

# SUBREGIONAL FACTSHEET:

## EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

### INTRODUCTION

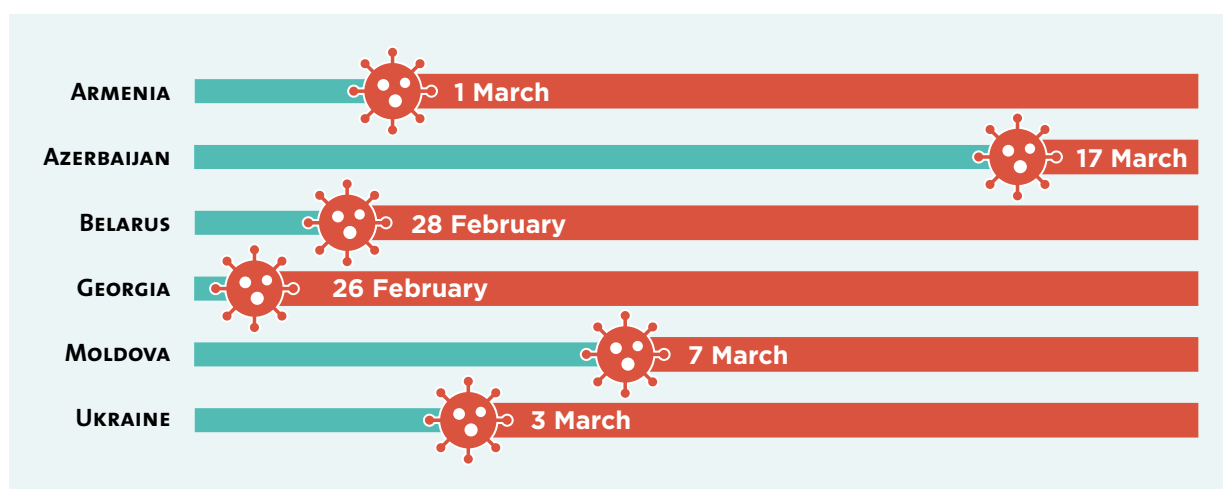
This factsheet draws on findings from the UN Women research study, ‘One Year of COVID-19: A Gender Analysis of Emergency COVID-19 Socio-Economic Policy Responses Adopted in Europe and Central Asia’ and its multiple data sources.<sup>1</sup> This factsheet provides an overview of the policy measures that the governments of six Eastern Partnership countries – **Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova** and **Ukraine** – adopted in relation to social protection, labour market, and economic, fiscal and business stimulus.

This factsheet highlights measures taken with a gender lens<sup>2</sup> and the Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle.<sup>3</sup> By applying these perspectives, governments can mitigate the adverse and disproportionate impacts that

the COVID-19 pandemic has had on women and vulnerable groups while bolstering the fundamentals in ‘building back better’ after the pandemic.

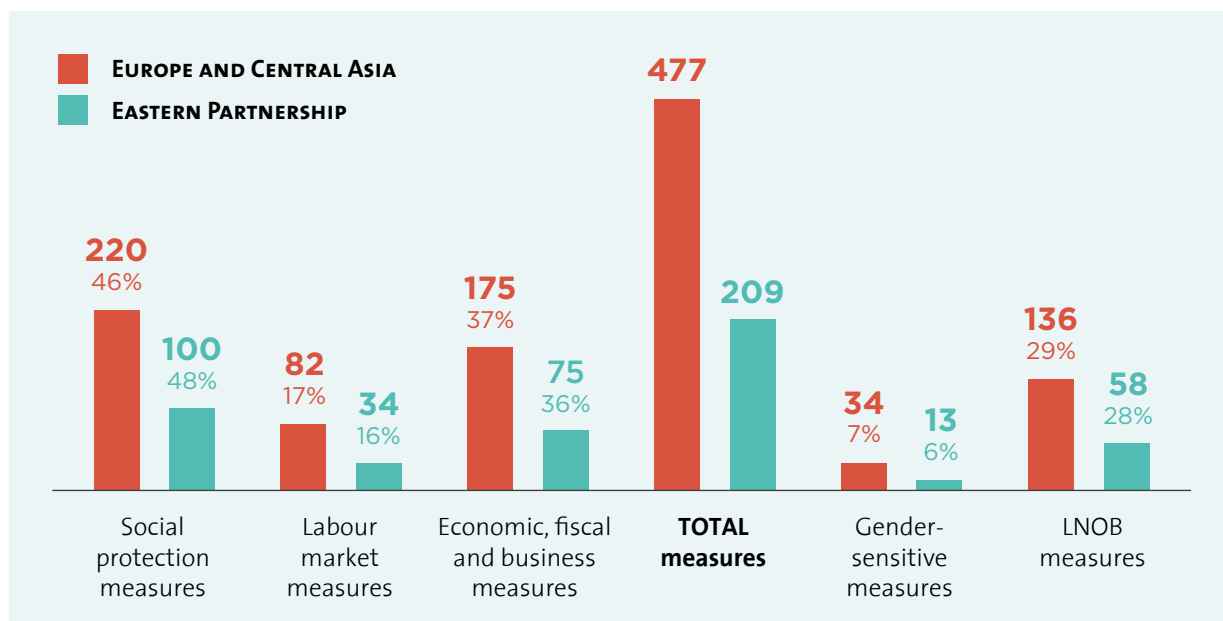
It is important to note that although the study applied a rigorous analysis, the underlying data “should be interpreted with caution... there may be gaps or biases due to a lack of available information, underreporting of measures being announced, overreporting of measures that have been suspended, or the lack of data on the gender components of existing measures.”<sup>4</sup> It should also be noted that because the study took a broad approach that drew on multiple sources, some data points presented may differ from the UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker of September 2020.

### TIMELINE OF 1<sup>ST</sup> CONFIRMED COVID-19 CASES IN EASTERN PARTNERSHIP COUNTRIES



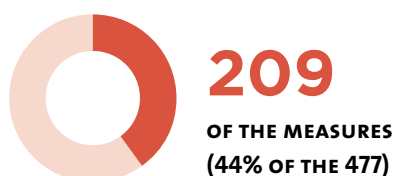
- 1 Secondary data was collected from six data sources: [Council of Europe: Promoting and protecting women’s rights at national level](#); [International Monetary Fund Policy Tracker on Policy Responses to COVID-19](#); [ILO Country Policy Responses](#); [Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development POLICY TRACKER: Tackling COVID-19 - Contributing to a global effort](#); [World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures](#); [UNDP-UN Women COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker](#)
- 2 A gender lens methodology considers measures to be gender-sensitive if they include explicit reference to “women” and “seek to directly address the risks and challenges that women and girls face during the COVID-19 crisis.” (See [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker Methodological Note](#).)
- 3 The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle’s methodology considers measures that directly address and make explicit reference to vulnerable and marginalized households and groups. LNOB is the central, transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda and its Sustainable Development Goals
- 4 [COVID-19 Global Gender Response Tracker Methodological note](#)

## HOW THE SUBREGION RESPONDED

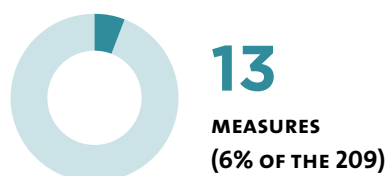


Country/Territory	Social protection measures	Labour market measures	Economic, fiscal and business measures	TOTAL measures	Gender-sensitive measures	LNOB measures
Armenia	19 (50%)	8 (21%)	11 (29%)	<b>38</b>	6 (16%)	14 (37%)
Azerbaijan	16 (50%)	5 (16%)	11 (34%)	<b>32</b>	1 (3%)	9 (28%)
Belarus	12 (55%)	2 (9%)	8 (36%)	<b>22</b>	0 (0%)	6 (27%)
Georgia	21 (54%)	7 (18%)	11 (28%)	<b>39</b>	5 (13%)	18 (46%)
Moldova	8 (30%)	6 (22%)	13 (48%)	<b>27</b>	1 (4%)	4 (15%)
Ukraine	24 (47%)	6 (12%)	21 (41%)	<b>51</b>	0 (0%)	7 (14%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100 (48%)</b>	<b>34 (16%)</b>	<b>75 (36%)</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>13 (6%)</b>	<b>58 (28%)</b>

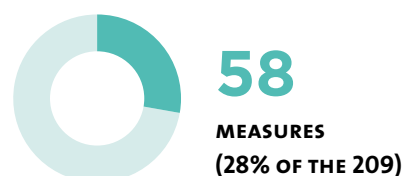
Of the 477 measures that were recorded in Europe and Central Asia to address the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic:



under the three categories were from the six countries in the Eastern Partnership subregion;



can be classified as being gender-sensitive in that they specifically reference women;



can be classified as being inclusive of the LNOB principle in that they specifically reference vulnerable and marginalized households and groups.

## SOCIAL PROTECTION



Of the 209 measures collected for Eastern Partnership countries, **100 MEASURES (48 PER CENT)** fall under the social protection category in that they provide social assistance, social insurance and welfare benefits to all citizens or members of an age group.

Findings from a gender lens and the LNOB principle show that:



**ONLY SIX OUT OF 100 SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES (6 PER CENT)** from three countries can be classified as being gender-sensitive. **Armenia, Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** made explicit reference to women (“women,” “pregnant women,” and “women-headed households”) as beneficiaries of utility relief and/or in-kind support. **Armenia** included references to “women” and “single pregnant women” as recipients of unemployment-related, one-time financial assistance. **Georgia** explicitly mentioned “women” as income-earners as recipients of social compensation and schemes for the increased unpaid care work they have had to take on due to COVID-19.



**54 MEASURES (54 PER CENT)** from **all six Eastern Partnership countries** can be classified as being inclusive of the LNOB principle in that they include assistance and benefits to varying degrees to vulnerable and marginalized households and groups.

### TOTAL SOCIAL PROTECTION MEASURES:



#### TARGETED CASH TRANSFERS SCHEMES:

15 measures across six countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)



#### HOUSING AND UTILITY RELIEF, AND IN-KIND SUPPORT:

19 measures across six countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)



#### UNEMPLOYMENT AND LEAVE BENEFITS (SICK, PAID AND FAMILY, PARENTAL AND CHILDCARE LEAVE):

35 measures across six countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)



#### UNPAID CARE WORK:

8 measures across four countries (Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine)



#### OTHER WELFARE BENEFITS AND ASSISTANCE, INCLUDING PENSION AND DISABILITY BENEFITS:

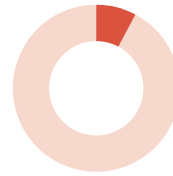
23 measures across six countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)

	Social protection measures	Gender-sensitive measures	LNOB measures
ARMENIA	19 (50%)	2 (16%)	12 (37%)
AZERBAIJAN	16 (50%)	1 (3%)	9 (28%)
BELARUS	12 (55%)	0 (0%)	6 (27%)
GEORGIA	21 (54%)	3 (13%)	17 (46%)
MOLDOVA	8 (30%)	0 (0%)	3 (15%)
UKRAINE	24 (47%)	0 (0%)	7 (14%)
TOTAL	100 (48%)	6 (6%)	54 (54%)

## LABOUR MARKET



Findings from a gender lens and the LNOB principle show that:



**ONLY THREE OUT OF 34 (9 PER CENT)** of the labour market measures from two countries can be classified as being gender-sensitive. **Armenia** and **Georgia** were explicit in offering

direct labour market assistance for women with salary and wages support. Armenia referred to “pregnant women” and “women” workers and entrepreneurs working in Armenia’s predominantly women-employed sectors. Georgia referred to women in the informal sector as recipients of targeted financial support.



**ONLY FOUR MEASURES (12 PER CENT)** from three countries (**Armenia**, **Georgia** and **Moldova**) can be classified as being inclusive of the LNOB principle in that they include assistance and benefits to varying degrees to vulnerable and marginalized households and groups.

The mapping collected 34 measures in the labour market category from all six Eastern Partnership countries. The measures adopted protect the jobs and incomes of employees and assist employers of businesses affected by the COVID-19 pandemic to mitigate the risks of contract termination, including with state support for the payment of wages. Policy responses under this dimension also include labour policy and regulation adjustments and/or reinforcements.

### TOTAL LABOUR MARKET MEASURES:



**SALARY/WAGES SUPPORT TO EMPLOYED AND SELF-EMPLOYED:** 24 measures across six countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)



**LABOUR POLICY/REGULATORY ADJUSTMENTS AND/OR REINFORCEMENTS:** 10 measures across five countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)

	Labour market measures	Gender-sensitive measures	LNOB measures
<b>ARMENIA</b>	<b>8 (21%)</b>	<b>2 (25%)</b>	<b>2 (25%)</b>
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	<b>5 (16%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>BELARUS</b>	<b>2 (9%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>GEORGIA</b>	<b>7 (18%)</b>	<b>1 (14%)</b>	<b>1 (14%)</b>
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	<b>6 (22%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>1 (17%)</b>
<b>UKRAINE</b>	<b>6 (12%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>	<b>0 (0%)</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>34 (16%)</b>	<b>3 (9%)</b>	<b>4 (12%)</b>

## ECONOMIC, FISCAL AND BUSINESS

All six governments introduced emergency responses in the form of socio-economic support policies and programmes to address the economy and citizens' economic vulnerabilities. **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** made explicit references to women. In Azerbaijan, all efforts and programmes addressing the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic include a gender lens in order to target women. Georgia's Anti-crisis Plan categorically indicates women. From the LNOB principle, only **Moldova** explicitly referenced vulnerable households in their emergency policy-level responses.

**All countries** revised their national budgets to offer state fiscal assistance packages, including through COVID-19 anti-crisis funds. The measures averaged two per cent of countries' GDP.

Out of the 75 economic, fiscal and business measures collected for Eastern Partnership countries, only two measures from **one country** offered support to the feminized sectors of the economy (i.e. sectors that absorb a higher proportion of women's employment compared to that of men). In **Armenia**, small- and

medium-sized enterprise loans were offered to select companies, including companies in the human health and social work sector, which account for 8.4 per cent of women's employment (this is 6.7 per cent more than men's employment in the same sectors). Armenia also provided loans to individuals and legal entities in the agricultural sector (the agricultural sector accounts for 32 per cent of women's employment compared to 26 per cent of men's employment).

While **business and entrepreneurship stimulus** measures were recorded in all six Eastern Partnership countries, analysis revealed that **two countries** offered business stimulus measures that can be considered as being gender-sensitive in that they offer categorical reference to women-run businesses and/or women as entrepreneurs. Small grants and economic programmes in **Georgia** removed some pre-conditions and application barriers for "women-run businesses" in order to enable more women to apply. In **Moldova**, a draft law was approved to implement the Interest Grant Programme and support businesses that includes grants for women entrepreneurs.

	Economic, fiscal and business measures	Gender-sensitive measures	LNOB measures
<b>ARMENIA</b>	11 (29%)	2 (18%)	0 (0%)
<b>AZERBAIJAN</b>	11 (34%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>BELARUS</b>	8 (36%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>GEORGIA</b>	11 (28%)	1 (9%)	0 (0%)
<b>MOLDOVA</b>	13 (48%)	1 (%)	0 (0%)
<b>UKRAINE</b>	21 (41%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)
<b>TOTAL</b>	75 (36%)	4 (6%)	0 (0%)