

MAPPING ON COUNTRY RESPONSES:

COVID-19 Social and Economic Emergency Measures (Social Protection and Labour, Business and Economic Stimulus) in Europe and Central Asia

ALBANIA	
1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 8 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<p>(1) Two support packages adopted for people and businesses at LEK 45 billion (2.8% of GDP) under the Normative Act March and April.</p> <p>(2) Third supported package of LEK 135 million announced in August.</p> <p>(3) 2021 budget adopted on 16 Nov allocated LEK 14.2billion (0.8% of GDP) to COVID-19 related spending, and includes LEK2.5 billion for a temporary increase in the payments for social assistance and unemployment benefits. (IMF)</p>
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>Economic measures undertaken to support employed people in small businesses, unemployed people, and people under the economic aid scheme (includes women heads of households, survivors of domestic violence, people with disabilities, retired persons and those left homeless from the Nov'19 earthquake).</p> <p>All those who are part of these categories will benefit, including women who compose a considerable number of this beneficiary's category (CoE)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) Doubling of benefit payments to recipients of Ndihma Ekonomike (flagship cash transfer program) (includes parents of 2+ children [women are the recipients], unemployed orphans 25+ years, orphans 18-25 years, victims of trafficking, and victims of domestic violence).</p> <p>(2) Doubled payment of economic assistance (for 3-months) to the most vulnerable first – survivors of domestic violence who have a protection order issued and for people under the economic aid scheme, incl. women heads of families. (OECD, CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Payment of benefits for food and non-food products, and reimbursable medicines, etc. (CoE)</p> <p>(2) Provision of housing assistance and home delivery of food, medical products and other services to those in need (elderly, disabilities, recipients of economic assistance etc.), homeless due to November 2019 earthquake and groups under the economic aid scheme – where women comprise a considerable number. (CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, CoE)</p> <p>(3) 2-months postponement of property, premises, or house rental payments for individuals/families who have stopped working, students, select businesses.</p> <p>(4) Relief in electricity consumption. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Double payments to those who receive unemployment benefits, and for persons under the economic aid scheme (includes women, if they applied by 10 March 2020). (OECD, CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Lump sum for all employees dismissed during the period to 10 April 2020 (starting from time restrictions applied) in all enterprises allowed to operate.</p> <p>(3) Lump sum for all formally employed employees in select enterprises allowed to operate (certain activities exempted) (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(4) Employment promotion program launched in September 2020 to cover part of reemployment costs of those who lost their jobs during lockdown. For formal sector employees programme covers half of the wages (at the legal minimum wage) and employers' full share of social contributions for the duration of the program (4 or 8 months). Informal sector employees will have the full cost of social contributions (employees and employers share) covered for one year if they formalize. (IMF)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) Increase in pension's indexing, establishing new limits plus compensations for the lower levels.</p> <p>(2) Protocol on the Functioning of Public and Non-Public, Non-Residential Centers, Providing Services for Persons with Disabilities, during and after the Natural Disaster Period, until the end of the physical/social distancing measures due to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>(UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, other)</p>
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) Assistance to pay minimum wage support for interrupted period of business activities (includes employees, self-employed small businesses, and family businesses with unpaid family members – equivalent to a state-set monthly salary). Third support package gives an additional minimum wage to public transport workers. (IMF, OECD, CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Companies can access overdrafts to pay employee wages for up to 3-months. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Sovereign Guarantee Fund to be used as collateral in support of large businesses getting bank loans for employees' salaries. (ILO)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	The Normative Act Nr. 2 "on "The Prevention and Combatting of the Infections and Infective Diseases" provides for new penalties on employers non-complying with measures and protocols of the Law. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	(1) 2-months rent postponement for small business who have stopped operating. (OECD)

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Provision of loans for working capital for all private companies who were tax-compliant and solvent pre COVID-19. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Tax deferral measures for garment industry, Call Centers, tourism, and small businesses with turnover below LEK 14 million exempted from paying profit tax to end-2021. (IMF, OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(3) Guarantee fund set up for loans to businesses hit by lockdown measures. (UN Women/ UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) Government guaranteed 60% of the loans and interest capped at 5% (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Support to liquidity bottlenecks - penalty-with free deferred loan instalments and restructured loans without additional provisioning or downgrades for borrowers' status. (OECD)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">ARMENIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 1 March 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	AMD 150 billion (USD 313 million, 2% of GDP) emergency response package to support households and businesses and mitigate the socio-economic issues related to the pandemic. (IMF, OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>As at end-Oct, authorities adopted 24 support packages of around 192.3billion AMD (USD 367 million). Measures fall into four broad categories: (i) subsidized 2-3 year loans to provide short-term support to affected businesses and SMEs; (ii) direct subsidies to SMEs and businesses to help maintain their employees; (iii) grants to entrepreneurs and firms; and (iv) lump-sum transfers to the vulnerable including individuals who were unemployed after the COVID-19 outbreak, families with or expecting children, micro-businesses, general population who needed help with utility bills, and temporary part-time employment.</p> <p>Part of the budget will support post-crisis recovery. (IMF)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) One-time assistance of 50% of the amount of the social benefit or family benefit for families enrolled in the family benefit system and eligible as of April 2020. (70% as an additional cash payment and 30% to utility operator (funds can also be used to clear debt arrears).</p> <p>(2) Extra social assistance payments - a 3-months emergency benefit - to households registered in the Family Benefit Program, but not yet receiving it. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Programmes to assist vulnerable groups with food supplies, including home delivery and protective and hygiene kits.</p> <p>(2) New measures to assist the unemployed and pregnant women in hardship and paying for utility bills. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) 1-months reimbursement of 30-50% on natural gas and electricity bills for low use consumers. These transfers will be automatic and universal, with no obligation to apply. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) One-time payments for citizens with limited income who lost their jobs between mid-late March. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) One-time financial assistance to women who were not employed and those whose husbands lost jobs between 13-30 March (single pregnant women with no job as of 30 March or those unemployed are considered as beneficiaries). (OECD, CoE, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Assistance to families with children under 14, who face bottlenecks due to the shrinking labour market (formal employees with certain criteria) released from work after 13 March. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(4) Support to persons who were in formal employment (with certain criteria) and lost their job after 13 March.</p> <p>(5) Beneficiary support package for families with a child aged 0-18, where both parents do not have a registered job as of 12 March, and no part-time or full-time work from 12-31 March.</p> <p>(6) Lump sum payment (monthly minimum wage) to select persons in formal employment between January-March who lost their job end-March to June. Persons in informal employment of certain sectors (banking, insurance, loan offices, investment companies) are included in the package.</p> <p>(7) Looking to provide cash payments to those sent for mandatory leave and/or being laid off. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(8) Lump sum payment equal to the minimum wage non-cash assistance (through bank transfer) to private sector employees of affected areas, including if employer either terminated its work or was liquidated.</p> <p>(9) Lump sum equal to the minimum wage non-cash assistance (through bank transfer) to affected self-employed entities with select criteria. (ILO)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	<p>(1) Lump-sum assistance for each child for families with children under 18, where both parents do not have a registered job plus other select criteria. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Lump-sum payment for socially vulnerable families with children under 18. (ILO)</p>
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	Financial assistance for students. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) Persons with disabilities will continue to receive assistance without the disability re-evaluation process. (OECD, CoE)</p> <p>(2) Provision of pensions via home-delivery services. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) Businesses with 2-50 employees received one-time grants to cover the salaries of every 5th employee.</p> <p>(2) Financial assistance introduced for pregnant women and individuals working in the hospitality, tourism and retail sectors. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Partial reimbursement of loans taken by firms to cover the salaries of their workers.</p> <p>(4) Lump sum payment (set for the minimum wage) to hired workers and individual entrepreneurs (formal employment) in the private sector specifically in hotel and hostel, public catering, tourism, barber shops and beauty parlours (where a large number of women are employed) and retail trade, if they were employed on 01 March-15 June.</p> <p>(5) Temporary job creation for socially vulnerable groups in the agricultural sector. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<p>(1) Discussions to reform labour legislation to workers with children at home. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Amendment proposed to the Labour Code to allow employees to receive compensation from employers equal to the minimal hourly rate, flexible working hours, etc. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Obligation for enterprises and companies which have resumed operation since 17 April to ensure preventive/ anti-epidemiological measures inside organizations and ensure safe transfer of workers to and from their workplaces. (ILO)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	Support package for agro-food companies under preparation. (OECD)
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Deadlines for paying taxes and filing declarations extended.</p> <p>(2) SMEs in select sectors able to obtain loans with 6-month grace period and no interest during the first 2 years. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) SME loans for 3 years with no payment obligation for first 6 months to select companies including human health and social work sector which account for 8.4% of women's employment; 6.7% more than male counterparts.</p> <p>(4) Individuals and legal entities working in agricultural sector provided with loans (co-financing and/or loan/leasing interest rate subsidies). Agriculture accounts for 32% of women's employment as opposed to 26% of men's employment. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(5) Lump-sum financial support to select companies with 2-100 recruited permanent employees (February-April), plus other criteria.</p> <p>(6) One-time grant to companies with 2-100 employees (March-May) in the amount of the salary of every 5th employee.</p> <p>(7) Lump-sum support equal to 10% of turnover of the first quarter of 2020, but not more than double minimum wage size, to micro-enterprises (family businesses, physical entities who are not registered as individual entrepreneurs but are engaged in microbusiness). (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>Measures introduced to:</p> <p>(1) Mitigate liquidity risks,</p> <p>(2) Co-financing and refinancing, and</p> <p>(3) Interest rate subsidies for enterprises and loans readjustments. (OECD)</p>

AZERBAIJAN 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 17 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	AZN 2.5 billion (USD 1.5 billion, 3% of GDP) for a broad economic support package. (OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>April's economic support programme: support to affected businesses and individuals in the amount of AzN 3.3 billion (4.1% of GDP). Measures aimed at redressing damage to entrepreneurs and supporting incomes include: partial coverage of salaries; support to microentrepreneurs; temporary public jobs; subsistence and unemployment payments; pensions; targeted social assistance; energy and education subsidies; and allocation of additional funds to the Entrepreneurship Development Fund (IMF, OECD, CoE)</p> <p>All efforts and programmes addressing the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 include a gender lens in order to target women. (OECD)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) Additional lump-sum payment to low-income individuals who received social assistance under the relief package.</p> <p>(2) Targeted social assistance and payments. (IMF, OECD)</p> <p>(3) Number of families receiving targeted social assistance increased. (OECD, CoE)</p> <p>(4) Expanded coverage of the targeted state social assistance program, includes low-income families whose term for receiving targeted state social assistance during quarantine expired. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - Govt.)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Energy subsidies (2-months Increased volume of discounted electricity limit for the population) and education subsidies.</p> <p>(2) Education subsidies including covering tuition fees of students from vulnerable and low-income families, recipients of targeted state social assistance, where both parents (if there is a single parent, the same person) or legal representatives belong to select categories (persons with disabilities, registered as unemployed; labour pensioners by age; or recipients of age-related social benefits). (IMF, OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Assistance with utility bill payments, food assistance and hygiene kits to families hit the hardest mostly ones with many children which carries an additional burden for women, to women-headed households, Internally Displaced Populations, refugees, single elderly people, people with disabilities and other vulnerable groups. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - CoE)</p>
Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) One-time extension of social assistance and unemployment insurance coverage for the unemployed and low-income people who lost earnings during quarantine. (IMF, CoE, ILO)</p> <p>(2) One-off payment in the amount of living wage for 2-months to people who have lost their jobs. (OECD, CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Continued insurance payments and stipends during quarantine for those whose unemployment insurance payments have expired but are not employed, and students who are in break from vocational training courses. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - CoE)</p> <p>(4) Lump-sum payment in the amount of the subsistence minimum to jobseekers registered with the State Employment Service, and creation of proactive appointment mechanism. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(5) Under the Unemployment Insurance Fund, families are being involved in self-employment programmes. (ILO)</p>

Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	(1) 50% of annual tuition fees of students from socially vulnerable families and scholarships for those who have had breaks in vocational training courses. (2) Simplification of the determination of targeted state social assistance. (3) Providing social services to homes of single people over 65 and to people with special needs in social service institutions and facilities. (ILO)
Pensions and disability benefits	Pensions assistance. (IMF)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	(1) Partial coverage of salaries to assist individual entrepreneurs, business owners and micro-entrepreneurs. (IMF, OECD, CoE, ILO) (2) Creation of paid temporary public jobs. (IMF, CoE, ILO) (3) Job retention and wages for employees in public and private sectors. (OECD, CoE)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	(1) Introduce legislative measures aimed at employers to prevent unjustified dismissals and layoffs of employees in the private sector - to protect workers, state announced that people forced to stay at home or not work at full capacity are able to receive a salary. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) Amendments to the law "On Social Insurance" that provide deductions in mandatory social insurance contributions, with privileges for business entities engaged in individual entrepreneurship under the conditions of COVID-19. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	(1) Financial and online support and compensation programme for damages caused to entrepreneurs and their employees (with select criteria) will be fully paid by the state to the enterprise. Includes financial support targeted to micro and private entrepreneurs. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) Additional measures to support SMEs in the acquisition of local products, goods and services in public procurement. (ILO)
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	(1) Additional funds to the Entrepreneurship Development Fund, and financing tools enhanced. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) Tax breaks/extensions in paying personal, MSME and corporate income tax for 2019 and reduced social security contributions - 75% exemption for income taxpayers and 50% exemption for taxpayers filing under simplified procedures. (3) Simplified tax exemptions for micro-enterprises. (IMF, OECD, CoE, ILO) (4) One-year tax exemptions on property and land taxes, particularly for entrepreneurs of 75% of the profit (income). (IMF, ILO) (5) Rental property tax in COVID-affected areas reduced from 14% to 7% (IMF) (6) Credit-guarantee support program for loans offered to businesses (including SMEs) operating in areas negatively affected by the pandemic. The program will also support entrepreneurs with the existing loan portfolios who work in COVID-19 affected sectors. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)

Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) Interest rate subsidies for selected new loans and existing loans</p> <p>(2) Improvement of credit guarantee instruments by the Mortgage and Credit Guarantee Fund. (OECD, CoE, ILO)</p> <p>(3) Exemption from VAT on food and medical related goods and other necessary products. (ILO)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">BELARUS</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 28 February 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	BYN 5-6 billion (USD 2-2.5 billion, 3-4% of GDP) overall support package, both direct and indirect. (OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	An adopted decree introduced measures targeting most affected sectors, payment holidays and instalments, rent payment holidays and the possibility for municipal authorities to reduce property taxes. (OECD)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	Up to 12-months extended monthly social benefit support to families with many children. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Utility payments organized by postal workers at citizens' place of residence.</p> <p>(2) Delivery of medicines and food to older people in need and people with disabilities. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Unemployment benefit	Temporary unemployment benefits. (OECD)
Paid leave and sick leave	<p>(1) People who work and pay fees to the Social Protection Fund (or such fees are paid by their employers) are eligible for sick-leave benefits during the period of self-isolation. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Employed citizens under a stay-at-home order covered by state social insurance shall be granted temporary disability leave (and paid leave) for the period of self-isolation. (ILO)</p>
Unpaid care work	<p>(1) Temporary sickness benefits for persons taking care of children if the latter were in contact with COVID-19. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Temporary incapacity benefits to persons responsible for children 10 years and below who go to kindergartens or school, if the latter were in contact with a COVID-19 patient. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	<p>(1) Price regulation for some essential products (food and sanitary items). (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Simplification of targeted social assistance provision. (ILO)</p>
Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) Provision of pensions via home-delivery postal workers.</p> <p>(2) Pensioners can pay their communal services when they receive pensions and benefits. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	(1) Those working under self-quarantine are entitled to keep their jobs and receive at least 2/3 of their salary. (OECD) (2) Additional fees/monthly bonus for healthcare workers and staff of public social support institutions working with COVID-19 patients. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	n/a - no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	Subsidies granted to public sector organizations forced into part-time employment or left idle for a specified time. (IMF)
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	(1) Tax relief and tax deferral measures to support businesses. (IMF) (2) Additional financial support measures for enterprises. (ILO)
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	National Bank measures include: (1) Credit holidays (on principal repayments and loans interest), (2) Capped interest fees, (3) Reduced policy rate, (4) Lowering the liquidity coverage ratio, and (5) Softening assets classification and credit risk requirements. (IMF, OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 5 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	Entity governments allocated KM 50 million (0.15% of GDP) for COVID-19. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	(1) FBiH announced KM 1 billion (3% of GDP) to support the economy, through: setting up a special fund to stabilize the economy and establishing a guarantee fund at the Development Bank to maintain and improve the liquidity of companies. (2) RS adopted a guarantee program to facilitate access to financial funds for micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs). (IMF)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	Financial assistance by local governments to elderly and families with low or no income. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	RS offering vouchers to citizens that can be used to co-finance accommodation costs of minimum of 3 nights stay. (OECD)

Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) RS planning to increase transfers to unemployment funds (KM 25 million, 0.08 % of GDP). (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Government aid for activation programs may be reallocated for immediate assistance to the unemployed.</p> <p>(3) Financial aid to unemployment benefits to support job retention and/or increase unemployment benefits. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	RS enables use of annual leave, paid leave and other labour rights. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) FBiH will cover minimum wages for all employees in the real sector (from March until 1 month after the end of the state of emergency).</p> <p>(2) RS will cover 1-months full salary contributions and minimal salary contributions for 1-month, in sectors closed by a government decision (with allocation of KM 53 million, 0.16% of GDP) (IMF, OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(3) Funds allocation to business entities and entrepreneurs for job retention where revenues have declined due to the pandemics, and have not reduced the number of employees. (ILO)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<p>(1) State Decision made on Procedures of the Institutions of BiH to ensure the Protection of Life and Health of Employees. (ILO)</p> <p>(2) Labour protection measures to support parents, including single parent households, recommending employers to ensure that one working parent is enabled to stay at home with children under the age of 10, and proposing measures such as flexible working arrangements, telecommuting, reorganization of work into two shifts, reducing overall working hours and improving health and safety measures for employees at workplaces. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) RS adopted a guarantee program to facilitate access to financial funds for MSMEs, and includes business activities of women, and young entrepreneurs (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(2) Funds for entrepreneurs registered in the form of a basic occupation who do not have employees. (ILO)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) FBiH plans to subsidize contributions and taxes. RS postponed payments for business tax from end-March to end-June, and is speeding up tax and social security contribution refunds.</p> <p>(2) RS covering PIT (Principal, Interest & Taxes) and social contributions of 44,000 employees in sectors closed by the government decision from March to May (with allocation of KM 50 million, 0.15% of GDP) (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(3) RS will cover 1-months taxes and contributions for businesses most affected (merchants, caterers, small entrepreneurs).</p> <p>(4) RS allocated loans to encourage agricultural output for small producers. (OECD, ILO)</p>

Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) F BiH Development Bank established a Stabilisation Fund and are establishing a guarantee fund to maintain and improve liquidity of companies.</p> <p>(2) Banking Agencies (F BiH and RS) announced a 6-month loan repayment moratorium for individuals and legal entities with repayment difficulties. (IMF, OECD)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">GEORGIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 26 February 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<p>(1) First lockdown fiscal response (24 June) - GEL 3.4 billion (approx. USD 1.1 billion) for social support, stimulating economic growth and strengthening the healthcare system.</p> <p>(2) Second lockdown fiscal response (28 November) - GEL 1.1 billion (USD 334 million, 2% of GDP). (IMF)</p>
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>Expanded economic support programmes, such as Enterprise Georgia, social compensation packages and other measures launched to assist population (people and businesses). (IMF, OECD, CoE)</p> <p>Women represented in Anti-Crisis Plan. (CoE)</p> <p>Second set of measures includes 4-months support to individuals to end-February 2021 (GEL 545 million) and to businesses (GEL 515 million). (IMF)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) 6-months financial assistance starting from 21 Jan to: (a) low-income families with a social score of 65-100,000; and (b) families with children aged 3-16 with a social score above 100,000.</p> <p>(2) One-time financial support to all children under 18. (IMF)</p> <p>(3) Cash transfers to poor and vulnerable households. (ILO)</p> <p>(4) Recertification procedures postponed of Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) beneficiaries, simplified the TSA application and enrolment procedures.</p> <p>(5) Resolution introduced 3 monthly beneficial temporary cash transfers for families with the select rating scores, including for persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, other)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) House purchase support for refugees.</p> <p>(2) Increased benefits set-up for low-income families and vulnerable groups. (IMF)</p> <p>(3) Government will cover utility costs (electricity bills, sanitary services and gas and water bills) for 4 months for the vulnerable, and for most citizens until May. Programme extended to cover the winter (November to February 2021). (IMF, OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(4) Food and hygiene kits distributed to families hit hardest (mostly the ones with many children adding additional burden to women), to women-headed households, single parents, ethnic minorities, Roma settlements and other vulnerable groups. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) 12-months financial support for those who lost their jobs or are on unpaid leave during the pandemic - started Jul-Dec 2020 and extended to Jan-June 2021.</p> <p>(2) One-off assistance for self-employed persons who lost their jobs.</p> <p>(3) People once employed in the informal sector will receive a one-time assistance due to job loss. (IMF, OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - IMF, other)</p> <p>(4) Temporary unemployment assistance benefit for private sector formal wage workers.</p> <p>(5) Free continuing education courses for the unemployed. (ILO)</p>

Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	(1) Social compensation to women as income-earners, those rendered jobless and as parents of children with disabilities, families with 3+ children, amongst others. (OECD) (2) While developing support scheme for families, needs of women, as the ones often taking a largest load of care work, were taken into account. Therefore, the support packages were developed based on needs-based approach. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	(1) Food price subsidies on 9 basic food products for low-income families and vulnerable groups. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other) (2) Students from vulnerable families (with the social score below 150,000 will have one semester of their university tuition covered. (IMF) (3) Children living and working in the streets transferred to safe spaces. (OECD)
Pensions and disability benefits	(1) Pensions will increase by no less than the inflation rate (starting Jan 2021). (2) Up to 6-months targeted social assistance for persons with severe disabilities and children with disabilities. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	(1) Increased salaries for teachers and medical personnel. (2) State subsidies for employers to retain jobs and lump-sum payments for the self-employed. (3) Low earning salaries fully exempt from income tax for 6-months. (4) One-off payment to individuals employed in outlets or facilities whose operations will be suspended under the 2nd lockdown scheme. (IMF) (5) For 6-months, salaries up to a select amount will be fully exempt from income tax. (6) People employed in the informal sector or the self-employed will receive a one-time assistance. The decision to support non-formal employees was indirectly targeted to provide social assistance to women. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	To ensure occupational safety and health, an Order approved general recommendations for all business sectors. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	(1) Credit guarantee schemes, co-financing, and a micro-grant system to help businesses and entrepreneurs cope with the pandemic will continue into 2021. (2) Government to help negotiate postponements of bank payment payments to employees of businesses closed during Dec 2020 - Jan 2021. (3) 6-months income tax concession for 33,000 businesses from Dec 2020 to May 2021. (4) Property tax concession for the tourism sector in 2021. (IMF) (5) Women-run businesses targeted in small grants and economic programmes with some pre-conditions and application barriers removed to allow more women to apply. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - CoE)

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Co-financing issued to family-owned, hotel SMEs (with property and income tax payments deferred for 4-months), and 80% of bank loan interests subsidised for small hotels, for 6 months.</p> <p>(2) VAT returns doubled for private sector businesses to supply working capital to pay wages.</p> <p>(3) For individual borrowers and SMEs, loan and lease payments deferred for 3-months. (IMF, OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(4) Changes to small business development grants: grant-cap was increased and the contribution amount by a beneficiary was reduced. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) National Bank introduced a new tool for liquidity management to support the financing of SMEs.</p> <p>(2) Measures announced to support capital and liquidity in the banking sector, including loan portfolio. (IMF)</p>
KAZAKHSTAN 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 13 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	USD 10 billion (9% of GDP) for SMEs and households. (IMF, OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>Subsidized lending of KZT 1 trillion (1.5% of GDP) is being provided under the State Program "Economy of Simple Things," along with actions to help SMEs finance working capital (KZT 600 billion). KZT 1.8 trillion is allocated to support employment under an "Employment Roadmap" program, including some large-scale projects to modernize the transportation infrastructure. Some supportive measures (such as the Employment Roadmap and working capital support to SMEs) are expected to continue in 2021. (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>Currently, there are no measures that address the socio-economic impact of COVID-19 on women. (OECD)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	Families recipient of targeted social assistance provided transfers online for the first time. (ILO)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Subsidized mortgage program for households with a segment targeting youth. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) In-kind support in the form of free grocery packages/food baskets for most vulnerable including large low-income families with children receiving targeted social assistance, persons with disability, parents engaged in caring for a disabled child and other vulnerable families. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP - WB)</p> <p>(3) 2-months reimbursement of utilities expenses for some socially vulnerable groups of population.</p> <p>(4) Citizens who were transferred to remote work, may receive compensation for the electricity and telecommunications bills. In Almaty, residents can defer utilities payments, including elevator and waste disposal, for 2-month to end-2020 with no fines or penalties. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Cash transfer measures being developed for individuals who have lost jobs as a result of COVID-19, financial support will be made equivalent to the minimum wage. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) State is financing an extension of the social safety net with unemployment subsidies and food baskets to low-income families and the most vulnerable. (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(3) Employees who lost jobs will be compensated at 40% of their former salaries for up to 6 months. (OECD)</p> <p>(4) State is expanding the list of citizens who are entitled for a new social payment in connection to loss of income. (ILO)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	Better access to paid leave for employees issued a temporary "certificate of incapacity for work" for the period of quarantine without visiting medical organizations. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	Families with 4 or more minor children or full-time students under 23 are eligible for a multi-child parenting State allowance regardless of their income. (ILO)
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	New measures being developed for vulnerable populations. (IMF)
Pensions and disability benefits	Increase in pension's indexing. (ILO)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) State is financing an extension by providing wages beyond early October for vulnerable individuals and businesses. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Wage subsidies channelled through firms to employees of MSMEs to end of the pandemic. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Health workers (doctors, nurses, etc.) and police officers received bonuses. (ILO)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<p>(1) "Enbek" (state program for developing productive employment and entrepreneurship) implemented, and includes an employment subsidy, youth apprenticeships, public works, short-term training courses, entrepreneurship training, microcredits and grants for entrepreneurs, and other types of support.</p> <p>(2) All enterprises, both state and private, should, if possible, switch to the remote work mode. (ILO)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Businesses with over 40% drop in turnover can claim cash support to cover up to 80% of their fixed costs; full compensation of fixed costs to businesses forced to close temporarily. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Increased government guarantees for SMEs. (ILO)</p>

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Select enterprises and individual entrepreneurs are eligible for new tax incentives. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Credit support to SMEs - exemption from taxes and social payments from 1 April to 1 October 2020 for select sectors including wholesale and retail trade which represents 18% of women's employment, and 10.8% of men's employment. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Deferral of loan payments and new preferential loans for SMEs/individuals. (OECD)</p> <p>(4) 3-months exemption from any type of tax for companies/individual entrepreneurs. (ILO)</p> <p>(5) Soft loans for local businesses to protect jobs offered firstly to local producers to reduce dependency on imports and ensure food security. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>National Bank in supporting banks and the economy:</p> <p>(1) Lowered risk weights for SME and loans, and encouraged Banks and other lenders to grant up to 6- months loan repayment deferrals to eligible SME borrowers and to freeze their loan classifications at the pre-COVID-19 status,</p> <p>(2) Expanded the list of eligible collaterals,</p> <p>(3) Lowered capital conservation buffer, and</p> <p>(4) Reduced the liquidity coverage ratio requirement and granted liquidity support to sustain operations and shield employment. (IMF, OECD)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">KOSOVO*</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 13 March 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<p>(1) Fiscal package of EUR 180 million (2.5% of GDP) adopted for individuals, firms and municipalities. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) EUR 10.9 million allocated to implement the emergency support package. (OECD)</p>
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>A mid-year budget review process has been adopted and includes additional budget of EUR 365 million for a 'New Economic Recovery Program'.</p> <p>A new law on economic recovery been adopted by the government. (IMF)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) Doubling of all payments to social welfare recipients (April and May). (OECD)</p> <p>(2) 2-months worth early payment of social assistance benefits.</p> <p>(3) 3-months additional payment to all beneficiaries of social assistance who receive a monthly payment less than EUR 100 provided they are beneficiaries of only one scheme. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Payments to public utility companies suspended. (OECD)
Unemployment benefit	3-months monthly assistance to citizens who lost their jobs. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)
Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	Verification procedures for social assistance benefits suspended. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)

Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) Extended deadline to file and pay pension contributions. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Verification procedures for pension benefits suspended.</p> <p>(3) Early payment of pensions.</p> <p>(4) 3-months additional payment to all beneficiaries on pension schemes who receive a monthly payment less than EUR 100) provided they are beneficiaries of only one scheme. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) 2-month coverage of monthly salaries.</p> <p>(2) For the second half of 2020 and for 2021, wage subsidy for workers in pandemic-affected businesses and salary subsidy for new workers hired by businesses based on a plan that identifies sectors and categories of workers most in need. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, IMF)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Eligible firms to receive financial remuneration per month for each employee on their payroll (March and April).</p> <p>(2) Firms to receive financial remuneration for each new employee hired on a minimum 1-year contract during the crisis. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Early payment of farming grants and subsidies planned. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - OECD)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) 2-month subsidise up to 50% of rent costs offered to SMEs.</p> <p>(2) Micro-enterprises and self-employed workers can apply to receive credit guarantees.</p> <p>(3) Up to 3-years extension of tax payment deadlines for those unable to pay. (OECD)</p> <p>(4) Interest-free loans to publicly-owned enterprises facing financial difficulties – public sector employment represents 47.8% of women's employment, as opposed to 33.4% of men's employment. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	Central Bank suspended payments of loan instalments for businesses and individuals (mid-March to mid-August. (OECD)
KYRGYZSTAN	
1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 18 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<p>(1) First anti-crisis plan economic package of USD 15 million adopted (0.2% of GDP)</p> <p>(2) Second and third packages adopted USD 540 million (7% of GDP). (IMF)</p> <p>(3) Adopted the Act on New Economic Freedom and Development to re-launch economic activity for around USD 400 million (5.2% of GDP) - (IMF, OECD)"</p>
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	First package includes postponement of tax payments, time-bound exemptions of property and land taxes, and temporary price controls on 11 essential food items. Second package includes temporary tax exemptions for SMEs, support food security program to the vulnerable groups, and subsidized credit to banks to provide funding to SMEs through soft loans. (IMF)

SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	(1) Automatic extension of the standard 1-year enrolment term for beneficiaries of poverty-targeted cash transfer whose term was due to finish during quarantine. (2) Cash transfers to persons with disabilities prolonged automatically if their term finishes during quarantine. (3) Financial assistance to low-income families. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	(1) Deferral of utilities service charges and fees (electricity, water and gas) to January 2021. (2) Food and medical supplies to supplement cash transfers provided to low-income families with children, children and adults with disabilities. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Unemployment benefit	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Paid leave and sick leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	(1) Temporary price controls on 11 essential food items and food security program for vulnerable groups. (IMF) (2) Reduced social contributions. (OECD)
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	For employment retention, Labour Code to be amended to prohibit dismissal of workers and employees, except for good reasons. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	(1) Postponement of tax payments for SMEs, time-bound exemptions of property and land taxes. (IMF) (2) Extended deadline to submit tax declarations and suspension of audits for all businesses. (3) Preferential financing for SMEs in export-oriented, processing and food security sectors. (OECD) (4) Supporting the productive sector to maintain their businesses in operation through measures such as deferral of tax, social insurance contribution payments. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (5) Postponement in submitting a single tax return for individuals and individual entrepreneurs to September. (ILO)

Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) National Bank lowered its liquidity ratio and removed necessary requirements, reduced the minimum threshold level for reserve requirements, and reduced risk-weights of some loans.</p> <p>(2) Introduced a temporary ban on bankruptcy procedures of businesses until January 2021. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Subsidized credit to banks to provide funding to SMEs through soft loans. (IMF)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">MOLDOVA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 7 March 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<p>Two 2020 State Budget Amendments includes:</p> <p>(1) LEU 2.1 billion (USD 120 million) to support the economy and businesses,</p> <p>(2) LEU 1.06 billion (USD 59 million) for social insurance which includes LEU 180 million (USD 10 million) for unemployment benefits</p> <p>(3) LEU 1.4 billion (USD 78 million) announced for healthcare measures (IMF, OECD)</p>
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	<p>Targeted fiscal and economic measures to support businesses and vulnerable households, such as expanding unemployment benefits and strengthening existing targeted social assistance, tax relief for sectors affected by state-imposed restrictions, delaying tax payment deadlines to mid-2020, suspending tax audits and other controls, and increasing state budget allocations to the budget emergency and health funds and to a mortgage guarantee program. (IMF)</p>
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	<p>(1) Increased social assistance during the state of emergency for vulnerable people and families with children. (CoE, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Double increase of child allowance for uninsured people. (ILO)</p>
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Mortgage guarantee program. (IMF)
Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Persons who have worked for at least nine months at one enterprise and have lost their jobs will be paid 60-80% of their final salary. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Volume of the unemployment fund expanded roughly six-fold. (IMF, OECD)</p> <p>(3) People not usually eligible for unemployment benefits (insured and uninsured people) have access to a grant up to a minimum salary/subsistence levels. Eligibility criteria for those registered as unemployed to claim unemployment benefits was widened to include returning migrants and the self-employed. (OECD, CoE, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	One time allowance to some categories of public sector employees who contracted the virus. (OECD)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	Strengthening existing targeted social assistance. (IMF)
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021

LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Minimum income guaranteed for families with low revenues during state of emergency. (2) One time cash assistance to healthcare workers working directly with COVID-19. (OECD) (3) Salary increases for medical and social staff. (CoE) (4) Workers' salary paid in full through state budget in non-operational public units. (ILO)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Government drafted amendment for Labour Code to institutionalize telework. (CoE) (2) State calls to arrange flexible hours, individual work time, working from home in agreement with the workers, registration of stoppage of the enterprise with payment of 2/3 of the basic income, paid regular vacations, also to comply fully with occupational safety and health measures (PPE etc.) as stipulated in the labour legislation. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) For businesses that have suspended their activities (fully or partially), state will help pay salaries by refunding up to 100% of personal income taxes, social and medical contributions. (OECD, ILO) (2) Subsidy mechanism established in order to support the entrepreneurial activity. (CoE)
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) A draft law approved to implement Interest Grant Program to support businesses/ entrepreneurs (includes grants for women entrepreneurs). (2) Assistance to entrepreneurs to overcome cash-flow problems with suspension of audits of individual financial statements for 2019 and postponement for payments of income tax and inspections. (OECD) (3) For loans contracted to pay salaries or for operating assets, the State will cover bank interests up to 3-months payroll. (OECD, ILO) (4) Delaying deadlines for taxes (by 6-months) and social insurance contributions. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>National Bank</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Cut the base rate applied to the main short-term monetary policy operations. (2) Lowered the required reserve ratio in local currency and non-convertible currency. (3) Increased the required reserves ratio in freely convertible currencies. (4) Cut interest rates on overnight loans and deposits. <p>Other measures:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (5) Increase of state budget allocations to the state emergency fund and to a mortgage guarantee program. (6) Decreased VAT for the food & accommodation sector. (7) Revised VAT Refund Program. (OECD)
MONTENEGRO 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 17 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (2) Second package approved on 24 April (3) EUR 1.22 billion over four years (EUR 281.2 million in 2020) third response package adopted 23 July. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	Business and employee support programme. (IMF)

SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	One-off financial assistance to social welfare beneficiaries. (IMF)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Doubling of electricity subsidies for socially disadvantaged and vulnerable households. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Unemployment benefit	(1) 6-months 70% subsidy of the gross minimum wage of newly employed workers in SMEs if workers left unemployed. (2) One-time financial assistance to all persons recorded as unemployed and who did not receive any compensation (financial or material security). (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - IMF)
Paid leave and sick leave	(1) 2-months subsidies in Apr-May of 70% of the minimum wage for people who have to be self-isolated/quarantined. (IMF, OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) Extension of sick leave to 30 April 2020 by GPs – normally, a committee is required for this long extension. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	2-months subsidies of 70% of the minimum wage for employees who are unable to work due to childcare for children under 11. (IMF, OECD)
Family, parental and childcare leave	(1) During the closure of schools and kindergartens, one parent of a child not older than 11 is entitled to a paid leave from work. (OECD) (2) Subsidy for wages of employees on paid absence (Apr-May) of 70% of gross minimum wage for each employee who had to stay home as carer to a child under 11. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Other welfare benefits and assistance	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Pensions and disability benefits	Two one-off financial assistance payments to low-income pensioners, (2nd payment made under the third package). (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, OECD)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	(1) 2-months wage subsidies in Apr-May of 70% of the minimum wage for employees in sectors that are closed – extended for two additional months (Oct-Nov). (2) 50% wage subsidy of the minimum wage for employees in sectors at risk due to lock-downs. (3) 15% increase in the March wages of healthcare workers. (IMF, OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - OECD) (4) Salary subsidies for licenses paid in April/May with 70% of the basic salary for each employee caring for a minor under the age of 11 (men and women). (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	Energy firms will exempt the fixed portion of electricity bills for businesses that have stopped operating (IMF, ILO)

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Support to the tourism sector (such as interest subsidies on loans and the reduction of VAT from 21% to 7% in the hospitality industry.</p> <p>(2) Interest subsidies introduced for the agriculture sector. (IMF)</p> <p>(3) Delay of tax payments and social security contributions. (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(4) 100% subsidy of taxes and contributions to the minimum wage for each registered employee in sectors that had to be closed.</p> <p>(5) Payments for the social insurance contributions of insured agricultural workers. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>(1) Creation of a new Investment Development Fund credit line credit line of EUR 120 million to improve the liquidity of entrepreneurs.</p> <p>(2) Central Bank introduced a 6-months moratorium from 22 Oct on loan repayments for borrowers facing difficulties (including citizens who lost their jobs after March 31 due to COVID-19) and for two priority sectors (tourism and agriculture, forestry, and fishing) with reduction of reserve requirement rate.</p> <p>(3) Central Banks Deposit Protection Fund increased its credit. (IMF, OECD, ILO)</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">NORTH MACEDONIA</p> <p style="text-align: center;">1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 26 February 2020</p>	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	EUR 550 million (5.5% of GDP) is the total economic assistance from all of measures taken by Government to address firms' liquidity problems, protect jobs and support the most vulnerable. (IMF, OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	Regulatory responses through 3 packages: first two sets of measures mitigated the impact of the health crisis on the economy and the population (implemented March and May). The third package concerns revitalization, economic recovery and stimulation of consumption and industry under three main pillars: encourage consumption of local goods/services; direct support for the economy; and aid for the agrarian sector. (OECD)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	Vulnerable households will receive financial support through existing social assistance schemes and cash vouchers for 2-months. (IMF, OECD)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) 30-day valid payment cards to citizens from poorest and vulnerable households earning less than the minimum wage to boost local consumption and limit informal cash exchanges. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Support to vulnerable households with postponed rent of social housing. (OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(3) In-kind support to beneficiaries of means-tested programs (basic food and hygienic products) (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Those who lost their jobs will receive a monthly allowance of 50% of the average monthly net wage of the employee for the last 24 months.</p> <p>(2) Accelerated access to the social protection system for workers who lost their jobs or informal workers (who were part of the informal economy) for 2-months per household. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>

Paid leave and sick leave	<p>(1) The period of paid leave from work due to pregnancy, childbirth (maternity/paternity leave) and parenthood and adoption continues to flow and the salary compensation continues to be paid until the expiration of COVID-19 measures, 27 September. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(2) All chronically ill persons were released from work since the beginning of the pandemic until 27 September, unless they obtained a doctor's statement confirming they are at a heightened risk of going to work. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	<p>(1) Freezing of prices of basic necessity products (food products, medicines, and disinfection products). (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(2) Students will receive partial re-imbursement of university tuition fees and IT courses. (IMF)</p>
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) Subsidies on private sector wages and social security contributions for firms that maintain employment. (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(2) 4-month salaries support with subsidised contributions to employees of affected companies.</p> <p>(3) Tourism, transport and catering sector will subsidise contributions for employees up to 50% of the average salary paid in 2019, provided company does not reduce the number of employees below its number from February. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(4) All single parents or one parent of children until the age of 10 to perform their work duties from home or remotely until September. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<p>(1) Employees are encouraged to work from home, if possible.</p> <p>(2) Release from work obligations of one parent of children up to 10, who are chronically ill.</p> <p>(3) Mandatory use of the first part of the annual leave (for 2020), i.e. mandatory completion of the annual leave from last year until May 2020. (ILO)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Support to agricultural M/SMEs will cover around 50,000 farmers. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) Existing Innovation and Technological Development Fund is supporting development of domestic start-up products and services. Textile industry assisted to create a sales digital platform. (OECD)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Postponement of income tax payments, loans at favourable terms and loan guarantees, and sector-specific support. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Development Bank issued interest-free loans to MSMEs, amount dependent on number of employees. (OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(3) Development Bank will offer a 30% grant (non-refundable) for companies run or founded by women or employ young people, are export-oriented or introduce innovation and digitalization in their operations. (OECD)</p>

Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	National Bank has: (1) Cut its policy rate twice, (2) Provided additional liquidity to the economy, (3) Revised its credit risk management to promote more favourable credit standards for affected companies and to ease standards for household, and (4) Corporate loan restructuring. (IMF, OECD) (5) All bankruptcy procedures frozen. (OECD)
SERBIA 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 6 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	RSD 390 billion (7% of GDP) from first package of fiscal measures. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	EUR 5.1 billion financial package to support the economy and EUR 200 million for infrastructure projects to mitigate risks on economic growth. (OECD)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	(1) Universal and one-off cash transfer to each citizen over 18, for - Financial Social Assistance - Caregiver Allowance - Child Allowance - Maternity leave benefit for child care. (IMF, OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) One-off payment to temporary benefit beneficiaries. (OECD) (3) 3-months extension for social assistance beneficiaries, child benefits, personal care benefits and compensations related to special care of the children whose entitlement expire on/after 15 March. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other) (4) Expansion of cash transfers allocated for beneficiaries who are carers, have children, or on maternity leave. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Most vulnerable women will receive assistance in hygiene packages and essential food products. (OECD)
Unemployment benefit	(1) New measures to stimulate youth employment and skills training, and motivate employers to hire them. (OECD) (2) All employees in the medium and large private enterprises whose work terminated from 15 March will be given 50% of their monthly wages, includes part-time employees with select criteria. (ILO)
Paid leave and sick leave	(1) Government recommended that all employers give full compensation to employees in self-isolation or have contracted COVID-19 due to direct exposure to the virus at work. (OECD) (2) Remuneration of 100% salary during sick leave or being in self-isolation for medical staff, care workers, police and military infected by COVID-19 during their duty. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021

Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Pensions and disability benefits	One-off payment to all pensioners. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) 3-month wage subsidies, includes payment of minimum wages for all MSME employees and entrepreneurs and payment of 50% of the minimum wage for 3-months for employees in large enterprises and for employees who are currently not working. Further 2-month wage subsidies offered for SME employees. (IMF, OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) 10% wage increase for public healthcare sector, and public-sector health workers to receive a further one-off assistance by end-2020. (IMF)</p> <p>(3) 10% increase in salary of care workers (being in majority women) in nursing homes. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	Employer is obliged to allow all employees to work from home where working from home is feasible (in line with the general act of the employer and the labour contracts). Employers who are not in position to organize work from home for employees are required to organize the work in shifts, with as few workers gathering in the same premises as possible. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Serbian Innovation Fund introduced a special call for proposals for MSMEs to develop new products, technologies and prototypes (e.g. protective reusable masks, devices for disinfection).</p> <p>(2) Financial support for businesses to maintain employment with 60% coverage of the average monthly salary per worker, with an additional month of tax exemptions. (OECD)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) State guarantee schemes announced with new loans approved for small business owners, SMEs and agricultural enterprises from the Development Fund. (IMF, OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(2) 3-month deferment of labour taxes and social security contributions for all private companies, to be repaid in 24 instalments starting from 2021. (IMF, ILO)</p>
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>National Bank has:</p> <p>(1) Cut the key policy rate,</p> <p>(2) Narrowed the interest rate corridor,</p> <p>(3) Provided liquidity to banks,</p> <p>(4) Introduced a 3-months moratorium on all repayments under bank loans and financial leasing agreements, and</p> <p>(5) Introduced a new 2-month moratorium on liabilities repayment. (IMF)</p>

TAJIKISTAN 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 1 May 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	USD 189.5 million received under IMF Rapid Credit Facility instrument due to country's decline in revenues and higher spending. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	President issued a decree on Countering the Socio-Economic Impact of COVID-19. (IMF) An Action Plan focusses on providing tax benefits to SMEs, postponing non-tax audits of businesses, providing food security and price stability of staple goods, ensuring timely delivery of social assistance, and supporting vulnerable segments of the population. (OECD)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	A supplementary temporary cash benefit to certain categories of beneficiaries on the payroll of the Targeted Social Assistance program. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	(1) Provision of free medical care to citizens placed under medical care and COVID-19 patients. (IMF)
Unemployment benefit	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Paid leave and sick leave	Better access to paid leave for employees issued a temporary “certificate of incapacity for work” for the period of quarantine without visiting medical organizations. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	(1) Measures taken to prevent price increases of consumer and medical products and of medicines. (ILO) (2) Spending to be increased on social protection of vulnerable segments of the population. (OECD)
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	(1) Preferential loans disbursed to food and medical supply producing companies through the Fund for State Support to Entrepreneurship. (2) Provision of grain, seed and fuel to farms to boost food security. (IMF)

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	(under consideration, as at 15 June) Tax concessions to domestic producers and entrepreneurs, reduced non-tax audits, and increase the amount and length of loans extended with low interest rates for “production” businesses. (ILO)
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	National Bank has: (1) Relaxed requirements to ease banking pressures and maintain credit, and (2) Recommended to review loan terms to support borrowers facing temporary difficulties, and waive penalties for businesses and individuals facing hardships in loan repayments (May to October). (IMF)
TURKEY 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 11 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	Initial response package of TL 100 billion of which TL 75 billion (USD 11.6 billion, 1.5% of GDP) for fiscal measures and TL 25 billion (USD 3.8 billion, 0.5% of GDP) for doubling the credit guarantee fund. As of early-Oct, it was estimated that the entire discretionary fiscal support package will amount to TL 573.7 billion (12.8% of GDP) in 2020. Of this, around TL 123 billion (2.7% of GDP) is in the form of 'on-budget' measures. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	(1) "Economic Stability Shield Program" offers increased employment protection by loosening short-term work allowance rules and consists of a set of 21 measures. "Economic volume" of support to public reached TL 525 billion (11% of GDP), and their "material content" TL 240 billion (5% of GDP). Totality of measures taken so far (the aggregate face value of tax deferrals, loan postponements, additional subsidised credits and cash transfers) amounted to TL 260 billion. (OECD, ILO) (2) 3-phase Social Support Grant Program initiated (ILO)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	(1) Raising cash assistance to families in need, including an increase in the monthly amount transferred to Social Benevolent and Solidarity Associations to protect the most disadvantaged and vulnerable groups. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other) (2) Social aid introduced for families in need who are ineligible for previous aid programmes. (3) National Solidarity Fund to help citizens in difficulty launched inviting businesses and households to contribute. (OECD) (4) Cash transfers targeted for women are increased. (5) Conditional cash transfers increased by 29% for health, postnatal and pregnancy payments. (6) Cash transfers for new mothers increased. (7) Monthly transfers increased for women who recently lost their husbands. (UN Women/ UNDP Tracker - WB)

Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	<p>(1) Easing of households' utility payments to local governments, including water bill debts of residences and businesses whose activities have been suspended. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(2) Student loan debts and rents in public residences deferred for 3-months, extendable for further 3-months. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(3) Secure places provided to homeless people to protect them from COVID-19. (ILO)</p>
Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Additional social transfers to low-income families and workers losing their job without qualifying for short-term working arrangements or unemployment insurance.</p> <p>(2) Extensions on the short-time working scheme (to 31 Oct) and the unpaid leave scheme (to 17 Sept).</p> <p>(3) Floor of unemployment insurance compensation raised for workers granted unpaid leave. (OECD)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	Financial support will be provided to employees forced to take unpaid leave and could not benefit from short-time work from March. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	<p>(1) Allowances of social assistance and solidarity foundations increased, including accelerating support for farmers. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(2) Households in need ineligible for other programmes can apply for special support from the National Solidarity Fund. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Public banks introduced long-term credit mechanisms targeting the households with low monthly income. (ILO)</p> <p>(4) Individuals over 65 or those with chronic conditions exempt from tax payments until the end of COVID-19.</p> <p>(5) Social assistance for the elderly and disabled will be made for 3-months without seeking income criteria and severe disability. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) Raising monthly minimum pension assistance. (IMF, OECD, UN Women-UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(2) Pension benefits for June disbursed earlier.</p> <p>(3) Early payment of holiday bonus for retirees. (OECD)</p>
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) Wage payments for contracted teachers in state schools during the school closure period.</p> <p>(2) Healthcare employees will receive the maximum performance payments for 3-months.</p> <p>(3) Wages of workers of firms that reduced working hours or halted operations covered under the Short-term Work Allowance for up to 3-months, extended to 6-months. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB, other)</p> <p>(4) Workers who have paid social security premium for the last 60 days, and paid unemployment insurance premium for at least 450 days in the last 3-years can be granted a short-term work allowance.</p> <p>(5) Monthly minimum wage support offered to end-2020. (ILO)</p>

Labour regulatory adjustment/ reinforcement	<p>(1) A new law legalised unpaid leave arrangements with a fixed allowance to workers granted unpaid leave and employers prohibited from firing workers during validity of the law (to July 2021). (OECD)</p> <p>(2) New legislation passed authorizing President to take decision on the extension of the Short-term Work Allowance and extend the layoff-ban to minimize the effect of the pandemic on the labour market – short-term employment allowance extended to October.</p> <p>(3) State eased the application criteria for the Short-term Work Allowance (equivalent to 60% of a minimum wage) to protect employment and employers.</p> <p>(4) Ministerial guidance passed for all workplaces on occupation safety and health.</p> <p>(5) All public employees regardless of their employment situation are given the right to flexible work. (ILO)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Under the "Triple Protection Package" to support SMEs, firms producing disinfectants, medical masks and other protection material for health workers will receive a grant. (OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(2) Agency for SME support contracts will be extended for 4 months.</p> <p>(3) Compensatory working time increased from 2 to 4-months for the decrease or stop in working hours to increase employment sustainability.</p> <p>(4) Requirement of an employment contract for the last 120 days reduced to 60 days.</p> <p>(5) Requirement of 600 days of contribution reduced to 450 days.</p> <p>(6) Flexible working and remote-working encouraged for civil servants and private sector.</p> <p>(7) Layoffs are not allowed for the next 3-months. If needed, firms can force employers to take unpaid leave, in which case the worker will receive financial aid from the government. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(8) Grant programme for women cooperatives announced under the Cooperatives Support Programme. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Reduced/postponed taxes for affected industries and sectors for 3-months.</p> <p>(2) Extension of personal and corporate income tax filing deadlines. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) The Credit Guarantee Fund increased its limits for SME loans.</p> <p>(4) The Union of Chambers and Commodity Exchanges announced that its 365 chambers will provide financial support to SMEs through banks.</p> <p>(5) Public sector subsidies to select businesses groups include: rent exemption; postponing interest and debt payments of eligible credits for a minimum of 3 months; and additional liquidity (up to 3 months' staff expenses) to enterprises paying salaries from public banks and preserving employment levels.</p> <p>(6) Enterprises discontinuing short-time working arrangements and unpaid furloughs, and returning to normal activity, will be exempt of employer and employee social security contributions for 3-months. (OECD, ILO)</p>
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>Central Bank:</p> <p>(1) Increased liquidity facilities,</p> <p>(2) Reduced reserve requirements,</p> <p>(3) Set-up a new TL lending facility for SMEs in the export sector, and</p> <p>(4) Broadened pool of assets as collateral in Central Bank transactions.</p> <p>Additionally,</p> <p>(5) Public banks granted firms affected by the crisis a 3-month moratorium on bank loan repayments, suspended debt enforcement and bankruptcy proceedings (except in alimony cases) have been suspended. (IMF, ILO)</p>

TURKMENISTAN	
As of 22 Sept 2020, no diagnosed cases of COVID-19 reported	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	N/A - state budget spending being revised as of 10 September. On 22 May President signed a decree approving Preparedness and Response Plan to Acute Infectious Disease. (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	State budget will include an increase in health spending for preventing an outbreak and to provide support to businesses (possibly through tax relief, bank loans, and assistance in providing raw materials) affected by the containment measures. (IMF)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Mobile vans of healthcare services visited remote and rural areas to provide medical masks and sanitary supplies at subsidized rates. (IMF)
Unemployment benefit	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Paid leave and sick leave	Financial support will be provided to employees forced to take unpaid leave and could not benefit from short-time work from March. (ILO)
Unpaid care work	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Pensions and disability benefits	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	Bonus salary of 20, 15 and 10% for healthcare professionals working in the remote rural facilities, frontline facilities, and other rural facilities. (IMF)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021

Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	Temporary suspension of loan repayments provided to businesses affected by the COVID containment measures. (IMF)
Monetary policy/ guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
UKRAINE 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 3 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	A temporary stand-alone budgetary program created for UAH 65 billion (USD 2.4 billion), with additional sums directed for medical support and pension fund. (OECD) A further UAH 6 billion was added (2.6 billion in July and rest in December). (IMF)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	One-time additional cash transfer to current beneficiaries of child disability payments. (OECD, UN Women-UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	(1) Household utilities subsidies for vulnerable groups. (IMF) (2) Simplified requirements for enrolment (eligibility and access) to the Housing Utilities Subsidy program. (3) Moratorium on penalties and disconnection of consumers who are late on utility payments. (OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - OECD, WB) (4) Temporary relief for tenants from paying rent on property not used during quarantine. (5) Mortgage payments postponed. (OECD) (6) Web platform launched to coordinate provision of targeted in-kind social assistance and delivery of services to the elderly, poor and vulnerable (people with disabilities, single parents, internally displaced persons, etc.) based on the applications submitted online. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)

Unemployment benefit	<p>(1) Partial unemployment benefit introduced for workers employed by those enterprises that have reduced or completely stopped activities.</p> <p>(2) For those workers whose employment was terminated by resignation, the deferment of unemployment benefit lifted.</p> <p>(3) During quarantine, the unemployment benefit for persons without contributory record increased by 54%. (ILO)</p> <p>(4) Minimum unemployment benefit increased including for those whose employment history does not qualify them for a full benefit. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(5) Introducing legal grounds to claim unemployment benefits - Unemployment Social Insurance Fund has been increased to support this change.</p> <p>(6) Individual entrepreneurs who lost their income due to quarantine restrictions eligible for partial unemployment assistance. (OECD)</p> <p>(7) Key employment services moved e-platforms, with simplified administrative procedures - e-registration of unemployed, and e-enrolment in unemployment and part-time employment benefit programs. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Paid leave and sick leave	<p>(1) State insurance launched for medical professionals who become disabled as a result of COVID-19-related sickness. This insurance also covers the families of doctors and nurses who die as a result of COVID-19. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Social Insurance Fund to finance paid sick leaves and introduced temporary compensation for income losses of COVID-19 patients. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Unpaid care work	<p>(1) Making private entrepreneurs eligible for the state support for children younger than 10. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Child care assistance for individual entrepreneurs and cash benefits. (OECD, UN Women-UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Family, parental and childcare leave	n/a – no measures available from data sources up until 30 April 2021
Other welfare benefits and assistance	<p>(1) Price controls imposed. (OECD)</p> <p>(2) New legislation allows households to deduct the expense of COVID-19 medicine from the calculation of personal income tax.</p> <p>(3) Extended existing social entitlements for the period of the quarantine without the need to reapply, including unemployment. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Pensions and disability benefits	<p>(1) One-off pension increase to low-income pensioners in April.</p> <p>(2) A regular monthly pension top-up for retirees aged 80+ years. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) All pensions will be incremented by 11%. (ILO)</p>
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<p>(1) Top-up of 300% of the salary for medical personnel working with COVID-19 patients. (IMF, ILO)</p> <p>(2) Employers compensated for wages paid to partially furloughed employees - SMEs will receive support at the amount of 1 minimal wage per employee. (IMF, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(3) Part-time employment status introduced for employees of SMEs during quarantine. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p> <p>(4) Eligibility requirements for the Guaranteed Minimum Income program relaxed. (OECD)</p>

Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	<p>(1) Law governing unemployment benefits amended to introduce a new type of entitlement, so called furlough benefit related to a quarantine - set at 2/3 of the basic wage, but not exceeding the minimum wage. (IMF)</p> <p>(2) Quarantine related legal amendments and legislation passed - Labour Code of Ukraine - to regulate remote work, flexible schedule and salaries for business interruption periods. (OECD, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)</p>
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<p>(1) Policies introduced to provide targeted support to SMEs.</p> <p>(2) Initiatives to assist businesses retain employees - SMEs forced to suspend activities during the quarantine can apply for a partial unemployment allowance programme - company receives 2/3 of the salary rate. (OECD)</p> <p>(3) Payment in the amount of the subsistence minimum provided to support children of individual entrepreneurs (single tax payers and paid a single social contribution) for the period of quarantine and for 1 month after the date of its abolition. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - other)</p> <p>(4) Eligible entrepreneurs can receive up to UAH 8,000 as a one-off state aid and a single tax holiday Dec 2020-May 2021. (IMF)</p>
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<p>(1) Relief for taxpayers for the payment of social security contributions until May.</p> <p>(2) Independent entrepreneurs offered 2-months temporary relief from social security contributions and self-employed exempted from paying tax in May.</p> <p>(3) Fines for incomplete contributions and reporting suspended.</p> <p>(4) Employers affected by lockdowns can be reimbursed equivalent of an average monthly payment of the social security which they have been making on behalf of their employees in the 10 months of 2020.</p> <p>(5) Tax debts written off, and penalties charged on overdue taxes are forgiven if the principle is paid. (IMF, OECD)</p> <p>(6) Expansion of the government program on discounted bank interest rates for businesses.</p> <p>(7) SMEs can borrow up to USD 110,000 with no interest.</p> <p>(8) "Credit holiday" for SMEs.</p> <p>(9) Suspension of property tax payments for businesses.</p> <p>(10) Assistance to SMEs through a new government initiative. (OECD, ILO)</p> <p>(11) Suspended payments for leased premises by SMEs that the latter cannot use due to quarantine. (ILO)</p>
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>National Bank:</p> <p>(1) Eased monetary policy by cutting the key policy rate,</p> <p>(2) Provided banks with more liquidity management flexibility,</p> <p>(3) Lowered interest rates,</p> <p>(4) Modified calculation of reserve requirements, and</p> <p>(5) Offered additional capital buffers.</p> <p>Additionally,</p> <p>(6) Parliament adopted legislation releasing borrowers from obligations to pay a penalty fine, and increasing the thresholds for the simplified taxation regime. (IMF, OECD)</p>

UZBEKISTAN 1st confirmed COVID-19 case reported on 16 March 2020	
EMERGENCY GOVERNMENT RESPONSES	
State fiscal assistance packages	USD 1 billion (about 2% of GDP) allocated for an Anti-Crisis Fund. Also, Fund for Reconstruction and Development increased lending. (IMF, OECD)
Socio-economic support policies and programmes	Crisis response measures include expanded funding for healthcare, increase in the number of social benefit recipients (particularly families with children and low-income families), and support to businesses and infrastructure to sustain employment. (IMF, OECD) (2) Expansion of the Public Works Program (USD 21 million). (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES	
Cash transfers	(1) Increased number of low-income families receiving social benefits. (IMF, ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (2) Extension of the duration of the social allowances for low-income families that expire in March-June for 6 months (or until a child reaches age of 2 or 14, depending on social allowance). (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Housing relief/Utility and in-kind support	Disposable facial masks, antiseptic sanitizers and antibacterial soap included in a list of 18 essentials (food/hygiene) products provided to beneficiaries of regular goods baskets - elderly (men over 60 years and women over 55) and people with disabilities including those who need outside care, do not have children (except for minors or children 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, and low-income families. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Unemployment benefit	Simplified procedures to apply and access unemployment assistance benefits during the quarantine measures. (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Paid leave and sick leave	(1) If a member of the healthcare or medical staff is infected with COVID-19 while dealing with patients, they receive a one-off compensation; if the infection results in severe health damage or death, then person or their family members receive compensation. (2) Sick leave for the duration of quarantine increased (from 60-80% of salary depending on employment history) to 100% of the salary for everyone and covers parents whose child is in quarantine (linked to unpaid care work, see column H). (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Unpaid care work	(1) One-off compensation to carers of healthcare or medical staff who suffer severe health damage due to being infected with COVID-19 while dealing with patients (linked to Paid leave and sick leave, see column G). (2) To support the unpaid care work of working parents whose child is in quarantine (linked to Paid leave and sick leave, see column G), parents can apply for and benefit from sick leave for the duration of quarantine and receive 100 % of their salary (an increase of 20-40 %, based on employment history). (UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Family, parental and childcare leave	During closure of schools and kindergartens, a working parent (only one of the two) is granted paid leave (including those who have worked less than 6-months), without affecting the regular annual paid leave schedule. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)

Other welfare benefits and assistance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Social safety net coverage expanded by 10%. (2) Child care benefits and material assistance extended for all beneficiaries. (OECD, ILO) (3) Possible amendments to simplify the application process and relax the income test to determine eligibility to family allowances. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Pensions and disability benefits	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) 100% temporary disability benefit for parents. (OECD, ILO) (2) Pensions are fully transferred to bank cards. (ILO)
LABOUR AND ECONOMIC, BUSINESS & FISCAL STIMULUS MEASURES	
Salary/wages support to employed and self-employed	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Prohibition of termination of the employment contract for an employee who is the parent (person, substitute, guardian, trustee) of a child under 14 who is COVID-19 infected or placed in quarantine. (2) Interest-free loans for the payment of wages to employees of business entities that have suspended their activities in quarantine. (ILO, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB) (3) Material incentives and salary supplement of 120% for health workers dealing with COVID-19. (4) Salary payments fully transferred to bank cards. (ILO)
Labour regulatory adjustment/reinforcement	New work arrangements allow transition of employees, especially pregnant women, elderly and people with disabilities or chronic diseases, to a distance-working method with flexible working hours. (ILO)
Subsidy and relevant support to businesses (including entrepreneurs, self-employed, MSMEs)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Public Works Fund to improve infrastructure and support employment. (2) State Fund for Entrepreneurship Support for job creations by businesses. (IMF, OECD, UN Women/UNDP Tracker - WB)
Other direct monetary assistance for MSMEs (includes rebate on social security contributions, tax deferrals/returns, loans, etc)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) Assistance to affected businesses via interest subsidies; State Fund for Business Development Support will provide businesses with partial compensation for loan interest expenses and a guarantee of up to 50% of the loan amount. (2) Reduction of social contributions for individual entrepreneurs. (3) Moratorium on tax audits to end-2020. (4) Delaying tax declarations for 2019 income taxes and tax deferrals on land and property tax for most affected SMEs and individual entrepreneurs to October. (IMF, OECD, ILO)
Monetary policy/guarantees for businesses/liquidity support	<p>Central Bank measures include deferred loan payments for affected firms and reduced policy rate, extending maturities of loan repayments for affected sectors. (IMF, OECD)</p> <p>Central Bank did not change regulatory, capital or liquidity requirements. (OECD)</p>