

► Methodological note

ILO's Social Protection Monitor (further SPM) is based on media/news published online. SPM tracks announcements of social protection measures, defined as any policy decision that affects the functioning of a social protection system, from minor parametric adjustments to major developments and reforms, as well as social subsidies. The Monitor is a useful source for addressing information gaps and detecting global and regional trends in a timely manner. Note that the Monitor can be biased given that governments do not always announce, and often underreport, contraction/adjustment measures.

The information is classified by country, region, type of measure and function of social protection. The dashboard is a living tool with weekly updates, and periodical changes in classifications according to the developments in country responses and needs of the final user.

► Country and region

SPM is using ILO regional classification of countries:

ILO Regions	Subregion (broad)	Countries and territories
Africa	Northern Africa	Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco, Sudan, Tunisia, Western Sahara
	Sub-Saharan Africa	Angola, Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Comoros, Congo, Congo (Democratic Republic of), Côte d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mayotte, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Réunion, Rwanda, Saint Helena, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sudan, Eswatini, Tanzania (United Republic of), Togo, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe
Americas	Latin America and the Caribbean	Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Aruba, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Cayman Islands, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Curaçao, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Falkland Islands (Malvinas), French Guiana, Grenada, Guadeloupe, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Martinique, Mexico, Montserrat, Netherlands Antilles, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Puerto Rico, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Martin (French part), Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Sint Maarten (Kingdom of the Netherlands), Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago, Turks and Caicos Islands, United States Virgin Islands, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
	North America	Bermuda, Canada, Greenland, Saint Pierre and Miquelon, United States
Arab States	Arab States	Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Yemen
Asia and the Pacific	Eastern Asia	China, Hong Kong (China) Japan, Korea (Democratic People's Republic of), Korea (Republic of), Macau (China), Mongolia, Taiwan (China)
	South-Eastern Asia	Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam
	Southern Asia	Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka
	Oceania	American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau Islands, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna Islands
Europe and Central Asia	Northern, Southern and Western Europe	Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Channel Islands, Croatia, Denmark, Estonia, Faeroe Islands, Finland, France, Germany, Gibraltar, Greece, Guernsey, Iceland, Ireland, Isle of Man, Italy, Jersey, Kosovo, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, North Macedonia, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom
	Eastern Europe	Belarus, Bulgaria, Czechia, Hungary, Moldova (Republic of), Poland, Romania, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Ukraine
	Central and Western Asia	Armenia, Azerbaijan, Cyprus, Georgia, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan

► Function of Social Protection

Social security benefits can be distinguished according to the function they cover, i.e. what risk/contingency they address.

Social Protection Functions	Short description
Healthcare	Function covers access to essential health care services, including maternity care, that meets the criteria of availability, accessibility, acceptability and quality
Children and Family	Function covers benefits which are provided to families to help meet costs and needs related to child-rearing and the support of other dependants.
Access to education	Function covers benefits in cash or in kind providing for the basic education of children. Benefits for basic education are considered as those provided to children during their compulsory school attendance period
Sickness	Function covers any benefit provided “with a view to maintaining, restoring or improving the health of the person protected and his ability to work and to attend to his personal needs” (ILO Convention No. 130, article 9). It includes benefits paid for the loss of earnings due to absence from work necessitated by an acute condition due to disease or injury requiring medical treatment or supervision (ILO Recommendation No. 67, part 1, article 9).
Maternity / parental	Function covers benefits which are provided before childbirth and after childbirth for a specified period of time. Benefits are paid on a regular basis as income replacement for income lost from inability to work before and after childbirth or in connection with the adoption of a child for a specified period of time. In general the duration of the benefit is for between 12 to 14 weeks. Parental benefit paid to either mother or father in case of interruption of work or reduction of working time in order to bring up a child, normally of young age.
Employment injury	Function covers any benefit paid by a work injury program for the work-related injury, disease, incapacity and death of a protected person. It also covers the injury, disease, incapacity and death of a protected person occurring even after the employment which caused the state has ended.
Unemployment	Function covers any benefit provided to a protected person arising from the loss of gainful employment.
Pensions	Function covers all benefits paid to retired persons, survivor or persons with disabilities. Benefits are usually payable to persons who meet a certain number of qualifying conditions. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Old age function covers all benefits paid to retired persons. benefits are payable to persons who meet a certain qualifying conditions, including attainment of a specified standard retirement age • Disability function covers any benefit arising from the partial or total inability of a protected person to participate in gainful employment due to a non-occupational chronic condition resulting in disease or injury or loss of a member or body function prior to attaining the standard retirement age. • Survivorship function covers the benefit accorded to dependants of a protected person as a result of the death of this protected person.
Income/jobs protection	Special COVID-19-related measures that include wage subsidies, short-time work schemes, and other employment or income retention measures that concern the labour market, and that cannot be classified elsewhere e.g. as unemployment or sickness.
Special social allowance/grant	Special allowances and/or grants aimed to support different groups of the population against the consequences of COVID-19.
Housing / basic services	Function includes any benefits provided in order to directly help a household meet the costs of housing and basic services. The recipient under this function is a household, not an individual.
Food and nutrition	Function includes any benefits provided in order to ensure food security and adequate nutrition within households. These benefits are aimed specifically at significantly reducing or diminishing hunger, undernourishment due to food deprivation, malnutrition, vulnerability, and resilience.
Several functions	Measures that concern several functions mentioned above.

Note: Classification may change as the compilation of measures on social protection responses to COVID-19 evolves

► Type/nature of measure

Measure in response to COVID-19 can be classified based on different kinds of benefits and schemes:

- Contributory – measures related to social protection schemes where entitlement to a benefit is based on contributions from insured persons and/or their employer.
- Non-contributory – measures related to schemes where entitlement to a benefit is not based on the previous payment of contributions but other criteria. Non-contributory benefits are usually financed out of general taxation. The term covers a broad range of schemes, including universal schemes for all residents (such as national health services), categorical schemes for certain broad groups of the population (e.g. for children below a certain age or older persons above a certain age), and means-tested schemes (such as social assistance schemes).
- Mixed – responses related to schemes combining elements of both providing contributory and non-contributory benefits.

Specifically for the COVID-19 crisis, the social protection responses have been categorised in and grouped in the following way

Type of measure	Examples of measure
Programme adjustment <i>Changes in the design of a currently active programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advancing benefit payment • Increasing benefit level • Increasing benefit duration • Extending coverage • Increasing package of services/benefits
Spending adjustment <i>Changes in the spending provisions on social protection</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing credit/budgetary allocation • Deferring, reducing or waiving social contribution • Introducing or increasing subsidy on benefit • Introducing or increasing subsidy on contribution • Reallocation of social protection resources
New programme or benefit <i>Introduction of a new intervention or measure not previously paid/provided</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introducing prophylactic/care leave • Introducing benefit for workers and/or dependents • Introducing benefit for poor or vulnerable population • Introducing benefit for all citizens or residents • Introducing subsidies or deferring/reducing cost of necessities/utilities • Introducing subsidies to wage • Introducing part-time work/employment • Introducing tax relief or deferral for workers or individuals
Administration adjustment <i>Changes in the administration of a programme</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access/administration • Improving delivery mechanism/capacity

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► Sources of information

Social Protection monitor is based on media/news published online. For the special edition COVID-19, the news follow up process is led by the ILO Social Protection Department with contributions from colleagues in the field and other department, in collaboration with the International Social Security Association (ISSA) and other institutions.

Further detailed information on the concepts, definitions and methodology can be found:

- https://www.ilo.org/global/publications/books/WCMS_604882/lang--en/index.htm
- <https://ww1.issa.int/coronavirus>