

Social Protection Policy Responses to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19

Beirut, 22 April 2020



UNITED NATIONS

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ESCWA

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COVID-19 Policy Responses

Announcements of Stimulus across World Regions

COVID-19 impacted all countries around the world; but not necessarily in the same way.

Most countries around the world have announced stimulus packages targeting people and economy to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 crisis.

Most Arab States have announced stimulus packages as well.

Filter your selection

Region
All

Policy Type
All

Policy Category
All

Income Group
All

Markers Legend

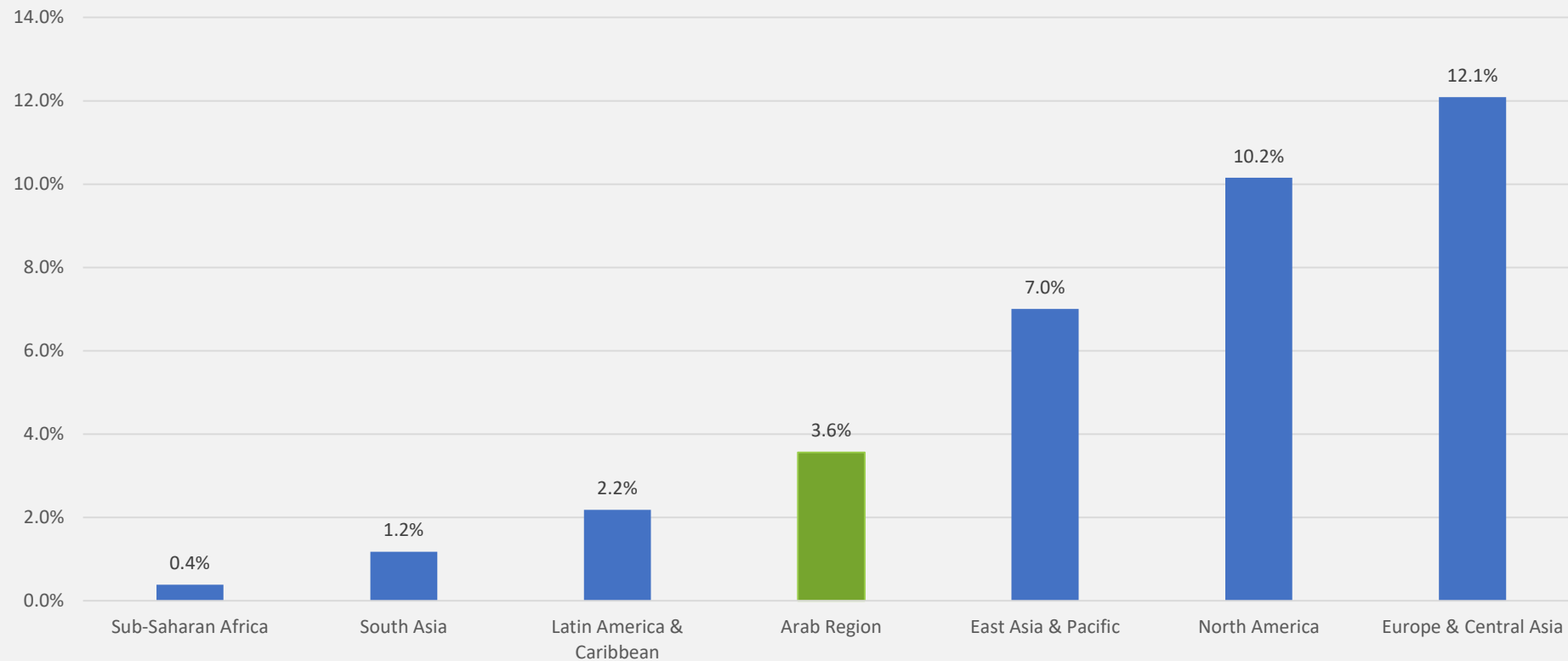
- Less than 5
- Less than 10
- 10 and more



- Hover over the dot for country info , click the dot for complete info and link to the country details
- Click over the left corner side on the Map for zoom in , out and other options

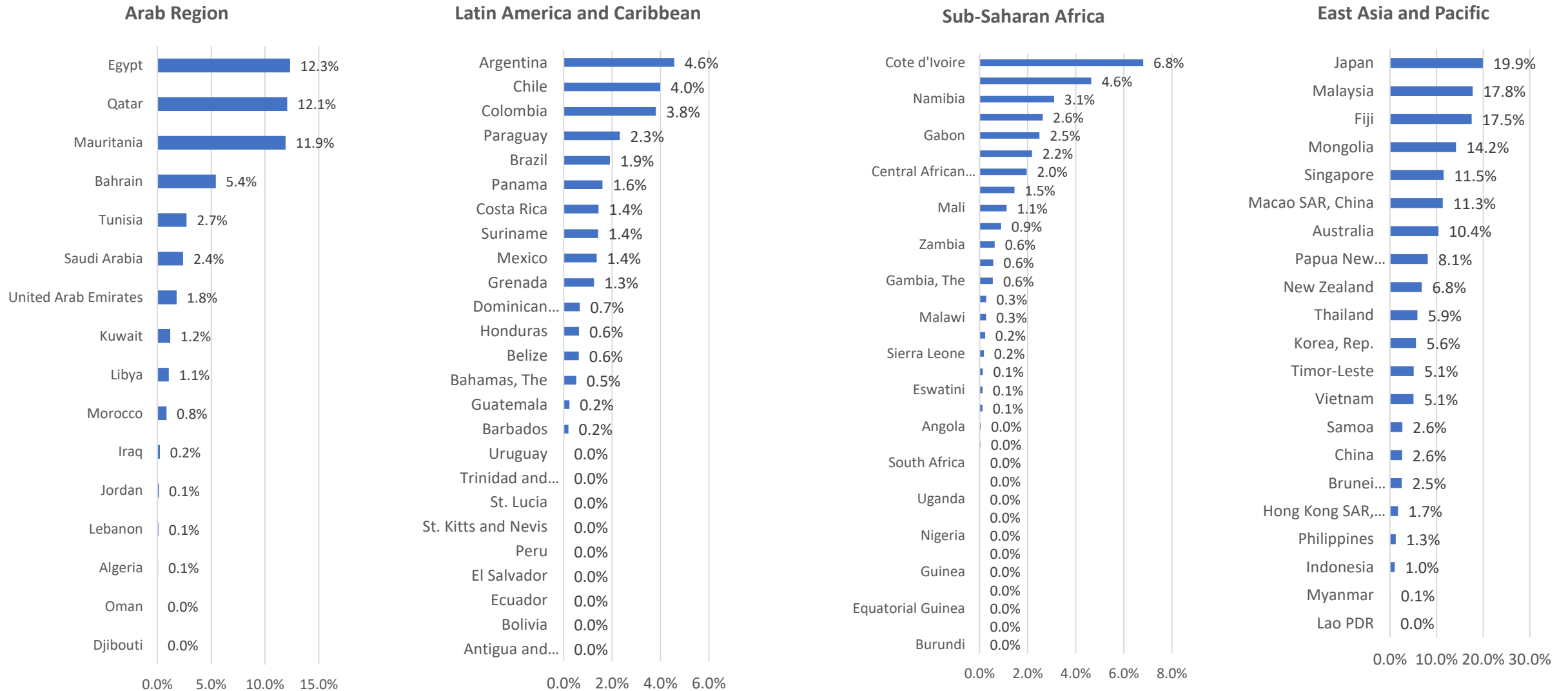
COVID-19 Policy Responses

Announced Stimulus (% of GDP) Across Regions of the World



COVID-19 Policy Responses

Announced stimulus as % of GDP (Regions & Countries)







Mapping COVID-19 Policy Responses

Social Protection Policy	
Social Assistance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Cash transfers/income support2. In-kind transfers or food vouchers3. Rent and housing subsidies4. Waiver of utilities bills5. Waiver of government fees6. Reduction of government fees
Loan and Tax Benefit	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Tax exemption/reduction2. Waiver of customs duties for individuals3. Interest rate reduction4. Loans and interest deferment
Social Insurance	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Social insurance contributions2. Unemployment benefits3. Sick leave4. Paid maternity leave5. Health insurance6. Pensions7. Disability pension
Labour Markets	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Wage subsidies to employers against layoffs2. Paid leave or work from home3. Labor regulation4. Work hours
Health-related Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Targeted health services2. Access to free COVID-19 testing (health care)3. Stocks of basic goods and medicine4. General awareness campaigns

Economic Policy Support	
Financial Policy Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cash-flow assistance 2. Liquidity support 3. Cash reserve ratio reduction 4. Price controls 5. Soft loans & credit support
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Government spending 2. Healthcare system 3. Creation of a fund 4. Research and development expenditure 5. ICT and digital solutions 6. Food security 7. Other support (specify)

Social Protection and Economic Policy Support	
Social Protection and Economic Policy Support	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MULTIPLE POLICY MEASURES

-  Policy Type
-  Policy Category
-  Policy Measure
-  Target Beneficiary

Target beneficiary People	Target beneficiary Businesses
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Individuals and Families 2. Poor Households 3. Categorically Targeted Households 4. Female Headed Households 5. Corona Virus Patients 6. Vulnerable Groups 7. Employees 8. Self-Employed Workers & Professionals 9. Non-Citizens (Note: migrants, refugees and stateless persons) 10. Students 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) 2. Real Economy Businesses 3. Commercial Banks 4. All

Mapping COVID-19 Policy Responses

The Example of Tunisia

Policy Type	Policy Category	Policy Measure	Target Beneficiary
Social Protection	Health-related support	Stocks of basic goods and medicine	Individuals and families
Social Protection	Social assistance	Cash transfers/income support	Vulnerable groups
Social Protection	Social assistance	In-kind transfers or food vouchers	Poor households (Note: PMT targeted)
Social Protection	Social assistance	Waiver of utilities bills	Poor households (Note: PMT targeted)
Social Protection	Social insurance	Unemployment benefits	Employees
Social Protection and Economic Policy	Loan and tax benefit	Tax exemption/reduction; Loans and interest deferment	Individuals and families; Poor households; Businesses
Social Protection and Economic Policy	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	General awareness campaigns	All
Social Protection and Economic Policy	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	MULTIPLE POLICY MEASURE	All; Businesses; SMEs

Mapping COVID-19 Policy Responses

ESCWA's Interactive Tool

Choose Policy Type, Policy Category and Income Group for % of Total Amount Support breakdown

Filter your Selection

Region
Arab Region

Country
All

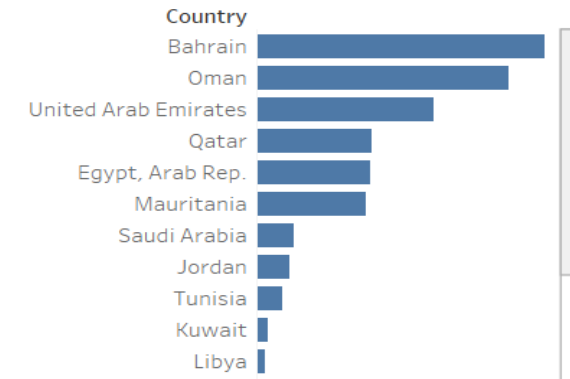
Policy Type
Social protection policy

Policy Category
All

Income Group
All

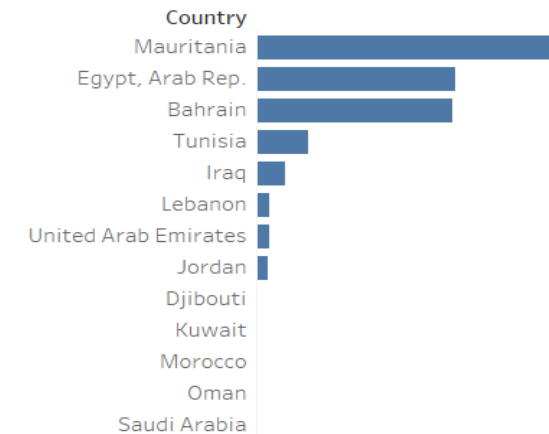
Country	Policy Category	Total Support Amount
Bahrain	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
	Social assistance	589.95M
Djibouti	Social insurance	0.00M
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	2,226.60M
	Social assistance	2,513.26M
	Social insurance	0.00M
Iraq	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
	Social assistance	508.91M
Jordan	Health related support	0.00M
	Labour markets	0.00M
	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	0.00M
	Social assistance	36.72M
	Social insurance	0.00M
	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
	Social assistance	0.00M
Kuwait	Social insurance	0.00M
	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
Lebanon	Health related support	0.00M
	Social assistance	61.69M
	Social insurance	0.00M
Mauritania	Social assistance	134.63M
Morocco	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	0.00M
	Social assistance	0.00M
	Social insurance	0.00M
Oman	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	0.00M
Saudi Arabia	Labour markets	0.00M
	Social assistance	0.00M
	Social insurance	0.00M
Tunisia	Health related support	0.00M
	Loan and tax benefit	0.00M
	Social assistance	52.66M
	Social insurance	105.15M
United Arab Emirates	Labour markets	0.00M
	MULTIPLE POLICY CATEGORIES	408.39M
	Social assistance	0.00M

Total Amount of Support(% of GDP)



Choose Policy Type to view breakdown

Policy Type : Social protection policy - Total Amount of Support (% of GDP)



Mapping COVID-19 Policy Responses

ESCWA's Interactive Tool



Filter your selection

Region

Arab Region

Country

Egypt, Arab Rep.

Policy Type

All

Policy Category

All

Income Group

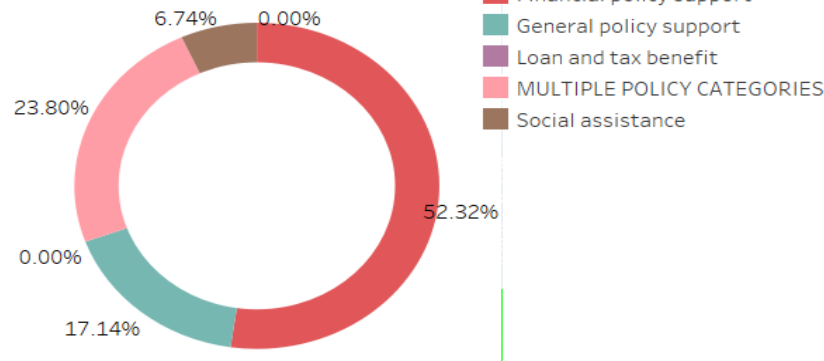
All

Click on a country name for more info Link, the Target Beneficiaries for complete description

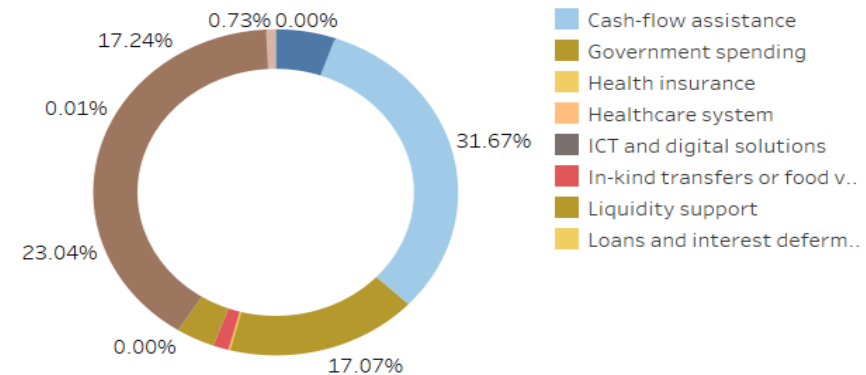
Country	Policy Category	Policy Measure	Target Beneficiaries
Egypt, Arab Rep.	Economic policy support	Waiver of utilities bills	All
			Businesses
			Employees
			Individuals and families
			Vulnerable groups (Note: informal s
	Financial policy support	Cash-flow assistance	All
			Businesses
			Employees
			Individuals and families
			Vulnerable groups (Note: informal s

Choose a country and a policy category for breakdown

% of Distribution Across Policy Category



% of Distribution Across Policy Measures



Mapping COVID-19 Policy Responses ESCWA's Interactive Tool

The screenshot shows a web browser window. The address bar contains 'covid19policy.aspx'. The page content includes a 'COVID19 Policy' header and a 'Login' link.

Apply Grouping

Clear Grouping List

Select Group1

Select Group2

Select Group3

Select Group4

Select Group5

Blue: Policy Subdetail

Region	Sub-Region	Income Group	Population (Million)	GDP (Billion) USD	Announced Policy Date	Type of Action	Policy Support Subdetail
Arab Region	Mashreq	Lower Middle Income	100,388,000	302.256	15/03/2020	Central Bank	The central bank introduced other r
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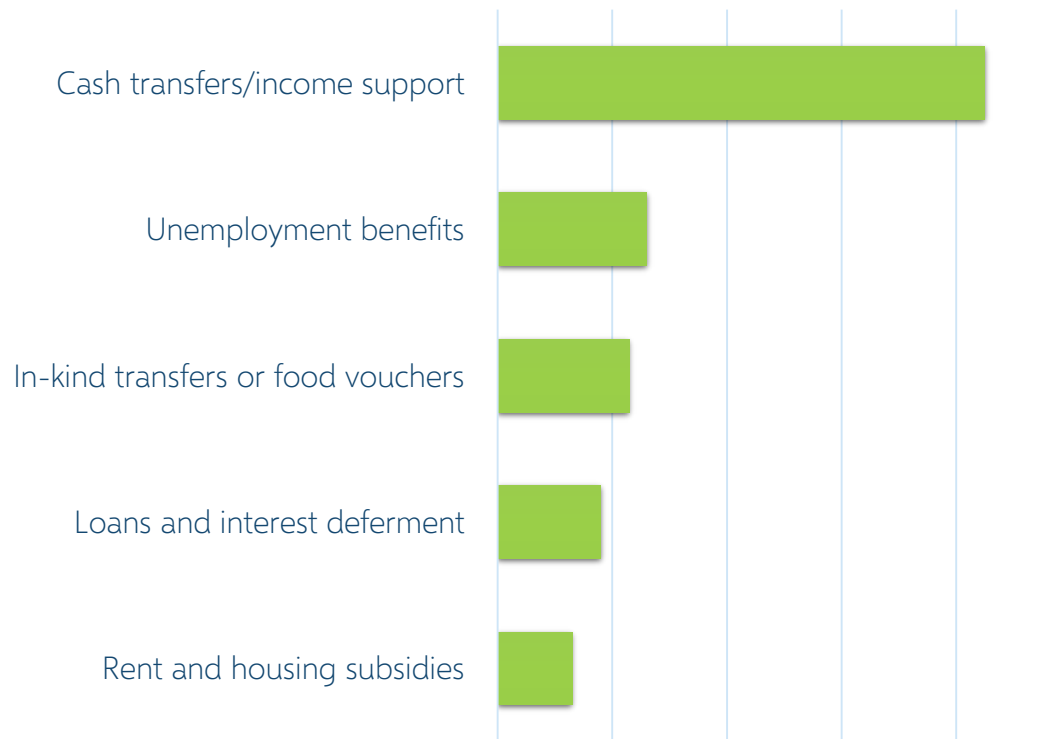
Download each country data set

Social Protection Policy Measures (Across Regions)

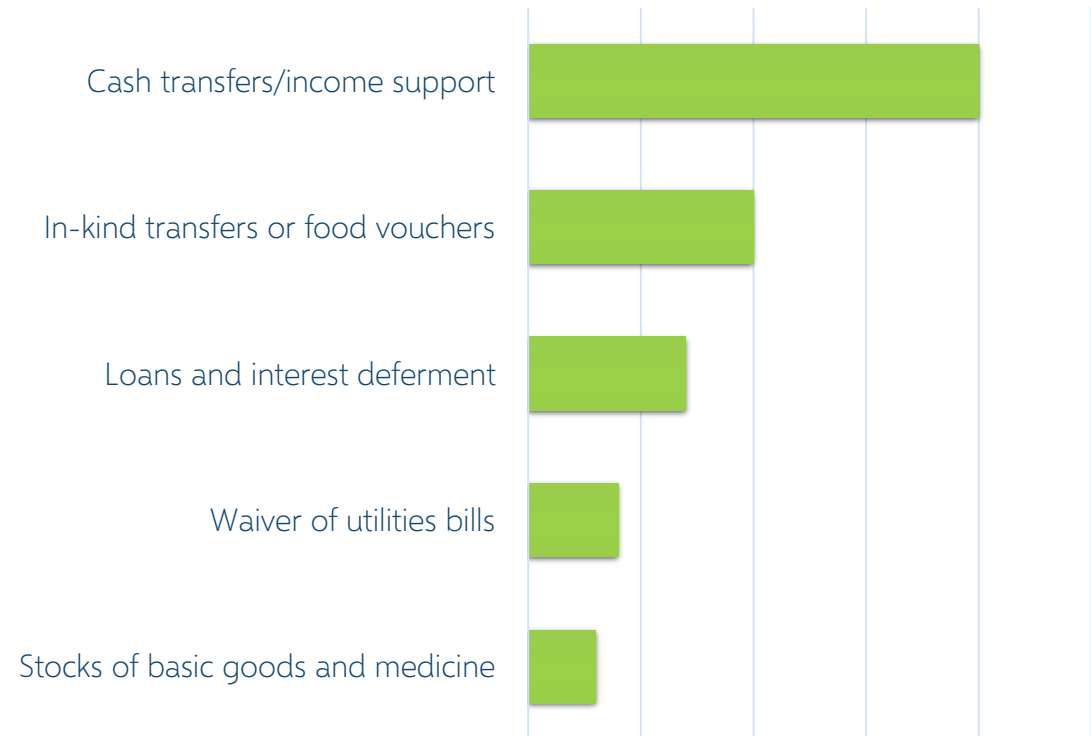
Social Protection Policy Category	Policy Measure	Arab Region	Latin America and Caribbean	Sub-Saharan Africa	Europe and Central Asia	East Asia and Pacific
Social insurance	Social insurance contributions	X	X		X	X
	Unemployment benefits	X	X	X	X	X
	Sick leave	X	X		X	X
	Paid maternity leave				X	
	Health insurance	X	X		X	
	Pensions	X	X		X	X
	Disability pension		X			
Social assistance	Cash transfers/income support	X	X	X	X	X
	In-kind transfers or food vouchers	X	X	X	X	X
	Rent and housing subsidies	X	X	X	X	X
	Waiver/reduction of government fees	X	X	X	X	X
	Waiver of utilities bills	X	X	X	X	X
Loan and tax benefit	Tax exemption/reduction	X	X	X	X	X
	Waiver of customs duties for individuals	X	X		X	
	Interest rate reduction		X	X	X	X
	Loans and interest deferment	X	X	X	X	X
	Wage subsidies to employers against layoffs		X		X	X
Labour markets	Labor regulation	X	X		X	X
	Paid leave or work from home	X	X		X	
	Work hours				X	
Health-related support	Targeted health services		X	X	X	X
	Access to free COVID-19 testing (health care)			X	X	
	General awareness campaigns	X	X		X	
	Stocks of basic goods and medicine	X	X	X	X	

Common Top Five Social Protection Policy Measures

Common Top Five Social Protection Policy Measures in the World



Common Top Five Social Protection Policy Measures in the Arab Region



Note: These measures exclude the combined measures under multiple policy measures.

Key Observations

- The impact of COVID-19 has negatively affected all countries and all population income groups. While policy responses need to be focused on protecting the poor and vulnerable, other mechanisms – and potentially other financing approaches – are needed to support the middle class. Timeliness in the response is of essence.
- The impact of the COVID-19 crisis on people, businesses, workers and families varies largely by sector, enterprise conditions and workers status, and is expected to be long lasting.
- Countries with developed social protection systems are in a better position to respond during the crisis. In this context, there are lessons to learn from across the world as presented in the mapping.
- Lack of adequate fiscal space is a major challenge for extending social protection, especially for middle-income countries and the LDCs; oil revenues are hit hard by the dramatic fall of oil prices, which negatively affected the fiscal balance of oil-exporting countries.
- ESCWA's "Regional Emergency Response to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19" presents specific policy suggestions, including social protection policy responses.
- ESCWA's Social Expenditure Monitor (SEM) presents a tool for improving the effectiveness of social expenditures to rebalance social and economic priorities.



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Thank you