

DEVCO

Social Protection –

Covid-19 response and way forward

Info point 1.12.2020

Situation Covid-19 socio-economic impact – response SP worldwide

- Apart from general Covid-19 tracking systems very specific ones on Social Protection exist:
- **ILO: Social Protection Responses around the World**
<https://www.social-protection.org/gimi/ShowWiki.action?id=3417>
- **UNICEF: UNICEF's Social protection response to Covid-19**
<https://www.unicef.org/media/84181/file/UNICEF's-social-protection-response-to-COVID-19-2020.pdf>
- **World Bank: Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19 : A Real-Time Review of Country Measures**
<https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/295321600473897712/social-protection-and-jobs-responses-to-covid-19-a-real-time-review-of-country-measures-september-18-2020>

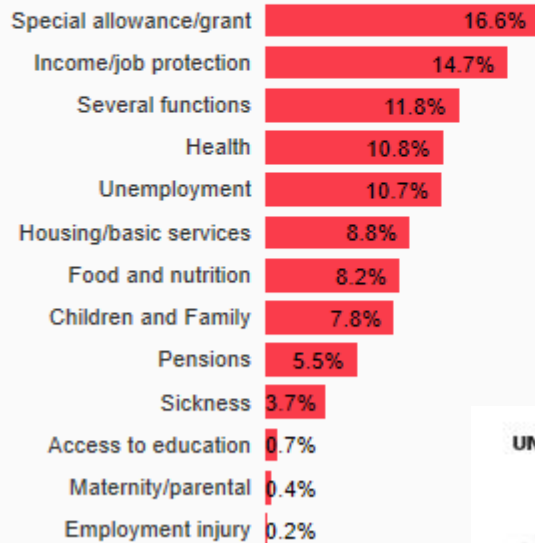
Situation Covid-19 socio-economic impact

• ILO:

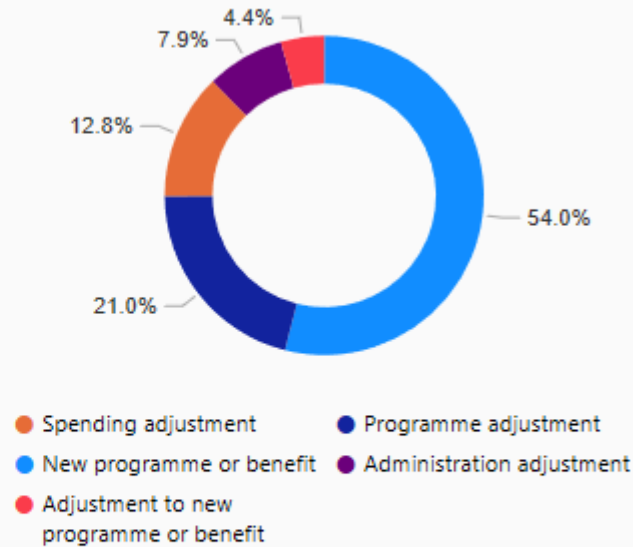
Distribution of measures, by type of programme



Distribution of measures, by function



Distribution of measures, by type of adjustment



UNICEF's support to strengthening social protection systems and the COVID-19 response

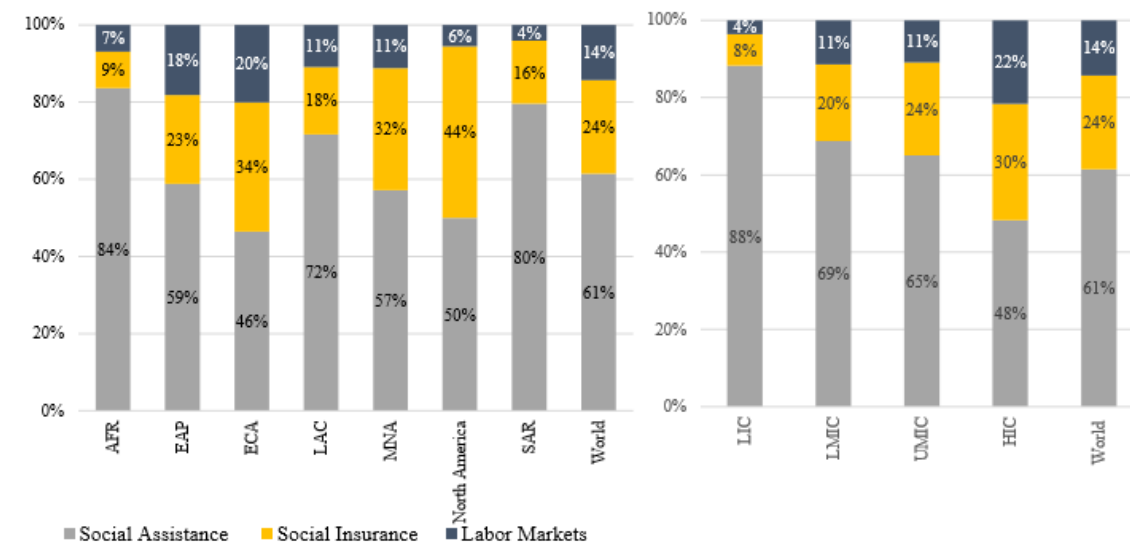


● Before the crisis: UNICEF support to strengthen social protection systems
● During and after the crisis: UNICEF support provided in the social protection response to COVID-19

• World Bank

Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures (September 18, 2020) (English)

Figure 2. Composition of social protection Covid responses by region



• UNICEF:

DEVCO short term responses - Covid-19

- **Speeding up implementation** under existing Social Protection **geographic programmes**, through frontloading of payments, softening conditionalities, top ups on existing programmes, adding cash transfers and food aid
 - **Iraq: Special Measures 2020 - Response to the COVID-19 crisis:** support to socio-economic recovery and state building of Iraq (EUR 90m), thereof EUR 30m to build up a SP-System (UNICEF-ILO-WFP – in preparation)
 - **Haiti: Top up of SRPC BS by EUR 37m** to improve governance and risk management in education and Social Protection (i.e. electronic payment platform)
 - **Tanzania: Redirection of EUR 12.67m** from Economic and Fiscal Governance **for the benefit of social sectors** (health and SP – PSSN vertical expansion – through SIDA)

DEVCO short term responses - Covid-19 - 2

- Offering tailor-made support by DEVCO's **thematic programme** on 'Improving synergies between SP and Public Finance Management' to **10 countries**, through a **call on short term TA**
 - **Ecuador** (unemployment protection),
 - **Bangladesh** (wage subsidies to garment – video)
 - **Sri Lanka** (support to workers in tourism sector)
 - **Nigeria** (inclusion of informal economy workers into COVID-19 measure)
- **SOCIEUX+** technical advisory service including SP: simplification procedures and remote facilities activated

Connecting peers during the COVID-19 crisis

SOCIEUX+ keeps peers connected with a new working modality:

- Simplified request process for single cooperation activities.
- Remote cooperation and support.



EU Policies - Social Protection coordination – including Covid-19

- **Within the European Commission at inter-service level** (DGs ECHO, NEAR, EMPL)
- **At EU level** (European social protection coordination group – co-led by 1 EU MS – currently Ireland – and DG DEVCO)
- **At international level** (SPIAC – B, various other thematic events)

EU Policies: Covid-19 response Social Protection

- **Team Europe response to COVID (01.10.2020)** - overview on funds provided https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/system/files/20201001-eu-institutions-response-to-covid_en.pdf
- **Joint Communication on the Global EU response to COVID-19 (8.4.2020)** – mentioning explicitly SP as a response to soften the socio-economic impact of the crisis https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/joint_communication_global_eu_covid-19_response_en.pdf
- **EU Council Conclusions on the Team Europe Global Response to Covid-19 (8.6.2020)** mentions Social Protection, calls for a rights-based and people-centred approach, calls for humanitarian-development-peace nexus approach <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/44347/team-europe-ccs-200608.pdf>
- **EU global response to COVID-19** - including all relevant EU documentation https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/topics/eu-global-response-covid-19_en

Inventory of the EU Social Protection support: number of programmes + our approach

- 30 programmes supporting Social Protection system building, most implemented through budget support aid modality

Ongoing EU Social Protection Support	No. (of Countries)	Budget in Million EUR
Budget support	12	700
Programme approach	18	1,000
+ Global Programmes	2	30
+ COVID-19 Responses	18 (+ 10 SP & PFM)	600
Total	45	2,330

New programming exercise: guiding principles relevant for Social Protection

Guiding principles of the new programming cycle 2021-2027 –
relevance for Social Protection

situation

Policy context :

- EU cooperation will remain guided by the **2030 Agenda** and the **SDGs**, the **Paris Agreement**, the **Addis Ababa Action Agenda**, the **Global Strategy for the European Union's Foreign and Security Policy** and the **new European Consensus on Development**
- **Eradicating poverty** and **tackling all inequalities** will be essential for people's ability to seize development opportunities
- Seize the opportunity to **build back better after the Covid-19 pandemic** to cope with recent setbacks on development progresses with a decline in human development for the first time in 30 years

→ **Possible growing importance of SP in cooperation**

New programming exercise: guiding principles relevant for Social Protection

European Commission

A Geopolitical Commission: a Stronger Europe in the World

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Objective: SDGs, Poverty Eradication, Addressing Inequalities by Building Inclusive and Sustainable Societies

 Green Deal Alliances	 Alliances for Science, Technology and Innovation, and Digital	 Alliances for Sustainable Growth and Jobs	 Migration Partnerships	 Governance, Peace and Security, Human Development
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Circular economy• Biodiversity• Green and smart cities• Sustainable energy• Food systems: from farms to forks• Water and Oceans• Pollution	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Governance (regulatory frameworks)• Digital connectivity, including key enabling infrastructure such as power, broadband• Digital skills and entrepreneurship• E-services, including e-governance• Data protection	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sustainable investment and de-risking, including key enabling infrastructure• Creation of decent jobs• Education and skills• Business environment and investment climate• Regional economic integration, trade and connectivity	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Root causes of irregular migration and forced displacement, including development benefits of migration• Migration management, including border management, return, readmission and sustainable reintegration, and legal pathways• Durable solutions for refugees	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Human rights, democracy, fundamental values• Human development• Rule of law and accountability• Conflict prevention, sustaining peace and building resilience• Fight against organised crime

New programming exercise: guiding principles relevant for Social Protection

Geographization: actions should be preferably implemented through geographic programmes to foster coherence and effectiveness, thematic programmes will focus on actions having a global or trans-regional nature → **SP national programmes**

Global Challenges (thematic): challenges such as inequalities, poverty reduction, malnutrition, climate change, environment crisis, ocean issues and migration and forced displacement, and promoting digital transformation, **human development**, inclusive and equitable transition to sustainable, inclusive and fair green economies

Non-programmable component for rapid response: will allow for swift adoption of actions contributing to peace, stability and conflict prevention in situations of urgency, emerging crisis, crisis and post-crisis; strengthening the resilience of States, societies, communities and individuals and linking humanitarian aid and development action and, where relevant, peacebuilding; as well as addressing foreign policy needs and priorities → **might include SP as seen with Covid-19**

New programming exercise: guiding principles relevant for Social Protection

- EU cooperation should be concentrated on **three priority areas per country** and priority areas may be further declined in maximum **three indicative sectors** each (e.g. **Social Protection would be a sector under the priority Human Development**), including 2 Team Europe initiatives
- **Spending targets for human development and social inclusion***: 20% of overall ODA expenditure under the NDICI. In Sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and the Pacific, and Americas and the Caribbean overall, such 20% should be a minimum. At least 10% of expenditure should be dedicated to education. 85% target of actions to have gender equality and women's empowerment as a principal or significant objective → **SP as part of it**
- *All the proposed spending targets are still to be discussed by the co-legislators, which means that their exact level and scope can evolve. Delegations and Headquarter services will be informed of any relevant change.

New programming exercise: **guiding principles relevant for Social Protection**

- **Guiding principles for fragile countries:** an integrated approach between humanitarian, development and peace aspects should be systematically considered and applied whenever feasible and relevant → **often SP features included**
- **European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+):** option for **innovative financing in SP** (e.g. registries, e-transfers)
- **EU cooperation should be used more systematically as a catalyst to support domestic revenue mobilisation.** Enhancing tax reforms will strengthen partner countries' own capacity to implement the SDGs and address shared priorities → **link to PFM and SP**

New programming exercise: a practical approach for Social Protection

What can be done for the next programming:

- **Social Protection, often as part of Human Development approaches** is planned in various countries, eventually enlarge approaches including health, nutrition – and Social Protection (in the Team Europe Initiatives and the planning of the Multiannual Indicative Programmes)
- **Link Social Protection to Public Finance Management in geographic programmes:** learn from thematic programme from linking SP & PFM, use budget support as the preferred aid modality
- **Think holistically - add Social Protection features to other relevant priority sectors:** when designing programmes for job creation & growth, peace & stability, Green Deal, digital, migration for a human development impact

New programming exercise: **focus on in SP**

The working poor: Addressing the informal sector

Migration and forced displacement: Addressing needs in a globalized world

Changing landscapes: Urbanization and SP

With emphasis on: Different target groups in vulnerable situations

Crisis situations and the nexus: Linking humanitarian aid and cooperation in SP – SpaN

Way forward on Social Protection



Continue to invest in longer-term **SP system building**



Built in lessons learnt from Covid-19 response for a **medium- and long-term strategy**



Monitor and communicate on results of Social Protection interventions



Find the most **appropriate financing mechanism, SPaN approach, international alliances..... ?**

DEVCO Policies – read more on Social Protection

- DEVCO has a **longstanding commitment** to support SP systems building in partner countries (2012 Com on SP in Dev. Cooperation, programmes, budget support, USP 2030, international coordination (SPIAC-B, EU internal coordination))
- **European Consensus for Development** – Social Protection under People – Human Development and Dignity https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/european-consensus-development_en
- **Guidance Package on Social protection across the humanitarian-development nexus (SPaN)**. Capacity4dev - <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/sp-nexus/wiki/guidance-package-span-resources>
- **Supporting Social Protection Systems**. Concept Paper No. 4, Tools and Methods Series, European Commission <https://europa.eu/capacity4dev/file/28199/download?token=7Fc1gRM>
- **Communication ‘Social Protection in European Union Development Cooperation’** (2012) <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52012DC0446&from=EN>

Thank you!



Check the programme's website: <https://socialprotection-pfm.org/>



Newsletter: https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/now-available-read-latest-edition-inclusive-development-news_en

Find more on **DEVCO's Intranet:**

Employment & Social Inclusion news: <https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/devco/thematic-activities/employment-social-inclusion/Pages/index.aspx>

Thematic guidance paper on SP: [https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/devco/devco-management/programming/Documents/2021-2027%20programming/thematic guidance note social protection.pdf](https://myintracomm.ec.europa.eu/dg/devco/devco-management/programming/Documents/2021-2027%20programming/thematic%20guidance%20note%20social%20protection.pdf)