

# SPACE Social Protection Approaches to COVID-19: Expert advice helpline



## Useful COVID-19 and Social Protection Materials

CURATED BY VALENTINA BARCA AND INPUT FROM EXPERTS ON THE SOCIAL PROTECTION APPROACHES TO COVID-19: EXPERT ADVICE HELPLINE (SPACE) - CONTACT: [SPACE@DAI.COM](mailto:SPACE@DAI.COM)

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This is a living document tracking relevant COVID-19 and Social Protection Materials. It does not necessarily represent DFID or GIZ own views or policies.

### Contents

Published SPACE Framing Documents: .....	2
A. COVID-19 Impacts .....	2
B. Social protection in response to COVID-19 think pieces/materials .....	2
General .....	2
Linkages with humanitarian and coordination .....	3
Informal workers .....	3
Gender and inclusion (note: disability below) .....	4
Disability inclusion .....	4
Remittances .....	5
Localisation .....	5
Rural/urban .....	5
C. Delivery systems .....	5
Safety measures for registration/payments .....	5
Risk mitigation .....	6
Accountability to affected populations .....	6
Financing .....	6
COVID-19 Registration/expansion of coverage options .....	6
Payment systems .....	6
Communications and BCC .....	7
Social Service Workforce .....	8
D. Different programme types .....	8
Public works .....	8
Child benefits .....	8
Longer-term livelihoods and economic inclusion .....	8
E. Best practice? Emerging country 'write-ups' .....	8
Other useful SP resources, beyond COVID-19 .....	8
Crosscutting, Data sources and platforms .....	8
SP Legal frameworks .....	9
SP Financing .....	9

### IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS



The [tracker of all COVID-19 trackers](#), including [Social Protection-related ones](#)

## Published SPACE Framing Documents:

1. [SPACE Strategy Decision Matrix](#)
2. [SPACE Evaluation Delivery System Matrix](#)
3. [SPACE Guidance Note on Rapid Expansion of Social Protection Caseloads](#)
4. [SPACE Gender and Social Inclusion \(GESI\) Reference Document](#)
5. [SPACE Informal workers](#)
6. [SPACE Economic Impacts](#)

## A. COVID-19 Impacts

- [SPACE economic impacts framing](#)
- [DFID L-shaped brief and distancing brief](#)
- World Bank - "[Costs and Trade-Offs in the Fight against the COVID-19 Pandemic: A Developing Country Perspective](#)" with clear overview of projected impacts
  - [June 08 WB updated estimates](#) of the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty
- IFPRI - Impacts on food supply chains [here](#) and policy portal [here](#)
- UNU-WIDER [paper](#) on Precarity and the pandemic, COVID-19 and poverty incidence, intensity, and severity in developing countries
- ILO
  - [predictions on job loss etc here](#)
  - [and COVID-19 and the world of work publication](#)
- [Markets in Crises steering group Statement on COVID-19](#) setting out short, medium, and long term actions to consider.

### [Research/data](#)

- [IPA and partners research collaboration hub for development researchers working on COVID-19 here](#)
- [Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data COVID-19 Data Resources: round-up of resources](#) – including data, dashboards, visualisations, maps, and tools.
- [World Bank Understanding the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) pandemic through data page](#)
- [Our World in Data Contagion/testing/etc rigorous updates](#)

## B. Social protection in response to COVID-19 think pieces/materials

### General

- [SPIAC-B Joint Statement on the Role of Social Protection in Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic here](#) – useful framing and resources on last page
- [Framing Sp.org Webinar for the webinar series from SP.org \(on potential response options to COVID-19 via social protection\) here](#)
- [Gentilini et al, weekly update of social protection COVID-19 responses here](#)
- [IMF policy tracker here](#)

- ILO Asia-Pacific write-up [here](#)
- UN call to action ‘Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19’ [here](#)
- UNICEF A [rapid review](#) of economic policy and social protection responses to health and economic crises and their effects on children Lessons for the COVID-19 pandemic response
- World Bank PROTECTING PEOPLE AND ECONOMIES: INTEGRATED POLICY RESPONSES TO COVID-19 [here](#)
- OECD relevant papers
  - Supporting people and companies to deal with the COVID-19 virus: Options for an immediate employment and social-policy response [here](#)
  - Supporting livelihoods during the COVID-19 crisis: Closing the gaps in safety nets [here](#)
- Examples of ‘Big Thinkers’ endorsing no-regrets and universal SP:
  - Dercon [no-regrets](#) SP
  - Duflo and Banerjee [here](#)
  - Ravallion [here](#) “Anything less than an immediate fiscal transfer of something like 2% of GDP would probably be judged inadequate”. + endorsement of many Mantras)
  - Acemoglu [here](#) “Welfare state 3.0” could lead to a brighter horizon: A stronger social safety net (...)”

#### Beyond COVID-19: useful resources on shock responsive social protection

- World bank (2020) [Adaptive SP: Building Resilience to Shocks](#)
- UNICEF (2019) [Programme Guidance: Strengthening Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems](#) Many others linked in the Annex to the document
- SPAN (2019) [Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus. A Game Changer in Supporting People through Crises](#)
- DFID and OPM (2018) [Shock Responsive Social Protection Systems Toolkit](#)

#### Linkages with humanitarian and coordination

- SP.org webinars on linkages: [here](#)
- [Call to deliver on commitment](#) to link humanitarian cash and social protection where appropriate for an effective cash response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the Grand-Bargain (GB) Sub-group on Linking Humanitarian Cash and Social Protection
- GB Subgroup weekly [newsletter](#) full of info
- CALP
  - [Readiness checklists](#) for Cash Working Groups in light of COVID-19 (includes working with social protection systems).
  - Cash Coordination Tip Sheet [here](#)
  - [living document on COVID](#)
- SPAN [Training course](#) on Social Protection across the Humanitarian-Development Nexus

#### Informal workers

- SPACE Background Doc on [informal workers and SP during COVID-19](#)
- [Webinars/podcasts](#)
  - CGDEV - [Cash Transfers for COVID-19 in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#)
  - IDS informal roundtable on [COVID-19 and informal workers](#)

- Sp.org webinar on informal sector COVID-19 impacts [here](#)
- WIEGO podcast informal workers and SP [here](#)
- **Blogs**
  - World Bank on transition to 'new normal' for informal workers [here](#); How Can Cash Transfers Support Informal-Sector Workers in the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) Crisis? [here](#); Social insurance for the informal sector in Africa [here](#)
  - UNDP on policy responses for those small enough to fail [here](#)
- **Briefs/research:**
  - ILO Brief: COVID-19 crisis and the informal economy [here](#)
  - FAO. 2020. Impact of COVID-19 on informal workers [here](#)
  - WIEGO Rapid assessment of impact on informal workers [here](#)
  - WIEGO [tracking](#) government responses for informal workers

### Gender and inclusion (note: more on disability below)

- SPACE Gender and Social Inclusion (GESI) Reference Document
- IFPRI and Transfer Project brief: [Gender-sensitive social protection: A critical component of the COVID-19 response in low- and middle-income countries](#)
- UN Women (2020) [COVID-19: Emerging gender data and why it matters](#)
- Gender and COVID-19 Working Group (2020) [List of Resources](#) (living document covering a wide range of topics related to gender)
- Gender and Development Network (GADN) List of resources: [Feminist Responses to COVID-19](#).
- INCLUDE (2020) [How COVID-19 affects inequality in Africa](#)
- WHO (2020) [Disability considerations during the COVID-19 outbreak](#)
- World Bank (2020) [Gender dimensions of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) (policy note)
- SDDirect (2020) [COVID-19 Blog Series](#) (covering issues of gender, disability and LGBTIQ)
- World Bank. 2020. [Supporting Women Throughout the Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Emergency Response and Economic Recovery](#).
- FAO. 2020. [Gendered impacts of COVID-19 and equitable policy responses in agriculture, food security and nutrition](#)
- Grand Bargain Subgroup The Importance of Acting on Grand Bargain Commitments for a Meaningful Focus on Gender in Cash and Voucher Assistance Responses to the COVID-19 Pandemic [here](#)
- OECD Women at the core of the fight against COVID-19 crisis brief [here](#)

#### Beyond COVID-19: useful resources

- [FAO Technical Guide 1 - Introduction to gender-sensitive social protection programming to combat rural poverty: Why is it important and what does it mean?](#); [FAO Technical Guide 2 - Integrating gender into the design of cash transfer and public works programmes](#); [FAO Technical Guide 3 - Integrating gender into implementation and monitoring and evaluation of cash transfer and public works programmes](#)

### Disability inclusion

- United Nations, May 2020. [Policy Brief, A Disability Inclusive Response to COVID-19](#). And also another similar [here](#)
- ILO (2020) [Disability Inclusive Social Protection Response to the COVID-19 Crisis](#)
- [Bridging the Gap \(2020\) The impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities](#)

- [Disability De-brief Newsletter](#) collates key resources; includes COVID-19 specific updates and latest DFID Help Desk Rapid Review on the [impacts of COVID-19 on people with disabilities](#)
- [Afri-CAN \(2020\) COVID-19: Implications for the Disabled](#)
- The [International Disability Alliance](#) and the [International Disability and Development Consortium](#) have launched an [Accessibility campaign](#) to call for public health information and communications around COVID-19 to be fully accessible. [Making it Work](#) documents good practice on approaches to gender-based violence involving women and girls with disabilities, developed in association with 17 grassroots organisations in Africa (an initiative of Humanity & Inclusion)
- Interesting [ethical discussions](#) about inclusion/exclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response. Whilst both focus on the US, which is a very specific context, they do provide food for thought about resource allocation and [here](#)

### Remittances

- WB Blog on remittance flows during COVID-19 [here](#)
- World Bank Predicts Sharpest Decline of Remittances in Recent History [here](#)

### Localisation

- IASC- INTERIM GUIDANCE ON LOCALISATION AND THE COVID-19 RESPONSE [here](#)
- [IASC Guidance Notes on Localisation](#); 1. arrangements between donors and intermediaries; 2. gender responsive localisation; 3. coordination; 4. capacity strengthening; 5. financing and 6 partnership practices
- ODI webinar on localisation during COVID-19 [here](#) and Report From the ground up: it's about time for local humanitarian action [here](#)

### Rural/urban

- Rural support, FAO COVID-19 SP guidance [here](#)

## C. Delivery systems

### Safety measures for registration/payments

- **Webinars**
  - SP.org & Helpage webinar focusing on older people but strong focus on contagion-reducing measures throughout [here](#)
- **Blogs etc**
  - Visual [twitter thread](#) on countries efforts to ensure safety during registration/payments
- **Research and guidance**
  - [Helpage guidance](#)
  - CALP [living document](#) section (including Guidelines from several agencies and major NGOs)

## Risk mitigation

- [U4 COVID-19, cash transfers, and corruption. Policy guidance for donors](#)
- [IMF blog “Do Whatever It Takes but Keep the Receipts” – the Public Financial Management Challenges](#)
- [IMF paper Keeping the Receipts: Transparency, Accountability, and Legitimacy in Emergency Responses](#)
- [IMF Enhancing Digital \(PFM\) Solutions to Implement Emergency Responses](#)

## Accountability to affected populations

- [Safeguarding Resource and Support Hub \(RSH\) here](#)
- [Global Protection Cluster COVID-19 Pandemic Cash and Voucher Assistance for Protection Considerations here](#)
- [Saferworld \(2020\) Conflict sensitivity in responses to COVID-19: Initial guidance and reflections here](#)

## Financing

- [Centre for Disaster Protection blog series](#) dedicated to COVID-19 and the implications for disaster risk financing and [flagship report on crisis risk financing](#).
- [MAINTAINS COVID-19 series: Disaster risk financing here](#).

## COVID-19 Registration/expansion of coverage options

- [SPACE framing table on options for rapid expansions of caseloads](#)
- [Sp.org webinar Identification and registration of beneficiaries for SP responses in the wake of COVID-19 here](#) and [blog \(Building on existing data, information systems and registration capacity to scale up social protection for COVID-19 response\) here](#)
- [DFAT Leveraging social assistance data and information systems for shock response \(2019\) here](#)
- [V9 Gentilini paper with section on delivery via social registries here](#)
- [Econfip piece Pay now verify later here](#)

## Payment systems

- **Webinars**
  - [SP.org CGDEV + WB webinar on G2P payments, very useful framing slides at the beginning and some short/medium/long term policy actions and examples from Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Jordan here](#)
  - [Better than cash alliance webinar Lessons from Ebola on digital payments here](#)
  - [UNCDF webinar Digitizing payments in the time of COVID-19 here](#)
  - [CGDEV Harnessing Digital Tech & Payments to Support People & Small Businesses Through COVID-19 & Beyond here](#)
- **Blogs**
  - [CGDEV - Using What You Have to Scale up Payments for COVID-19 Response here](#); [COVID-19: How Countries Can Use Digital Payments for Better, Quicker Cash Transfers here](#);

- World Bank - Responding to crisis with digital payments for social protection: Short-term measures with long-term benefits [here](#)
- Shepherd-Barron - On the need for 'cash out' for digital payments and Ebola lessons [here](#) – see also Currency News [here](#) (cash not vector for contagion)
- **Research/guidance**
  - Mercycorps [The Delivery Guide](#) - Scoping the Humanitarian Payments Landscape – useful resources for SP as well
  - COVID-19 Cash, and the Future of Payments; Bank of International Settlements, Bulletin No.3, 3 April 2020 [here](#)
  - GSMA Policy and regulatory recommendations to facilitate mobile humanitarian and social assistance during COVID-19 [here](#)
  - GSMA Mobile Money [recommendations](#) to Central Banks in response to COVID-19

#### Beyond COVID-19: useful resources

- Inter Agency Social Protection Assessments (ISPA) [Payment Tool](#).

**Potential areas for payment system preparedness/adaptation**

- **Withstanding and flexing with the shock:**
  - Shock-proofing existing infrastructure and technology to the extent possible – strengthening routine payment systems
  - Having contingency plans for alternate payment approaches, temporary paypoints and surge capacity, with a strong focus on guaranteeing flexibility, accessibility and security
  - Strategy for flow of funds to local level (to ensure liquidity and timeliness)
  - Handling larger volumes of cash and at a different frequency:
  - Provisions to enable swift changes to the payment amount and schedule, to meet humanitarian needs
  - Pre-empting capacity implications e.g. via protocols for surge capacity
  - Setting up stand-by agreements with new agents ready for the emergency context, and/or increasing the range of options used by routine social protection Programmes to increase flexibility
  - Handling new population groups (expansions of coverage):
  - Pre-empting differential needs of different groups (preferences, language barriers, familiarity with technology, etc.)
  - Budgeting additional capacity for “hand-holding” and support activities for new caseloads unfamiliar with the system when expanding payments to new geographical areas
- **Ensuring accountability**
  - Especially where funding may come from different sources than routine transfers, different reconciliation requirements may be in place than can be set out in advance
  - Fully abiding by humanitarian principles, especially in fragile and conflict-affected states



*Figure 1 Source: TRANSFORM (forthcoming SRSP Module)*

#### Communications and BCC

- **Pre-COVID-19**
  - [Development Pathways, February 2019, Working Paper Leaving No-one behind](#) Section 6.3.1 on mechanisms for communicating with persons with disabilities to reduce access barriers, and Section 6.3.2.7 on inclusion in Grievance Mechanisms
- **Behavioural science and BCC**
  - [Blog How to Maximize the Impact of Cash Transfers, During and After COVID-19 here](#)

## Social Service Workforce

- [Guidance on social service workforce safety and wellbeing during the COVID-19 response form UNICEF, GSSWA, The Alliance for Child Protection in Humanitarian Action and International Federation of Social Workers](#)

## D. Different programme types

### Public works

- Digital public works WB blog [here](#)
- SP.org webinar Impact of COVID-19 on public works programs: policy options in the short and medium term [here](#)

### School Feeding

- Great country examples of 'design tweaks' of school feeding consolidated by the IPC-IG, summarised in tweet [here](#) (three threads with country examples)
- FAO/WFP etc joint paper on school feeding and COVID-19 <https://t.co/1DIZIJ6n4r?amp=1>

### Child benefits

- UNICEF Emergency Universal Child Benefits: Addressing the Social and Economic Consequences of the COVID-19 Crisis in South Asia [here](#)

### Longer-term livelihoods and economic inclusion

- UNHCR guidance on emerging practices LIVELIHOODS AND ECONOMIC INCLUSION for COVID-19 [here](#)
- SP.org webinar Economic inclusion and COVID-19 response [here](#)

## E. Best practice? Emerging country 'write-ups'

- Namibia [here](#)
- Brazil (IPC-IG twitter thread) [here](#)
- Pakistan [here](#) and [here](#)

## Other useful SP resources, beyond COVID-19

### Crosscutting, Data sources and platforms

- [Socialprotection.org](https://socialprotection.org)
- [UNDP Social Assistance in Africa Data Platform](#)

- [ASPIRE indicators at a glance](#)
- [SAPI - Social Assistance, Politics, and Institutions database](#)
- [Social Assistance in Developing Countries Database](#)
- [SPI Database](#)
- [CEPAL: Datos y estadísticas](#)
- [Eurostat: Social Protection \(ESSPROS\)](#)
- [Mutual Information System on Social protection \(MISSOC\)](#)
- [HelpAge Social Pensions Database](#)
- [ILO Social Security Programmes and Mechanisms Database](#)
- [ILO Social Security Expenditures Database](#)
- [ILO Social Security Database](#)
- [OECD Social Expenditure Database \(SOCX\)](#)
- [OECD Social Benefit Recipients Database \(SOCR\)](#)

### SP Legal frameworks

- [TRANSFORM Base Doc Legal Frameworks](#)
- ['Legislation' Chapter within UNDP \(2019\)](#)
- [Kaltenborn et al \(2017\) The Influence of Policy and Legal Frameworks on the Development of National Social Protection Systems](#)

### SP Financing

- [TRANSFORM Base Doc Finance](#)
- [ODI \(2015\) Bringing taxation into social protection analysis and planning: working paper](#)
- [Ortiz et al \(2017\) Fiscal Space for Social Protection and the SDGs: Options to Expand Social Investments in 187 Countries](#)
- [IDS \(2017\) Innovative financing methods for social protection](#)
- [ILO \(2019\) Measuring financing gaps in social protection for achieving SDG target 1.3: Global estimates and strategies for developing countries](#)

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