

Social Protection Monitor

Social protection responses to the COVID-19 crisis around the world

26 March 2020

This note summarizes the results of the Social Protection Monitor that tracks announcements of social protection measures responding to the possible impacts of the COVID-19 crisis.

We will update this note as new data and information become available in this rapidly evolving situation.

Disclaimer: Owing to the exceptional circumstances generated by this global health pandemic, there has been intense activity in terms of the breadth of national responses and therefore not all information contained in this document could be fully confirmed with reference to official legislation or legal bulletins.

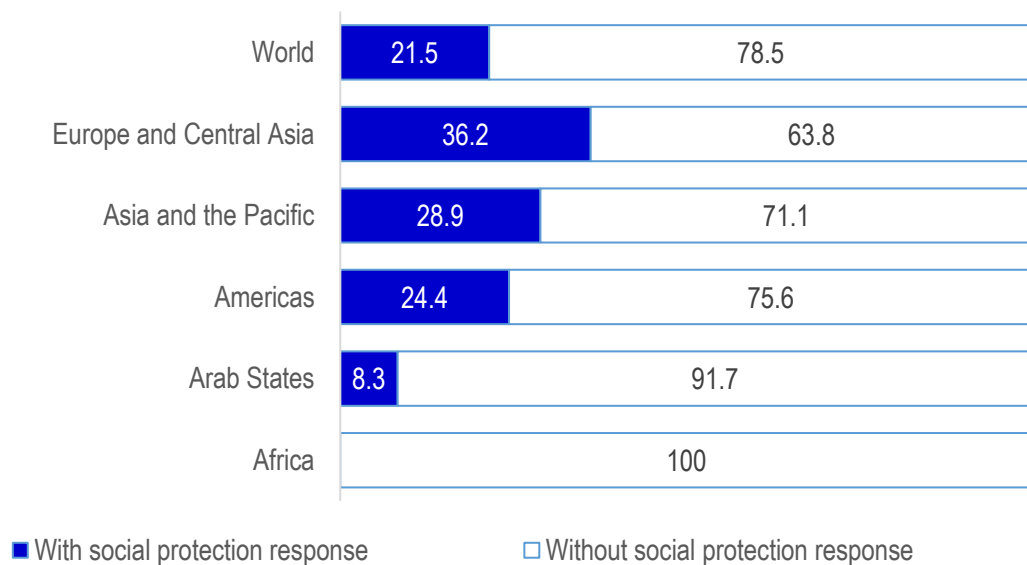
Consult our website for regular updates from the world of work response to the COVID-19 crisis.

▶ ilo.org/global/topics/coronavirus

The ILO Social Protection Monitor ¹

Between 1 February and 22 March 2020 ², 46 countries and territories announced at least 97 social security measures in response to the COVID-19 crisis. The overall response rate in the world is 21.5% (of 214 countries and territories). ³ Asia and the Pacific, the first region hit by the pandemic, made 13 country announcements (28.9% of the countries in the region), followed by 11 countries in Europe and Central Asia (36.2%), 11 countries in the Americas (24.4%) and 1 country in the Arab States (8.3%).

Figure 1: Percentage of countries with and without social protection responses, by region



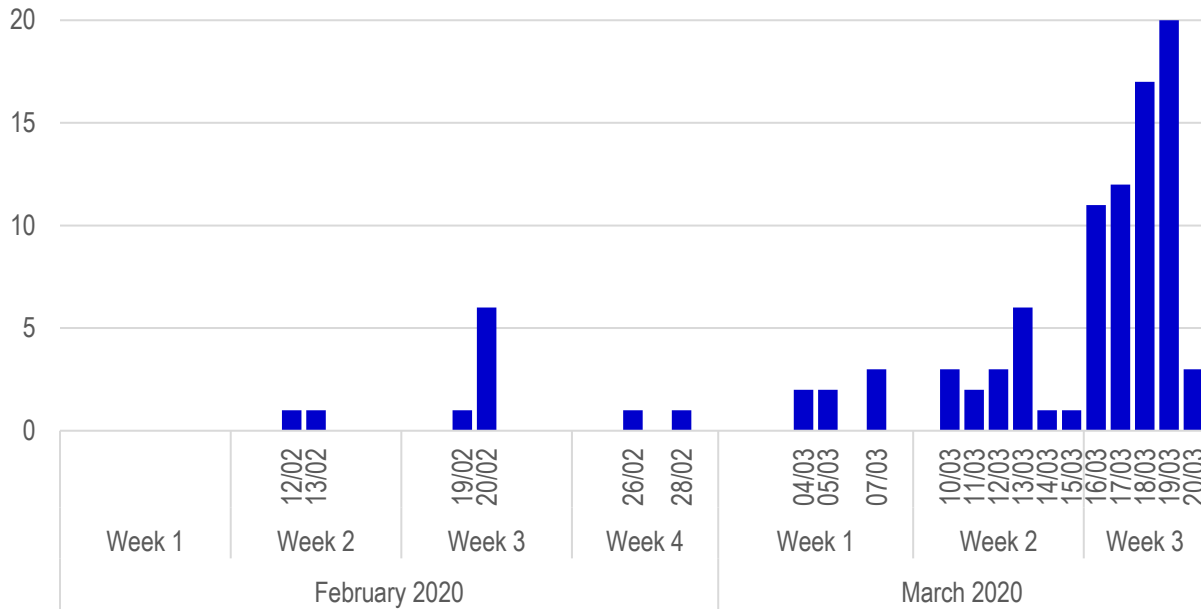
China announced its first set of social protection responses on 12 February and the number of countries and territories that announced responses quickly jumped from 3 in February to 43 in March, including 63 measures announced by 34 countries just in the last week, 16–22 March.

¹ ILO's [Social Protection Monitor](#) is based on a systematic analysis of media/news published online. The Monitor 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. While the Monitor provides the most comprehensive list of announced social protection measures and a snapshot of current global trends, it does not replace the thorough analysis provided by the [ILO's Social Security Inquiry](#) and the [World Social Protection Report](#).

² This brief is available and updated online: [Social Protection Monitor on COVID-19](#).

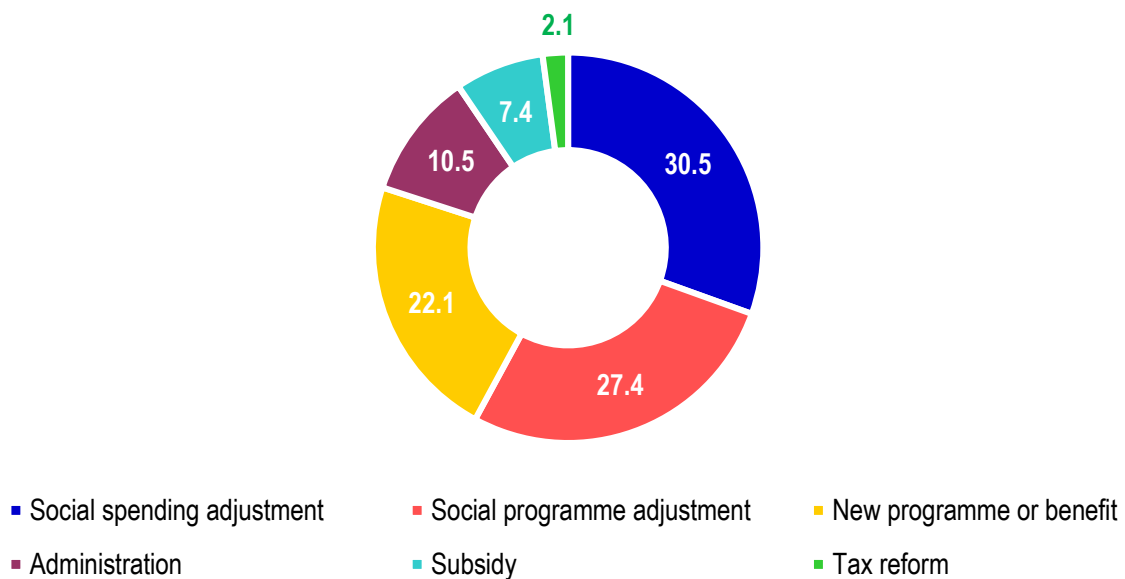
³ This brief provides a systematic classification of social protection-related policy responses to the emerging COVID-19 pandemic. It is part of a series of ILO briefs on social protection in crisis response, including: ILO, *Social Protection Responses to the Covid-19 Crisis: Country Responses and Policy Considerations*, forthcoming; and ILO, *Social Protection Responses to the Covid-19 Crisis: Country Responses in Asia and the Pacific*, 2020.

Figure 2: Number of measures announced, by date



Most measures provide social spending or social programme adjustments (57.9% of total) by either allocating additional financing or changing the configuration of existing programmes. The remaining measures involve the introduction of new programmes or benefits (22.1%), improvements in administration (10.5%) or the introduction of subsidies (7.4%) or tax reforms (2.1%).

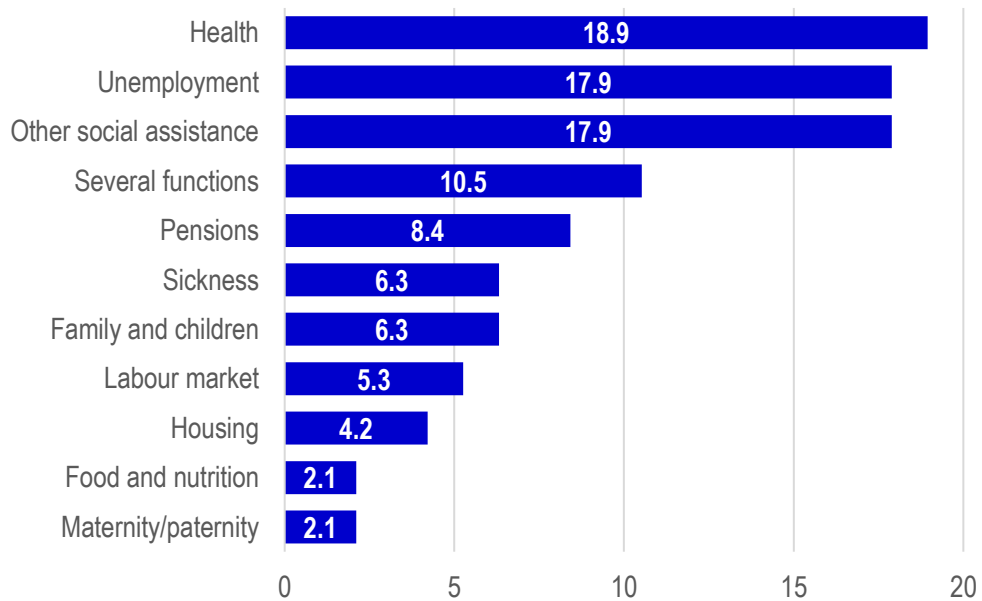
Figure 3: Percentage of measures announced, by type



In the context of the COVID-19 crisis, the measures announced cover all functions of social protection. Nearly one fifth (18.9%) of the responses in the period are related to health, closely followed by unemployment benefits (17.9%). New or increased social transfers to low-income

families, sometimes to all residents, have also been widely adopted (17.9%), followed by adjustments to pensions (8.4%), sickness leave or benefits (6.3%), family benefits (6.3%), labour market measures (5.3%), housing subsidies (4.2%), food allocation (2.1%) and benefits for parents of children (2.1%).

Figure 4: Percentage of measures announced, by function of social protection



Overall, more than half of the adopted measures aim to increase the benefit levels (23.2%), extend the coverage (22.1%) or relax the eligibility criteria (5.3%) of existing social protection schemes, while other measures include facilitating access to benefits (11.6%) and improving services (3.2%). New temporary or one-off programmes have also been introduced (8.4%). About one fifth of the measures seek to alleviate economic burdens by deferring, reducing or waiving social contributions made by employers and insured persons (7.4%), subsidizing benefits (4.2%) or social contributions (3.2%) and increasing credit and budgetary allocations (2.1%).

Figure 5: Top ten social protection responses

Top ten measures	% of total
Increasing benefit level	23.2
Extending coverage	22.1
Improving access/administration	11.6
Introducing new programmes or benefits	8.4
Deferring, reducing or eliminating social contributions	7.4
Relaxing eligibility criteria	5.3
Introducing or increasing subsidy on benefits	4.2
Improving services	3.2
Increasing subsidy on contributions	3.2
Increasing credit/budgetary allocations	2.1
<i>Other measures</i>	9.3

List of selected COVID-19 social protection announcements by country (updated on 21 March 2020)

Date	Country	Headline	Link
12/02/2020	China	China implements increasing use of online platforms for social security services	http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/shehui_baozhang/gzdt/202002/t20200212_359661.html
13/02/2020	Taiwan, China	Taiwan plans NT\$2 billion coupon stimulus as coronavirus weakens economy	https://www.taiwannews.com.tw/en/news/3875674
19/02/2020	China	China increases layoff rate threshold for refunding unemployment insurance contribution	http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/202003/t20200305_361456.html
20/02/2020	Singapore	Cushioning the impact of COVID-19	https://www.gov.sg/article/cushioning-the-impact-of-covid-19
20/02/2020	China	China reduces or waives employer contribution for old-age, unemployment and employment injury.	http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/shehui_baozhang/zcwj/yanglao/202002/t20200221_360350.html
20/02/2020	China	China halves health insurance contribution	http://www.nhsa.gov.cn/art/2020/2/21/art_37_2651.html
26/02/2020	Hong Kong, China	Hong Kong to give out HK\$10,000 "red packets" to prevent the spread of COVID-19! Hong Kong government: can boost local consumption, ease public pressure	https://www.scmp.com/news/hong-kong/hong-kong-economy/article/3074134/coronavirus-crisis-hit-economies-worldwide-hong
28/02/2020	China	China provides unemployment social assistance for affected workers	http://www.mohrss.gov.cn/SYRlzyhshbzb/dongtaixinwen/buneyiaowen/202002/t20200228_360884.html
04/03/2020	China	China's health insurance reimburses online consultations	http://www.gov.cn/xinwen/2020-03/04/content_5486953.htm
04/03/2020	Republic of Korea	2020 Supplementary Budget Proposal	http://english.moef.go.kr/pc/selectTbPressCenterDtl.do?boardCd=N0001&seq=4852
05/03/2020	China	China improves epidemic medical care mechanism	http://www.nhsa.gov.cn/art/2020/3/5/art_37_2808.html
05/03/2020	China	China increases layoff rate threshold for refunding unemployment insurance contribution	http://news.china.com.cn/txt/2020-02/19/content_75722281.htm
07/03/2020	China	China improves social assistance for the poor and vulnerable population.	http://www.gov.cn/zhengce/content/2020-03/07/content_5488352.htm
10/03/2020	Germany	Easier access to short-time work allowance	https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/issues/kabinett-kurzarbeitergeld-1729898
10/03/2020	Iceland	Economic response to COVID-19	https://www.government.is/news/article?newsid=a17058af-62d6-11ea-9455-005056bc530c
10/03/2020	Indonesia	Indonesia Unveils Stimulus Package to Combat Coronavirus Impact	https://www.aseanbriefing.com/news/indonesia-unveils-stimulus-package-to-combat-coronavirus-impact/
11/03/2020	Sweden	Sweden changes sick pay rules to help fight coronavirus	https://www.thelocal.se/20200311/sweden-changes-sick-pay-rules-to-help-fight-coronavirus
11/03/2020	Thailand	400 billion baht stimulus announced to boost Thai economy	https://thethaiger.com/coronavirus/400-billion-baht-stimulus-announced-to-boost-thai-economy
12/03/2020	Australia	What the Australian government's \$17bn coronavirus stimulus package means for you	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/12/what-australian-governments-coronavirus-stimulus-package-means-for-you-explainer
12/03/2020	Australia	A \$750 one off Economic Support Payment	https://www.servicesaustralia.gov.au/individuals/news/750-one-economic-support-payment



Date	Country	Headline	Link
12/03/2020	Australia	Six million low-income earners to receive \$750 cash under Coalition's coronavirus stimulus	https://www.theguardian.com/business/2020/mar/12/six-million-low-income-earners-to-receive-750-cash-under-coalitions-coronavirus-stimulus
13/03/2020	United States	'The Moment Is Crying Out For It.' Coronavirus Could Bring You Paid Leave Benefits	https://www.nytimes.com/2020/03/19/upshot/coronavirus-paid-leave-guide.html
13/03/2020	Islamic Republic of Iran	WHO expert group concludes Iran trip, says country's anti-epidemic work "in the right direction"	https://news.un.org/zh/story/2020/03/1052751
13/03/2020	Japan	Japan vows 'bold' step to beat virus fallout, signals big spending package	https://www.reuters.com/article/us-japan-economy-stimulus/japan-vows-bold-step-to-beat-virus-fallout-signals-big-spending-package-idUSKBN2100GP
13/03/2020	Portugal	Governo toma medidas extraordinárias para responder à epidemia de Covid-19	https://www.portugal.gov.pt/pt/gc22/comunicacao/noticia?i=governo-toma-medidas-extraordinarias-para-responder-a-epidemia-de-covid-19
13/03/2020	Poland	Additional care allowance - questions and answers	https://www.gov.pl/web/rodzina/dodatkowy-zasilek-opiekunczy---pytania-i-odpowiedzi
13/03/2020	Panama	Ejecutivo regula temporalmente las modificaciones a la jornada de trabajo ante pandemia de COVID-19	https://www.mitradel.gob.pa/ejecutivo-regula-temporalmente-las-modificaciones-a-la-jornada-de-trabajo-ante-pandemia-de-covid-19/
14/03/2020	Peru	Midis ejecuta estrategia preventiva para usuarias y usuarios de programas sociales ante el coronavirus	https://www.gob.pe/institucion/midis/noticias/108918-midis-ejecuta-estrategia-preventiva-para-usuarias-y-usuarios-de-programas-sociales-ante-el-coronavirus
15/03/2020	Denmark	Danish corona-hit firms get state aid to pay 75% of salaries	https://www.euractiv.com/section/coronavirus/news/danish-corona-hit-firms-get-state-aid-to-pay-75-of-salaries/
16/03/2020	United States	President says Senate to revise House aid bill to 'make it fair for everybody'	https://techcrunch.com/2020/03/16/president-says-senate-to-revise-house-aid-bill-to-make-it-fair-for-everybody/
16/03/2020	Brazil	Brazil government to inject \$30 billion into economy to combat coronavirus hit	https://whbl.com/news/articles/2020/mar/17/brazil-government-to-inject-30-billion-into-economy-to-combat-coronavirus-hit/995419/
16/03/2020	Jamaica	Education Ministry Providing Food To PATH Students Amid School Closure	http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure
16/03/2020	Malaysia	PM: Workers forced to take unpaid leave to receive cash assistance of RM600 a month (updated)	https://www.thestar.com.my/news/nation/2020/03/16/pm-workers-forced-to-take-unpaid-leave-to-receive-cash-assistance-of-rm600-a-month
16/03/2020	Netherlands	Employment Alert COVID-19 (Netherlands)	https://www.jdsupra.com/legalnews/employment-alert-covid-19-netherlands-39563/
16/03/2020	Jamaica	Education Ministry providing food to PATH students amid school closure	http://jamaica-gleaner.com/article/news/20200316/education-ministry-providing-food-path-students-amid-school-closure
17/03/2020	Spain	SPAIN'S €200 BILLION PLAN TO AID 'AUTÓNOMOS', EMPLOYERS AND LAID-OFF WORKERS THROUGH THE CORONAVIRUS CRISIS	https://www.theolivepress.es/spain-news/2020/03/17/spains-e200-billion-plan-to-aid-autonomos-employers-and-laid-off-workers-through-the-coronavirus-crisis/



Date	Country	Headline	Link
17/03/2020	Ukraine	Parliament introduced administrative, criminal liability for quarantine violations. Legislators also ordered that the Cabinet introduce up to 200% bonuses to medical workers directly involved in the fight against COVID-19	https://www.unian.info/politics/10917962-parliament-introduced-administrative-criminal-liability-for-quarantine-violations.html
17/03/2020	United Kingdom	What the coronavirus bill will do	https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-bill-what-it-will-do/what-the-coronavirus-bill-will-do
17/03/2020	Romania	LAW NO. 19/2020: FREE DAYS FOR PARENTS DURING THE PERIOD WHEN SCHOOLS AND KINDERGARTENS ARE CLOSED. STATE OF EMERGENCY	https://legislatiamanuncii.manager.ro/a/26294/leg-ea-nr-19_2020-zile-libere-pentru-parinti-pe-perioada-cat-sunt-inchise-scolile-si-gradinitele-stare-de-urgenta.html
17/03/2020	New Zealand	COVID-19 Economic Package announced	https://treasury.govt.nz/news-and-events/news/covid-19-economic-package-announced
18/03/2020	Brazil	Coronavírus: INSS suspende exigências por até 120 dias aos segurados	https://www.mixvale.com.br/2020/03/18/coronavirus-inss-suspende-exigencias-por-ate-120-dias-aos-segurados/
18/03/2020	Brazil	COVID-19: voucher para trabalhador informal durará três meses	https://spacemoney.com.br/coronavirus-voucher-para-trabalhador-informal-vai-durar-tres-meses/
18/03/2020	Mexico	Anuncia AMLO que adelantan 4 meses de pago a pensión de adultos mayores por coronavirus	https://plumaslibres.com.mx/2020/03/18/anuncia-amlo-que-adelantan-4-meses-de-pago-a-pension-de-adultos-mayores-por-coronavirus/
18/03/2020	France	France promises €45 billion to save companies hit by coronavirus	http://www.rfi.fr/en/france/20200318-france-promises-45-billion-euros-to-save-companies-hit-by-coronavirus-economy-nationalisation-lockdown-covid-19
18/03/2020	Italy	Coronavirus emergency, the “Cura Italia” law decree is online	http://www.protezionecivile.gov.it/media-comunicazione/news/dettaglio/-/asset_publisher/default/content/emergenza-coronavirus-e-on-line-il-decreto-legge-cura-italia-
18/03/2020	Jordan	Aid Fund announces the dates of the monthly financial aid disbursement for beneficiaries	https://www.petra.gov.jo/Include/InnerPage.jsp?ID=131465&lang=ar&name=news&fbclid=IwAR336VPt349-96-tjIk4NhsqXnVuoPI728Q-mNijYK--B-Mji5aa1s#.XnIqcoftuZ9.facebook
18/03/2020	Turkey	Turkey launches \$15.4B aid package to fight and weather impact of Covid-19	https://www.trtworld.com/turkey/turkey-launches-15-4b-aid-package-to-fight-and-weather-impact-of-covid-19-34682
18/03/2020	North Macedonia	N. Macedonia to grant interest-free loans to coronavirus-hit MSMEs	https://seenews.com/news/n-macedonia-to-grant-interest-free-loans-to-coronavirus-hit-msmes-691316
18/03/2020	Colombia	Duque anunció reconexión de agua a población vulnerable y giro adicional a familias en acción	https://www.colombia.com/actualidad/nacional-es/ivan-duque-anuncia-medidas-economicas-a-causa-del-covid-19-264409
18/03/2020	Armenia	4041 lonely elderly people will be provided with food baskets for one month	https://www.gov.am/ru/news/item/9690/
18/03/2020	Armenia	There will be no delays in the payment of pensions and benefits, they will be delivered at the beneficiary's place of residence	https://www.gov.am/ru/news/item/9676/
18/03/2020	Armenia	Armenian PM Unveils Economic Aid Package Amid Coronavirus Outbreak	https://www.azatutyun.am/a/30495643.html

Date	Country	Headline	Link
18/03/2020	Plurinational State of Bolivia	El Gobierno anuncia el 'Bono Familia' de Bs 500 por cada escolar de primaria de colegios fiscales	https://la-razon.com/sociedad/Gobierno-Bono-Familia-primaria-coronavirus_0_3332666731.html
18/03/2020	China	China's Support Policies for Businesses Under COVID-19: A Comprehensive List	https://www.china-briefing.com/news/china-covid-19-policy-tracker-benefiting-business-enterprises-comprehensive-updated-list/
19/03/2020	United States	Here's What Is In The 'Families First' Coronavirus Aid Package Trump Approved	https://www.npr.org/2020/03/19/818322136/heres-what-is-in-the-families-first-coronavirus-aid-package-trump-approved?t=1584700066298
19/03/2020	France	Coronavirus : activité partielle, droit de retrait, confinement	https://www.force-ouvriere.fr/coronavirus-activite-partielle-droit-de-retrait-confinement?lang=fr
19/03/2020	Azerbaijan	Azerbaijan sets up Fund to Support Fight Against Coronavirus	https://azertag.az/en/xeber/Azerbaijan_sets_up_Fund_to_Support_Fight_Against_Coronavirus-1444875
19/03/2020	India	PM Modi announces Covid-19 Economic Response Task Force to tackle virus outbreak	https://www.livemint.com/news/india/pm-modi-announces-covid-19-economic-response-task-force-to-tackle-virus-outbreak-11584631975789.html
19/03/2020	Hungary	CORONAVIRUS: Here's the latest	http://abouthungary.hu/news-in-brief/coronavirus-heres-the-latest/
19/03/2020	Islamic Republic of Iran	Will Iran's economy collapse under coronavirus crisis?	https://www.al-monitor.com/pulse/originals/2020/03/iran-economy-measures-coronavirus-collapse-business.html
19/03/2020	Uzbekistan	12 steps to win. Mirziyoyev announces plans to support the economy during the coronavirus pandemic	https://podrobno.uz/cat/politic/12-shagov-dlya-pobedy-mirziyev-ozvuchil-plany-podderzhke-ekonomiki-v-period-koronavirusnoy-pande/
19/03/2020	El Salvador	El Salvador suspende el pago de agua y electricidad por el coronavirus	https://www.iagua.es/noticias/europa-press/salvador-suspende-pago-agua-y-electricidad-coronavirus
19/03/2020	Argentina	La Anses informó las fechas de pago del bono extraordinario para beneficiarios de la asignación universal por hijo y por embarazo	https://www.infobae.com/economia/2020/03/19/la-anses-informo-las-fechas-de-pago-del-bono-extraordinario-para-beneficiarios-de-la-asignacion-universal-por-hijo-y-por-embarazo/
19/03/2020	Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sattler: EU will prepare a Special Program of Support for Economy of Bosnia and Herzegovina	https://www.sarajevotimes.com/sattler-eu-will-prepare-a-special-program-of-support-for-economy-of-bosnia-and-herzegovina/
20/03/2020	Canada	Coronavirus: Here's how to apply for EI and the new COVID-19 emergency benefit	https://globalnews.ca/news/6701363/coronavirus-ei-covid-19-emergency-benefit/
20/03/2020	Ireland	COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment	https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/social_welfare/social_welfare_payments/unemployed_people/covid19_pandemic_unemployment_payment.html
20/03/2020	Plurinational State of Bolivia	Moratoria en el pago de las hipotecas: qué es, requisitos y cómo solicitarla	https://as.com/diarioas/2020/03/20/actualidad/1584707779_440532.html