The COVID-19 Health Justice Policy Tracker was developed to track national support measures for 6 vulnerable groups across 40 countries. We believe a policy database with a "health justice" lens has the potential to be valuable in several ways: for comparative analysis and research; to identify gaps in investment and (in)action; and to stimulate protective policies and accountability for vulnerable groups that were disproportionately affected by the direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. This policy brief is intended to summarize key information about each policy—grouped according to vulnerable group (pages 6-30) and country (pages 31-121). The full excel dataset includes additional detail about each policy and where it can be found.

The policy tracker was funded by a Johns Hopkins Alliance for a Healthier World COVID-19 Launchpad grant. Johns Hopkins University researchers Yusra Ribhi Shawar, Phong Truong, Malvikha Manoj, and Jeremy Shiffman conceptualized the project idea, collected the policy data & designed the policy database and brief.
The first section is organized by **target population**, summarizing the policies concerning each group across the 40 countries.

- **Elderly**
- **Refugees and Asylum Seekers**
- **Orphans and Vulnerable Children**
- **Migrant Workers**
- **People Living with Disabilities**
- **Prisoners**

The second section is organized by **country**, summarizing the policies concerning the 6 target groups in each country. The countries are grouped in 7 regions.

- Europe & Central Asia
- Middle East & North Africa
- Latin America & Caribbean
- East Asia & Pacific
- North America
- Sub-Saharan Africa
- South Asia

The excel **policy database** is organized in 8 tabs: a dedicated overview of the vulnerable groups, overview of countries, and the remaining 6 tabs are dedicated to each target group. This database provides more detailed information about each policy, including the amount of funding attached to it, the start/end date, and where the policy can be accessed.

### Policy Groupings

Each policy is grouped under one of four headings:

- **Financial**: The tracker further distinguishes between policies that provide 1) cash transfers or assistance and those providing 2) direct food and/or in-kind supplies.

- **Health**: The tracker further distinguishes between policies that provide 1) access to general health care and those providing 2) covid-19 related care.

- **Social**: The tracker groups policies that provide support or assistance to institutions dedicated to the vulnerable group.

- **Other**: The tracker further distinguishes between policies that provide 1) legal or administrative support; 2) digital or teleservice assistance; and 3) those policies that impose movement restrictions on the vulnerable group.
**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

**TRACKER SNAPSHOT**

**Time Span**
Policy data included is between March 11, 2020—the official WHO declaration of pandemic—to December 31, 2020.

**Target groups**
Six vulnerable populations are covered: 1) elderly; 2) orphans & vulnerable children; 3) refugees & asylum seekers; 4) prisoners; 5) migrant Workers; and 6) people living with disabilities. These groups were selected based on their increased likelihood to be exposed to the virus, have a severe outcome if infected, and/or have unequal access to healthcare and a social safety net.

**Countries**
40 countries are included across 7 regions. The countries were selected to ensure variation in country-income level (low, lower-middle, upper-middle, and high-income), regime type (ranging from autocracy to full democracy), and GINI index (the distribution of income across a population) given that these factors are likely to shape policy responses toward vulnerable groups. Policies are organized by country beginning on page 31.

**Policies**
609 national policies across all vulnerable groups and countries were collected: 227 for vulnerable children, 157 for elderly, 73 for persons with disabilities, 70 for migrant workers, 57 for prisoners, and 25 for refugees and asylum seekers.
This tracker draws on multiple sources of data:
- Existing policy trackers and vulnerable group specific documents (complete list in the figure);
- Policy documents from government webpages and/or archives from the national and ministerial level; and
- General google searches (keywords utilized in figure)

We sought data verifiable by a primary source/official government document. For each policy collected, we indicate in the database if it is based on official policy documentation. Google Translate was employed to analyze non-English documents and primary sources. Original and translated webpages were screenshot and saved in an archived folder.

Trackers this tracker drew from:

Key words:
Variations of keywords (in combination with one of the 40 country names) were used: COVID-19, elderly, older persons, vulnerable children, migrant workers, prisoners, persons with disabilities, refugees and/or asylum seekers, national, federal, policy, legislation, support, protection.

LIMITATIONS
Lack of available data on policies. This was especially a problem in countries where the primary language is not English and/or policies are not posted in an accessible or centralized online forum.

‘Over-representation’ of policy data. Some vulnerable groups or countries had pre-existing policy trackers, which we drew information from, which may explain why policies for some target groups or countries may be over-represented as compared to others.

Inability to clearly distinguish if the policy is a support measure in response to COVID-19 or as a continued or unrelated effort.

Inability to account for the policy’s degree of implementation. The collected information reports on adopted policies, rather than the degree of implementation and enforcement.
Exploring the nature and extent of responses by national governments to support particular vulnerable populations;

Comparing types of policies and innovations announced — social vs. health vs. financial; or cash transfer vs. covid vaccine prioritization, etc;

Facilitating policy learning, development, and knowledge sharing around which alternatives can be adopted to promote equity;

Initiating the process of documentation and creation of a comprehensive dataset that tracks policies for vulnerable populations in a post-pandemic world; and

Guide posting and inspiring future research and research questions — e.g., What do we mean by promoting health equity in times of crisis? What kind of policies does that entail? Who gets prioritized and how?
COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER

SIX KEY VULNERABLE GROUPS TRACKED

- Elderly
- Orphans and Vulnerable Children
- Refugees and Asylum Seekers
- Prisoners
- Migrant Workers
- People Living with Disabilities
Definition
Traditionally, the United Nations and most researchers have defined older persons as those aged 60 or 65 years or over. However, the United Nations’ statement in May 2020 indicated that there was no internationally agreed definition of older persons.

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group
- Disproportionate fatality rate by age. Data from April 2, 2020 reported over 95% of COVID-related deaths in Europe were reported to be persons aged 60 years or older; 50% were among people aged 80 years or older.
- Increased feelings of isolation and/or loneliness, and
- Symptoms of declining mental well-being.

Demographic information & numbers
- There were 703 million persons aged 65 years or over in the world in 2019. The number of older persons is projected to double to 1.5 billion in 2050.
- Globally, the share of the population aged 65 years or over increased from 6% in 1990 to 9% in 2019. That proportion is projected to rise further to 16% by 2050, so that one in six people in the world will be aged 65 years or over.
- By 2020, the number of people aged 60 years and older will outnumber children younger than 5 years.
- In 2050, 80% of older people will be living in low- and middle-income countries.
- Estimates expect there to be two billion people aged 60 or over worldwide by 2050.
**FINANCIAL—CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**

This includes cash transfer / assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

- Belgium
- Kazakhstan
- Slovenia
- Saudi Arabia
- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- China
- New Zealand
- Mongolia
- United States of America
- Canada
- Zambia
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka

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**FINANCIAL—FOOD AID AND/OR OTHER DIRECT IN-KIND BENEFIT**

This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

- Belgium
- Uzbekistan
- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- United States of America

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**HEALTH—COVID-RELATED CARE**

This includes COVID-19 vaccines, testing, PPE equipment, and official guidance dedicated to this group.

- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Iran, Islamic Rep.
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- China
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- Philippines
- Canada
- Namibia
- United States of America
HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE

This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to healthcare, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.

- Czech Republic
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Argentina
- China

SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS

This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Costa Rica
- China
- United States of America
- Canada

OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE

This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.

- Argentina
- Mexico
- United States of America
### Other — Digital & Tele-Services
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

- Argentina
- New Zealand

### Other — Other
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

- Czech Republic
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Argentina
- Costa Rica
- Mongolia
- United States of America
- Canada

### Other — Movement Restrictions
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.

- United Kingdom
Definition
The World Bank’s Orphans and Vulnerable Children toolkit defines vulnerable children as “the group of children that experience negative outcomes, such as the loss of their education, morbidity, and malnutrition, at higher rates than do their peers.”

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group
- Disruption in various in-person child support services (i.e., teachers helping safeguard at-risk children);
- Disruption in education;
- Food/nutritional insufficiency;
- Symptoms of declining mental well-being;
- Physical and emotional family violence due to pandemic stress;
- More likely to work to help fill lost family income; experience new child care arrangements (i.e., sent to live in institutions, with relatives), early marriage, and poverty;
- Less likely to access health care, given decrease in pediatric hospital visits/availability of care; disruption in dental care; missed vaccinations; and
- Child deaths caused by COVID (higher in LMICs than in HICs).

Demographic information & numbers
- By April 9, 2020, 99% of children and young people under 18 worldwide (2.34 billion) lived in one of the 186 countries with some form of movement restrictions in place due to COVID-19. 60% of all children lived in one of the 82 countries with a full (7%) or partial (53%) lockdown – accounting for 1.4 billion young lives.
- At the peak of nationwide closures, learning opportunities of 1.57 billion students were disrupted (about 91% of school children worldwide).
- About 346 million young people do not have access to the internet for remote learning.
FINANCIAL—CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE

This includes cash transfer / assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
- Iran, Islamic Rep.
- Argentina
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- Panama
- China
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- New Zealand
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- Canada
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
- United States of America

FINANCIAL—FOOD AID AND/OR OTHER DIRECT IN-KIND BENEFIT

This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

- Latvia
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Philippines
- Senegal
- Sri Lanka
- United States of America

HEALTH—COVID-RELATED CARE

This includes COVID-19 vaccines, testing, PPE equipment, and official guidance dedicated to this group.

- Czech Republic
- Kazakhstan
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Slovenia
- United Kingdom
- China
- Namibia
HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to health care, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.

- Belgium
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- United Kingdom
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Argentina
- Chile
- China
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- United States of America
- Canada

SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

- Latvia
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Costa Rica
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- New Zealand
- United States of America
- Canada
- Sri Lanka

OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE
This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.

- Latvia
- Uzbekistan
- United States of America
OTHER—DIGITAL & TELE-SERVICES
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

- United Kingdom

OTHER—OTHER
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

- Belgium
- Uzbekistan
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- New Zealand
- Mongolia
- Philippines
- United States of America
- Canada

OTHER—MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.
Definition

Refugees are people who have fled war, violence, conflict or persecution and have crossed an international border to find safety in another country. Alternatively, the “primary” and “universal” definition of a refugee is contained in the 1951 Refugee Convention and its 1967 Protocol.

An asylum-seeker is a person who has left their country and is seeking protection from persecution and serious human rights violations in another country, but who hasn’t yet been legally recognized as a refugee and is waiting to receive a decision on their asylum claim. Not every asylum-seeker will ultimately be recognized as a refugee, but every refugee was initially an asylum-seeker (UNHCR, 2005).

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group

- Increased economic insecurities, including food and housing insecurity;
- Disproportionate job loss;
- Increasing document and legal insecurities;
- Negative effect on marital relationships;
- Decline in mental health, such as increased stress, anxiety, and/or symptoms of depression and/or self-harm;
- Restrictions in access to health services;
- Exclusion from government’s emergency financial relief; and
- Increased likelihood of being stranded given movement restrictions.

Demographic information & numbers

- **By the end of 2019**, an estimated 79.5 million people were forcibly displaced in the world, including 45.7 internally displaced persons (IDPs), 26 million refugees and 4.2 million asylum seekers.
- **By the end of 2020**, an estimated 82.4 million people were forcibly displaced in the world—an additional 2.9 million compared to 2019—a record level—including 48 million IDPs, 26.4 million refugees and 4.1 million asylum seekers (UNHCR, 2021; UN News, 2021).
- The 20 countries with the highest number of confirmed COVID-19 cases as of March 1, 2021 hosted about 7.2 million refugees, or nearly 36 percent of refugees worldwide by the end of 2019.
- **Globally**, about 12 per cent of all international migrants are 65 years and older.
### Financial — Cash Transfer / Assistance

This includes cash transfer / assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

- Mexico
- Panama

### Financial — Food Aid and/or Other Direct In-Kind Benefit

This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

- United Kingdom

### Health — COVID-Related Care

This includes COVID-19 vaccines, testing, PPE equipment, and official guidance dedicated to this group.

- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Iran, Islamic Rep.
HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to health care, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.

- Belgium
- United Kingdom
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region

SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

- United Kingdom

OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE
This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.

- Panama
- Canada
OTHER—DIGITAL & TELE-SERVICES
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

OTHER—OTHER
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

- Belgium
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Canada

OTHER—MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.

- Costa Rica
- Mexico
- Canada
- Gabon
- Nepal
Definition
"By definition, prisoners live, work, eat (and often sleep) in close proximity within strictly restricted areas."

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group:
Among the reported negative impacts:
- Mental health concerns;
- Reduced/discontinued mental health services;
- Social distancing and isolation given discontinuation of prison visits;
- Increased protesting, rioting, and/or escape attempts out of fear of contracting virus; and
- Reduced drug availability and abuse.

However, increased telephone access and other methods of connecting from a distance (e.g., writing, video calls, voicemail service, etc) were reported as positive impacts.

Demographic information & numbers:
- More than 11 million prisoners worldwide.
- As of July 2021, the United States had the highest number of incarcerated individuals worldwide, with almost 2.1 million people in prison. The U.S. is followed by China, Brazil, India, and the Russian Federation.
- By May 20, 2021, there were at least 548,489 reported positive cases in 122 countries and 3,968 deaths in 47 countries due to COVID-19. In comparison, there were around 14,000 reported cases among prisoners in 14 countries and at least 385 prisoners had died in late April 2020. By mid-September 2020, confirmed cases had exceeded 205,000 in 101 countries, with almost 2,200 deaths among these cases.
FINANCIAL—CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
This includes cash transfer/assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

FINANCIAL—FOOD AID AND/OR OTHER DIRECT IN-KIND BENEFIT
This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

HEALTH—COVID-RELATED CARE
This includes COVID-19 vaccines, testing, PPE equipment, and official guidance dedicated to this group.

- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- United Kingdom
- Lebanon
- Panama
- China
- Gabon
**HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**
This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to health care, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.
- Lebanon
- Yemen

**SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS**
This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

**OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE**
This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.
- China
- Philippines
OTHER—DIGITAL & TELE-SERVICES
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

OTHER—OTHER
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

OTHER—MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.

- Czech Republic
- United Kingdom
- Iran, Islamic Rep.
- Lebanon
- Saudi Arabia
- Syrian Arab Republic
- Yemen
- Chile
- Panama
- United States of America
- Canada
- Botswana
- Central African Republic
- Gabon
- Mali
- Namibia
- Senegal
- Zambia
- Sri Lanka
- Namibia
Definition
The term "migrant worker" refers to international migrant individuals of working age and older who are either employed or unemployed in their current country of residence. Occupation types include seasonal workers, migrant domestic workers, migrant fish workers, etc.

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group
Migrant workers are often employed in low-skilled, temporary, informal or unprotected work, which makes them more vulnerable than other groups to COVID-19 infection and job loss during the pandemic. Reported negative impacts include:

- Job/economic insecurity;
- Repatriation issues leading to being stranded;
- Decline in mental health;
- Migrant fish workers stuck at sea and migrant crew workers on cruise ships stranded at sea;
- Travel and work restrictions;
- Worsening of living conditions;
- Exacerbation of existing problems;
- Excess deaths;
- Exclusion from government emergency financial relief; and
- Confinement in relief camps.

Demographic information & numbers
- Nearly 30% of the workforce in highly affected sectors in OECD countries is foreign-born.
- About 763 million internal migrants globally.
- Estimated 164 million people are international migrant workers.
- In 2019, 33% of migrant workers worldwide originated from Asia and the Pacific. Major destination regions for Asian migrants included Asia (35%), the Middle East (27%), Europe (19% [including the Russian Federation]), and North America (18%).
- Before the pandemic, about 270 million people lived outside their country of birth and sent nearly $700 billion in remittances to their home countries (Moroz et al., 2020). About $315 billion in remittances were sent to Asia and the Pacific in 2019 (Asian Development Bank, 2020).
- In the year 2020, the World Bank estimates a historical decline in global remittances of $110 billion, with LMICs globally to expect a decrease by 19.7% and sub-Saharan Africa a decline of about 23.1 percent (Bisong, Ahairwe, and Njoroge, 2020; World Bank, 2020).
This includes cash transfer / assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

- Uzbekistan
- Argentina
- China
- New Zealand
- Philippines
- Canada

This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

- United Kingdom
- Philippines
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
**HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE**
This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to health care, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.

**SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS**
This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

**OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE**
This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.

- Belgium
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- United Kingdom
- Argentina
- Chile
- China
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- Philippines
- Canada
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
**OTHER—DIGITAL & TELE-SERVICES**
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

**OTHER—OTHER**
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

- Chile
- Philippines
- Canada

**OTHER—MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS**
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.
Definition
The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol defines persons with disabilities to “include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others.”

Impact of the Pandemic on this Group
- Disproportionate number of COVID-19 related deaths in care homes where older persons with disabilities are overrepresented;
- Negative impacts on daily functioning, including negative changes in social and lifestyle habits, such as physical activity;
- Decreased access to healthcare;
- Mood changes;
- Decreased access to essential services;
- Barriers in receiving emergency cash transfers and/or other financial support in LMICs for the disabled in or are at risk of poverty;
- Decreased access to education and relevant general/health information; and
- Disruption in therapy service delivery for children with disabilities.

Demographic information & numbers
- Persons with disabilities represent 15%—roughly one billion—of the world’s population. Of the one billion:
- 80% live in developing countries.
- One in five women is likely to experience disability during her life.
- 46% of persons aged 60 years and over have a disability.
- One in 10 children is a child with a disability.
- Only 28% of persons with significant disabilities have access to disability benefits globally, and only 1% in low-income countries.
This includes cash transfer / assistance to the vulnerable group and/or their formal or informal caregiver. For example: tax credits, care vouchers, and employment-related support.

- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- Slovenia
- Argentina
- Chile
- Mexico
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region
- New Zealand
- Mongolia
- Canada
- United States of America
- Sri Lanka

This includes foodstuffs, hygiene products, and other goods baskets/in kind aid.

- Kazakhstan
- Uzbekistan
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- Sierra Leone

This includes COVID-19 vaccines, testing, PPE equipment, and official guidance dedicated to this group.

- Czech Republic
- United Kingdom
- China
HEALTH—ACCESS TO HEALTHCARE
This includes measures to ensure continuity in access to health care, such as the flu vaccine, affordable drugs, mental health support, and other medicines/services.

- Czech Republic
- Latvia
- South Korea / Korea, Rep. region

SOCIAL—SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
This includes financial and other assistance (i.e., training, equipment, testing) for the staff, organizations, and institutions that support the welfare of this vulnerable group.

- Belgium
- United Kingdom

OTHER—LEGAL AND/OR ADMINISTRATIVE
This includes regulations and other awareness campaign related activities.

- Argentina
OTHER—DIGITAL & TELE-SERVICES
This includes online services, trainings, teletherapy, and other services offered to the vulnerable group.

- Argentina

OTHER—OTHER
This includes all other supportive policies or services provided to the vulnerable group.

- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Oman
- Saudi Arabia
- Argentina
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- China
- Canada
- Sierra Leone

OTHER—MOVEMENT RESTRICTIONS
This includes bans on entry and other restrictions related to movement.
REGIONS AND COUNTRIES

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA
- Belgium
- Czech Republic
- Kazakhstan
- Latvia
- Slovak Republic / Slovakia
- Slovenia
- Ukraine
- United Kingdom
- Uzbekistan

MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA
- Iran
- Lebanon
- Oman
- Qatar
- Saudi Arabia
- Syria
- Yemen

LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN
- Argentina
- Chile
- Costa Rica
- Haiti
- Mexico
- Panama

EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC
- China
- South Korea
- New Zealand
- Mongolia
- Philippines

NORTH AMERICA
- United States
- Canada

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA
- Botswana
- Central African Republic
- Eswatini
- Gabon
- Mali
- Namibia
- Senegal
- Sierra Leone
- Zambia

SOUTH ASIA
- Nepal
- Sri Lanka
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Belgium
Czech Republic
Kazakhstan
Latvia
Slovak Republic / Slovakia
Slovenia
Ukraine
United Kingdom
Uzbekistan
ELDERLY

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE
- Additional support of 6 times, 50 euros per month to living wage earners, people with disabilities and people entitled to an IGO/GRAPA (income guarantee for the elderly).
- Extension of exceptional pension, supplementary pensions, and other supplementary social security benefits measures during COVID-19.

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- Six-month extension of the validity period of various checks: meal vouchers, eco vouchers, gift vouchers, sport/culture vouchers, etc.

MIGRANT WORKERS

OTHER: LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE
- Foreign workers on reduced hours/salary can maintain their work/residence status for the duration of the pandemic.
- The Government announced a relaxation of the rules relating to seasonal workers in agriculture and horticulture. Three measures have been decreed in a royal decree: temporary doubling of quotas, maximum number of work days increased for fruit sector, and more seasonal workers can now be employed.
- Doubling of the seasonal work quota in 2021 and temporary unemployment for seasonal workers who arrive in Belgium and must be placed in quarantine.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

OTHER: OTHER
- Asylum seekers are given access to the labor market provided that they have properly submitted their application at the office of the commissioner general for refugees and stateless persons.

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Undocumented migrants entitled to receive care via Urgent Medical Aid (UMA).

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
- The Minister of Public Service and the Minister in charge of Disabled People Karine Lalieux to invest 500,000 euros in improving support for federal civil servants with a disability.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Additional support of 6 times, 50 euros per month to people with disabilities.
Right to temporary unemployment due to force majeure for workers when it is impossible for their children to attend the nursery, school or reception center for disabled people due to a corona measure.

Assimilation of new periods of absence with a view to extending maternity leave.

On the proposal of the Minister of the Civil Service, the Council of Ministers approved a draft royal decree which aims to extend the birth leave of members of the staff of State administrations.

On the proposal of the Minister of the Civil Service Petra De Sutter, the Council of Ministers approved a draft royal decree which aims to extend the birth leave of members of the staff of State administrations. Reimbursement for the seasonal flu shot for certain at-risk groups identified in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic by the Superior Council of Health, including children receiving long-term treatment with aspirin.

Memorandum of understanding concluded on the coordinated approach aimed at strengthening the offer of psychological care in the context of this pandemic. This agreement mainly concerns the strengthening of first-line care through both the first-line psychological function and specialized outpatient mental health care. The agreement also defines certain priority target groups, such as children and parents of vulnerable families, young adults, healthcare and advocacy providers, and people with pre-existing mental health problems. Additional budgets are planned for this reinforcement.

Temporary allowance for self-employed parent(s) of a child under 12 or disabled: Monthly allowance of 532.24 euros (875 euros for single-parent families) for the months of May and/or June.

Parents of at least one child who has not reached the age of 12 at the start of the leave, or 21 years in the case of a disabled child to reduce their working time by one-fifth or a half for a temporary period between 1 May until 30 June 2020 (with the possibility of an extension; due to covid-19, benefit is also 25% more than usual parental leave).

Benefits are increased to 150% for families with a disabled child for parental leave during the pandemic.

Premium of 50 euros per month for beneficiaries of the integration income [parents/families], the income guarantee for the elderly (GRAPA) and the income replacement allowance (ARR).
**Elderly**

**Health: Covid Related Care**
- Regular testing will begin in the Czech Republic for clients and employees of organisations that provide long-term bed care or social services in homes for seniors and disabled persons, in homes with a special regime or those providing respite stays.
- Government addressed intention of the Ministry of Health to launch a testing system in the form of antigen tests for COVID-19, which in the first phase will focus on the most vulnerable groups such as the elderly in social care facilities.
- COVID-19 protective measures set by the government for all providers of follow-up and long-term inpatient health services, providers of social services in facilities for homes for people living with disabilities, homes for the elderly and homes with a special regime and providers of social services to be providing relief services and set aside facilities with bed capacity, and ensure other COVID related care and protection measures.

**Health: Access to Health Care**
- Government approved the provision of three million FFP2 respirators to staff of residential social services and care services who come into contact with seniors and people with disabilities.
- Government set out a list of emergency measures including restrictions on the visit of users to all providers of social services in the facilities of homes for the elderly and homes with a special regime and to all relief social services in residential form.

**Other: Other**
- Elderly only shopping time (65+) instated.

**Prisoners**

**Other: Other**
- Cabinet approved two draft amendments which would alter the rules for the Czech prison system due to the pandemic. The amendment to the Act on the Prison Service of the Czech Republic is meant to allow for members of the Czech police force to be called in to serve at jails in the case of a staffing crisis caused by the pandemic. Amendments to the acts on serving custody, on serving a sentence of imprisonment, and on serving protective detention are meant to allow imprisoned persons to receive more than the legally stipulated number of packages for a given period during the special measures limiting contact with relatives.

**People with Disabilities**

**Health: Covid Related Care**
- Provision of three million FFP2 respirators from the state’s material reserves to staff of residential social services and care services including residential care services, old people’s homes, homes for people with disabilities and residential respite care facilities.
- Regular testing for clients and employees of organisations that provide long-term bed care or social services in homes for seniors and disabled persons, in homes with a special regime or those providing respite stays.
The government decided to release 190,000 FFP2 respirators and 1,000,000 masks from the state material reserves in order to provide them free of charge to people benefiting from a disability pension for a third-degree disability and people younger than 18 who were granted a disability card for a severe health disability (ZTP) or severe health disability requiring special assistance (ZTP/P).

All providers of follow-up and long-term inpatient health services, providers of social services in facilities for homes for people living with disabilities, homes for the elderly and homes with a special regime and providers of social services providing relief services in residential form are ordered: to set aside facilities with a bed capacity for the separation of persons receiving in their facilities health or social services (hereinafter referred to as “services”) who have been diagnosed with covid-19, ensure that these the premises have been clearly marked, ensure staffing for the operation and provision of services in the defined area for patients with covid-19, and ensure that staff who come into contact with persons who are provided with services in their facilities and who have been diagnosed with covid-19 do not come to contact with other employees and persons residing in their facilities, if the staffing of the provider allows it, regularly monitor the health status of the persons provided in their facilities (in particular, measure body temperature and monitor for signs of respiratory disease) and, in case of suspicion of covid-19, isolate them and contact the locally competent public health authority immediately, to establish hygienic-epidemiological measures to prevent the spread of infectious disease covid-19 within its facilities.

The government has approved a proposal by the Ministry of Industry and Trade to support entrepreneurs who, due to the closure of a school or other facility, cannot fully conduct business and care for a child under 10 years of age or a disabled loved one.

Draft extraordinary law was approved which regulates the Act on Sickness Insurance and extends the payment of nursing allowances to the care of disabled people in the common household, without age restrictions, if the facility intended for their care has been closed.
The state will provide personal protective equipment for employees of facilities for children requiring immediate help and vulnerable children, to whom care is also provided during the state of emergency. Up to 26,580 FFP2 respirators, 186,000 masks, 49,500 protective gloves and 2,475 protective shields will be available for these facilities from the state material reserves for the duration of the state of emergency.

The Government tasked to ensure care for children aged 3-10 of employees in law enforcement, the armed forces and other branches of the integrated emergency services, hygienic stations and also providers of health and social services, so that the operation of critical infrastructure and health and social facilities is not endangered.

The Government altered the period of validity for payment of the ‘Sickness Insurance Act’ as long as the ban on school attendance remains in force. It will raise the age limit from 10 to 13 years of age. Those taking care of people living with disabilities at home following the closure of day care centres are also entitled to the care allowance. From 1 April to 30 June, the nursing allowance (even retroactively) will increase from the normal 60 to 80% of the daily assessment basis.

The state will pay a financial contribution for lost earnings for self-employed persons who, after the introduction of extraordinary government measures, care for children under 13 and dependent children up to the age of 26, under conditions that the second member of the family no longer draws this subsidy or other compensatory allowance for this child (children), in the amount of 424 crowns per day, for the period after 1 May 500 crowns per day.

Single parents of children whose other parent is neglecting to pay child support will be able to apply for up to CZK 3,000 a month for a period of two years. The government approved a draft act on substitute child support on Monday 15 June 2020, having gathered in person at Straka Academy for the first time since the coronavirus epidemic broke out.

The government discussed and approved a draft law on adjustments to the provision of the care allowance in relation to the extraordinary epidemic measures and amendments to the law on health insurance, by means of which it wishes to adjust the conditions for providing a care allowance to parents whose children have remained at home due to school closure or due to the quarantine as ordered. In a proposal that the government wants to establish through Parliament as a matter of urgency under the legislative emergency powers, it is extending the support period for the provision of benefits from nine, or sixteen calendar days in the case of a single parent, to all or part of a school closure due to the continuation of the emergency. The care allowance will also be available to employees working on an agreement on work activities and an agreement on the performance of work. These changes will apply during the 2020/2021 school year, i.e. they will end on 30 June 2021, while the care allowance will not be paid for the days of school holidays, days off under the head teacher’s prerogative or for restrictions on teaching on individual days. At the same time, the law anticipates a simplification for the submission of applications for this benefit. For example, parents will not have to provide proof from a school that it was closed, their affidavit will suffice.
The government approved other support subsidy programmes for Czech entrepreneurs and companies. As in the spring, the self-employed will be able to apply for a subsidy if - due to school closures or the quarantine - they have lost earnings through having to take care of children or of someone who is dependent on the help of another due to a long-term unfavourable health condition, at least at level I and whom the measures have prevented from using any social services. Support from the Care Allowance II for the self-employed programme is also intended for self-employed persons who care for a dependent child up to the age of 26 who is dependent on the help of another person at least at level I (mild dependence). This will be CZK 400 per day, and the Ministry of Industry and Trade will allocate CZK 200 million from its budget to this programme.

Government extended all crisis measures that were due to expire during the pandemic. The crisis measures which instructs regional governors and the Mayor of Prague to provide care for children from 3 to 10 years of age of employees of selected professions and institutions whose activities are necessary to cope with the pandemic, now also includes the children of employees of schools and other teaching facilities, of the Czech postal service and the Financial Administration.

The state of emergency in the Czech Republic, declared due to the SARS-CoV-2 coronavirus pandemic extended again. The government decided to tighten the crisis measures taken in view of the transition to level 5 of the PES anti-epidemic system. In parallel, the government ordered regional governors and the Mayor of Prague to provide essential care for children aged 3 to 10 whose legal guardians work in fields important for the operation of the state, such as employees of the integrated rescue system, the security forces and the Army, the municipal police, hygiene, healthcare, social workers, labour exchanges, employees of schools and kindergartens and the Czech postal service.

The government approved releasing CZK 26 million from the ministry's budget for a subsidy programme for children requiring assistance.

Tax package caters to parents with hospitalized children and exempts from local fees a guide for hospitalized persons who require a full-time presence with the patient if their stay is covered by public health insurance. If a parent has to stay with a sick small child, his / her stay is covered by the health insurance company. However, it is a paid stay, which is subject to a local residence fee, which is not reimbursed by public health insurance and must be paid by the parents. Through an amendment, this fee will no longer be collected from them.
## FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- All pension and benefit payments are to be raised by 10%. A total of KZT200 bn is expected to be spent on this initiative.

## FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- Categories of people eligible for free grocery provisions, which used to comprise mainly the poor, have been extended to include all people living with disabilities, and those who are unemployed.

## HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- President of Kazakhstan donated 500,000 masks to be distributed to orphanages, hospitals and socially vulnerable groups.
### Elderly

**Health: COVID Related Care**
- Government intention for local governments to provide free hygienic masks to residents who have the status of needy or low-income persons, as well as those who stay in shelters or receive a day care center, day center, crisis center or home care service. This is required by the COVID-19 infection control act.

### People with Disabilities

**Health: Access to Health Care**
- An additional 262,991 euros will be provided for the provision of technical aids. With this money it is planned to reduce the queue for orthoses, anti-bedsore mattresses, functional beds, mobility aids and other aids. It is estimated that more than 600 people with disabilities will receive such necessary aids.
- An additional 34,983 euros will be allocated for the provision of social rehabilitation services to persons with hearing impairments (for reducing the queue), thus an additional 16 people with disabilities will be able to receive social rehabilitation.

**Financial: Cash Transfer/Assistance**
- Quarantined workers entitled to receive paid sick-leave, also in case of care for quarantined children below 14 years or children with disabilities below 18 years.

### Vulnerable Children

**Social: Support for Institutions**
- Allocation of 6.2 million euros of funding to Pauls Stradiņš Clinical University Hospital (PSKUS) and the Children's Clinical University Hospital (BKUS) to strengthen the health sector.
- Government supported the allocation of 3.97 million euros to the Ministry of Education and Science (MES) for the improvement of technological provision in general education institutions. It is part of the funding for the Covid-19 crisis management and economic recovery. School smart devices will be able to be used both to modernize the daily learning process and to provide distance learning, primarily to students from large and socially disadvantaged families.
- By the end of the year, schools will receive laptops for a modern teaching process.

**Other: Legal/Administrative**
- Post-adoption supervision of a child adopted abroad has been extended.
The government introduced an “allowance for idle time”, which covers unpaid salaries in the period between 14 March-30 June, as well as employees whose economic activity does not exceed Euro 430 (US$ 471) per month. Employees receiving the allowance will also receive a supplement of Euro 50 (US$ 55) for each dependent child up to 24 years of age.

Quarantined workers are entitled to receive paid sick-leave, also in case of care for quarantined children below 14 years or children with disabilities below 18 years.

Government planned to continue to pay parental benefit for the period from 9 November 2020 until the day when the person starts earning income as an employed or self-employed person, but not longer than until the end of the state of emergency declared due to the Covid-19 epidemic.

Government planned to introduce a new type of aid for a limited period of time - a one-time sickness benefit. It will be paid in the amount of 60% from the benefit applicant’s average insurance contribution salary for the previous 12 calendar months. The benefit will not be paid if the person works, carries out an economic activity, and earns income or if the person has been granted another social insurance benefit or downtime allowance. It is planned that the sickness benefit will be financed from the state general budget. To receive it, a person will need to submit an application to the State Social Insurance Agency. This form of support is planned, because due to the spread of COVID-19 certain pre-school education groups or institutions are increasingly being closed and studies in general education programs are being organized remotely. Consequently, many families with children under the age of 10 or a disabled child under the age of 18, and in which the parents due to the nature of their work are not able to work remotely, require support for looking after their child.

In order to be able to better comply with the necessary epidemiological safety precautions during lunch, the government decided to allow more flexibility for caterers by providing children with packed lunches.
COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER

SLOVAK REPUBLIC / SLOVAKIA
EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- COVID-19 support lines for seniors, people with disabilities, children and youth offer practical advice and psychological help.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Slovak Government’s Pandemic Commission adopted a strategy of vaccination against COVID-19 with a goal to see 65 percent of the population vaccinated, with medical staff and workers in old people’s homes in the first wave and people over 65 included in the second wave.

OTHER: OTHER
- Visits in care homes resumed under the condition of presenting a negative result of PCR test for coronavirus (not older than 72 hours) or of an antigen test (not older than 24 hours).

ELDERLY

OTHER: LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE
- The Slovak Parliament adopted an amendment to the Act on Residence of Aliens to alleviate negative effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the quarantine on foreigners. Newly approved measures included: an extension of legal residence so that third-country nationals with a temporary, permanent or tolerated residence permit which would normally have expired during the pandemic are automatically entitled to stay in the country for two months after the end of emergency measures; foreign nationals without a residence permit in Slovakia (those who entered the country legally with a visa or within a visa-free regime) are authorised to stay in the country until one month after the end of the pandemic measures; third-country nationals residing outside the territory of the Slovak Republic may renew temporary residence or apply for permanent residence for an unlimited period of time at the embassy.
- The Foreign Police amended administrative policies to accept required documents for residence or renewal of the residence older than 90 days if it can be shown that the documents were not older than 90 days during the pandemic control measures.
- Migrant entrepreneurs will not be obliged in 2021 to meet minimum income/profit criteria, which is usually necessary to prolong residence permits for business purposes.

MIGRANT WORKERS
**SLOVAK REPUBLIC / SLOVAKIA**

**EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA**

**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

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**Prison and Court Guard to participate in national COVID-19 antigen testing.**

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**

- The Slovak Government’s Pandemic Commission on Friday adopted a strategy of vaccination against COVID-19, with asylum seekers to be prioritized in the third wave.

**Refugees and Asylum Seekers**

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**

- The Ministry of Health is preparing changes in psychiatric care. The intention is to gradually eliminate non-systemic steps and make it more effective for the benefit of patients. Establishment of Mental Health Centers in the final phase of preparation for processing. The plan is to provide health care in various types of social service homes, also for children and adolescents.

**Vulnerable Children**

**HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

- The Ministry of Health is preparing changes in psychiatric care. The intention is to gradually eliminate non-systemic steps and make it more effective for the benefit of patients. Establishment of Mental Health Centers in the final phase of preparation for processing. The plan is to provide health care in various types of social service homes, also for children and adolescents.

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**

- Several schools in Slovakia implemented joined ‘pilot testing’ of pupils, parents and school staff for coronavirus as a pre-condition for reopening, with schools organising the testing themselves. If a particular school doesn’t organise the testing, it won’t be allowed to reopen and it will instead have to stay with online education, according to Education Minister.

- Schools can be reopened for students of second-level primary and secondary schools if their founders decide to do so, given testing, according to a regulation published by the Public Health Authority (UVZ). Schools that decided not to join the testing will continue in remote education.

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**OTHER: OTHER**

- The Ministry of Health in cooperation with a Member of Parliament catered to people with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) by creating a PAS card. The PAS card they receive after the new one will not only make it easier for them to identify in critical situations, but in the future they could provide them with a doctor or a priority examination and equipment at the offices.

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HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Government started distribution of protective equipment for higher territorial units on December 21, 2020. The aid packages contained 4,000,000 protective veils, 4,000 protective shields, 108,000 respirators, 4,000 protective goggles and 2,400 liters of disinfection. The delivered protective aids will distribute higher territorial units to individual social services facilities as before. The Center for Labor, Social Affairs and the Family also received thousands of other aids, which will distribute them to centers for children and families.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE
- Workers who need to stay home to look after their children are entitled to compensation of 100% of reference wage.
- If the child has two parents, one will stay at home on a special sick leave and receive 80 percent of his/her average salary. If the child has only one parent or both of his parents cannot work, the state could give them an EUR 600 voucher to cover their costs.
- A child benefit is provided to parents of a child up to 11 years of age, who cannot attend the school/ kindergarten closed due to the corona virus outbreak. The duration of the benefit has been extended in order to correspond with the duration of the school closure (now 14 days).
Vaccination strategy prioritized those working at care homes and elderly. The first doses were to be prepared for the residents and employees of care homes and the most exposed and at risk healthcare workers in hospitals and healthcare centres. These groups will be followed by the elderly population (60 years and older), who will be vaccinated gradually with regard to the availability of the vaccine, i.e. first the 80 years and older age group, followed by the 70 years and older, and the 60 years and older age groups.

Social protection institutions like homes for the elderly are being set up with sufficient amounts of protective equipment and training to ensure that equipment is used correctly. The Ministry secured EUR 29 million in funding for additional staff, which will allow homes for the elderly to hire another 550 trained workers.

Measures to provide staff necessary in care homes, the right to unemployment was to be suspended for jobseekers at the Employment Service, and the conditions for refusing the offered employment changed. The government also introduced higher bonuses for care home employees.

Measures aimed at improving older pensioners’ social situation laid out, and pensioners with the lowest pensions targeted to receive a solidarity bonus due to the impact of the coronavirus.

One-off solidarity bonus was paid in different amounts depending on the recipient, and included unemployed recipients of disability insurance benefits and recipients of occupational pensions, 7200 persons with disabilities, 50 war-disabled persons whose only income is the family benefit.
FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- One-off solidarity bonus paid in different amounts depending on the recipient: 2600 recipients of parental allowance and 7650 recipients of childcare allowance, 7500 persons entitled to maternal/parental compensation, students with permanent residence in Slovenia, and 7000 part-time students. As many as 200,000 children who receive child benefits are entitled to a one-off solidarity bonus in the amount of EUR 30 or EUR 60.
- Act provides the possibility of claiming 80% compensation in the case of absence from work to care for a child due to circumstances beyond one's control, i.e., if they were ordered to quarantine.
- The government adopts the Act Determining the Intervention Measures to Mitigate and Remedy the Consequences of the Covid-19, the so-called fifth Anti-Corona Package (ASP5). The package of measures reintroduces or extends existing measures. From 1 September 2020, it will be possible to claim 80% compensation in the event of absence from work for childcare due to force majeure (child quarantine). For employers, the possibility of reimbursement of compensation for wages and salaries paid for absence from work due to ordered quarantine is extended. However, there is also the possibility of reimbursement of salary compensation in case of absence from work due to childcare (force majeure).

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- Free school meals for all children up to tax class 3.
- Foreign Ministry donates computers and monitors for the remote schooling of children and teenagers.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- In the education sector, financing is being provided for personal protective equipment and for means of disinfecting spaces, along with exemption from payment for nursery school in the event of a child being ordered to quarantine. The option of performing educational work remotely is also arranged.
The government announced plans to pay an additional 1,000 hryvnias to those pensioners who receive less than 5,000 hryvnias. From 1 April 2020, the government to pay an additional UAH 1,000 ($35) to those having a pension of less than UAH 5,000 ($180), and to index pensions from 1 May 2020.

The Cabinet of Ministers approved a bill to amend the legislation on pensions and social protection of the elderly. According to the Prime Minister, the estimated cost of the program will be UAH 500 million.

Government to approve the National Plan for the Introduction of the COVID-19 vaccine a week from December 18, 2020. The plan is set to prioritize persons living in long-term care and support facilities, and elderly people 60 years and older who are at risk.

About 7,000 young volunteers responded to a call by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Ukrainian Volunteer Service (UVS) to support people who were alone during the COVID-19 pandemic.

A one-off payment to the current beneficiaries of child disability payments announced.

Amendment to allow redistributing subvention to local budgets in order to fully implement joint projects with European partners. The emergency loan program to rebuild Ukraine envisages the restoration of a significant number of infrastructure facilities to improve the accessibility of services for internally displaced persons in Donetsk, Luhansk, Kharkiv, Dnipropetrovsk, Zaporizhia, Odesa, Kyiv, Poltava and Kherson regions.
The Government introduced a payment to support children of individual entrepreneurs who belong to the first and second group of single taxpayers and paid a single social contribution, for the period of quarantine and for one month after the date of its abolition. About 300,000 families are expected to benefit from this assistance. It will be provided for each child up to 10 years of age in the amount of the subsistence minimum (for children under 6 years - UAH 1,779 (USD 70); for children aged 6 to 10 years - UAH 2,218 (USD 90)).

More than UAH 51 million of educational subvention expenditures will be redistributed among local budgets to prevent arrears of salaries to teachers. The redistribution will allow avoidance of the emergence of arrears of wages to teachers of general secondary education in some administrative-territorial units of Vinnytsia, Ivano-Frankivsk, Kirovohrad, Odesa, Khmelnytsky, Cherkasy, Chernivtsi and Chernihiv regions.

The Government decided to introduce additional tools to support people and businesses, which had operated during the quarantine in the spring, i.e., to private individuals who are forced to limit their work due to quarantine. That is, when children under 10 are living in the family of the entrepreneur, the state will help with their provision. Approximately UAH 2,000 will be paid for each child.

Amendments were made to the Memorandum of Understanding between the Government of Ukraine and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on the provision of one-time in-kind child support “baby box” in 2020.

About 7,000 young volunteers responded to a call by the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Ukrainian Volunteer Service (UVS) to support people who were alone during the COVID-19 pandemic. Since the beginning of the quarantine, they have made 15,000 telephone calls, including to the elderly, as well as people with disabilities, and parents with many children - all those who have sought support - as part of the My Telephone Friend (Befriend) project. In June 2020, with the support of the Ministry of Social Policy of Ukraine, UNICEF and the UVS launched the My Telephone Friend project. The project has already brought together about 7,000 volunteers from all over Ukraine.

Government call center for combating violence to be fully operational from the beginning of 2021.
**SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS**
- Government announced 600 million pounds to support providers through a new adult social care infection control fund.
- Government funding of £22 million awarded to life-saving health charities such as mental health, ambulance, social care, elderly care, and dementia charities during virus outbreak.
- Government releases action plan for adult social care.

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**
- New adult social care winter plan to support care homes through winter including free PPE and an extra £546 million for the Infection Control Fund to help the care sector restrict the movement of staff between care homes to stop the spread of the virus.
- Care homes across the country will benefit from additional rapid testing to test staff twice a week to help protect residents and workers from the virus.
- Programme launched to vaccinate care home staff, residents in a care home for older adults, and their carers.
- Government announced better testing access for anyone in England with symptoms of coronavirus who has to leave home to go to work, and all symptomatic members of the public aged 65 and over. The elderly can therefore know for sure whether they have coronavirus and need to continue isolating.
- Health and Social Care Secretary listed where tests were being allocated, and how they were prioritized. Supporting and protecting people in care homes were the second highest priority group.
- New government guidance to safely allow indoor visits to care homes across England as the country moves back into tiered restrictions supports care home residents to be reunited with their families for Christmas.
- Government announced that homecare workers looking after people in their own homes to be offered weekly coronavirus tests.
- Department of Health and Social Care released that a study led by UCL will be used to complement their work to support the care sector and includes testing thousands of care home staff and residents to improve understanding of these vulnerable groups’ immune response to COVID-19.
- Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization released their recommendations and advice on prioritization of key groups for COVID-19 vaccinations and elderly were prioritized in order according to age and place of residence.

**OTHER: OTHER**
- Public Health England released guidance on implementation of measures to reduce the risk of infectious disease, and an ASC Risk Reduction framework was released by the government to focus specifically on how employers can support workers with factors which may make them more vulnerable to infection or adverse outcomes from COVID-19 to make decisions about their risks in the workplace.

**OTHER: RESTRICTIONS**
- National restrictions were put into place to protect clinically extremely vulnerable groups including those 70 or over, who were strongly advised to stay at home at all times, and were provided with a range of support, including over 32 million pounds funding for local councils.
For all overseas visitors, including anyone living in the UK without permission, no charges apply to testing for COVID-19. The same to be true of most other infectious diseases. No immigration checks are required for overseas visitors that are known to be only undergoing testing or treatment for COVID-19.

The United Kingdom extended visas until May 31, 2020 for those whose leave expired on or after January 24, 2020 and are in the United Kingdom because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to COVID-19.

Automatically extended the visas of foreign doctors for one year.

The Home Office announced that individuals whose visas expire between January 24, 2020 and July 31, 2020 and who cannot return to their home countries owing to COVID-19 will be able to extend their visas until July 31, 2020.

Vital health professionals and their family dependents to have their visas extended for a year, free of all fees and charges.

Range of guidance and information published digitally to support people living with disabilities in understanding what they should do to protect themselves, and to gain access to appropriate and accurate information.

COVID-19 action plan for adult social care released enlisting best practices and recommendations, as well as efforts by the government to support the care sector.

Government delivers 250,000 clear face masks to frontline NHS and social care workers to support better care for people who use lip-reading and facial expressions to communicate.

A new adult social care winter plan was released to support care homes through winter including free PPE and £546 million Infection Control Fund.

An additional £600 million announced to support providers through a new adult social care infection control fund to keep people in care homes safe, and to support and bring national and local government to help care providers put COVID protection measures into practice.

Part of £750 million unveiled by Chancellor in response to COVID-19, and will include £6 million to support various charities, including those working with people with learning disabilities, autism and complex needs (National Autistic Society, British Institute for Learning Disabilities, MENCAP, Learning Disability England, Contact, Respond, The Challenging Behaviour Foundation).
### Prisoners

**Other:**
- Up to 4,000 prisoners in England and Wales are to be released in an effort to control the spread of coronavirus.

**Health:**
- Weekly tests will also be available to staff in prisons, food manufacturing, and those delivering and administering Covid vaccines.

### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**Social: Support for Institutions**
- Bringing together scientists and researchers from across the world, 20 new projects will benefit from a share of £7.2 million of UK government funding to develop new technology and processes to address the challenges faced by some of the world’s most vulnerable people, such as refugees and children.

**Health:**
- COVID-19 guidance for providers of accommodation for asylum seekers. Any NHS care received for COVID-19 is free of charge, irrespective of immigration status. No immigration checks are needed to enable testing or treatment of an asylum seeker for COVID-19.

**Financial:**
- Temporarily extended free school meal eligibility to include some children of groups who have no recourse to public funds (NRPF), including to children of a subset of failed asylum seekers supported under Section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999.

### Vulnerable Children

**Social:**
- The COVID-19 Childcare Support Scheme provides funding to support childcare providers who are caring for children of key workers and vulnerable children.
- Youth homelessness charity St Basils will benefit from £90,000 to enable it to continue its vital work supporting young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
- Government doubles funding for child sexual abuse charities to £2.4 million. The joint Home Office and Ministry of Justice fund will support national charities that work with children and adults who have experienced child sexual abuse.
- £750 million boost for front line charities to make sure domestic abuse victims can still access the support they desperately rely on remotely. £2 million funding boost for domestic abuse charities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
United Kingdom

Europe and Central Asia

COVID-19 Health Justice Policy Tracker

**Social: Support for Institutions**

- Launching a £2.8 million child sexual abuse Support Services Transformation Fund to improve support available for children and young people affected by sexual abuse by building understanding of what support works for victims and promoting best practice between providers and communities. A pledge of £3.7 million to continue support for 11 local authority-led projects in England through the Trusted Relationship Fund, to support young people identified as at high risk of sexual or criminal exploitation by providing bespoke help from adult role models such as youth workers, police officers and other professionals.

- Community projects supporting people with their mental health during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic to benefit from their share of £5 million of additional funding.

- The Education Secretary announced that thousands of students will be supported with new dedicated school and college transport to get them to school or college in the autumn term. Delivering on the national priority for all children and young people to return to full-time education in September, local transport authorities received more than £40 million funding for the autumn term. This funding aimed to create extra capacity and allow hundreds of thousands more students to use alternatives to public transport, while social distancing measures remain in place.

- 7.6mn pound Vulnerable Children National Charities Strategic Relief Fund (part of previous 76mn pound commitment, 34mn of which went to vulnerable children). This funding is for voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) organisations whose purpose includes provision of services that safeguard vulnerable children as defined in the government guidance, and they can continue to provide these services safely over the period of funding (until 31 October 2020) that offer services nationally throughout England or Wales whose usual annual income is greater than £40 million who are in financial distress as a result of a reduction in income or increase in workload due to COVID-19 that have not received COVID-19 relief for the same purpose that were not in financial distress prior to 31 December 2019.

- In local authorities where attendance at childcare centers is below 85% of their January 2020 census levels, and where that local authority can provide evidence for increased attendance during the spring term, government to provide a top-up to their January 2021 census. The top-up would only fund the additional places taken-up after the January 2021 census week count and would be limited to a cap equivalent to 85% of their January 2020 census. This will give local authorities additional financial confidence to pay providers for increasing attendance later in the term.

- The £8 million Wellbeing for Education Return scheme, jointly led by the Department for Education and Department of Health and Social Care, has enabled local authorities to fund mental health and wellbeing experts to provide advice and resources for school and further education staff over the winter. To support those in higher education, the Office for Students has provided up to £3 million to fund the Student Space platform to bridge gaps in mental health support for students. Student Space provides access to dedicated support services, resources and information to help students manage the challenges of student life.

- Adapted £3.6 million worth of Early Years Disadvantage grants to existing organisations to support children’s early literacy and language development. Government providing an additional £1.15 million DCMS grant funding over 6 months to enable existing VCS partners to broaden the scope of grants to support the mental health and wellbeing of disadvantaged and vulnerable parents and children. The grants will also help children catch up and transition back into early education.

- Coronavirus Community Support Fund allocated to more than 8,000 small and medium charities across England that have been awarded a share of £200 million to help them continue their vital work with vulnerable people during the pandemic.
### SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
- A £7 million grant for the ‘See, Hear, Respond’ service working in partnership with national children’s charities and local organisations, has supported vulnerable children at most risk of harm or having negative experiences on their health and wellbeing, including in the early years. Government provided an additional £125,000 for Fosterline for additional one-to-one and specialist help to fostering families in crisis and expert advice to help prospective carers make informed decisions.
- The government announced £1 billion of funding to support children and young people to catch up lost time after school closure. This is especially important for the most vulnerable and disadvantaged backgrounds. This funding includes: a one-off universal £650 million catch up premium for the 2020 to 2021 academic year to ensure that schools have the support they need to help all pupils make up for lost teaching time; a £350 million National Tutoring Programme to provide additional, targeted support for those children and young people who need the most help, which includes; a schools programme for 5 to 16-year-olds.
- More domestic abuse charities to benefit from government funding boost. A further 25 charities to receive a share of £1 million boost as part of the government’s £10 million emergency fund.
- The Adoption and Children (Coronavirus) (Amendment) Regulations 2020 ("the 2020 Regulations") made temporary amendments to a set of 10 children’s social care regulations and came into force on 24 April 2020. They provide for extra flexibility in some circumstances which may arise as a direct result of COVID-19 for example high levels of staff sickness. Local authority duties towards children which are contained within primary legislation remain unchanged. The temporary amendments which have been made do not reduce the responsibility that local authorities have towards protecting children from significant harm and protecting their welfare.
- More than £12 million will be spent on 14 projects across the country to tackle the increased risk some children and young people are facing.

### HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Military to support the testing of thousands of secondary school and college students in England. Every secondary school and college in England is being offered testing, with £78 million funding for schools and colleges to support this offer.
- Updated guidance released on preventing and controlling infection, including the use of PPE, in education, childcare and children’s social care settings during the coronavirus outbreak.

### OTHER: DIGITAL AND TELE SERVICES
- Laptops, tablets and 4G wireless routers provided during COVID-19. Guidance for local authorities, academy trusts and schools on managing Department for Education devices provided for children, families and young adults most in need.
Informal carers will be able to provide care for children and vulnerable adults in parts of the country with restrictions on interhousehold mixing. Children under 14 will be able to be cared for by individuals outside of their immediate household as part of a care bubble. Arrangements must be part of a consistent childcare relationship.

Basic element of Working Tax Credit has been increased by £1,045 to £3,040 from 6 April 2020 until 5 April 2021.

Furloughed workers to receive full parental leave entitlement.

Communities Secretary announces £76 million extra funding to support survivors of domestic abuse, sexual violence and vulnerable children and their families and victims of modern slavery. A total of £34.15 million will support work to safeguard vulnerable children including children with disabilities, those who are critically ill, care leavers and children in the early years. Funding will also allow charities to offer support services in new ways, using remote working and technology solutions, for example, to help tackle criminal threats and mitigate the risks to vulnerable children and young people during the COVID-19 pandemic.

For the very small percentage of students who had planned to study this year but are offered a deferred place, the government put together a package of support that will provide them with opportunities to gain new skills, undertake work placements in the public, private and voluntary sectors, undertake additional learning and support their career development. This includes support that the higher education sector will offer those students during the year ahead, including free courses and access to careers advice. Whilst this package is targeted at those who had not planned to defer, some of the options, such as the skills toolbox, will be open to those who had planned to defer. In addition, where there is space on any of the other initiatives all students deferring will be eligible.

By March 31, 2020, the government formally launched a national voucher scheme to ensure that the 1.3 million eligible school-aged children will continue to have access to meals during COVID-19-induced school closures. Under the scheme, each school-aged child would receive £15 per week voucher (equivalent to £3 per day), with the vouchers being redeemable at all major supermarkets. The value of the vouchers exceeds the costs of free school meals, as the government recognizes the increased costs placed on parents given that they will not be purchasing food in bulk and thus will incur higher costs. Families with school-aged children can know their eligibility through the government website. The delivery of the vouchers will be under the responsibility of schools. The government has also provided the flexibility for schools to utilise their existing in-house caterers and hire a local meal delivery service provider, with the government reimbursing the additional costs.

Covid-19 Summer Food Fund established to support pupils who were eligible for benefits-related free school meals during the summer holidays. The scheme has been designed to offer a £90 voucher for the standard school summer holiday. If the school’s summer holiday lasts 7 full weeks (rather than 6), can increase the voucher amount per child from £90 to £105.
**Uzbekistan**  
**Europe and Central Asia**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Migrant Workers</strong></th>
<th><strong>Financial: Cash Transfer/Assistance</strong></th>
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<td>Uzbek Embassy in Moscow created a program whereby any Uzbek labor migrant discovered to have COVID-19 will have 12,000 rubles ($175) paid onto their bank card.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Elderly</strong></th>
<th><strong>Financial: Direct Food And/or In-Kind Supplies Kit</strong></th>
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<tr>
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<td>A presidential decree listed a number of free products for the elderly and disabled, including free food and hygiene products for lonely elderly and disabled people including disposable masks, antiseptics, and antibacterial soap.</td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>People with Disabilities</strong></th>
<th><strong>Financial: Direct Food And/or In-Kind Supplies Kit</strong></th>
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<td>Government increased the number of free products for the elderly and disabled, including disposable facial masks, antiseptic sanitizers and antibacterial soap to a list of 18 essentials foodstuffs and hygiene products provided to beneficiaries of regular goods baskets. Eligible populations include the elderly (men over 60 years and women over 55) and people with disabilities (groups 1 and II) who need outside care, do not have children (except for minors or people with disabilities), spouses and parents (with the exception of the elderly or disabled), or guardians, trustees, or persons entrusted by the court to provide care.</td>
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<th><strong>Vulnerable Children</strong></th>
<th><strong>Social: Support for Institutions</strong></th>
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<td>New system of special care for children from needy families, orphans, children with disabilities and those in need of treatment will be introduced.</td>
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<th><strong>Other: Legal/Administrative</strong></th>
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<td></td>
<td>Prohibited to terminate an employment contract with an employee who is a parent (person, substitute, guardian, guardian) of a child under 14 years of age or child infected with COVID-19 or quarantined on the initiative of the employer.</td>
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<th><strong>Other: Other</strong></th>
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<td>Ministry of Community and Family Support and UNICEF jointly launched the &quot;Support to Children Returned from Armed Conflict Areas, Children of Migrant Workers and Children Leaving Closed Specialized Educational Institutions after COVID-19 and Returned to Their Families and Communities.&quot;</td>
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VULNERABLE CHILDREN

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE

- The Government introduced a payment to support children of individual entrepreneurs who belong to the first and second group of single tax payers and paid a single social contribution, for the period of quarantine and for one month after the date of its abolition. Assistance to be provided for each child up to 10 years of age in the amount of the subsistence minimum (for children under 6 years - UAH 1,779 (USD 70); for children aged 6 to 10 years - UAH 2,218 (USD 90)).
- A working parent (only one of the two) is given a paid leave for the duration of schools and kindergartens shutdown without affecting the regular annual paid leave schedule.
- Parents (persons, substitutes, guardians, caregivers) who are quarantined due to infection with COVID-19 infection or suspected infection, as well as persons caring for their child under the age of 14, are paid temporary disability benefits in the amount of 100 percent from the average wage.
- New presidential decree automatically extended for six months the granting of benefits to families with children, childcare and material assistance, whose payment deadlines end in March-June.
- $100 million to ensure youth entrepreneurship and employment.
- 1 trillion soums and $50 million will be allocated for lending to business projects of young people and their vocational training.
- 50 billion soums to be allocated from the budget to provide housing for 900 orphans.
- 11,000 "Presidential Gifts" prepared and sent to the regions for children from orphanages, children left without parental care, children aged 3-15 whose parents died defending the borders of the Motherland, and children from families in need of social protection.
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

Iran
Lebanon
Oman
Qatar
Saudi Arabia
Syria
Yemen
IRAN, ISLAMIC REP
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER

Elderly

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Elderly with underlying conditions prioritized in Iran’s national vaccine rollout plan.

Prisoners

OTHER: OTHER
- Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei pardoned or commuted the prison sentences of 3,721 inmates on the occasion of Eid al-Fitr.
- Hassan Rouhani announced the extension of the furlough granted to 100,000 prisoners. The date of their return to prison was set for 20 May.
- The Ministry of Health stated that all temporarily released prisoners would be tested when they went back to prison. In the absence of an extension, the 100,000 prisoners conditionally released would return to prison on 19 April.
- Iran temporarily released 85,000 prisoners.
- The government announced that 54,000 prisoners who had tested negative had been temporarily released.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Iran provides refugees and immigrants with free COVID-19 treatment.

Vulnerable Children

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE
- Given that families income and livelihood have been affected during the COVID-19 outbreak, the government allotted some Rls. 220 trillion, and around 20 million households received 10-million-rial economic stimulus packages in the less than two months from the spread of the disease in the country. In the next stages, similar rescue packages were given to some other families which had not received them, increasing the number of those who had received the aid. Among the innovative measures incorporated into the plan were the speedy granting of loans, a lack of need to go to banks [to receive the loans] in which case there would have been overcrowding, a lack of need to introduce a guarantor and offer security, and the automatic deduction of installments from the families’ cash subsidies.
A number of households in lower income brackets such as seasonal workers and families with female breadwinners also received Rls. 20 million in addition to the 10-million-rial support package. It is noteworthy that the mentioned financial aid was offered to families as loans at a 4% interest rate. In order to prevent losses to the banking system, the government has appropriated some Rls. 25 trillion in subsidies to banks to make up for the low interest rate for the loans.

Some Rls. 13 trillion worth of rescue packages as well as monthly cash handouts worth between 2 million to 6 million rials each have been offered to low-income families by the government.
The Minister of Home Affairs announced that 559 people were released from prison.

500 prisoners were released from prisons in the north of the country.

The State prosecutor ordered judges to hold off on pretrial detentions unless “absolutely necessary”.

Lebanese internal security forces transformed an existing Roumieh prison building into an isolation ward where sick detainees can be treated, in cooperation with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

In Roumieh prison, the ICRC reported that a dedicated swab sampling room was in use, and that an equipped quarantine ward for positive detainees or those suspected to be positive was being set up.
**OMAN**

**MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA**

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**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

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### HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE

- Launch of National Campaign for Immunization against COVID-19 in two stages. The target groups in community include: the elderly of 65 years of age and above with diabetes, people with kidney failure and who are on dialysis, and those with chronic lung diseases namely the chronic obstructive pulmonary syndrome (COPD), asthma (with the severity of the disease varies between medium and high), and interstitial lung disease (ILD).

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### OTHER: OTHER

- Event themed, 'Building Back Better: toward a disability-inclusive, accessible and sustainable post COVID-19 World' held and the Director General of Persons with Disabilities Affairs enlisted ways in which the Sultanate has taken preventive measures at the local level to limit the spread of the virus among persons with disabilities, such as suspending schooling and rehabilitation programs in governmental, and private rehabilitation centers, and translating awareness programs and the official statement issued in sign language.
The Ministry of Health announces a vaccination campaign to counter COVID-19. In the first phase, elderly over 70 years of age, those with chronic diseases, and the medical staff are prioritized.
The Ministry of Health announces the largest vaccination campaign to counter COVID-19. In the first phase, elderly over 70 years of age, those with chronic diseases, and the medical staff are prioritized. The Ministry of Health (MOH) has announced priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination as follows: The first stage targets citizens and residents who are over 65 years and professionals who are most vulnerable to infection, people who are obese and have a Body Mass Index (BMI) of over 40, those who have immune deficiency, such as those who underwent organ transplantation or taking immunosuppressive drugs; and those who have two or more chronic diseases including asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease including coronary artery disease, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and those with a history of a previous stroke. The second stage targets citizens and residents who are over 50 years and health practitioners, and those who have one of the following chronic diseases: asthma, diabetes, chronic kidney disease, chronic heart disease including coronary artery disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, and active cancer, and those with obesity and BMI between 30 – 40.

The "Taqdeer" program launched in response to the aspirations of retirees and their families for various services and offers that meet their needs and satisfy their expectations through exclusive offers and services across several different paths covering different service areas.

Formation of a committee to coordinate and monitor the implementation of the Law on the Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

The Sultan of Oman, Haitham bin Tariq al-Said pardoned 599 prisoners jailed for various offenses, including 336 foreigners. Emir Al Thani pardoned a "number of prisoners" in response to the health situation in prisons and on the occasion of the month of Ramadan.

The Directorate General of Prisons implemented a plan consisting of two parts, through raising awareness with lectures and by applying preventive measures issued by the MOH in prisons, including testing employees before entry to premises, the sterilization of buildings, and the cancelation family visits for inmates. The directorate is also working to provide virtual communication between inmates and families.
The king decided temporary suspension of sentences in prison for people in debt in private law cases. These were immediately released. The king also ordered the immediate release of those jailed in accordance of these rulings and judgments.

The authorities of the country announced the release of hundreds of people detained at Al-Shumaisi prison on 24 March. They specify that these people were imprisoned for violation of the residence permit or for conviction in criminal cases.
The Syrian state announced the signing of an amnesty decree (Amnesty decree no 6). The Syrian regime had released only 96 of the nearly 130,000 detainees held in its prisons in the two months since issuing its last amnesty decree at that point, and had arrested 113 more.

Syria and Russia hold a conference on the return of refugees as a first step for a real solution to their return. President Bashar al-Assad affirmed that the issue of the refugees is a national issue, in addition to being a humanitarian issue, as “over the past few years, we have succeeded in achieving the return of hundreds of thousands of refugees, and today we are working relentlessly for the return of each refugee who is willing to participate in building his homeland.”

An agreement was made to provide access to the internet hosted on servers located in the Syrian Arab Republic (free of charge) to the various scientific sites of the Ministry of Education for students of all educational stages.

Education Ministry continues training doctors of School Health to ensure implementing approved health protocol.

Education Ministry launches “Back to School” campaign, in cooperation with UNICEF.

The Education Ministry announced that it will begin carrying out remedial lessons to compensate for educational losses for Category B basic education students from August 11th to the 31st.

UNICEF starts training program in schools to promote health awareness.

Education Ministry asks its directorates to address classroom density in schools.

A national anti-polio vaccination campaign, organized by the Health Ministry, was launched targeting children from one day to five years old, regardless of their previous vaccines amid taking all precautionary measures to address covid-19.
PRISONERS

OTHER: OTHER
- The government announced the release of more than 500 prisoners.

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Health Ministry confirms readiness to deal with the health status of released prisoners.
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

Argentina
Chile
Costa Rica
Haiti
Mexico
Panama
FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- Providing food via El Barrio Cuida al Barrio Program to guarantee the food supply for people over 60 years of age and with chronic pathologies.
- Specific accompaniment to risk groups [people over 60 years of age and with chronic pathologies] and distribution of safety and hygiene elements to promote the dissemination of preventive measures.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE
- The government releases an expansion of a law that provides a PESOS $3,000 maximum subsidy to beneficiaries of Universal Pension for Elderly or non-contributory pensions for old age.
- National Government established an increase of 7.50% for pension benefits as of September. Said increase was incorporated as an integral part of the pension assets, family allowances and non-contributory pensions.
- Extension of a 15% reimbursement for debit card purchases benefit that reaches retirees and pensioners who charge the minimum. Allows a refund of up to 700 pesos per month per beneficiary or beneficiary, and up to 1400 pesos per month for holders of the AUH with 2 or more sons or daughters.
- New provisions of the "ANSES Credits" Program to support the vulnerable (including elderly) by not capitalizing interest on the debit balance generated during December 2020 on current loans of the program during the time period which the loan was suspended.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Approval of the Vaccination Operational Plan against SARS-CoV-2 prioritizes the elderly.
- Ministry of the Interior prepared a geolocated register so that 60+ years old individuals could receive the vaccine.

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Toll-free consultation line, started by the National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners, for older adults around COVID-19 and healthcare recommendations.
- The Comprehensive Medical Care Program for retirees and pensioners announced the freezing of drug prices until October 31.

OTHER: DIGITAL AND TELE SERVICES
- Mandatory universal basic plan for mobile communications services, fixed telephony, fixed internet and TV by subscription priced from $ 150.

OTHER: LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE
- Legislation and notice by the government for the extension of the suspension of the process of updating the life certificate for retired people and pensioners living abroad.
### Argentina

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<th><strong>ARGENTINA</strong></th>
<th><strong>LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN</strong></th>
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<td><strong>COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER</strong></td>
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#### Elderly

**OTHER: LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE**
- New extension of the suspension of the process of updating the life certificate for retired people and pensioners. Covers the benefits corresponding to the months of January, February and March 2021 and maintains the exception regarding beneficiaries who are outside the country, who may present the semi-annual survival certificate to the “authorized bank”, until December 31, 2020.
- New extension of the suspension of the process of updating the life certificate for retired people and pensioners.

**Other:**
- Government released a notice that companies that provide services of electricity, gas through networks and running water, fixed or mobile telephony and Internet and cable TV, by radioelectric or satellite link, may not order the suspension or interruption of the respective services in the event of delay or non-payment of up to 7 consecutive or alternate invoices, with expiration dates from March 1, 2020. The benefit includes retirees and pensioners.
- Facilities for processing of pension benefits and disability retirement established that procedures for the social security benefits that require intervention by the Superintendency of Labor Risks (SRT), will be carried out without granting the corresponding shift for the Medical Hearing.

#### Migrant Workers

**OTHER: LEGAL / ADMINISTRATIVE**
- The National Directorate of Migrations established a new extension of validity of residences granted to foreigners for 30 days.
- Given the continuity of the health emergency and the impossibility of managing procedures in person, the National Directorate of Migration established a new extension of the validity of residences granted for 30 days. The measure, implemented from March 18, will be in effect until August 16, and includes, in turn, the suspension of deadlines for compliance with injunctions, summons or summons.
- The National Directorate of Migration established a new extension of the validity of residences granted for 30 days. The measure also includes the suspension of time limits for the fulfillment of summons, summons or summons.
- The National Directorate of Migration establishes a new extension of the validity of residences for 30 days. The measure, implemented since March, covers both temporary residences, as well as temporary and precarious ones.
- The National Directorate of Migration establishes a new extension of the validity of residences for 30 days. The measure, implemented since the beginning of the pandemic, reaches both temporary residences, as well as temporary and precarious ones.
- The National Directorate of Migration establishes a new extension of the validity of residences for 30 days. The measure, implemented since the beginning of the pandemic, reaches both temporary residences, as well as temporary and precarious ones.

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Emergency Cash Transfer “Ingreso Familiar de emergencia” of approximately USD 157 for April subject to extension. Beneficiaries include migrants who have been legal residents in the country for at least 2 years.
Pesos $3,000 maximum subsidy to beneficiaries of non-contributory pensions for disability.

Subsidy of $15,000 pesos provided to families affected by COVID and to boys, girls, adolescents, and/or people of legal age with disabilities.

National Disability Agency established an exceptional economic stimulus in favor of people with disabilities who have the concession of small businesses in public organizations within the national State, decentralized entities, autarkic or mixed companies, that have been operational during the year 2019 and the beginning of 2020.

National Disability Agency established an exceptional economic stimulus for transport providers for people with disabilities. The measure allows to assist and contain the sector, mostly single-person entrepreneurs, and ensure the operational continuity of transport services during the health emergency.

The National Disability Agency established the extension for a term of one year, counting from the expiration date, of the Unique Disability Certificates that have expired or will do so between January 1 and December 31, 2020.

The National Disability Agency established the extension of the Unique Certificates for one year. The measure applies to those whose expiration occurs between January 1, 2021 and until December 31, 2021.

National Disability Agency enabled a video call service for people with hearing disabilities in order to provide adequate, reliable and accessible information on risk factors and preventive measures related to COVID-19, from Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Coordinating Committee of the National Disability Agency created 3 assistance programs; the initiatives include financial aid to homes and residences, and protected production workshops, as well as the reinforcement of provincial input banks.

New provisions of the "ANSES Credits" Program to support people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups which ensures that current loans of the program will not capitalize interest on the debit balance generated during the period in which the loan was suspended.

AFIP establishes a new extension of the 15% refund for purchases with debit card until March 31, 2021. The measure, which reaches retirees and pensioners who charge the minimum credit as well as holders of the AUH and AUE, allows a refund of up to 700 pesos per month per beneficiary or beneficiary, and up to 1400 pesos per month for holders of the AUH with 2 or more sons or daughters.
Ministry of Social Development of the Nation established an expansion of the amount credited in the Alimentar Card in the month of December. In this way, for those who have a daughter or son, the amount will double and go from 4,000 to 8,000 pesos, as well as for those who have two or more sons or daughters, which will go from 6,000 to 12,000 pesos.

ANSES established the non-application of interest in view of the resumption of the collection of fees in December of the “Credits ANSES”. In this way, the current loans of the program will not capitalize interest on the debit balance generated during the period in which the loan was suspended. Likewise, a 29% reduction in the TNA (Nominal Annual Rate) applicable to current loans was established for holders of SIPA / PNC / PUAM and 32% for holders of AUH and SUAF. Beneficiaries and beneficiaries whose suspended credits had a lower TNA than the current one will resume the payment of the monthly installment in the terms of the conditions originally agreed.

PESO$3100 bonus payment is provided to those who receive Universal Child Allowance (AUH).

400 thousand Alimentary cards are to be accredited through Universal Child Allowance.

Emergency Family Income established with PESO$10000 one-time payment, benefits beneficiaries of Universal Child Allowance,

Second round of the Emergency Family Income payment (PESO$10000).

Alimentary Card program to strengthen food assistance and sustain the incomes of those who have it more complicated, mothers and fathers with sons or daughters up to 6 years of age who receive the Universal Child Allowance (AUH) (more than 1.5mn cards, between PESO $4000 and $6000 a month).

Alimentary card changed to being loaded weekly, with typical payment to be divided into 4 weekly payments, rather than one monthly credit.

National Government ordered an extraordinary payment to the holders of the Food Card. It will be credited on April 29 and consists of $4,000 for those families with one child, and $6,000 for those with 2 or more. Those who are recipients of Alimentar, but still do not have the card, the amount will be credited along with the payment of the AUH, according to the schedule set by ANSES.

The national government reported that a subsidy of $15,000 will be provided for the families of people who died from COVID-19. The sum of the benefit will be paid to the victim’s spouse ‘or to the father or mother or one of their mothers or one of their parents, or the son or daughter of the deceased, provided that The applicant will report the death and prove that he or she has paid the funeral expenses with the presentation of the invoice issued in his or her name by the funeral company that performed the service.

AFIP established the extension of the 15% reimbursement for debit card purchases until December 31, 2020. The benefit reaches retirees and pensioners who charge the minimum having as well as the holders of the AUH and the Universal Allowance for Pregnancy.

ANSES established the third payment of the Emergency Family Income of $10,000. It will be paid in conjunction with the payment schedule of the Universal Child Allowance and will once again reach almost 9 million people.

National Government established an expansion in family allowances that includes modifications regarding the collection of the benefit of the Universal Child Allowance. In this way, the limit on the number of daughters and sons per family is eliminated, the presentation of the “National Book of Social Security, Health and Education” is suspended for this year and it is established that in the month of December all holders of the AUH they will charge the 20% accumulated. Similarly, the minimum income limit for the collection of family allowances is eliminated and it is determined that monotax workers will not lose family allowances if they fall behind in the payment of fees.
ARGENTINA
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Medical coverage for girls and boys born as of February 20: the National Government provides that the children of members of Health Insurance Agents or Prepaid Medicine Entities, born as of February 20, 2020 and for whom it was not possible to complete the DNI process, are provisionally incorporated and for the term of up to 45 calendar days after the end of the period of social isolation, preventive and compulsory, with the sole accreditation of birth.
Government presented a budget for work and recovery which included a 7.2% increase in resources for the elderly, which is set to enable expansion of coverage and improvement of pensions of the Solidarity Pillar, and promote employment and finance the 50% reduction in public transport fees for the elderly and to facilitate their access to health and other aspects.

First Lady and Minister of Housing announce beneficiaries of the rental subsidy for the elderly.

Strategy released to mobilize resources of more than $13 million coming from the State, companies, and civil society for Long Stay Establishments aimed to prevent infections and deaths from COVID-19 among older adults.

Christmas bonus paid for IPS pensioners and other beneficiaries.

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT

Delivery of food kits and supplies to elderly beneficiaries of the solidarity campaign, specially prepared for them, before the end of the year holidays.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE

Elderly prioritized in the vaccine rollout plans in Chile.

Ministry of Health published a guideline for emotional wellbeing which includes the elderly.

Government announced a special accompaniment program on mental health called Saludable-Mente (Healthy-Mind) aiming to strengthen the public and private offer of mental health services, including the use of a digital platform, support and recommendations.

Government launched a special protection plan for the care and accompaniment of older adults during COVID-19. Among the initiatives, a free telephone line - 800 400 035 - planned to be set up, which will be used to provide restraint to the elderly.

National Director of Senama highlighted the implementation of the public-private strategy to support Long-Term Establishments around the prevention of Covid-19. For its part, the performance of the Fono Mayor - 800 4000 35 - was detailed, which was implemented to make a channel of emotional support available to older adults, especially those who are alone and asylum seekers as a result of the pandemic. Apart from Covid, in 2020 other benefits were also implemented for older adults, such as a 50% discount on public transport tickets, preferential health care, plus rental subsidies, among other measures.

The First Lady launched the "Major Protection" plan that includes a set of measures to reinforce the care for adults over 80 years of age who must remain at home as a protection measure.

OTHER: RESTRICTIONS

Health authority lifted some of the restrictions that long-stay establishments for the elderly (ELEAM) had so that older adults could receive visitors, go for a walk, and allow new residents to enter these residences.
Government presented measures to guarantee a Safe Plebiscite for people over 60 years of age to vote safely.

Senama launches a campaign that seeks to generate meeting spaces between the elderly and the new generations by leveraging social media and technology through the # TúEresSuMejorInfluencer initiative.

Undersecretary of the Interior and Senama launch educational campaign on digital awareness for older adults.

The First Lady announces the return of the “Senior Vacations” program and the new Senama - Sernatur alliance that will benefit thousands of older adults in the country with tourism with Covid protocols.

First Lady and Minister of Housing and Urban Planning launch “Pedestrian Routes” plan with universal accessibility for the elderly.

First Lady and Senama launched the first Practical Guide which also lists out the main benefits that older people can access in the State, such as Exclusive benefits, support plans and phones, bonuses, various subsidies, preferential health care and various discounts.

“Let’s Not Leave Them Alone”: Launch of Elderly Care Campaign in Times of Pandemic.

New program launched for the specialized and free legal assistance for older adults, with coverage throughout the country.

First Lady and President announced a bill with benefits for older adults. Includes institutional strengthening of services for the elderly, greater oversight powers of SENAMA and more labor rights and social participation.

Day Centers open to older adults to enable integration into society, implement activities, and provide appropriate care while providing appropriate care.

In the emergency period, the Chilean National Health Service can hire foreign health workers without qualifications recognised in Chile.

Chile set up an online system through which visas and stay permits are extended for six months, upon request.

A bilateral agreement was signed between Brazil and Chile to facilitate return zones and allow citizens of both countries as well as permanent residents to cross the border freely.
FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER / ASSISTANCE
- An Employment Subsidy presented by the Government at the end of September presented a subsidy for hiring for people with disabilities, whose benefit amount amounts to 60% of the gross salary of each new hiring, with a ceiling of $ 270,000 per month and is delivered for up to 6 months for each additional contract made by a company.

OTHER: OTHER
- The Inclusion 2020 Expo was carried out in a virtual way and sought to increase the employability of the population with disabilities. The event connected workers with disabilities with companies, foundations and SMEs, with the aim of generating contact networks, training and job opportunities.

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- While schools were closing, the Ministry of Education prioritized that all children and adolescents continue to have access to daily food in a timely manner. The government designed a food delivery system to continue to benefit 1,600,000 children and adolescents. Individual baskets to be delivered, containing breakfasts and lunches for 10 business days. Breakfast consists of milk, cereal and eggs. The lunch consists of legumes, meat in pre-prepared format, tuna, eggs, rice, noodles, fruit puree, among others.
- More than two thousand students from all over Chile, with special educational needs, received a laptop, internet connection and technological support accessories, within the framework of the TIC Scholarships (I Choose My PC and I Connect to Learn programs) of the Junaeb and which seeks to support the most vulnerable seventh grade schoolchildren throughout the country.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Fifth payment of the Emergency Family Income (IFE) begins to those who have been beneficiaries of the direct subsidy in previous months.
**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Christmas bonus, a non-postulable monetary support for households whose sources of income were affected by the pandemic, to be implemented. This benefit will be automatically delivered to families that received the sixth payment of the Emergency Family Income (IFE), privileging those people who were in a quarantined commune until the last days of November.
- The Ministry of Social Development and Family initiated the payment of the sixth contribution of the Emergency Family Income (IFE), a benefit that will reach 3,350,506 households, corresponding to 8,267,106 people.

**HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**
- On April 12, a guideline for emotional wellbeing was published the Ministry of Health with mental health recommendations for children, adolescents, people who telework, and the elderly. On May 19, the government announced a special accompaniment program on mental health called Saludable-Mente (Healthy-Mind) aiming to strengthen the public and private offer of mental health services, including the use of a digital platform, support and recommendations.

**OTHER: OTHER**
- Two new projects for kids within the national 2021 budget. One on Youth Social Reintegration, whose project has been pending in Congress for a long time; and another on Child Protection to be launched in 2021 and that will allow Chile to gradually replace the current CREAD Residential Centers with a new model based on residences of a more familiar nature and character.
Given the closure of day centers as a preventive measure, food continues to be provided to 1,370 elderly people.

About 70% of pensioners will receive their pension in advance of a week early.

More than ₡161 million to social welfare organizations that serve priority populations of abandoned elderly and homeless people in five cantons.

Approach plan for the population of long-stay homes for the prevention and care of cases with a positive diagnosis.

Older adults institutionalized in long-stay centers and first responders are in the first vaccination group.

Through the Care Network, 14,810 elderly people are cared for through home care.

Hygiene items (alcohol, chlorine, etc) provided to nine hundred people with priority disabilities, in vulnerability or abandonment, located in residences or in group homes.

Development of information material from the perspective of inclusion and accessible to all Persons with Disabilities.

Channeling of complaints for breach of inclusive conditions for teleworking, education and virtual training for people living with disabilities.

Ministry of Health and the Government announced new prevention measures against COVID-19, including the total closure of beaches in the country, the mandatory closure of temples and religious services, and vehicle restriction in the main cities of the country from 10 p.m. to 5 a.m.. All residents and refugees will lose their migratory status if they leave the country for any reason.
COSTA RICA
LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- The CEN-CINAI provide continuity of the food service during the national emergency due to COVID-19, for children, pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled in the Child Care and Protection services (API) and Meals Served in the CEN-CINAI of the country.
- The MEP changed the modality for the delivery of food in school canteens. A package is given for three weeks. It covers the beneficiaries of the School and Adolescent Food and Nutrition Program (PANEA) in preschool, primary, secondary and adult population. After this time, another similar package may be delivered and it is suspended when the critical phase of the emergency passes. In addition, it works in alliances with the private sector to collaborate in the logistics of distribution of hygiene and cleaning items.
- In December 31, 770 school packages will be distributed, out of a total of 198 thousand that will be placed throughout the national territory. Program represents a social investment of ₡1,710 million. First deliveries will run until December 17 2020 at educational centers located in the GAM.
- “Food at home” strategy for children, pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled in the Child Care and Protection services and Meals Served in the CEN-CINAI of the country.
- New modality for the delivery of food in school canteens for preschool, primary, secondary and adult population. A package is given for three weeks.
- Supply of water and tanks for care centers with a lack of this resource; coordination with Walmart and Price Mart chain stores for exceptional purchases in the corporation’s chain of stores. The benefit applies to CONAPAM, CONAPDIS and INAMU centers.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Coordination with CNE to channel donations to care center.
- IMAS has invested more than ₡15 billion for the attention of families in the Central Pacific Region through the different services of the programmatic offer of social protection and promotion throughout the year.
- The Mixed Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS) invested more than ₡15 billion for the attention of families in the Central Pacific Region through the different services of the programmatic offer of social protection and promotion throughout the year. With the money, the institution supported to provide subsidies to 54,677 people from the Central Pacific, which includes 6 cantons of Puntarenas. More resources were allocated to attend to the basic needs of families such as food, health, housing and public services, with an amount greater than ₡ 3,849 million. Of these, more than ₡ 2,200 million have been earmarked for 5,800 families incorporated in the Bridge to Development Strategy. Second is Let's Advance. This monthly transfer of ₡ 30 thousand for young people in the seventh, eighth and ninth grade and ₡ 40 thousand from the ninth grade, seeks to keep high school students in the classrooms. In total, from January to August 31, the IMAS provided subsidies for this purpose to 14,312 students for an amount greater than ₡ 3,494 million. More than ₡ 3,455 million have been earmarked for emergency care in the area. Specifically for the attention of the health crisis caused by Covid-19, more than ₡ 2,730 million have been invested by the IMAS for 14,172 families. In total, through Protect Bonds, ₡ 26,435 million have been placed throughout the province of Puntarenas. Additionally, 16,474 preschool and primary school children have maintained their transfers in the midst of the emergency through Crecemos, where more than ₡ 2,258 million were invested. From the Child Care and Development program, IMAS covered the cost of care for 1,679 boys and girls in the first and second childhood, who attend the care alternatives of their choice; while their fathers, mothers or persons in charge work, study, train or have a disability or health condition. The investment exceeded ₡ 1,355 million.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>VULNERABLE CHILDREN</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>FINANCIAL:</strong> CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Protocol created to attend to homes in poverty with a home isolation order due to COVID-19. Each family will receive between ₡ 50,000 and ₡ 70,000, according to the valuation and technical criteria, subject to the budget availability of IMAS. The care will be virtual for families in poverty and with a sanitary isolation order. Persons or families with monetary transfers from the State equal to or greater than ₡ 50,000 will be excluded from this subsidy.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Social investment seeks to stay in classrooms and prevent child labor. Inter-institutional articulation with the MTSS allows IMAS to provide subsidies to 98% of the boys, girls and their families registered in the institution's systems in Isla Venado.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• 5,000 “Puente” women are trained in training processes in conjunction with INAMU.</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>OTHER:</strong> OTHER</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Enabling spaces in appropriate places to attend to suspected or confirmed cases of children and adolescents.</td>
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<td><strong>SOCIAL:</strong> SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Monitoring of care centers to guarantee safety, has been coordinated with AyA for the supply of water and tanks for care centers with a lack of this resource; Coordination with Walmart and Price Mart chain stores for exceptional purchases in the corporation's chain of stores. The benefit applies to CONAPAM, CONAPDIS and INAMU centers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Coordination with CNE to channel donations to care centers.</td>
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<tr>
<td>• Training for the staff of the 46 shelters and for minors on the hygiene measures to be implemented.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Vulnerable Children

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- Government announced a series of interventions that will allow vulnerable populations in difficult neighborhoods to receive food kits to deal with the situation caused by Covid-19. A plan called Operation "pôt a pôt" (door to door) was developed and consists of direct supply to households in order to limit their trips to the territory. The distribution of food kits started by the elderly and disabled as well as breastfeeding mothers in the first phase, in several municipalities in the metropolitan area, including Lakou malo in Tabarre and Zoranje in Cité soleil.

People with Disabilities

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- Government announced a series of interventions that will allow vulnerable populations in difficult neighborhoods to receive food kits through a plan called Operation "pôt a pôt" (door to door). The distribution of food kits started with the elderly and disabled as well as breastfeeding mothers in the first phase, in several municipalities in the metropolitan area, including Lakou malo in Tabarre and Zoranje in Cité soleil.

Elderly

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- Government announced a series of interventions that will allow vulnerable populations in difficult neighborhoods to receive food kits in order to limit their trips to the territory. The distribution of food kits started by the elderly and disabled as well as breastfeeding mothers in the first phase in several municipalities in the metropolitan area, including Lakou malo in Tabarre and Zoranje in Cité soleil.
President Andrés Manuel López Obrador announced a 4-month advance pension for the elderly, as part of the measures implemented to reduce the impact of the community contagion of Covid-19. Payment of Welfare Pensions begins on November 3 throughout the country. Delivery of 76,247 Welfare Cards to begin for older adults who are already of the age to receive their pension and who have recently been incorporated into the registry. The second four-month advance payment of the Pension for the Welfare of the Elderly, which serves more than 8 million beneficiaries, was successfully concluded with one of the largest investments in the history of the country of 42 billion pesos to achieve it. Undersecretary of Social and Human Development announced that by 2021 welfare pensions will increase to 2,700 pesos per two-month period. Social investment for the elderly, people with disabilities, daughters and sons of working mothers and members of Sembrando Vida is more than 164 billion pesos.

Federal Executive presents National Vaccination Policy against COVID-19, starting with people over 60 years of age with the vaccines available for the country at that time.

- A total of 270 thousand older adults and people with disabilities joined the pensions of the Government of Mexico through the Welfare Line 800-639-42-64, created by the Ministry of Welfare.
- The government has put in place online information and a telephone dedicated for the elderly.
- President López Obrador ordered priority attention to the most vulnerable population, for which pension payments for the elderly and people with disabilities were advanced.

- Advance payment of non-contributory disability pension (for 4 months at once instead of 2) by 4 months.
- More than 164 billion pesos invested as social investment for the elderly, people with disabilities, daughters and sons of working mothers and members of Sembrando Vida.
- A total of 270 thousand older adults and people with disabilities joined the pensions of the Government of Mexico through the Welfare Line 800-639-42-64, created by the Ministry of Welfare to bring the population to priority programs without putting them at risk from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pensions for the Welfare of Older Adults and People with Disabilities reach all entities of the country and in 2020 they added up to a total of 9 million 22 thousand 573 beneficiaries, with a social investment of 141 thousand 900 million pesos. In 2021 the amount of the pension is to increase to 2,700 pesos every two months.
### Refugees and Asylum Seekers

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Almost 3,000 migrants to receive support from the Program for People in Social or Natural Emergency. The Program for People in Social or Natural Emergency on the southern border allows the beneficiary to do social or community service for three to six months, with a fortnightly income of 2,550 pesos; The only requirement is to carry out the immigration process for regularization in Mexico and have identification.

**OTHER: RESTRICTIONS**
- Mexico and the United States agreed to restrict non-essential crosses through their common border. In order to keep bilateral trade flow during the sanitary crisis, besides commercial exchanges, workers authorized to work on both sides of the border, as well as medical and emergency services are excluded from those measures.

### Vulnerable Children

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Payment operation of the Support Program for Children of Indigenous Working Mothers. A census was carried out in June to identify and locate new beneficiaries of the Support program for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers, focused on indigenous areas; later, they were registered in the registry and on October 1 the payment operation to begin through service desks to deliver the resource.
- Given the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic and the economic problems that young people may have, the Benito Juárez Welfare Scholarships for the future of girls, boys, adolescents and young people, in which can continue with their studies, was implemented by the Undersecretary of Higher Secondary Education.
- Working mothers of 158 thousand indigenous minors receive welfare support. This program of the Ministry of Welfare favors the labor inclusion of 231 thousand 756 women and helps them to support their daughters and sons in this time of pandemic.
- More than 158 thousand indigenous children under the age of three are part of the support program for their care. 220 thousand infants between one year and up to one day before their fourth birthday will be treated by the Support program for Girls and Boys, Children of Working Mothers; To achieve this, they have joined the 158,747 who were missing to reach the goal.

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- The Ministry of Public Education (SEP), through the National Commission for Free Textbooks (Conaliteg), reported the delivery of 120 million educational materials, that is, two-thirds of the more than 181 million programmed, for the School Cycle 2020-2021.

**OTHER: OTHER**
- Faced with the global health crisis, Mexico decided to continue with the School Cycle remotely, through Back to School. Learn at Home II and with the use mainly of television, with which 94 percent of Mexican families are reached, and benefits 30 million girls, boys, adolescents and young people.
- Creation of community health, water and food committees, which are self-managed spaces that will serve to address the urgency of the pandemic, but with the intention that they become permanent spaces for dissemination, training and awareness.
The prison administration announced a series of measures: each new arrival would be isolated for 14 days; positive detainees would also be isolated and transferred; provision of masks and sanitary equipment would be planned; disinfection of premises and medical assistance, including tests, would be implemented in coordination with the health authorities.

In order to establish a coordinated roadmap to guarantee access to health for the population deprived of liberty, an inter-institutional meeting was held between the General Directorate of the Penitentiary System (DGSP), Ministry of Health (Minsa), compliance judges and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), in Plaza Ágora.

The sentences of 24 detainees were reduced following a “humanitarian” measure. 253 common law prisoners were granted early release.

The president granted remission to nearly 200 prisoners. The penitentiary system still accounted for more than 18,393 inmates for a national capacity of 14,591 places.

The General Directorate of the Penitentiary System (DGSP) and the Judicial Branch count 5,161 video hearings from April to October, as part of the actions carried out to reduce overcrowding in prisons and streamline the processes of persons deprived of liberty.

The Government of Panama agreed to include 20,000 asylum seekers and refugees as potential beneficiaries in the Panama Solidarity Plan aimed at mitigating the economic impact of COVID-19, subject to vulnerability criteria.

Agreement by the Vice Minister of Government and the director of the National Office for the Attention of Refugees to continue strengthening the national institutions responsible for the procedures for determining the refugee status by improving their technical capabilities, in the particular context of the COVID19 pandemic with the support of international cooperation.
The Minister of Social Development confirmed focus on humanitarian aid for 30 temporary shelters to be more efficient and guarantee that the biosafety protocols due to the pandemic are complied with. Early childhood care was intensified in shelters, which included daily psychological care and included activities that improved their mood when facing an unknown situation. Educational kits have been delivered and these will be extended to all shelters in equitable amounts for all girls and boys who are in them. Activities aimed at the children’s group have been expanded to include music, singing, dances and games.

The national government reintegrated economically dependent children under 25 years of age to the Panama solidarity plan.

Funds have been allocated to provide relief packs to families quarantined in their own homes and to provide a relief allowance of Rs. 5,000 to low income families in areas where quarantine curfew has been enforced.

The government has allocated Rs. 6.9 billion (6962.83 million) during this period to provide an allowance of Rs. 5,000 to families who have lost their livelihoods due to the quarantine curfew.
EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

China
South Korea
New Zealand
Mongolia
Philippines
ELDERLY

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Earmarked funds increased this year for childless seniors, orphans, the disabled, and other vulnerable groups to 156 billion yuan, surpassing 2019’s total of 147.2 billion yuan. The money will be distributed in the form of State benefits in an attempt to cover basic living expenses according to the Ministry of Finance.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- After the COVID-19 vaccines are approved to enter the market, China will comprehensively vaccinate senior citizens and other vulnerable groups.
- State Council issued guidelines on regular prevention and control of COVID-19 and proposed specific measures for nursing institutions for the aged and other vulnerable groups, and also proposed more help in personal protection and psychological counseling for vulnerable groups.

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Action plan unveiled by China’s health authority for depression prevention and treatment, particularly among vulnerable groups like seniors.
- General Office of the State Council issued a circular to meet the demands of the elderly and improve emergency services. The circular proposes that the “health code” system should be more friendly for older people and “non-health code channels” should be provided. Service stations for elderly people should be established to meet their daily needs, such as buying basic necessities, ordering food deliveries and making appointments with doctors and taking medicines.

SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
- State Council released a circular urging prevention and control of the COVID-19 outbreak in civil service institutions including old-age care institutions, child welfare institutions, juvenile rescue and protection agencies, mental health welfare agencies, and rescue and management organizations for vagrants and beggars. Local governments are also expected to pay visits to the quarantined elderly that live alone, and other senior citizens.

MIGRANT WORKERS

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Cash transfer for retention migrant population in Wuhan. One-time cash assistance of RMB 3000.
- Unemployment insurance funds leveraged to provide cash support for those who are temporarily unemployed, but do not meet the conditions to claim for unemployment insurance benefits.
- Unemployed migrant workers can claim unemployment insurance benefits.
### Migrant Workers

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Households with unemployed members could apply for Dibao and temporary social assistance.
- Exempt, reduction and postponement of social insurance contributions, housing funds, and utility costs for migrant workers.
- Wage and job subsidies by using unemployment insurance funds to stabilize employment.
- Tax exempt, financial and credit support to increase liquidity of enterprise.
- "Point to Point" chartered transportation services (buses, training, flights) to send migrant workers from hometowns to enterprises. Local governments cover the total or partial transportation costs.
- 670,000 migrant workers have received one-time benefits amounting to 410 million yuan.
- Online skilling development program financed by the unemployment insurance funds set up.
- Government to create public welfare job posts (such as sanitation and epidemic prevention) for migrant workers who are temporarily unable to go out and have difficulty in living.
- MOHRSS provided an online platform to provide online job fairs, interviews, and recruitments for migrant workers.

**OTHER: LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE**
- Wage payments for rural migrant workers on all kinds of projects, especially projects for governments and State-owned enterprises urged to be cleared at State Council executive meeting.

### People with Disabilities

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- China to allocate 53 billion yuan ($7.5 billion) into a relief package targeting vulnerable groups including people living with disabilities. The money will be distributed in the form of State benefits in an attempt to cover basic living expenses.
- China to increase pensions and subsidies for disabled military personnel, family members of martyrs and Red Army veterans. Pension allowances for disabled military personnel, police officers, civil servants and militia members, as well as family members of martyrs and deceased military personnel, to be increased by 10 percent starting from Aug 1.

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**
- The Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism of the State Council issued guidelines on regular prevention and control of COVID-19 and emphasized vulnerable groups such as those living with disabilities and recommended more help in personal protection and psychological counseling.
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

OTHER: OTHER
- Guidelines released to include specific requirements for guaranteeing disabled people’s basic livelihood and employment, as well as helping to lift the economically disadvantaged out of poverty. Local authorities called upon to take a wide range of measures in order to help disabled people remain in employment. These include negotiating with employers and encouraging them to maintain working relations with disabled people. The guidelines call for further assistance for disabled people living in rural areas.
- China to launch a campaign to promote the employment of disabled people living in poverty for 2020. The campaign aims to help registered poverty-stricken and low-income disabled people living in difficulty in rural areas who are of legal working age and are capable and willing to find jobs or start businesses. The campaign will support poverty-stricken disabled people obtain employment locally or in nearby areas, gain flexible employment while staying at home and find jobs or start businesses with the help of new business forms.

PRISONERS

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- The testing range should be further expanded. Key groups, such as close contacts of confirmed cases, people entering China, patients with a fever, new inpatients and those accompanying them, medical workers, port quarantine staff, prison staff and workers in nursing houses should all be tested. Qualified commercial testing institutions are encouraged to provide testing services.

OTHER: LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE
- China’s Ministry of Justice issued a guideline on providing better legal services concerning the prevention and control of the novel coronavirus epidemic and coordination in advancing economic and social development. Prisons and drug rehabilitation centers to be key targets of epidemic prevention and control for judicial administrative organs. Closed-off management measures for these facilities to be enhanced.
VULNERABLE CHILDREN

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- Extra funds for vulnerable groups, including the homeless, orphans and low-income families, earmarked. The central authorities have allocated 103 billion yuan ($14.7 billion) in funds.
- 53 billion yuan ($7.5 billion) to be invested into a relief package targeting vulnerable groups such as for childless seniors, orphans, the disabled and other vulnerable groups. The money to be distributed in the form of State benefits in an attempt to cover basic living expenses.
- Social assistance subsidies and monthly subsidies to be doubled from March to June 2020, covering more than 67 million people. The policy will cover orphans, children with no support and eligible laid-off workers.

HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE
- Action plan launched for depression prevention and treatment, particularly among vulnerable groups including adolescents, pregnant women, seniors and those with high-stress jobs. The action plan required secondary schools and universities to launch mandatory mental health courses in a bid to spread depression prevention knowledge among young people. Knowledge and screenings for mental health issues to be included in prenatal and postpartum care programs, asking family members to help pregnant women take care of their mental health.
- Vulnerable groups, such as the aged, children, pregnant women and those recovering from childbirth, the disabled and patients with severe, chronic diseases to be offered more help in personal protection and psychological counseling.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- State Council released a circular urging prevention and control of the COVID-19 outbreak in civil service institutions including old-age care institutions, child welfare institutions, juvenile rescue and protection agencies, mental health welfare agencies, and rescue and management organizations for vagrants and beggars. Local governments to increase medical and nursing forces to support undermanned civil service agencies. The institutions in Hubei province, Wuhan city, and regions worst hit by the epidemic to be equipped with prevention and control materials in accordance with level-III protection standard to meet needs.
### Elderly

#### Ministry of Health and Welfare announced a job and social activity support project for the elderly, including an online window called ‘Elderly Jobs Here’ which provides at-a-glance information about the nearest senior employment agency, etc.

#### 20 percent raise in wages to seniors in government’s elderly job programs if they agree to receive 30 percent of their pay in local gift certificates.

### Health: COVID Related Care

#### People deemed most vulnerable to COVID-19 such as the elderly, those living in group facilities and sufferers of chronic diseases as well as health personnel such as those in essential social services were prioritized for the vaccine roll out.

### Migrant Workers

#### All irregular foreign workers have access to free COVID-19 testing and treatment. During their treatment, the government provides partial income support.

#### Irregulars who leave Korea voluntarily by June will be exempt from penalties and from the no-future entry rule.

#### During the COVID-19 crisis, hospitals are not mandated to ask irregular foreign workers their status and to report their admissions (personal details) to the immigration/labor authorities.

### People with Disabilities

#### The government plans to provide 1 million won to households with four or more members, 800,000 won to three-person households, 600,000 won to two-person households and 400,000 won to single-person households. Some 2.8 million households that belong to vulnerable groups, such as beneficiaries of national basic livelihood security and disability pensions, started receiving funds first.

#### The Ministry of Health and Welfare reports that if a person with a disability who was a recipient of activity support for the disabled and who is converted to a long-term care benefit recipient after the arrival of 65 years of age has decreased compared to the currently receiving activity support, activity support services can be used along with long-term care.

#### The Ministry of Health and Welfare formed the Integrated Psychological Support Group (National Trauma Center + Local Government Mental Health Welfare Center) to provide psychological support for confirmed patients, isolated people and targeted at students, disabled people, multicultural families, response personnel, etc. together with relevant ministries. Additionally, in-depth counseling for high-risk groups such as those living with disabilities have been activated and standards relaxed even if they do not meet current established standards for providing in-depth counseling.
The National Mental Health Center of the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the South-North Hana Foundation, and the North Korean Refugee Settlement Support Office of the Ministry of Unification signed an MOU to plan to cooperate with each other to improve the mental health of North Korean refugees, including establishing a mental health project and support system for North Korean defectors, research, education and training, and mental health medical advice and treatment.

**HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**

- The Ministry of Health and Welfare announced that it will improve and implement the national health checkup system, including the establishment of a health checkup for infants and toddlers (14-35 days after birth) from 21, support for testing costs for pulmonary tuberculosis, and extension of the mental health test (depression) test period. In consideration of the increase in the number of confirmed cases of COVID-19, the initial health checkup for infants and toddlers can be delayed until the next checkup (4-6 months of age) in the same way as the existing infant health checkup.

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**

- Increase the budget for homecare allowance in the case of childcare shifting from daycare institutions to homecare.
- Emergency livelihood support for households in crisis due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- Temporary increase of subsidies for employees with children. When employees with children reduce their working hours to take care of their children due to the postponement of the new term, the subsidies for indirect labor costs, the compensation for wage cut and replacement to be increased temporarily.
- Emergency livelihood support for at-risk households greatly eased and the application process simplified. The application period was also extended until November 6, 2020.
- The government implemented youth special job search subsidies, among other policies to actively protect the most vulnerable due to the COVID crisis.

**SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS**

- Increase education grants and subsidies for local governments to help them protect K-12 from infection.

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

- Inspection of 65,000 vulnerable children, protection measures for 52 children at the risk of abuse, discovery of 14,000 children in need of support such as caring, refusal to visit, and re-examination of households with no contact.
**NEW ZEALAND**

**EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC**

**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**

- Government’s aid for beneficiaries stuck oversees. NZ Super and Veteran’s Pension payments given to those stranded overseas and unable to come back to NZ because of the pandemic. Available for multiple sub-groups, including veterans and elderly.

**OTHER: DIGITAL AND TELE SERVICES**

- Government invests in digital literacy training for seniors to learn how to use Zoom and other platforms to keep in touch with their loved ones; and to ensure they have stable internet connection.

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**MIGRANT WORKERS**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**

- As part of the COVID-19 Economic Response Package, migrants under the Recognized Seasonal Employer program are eligible for sick leave scheme that is part of NZ’s COVID-19 economic response package.
- RSE workers are also entitled to government funding, equating to NZ$585.50 per worker per week, if they cannot work during the lockdown because their employer’s business is not operating or the employer cannot afford to pay them due to reduced business activity.
- If an RSE worker is required to self-isolate while in New Zealand, due to illness or close contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case, they are eligible for the government’s wage subsidy. RSE employers apply for the subsidy on behalf of their workers, and provide accommodation and pastoral care facilities during the 14-day isolation period. Workers will continue to pay their accommodation and other living costs.
- People on temporary work, student or visitor visas who can’t return home and or support themselves may get an Emergency Benefit from the Ministry of Social Development, Social Development and Employment.

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**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**

- Aid for disability pension beneficiaries stuck overseas announced.
Aid for beneficiaries stuck overseas which includes Sole Parent Support, Youth Payment, Young Parent Payment, Emergency Benefit (includes Emergency Maintenance Allowance), Extra help payments, Accommodation Supplement, Child Disability Allowance, Disability Allowance, Family Tax Credit (including Best Start Tax Credit), Orphan’s Benefit Special Benefit, Special Disability Allowance, Temporary Accommodation Assistance, Temporary Additional Support, Transitional Assistance Payment, Transitional Subsidy, Unsupported Child’s Benefit, and Winter Energy Payment.

More than $4.3 million from the Government’s He Poutama Rangatahi fund to support 478 young people to overcome barriers to employment, education and training.

The Government launched “Tiaki Whānau”, a pilot programme to provide better support for young parents who most need extra help. The Government allocated $10 million as part of Budget 2019 Mental Wellbeing Package for three pilots to provide enhanced support for young parents and their whānau.

The Government is changing its approach to teacher recruitment as COVID-19 travel restrictions continue, by boosting a range of initiatives to get more Kiwis into teaching. The Government is fast-tracking the process to get qualified teachers who have left the profession back into teaching and encouraging those seeking a career change to join the profession through 240 more enrolments in the Teacher Education Refresh programme which helps teachers return to or stay in classrooms. This increases Ministry subsidised enrolments to 560 and there have already been 2,621 enrolments since January 2018.

150 Limited Authority to Teach places for schools hiring people without teaching qualifications to teach, where specialist skills are in short supply. A new employment-based teaching course, giving up to 100 people the opportunity to gain a secondary teaching qualification while working as a teacher. 175 scholarships that pay a yearly allowance worth $30,000 and course fees for those interested in pursuing education and certifications to become teachers.

Government donations scheme for schools with a $150 per student donations replacement scheme ($67 million in Government funding) to 1,664 schools nationwide to help kiwi families whose children attend decile 1-7 schools.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America - jointly launched a set of Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on 5 March 2020.
ELDERLY

Government providing around 3.6 thousand senior citizens who are not eligible to pension benefits with an additional MNT 100,000 (US$ 35) per month for five months from May 1, to October 1, 2020. This will put their total monthly allowance at MNT 280,000.

The Social Insurance Agency announced that 446.4 thousand pensioners will receive a total of 185 billion MNT in pensions through 6 commercial banks on December 1, 2020.

OTHER: OTHER

Evacuation flights for returning nationals stranded abroad during COVID-19 prioritized the elderly, among other groups.

PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

42.5 thousand citizens with disabilities to receive additional MNT 100,000 until October 1, totalling their monthly allowance to MNT 280,000.

The Social Insurance Agency announced that 446.4 thousand pensioners will receive a total of 185 billion MNT in pensions, including 71.9 thousand insured persons with disabilities.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Around 32.6 thousand people, including 42.5 thousand citizens with disabilities, 16.5 thousand orphaned or half-orphaned children and single parents will receive additional MNT 100,000 in the next five months until October 1, totalling their monthly allowance to MNT 280,000.

The ‘Child Money’ monthly allowance, given for a total of 1.14 million children in Mongolia, will be raised to MNT 100,000 until October 1, 2020. As the previously-increased MNT 30,000 from initial MNT 10,000 within the framework of the government’s first package of measures, was already granted to children in April 2020, the leftover amount MNT 70,000 will be compensated.

Provide opportunities for mothers and fathers with children aged 0-12 to work from home.

OTHER: OTHER

Services to protect children whose parents were under quarantine were put in place. In November, children whose parents were under quarantine were reached out to by a child protection organization to food and other support. The Arkhangai Aimag Health Department also started a psychological counseling and care team, focusing on providing psychological assistance to seven children living in Battsengel slum. In addition, a survey of 76 children at risk in Govisumber aimag was conducted and monitored. In the capital city and six aimags, 216 civil servants were working in detention centers due to cases of coronavirus infection. In case of need for child protection assistance, 108 children's hotlines made open 24 hours a day.
The government released a memorandum to implement and adapt the country’s vaccination plan and prioritized senior citizens under their priority Group A.

85,849 Overseas Filipino Workers (OFWs) were qualified and granted a one-time P10,000 or $200 cash assistance from the P1.5-billion emergency aid program for OFWs who were displaced from their jobs due to lockdowns in their host countries or stranded by the community quarantine in the Philippines.

President Duterte has approved the release of additional P5 billion for the repatriation and assistance to overseas Filipino workers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Government to provide cash assistance to ~200,000 overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) affected by Covid-19 pandemic.

A total of 322,409 Filipino workers abroad and those who have returned to the country received cash aid amounting to a total of PHP3.282 billion from the PHP3.5 billion allocation under Bayanihan to Heal as One or Bayanihan 1.

OWWA shoulders the cost of Covid tests of OFWs upon arrival in the country, their food and accommodation in hotels while awaiting test results and the transport to their home provinces once tested negative of the virus.

President Duterte approved the release of an additional P5 billion for the repatriation and assistance to overseas Filipino workers affected by the Covid-19 pandemic. Labor Secretary announced that a huge part of the fresh funds will be released to the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (OWWA) which undertakes the repatriation of OFWs displaced on-site due to lockdowns and closure of establishments overseas.

The Technical Education and Skills Development Authority National Capital Region (TESDA NCR), through the Quezon City and CalMaNaVa districts, launched a special program on Contact Center Services NC II and Contact Tracing Level II for repatriated overseas Filipino workers (OFWs). President directed TESDA to develop programs that will help retool OFWs with new skills to find employment opportunities while they are home.
PHILIPPINES  EAST ASIA AND PACIFIC

COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER

PRISONERS

OTHER: LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE
- The Supreme Court released 18,355 people, most of which were being held in police cells.
- In a statement, the Department of the Interior and Local Government said a total of 21,858 persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) were released since March from 470 jail facilities across the country managed by the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology.
- According to an official, the Supreme Court has released 9,731 inmates between 17 March and April 29. Among those released were prisoners awaiting trial, sentenced to jail for six months or below, and some qualified elderly and ailing inmates.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- Department of Social Welfare and Development released thousands of family food packs (FFPs) from its three warehouses to provide augmentation support for Covid-19 response operations in Central Visayas.
- Feeding program for children planned to continue despite blended learning approaches in schools amid the covid-19 pandemic, and instead of preparing hot meals for students, nutritious food products to be delivered to households or picked up by parents from schools.
- Task Force on Zero Hunger Chief established to stress the importance of nutrition amid COVID pandemic, and a nutritious snack pack disseminated with the Department of Education’s (DepEd) nourishing milk. Families also received noodles made of squash, veggies, root crops, and rice fortified with iron, among others. Packs were usually picked up along with the learning modules or being sent to the recipient's houses.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) distributed the second tranche of the social amelioration program (SAP 2) to some 13,968,805 family beneficiaries in the country.
- More than 41,000 families received financial assistance through the emergency subsidy program (ESP) under the Bayanihan to Recover as One Act (Bayanihan 2). The DSWD distributed more than PHP42 million to 7,573 family beneficiaries who were living in areas under "granular lockdown" since September 13.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) provided eligible individuals with livelihood assistance grants (LAG), a form of financial assistance granted to families whose livelihoods were affected by the implementation of the community quarantine.
- PHP8.17 million released to 1,634 families badly affected by granular or neighborhood-level lockdowns due to the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) restrictions, the Department of Social Welfare and Development reported on Wednesday.
- The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) to distribute cash assistance to some 200,000 family beneficiaries to complete their target under the second tranche of the social amelioration program (SAP). The figure amounts to PHP83.1 billion worth of aid.
- Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) awarded ₱ 900,000.00 as livelihood assistance to parents of child laborers.
- Over 3,000 workers from the education sector affected by the coronavirus disease 2019 (Covid-19) pandemic have received cash aid worth PHP5,000 under the Covid-19 Adjustment Measures Program (CAMP) of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

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Department of Labor & Employment (DOLE) assisted close to 340,000 minors, along with their families, in an intensified implementation of the government’s child labor prevention and elimination program amid the Covid 19 pandemic. The DOLE child labor prevention and elimination program consists of Project Angel Tree which provides an array of social services for the child laborers and their families, and the H.E.L.P. M.E. program, which stands for health services and medical assistance; education and training; livelihood opportunities to parents of child laborers; prevention, protection, and prosecution; monitoring; and evaluation. The labor department also implements the Child Labor-Free Establishments, Sagip Batang Manggagawa, and Philippine Program against Child Labor (DOLE/PIA-NCR).
NORTH AMERICA

United States of America
Canada
Nearly $1 billion in grants to assist older adults and people with disabilities, providing services such as home delivered meals and in-home care services.

Direct payments through CARES act for those that are retired.

FEMA to send supplemental shipments of personal protective equipment to all 15,400 Medicaid and Medicare-certified nursing homes in America. Trump Administration partners with CVS and Walgreens to Provide COVID-19 Vaccine to Protect Vulnerable Americans like the elderly in Long-Term Care Facilities Nationwide. Trump Administration Releases COVID-19 Vaccine Distribution Strategy that prioritizes elderly. Department of Health and Human Services leveraged the Defense Production Act (DPA) to apply priority rated orders for contracts with Becton Dickinson (BD) exit disclaimer icon and Quidel Corporation exit disclaimer icon through September. These acquisitions intended to fulfill a large-volume purchase of diagnostic systems and assays for COVID-19 testing and to expedite shipments of these systems and assays to every nursing home certified by the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid services (CMS) with a Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendment (CLIA) Certificate of Waiver – approximately 14,000 nursing homes – in the United States.

HHS Seeks Public Input on Leveraging Novel Technologies for Chronic Disease Management for Aging Underserved Populations.

The President calls for a thorough review of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation’s (PBGC) financial position. Memorandum from the President on Pensions of Delphi Corporation Retirees and Other Retirees Covered by Vulnerable Pension Plans.

Trump Administration to Release 1.5 Million N95 Respirators from the Strategic National Stockpile for Distribution to Nursing Homes. Trump administration distributes incentive payments of approximately $333 million in first round performance payments to over 10,000 nursing homes to curb COVID-19 deaths and infections. New commitments by HSS to build upon more than $31 billion in resources that the U.S. government has provided to help ensure that states and their facilities that care for seniors and others at high risk of death and illness from COVID-19 have adequate testing supplies. More than $24 billion in new relief to more than 70,000 healthcare providers (including those in safety net hospitals, rural providers, and those in nursing homes), meeting close to 90 percent of the losses they’ve reported from the COVID-19 pandemic in the first half of the year.
**Elderly**

$820 million for crucial programs authorized under the Older Americans Act including senior nutrition services (Meals on Wheels); state and community programs on aging including case management, in-home services, etc; funds for family caregivers for needed resources; senior housing facilities so they can maintain normal operations and take necessary actions to help keep the coronavirus out of those facilities; and funding for service coordinators, who connect seniors to the services they need to live healthy lives, including nutrition services, case management and health care resources.

The Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ) is partnering with the University of New Mexico’s ECHO Institute in Albuquerque and the Institute for Healthcare Improvement (IHI) in Boston to establish a National Nursing Home COVID Action Network. The network will provide free training and mentorship to nursing homes across the country to increase the implementation of evidence-based infection prevention and safety practices to protect residents and staff.

Trump Administration Announces the Distribution of $2.5 Billion to Nursing Homes for COVID-19 Relief Funding.

Trump Administration, through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA) operating under the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), to announce it will distribute $523 million in second round performance payments to over 9,000 nursing homes.

Trump Administration Announces $2 Billion Provider Relief Fund Nursing Home Incentive Payment Plans.

HHS Announces Allocations of CARES Act Provider Relief Fund of $5 billion for Nursing Homes to protect residents of nursing homes and long-term care facilities from the impact of COVID-19.

**People with Disabilities**

Trump Administration supported the US Department of Housing and Urban Development’s efforts to support extremely low-income persons with disabilities by providing almost $150 million in HUD grants, and making $15 million in supplemental funds available under the CARES Act to help prevent, prepare for, and respond to COVID-19.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development announced the award of over $54.7 million in capital advance and project rental assistance grants to 15 organizations, to expand the supply of affordable rental housing for extremely low-income persons with disabilities.

**Prisoners**

Attorney General Barr instructed federal prisons to free some inmates to lessen the impact of the pandemic. Favors inmates over 60 who have not been convicted of violent or sex crimes. Applies to about 2,000 inmates.
**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- CARES Act empowers the US Department of Agriculture to approve state government plans to provide emergency food stamp assistance to households with school-aged children who would be benefiting from free or reduced-price meals had there not been school closures.

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- President Trump signed an Executive Order offering flexibility to provide certain disadvantaged children with emergency K-12 scholarships to access in-person learning opportunities. The Order allows States and eligible entities to use available Federal Community Service Block Grants (CSBG) funds to provide life-changing scholarships to families whose children cannot access in-person learning. CSBG funds totaled nearly $1.7 billion in FY 2020. Scholarships provided with CSBG funds can help families pay for private school tuition, home schooling, micro schooling, learning-pod expenses, special education services, or tutoring.
- CARES Act $1200 stimulus payments per individual; $600 for each child.
- Federal Housing Administration announced extension of the foreclosure and eviction moratorium for single family FHA-insured mortgages for an additional two months, through February 28, 2021.

**HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**
- The Children’s Health Insurance Program, through the Families First Coronavirus Response Act, provides temporary coverage of diagnostic products to low-income children.
- CARES funding will provide critical infrastructure support to existing grantees through the Immunizations and Vaccines for Children cooperative agreement.
- President Trump signed an Executive Order directing the Department of Health and Human Services to ensure that American hospitals comply with their obligations under federal law to provide appropriate screening and medical treatment or transfer for infants, especially those born prematurely and/or with disabilities, and otherwise promote efforts to improve the survival of such infants.
- HHS Expands Access to Childhood Vaccines during COVID-19 Pandemic. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) issued a third amendment - PDF* to the Declaration under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness Act (PREP Act) to increase access to lifesaving childhood vaccines and decrease the risk of vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks as children across the United States return to daycare, preschool and school.

**OTHER: OTHER**
- Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America - jointly launched a set of Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on 5 March 2020.
Cares Act requires employers with fewer than 500 employees to provide two weeks’ worth of paid sick leave if employees are unable to work because they’re subject to quarantine or isolation are experiencing symptoms of COVID-19, are caring for children in schools that have closed, etc.

Nearly $16 billion for the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and nearly $9 billion for child nutrition through CARES act.

$3.5 billion in additional funding for Child Care Development Block Grants to provide childcare assistance to healthcare sector employees, emergency responders, sanitation workers, and other essential workers.

U.S. Housing and Urban Development Secretary announced $1.9 million for 235 former foster youth through HUD’s Foster Youth to Independence (FYI) Initiative. Forty-three Public Housing Authorities (PHAs) in 24 states will receive this funding to continue HUD’s efforts to assist young adults transitioning out of foster care.

U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA), announced an additional $1.4 billion in targeted distribution funding to almost 80 free-standing children’s hospitals nationwide.
FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- One-time tax free payment for seniors with $300 for seniors eligible for the Old Age Security pension, and an additional $200 for seniors eligible for the Guaranteed Income Supplement.
- Orders extending time limits established by pension legislation under the responsibility of the President of the Treasury Board.
- Government released orders to temporarily extend the Guaranteed Income Supplement and Allowance payments if seniors’ 2019 income information had not been assessed. This was to ensure that the most vulnerable seniors continue to receive their benefits when they need them the most.
- The Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB) gives financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19. Older Canadians that stopped working because of COVID-19 are eligible for this as well.

HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE
- Immunization planned to begin with the arrival of limited doses, prioritized to high risk populations such as the elderly, and residents and staff of congregate living arrangements (e.g., long-term care facilities).

OTHER: OTHER
- Resources for vulnerable populations to protect against COVID-19, such as for older adults, especially those over 60 years.
- Reduced the required minimum withdrawals from Registered Retirement Income Funds (RRIFs) by 25% for 2020.
- Government launches consultations on strengthening federally regulated pension plans.

SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
- Government of Canada and partners invest $1.8M in strengthening pandemic preparedness in long-term care and retirement homes.
- Government of Canada provides $70 million in additional funding to the Red Cross for ongoing COVID-19 response, including work in care homes.
- The New Horizons for Seniors Program was expanded with an additional investment of $20 million to support organizations that offer community-based projects that reduce isolation, improve the quality of life of seniors, and help them maintain a social support network.
- The Fall Economic Statement moves forward with a plan to set new national standards and seeks to establish a new $1 billion Safe Long-term Care Fund that will help provinces and territories protect seniors and most vulnerable.
- $9 million contributed through United Way Canada for local organizations to support practical services to Canadian seniors. These services could include the delivery of groceries, medications, or other needed items, or personal outreach to assess individuals’ needs and connect them to community supports.
The Canadian Federal Government announced that under the new International Mobility Program it is mandatory for employers to allow workers to complete their 14 days of quarantine on arrival in Canada and pay them for the period, even if they are unable to work.

Several compensation programs have been put in place to assist workers who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19. These programs are not restricted to Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Workers can be eligible for these programs if they have a valid work permit and are a foreign worker, an international student, a refugee claimant or an accepted refugee.

Temporary foreign workers and international students are eligible to receive the Canada Emergency Response Benefit under the same criteria as Canadians. The CERB provides $500 a week for up to 16 weeks to the residents in Canada who have stopped working or are without employment income for at least 14 consecutive days in the initial four-week period, with reasons related to COVID-19.

Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food announced that the Mandatory Isolation Support for Temporary Foreign Workers Program will be extended until November 30, 2020. The Act requires anyone arriving from outside Canada, including temporary foreign workers, to undergo a mandatory 14-day isolation period upon arriving in Canada. Under the Program, the federal government will provide a maximum support of $1,500 for each temporary foreign worker, to employers who are required to isolate workers under the Quarantine Act. The funding is conditional on employers not being found in violation of the mandatory 14-day isolation protocols or any other public health order.

Several compensation programs have been put in place to assist workers who have lost their jobs due to COVID-19. These programs are not restricted to Canadian citizens or permanent residents. Workers can be eligible for these programs if they have a valid work permit and are a foreign worker, an international student, a refugee claimant or an accepted refugee.

Government of Canada launches consultations to improve living conditions for temporary foreign workers.

Support for farmers and agri-food businesses that hire temporary foreign workers to cover the costs of safely welcome temporary foreign workers in compliance with the Quarantine act.

Canada created an exception to restrictions on international travel by specifically allowing temporary workers to enter Canada and stay after a 14-day isolation period.

Government of Canada introduced a waiver on the condition requiring temporary foreign residents to provide proof of a valid work permit or renewal of an expiring permit by email to receive the CERB.

TFWs who have applied to have their permits extended but whose permit expires before a decision is made by the federal immigration authorities, can remain in Canada under implied status.

The Minister of Public Safety announced that foreign students, foreigners with a work visa and temporary foreign workers will be able to enter Canada, despite the closing of the borders to the extent that they will have to undergo a period of isolation from 14 days.
### Migrant Workers

**Other:**
- Foreign workers already in Canada with a new job offer backed by a Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) can get approval to start the job while their work permit application is processed.

**Other: Legal/Administrative**
- New pilot project to allow Temporary Foreign Worker Program (TFWP) employers to register for online access to manage their accounts, conduct transactions and correspond with Service Canada, in order to reduce red tape and processing times around hiring temp foreign workers.

### People with Disabilities

**Financial: Cash Transfer/Assistance**
- Government of Canada to extend deadline to apply for the Disability Tax Credit to receive the COVID-19 one-time payment for persons with disabilities.
- A special one-time-tax payment to individuals who are certificate holders of the Disability Tax Credit (DTC) as of June 1, 2020, as follows: $600 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate. $300 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the Old Age Security (OAS) pension. $100 for Canadians with a valid DTC certificate and who are eligible for the OAS pension and the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS).
- Monthly $52 transportation supplement for all BC Bus Pass Program users receiving income assistance and disability assistance for the duration of the fare suspension by BC Transit and Translink.
- Canadian employed and self-employed family members who stopped working to take care of a relative who has a disability and whose usual care is not available because of COVID-19 to get financial support.
- Government committed $15 million to provide community organizations with resources to improve workplace accessibility and access to jobs in response to COVID-19, including by helping employers set up accessible and effective work-from-home arrangements. This support is also set to cover expanding accessible online training opportunities and helping connect Canadians with disabilities working from home with employers.
- A comprehensive support of nearly $9 billion for the Canada Emergency Student Benefit which provided $1,250 per month in financial relief to post-secondary students, and recent post-secondary and high school graduates, with an additional $750 for students with disabilities; a one-time special payment through the Goods and Services Tax and Harmonized Sales Tax credit for low- and modest-income Canadians, including persons with disabilities; and guidance issued by the Public Health Agency of Canada on COVID-19 and Persons with Disabilities as well as the Public Health Ethics Framework (both of which included significant contributions from the Advisory Group) were implemented.
- A non-repayable contribution of $1 million to The Flower Cart Group which is a collection of social enterprises helping adults with diverse abilities gain skills and employment, to support a project to build a new facility and buy specialized equipment.
PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

- Temporarily exempt federal employment insurance benefits, including the CERB, for three months, so that new emergency federal support programs won’t reduce monthly assistance payments.
- Government of Canada created the COVID-19 Disability Advisory Group (CDAG) in April 2020 to ensure an inclusive approach to its pandemic response and overall decision-making.

PRISONERS

- Early release options for prisoners made available but described as “extremely limited.”
- In Alberta, the prison population decreased by 35% since the start of the pandemic. More than 1,200 prisoners were released. A calculation made by Vice Media concluded a decrease of 15% at the national level.

REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

- Canada said it would no longer hear refugee claims from people who enter through unofficial ports of entry.
- Launches a campaign called “It Takes a Community” to showcase the positive impacts that migration can have communities around the world, and to advocate for migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and internationally displaced persons to be considered in our global response to COVID-19.

- Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship, announced a temporary measure that will provide a pathway to permanent residency for asylum claimants working in the health-care sector during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) will begin accepting applications for permanent residence from refugee claimants who work in Canada’s health-care sector and provide direct care to patients.
• A one-time enhancement to the climate action tax credit will be paid in July 2020 for moderate to low-income families with children receiving $64 (increased from $12.75).

• Financial support to employed and self-employed Canadians who are directly affected by COVID-19. Eligibility includes for parents who stopped working to take care of children while schools are closed because of COVID-19.

• Federal support for Canada's child care to support parents' gradual return to work.

• The CRCB provides $500 per week for up to 26 weeks per household for workers: unable to work for at least 50% of the week because they must care for a child under the age of 12 or family member because schools, day-cares or care facilities are closed due to COVID-19; because the child or family member is sick and/or required to quarantine or is at high risk of serious health implications because of COVID-19.

• Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion highlighted a new measure to help student borrowers manage financial burdens they may face when taking temporary medical or parental leave from their studies—including for mental health reasons. This measure, which was announced as part of Budget 2019, is effective as of October 1, 2020. Borrowers who are approved under this new measure will benefit from a suspension of payments and interest on their Canada Student Loans for six months, which can be extended up to a total of 18 months of leave.

• To help Canada's students and young people during this unprecedented time, the Government of Canada introduced a comprehensive emergency support package. Investment of $3 million for their Mon avenir, j'y travaille project under the Youth Employment and Skills Strategy established. This project will provide work experience to 200 youth across Alberta, Quebec, Manitoba, Nova Scotia and Ontario. Participants in this program can look forward to job environments that foster mentorship training, skills development workshops and a wide range of other professional work experiences needed for their future careers. The project will also place a priority on hiring and retaining a diversity of youth through work experience and integration.

• An extra $300 per child delivered through the Canada Child Benefit (CCB) for 2019-20.

• The Government of Canada launches applications for the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit.

• Minister of Families, Children and Social Development, announced additional supports for children and families through the Canada Child Benefit and investments in child care. In May 2020, families who were eligible for the Canada Child Benefit benefitted from a one-time payment of $300 per child, representing approximately $550 on average per family. The Government of Canada is now proposing new temporary support of up to $1,200 per child under the age of six to further assist families with young children. This support will help families cover the costs of tools for at-home learning, help families provide the necessary care for their children, and for many, help with the higher costs associated with temporary child care arrangements. The Government of Canada is also laying the groundwork for a Canada-wide child care system in partnership with provinces, territories and Indigenous Peoples. The Fall Economic Statement highlights proposed investments for a new Federal Secretariat on Early Learning and Child Care, as well as funding for Indigenous early learning and child care and $420 million in new support for the recruitment and retention of early childhood educators. These investments are in addition to the federal government’s $625 million investment for child care through the Safe Restart Agreement and existing federal funding for provinces, territories and Indigenous partners to support early learning and child care programming.
Giving $7.5 million in funding to Kids Help Phone to provide young people with the mental health support they need during this difficult time.

Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States of America - jointly launched a set of Voluntary Principles to Counter Online Child Sexual Exploitation and Abuse on 5 March 2020.

The Youth Employment and Skills Strategy (YESS) is a horizontal Government of Canada initiative delivered in collaboration with 11 federal departments and agencies, including Employment and Social Development Canada (ESDC). Through the YESS, the Government of Canada helps young people, particularly those facing barriers to employment, get the information and gain the skills, work experience and abilities they need to make a successful transition into the labour market. In the current COVID-19 context, projects delivered by ESDC’s YESS will focus on sectors that need an extra hand right now, as well as on sectors that support the delivery of essential services across Canada.

$100 million in funding to support shelters, organizations serving survivors of sexual assault, and organizations providing supports and services to those experiencing gender-based violence, including in Indigenous communities, to help manage and prevent an outbreak in their facilities.

Government of Canada announced additional funding of up to $50 million to over 1000 organizations serving women and children experiencing gender-based violence, bringing the total emergency funding for these organizations to $100 million.

Calls for proposals were launched, totaling up to $22.4 million for organizations working to prevent and address human trafficking and support at-risk populations and survivors.

Support to women’s shelters and sexual assault centres, including facilities in Indigenous communities, to help manage and prevent a COVID-19 outbreak in their facilities.

Minister of Health, and Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural and Economic Development, announced more than $3.4 million to support three initiatives aimed at preventing family violence and supporting survivors.

Minister of Health announced more than $1.1 million to support two initiatives aimed at preventing child maltreatment. The Child Welfare League of Canada is receiving funding to provide guidance, training and resources to equip child welfare workers, service providers and alternative caregivers across Canada to effectively prevent and respond safely to child maltreatment in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. The Centre d'expertise Marie-Vincent will deliver “Programme Lanterne,” a sexual violence prevention program for children ages 0 to 5 to help prevent child maltreatment through age-appropriate sexual health education and the promotion of safe and healthy relationships in both official languages in Quebec, and in Francophone child-care settings in Yukon.
New Brunswick to receive additional federal funding to support child care. $14 million invested in federal support for New Brunswick’s child care sector. The funding New Brunswick is receiving will help child care centres recover from temporary closures and loss of critical revenue from placement fees, adapt to public health guidelines and address needs emerging from the pandemic. It will also help ensure safe and sufficient child care spaces are available to support parents’ gradual return to work.

$625 million investment through the Safe Restart Agreement to address the key child care priorities agreed upon by Canada’s First Ministers for the safe restart of Canada’s economy. Along with the agreements under the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework, this investment means the Government of Canada will invest nearly $1.2 billion to support child care in 2020–2021.

Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness announced $400,000 in federal funding has been made available under the Northern and Aboriginal Crime Prevention Fund (NACPF) for the Northern Prairie Spirit Youth Cultural Continuity Project delivered by the University of Regina.

Government of Canada provides funding for Anishinabek Nation Circle Process to Support Child and Youth Well-Being.

The Minister of Families, Children and Social Development and the Yukon Minister of Health and Social Services announced additional support for early learning and child care through a one-year Canada-Yukon Early Learning and Child Care Agreement. The agreement allocates over $2.4 million in 2020-21 for early learning and child care investments in Yukon. In particular, Yukon will invest in professional development training for early childhood educators, bursaries for students studying early childhood education, piloting a rural child care strategy, addressing health and safety needs in licensed child care centres, expanding the Grandparents Grant and Teen Parent Grant programs, and creating spaces for children with disabilities, among other initiatives. This agreement builds on the commitments made in the Multilateral Early Learning and Child Care Framework and outlines Yukon’s unique child care needs and priorities, including those resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. It will ensure that funding continues to be available to support child care programs and services for Yukon families in 2020-21.

Government of Canada announced $363,936 in financial support for fiscal year 2020-2021, to 5 Child Advocacy Centres (CAC) and Child and Youth Advocacy Centres in Ontario. This support will allow these centres to better respond to the needs of children, youth and their families resulting from the impacts of COVID-19. The funding will give CACs access to urgently needed resources for additional staff, as well as personal protective equipment, cleaning needs, training, purchase or upgrade of existing technology to better meet client needs remotely, and temporarily adapting office space to follow public health guidelines on physical and social distancing.
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Botswana
Central African Republic
Eswatini
Gabon
Mali
Namibia
Senegal
Sierra Leone
Zambia
Botswana
Sub-Saharan Africa

Prisoners
- Policies around commencement of prison visits amended. Prisoners to be restricted to one visitor per prisoner per day for remands and illegal immigrants, while convicts to be allowed one visitor per month. Legal practitioners to continue to visit their clients in prison, and the register for prison visitors designed to facilitate contact tracing. Daily disinfection of all prison facilities countrywide in progress.

- Prison visits suspended until further notice. The workshop activities in detention were also put on hold.

- The president pardoned 15 Zimbabwean prisoners and they were taken to the border. Part of 113 identified prisoners to be released so as to control congestion in prisons around the country. They also released 149 prisoners in April to ease congestion in prisons during the pandemic.
### Prisoners

- Authorities released 70 people detained in the Bouar prison. An examining magistrate in charge of sentence adjustment expressed concern that visits from relatives might allow the virus to penetrate the prison.
- A presidential decree authorised the early release of some prisoners. Persons convicted of minor offences, youth, pregnant women and mothers of infants, prisoners over 60 years of age, and persons suffering from serious and contagious diseases would be eligible for early release. Persons accused or convicted of house burning, murder, child rape, war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide were excluded from this measure.
### GABON

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

#### PRISONERS

**OTHER:** OTHER
- The President of the Republic pardoned 680 prisoners who had almost completed their sentence to relieve overcrowding in prisons.

**HEALTH:** COVID RELATED CARE
- UNICEF and the Department of Human Rights of the Ministry of Justice gave a personal hygiene kit to the 183 underage inmates in the Libreville prison. This contained protective masks, soap, detergent, a toothbrush, toothpaste, towels, a T-shirt and sandals.

#### REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS

**OTHER:** RESTRICTIONS
- Registration of asylum seekers has been restricted to critical cases only in Gabon.
86 prisoners had been pardoned. An unknown number of prisoners was soon to be transferred to the less crowded prison of Mandé.

The President of the Republic pardoned 1,200 prisoners. The Minister of Justice requests the prisons to take the necessary measures.

On May 20th, 400 prisoners were released as a preventive step against the spread of COVID-19.
**ELDERLY**

**HEALTH: COVID RELATED CARE**
- The Namibian government on Tuesday announced that it has set aside 20 million Namibian dollars (1.2 million US dollars) for the acquisition of face masks for the elderly and school children to protect them against Covid-19.

**PRISONERS**

**OTHER: OTHER**
- The President of the Republic pardoned 1,023 prisoners convicted for petty offences on the occasion of the national holiday. People aged over 60 were released first, while those who had committed crimes, sexual assault, theft and break-ins under aggravating circumstances, as well as offences linked to drugs, poaching and arms smuggling, were excluded.

**OTHER: RESTRICTIONS**
- The government declared a state of emergency. Visits to police stations, where remand prisoners await trial, were suspended. The government called for the decongestion of police station cells. Visits to prisons, with the exception of visits by lawyers and deliveries of food parcels, were suspended.

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

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SENEGAL
SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER

PRISONERS

OTHER: OTHER
- The government announced the future use of electronic bracelets for conditional releases.
- The Ministry of Justice announced that 2,036 prisoners were pardoned. Among them, 1,846 saw their sentences pardoned in their entirety. The yearly amnesty, which is usually given on the eve of the celebration of Independence Day on 4 April, was granted earlier to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. Prisoners suspected or convicted of rape, paedophilia, livestock theft, illegal trafficking of medicines, wood or endangered species were not given access to this measure.
- The government suspended visits and arrivals in prison.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT
- A major food distribution program set up to provide food kits to vulnerable populations, with a highlight on the 'talibe' children who are confined and must be fed.
On 4 April, the National Commission for Social Action in collaboration with the Ministry of Social Welfare, Anti-Corruption Commission, and the National Commission for Persons with Disabilities, distributed 25 kg bags of rice, 250,000 leones ($25.77), Veronica buckets, and others items to people with disabilities in district headquarter towns. This support reached 1,891 individual and group beneficiaries. Outreach to people with disabilities is now continuing, and the Government expects to reach approximately 10,000 PWD (500 per district and 2,500 in the Western Area), for a cost of 4 billion leones.

Government expanded the Social Safety Net Programme to cover persons with disabilities. In addition to providing social safety support to persons with disabilities during the short lockdowns, the administration also implemented a Closing- the-Gap Project to address the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on persons with disabilities.

Directive to the Ministry of Social Welfare to study the root causes and patterns of street begging among persons with disabilities, and to develop a comprehensive strategy to tackle the issue.

FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT

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### ZAMBIA

**SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA**

**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

<table>
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<th>Category</th>
<th>Details</th>
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| **PRISONERS** | Other: Other  
- The president of the Republic pardoned 2,993 prisoners. |
| **ELDERLY** | Financial: Cash transfer/assistance  
- K500 million to the public service pensions fund to pay over 1,500 retirees or their beneficiaries. |
SOUTH ASIA

Nepal
Sri Lanka
**NEPAL**

**SOUTH ASIA**

**COVID-19 HEALTH JUSTICE POLICY TRACKER**

**ELDERLY**

**FINANCIAL: DIRECT FOOD AND/OR IN-KIND SUPPLIES KIT**
- Food assistance package to be distributed to those living in old age homes through ward committees at local levels.

**MIGRANT WORKERS**

**OTHER: LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE**
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that the government is working on a series of measures for safe repatriation of workers, their quarantine and employment in the labor market. Priority for repatriation given to pregnant women, people that lost jobs, people with health issues, those who lost a family member back home, those who overstayed visas.
- Supreme Court issued an interim order to the government to use foreign employment welfare fund to repatriate Nepali workers living abroad in vulnerable conditions.
- Government task force examining ways to reintegrate thousands of returning migrants into Nepal’s labor force. Central bank, nepal Rastra Bank, to help with lower-rate loans for entrepreneurial activities such as commercial farming.

**REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS**

**OTHER: RESTRICTIONS**
- At end-March, the authorities imposed a nationwide lockdown, a ban on domestic and international flights, and a closure of land border crossings.

**VULNERABLE CHILDREN**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Private secondary schools asked to waive one month tuition and other fees (except residential). The government shall provide soft-loans to private schools that don’t charge their students for the month.
**ELDERLY**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Transfer of LKR 5000 for 416,764 people who are the recipients of the senior citizens allowance.
- Social insurance scheme to pay the pension for the 645,179 pension receivers from the public sector.

**HEALTH: ACCESS TO HEALTH CARE**
- Interventions introduced to strengthen social protection and welfare for elderly citizens through universal access to health care and education as well as social benefits for the elderly.

**MIGRANT WORKERS**

**OTHER: LEGAL/ADMINISTRATIVE**
- Extension of visas for foreigners in Sri Lanka.

**PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES**

**FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE**
- Payment of LKR 5000 for 84,071 people who are the recipients of the disability allowance and for 35,229 people who have been identified as people with disabilities and are in the waiting list.

**PRISONERS**

**OTHER: OTHER**
- The Hon. State Minister of Prison Management and Prisoners Rehabilitation made a commitment that the government was to reduce the number of inmates by at least by 8000. President Gotabaya Rajapaksa issued a directive to release inmates who can be granted a pardon especially given the COVID situation.
- The Attorney General announced the release exclusion of those arrested for possession of more than two grams of heroin, those accused of drug trafficking, those accused of money laundering or any other so-called “serious” crime.
- The special committee appointed by the President recommended and obtained the release of 2,961 prisoners gradually released from 17 March until 4 April. The released prisoners had either been serving long period and suffered from health issues, were minor offenders and unable to post bail, or had served a greater part of their sentence.
Items (such as Thiposha - a food item with high nutritious value) was delivered to pregnant mothers and malnourished children in their residences by government employees.

FINANCIAL: CASH TRANSFER/ASSISTANCE
- 43376 families received a relief package worth Rs. 10,000 during the quarantine.
- 1409578 families received an allowance amounting Rs.5000 each, during the period quarantine curfew in effect through the government program to provide relief to families who lost their livelihoods.

SOCIAL: SUPPORT FOR INSTITUTIONS
- Scholarship examination arrangements made to accommodate students per center due to the Covid situation, and arrangements have made to set up special examination centers where quarantine curfew was in place. Accordingly, students who were scheduled to sit the examination at centers in other districts, could sit for the examination at the special centers set up within their own police divisions.