply of smart phones for Deaf people to receive communications, while in Azerbaijan students with disabilities are exempted from paying tuition fees and in Saudi Arabia persons with disabilities were exempted from paying overdue rents for a period of 3 months.

Meanwhile, 12 countries have put in place measures providing specific services for persons with disabilities. These have included:

- The establishment of helplines to fill in the gaps in information and communication related to COVID-19, for example, in Costa Rica, Jordan and in some states of India. In addition to maintaining a helpline, the state of Tamil Nadu in India also ensured provision of medical services in the homes of persons with disabilities and sign language interpretation.
- Transportation services for medical appointments in Canada and flexible taxi services in South Africa.
- Online rehabilitation services and guidance for families of persons with disabilities were announced in Morocco and the State of Tamil Nadu, India.
- Spain provided care services and distance care for old people and persons with disabilities

ADOPTION OF MULTIPLE MEASURES AND

⁹ Note, measures include multiple measures announced in a single country. For example, various States in India put in place in-kind assistance.

EVOLUTION OF MEASURES

A notable feature of the social protection response in some countries was the combination of measures adopted. 17 countries announced multiple measures that had specific reference to persons with disabilities. These countries are listed in Table 1, highlighting various cases where a combination of cash transfers, services and in-kind assistance were provided.

Table 1: Mapping of countries that adopted a combination of measures targeted to PwD in the context of the COVID-19 crisis

NAME OF THE STATE	CASH TRANSFER	SERVICES	IN-KIND ASSISTANCE	JOB PROTECTION
Albania	X		X	
Algeria	X			X
Armenia	X		X	
Bulgaria	X		X	
Canada	X	X		
Egypt	X	X		
India	X	X	X	
Jordan	X	X	X	
Kuwait	X	X	X	
Kyrgyz Republic	X		X	
Morocco	X	X	X	
Saudi Arabia	X	X	X	X
Sierra Leone	X		X	
South Africa	X	X		
Syrian Arab Republic	X		X	X
Ukraine	X		X	
Uzbekistan	X		X	

In some countries there was also an evolution of measures as the pandemic progressed. For example:

- Saudi Arabia initially announced in-kind measures, such as the supply of food baskets followed by utility waivers exempting persons with disabilities from the payment of housing development benefits (overdue rents). The government then announced a 10 per cent incentive to small and medium enterprises employing persons with disabilities in small cities and towns as well as an administrative reform suspending medical visits for renewal of disability certificate until the end of the crisis.
- Australia announced a one-off payment of AUD 750 (US\$ 572) for the recipients of disability allowance (among other benefits) during the initial phase of the pandemic. This was followed by an announcement of AUD 500 (US\$ 382) per month for a period of 5 months. Recently, the Government announced two payments of AUD 250 (US\$ 191) during December 2020 and March 2021.
- Uzbekistan initiated its response with in-kind support such as food and hygiene kits and subsequently announced a 10 per cent increase in the base amount of the allowances for persons with disabilities from childhood effective from 1st September 2020 apart from simplifying the system of issuing temporary disability certificates.

The State of Tamil Nadu in India began its response with measures relating to service delivery (such as helplines), advance payment of the existing allowances and in-kind measures. Later a one-off cash transfer was announced, with horizontal expansion covering all persons with disabilities in the State (see BOX 4).

BOX 4: THE EVOLVING SOCIAL PROTECTION RESPONSE IN TAMIL NADU, INDIA

The social protection response of the Government of Tamil Nadu for persons with disabilities began in March 2020 with the announcement of the provision of in-kind measures and a one-off universal cash transfer for the holders of a public distribution card within the State through the public provisioning system. In addition, the Department of Disability Affairs initiated an accessible helpline to specifically support persons with disabilities with information related to the pandemic, supply of essential medical supplies, food and provisions, and services such as emergency transport. Subsequently, the Government expanded the helpline service to provide information related to rehabilitation to family members to support rehabilitation of persons with disabilities, primarily children with disabilities.

In April 2020, along with the one-off top up of disability allowances announced at the Union level, the State announced an advance payment of the existing monthly maintenance allowance program for persons with high support requirements due to be paid in May and June 2020. In June 2020, a universal one-off cash transfer was announced for all persons with disabilities having a disability ID card in the State.

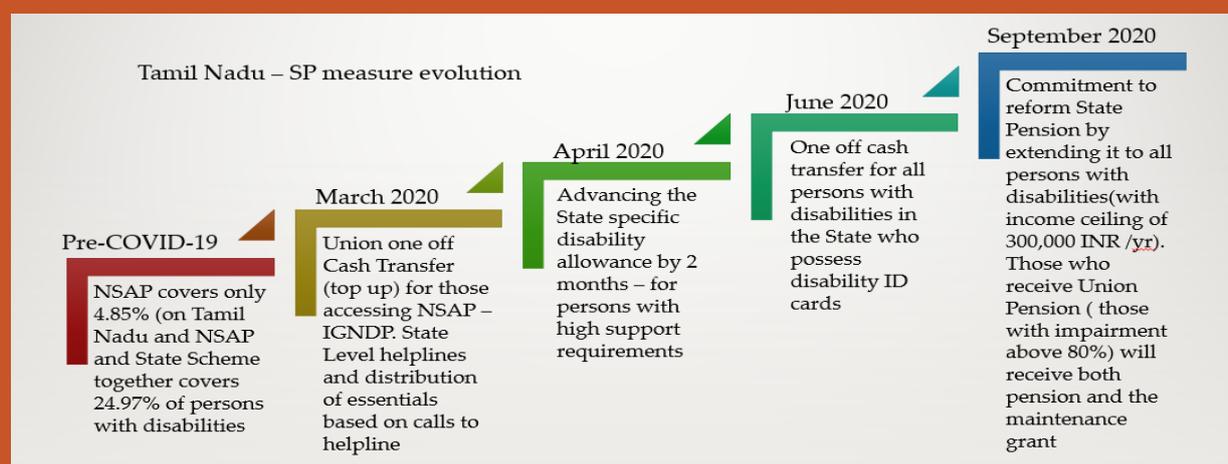
BOX 5 - THE EVOLVING SOCIAL PROTECTION RESPONSE (CONT.)

Recognizing the ongoing nature of the pandemic and based on the intervention from the civil society, the State has issued a circular in September 2020 (yet to become an order). Key features of this circular include:

- Operationalizing the pre-COVID-19 state disability pension, which was reformed in 2018 but this reform was not implemented. In 2018 the Government removed the criteria to target only those assessed above 60% impairments and converted the poverty targeted approach to an affluence test excluding incomes of INR300,000 (\$4000)¹⁰ or above
- Covering all persons with disabilities irrespective of the nature of impairment (up to 2020, persons with psychosocial disability, deaf people and other persons with disabilities mentioned in the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act 2016¹¹ were not included)

The Government further announced that persons with high support requirements could avail both the State pension and the maintenance allowance removing the restriction to access only one cash transfer¹².

Figure 4 - Key stages of the Tamil Nadu social protection response for persons with disabilities



Source: Refer Annex 1 below

¹⁰ Government of Tamil Nadu, Social Welfare and Nutritious Meal Program Department G.O (MS)No.41 dated 28.05.2018 clarifying “unemployed” for the announcement made by Chief Minister under Rule No.110. This G.O expanded the beneficiaries by reducing the extent of impairment to 40% from 60% criteria. The G.O clarified that all unemployed persons with disability over 40% impairment levels can access the pension with an exemption of those in Government service, private service with an income above INR300,000 and self-employed with turnover of more than INR 300,000. This has evolved from the G.O.No 26, that removed incapacity to work criteria and allowed state disability pension to persons with disabilities who are destitute and with assessed impairment above 60% (http://www.landreforms.tn.gov.in/GOs/swnmp_GO_Ms_No_26_2015.pdf)

Rule 110(<http://www.assembly.tn.gov.in/documents/TNLA%20Rules-English.pdf>) – According to the Tamil Nadu Assembly Rules, the Chief Minister can make statements matters concerning public importance with the consent of the speaker and get it passed without any further debate. The announcements under Rule 110 mostly do not have financial clarity at the time of making the announcement since budget is a pre-planned exercise prepared by the concerned departments(<https://www.dtnext.in/News/TamilNadu/2020/02/22022731/1216450/Post-budget-push-CM-follows-Jayas-way-with-Rule-110-.vpf>).

¹¹ <http://legislative.gov.in/actsofparliamentfromtheyear/rights-persons-disabilities-act-2016>

¹² <https://youtu.be/zVsD2cMb4-I>

CONCLUSION

This brief summary highlights that disability-specific measures have been an important part of the wider social protection response to COVID-19. These have included a range of in kind and cash-based measures, but cash benefits have been most prominent in the range of measures announced. This has most often entailed the vertical expansion of benefits via temporary top ups of existing benefits. Horizontal expansion of coverage to new recipients has been less common, pointing to the challenges of disability assessment in general and even more so in times of crisis. Considering the low coverage of disability specific support in most LMICs prior the COVID 19 crisis, this implies that many countries have not been in position to provide additional support to persons with disabilities and their families. This demonstrates the importance of universal disability allowances or at least national disability registries.

A number of important questions remain about the nature of the social protection response to COVID-19 and its implications for persons with disabilities. The extent to which announced measures were implemented and in what specific form still remains unclear, and we know even less about the specific impact on persons with disabilities. Another important question relates to the role of existing social protection schemes – that were not specifically modified – in providing a cushion to persons with disabilities and their families. These questions require further in-depth research which is already underway in some contexts. A forthcoming synthesis paper developed under this project will also explore emerging lessons from the COVID-19 for disability-inclusive social protection, drawing on a set of country case studies.

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ANNEX

A

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Table 2: Database of social protection measures for persons with disabilities and their families in response to COVID 19 crisis (as of May 2021)

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Albania	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Government is providing monthly payments (pensions, disability payments, etc.) at home.	
Albania	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Council of Ministers decision No. 236 date 19.3.2020 on providing home assistance to persons in need during COVID - 19 epidemic, to ensure home delivery to persons in need (elderly, disabilities, recipients of economic assistance) of food medical products and others.	
Algeria	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	Waiver of a need for a medical revision check-up for disability pensions and pensions for accidents at work. The need for a medical revision check-up for this benefit has been waived, in order to allow beneficiaries to respect lockdown measures.	
Algeria	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Extension of conditions for paid leave for parents of children with disabilities.	
Algeria	National	Contributory	Waiver	Suspending the obligation of contribution of the national social protection funds for employees with disabilities.	
Antigua and Barbuda	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Ministry of Social Transformation is providing relief packages of food and medication to elderly living alone, persons with disabilities, and unemployed adults with children.	
Argentina	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Paid leave for adults over 60 years, pregnant women and people with health conditions that present a risk (until quarantine declaration in March 2020 when the leave was extended to all the workers who are not in the excepted sectors: health, production distribution and sale of food and hygiene items and pharmacy among others)	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Argentina	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>- Top up of \$3,000 for beneficiaries of contributory or non-contributory pensions receiving the minimum pension (or just above). Included the following programs: Pension Universal para el Adulto Mayor (PUAM), pensions for the elderly, pensions for disabled people, pensions for mothers of seven or more children, and ex gratia pensions.</p> <p>- Benefits of the Universal Child Allowance (AUH) doubled for March 2020. This is for minors and others including children with disabilities (more for children with disabilities).</p>	
Armenia	National	Non-contributory	In kind	One and three food and hygiene packages for elderly people living alone and persons with disabilities respectively (1400 citizens). The Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs is planning for the provision of food and other protective measures for those who are 50+ years old and persons with disabilities for 2 months.	
Armenia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Payment providers deliver payment at home and all soon to expired entitlements are extended.	
Australia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>- An extra payment (one-time payment of AUD 750 / person) is provided as part of COVID response. One of the eligibility criteria is that the person is already receiving another benefit out of a specific list (including the basic government pension and allowances and the disability benefit).</p> <p>'- Aged, carer, family and disability welfare recipients will receive \$500 in cash payments in the next five months, in a move the Federal Government hopes will stimulate the Australian economy. Two \$250 payments — to be paid in December 2020 and March 2021 — are disbursed as Australia contends with its first recession in almost three decades. The recipients will be people who receive the age pension, disability support pension, carer payment, family tax benefit, family tax benefit lump sum, double orphan pension, carer allowance, Commonwealth seniors health card, pensioner concession card and veteran card.</p>	
Austria	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	For every child who is eligible for family allowance in September 2020, there is a child bonus of 360 euros. Payment is made automatically and without an application. This also applies to people who receive increased family allowances, for example people with disabilities.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Azerbaijan	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Extension of the term of disability of persons with disabilities (including children) that expired on 1 March 2020 until the 1st day of the month following the end of the quarantine regime. This measure covered 14,000 people, and AZN 2.6 million were allocated for this purpose.	
Azerbaijan	National	Not clear	Waiver	Payment of tuition fees to the following categories: - recipients of targeted State social assistance, - people where both the parents (if there is a single parent, the same person) or legal representative belong to any of the following categories: persons with I and II degree disabilities, those registered as unemployed, labour pensioners by age or recipients of age related social benefits.	
Bahamas	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Persons with disabilities under the age of 16 who normally receive their services every two months, had their April 2020 assistance advanced to them in the month of March 2020 to facilitate whatever preparations they needed to make. Similar arrangements were also made for persons receiving foster care subsistence.	
Bahamas	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Emergency Food Assistance vouchers of BSD 50 (USD 50) provided to walk-ins at Department of Social Services Centers pending thorough assessment for longer term assistance via the Temporary Food Assistance Program. This emergency assistance was extended to persons with disabilities who are not existing recipients of the department.	
Bahrain	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Social security benefits for 17,000 families, to be distributed in mid-April 2020, were doubled, as were disability pensions for 12,000 individuals. A Budget of BD 5.5 million was allocated for this purpose.	
Barbados	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Government has distributed 4000 care packages comprising of 14 days' supply of basic food and sanitary items to vulnerable groups such as elderly, persons with disabilities and impoverished persons in the community identified by social service agencies including the National Assistance Board, the National Disabilities Unit, Barbados Council for the disabled, the welfare department, salvation army, Prison fellowship.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Belarus	National	Non-contributory	In kind	On April 6, 2020, the Ministry of Labour and Social Protection informed that the social services are ready to provide support to elderly people and people with disabilities and to deliver foods and medicines. This support is provided by social workers and volunteers through the territorial centres of social protection of population. Belarus has 146 such centres, located in every district of the country. The number of people living alone and people with disabilities is about 830,000, including almost 160,000 persons who have no close relatives.	
Belgium	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Complete interruption. This allows individuals to interrupt their benefits in order to stop working. From July 1, 2020, the complete interruption is only possible for the single parent and for the parent of a disabled child. Other workers cannot take corona parental leave in the form of a complete interruption. Note: Corona parental leave does not provide for the possibility of obtaining a 1/10 interruption. If individuals want a 1/10 break, they can request ordinary parental leave according to the usual rules. Who can take corona parental leave? • Parents of at least one child under 12 or under 21 if that child has a disability; • The adoptive parents of a child under 12 or under 21 if this child has a disability, who is entered in the population register or in the foreigners register as a member of their household; • Foster parents of a child under 12 or under 21 if that child has a disability that has been placed with their family by the court or by a community approved placement service; • Parents who take care of a child suffering from a disability without age limit, if he or she benefits from a service or treatment in a hospital setting or outside a hospital setting, organized or recognized by the Communities. In this case, corona parental leave can therefore also concern adults. Corona parental leave can be obtained from May 1st, 2020. From July 1st, 2020: Corona parental leave is extended until September 30, 2020.	
Belgium	National	Contributory	Paid leave	From October 1, 2020 until June 30, 2021 inclusive, the worker has the right to take time off work to look after a child who cannot go to nursery, school or reception center for disabled people in due to a measure to limit the spread of the coronavirus. Can receive temporary unemployment benefit. Legal basis: the law of 23 October 2020.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Belgium	National	Non-contributory	Paid leave	A temporary parental allowance for the self-employed who do not benefit (or no longer) from other crisis measures, and whose activity reduced due to the care for their child(ren) in the exceptional circumstances following the COVID-19 crisis. A monthly allowance of 532.24 euros (875 euros for single-parent families) for the months of May and/or June 2020 for parents of a child under 12 or disabled.	
Bolivia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>- The Canasta Familiar provided a one-time payment of BOB 400 to beneficiaries of Bono Juana Azurduy, Renta Solidaria (non-contributory disability benefit) and Renta Dignidad (universal pension, excluding those with other pension income). People with visual disabilities receiving an indigence pension were also entitled to the benefit. By design, it mostly reaches the elderly (86.2 percent of the population 65 years or older).</p> <p>- The government created a new temporary cash transfer program called Bono Contra el Hambre (BCH) for all individuals eligible for the BU as well as pregnant women, mothers of children aged 2 years old or less and people with disabilities who are beneficiaries of existing social assistance programs. Benefits were paid between January and March 2021. The government used a payment platform that has the ability to connect almost all the banking sector. Most of beneficiaries received cash via bank tellers. A limited number received a transfer to their existing bank accounts.</p>	
Bolivia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Bono Familiar (paid to parents of children and adolescents enrolled in public schools) was extended to students with disabilities in the public education	
Bosnia and Herzegovina	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Both entities, RS and FBH, one-off payments introduced for Permanent Social Assistance beneficiaries, recipients of disability allowance and those in need of permanent home care ranging. The one -off payment is around 110 US\$.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Brazil	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	The 13th salary paid under the contributory social insurance scheme (Regime Geral de Previdência Social/RGPS) was anticipated. This relates to benefits including sickness benefit, the old age pensions, and partial capacity to work disability benefit.	
Brazil	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Anticipation of part of Benefício de Prestação Continuada (BPC) for people with disabilities (non-contributory disability benefit) and sickness benefits. Impact of R\$5 billion (US\$ 1 billion).	
British Virgin Island	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Assistance with food supplies delivered to 800 families' homes during the 24th curfew period jointly organised by the social development department, BVI Red Cross and the family support network. It prioritises the needs of the most vulnerable, including elderly, persons with chronic illnesses and with children first, then unemployed and those with reduced incomes.	
Bulgaria	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	The disability certificates that are due for renewal will be renewed automatically during the period of emergency and 2 months after that, thereby allowing access to the disability pension.	
Bulgaria	National	Contributory	Paid leave	During the state of emergency employers were obliged to allow the use of paid annual leave or unpaid leave at the request of pregnant women, mother or adoptive mother of children under the age of 12 or disabled child, employee under 18 years old, disabled employees, employees with health issues at risk of getting COVID-19 or mentally ill.	
Bulgaria	National	Non-contributory	In kind	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.	
Bulgaria	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Expanding the coverage and scope of in-kind support for the elderly, people with disabilities, and people living under the poverty line. The support includes individual food packages and hot meals.	
Burkina Faso	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	One-off Cash transfer to 9023 disabilities for income generating activities, 344,444.44 USD (186 millions CFA), 370.37 USD (200 000 FCA) per beneficiary.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Canada	National	Non-contributory	In kind	<p>The government invested \$350 million to support vulnerable Canadians through charities and non-profit organizations that deliver essential services to those in need. The investment flows through national organizations that have the ability to get funds quickly to local organizations that serve vulnerable populations. It will support a variety of activities, such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Increasing volunteer-based home deliveries of groceries and medications - Providing transportation services, like accompanying or driving seniors or persons with disabilities to appointments - Scaling up help lines that provide information and support - Helping vulnerable Canadians access government benefits - Providing training, supplies, and other required supports to volunteers so they can continue to make their invaluable contributions to the COVID-19 response - Replacing in-person, one-on-one contact and social gatherings with virtual contact through phone calls, texts, teleconferences, or the Internet. 	
Canada	National	Non-contributory	Waiver	<p>Changes to Canada Student Grants and Loans have been introduced so students facing financial challenges from COVID-19 can access and afford post-secondary education. Pending government approvals, the new measures will come into effect on August 1, 2020 and be available to students for 1 year. -Doubling of Canada Student Grant amounts: In response to increased need for the coming 2020 to 2021 school year, the maximum amount of Canada Student Grants will be doubled. The Canada Student Grant for Full-Time Students will increase up to a maximum of \$6,000 and the grant for part-time studies to \$3,600. The Canada Student Grants for Students with Permanent Disabilities and Students with Dependents will also be doubled.</p>	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Chile	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	El IFE utiliza el Registro Social de Hogares e incluye también a algunos beneficiarios de los siguientes programas: Subsidio Familiar (niños y madres), Subsistema Seguridades y Oportunidades, Subsidio de Discapacidad Mental, o Tener 70 años o más y ser beneficiario de la Pensión Básica Solidaria de Vejez. Generalmente, para ser incluidas en el registro social las familias pueden realizar el trámite directamente en la municipalidad correspondiente al domicilio del hogar o por internet mediante la ClaveÚnica.	
Chile	National	Not clear	Job protection	Hiring benefit: Subsidy was delivered as a percentage of the worker's gross monthly remuneration for up to 8 or 10 months, depending on the size of the firm and the type of subsidy benefit. The subsidy was equal to 65% of the gross monthly remuneration for women over 18 years of age, people with disabilities, men from 18 years to 23 years with income less than \$450,000, and \$290,000 for same group of beneficiaries with income between \$ 450,000 and \$ 979,500. The subsidy was equal to 50% of the gross monthly remuneration for men aged 24 years old or more with a gross monthly remuneration less than \$ 500,000, and \$250,000 for the same group of beneficiaries with an income between \$500,000 and \$979,000	
China	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government mandated all allowances to be paid on time fully. This includes allowances to severely disabled persons and nursing allowance. In areas where the epidemic situation is serious, subsidies will be increased appropriately. Also, there is a mention of request for care services by persons with disabilities.	
Columbia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Victims Unit (that was established in 2011 to provide the country's IDPs and other victims of conflict with assistance and reparation) will advance the humanitarian aid that was going to be paid in May and June and will pay it in April. The objective of this measure is to economically favor those who may be affected within the framework of compulsory preventive isolation. The Victims Unit will also advance the payment of administrative indemnities, which are paid once, to prioritized victims, such as people over 70, disabled, orphaned disease patients, among others.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Cook Islands	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	A one off payment is paid on top of the current welfare payment next fortnight in the amount \$400.00 per beneficiary. This one-off support is to assist the most vulnerable as they are not only at health risk from the COVID19 but also likely to be exposed to its economic impact. The cash is only available to those who are currently on the welfare list of infirm, destitute and pensioners.	
Costa Rica	National	Both	Cash benefit	The Costa Rican Social Security Fund informed the advancement of the deposit of pensions for both the Non-Contributory Regime and the Disability, Old Age and Death Insurance (IVM) with the purpose of guaranteeing payment and allowing financial entities to dispose of the resources in advance so that they can organize their service platforms and avoid crowds in their offices. The deposit was implemented in advance on March 27th 2020.	
Costa Rica	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Emergency benefit (one-off 125k colones – USD 223K) for 33,000 poor families in the social registry (SINIRUBE) who do not receive any social transfers. This program is aimed at poor households with female household head, elderly people, disabled, and children. As of October 2020, there were 35,143 beneficiaries (individuals), which concerned a budget of CRC\$7,617 million.	
Costa Rica	National	Not clear	In kind	Identification of persons with disabilities as vulnerable groups, provision of accessible information, services, complaint redressal, 900 most vulnerable will be given hygiene package.	
Croatia	National	Not clear	Job protection	A minimum wage will be provided for persons with disabilities for retention in employment. Employers can pay the financial compensation due to the quota for the employment of persons with disabilities later. Grant of HRK 4,000 per month per worker for the preservation of jobs in sheltered workshops, integrative workshops and employment units for people with disabilities during July to December 2020.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Cyprus	National	Not clear	Paid leave	A special leave will be granted up to 4 weeks to a parent with a salary of up to € 2,500 (for the first € 1,000 of the special leave amounts to 60% of the salary and for the subsequent € 1,000 of the salary the special leave will be paid in an amount equal to 40%). The leave will be granted to one of the two parents. This permit applies to the parents of people with disabilities (regardless of age), provided that no care allowance is granted for such persons.	
Czechia	National	Contributory	Paid leave	According to a new law that came into effect on 26 March 2020, the care/nursing allowance (also called attendance allowance) is prolonged for the whole period of school closure as a result of anti-epidemic measures for workers with children aged 0-13 (compared to up to 10 years old before) or persons taking care of persons with disabilities (regardless of age) if the facility designed for their care has closed. The attendance allowance is provided from sickness insurance by the Czech Social Security Administration and thus not considered as a family benefit. It might or might not be paid at the same level as a sickness benefit.	
Egypt	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Ministry of Social Solidarity added 160,000 new households to the Takaful and Karama Program (TKP) bringing the total number of people under to TKP to 3.11 million households (approx. 11 million individuals) The TKP budget will also increase in the new fiscal year from EGP 18.5 billion o EGP 19.3 billion and coverage will reach a total of 3.5m households Takaful: conditional cash transfer; Karama: unconditional cash transfers; Eligibility: i. Takaful: children under 18 from poor households ii. Karama: poor elderly people (65 years and older), people with severe/permanent disabilities, and orphaned children; Targeted group: i. Takaful: poor households with children aged 0–18 ii. Karama: poor elderly people, people with disabilities, and orphaned children; Targeting mechanisms: Proxy Means Test; Geographical Targeting; Self-Targeting.	
Egypt	National	Non-contributory	Services	Support for centre of isolation dedicated to persons with disabilities.	
Egypt	National	Not clear	Paid leave	For mothers of persons with disabilities (according to information at least in the public administration).	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Fiji	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Government announced in 2020 the provision of top-ups for recipients of the Poverty Benefit Scheme, the Child and Protection allowance and the Disability Allowance Scheme. Beneficiaries registered in the Disability Allowance Scheme will receive two (2) payments: one (1) in August worth FJD 50 (US\$23), and one (1) in September worth FJD 50 in addition to the existing monthly cash entitlement of FJD 90 (US\$42). Households registered in the Poverty Benefit Scheme and the Care and Protection Allowance will receive two (2) payments: one (1) in August worth FJD 100 (US\$71), and one (1) in September worth FJD 100, in addition to the existing monthly food voucher and cash entitlement. Starting from 5th August, beneficiaries will be able to withdraw cash from their bank accounts or redeem the vouchers at their nearest post offices.	
Fiji	National	Not clear	Job protection	Tax Deductions for businesses employing Fijians living with disabilities for three consecutive years will increase from 300 to 400 per cent.	
France	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Guarantee payment of benefits by the Family Allowance Funds if the quarterly declaration of resources is not possible. RSA, APL, allowance for disabled adults, education allowance for disabled children, etc.	
France	Not Clear	Not clear	Paid leave	Self-employed parents who need to stay home to take care of a children under the age of 16 or children with disabilities under the age of 18 in a specialized establishment are entitled to a daily compensation from the 1st day off. Exceptional 150 euros help to beneficiaries of certain social programs and disabled.	
Georgia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	One off cash transfer in six months, 600 GEL in assistance will be given to - persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities. About 40000 citizens will benefit and 25 million GEL will be spent in assistance. Persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities will receive a direct transfer of 100 GEL for up to 6 months. About 40,000 citizens will benefit and 25 million GEL (about \$7.85m/€7.28m) will be spent on this assistance.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Greece	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Three-month extension of disability benefits and disability pensions of people who would be assessed by the end of March[49]	
Guatemala	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Bono Familia is a temporary social program created to help Guatemalan families in need who are being affected by the economic crisis generated by Covid-19. Guatemalans who receive this benefit must meet certain economic and social conditions established by state authorities. The Government will prioritize people in poverty, single mothers or single-parent homes, people over 65, people with disabilities or chronic and degenerative diseases. They will also take into account families with malnourished children.	
Guyana	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Civil Defence Commission extending food relief to a formalized COVID-19 Pandemic Assistance Voucher Programme at an estimated value of between GYD 25,000 and 32,000 (USD 120 – 153) per voucher per month. The initiative focuses on homes where one or more individuals have experienced a loss in earnings as a result of the COVID pandemic, single-parent homes, elderly persons and persons living with disabilities.	
Hong Kong	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	An extra 1-month allowance is planned for CSSA payment, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance, or Disability Allowance. Provide an extra half-month allowance of standard CSSA payment, Old Age Allowance, Old Age Living Allowance or Disability Allowance	
Iceland	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government introduced a one-time payment of ISK 50,000 to recipients of disability and rehabilitation pensions who were eligible for pensions during the year. This was implemented before December 18th 2020, in addition to the typical December supplement that is paid during the month. Additionally, permanent changes were introduced at the beginning of 2021 to the disability pension system	
India	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Pension (NSAP) - Ex gratia of INR1000 paid in 3 months.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Kerala: The announcement stated INR 8500 pension have been paid. (But the actual Pension in Kerala is INR 1100 / month) No mention of this being one off.	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Tamil Nadu: Maintenance allowance to existing beneficiaries ("persons with mental retardation, severely disabled people, those affected by muscular dystrophy and leprosy affected persons") bank transfer advancing 2 months payment.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Delhi: Direct bank transfer. Advance payment of 2 months pension (the pension is usually Rs.1500/month, however, there is a mention of Rs.5000).	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Himachal Pradesh: The first quarter pension will be paid in advance within a fortnight from the date of announcement. This is a direct bank transfer.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	In kind	Kerala: Hot cooked food delivered to every household. Community kitchens are set up. This is inclusive of persons with disabilities who find a specific mention.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	In kind	Tamil Nadu: Supply of provisions and milk. This is done based on the requests through helplines delivered by Volunteers. This is a specific service to persons with disabilities.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	In kind	Delhi: Provisions distributed through the Public Distribution system with ration cards. This announcement is inclusive of persons with disabilities with a specific reference.	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	In kind	Uttar Pradesh: Rations will be distributed through the public distribution system. This is inclusive of persons with disabilities and finds a specific mention	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	In kind	Himachal Pradesh: Provisions will be distributed through public distribution system with ration cards	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Services	Tamil Nadu: On request through helpline - set up by Government - rehab services are provided by guiding parents orally online or through network of therapists	
India	Sub National	Non-contributory	Services	Maharashtra: Helpline for to address mental health crisis	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Iran	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Procurement of hygiene kits for vulnerable children, including those without caregivers, children with disabilities and street children (Iranian and non-Iranian): Procurement is in progress and the requested quantities will be delivered to the Ministry of Cooperative, Labour and Social Welfare to distribute between SWO and NGOs. The hygiene kits will address the needs of 51,000 children living with disabilities in 906 Rehabilitation Centres and 10,000 children without caregivers in 650 Nurseries and Child Care Centres throughout the country, and also the large number of street children scattered in the capital, whose identify and numbers are not fully known	
Israel	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Government has automatically extended the eligibility period of benefits recipients temporarily: Recipients of long-term care benefits; Recipients of disability pension, disabled child benefit and attendance benefits; Recipients of a work disability pension; Recipients of hostile actions casualty benefit; unemployment benefits.	
Italy	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Extended parental leave benefit with children with disabilities up to 15 days / month	
Jamaica	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government created a separate window within the CARE programme to ensure persons with disabilities, who might face additional hurdles to accessing relief, are able to do so. This concerned a budget of \$40 million (USD 275,000). This is a one-off temporary grant for persons with disabilities aged 18-65 who have not already benefited from the CARE programme. Implementation started in July 2020.	
Jamaica	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Ministry of Labour and Social Security through its Central Foods Warehouse is delivering relief packages (food and other relief items) to persons in quarantine, elderly, parents of children with disabilities enrolled in the Early Stimulation Program	
Jordan	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Smartphones for sign language interpreters	

COUNTRY	NATIONAL	FINANCING	TYPE OF INTERVENTION	COMMENT	RETURN
Jordan	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Social Security Corporation has started providing in-kind support to 100,000 families. The programme may be extended to persons with chronic illness	
Jordan	National	Non-contributory	Services	Creation of hotline including video calls: Answering medical request , victims of violence's, in-kind support request	
Jordan	National	Non-contributory	Services	In home medical care and providing support persons to persons with disabilities leaving alone	
Kazakhstan	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Free grocery packages are planned for large families with children, persons with disability and other vulnerable families.	
Kenya	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>- Early in the crisis, the Kenyan government announced a one-off top up of Ksh 8,000 (USD 74) to existing recipients of the Cash Transfer for Persons with Severe Disabilities (PwSD-CT). The first payments were made in April 2020.</p> <p>- Based on a national listing exercise by the National Council for Persons with Disabilities during June 2020, the Government of Kenya announced a short-term ad-hoc cash transfer of Ksh 2000/month (USD 18) for 33,000 persons with disabilities for a period of 3 months from June to August 2020.</p>	
Kuwait	National	Non-contributory	In kind	General Authority for Disability Affairs—The 'Friends of PwD' team distributed 1,200 food baskets to persons with full disabilities.	
Kuwait	National	Non-contributory	Services	Support service at distance for families: trainings and advice to family through mobile apps.	
Kyrgyz Republic	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Low-income families with children do not need to report on their income and visit district social protection offices. Categorical cash transfer to persons with disabilities [children and adults] will be prolonged automatically if their term finishes in time of quarantine.	

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Kyrgyz Republic	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Provision of food kit/set to supplement low income families with children and children and adults with disabilities. In Bishkek city, Municipal Territorial Departments together with economic entities and shopping centres delivered food to 60 large, disabled and low-income families in the territory of the Municipal Territorial Administration.	
Lao PDR	National	Non-contributory	In kind	As part of the grant from the Government of Luxembourg, households with rice insufficiency received 60 kilograms of rice, the destitute households received 80 kg of rice plus an additional 400,000 Lao Kip (about 40 EUR), and households supporting members with disabilities were provided with 80 kg of rice. The support also included hygiene kits for the total village population, and an emergency fund that will be used for isolation and for hospitalization in case COVID cases are identified later.	
Latvia	National	Not clear	Paid leave	Paid sick leave for parents in case of care for quarantined children with disabilities below 18 years of age.	
Lebanon	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Lebanon's Parliament ratified an LBP1.2 trillion (USD300 million) aid package for low-income families and vital sectors including agriculture and industry. Half will go to the Emergency National Social Solidarity Programme, providing a monthly cash assistance of LBP400,000 (about USD100) to about 200,000 families for 7 months until December. People with disabilities, victims of landmines and explosions, parents of public-school children in need will be prioritised, as well as non-food voucher households in the NPTP (around 28,000 households).	
Lesotho	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Increase the cash benefit amount for existing beneficiaries, especially child grant support. Identify and add new vulnerable people – children, elderly (60-70yrs), people living with disabilities and informal sector operators. Public assistance is expanded for 3 months, to add vulnerable groups such as children, elderly disabled, and those working in the informal sector.	

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Liberia	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The NFAA further is mandated to introduce food stamp and free meal for various categories of people, such as the physically challenged persons, single and vulnerable parents including young children, pregnant women and lactating mothers, the aged, sick and mal-nourished children.	
Lithuania	National	Non-contributory	Paid leave	Sickness benefits are granted for persons who take care of children, elderly people, disabled individuals (who are not allowed to attend daycare centers, nurseries, schools, etc). This will be issued for up to 60 days, but no longer than the end of quarantine or emergency.	
Luxembourg	National	Not clear	Paid leave	<p>Article 1 of the Grand Ducal Regulation is supplemented by a leave (in addition to the existing one for progressive cancer and pathologies resulting in a two-week acute hospitalization) available in situations in which a parent can no longer go to work because he/she has to keep his/ her children under 13 years of age quarantined upon the order of the competent authorities. The provision also applies to situations resulting from the closure of the various school and care structures (as will be the case for the next few days).</p> <p>Leave for family reasons may be taken in the context of the COVID-19 health crisis by a parent of a child:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a child is deemed vulnerable if it is suffering from a respiratory or cardiac pathology or is immuno-depressed. <p>If necessary, parents may alternate taking leave for family reasons. In this case, each parent must send in a separate form.</p> <p>Parents of children with a disability who are between 13 and 18 years old (or up to the age of 25) may benefit from the leave for family reasons provided they receive the special supplementary allowance for disabled children from the CAE.</p> <p>This extraordinary leave for family reasons in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic is limited in time and will not affect the balance of ordinary leave for family reasons. It is treated separately from ordinary leave for family reasons.</p>	

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Malaysia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Disabled Workers Allowances has been extended to workers earnings up to RM1,500 (compared to the earlier salary ceiling of RM1,200). This is expected to benefit nearly 5,000 people with disability. The scheme is a regular cash transfer aiming to provide an incentive to encourage Person with Disabilities (PWD) to be employed, independent and be a productive members of society.	
Malaysia	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Government will allocate RM25 million (around US\$6 million) to be channelled to vulnerable groups including the elderly and children in shelters, the disabled, and the homeless. The Government will work with NGOs and social entrepreneurs to distribute food, medical care equipment and shelter.	
Malta	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Eligible individuals receive a direct payment of €166.15 per week if they work full-time or €103.85 if they work part time. €13.2 million have been paid out to 8,360 beneficiaries for benefits related to parents, those with medical conditions, disability and those who applied for the additional unemployment benefit. A total of €17.5 million will be handed out by the end of June.	
Malta	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Persons with disabilities who have to stay at home due to health concerns that may arise as a consequence of COVID-19 and cannot telework will be entitled to a benefit of €800 per month for a specified period (€500 per month for part-timers).	
Mauritania	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The allocation of 5 billion ouguiya to support 30 thousand dependent families by women, the elderly and people with disabilities, most of which are in Nouakchott, with a monthly financial aid for three months.	
Mauritius	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Thirty-five thousand food packs distributed to citizens who receive the Carers' Allowance, as well as residents of Homes and the disabled.	

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Mexico	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>- Advance payments for the two social pension programs (i.e. social pensions for the elderly and for people with disabilities) for the May-June and September-October 2020 periods in March-April and July-August 2020 periods, respectively (payment of two-bi-monthly benefits at once). This measure benefited more than 8M older adults and 800,000 people with disabilities, which represented an investment of MXN \$46.4 billion.</p> <p>- The Government has confirmed that it will advance payments of the social pension programs for the 2021 May-June period with the corresponding payment of the March-April period.</p>	
Micronesia	National	Non-contributory	Waiver	The financial assistance program to vulnerable groups such as the elderly, persons with disabilities, and survivors of gender-based violence is intended to provide temporary waivers of medical expenses not included under funding from the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, electricity subsidies to an estimated 2,000 low-income households with dependents who have disabilities.	
Mongolia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	This benefit is provided to seniors who are not eligible to old-age pension from the Social Insurance Fund, persons with disabilities, children who lost breadwinner, and single&senior parents with 4+ children. The benefit's pre-Covid level was MNT 188,000.0 per month. The benefit was increased to MNT 288,000 (about \$101) as part of government fiscal measures to respond to Covid-19 pandemic. The increased level of allowance was implemented for the period between 1 May through September 2020 as per the initial plan; it was then extended until Jan 1, 2021; and it was extended again until 1 July 2021.	
Morocco	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Financial support: disability as one of the criteria	

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Morocco	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Moroccan government institutions, with the support of UNFPA, have delivered “Salama kits” containing hygiene products and COVID-19 prevention assistance to different people that can be vulnerable [1]: pregnant women and those who assist with childbirth; people with disabilities [2], people in prisons [3], teachers and those involved with education at distance, and [4] female victims of violence.	
Morocco	National	Non-contributory	Services	Support service at distance for families: hotline for advising and guiding families of persons with down-syndromes.	
Myanmar	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The European Union - in conjunction with the Ministry of Health and Sports and HelpAge International - will help fund a 1.43 million project to support Myanmar's disabled workforce. The project will provide a one-off K30,000 payment to some 5,000 people with disabilities across the country, to help recipients and their families endure the economic impact of the pandemic.	
Myanmar	National	Not clear	Services	In order to promote mental health for people under stress due to Covid-19 quarantine isolation, the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement provides psychosocial consultation services. Contact numbers are listed by state and region and available from 9:30 to 16:30.	
Nepal	National	Non-contributory	In kind	A person claiming relief should declare that no member of his family is self-employed, not in formal employment and has no alternative means of earning an income. Local level government is responsible for adapting the criteria to their specific context. General criteria are: wage labourers working in informal sectors, like in construction work, agriculture, transport services, porters in tourism and other sector, garment industry, small trader, baby caretaker and deprived people with no caretakers (old age, disabled, pregnant, orphan, and people taking refuge in old age homes, monastery, church, temple, etc).	
Norway	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Single caregivers and parents of children with chronic diseases have an extended number of days of childcare allowance.	

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Paraguay	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Additional transfers of 50% for one month were given for beneficiaries of the Tekoporá social protection program. This program reached 164,309 families (600,000 individuals approximately) and involved a budget of PGY\$ 31,378 million. The Tekoporá program includes specific eligibility criteria for persons with disabilities.	
Peru	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	- Advanced the bi-monthly payments of Contigo disability benefit (non-contributory) - Increased the number of beneficiaries from 40,075 to 74,000	
Peru	National	Non-contributory	Sick leave	Relaxes requirement for the validation of Certificates of Temporary Disability for Work.	
Portugal	National	Contributory	Paid leave	Financial support to parents who have to stay at home to care for children or dependents under 12 years or, regardless of age, with a disability or chronic illness. Employees are entitled to two thirds of their basic remuneration, with the bottom limit of one national minimum wage and the top limit of three national minimum wages. This is paid by the employer but borne in equal parts by the employer and by the Social Security. Self-employed workers who, in the previous 12 months, had contributions for at least three consecutive months, are also entitled to this support	
Romania	National	Non-contributory	Paid leave	Workers caring for people with severe disabilities may also claim for paid days off.	
Russia	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	Remote issuance and registration of electronic disability certificate.	
Russia	National	Non-contributory	Paid leave	Cash transfers for the people who were taking temporary custody for an orphan, disabled or old person in April-June, 2020. The payments were made in the amount of RUB 12,130 (US\$158) per month (limited by the period of April-June 2020), per each person under the custody.	

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Rwanda	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Expansion in coverage of Direct support unconditional cash transfers to additional families with old age, disability and critical illness as part of COVID-19 response.	
Saint Lucia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Temporary increase in benefit amounts of the Child Disability Grant, Foster Care Grant, and assistance for persons living with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV).	
San Marino	National	Not clear	Unpaid leave	An "xtraordinary parental permit " is also established , which can be used by December 31, 2020 for a continuous or split period, even in single hours, not exceeding 150 working hours which can be used by parents, employees of the private or public sector, for their children up to 12 years of age in the period of suspension of educational services for children and educational activities in schools of all levels and for disabled or non-self-sufficient family members ". Parental leave does not provide for the payment of allowances but only for recognition of the figurative contribution, and binds the employer to the prohibition of dismissal, with right to job retention. The use of parental leave is granted cumulatively to both parents or to the sole parent, for a total of 150 working hours and is subject to provided that they have already taken advantage of 50% of the 2020 holidays, and that they have not benefit from income support instruments in the event of suspension from employment, illness, maternity, paid or unpaid expectation, or whether they are unemployed.	
Saudi Arabia	National	Non-contributory	In kind	The Ministry of Human Resources and Social Development launched the first initiatives of the community fund under the name "Our Food One", which aims to help all affected families of citizens and others in all regions and governorates of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, and alleviate this crisis by distributing food baskets to them, Where it was started to allocate 250 million riyals for the first stage, and more than 142,000 food baskets were distributed to families in need, both citizens and residents alike. Through this initiative, the community fund seeks to help the most vulnerable groups affected by the Coronavirus virus, from the poor, people with disabilities, widows, divorced women, prisoners' families, and the elderly, and ensuring the stability of their conditions, providing them with a decent life, and supporting and assisting them in overcoming this crisis.	

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Saudi Arabia	National	Non-contributory	Waiver	Social security beneficiaries who are orphans or people with disabilities, among others are exempted from paying housing development benefits (overdue rent) for a period of three months.	
Saudi Arabia	National	Not clear	Job protection	Establishments are entitled to 10% of additional incentives if they are SMEs or recruit Saudis from town and small cities and in case of recruiting women and persons with disabilities, as long as the maximum support does not support 50% of the monthly wage per employee or SR3000, whichever is lesser.	
Saudi Arabia	National	Not clear	Cash benefit	Suspend the medical visits related to the renewal of disability certificate until the end of Covid crisis.	
Sierra Leone	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Government plans to roll out the “COVID-19 Social Safety Net (SSN) Cash Transfers” to vertically and horizontally scale up the Ep Fet Po cash transfer program to provide double the monthly benefits amount from US\$ 15 (an estimated 15 percent of the average household consumption) to US\$ 30 for a period of nine months. This is the same strategy that the Government had employed in response to the Ebola Crisis. This response effort is expected to reach 70,000 extreme poor households and households with Persons with Disabilities.	
Sierra Leone	National	Non-contributory	In kind	On 4 April, the National Commission for Social Action (NaCSA) in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, distributed 25 kg bags of rice, 250,000 leones (\$25.77), Veronica buckets, and others items to people with disabilities in district headquarter towns. This support reached 1,891 individual and group beneficiaries. Outreach to people with disabilities is now continuing, and the Government expects to reach approximately 10,000 PWD (500 per district and 2,500 in the Western Area), for a cost of 4 billion leones.	

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South Africa	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	A top-up of ZAR 250 (US\$ 17) per month per recipient of the Disability Grant and Care Dependency Grant was provided for a period of six months (May to October 2020). The Old Age Grant and Child Support Grant were also topped up.	
South Africa	National	Non-contributory	Services	Flexible taxi hours for holder of disability card.	
South Korea	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government started handing out cash to citizens Monday in order to cushion the economic blow of the novel coronavirus pandemic. The government plans to provide 1 million won to households with four or more members, 800,000 won to three-person households, 600,000 won to two-person households and 400,000 won to single-person households. Some 2.8 million households that belong to vulnerable groups, such as beneficiaries of national basic livelihood security and disability pensions, started receiving funds first.	
South Sudan	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The South Sudan Safety Net Project will expand access to safety net and provide income security for low income south Sudanese, while strengthening delivery tools and local capacities. Nearly 430000 people will receive cash transfer in 10 countries across South Sudan, including Juba. Specifically, the project will provide cash transfers to the poorest and vulnerable people for working on public works projects. It will provide direct grants to those who are unable to work, including people with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant or breast-feeding women among others.	
Spain	Both Central And Local	Non-contributory	Services	For home care services and distance caregiving for dependents, both elderly, and people with disability; support and care services for homeless people; funds for minimum income schemes; caregiver assistance for families (especially, for single-parent families).	
Sri Lanka	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Payment of LKR 5000 for 84,071 people who are the recipients of the disability allowance and for 35,229 people who have been identified as people with disabilities and are in the waiting list.	

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St. Marten	National	Not clear	Services	Provision of psychosocial care has been expanded.	
St. Vincent and the Grenadines	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government implemented a different type of Interim Assistance Benefit for the elderly and disabled people. This involved transferring EC \$200 for the last part of 2020. According to a report published by the government, 600 received this benefit, involving approximately EC \$260,000.	
Suriname	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	<p>The government will increase allowances for child support, old age pension (AOV - social pension), people with disabilities, households who were receiving 37 SRD in aid, adding a monthly allowance for pensioners.</p> <p>This is part of an economic package launched by the Government to help companies and persons during the COVID-19 crisis. The COVID Emergency Fund, in particular, is focused on helping Surinamese families who have been financially struggling after the lockdown and dealing with the slowdown of the economy.</p> <p>Financial Assistance People with Disabilities (FB MMB): Extra SRD 675 (US\$ 90)</p>	

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Switzerland	National	Non-contributory	Paid leave	<p>Allowances for loss of earnings for employees: Parents who have to interrupt their professional activity to take care of their children (up to 12 years old) can claim compensation. For parents of children with disabilities, the limit is set at 20 years.</p> <p>The same applies in the event of interruption of professional activity due to quarantine ordered by a doctor. As for the self-employed, the allowances will be paid on the basis of the allowance for loss of earnings scheme (allowances for loss of earnings in the event of service and maternity) and paid in the form of daily allowances.</p> <p>Self-employed persons who suffer loss of earnings due to school closings or quarantine ordered by a doctor are also eligible.</p> <p>The allowances are settled on the basis of the allowance for loss of earnings scheme and paid in the form of daily allowances. These correspond to 80% of the salary and are capped at 196 francs per day. The number of daily allowances for the self-employed in quarantine or who assume supervisory tasks is limited to 10 and 30 days respectively.</p>	
Syria	National	Non-contributory	In kind	<p>The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour announced cash (as well as in-kind) support for elderly, people with disabilities, daily workers and self-employed people, as part of a national campaign. The focus will be on those with lower income professions, including the tourism sector. The campaign will be funded through the National Fund for Social Aid (NSAF) in addition to the contributions from individuals, businesses and civil society through a campaign account. On 16 April, the distribution of the one-time unemployment allowance (SYP 100,000) started. As of April 29, 305,695 people registered in the Government's online assistance database, including 248,530 unemployed persons, 32,709 people over 70 and 24,456 people with disabilities.</p>	

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Syria	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Minister of Social Affairs and Labour announced cash (as well as in-kind) support for elderly, people with disabilities, daily workers and self-employed people, as part of a national campaign. The focus will be on those with lower income professions, including the tourism sector. The campaign will be funded through the National Fund for Social Aid (NSAF) in addition to the contributions from individuals, businesses and civil society through a campaign account. On 16 April, the distribution of the one-time unemployment allowance (SYP 100,000) started. As of April 29, 305,695 people registered in the Government's online assistance database, including 248,530 unemployed persons, 32,709 people over 70 and 24,456 people with disabilities.	
Taiwan China	National	Not clear	Job protection	Announced a subsidy program for local governments to implement sheltered employment service programs for people with disabilities; to further stabilize these sheltered workshops, including their operation and employment of workshop workers, a monthly subsidy of NT\$40,000 is provided to each sheltered workshop for a maximum of six months; the subsidy can be used to cover the building, land, or vehicle rent for the sheltered workshops.	
Tajikistan	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	To mitigate impact of the COVID-19 Government introduced one-time emergency cash support to poor families, elderly, persons/children with disabilities, refugees and stateless persons, families left behind by labour migrants, persons living with TB, HIV/AIDS, and those recipients of social pensions. The amount of the cash assistance is equivalent to 35 USD. Total of 22.1 million USD has been transferred to over 700,000 households	
Thailand	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The government aimed to provide a cash handout of 1,000 baht per month from May to July for 6.8 million vulnerable people, which consist of elderly, children and the disabled. Other measures such as electricity and water expense reductions, tax breaks and deductions were automatically effective.	
Tonga	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Top up of TOP 100 made to Elderly Benefit and Disability Benefit in April 2020, in addition to regular benefit.	

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Trinidad and Tobago	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	3 months top up for food card, public assistance and disability assistance beneficiaries / month for 3 months.	
Tunisia	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Additional financial support of 200 Dt for foster families that have children with disabilities which in regular time receive 200Dt (200dt+200dt) (400DT=145USD in 9/04/2020). One-off cash transfer TND200 (\$68) to households hosting a person with handicap	
Turkey	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Social Assistance for the elderly and disabled will be made for three months without seeking income criteria and severe disability.	
Ukraine	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	The Government introduced one-off cash assistance (UAH 1000 = \$35) for vulnerable pensioners (whose pension is up to UAH 5000 = US\$185), current beneficiaries of the disability programs (children with disabilities and persons with disabilities since childhood) and beneficiaries of social assistance to persons who are not eligible for pension. The total amount of funds received as of May 18 was UAH 9.88 bln (US\$ 365 mln).	
Ukraine	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Help Nearby web platform was launched to coordinate provision of targeted in-kind social assistance and delivery of services to the elderly, poor and vulnerable (people with disabilities, single parents, internally displaced persons, etc.) based on the applications submitted online.	
United Arab Emirates	National	Not clear	Services	Implementing distance learning for all government and private centers for people of determination (disabled) and early intervention centers, and using smart mobile apps that support distance learning, in addition to continuing the vocational training project for people of determination to market their products in various outlets.	

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Uruguay	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	The government extended the validity of disability pensions and Temporary Subsidies for Partial Disability (STIP), as well as to facilitate the procedures for beneficiaries who need to request prostheses. In the case of disability pensions and STIPs with an expiration date between the 1st. March and June 30, it was decided to extend them for 180 days. The beneficiaries will be able to continue receiving their benefit without having to carry out procedures in the organization since the extension will be carried out automatically. This measure ended on July 20th, 2020.	
Uzbekistan	National	Contributory	Cash benefit	Organization of a simplified system for issuing documents on temporary disability.	
Uzbekistan	National	Non-contributory	Cash benefit	Effective 01 September 2020, 10% increase in the base amount of following benefits: - Allowances for persons with disability from childhood (UZS 513,350) - Allowances for people with disabilities and elderly failing to have enough length of service to assign a pension (UZS 315,030). One-off cash assistance of 500,000 UZS (\$50) to every child under 16 years old from either a low-income family or a family receiving breadwinnerloss allowance or pension, or if he/she had a disability (formal status). The purpose of the cash transfer is to help families to meet the out-of-pocket expenses related to education.	
Uzbekistan	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Disposable facial masks, antiseptic sanitizers and antibacterial soap have been added to a list of 18 essentials foodstuffs and hygiene products provided to beneficiaries of regular goods baskets. Eligible populations include the elderly (men over 60 years and women over 55) and people with disabilities (groups 1 and II) who need outside care, do not have children (except for minors or people with disabilities), spouses and parents (with the exception of the elderly or disabled), or guardians, trustees, or persons entrusted by the court to provide care.	

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Virgin Islands (US)	National	Non-contributory	Waiver	Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP) Funding will be used to supplement the electrical bills of low-income seniors and persons with disabilities; With the supplemental funding, the Department of Human Services (DHS) may also be able to assist very low-income non-seniors who are experiencing hardship because of loss of employment due to COVID 19. This involved an estimated budget of USD \$155,248.	
West Bank and Gaza	National	Non-contributory	In kind	Hygiene kits to the elderly and people with disabilities in the West Bank and Gaza[129] MoSD, in cooperation with international and local partners, provided 46 residential centres for persons with disabilities, children and the elderly with necessary food and hygiene supplies. In May, 314,173 poor, food-insecure people received Cash Based Transfers (CBT) in the form of electronic food vouchers: 223,762 in Gaza and 90,411 in the West Bank. This included around 40,000 of the newly-targeted people who redeemed their vouchers in May. WFP distributed electronic vouchers to 67,600 newly-registered beneficiaries who have been affected by COVID-19. As of May, 40,000 were able to redeem their vouchers. Almost all of the targeted affected people (99 per cent) live in the West Bank, where the closures and movement restrictions have been more impactful on the labour force. Women head nearly half of the targeted households in the West Bank; 12 per cent are older adults and 9 per cent are persons with disabilities. WFP provided an extra monthly cash top-up (USD5) per capita to 165,000 people who are regularly assisted through its CBT assistance in Gaza and the West Bank. This aims at alleviating the impact of COVID-19 on people's already fragile livelihoods, helping them offset some of their scarce resources to spend on other essentials, such as health care and hygiene.	