This Technical Note affords a review of the social protection measures implemented by the Latin American and the Caribbean (LAC) countries to respond to the socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 health contingency. This document is an update of the first edition dated March 27, 2020, and is organized as follows: the first section presents the context, estimating the possible impact of this crisis on economic growth and poverty in the region; the following section shows the systematized social protection measures taken for the economic emergency; and the third section provides a detailed analysis of the particular response in the social assistance component, with a focus on cash transfers and school feeding programs. Lastly, some reflections and considerations are shared.

1. The Impact of COVID-19 on Economic Growth and Poverty in Latin America and the Caribbean

As the emergency spreads and its effects become better known, projections on the region’s expected economic performance for this year are being updated. ECLAC submits that the information available to date points to an expected contraction of 5.3% in the GDP of Latin America and the Caribbean in 2020, although markedly heterogenous among the region's different countries. Some of the largest economies on the continent have experienced a significant decrease (Argentina -6.5%, Mexico -6.5%, Brazil -5.2%) as well as the English-speaking Caribbean, while countries in the South American subregion would suffer medium contractions (Suriname -4.4%, and Uruguay, Peru and Chile -4%).

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2 For its part, the World Bank estimates a fall in regional GDP of -4.6% in 2020, while the IMF projects economic growth of -5.2% in Latin America and the Caribbean during the same period.
For their part, some countries in Central America and the Dominican Republic would expect relatively minor effects on their economies (Honduras -2.8%, Panama -2%, and the Dominican Republic 0%). The complete list of expected GDP growth for the region is illustrated in Graph 1.

**Graph 1.**

GDP Growth Projections for Latin America and the Caribbean, 2020

The projections on economic performance serve to calculate the possible expected impact on monetary poverty in the region. ECLAC estimates that the poverty rate in Latin America and the Caribbean would increase from 30.3% to 34.7% in 2020, which would represent, in absolute terms, an increase of 28.7 million people in this situation (for a total of 214.7 million people), while extreme poverty would rise from 11% to 13.5%, corresponding to an increase of almost 16 million people (for a total of 83.4 million). These results aggravate the growing poverty trend in the region which started in 2019 (as shown in Graph 2), and would escalate the levels of inequality, with an increase in the Gini index of 1-2 points as a result of an higher unemployment rate (which would surge from 8.1% to 11.5%, for a total of 37.7 million unemployed). These approximations demonstrate not only the need to prioritize social protection policies and programs aimed at mitigating the economic effects on the most vulnerable population, but also the importance of doing so considering the already existing inequality gaps in the region, which are likely to become more severe.
Children will be one of the population groups most affected by the socioeconomic effects associated with COVID-19. In a region where the poverty rate of boys, girls and adolescents doubles the poverty rate of adults, and triples that of older adults, this emergency now entails a risk not only of more poverty, but also of poorer nutrition, less health and learning, and a higher risk of lack of protection against violence. Furthermore, the confinement and uncertainty regarding the return to daily life can have a negative effect on the mental health of children and adolescents. Evidence of the effect of COVID-19 on households with children in Argentina shows, among other aspects, what the first edition of this Note had already anticipated: deepened inequalities among socioeconomic levels, given that the crisis affects the income of the most vulnerable households more, as well as disproportionately burdening women, in terms of the weight of household chores, childcare and their own employment activities (see box). Positive, however, are the cash transfer programs in Argentina, which have become an effective vehicle for the social protection of families, and are well accepted by the population.

Argentina: Survey on Perception, Attitudes and Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic

In April 2020, UNICEF Argentina endeavored to learn of the effects of the COVID-19 emergency on the well-being of households with children in the country. Delivering a 129-question telephone survey to a national and regional sample of 2,678 households with boys, girls and adolescents, this exercise researched the general population's perceptions about various health, economic and social topics. These were some of the most important results:

Quarantine
- 96.2% of the population believes that the mandatory quarantine will prevent the spread of coronavirus in the household. Among adolescents, 99.3% consider it necessary.
- 83% of households consider that there would be a high risk of contracting the disease if there were no quarantine.

Prevention
- 93% of people say that they wash their hands regularly and every time they go out; and 92% of households wash their homes with bleach solution.
- But 7% of households (12% in the case of overcrowded households) indicate that they do not have sufficient prevention, cleaning and disinfection supplies because they are expensive and cannot get them in local stores.

Household income
- Because of the isolation, income was reduced in 59% of households. This refers to about 3.6 million households involving 15 million people with low labor income.
- This percentage increases to 62% in the Province of Buenos Aires, to 70% for recipients of the Universal Child Allowance (AUH) and to 75% when they are large households. 7.2% of households declare that some of their members have lost their jobs.

Social transfers
- Since quarantine began, 22% of households received Emergency Family Income, 28% the AUH voucher and 19% the food card or other food supports.
- 84% of people had no problems accessing these benefits.

Food
- 28.3% of households had to stop buying some food for lack of money, 31% in the case of households headed by women and 45.3% in the case of households in towns and settlements. In 8% of households, a boy, girl and adolescent usually eat in a school canteen (a total of 500,000 girls and boys).

Women
51% of women feel more overburdened with household chores since isolation measures were issued, which are cleaning tasks (35%), childcare (28%) and help with school tasks (22%).

Perceptions of adolescents
- 44.5% of the interviewed adolescents have some negative feeling, whether feeling scared (22.5%), distressed (15.7%) or depressed (6.3%). More than half discuss these issues with their mothers.
- 47% of the adolescents surveyed stated that they believed that they or someone in their family could become infected.

Source: UNICEF Argentina. For more information, see https://www.unicef.org/argentina/comunicados-prensa/covid-19-unicef-encuesta-percepcion-poblacion
2. The Social Protection Response in Latin America and the Caribbean: Where Are We?

Social protection is key in the response to a health emergency, considering that measures to controlling it directly affect the livelihoods of families. In LAC, the components and instruments of social assistance, social security and labor market policies have been activated and adapted to protect the most vulnerable families. Table 1 presents a summary of all the social protection measures adopted until April 24, 2020. The scope of these measures is briefly described below.

Regarding **Social Assistance**, cash transfers are still the most important response to the crisis. Currently, 10 countries in the region use or adapt their existing transfer programs to mitigate pandemic impact on household income, either by increasing the amount of the benefit or by prepaying benefits (vertical expansion) as in the case of Argentina, Brazil, Colombia and Peru; or by expanding the program to more beneficiaries (horizontal expansion) as in Brazil and Belize. Non-contributory pensions deserve a special mention: 6 LAC countries (Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru) use social pensions in the response, either as the only transfer measure (the case of Mexico), or as a supplement to the measures already in place for families with children.

New, however, are the temporary transfer programs created in response to COVID-19, and which now represent the most important social protection measure assumed. In fact, a total of 16 countries launched emergency bonds, family income and exceptional financial supports in March and April, which generally seek to reach affected groups that are not covered by any program and/or lack registration in the national social protection systems.

In addition to transfers, **food programs** have been widely used. In fact, most countries, with the exception of Cuba, Guyana, Mexico and Nicaragua, have used existing food programs or have created new ones with the purpose of meeting the nutritional needs of children and their families. This includes adaptations to school feeding programs (SFPs) in 17 countries (such as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Honduras, Jamaica, and Uruguay), and the creation of new food distribution programs that target families with children, pensioners, persons with disabilities, among others (such as in Belize, Boliva, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, the Dominican Republic and Suriname).

Additionally, governments have developed coordination strategies with sub-national governments, international organizations and civil society to offer help with food and non-food baskets, and delivery of food cards. These benefits in kind seek mainly to protect households with income affected by the pandemic, reducing the effects on nutrition of millions of people. For example, in Guatemala, the Food Support and COVID-19 Prevention Program provides food and coupons to families with children, the elderly and persons with disabilities, who redeem the coupons in pharmacies, neighborhood stores, supermarkets and food stores. In Honduras, the Honduras Solidaria program offers food rations and hygiene kits to at least 800,000 families in targeted territories, the distribution of which will be carried out by the Armed Forces. In

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3 Annex 1 contains the detail of the measures for all countries in the region for which information is available and which was analyzed.
4 Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic and Venezuela.
5 An emergency plan to guarantee global food supply. See: https://bit.ly/2YMSA6D.
Panama, the Plan Panamá Solidaria provides support to vulnerable groups delivering baskets or vouchers for basic food, hygiene product and medicine needs worth USD 80 during the time of the emergency, exchangeable in registered businesses.  

In relation to Access to services, public efforts to guarantee access to basic services using subsidies, freezes or payment postponement for services such as energy, water and internet are worth highlighting.  

As Table 1 shows, 15 countries have already approved some of the following measures: 1) subsidies, exemptions and extraordinary discounts on invoices; 2) guarantee of continuity of services and right to housing, prohibiting service cuts and evictions in leases; and 3) temporary freezing of rentals and services, postponing and making payments more flexible.

Given its importance in the context of the current pandemic, access to water is essential. Therefore, UNICEF is conducting a periodic survey of the response to the effects of COVID-19, by the water and sanitation sector. Among the measures, more than 15 countries in the region have been identified as performing some form of intervention in the sector (at the national and sub-national levels, and to a lesser extent by non-governmental organizations). Service preservation is the most important, and this includes the continuation of services by the prohibition of shut-offs, ordering reconnection and designing financial instruments to facilitate payment (subsidy, freezing of bill collections, forgiving debts for non-payment, and exempting household reconnection costs).

Family or psychosocial support services are increasingly essential in the context of growing vulnerability and risks that mainly affect women and children, such as situations of physical and emotional abuse, gender violence, or psychosocial stress.

Given this growing concern, at least 7 countries have implemented mental health and psychosocial support services, prevention and control measures for vulnerable groups such as children, women, the elderly and persons with disabilities, and some specific measures for alternative protection services. Some cases stand out, such as in Argentina, where a video call service was enabled for people with hearing disabilities and exclusive lines for older adults. In Brazil, the protection services for children and adolescents are adapting their processes to facilitate and provide the services that enable child protection. In Costa Rica, women have virtual and telephone support to report and deal with cases of violence, as well as shelters if needed. In Peru, a specific protocol was developed to protect the health of older adults; home visits were arranged for users of the Programa Pensión 65 to provide them with guidance on care and hygiene practices, and to offer timely medical attention in case of the appearance of virus symptoms.

Finally, with regard to Social Security and the labor market, it should be noted that all the countries in the region have measures or have adapted their  

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6 Decree Law 12-2020 of Guatemala, Executive Decree No. PCM-025-2020 of Honduras and Executive Decree No. 400 of Panama.  
7 Internet connection is essential for the continuity of online studies. In Chile, three million preschool, school and middle school students can freely access a virtual platform that has been enabled for continued studying despite the contingency caused by COVID-19. For more detailed information, see: aprendoenlinea.mineduc.cl.  
8 In Brazil (provisional measure No. 950, April 8, 2020), exemption from payment of up to 100% for three months is offered to some users depending on consumption. In Colombia Legislative Decree Number 580 (07-04-2020), subsidies are granted for water service, sewerage and public sanitation, with variable percentages depending on consumption and at the discretion of sub-national entities. In Guatemala (Decree Number 12-2020), a social rate is applied depending on household consumption and for the duration of the emergency. In Paraguay (Law 6524 of March 26, 2020), a temporary exemption from electricity payment is offered for three months for bills of less than approximately USD 40 and drinking water for vulnerable sectors, in addition to the possibility of deferring payment for other segments for 3 months.  
9 The guarantee of the right to housing is implemented in 5 countries in the region. In Argentina, eviction from buildings for failure to pay rent is suspended throughout the national territory until September 30. In Paraguay it is also determined that non-compliance with the rent payments is not a cause for eviction, provided that the payment of at least 40% of the monthly rent is justified, until June. In other countries such as Trinidad and Tobago, the government offers the possibility of applying for a subsidy for three months for TTD 2,500 (approx. USD 37) with the possibility of extending it up to six months; and in Venezuela the payment of rents for companies and individuals was suspended until September 1. In Peru, the government approved the Bono Familiar Habitacional, a single payment grant to be used exclusively for acquisition, construction on owned property or improvement of low-income housing.  
mechanisms in one of these two components, and 19 have done so specifically in the social security component. Accommodations in the pension systems are still one of the most frequent in the region, with measures identified in 7 countries. Four countries made advance payments to their pensioners (Belize, Brazil, Costa Rica and Guyana); while Peru allowed the extraordinary withdrawal of the pension fund from the Individual Capitalization Account; Argentina granted an increase in the amount of the benefit to pensioners; and Cuba decided to extend the period of all temporary pensions for 6 months.

In at least 10 countries with severance pay and other pensions, workers have been permitted to use them. Thus, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica and Peru allowed access to national severance accounts (in Colombia this measure is exclusive for funds managed by private companies). For their part, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, the Dominican Republic and Uruguay endorsed the prepayment or the use of paid vacations. In addition, measures related to the use of health insurance were espoused in 6 countries. Actions to guarantee insurance continuity for workers who lost their jobs or had their employment contracts suspended in Belize, Chile, Honduras and Peru are spotlighted. For their part, Bolivia and the Dominican Republic expanded insurance coverage, by requiring employers to bear the costs of treatment for the Coronavirus contagion, for the benefit of the workers.

Only 5 countries have implemented measures related to unemployment insurance. Thus, while Belize, Costa Rica and Jamaica launched new benefits for the general population that was laid off as a consequence of the crisis, 2 others adapted and boosted existing programs, such as increasing the amount of the transfer (Argentina) and the allocation of additional resources to extend the benefit to new applicants (Government of Mexico City). Finally, 4 other countries (Cuba, Ecuador, Jamaica and Uruguay) have effected measures to protect self-employment, such as the suspension of the payment of social contributions and new subsidized credit programs.

In the labor market area, to date, teleworking regulations have been issued in 20 countries (exceptions at the moment are Belize, Guyana, Haiti and Venezuela). The packages and measures to protect employment are also worth accentuating, such as the partial wage payment programs for people with suspended or reduced contracts, which are available in all the countries examined, with the exception of Belize, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Panama and Suriname. Likewise, measures were identified to support MSMEs (micro, small and medium-sized enterprises) through, for example, monetary transfers to ensure the payment of wages, loans and tax discounts in 10 countries (Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela). In addition, tax reduction or suspension measures were adopted for companies or workers in Brazil, Belize, Chile, Cuba, Guyana, Honduras, Panama, Paraguay and Trinidad and Tobago. Others, such as reduced work hours, were implemented in Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica and Panama.
An example of a Social Protection Response to COVID-19: The case of Brazil

The Brazilian social protection system, recognized for its extensive coverage and the sophistication of its instruments, is being put to the test by the COVID-19 emergency. The measures adopted by Brazil at the national level are summarized below:

1. Horizontal expansion of the Programa Bolsa Família (PBF), which includes 1.2 million families, with a budget of BRL 3.1 billion (USD 617 million). In April 2020, already with this expansion, 14.2 million families (more than 42 million people) were benefited.

2. Suspension of the control and blocking actions of the two most important income transfer programs, PBF and Beneficio de Prestación Continuada (social assistance for the elderly and persons with disabilities), during COVID-19.

3. Creation of the Emergency Bonus: monetary transfer of BRL 600 (USD 107) monthly for 3 months (for up to two people per family). For women heads of household (without husband or partner), the amount is $1,200 reais. In total, it covers approximately 50 million people (until the end of April). The target population is: i) beneficiaries of the Bolsa Família (13.6 million families, or 95% of the program beneficiaries, which represents 19.2 million people); ii) people who are registered in the Cadastro Único (Single Registry of Social Programs), which, although involving 32 million people, 10.2 million were considered eligible; and iii) unemployed, informal workers, individual microentrepreneurs, that although there are almost 45 million new registrations, 20.5 million were considered eligible until the end of April. For people who are not in the Single Registry, their registration is done via mobile application, developed specifically for this purpose by the most important public bank (CAIXA), for digital transfers of the benefit.12

4. Allocation of additional $2 billion reais to the Single Social Assistance System and flexibility of the national resources transferred to the municipalities for the management of social protection programs, within the framework of the regulations that identify Social Assistance as a fundamental service in the context of COVID-19.

5. National Government regulation to incentivize worker protection and the adaptation of support services provided by municipalities (for example, tele-care for family support to replace face-to-face personalized care).

6. Advance payment of transfers and payments to formal workers (FGTS, salary payment and sickness aid) and retirees (Christmas bonus–thirteenth month).

7. In order to support companies, deferred payment measures were adopted for taxes, debts with the State and company contributions for workers benefits (FGTS). Negotiations between workers and companies were also facilitated to reduce the working day, suspend or reduce labor contracts, guaranteeing formal employment.

8. Credit activation for 1.4 million small and medium-sized companies to finance payroll for 2 months (total of BRL 4 trillion).

9. Exemption from payment of the electricity bill until the end of June for beneficiaries of the Social Electricity Rate (TSEE).13 The Government will subsidize companies in the electricity sector for $900 million reais.

10. Adaptation of the National School Feeding Program for food distribution to the families of public-school students.14

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12 According to the Independent Tax Institute (IFI), until April 30, 50 million people (24% of the population) received the benefit, which is equivalent to a total of $35.5 billion reais in the first payment alone. Although around 98 million people applied for the benefit, 32.8 were not considered because of the criteria established by the program. Also, 13.7 million people could not access it, but need a cadastral supplement.

13 A national program offering benefits of 10% - 65% discounts on the energy bill for poor families or people who have a member who is a beneficiary of the BPC.

14 National Law Nº 13.987
Table 1.

Social protection and labor market measures in Latin America and the Caribbean (as of April 24, 2020)

| Components of Social Protection/Countries | ARG | BEL | BOL | BRA | CHI | COL | CRI | CUB | ECU | ELS | GUA | GUY | HAI | HON | JAM | MEX | PAN | PRY | PER | DOM | SUR | TTO | URY | VEN | Total |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| **1. Social Assistance**                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |
| Use or adaptation of existing transfer programs |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 11 |
| Creation of new transfer programs       |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 16 |
| VAT refund                               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  2 |
| Use or adaptation of existing food programs |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 17 |
| Creation of new food programs           |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 13 |
| **1.1 Access to Services**              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  0 |
| Family or psychosocial support services |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  7 |
| Bonds or housing subsidy                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  5 |
| Subsidy bonds for water, electricity and internet services |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 13 |
| **2. Social Security**                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  5 |
| Unemployment insurance                  |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  5 |
| Adaptation of the pension system        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  7 |
| Severance advance, other salary benefits (13th; 14th salary) |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 10 |
| Health insurance                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  6 |
| Sick leave                              |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  6 |
| Support for self-employment             |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  4 |
| **3. Labor Market**                     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 18 |
| Employment protection measures          |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 10 |
| Support for SMEs                        |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     | 19 |
| Telework                                |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  9 |
| Tax reduction/rebates                   |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  7 |
| Reduction of hours worked               |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |     |  7 |

Source: Prepared by the author based on information from UNICEF National Social Policy Officers in the region and other sources.
Note: Green represents measures at the sub-national level.
As has been shown, the number of interventions, and the scope, in terms of coverage of the social assistance measures in the socioeconomic crisis is remarkable and, therefore, warrants a detailed look. Below is in-depth analysis of social assistance responses in the region, with an emphasis on school feeding and cash transfer programs, particularly in terms of their adaptation processes and/or innovations to face the mobility challenges raised by COVID-19.

a) Adaptation of existing cash transfer programs

Horizontal and vertical expansions of existing cash transfer programs

Vertical expansions. Since the beginning of the crisis, some programs granted additional amounts and advance payment of benefits, such as the programs in Argentina (Asignación Universal por Hijo and Asignación Universal por Embarazo), Brazil (Bolsa Família), Colombia (Familias en Acción and Jóvenes en Acción), Peru (Juntos), and Paraguay (Tekoporá), as highlighted in the March edition of this Note. In April, new programs were added to the offer of greater benefits during the crisis, such as The Boost Program in Belize, The PATH Covid Grant in Jamaica and the Tarjeta Uruguay Social.

In Uruguay, the government decided to double the transfers of the Uruguay social card, only once, for amounts that vary according to the number of children and their age group. These types of increases in amounts had already been adopted in 2019 to benefit the families most affected by floods. Currently, the program covers 80,000 beneficiary households (417,000 people), which includes vulnerable families with members under the age of 18 or pregnant women and trans people (transsexuals, transvestites and transgender people). Regarding advance payments, the Paraguay Tekoporá Program stands out, which brought forward the allocations corresponding to March and April to all its beneficiaries, and Jamaica’s PATH (The Programme for Advancement through Health and Education), which advanced two equal payments in the April-June 2020 period. Additionally, PATH prepared a vertical expansion that increased to three the total number of payments received until June.

Horizontal expansions. In Brazil, the Bolsa Família program included 1.2 million families as new beneficiaries using the waiting lists of target population. Similarly, the government of Belize, through its Boost Program, is considering the possibility of including more beneficiaries, transferring the users of emergency food programs to this program. The purpose of this measure is to decrease the logistical processes that involve the distribution of in-kind programs, and to guarantee, using cash transfers, families’ purchase of food for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.

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15 Argentina: Decreto 309/2020; Brazil: Ley N° 13.982; Colombia: Decretos 458 y 417 de 2020; Peru: Decreto de Urgencia N° 027-2020; and Paraguay: La Ley 6524.
16 For more detailed information, see: https://bit.ly/3aEkQxj.
17 In Brazil, with Provisional Measure No. 929, and in Belize, with the Prime Minister’s announcement 04/17, available at https://bit.ly/3dbOF29. Other countries, such as Costa Rica and Paraguay—although announcing horizontal expansions of some programs such as pensions or monetary transfers for the rural sector—have not confirmed the implementation of the measures, so they are excluded from the review at this time.
Pensions. Also worth mentioning are the adaptations of non-contributory pensions. With the COVID-19 crisis, vulnerable older adults, in addition to having coverage and health insurance, have received advance payments and increased pension values. Cases such as the Asignación de Pensión Mínima (Allocation of the Minimum Pension) in Argentina stand out, which will offer an additional $3,000 Argentine pesos (USD 45), for one time, to people who receive a single retirement or minimum pension of $15,892 Argentine pesos (USD 240), while Colombia Mayor will offer its more than 1.7 million beneficiaries a transfer of $80,000 Colombian pesos (USD 20) each month for 3 months. In Mexico, the 4-month advance payment of non-contributory pensions for around 8 million older adults was announced, as well as the delivery of benefits to families with children with disabilities. In Costa Rica, the pension deposit will be brought forward both for the non-contributory regime and the Disability, Old-Age and Death Insurance.

Taking into account the need to reduce exposure to contagion for older adults, several programs that serve this population have undergone administrative modification. Some customized the withdrawal authorizations, allowing a family member or trusted person to go to the established points to claim the benefit, as what occurs with the unbanked beneficiaries of the Colombia Mayor program, who usually claim the subsidy at the specific points or at the municipal link. In other countries, such as Peru, where early cash transfers were authorized, a protocol was also established of exceptional home visits to elderly people, users of pension 65 for the prevention of COVID-19, and approximately 146,000 beneficiaries will receive the subsidy at home for being over 80 years old and/or for having a severe disability. However, for people 65-80 years old, agency payment remains the norm, with the consequent risk of contagion.

In general terms, it is possible to say that the response to measures has been rapid (with notable exceptions), and it clearly illustrates a double challenge: on the one hand, guaranteeing continued benefits for families that were already part of the existing programs, but with sufficient transfer amounts to face a crisis situation; and on the other, to move towards a horizontal expansion that includes vulnerable groups that were not covered—the missing middle—either by existing poverty reduction programs or by social security. As can be seen in Table 2, vertical expansion—which addresses sufficiency of assistance—has been more frequent than horizontal expansion—which serves coverage. In fact, only two countries, Brazil and Belize, have expanded the number of beneficiaries of their existing programs.

The instrument of choice to reach the uncovered population has then been the creation of new bonds or grant programs. In a context in which assisting families quickly and sufficiently is vital, both to meet the health objectives and to protect their livelihoods, the success of these new bonds relies on the operational efficiency of the technical teams in the countries, and in the pre-COVID-19 configuration of the social protection network. In other words, countries with comprehensive social protection systems, with solid operational and registration systems and/or adapted to emergencies, have less difficulty in the deployment of a new instrument.

Regarding pre-COVID-19 coverage, it is notable that non-contributory cash transfers, one of the most important components of social assistance, only covers 39.2% of vulnerable groups in the LAC

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18 The beneficiaries of the Colombia Mayor program, who receive the direct financial subsidy do so through the banking network or agencies hired for this purpose. For their part, those who do not have banking services receive it by appearing before authorized payment operators who have national coverage or at points established by the municipalities. To learn more about the program consult: [https://bit.ly/3b3kUXL](https://bit.ly/3b3kUXL)

19 Article 1.2, Supreme Decree (Decreto Supremo N° 004-2020-MIDIS) approves early transfers. The Home Visiting Protocol was approved by Director Resolution (Resolución Directoral N°050-2020-MIDIS/P65-DE). Notice of home payment (Pago a domicilio), Notice of teller payment (Pago en ventanilla).

20 Only cash transfers addressed to families are considered; pensions are not included.
population. However, the regional social protection panorama is heterogeneous, and coverage varies between contexts: only 15 countries have a program for families with children, with coverage ranging from 80% or more in Brazil, Chile and Argentina (for the contributory and non-contributory system), less than 40% in the rest of the countries (Colombia, Peru, Paraguay as an example), and even less than 20% in others (Costa Rica and Ecuador). Likewise, only 59.4% of persons with severe disabilities receive invalidity or disability benefits, and only 7.8% of older adults have old-age pensions (ILO, 2020).

Table 2 provides a perspective of the coverage and generosity of the existing pre- and post-COVID-19 transfers, as well as a comparison of the amounts after the vertical expansions were conducted, and the coverage achieved once the horizontal expansion of Brazil was implemented. Although caution is required when comparing transfer amounts per person to amounts per household, generosity is noted in the Boost program in Belize (which can deliver up to USD 246), the AUH of Argentina (up to USD 205) and the Uruguay social card (up to USD 151). A more detailed examination of the programs shows that it is common for the amount of the benefit to vary according to the number of children and even in relation to the age of the family members (in all cases except Peru). Therefore, the Table indicates the minimum amounts per person, the maximum amount of the benefit per family (when applicable) and average amounts. It is necessary to emphasize that, in some cases (such as Colombia, for example), these benefits constitute only one assistance measure within a range of mutually supplementary alternatives to benefit families. In terms of coverage, the new 1.2 million beneficiaries of the Bolsa Familia in Brazil stand out, as well as the coverage of the programs in Argentina and Colombia, which reach between 20 and 25 percent of the population.

The social protection response has a double challenge: on the one hand, guaranteeing the continuity of benefits for those families that were already part of the existing programs, but with sufficient transfer amounts to face a crisis; and on the other hand, moving towards a horizontal expansion that includes vulnerable groups that were not covered either by existing poverty reduction programs or by social security.

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21 In the World Social Protection Report 2017-2019 (ILO 2017), the number of vulnerable people is estimated based on: a) all children, b) people of working age who do not contribute to a social security system nor receive contributory benefits, and c) people over retirement age who do not receive a contributory benefit (pension).
# Table 2.
Vertical and Horizontal Expansions of Social Assistance Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>AUH and AUE</td>
<td>ARS 2,746 (USD 41)</td>
<td>ARS 13,730 (USD 205) ARS 4,943 (USD 74)</td>
<td>An additional payment of ARS 3,100 (USD 46) per child; 13% increase in the amounts of family allowances as of March - AUH and AUE reach ARS 3,103 (USD 46)</td>
<td>Additional payment has a single delivery. Increase of 13% is permanent</td>
<td>11,880,376</td>
<td>26.7%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>The Boost Program</td>
<td>BZD 44 (USD 22) BZD 492 (USD 246) BZD 115 (USD 57)</td>
<td>The same amount. Expansion is horizontal (new beneficiaries)</td>
<td>Monthly</td>
<td>9,911</td>
<td>2.6%</td>
<td>Not confirmed</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Bolsa Familia</td>
<td>BRL 89 (USD 16)</td>
<td>BRL 188 (USD 32)</td>
<td>For those who receive less than the new Emergency Benefit: BRL 600 (USD 107) per person (max. 2 people per family); BRL 1,2 thousand (USD 218) for women heads of household</td>
<td>Monthly/three months</td>
<td>53,229,083</td>
<td>24.8%</td>
<td>1.2 million people</td>
<td>X</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Más Familias en Acción and Jóvenes en Acción</td>
<td>COP 2,708 (USD 1) COP 268,925 (USD 91) Jóvenes en Acción: COP 344,000 (USD 88) Familia en acción: COP 199,000 (USD 51)</td>
<td>Additional transfers for Familias en Acción: COP 145,000 (USD 38); and Jóvenes en Acción: COP 356,000 (USD 89)</td>
<td>Single delivery</td>
<td>10,548,119</td>
<td>21.5%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>PATH</td>
<td>JMD 129 (USD 1) JMD 2,415 (USD 18)</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>An additional payment of equal amount</td>
<td>Single delivery</td>
<td>360,000</td>
<td>12.4%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Tekoporã</td>
<td>PYG 23,604 (USD 4) PYG 590,000 (USD 102) PYG 225,000 - 300,000 (USD 34 - 48)</td>
<td>2-month payments brought forward</td>
<td>Single delivery</td>
<td>840,648</td>
<td>12.2%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Juntos</td>
<td>PEN 200 (USD 59) (fixed amount per family)</td>
<td>N/A PEN 200 (USD 59) PEN 760 (USD 223) per family and advance payment of two bi-mesters</td>
<td>Single delivery</td>
<td>3,520,729</td>
<td>10.8%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>Tarjeta Uruguay Social</td>
<td>UYU 1,201 (USD 28) UYU 6,460 (USD 151)</td>
<td>Double the amounts</td>
<td>Single delivery</td>
<td>417,602</td>
<td>12.0%</td>
<td>X</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by the authors on the basis of official information available, information shared by UNICEF Country Offices and the ECLAC Database of non-contributory social protection programs. Notes: The corresponding amounts in dollars have been converted using the exchange rate of May 5, 2020. Hor. Exp. refers to horizontal expansion. Ver. Exp. refers to vertical expansion.

23 In the case of Belize, although the expansion of the program has been announced, the number of new beneficiaries is not yet available.
b) Creation of new cash transfer programs (Emergency Bonds)

The new cash transfer programs are now the most important measure of social protection adopted in the region as a response to COVID-19. From March to April, a total of 16 countries launched emergency bonds, family grants and exceptional economic support that generally seek to reach: i) vulnerable families that are not part of existing social programs; ii) people who are unemployed, work informally or are independent; and iii) other special groups such as rural and reinserted workers.

Among the new programs, Argentina’s Emergency Family Income (Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia, IFE) stands out, which is compatible with the Universal Child Allowance (Asignación Universal por Hijo, AUH) because it is automatically received in the account, but the processing by the new beneficiaries must be conducted through an online platform. The project for the emergency family income (IFE) in Chile has a more universal approach, since it aims to benefit all families that are in the 60% most vulnerable and with income mainly originating in the informal sector. The program would last three months (with temporary gradualness), and the amount of the benefit depends on the level of vulnerability (0-40% of the total benefit, and 41%-60% of two thirds of the benefit) and by household size. For example, a family of 4 people that is within the most vulnerable 40% in Chile will receive $260,000 Chilean pesos (USD 303), which would represent almost 1.8 million households (4.5 million people). The monthly fiscal cost of this measure is close to USD 300 million.

Costa Rica and Paraguay are two examples of bonuses aimed at workers whose income decreased due to COVID-19. In Costa Rica, the Protect Bond (Bono Proteger) will provide support to laid-off workers, with a reduction in working hours or with a suspended contract, as well as independent and informal workers, the latter for a monthly sum of $125,000 colones (USD 220) for 3 months. Investment totals $21,000 million colones (USD 37 million), which is the responsibility of three different institutions. The program seeks to benefit 680,000 people, representing 14% of the population. For its part, the Pytyvô Program in Paraguay offers temporary financial aid consisting of up to two installments of $548,210 guaranies (USD 84) for workers whose income was affected by COVID-19. The program had targeted 1.2 million people, that is, around 17% of the population, but in the March 26-April 22 period, the program had already received 1.8 million enrollment requests.

Bolivia and Peru are two more countries that attempt universality or quasi-universality in the design of their new instruments for social assistance facing the crisis. In Bolivia, the Universal Bond provides a one-time assistance of $500 bolivianos (USD 72 dollars) to any national aged 18-60 years who does not receive some of the other bonds granted in response to COVID-19 (Family Bond and Family basket), is not a formal worker (in the public or private sector) or receives any type of pension. This monetary aid will benefit up to 3.2 million people, that is, 28% of the country’s population. For its part, in Peru the Universal Family Bond (Bono Universal Familiar) comes after a sequence of partially announced and partially executed bonds (the “I stay at home” Bond, the Rural Bond and the independent Bond), which poses challenges for the simultaneous coexistence of these different instruments, not only in operational terms, but mainly in communicational terms, to a

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24 Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, El Salvador, Jamaica, Haiti, Guatemala, Paraguay, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Venezuela.
25 For more detailed information, see: https://www.argentina.gob.ar/economia/medidas-economicas-COVID19/ingresofamiliardeemergencia
26 For more detailed information, see: https://msgg.gob.cl/wp/2020/04/20/proyecto-de-ingreso-familiar-de-emergencia-que-es-cual-es-el-monto-y-quienes-podrian-ser-beneficiados/
27 Workers with reduced hours are eligible to receive a bonus of $62,500 colones (USD 112). Enrollment, until May 5, had received 598,554 applications, of which 36% are from independent workers, 22.4% correspond to temporary or informal workers, 21.6% are people laid off, 12% with job reduction and 8% people with temporary contract suspension. For more detailed information, see: https://www.proteger.go.cr/general y https://www.presidencia.go.cr/comunicados/2020/05/bo-152-300-beneficiarios-hasta-este-viernes/
28 Regulated by Law 6524 of March 26, 2020. For more detailed information, see: https://www.ip.gov.py/ip/pytyvo-alcanzo-a-mas-de-1-152-300-beneficiarios-hasta-este-viernes/
29 Regulated by Supreme Decree No. 4216
30 Regulated by Emergency Decree No. 052 -2020. For more detailed information, see: www.yomequedoencasa.pe
population that urgently requires this assistance. Unlike Bolivia, the Universal Bond in Peru strives to identify households –instead of people–, an option that contrasts with the usual practice of universal income programs.31 This does not eliminate the challenge of either identifying households or, later, within the home, identifying the payment recipient. The Universal Family Bonus offers a one-time delivery of $760 soles (USD 223) to anyone who has no fixed income, is not on the payroll, and has not received any previous bonus. The combined benefit of the three bonds aims to reach about 6.8 million households (75% of the country’s total), with an estimated budget of $5,168 million soles (USD 1.5 billion).

Table 3 presents some elements of the operational design of the new programs created in response to the economic crisis, such as the transfer amount, the characteristics of the target population, frequency and coverage. The comparison provides an interesting panorama of the generosity and scope of the initiatives recently implemented by the countries of the region (see also Graph 3), but it is necessary to put the spotlight on three relevant considerations when interpreting this information:

i. when analyzing the generosity of benefits, it is essential to have a comprehensive view of the national social protection systems with the new programs. Naturally, some countries had broad coverage programs and relatively generous transfers before COVID-19. This is the case, as mentioned above, of countries such as Argentina, Brazil and Chile, with coverage of around 80% (for contributory and non-contributory). A quick comparison of the coverage and amounts of the new bonds could indicate that their protection of the population is either less generous or lower coverage, but it is actually the opposite;

ii. in some countries, the new cash transfer programs are compatible with existing programs (as in Brazil), while in others, they are not (as in Colombia); and

iii. while in some countries benefits are delivered to people (usually of age workers), in others it focuses on households (in vulnerable conditions), so the universe of beneficiaries may not be exactly comparable (as can be seen in Table 3).

31 "Unlike the records of many existing welfare programs, a UBI record would need to contain individual files rather than files at a household level. The primary information needed for each individual would be identification data, payment information, and proof of residency or citizenship." (author’s translation). See Exploring Universal Basic Income: A Guide to Navigating Concepts, Evidence, and Practices, (Gentilini, Ugo; Grosh, Margaret; Rigolini, Janiele; Yemtsov, Ruslan. 2020; World Bank; page 229).
Table 3.

Creation of New Bonds or Cash Transfer Programs (updated May 8, 2020)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Name of Program</th>
<th>Local Currency/USD</th>
<th>Validity/Periodicity</th>
<th>Eligible population</th>
<th>Beneficiaries</th>
<th>Observations</th>
<th>% of population</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia</td>
<td>ARS 10,000 (USD 157)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>People who are unemployed, work informally, single taxpayers</td>
<td>78 million persons</td>
<td>Number of beneficiaries until 5/08</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Auxilio Emergencial</td>
<td>BRL 600 - 1,200 (USD 107)</td>
<td>3 months/ Monthly</td>
<td>Beneficiaries of the Bolsa Familia, people already registered in the Cad. Unico, informally workers, individual micro-entrepreneurs (MEI), independent workers and people unemployed</td>
<td>80 million persons</td>
<td>Estimated. 50 million beneficiaries until 5/01</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>Bono Familia</td>
<td>BOB 500 (USD 72)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Students at the initial and primary level and youth at the secondary level of the fiscal educational units, in agreement and private</td>
<td>3.2 million persons</td>
<td>1.7 million beneficiaries until 4/20</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Universal</td>
<td>BOB 500 (USD 72)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>People 18-60 years old who do not receive any other benefit</td>
<td>4 million persons</td>
<td>Government will deliver throughout May</td>
<td>35%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Bono de Emergencia COVID-19</td>
<td>CLP 50,000 (USD 60)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Beneficiaries of the Family Subsidy (SUF)</td>
<td>2.7 million persons</td>
<td>Estimated</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia</td>
<td>CLP 260,000 (1st month) (USD 303)</td>
<td>Three months/ Monthly</td>
<td>People in households of the 60% most vulnerable whose income source is mostly informal</td>
<td>4.5 million persons</td>
<td>Estimated. Government will deliver throughout May</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Ingreso Solidario</td>
<td>COP 160,000 (USD 41)</td>
<td>2 months/ Monthly</td>
<td>Poor and vulnerable households that are not included in other programs</td>
<td>3 million homes</td>
<td>Estimated. 1.5 million beneficiary homes until 5/07</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Subsidio de Emergencias</td>
<td>CRC 125,000 (USD 220)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Poor households that were not covered by other State programs</td>
<td>33,000 homes</td>
<td>Estimated. 19,000 beneficiary homes until 4/19</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bono Proteger</td>
<td>CRC 125,000 (USD 220)</td>
<td>3 months/ Monthly</td>
<td>People who work informally, laid-off workers, with reduced working hours or with a suspended contract</td>
<td>680,000 persons</td>
<td>Estimated. 188,000 beneficiary homes until 5/12</td>
<td>14%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Bono de Contingencia</td>
<td>USD 60</td>
<td>2 months/ Monthly</td>
<td>Households with people who work informally, small taxpayers</td>
<td>950,000 homes</td>
<td>Estimated. 334,000 beneficiary homes until 5/06</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Programa Pytywó</td>
<td>PYG 548,200 (USD 85)</td>
<td>2 deliveries</td>
<td>Self-employed persons aged 18 years and over, domestic and agriculture peasant family or employees of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises</td>
<td>1.2 million persons</td>
<td>Estimated. 1 million beneficiaries until 4/29</td>
<td>17%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Bono Familiar Universal</td>
<td>PEN 780 (USD 233)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Households with people who have no fixed income, are not on the payroll, and have not received any previous bonus</td>
<td>6.8 million homes</td>
<td>Estimated. Grouping the bonds: 'Yo me quedo en casa' (1); 'Bono Independiente' (2) and 'Bono rural' (3). Only 1 and 2 have started.</td>
<td>75%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Programa Quedate en Casa</td>
<td>DOP 5,000 (USD 92)</td>
<td>2 months/ Monthly</td>
<td>Homes of informal workers and families receiving the Comer es Primero program will receive a fee increase for a period of two months.</td>
<td>1.5 million homes</td>
<td>Estimated</td>
<td>49%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Bono especial quedate en Casa - Sistema Patria</td>
<td>VEF 450,000 (USD 2.60)</td>
<td>Once</td>
<td>Independent or self-employed workers</td>
<td>6 million persons</td>
<td>Estimated</td>
<td>21%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Source: Prepared by authors based on official information from countries. Notes: According to the Central Bank of Venezuela, the American currency is listed at Bs. 200,058 as of 02/24/2020. The other dollar amounts of each measure have been calculated using the corresponding exchange rate published as of May 5, 2020. The calculation always considers the estimated number of beneficiaries (if available). The calculation of the % is on the total population of the country, and the source is the World Bank (2018) and the average number of persons in the household according to the most recent data from household surveys.
Operational innovations in the programs. Several of the new programs use the administrative tools of existing social transfer programs, whether administrative records, payment mechanisms or targeting formulas. This adaptation is necessary, and it must be done quickly.\textsuperscript{32} Certainly, for a social assistance response to be considered effective in achieving the health and protection objectives of families in this emergency, it must be \textit{timely and sufficient}. In fact, responses that are not speedy will probably be insufficient as well, since the estimated amounts are calculated for specific periods of assistance. In other words, after this time, the protection will no longer reach the initial objective.

A series of operational innovations have been noted for rapid adaptation to emergencies. For example, with regard to \textit{social registries} (records or lists of potential program beneficiaries), it is found that the countries use the pre-existing registries to determine beneficiaries, without making any changes, they update the registries quickly and innovatively, or they create new records altogether. Brazil, Colombia, Chile and the Dominican Republic, countries that are characterized by the robustness of their information systems, use these registers to identify new beneficiaries. In other cases, to nimbly overcome the limitation of existing registries, they conduct extraordinary enrollment processes using online platforms, mobile applications, or resorting to other lists of households. This is the case of the Emergency Family Income in Argentina, the Protect Bond in Costa Rica, the COVID Compassionate Grant in Jamaica.

\textsuperscript{32} Although they represent a challenge for governments, these adaptations also offer a unrivaled opportunity for updating and validating existing registries, making the procedures required to enroll in programs more flexible, expanding service providers, and modernizing, with the use of mobile technologies and online platforms for registrations and payments.
and the Pytyvō Program in Paraguay. For its part, Peru has announced that it will open the application to register people not included in the Bond, but this has not yet happened.33 A notable case is Guatemala, which has resorted to the lists of household electrical consumption, giving priority to those with consumption below a previously defined standard. In the following electricity bill, households receive a notice about their possible selection to the program, which becomes effective after communicating by phone, SMS or on a website to verify eligibility.

33 However, the lack of response to the limitations of the existing records affects the opportunity for assistance, with possible consequences on the viability of the quarantine and to the detriment of the well-being of the families.

### Table 4.

*Use and adaptation of registries in new transfer programs*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Use of Existing Registers</th>
<th>Detail</th>
<th>Use of New Registers</th>
<th>Detail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Registers of the National Social Security Administration (ANSES)</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>ANSES enabled the virtual service window for updating data and new beneficiaries.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>CadÚnico</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>For individual application Platform <a href="https://auxilio.caixa.gov.br/#/inicio">https://auxilio.caixa.gov.br/#/início</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Subsystem of Securities and Opportunities (SSyOO)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>SiSBEN</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Social information of IMAS and SINIRUBE for emergency subsidy</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Register Platform for <a href="http://proteger.go.cr">Bono Proteger</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Social Registry</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Lists of the National Energy Commission and Ministry of Energy &amp; Mines</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Household Targeting System (SISFOH), National Census (INEI), RENIEC data.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Open registrations are announced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>App on the Platform <a href="http://www.wecare.gov.jm">www.wecare.gov.jm</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dominican Republic</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Single Beneficiary System (SIS-UBEN)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Sistema Patria</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Prepared by authors based on available national information.

Regarding payment systems, it should be noted that mobile banking services and the use of cell phones, both basic and intelligent, have worked to simplify payment processes and make them consistent with the importance of preventing crowds and contagions. In many countries, the response has been timely and innovative; in others, despite their attempts, logistics continues to risk contagion. Thus, the coordinated work between governments and cell phone operating companies has enabled new beneficiaries to receive codes and/or instructions on procedures to claim their benefits through text messages (SMS) and applications downloaded to cell phones. This is the case of the Colombia Solidarity Income Program (*Programa Ingreso Solidario*), the Independent Bond (*Bono Independiente*) in Peru and the Contingency Bond (*Bono de Contingencia*) in Ecuador. Likewise, programs such as the Emergency...
Bond (Bono de Emergencia) in Brazil adopted a mechanism called free social digital account, while the Pytyvõ Program in Paraguay created an electronic wallet. Also noteworthy is the use of innovative identity authentication systems, such as the use of the VeQR application in Venezuela for its Discipline and Solidarity Bond – Homeland System (Bono Disciplina y Solidaridad - Sistema Patria) program. Below, Table 5 presents some of the operational innovations implemented in 5 countries.

### Table 5. Operational Innovations in Cash Transfer Programs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>Bono de Emergencia (Emergency Bonus). For the registration of the population that is not part of the CadÚnico or that does not receive Bolsa Familia, the program arranged a website and the Caixa Auxílio Emergencial application, available for smart phones and tablets. For individuals who do not have a bank account, during their registration, they can request the opening of a free social digital account that the government set up at the Caixa Econômica Federal (government financial institution). This savings account allows realizing payments and electronic transfers, as well as withdrawals at ATMs and lottery outlets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>Programa Ingreso Solidario (Solidarity Income Program). The selected beneficiaries are the people that appear in the SISBEN registry but that do not receive any other benefit, and all are notified by SMS messages on their cell phones. Persons with accounts will receive the deposit at their financial institution, while the unbanked population will be contacted to open digital accounts assigned to each user, where they will receive the benefit via mobile. For smart phones, there are several application options depending on the type of system (NEQUI, MOvi, Daviplata or Bancolombia a la Mano, allied companies). Basic cell phones carry out the process of opening accounts both in Daviplata or Bancolombia a la Mano through the option enabled on the phone’s SIM card, without requiring internet data or a balance. With these accounts, beneficiaries can make transfers, pay for services, recharge the cell phone and make cash withdrawals at the nearest ATM or correspondent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>Bono de Contingencia (Contingency Bonus). This benefit uses the information from the Social Registry, but for the population that does not collect the Human Development Bonus (Bono de Desarrollo Humano), this is the procedure: interested parties can find out if they are beneficiaries on the <a href="http://www.inclusion.gob.ec">www.inclusion.gob.ec</a> platform, by calling an authorized call center or by contacting official agents. The collection can be made simply with the identification number in the 10,200 payment points available in the national financial network, including non-bank correspondents, such as Banco del Barrio, Tu Banco, Mi Vecino and Banco Aquí, enabled in stores, pharmacies or supermarkets.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>Programa Pytyvõ (Pytyvõ Program). To access the benefit, it is necessary to complete a form available at <a href="https://pytyvo.hacienda.gov.py">https://pytyvo.hacienda.gov.py</a> or by downloading the application Pytyvo Subsidy for Sanitary Emergency (Pytyvo Subsidio de Emergencia Sanitaria). Beneficiaries will receive a confirmation SMS message or will be contacted by phone. Once the process has been completed, the Payment Provider Companies (EMPES) notify the accreditation and enable the option of electronic wallets from various mobile phone companies such as Tigo (Tigo money) and Claro (Giros Claro), TICs (Personal) and Bancacard. On these wallets, users receive the transfer and can make purchases in the stores that have adhered, but it is not possible to make cash withdrawals.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>Bono Independiente (Independent Bonus). The Ministry of Labor and Banco de la Nación innovated with digital payments by depositing money to cell phones in the case of unbanked beneficiaries. This payment, via account deposits or mobile payment, proceeded more quickly and efficiently than other bonds. The recently created Universal Bond requires a consultation on a virtual platform that shows the data, date and place and/or modality to collect the bonus. There are various collection methods, such as account deposits and mobile banking with Banco de la Nación; Interbank’s Tunki electronic wallet, and over the counter transfers at several banks (Banco de Crédito del Perú (BCP), BBVA Banco Continental, Banco de Comercio and Caja Metropolitana de Lima), but it has been facing several operational challenges.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

c) School Feeding Programs

Food programs, the new and the previously existing programs, are one of the most important social protection system measures adopted in the COVID-19 crisis. In the region, 21 countries have created or adapted programs that include school meals, state canteens and food components for families with children, pensioners, persons with disabilities, among other vulnerable groups. These measures have had to comply with circulation restrictions and prevention protocols to safely deliver and distribute the food.

Containment measures, and in particular, the closure of educational institutions, has meant the interruption of school feeding programs, which are fundamental components of national social protection systems. According to the FAO, these programs benefit 85 million boys and girls in Latin America and the Caribbean (see Figure 4), and they represent the safest food of the day for some 10 million children. It should be noted that the SFPs, in most LAC countries, are universal in scope, considering they seek to gradually secure access to school meals for all students in the public education system, regardless of their socioeconomic status or area of residence. In any case, it can be said that the SFPs, together with the cash transfer programs, are characterized by their wide-ranging coverage and are the second most important intervention in social protection in the region, so the adaptation of their operation in this emergency is paramount.

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**Graph 4.**

**Coverage of School Feeding Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Beneficiary Boys and Girls</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>16,625</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Belize</td>
<td>24,022</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td>273,732</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jamaica</td>
<td>311,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Panama</td>
<td>463,172</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Costa Rica</td>
<td>691,294</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cuba</td>
<td>827,070</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>876,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paraguay</td>
<td>1,085,942</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>El Salvador</td>
<td>1,300,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>1,687,785</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dom. Rep.</td>
<td>1,739,355</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chile</td>
<td>1,828,556</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bolivia</td>
<td>2,383,408</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peru</td>
<td>2,398,480</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Guatemala</td>
<td>2,459,053</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecuador</td>
<td>2,873,148</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colombia</td>
<td>4,029,869</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
<td>4,031,389</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mexico</td>
<td>6,375,712</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Brazil</td>
<td>40,197,071</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


35 Chile and Colombia are exceptions to this approach, since they select the beneficiary boys and girls based on socioeconomic criteria. Peru grants different modalities to schools, also according to socioeconomic criteria.

36 It should be noted that there is a history of emergency response by the SAPs. In 2016, for example, when Hurricane Matthew ravaged Haiti, the school meal was expanded to offer food assistance to people in emergency shelters. In Honduras and Nicaragua, which are countries suffering from prolonged droughts caused by El Niño, vertical expansions of SAPs have also been implemented to combat child malnutrition in the most affected areas. See: Study on shock-responsive social protection in Latin America and the Caribbean.
As a result of the current emergency, there are now three cases of adaptation of the SFPs: i) a change of the operational rules to maintain biosecurity, while preserving the benefit in kind; ii) a change from in-kind benefit to direct cash transfers to families; and iii) change to a mixed approach, allowing the adaptation to be defined by each territorial entity (this is the case of Colombia).

i. Change of operational rules, maintaining the benefit in kind

Most of the countries, Argentina, Belize, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Paraguay, Peru, the Dominican Republic, Uruguay and Venezuela, have chosen to maintain the benefit in kind, adapting the SFPs to the distribution of baskets with the same food that should be part of the program in a regular context, but now delivered to the families of each beneficiary to be consumed in their own homes.

Among the reasons that may explain the preference for this adaptation, the fact that it requires less drastic changes in program management stands out, contributing to speed in the response. In several cases, food was already in schools, making distribution the quickest and most viable solution. This is the case, for example, of Chile, which began planning the distribution of baskets starting the first week after the suspension of classes. While the delivery of baskets developed gradually, schools and daycares also provided contingency rations to students, consisting of a sandwich, a cereal bar, fruit or milk to consume at home.

Brazil: Using information from Bolsa Familia to replace the temporary cessation of the SFP

As can be seen in Graph 4, half of the children who have lost access to school feeding in LAC live in Brazil, reaching more than 40 million. Despite this, the federal response was slow to arrive (Ley Nº 13.987, de 7 de abril de 2020), which prompted the Brazilian states and municipalities to mobilize their own solutions and financial resources so that the most vulnerable families were not deprived of food with the suspension of classes.

Some states created money transfer programs which, in practice, function as a vertical expansion, increasing the amount received by beneficiaries of the Bolsa Família or other local programs seeking to support families with public school children. This is the case of the Federal District (DF), which created the Food Program (Bolsa Alimentação), which guarantees a transfer to families of BRL 59.7 (USD 10), BRL 119.4 (USD 20) or BRL 179.1 (USD 30), depending on the number of meals the children ate at school, to replace school meals for the fifteen-day suspension (Decreto de 40.523, de 15 de marzo de 2020).

Bolsa Alimentação uses the Bolsa Familia operating platform: on the one hand, it uses its data to select the most vulnerable students; on the other, it uses a pre-existing mechanism to make the payment, the school supplies card, which the beneficiaries had already received at the beginning of the school year to purchase materials at associated office supply stores. This card has been adapted to also allow purchases at any food outlet. This adaptation allowed the payment of the benefit to begin 2 days after school closing, serving 106,435 students (69,848 families) (Federal District Government 2020).

37 See the details of each of these programs in Annex 2.
38 https://www.junaeb.cl/
In a context in which social distancing is key to preventing contagion, the school feeding delivery mechanism is a delicate operational point. The opening of educational centers to access food baskets, an option used by most countries in the region, can be tricky, since it requires that school employees and caregivers of children travel to distribution centers, which encourages crowding and implies a cost of transportation for families. In Ecuador and El Salvador, the deliveries had to be postponed due to the concerns raised by the organizations of employees of educational centers to maintain social distancing. In the Ecuadorian case, schools have been closed since March 16 and it was not until the end of April that the pilot delivery plan ended.

An alternative is the distribution of food baskets directly to the beneficiaries’ households. Some countries stand out for providing this option at the national level, in addition to maintaining food delivery in schools. For example, the Dominican Republic adopted this option when it detected crowds in the country’s educational centers when the baskets were delivered, which were made available through the Presidency’s Social Assistance Plan. In Brazil, local administrators are recommended to have food delivered directly to the home, especially if there is a suspension of public transportation and/or facing the inability of the people responsible to collect the items at school. Costa Rica, on the other hand, guarantees support for the delivery of food to the homes of students who attend any of the 22 special education centers (aimed at persons with disabilities). In Honduras, UNICEF, WFP, and the Office of the Secretary of Education worked together to prepare safety protocols for school feeding committees and teachers to prepare portions of the SFP food that had been left unprepared in schools. Protocols allow teachers to deliver rations at the homes (specifically in rural areas), as well as allowing one adult per family to come to the school to collect the food ration.

There are cases of food deliveries prepared and distributed by school feeding committees. While this eliminates the additional costs relating to preparing food for families, it also requires them to leave their homes, and arrange the logistics to travel to schools. In Peru, the SFP Qali Warma adopted this measure specifically, through the so-called priority delivery to schools in quintiles 1 and 2. In Venezuela, school kitchens remain active and each school committee can define the most appropriate type of service to guarantee student meals. Some kitchens continue to prepare food, which is subsequently distributed by the People’s Power in an organized manner to the homes of each beneficiary. Inversely, in Costa Rica, they suspended the modality called plato servido (prepared food), replacing it with suppliers that guarantee products for assembling baskets that can be delivered to the people responsible for the assistance of the beneficiaries, for their preparation at home.

The importance of local management of SFPs is critical, in the face of the current crisis. In all countries, local authorities and educational centers are responsible for ensuring the logistics of

39 Comunicado Oficial del Ministerio de Educación (11 de abril). For more information on the Ecuadorian case, see also Resoluciones del Comité de Operaciones de Emergencia Nacional and Decreto Ejecutivo Nro. 1017 del 16 de marzo de 2020. For more information on the Salvadoran case, see here.
40 On April 29, the first delivery pilot project was completed, see here.
42 Resolución n. 2 Min. Educación y FNDE, de 9 de abril de 2020
43 II Protocolo General para la Distribución de Alimentos en Centros Educativos Públicos por la Suspensión de Lecciones, a Raíz de la Emergencia Nacional por COVID-19
44 Consult https://www.unicef.org/honduras/historias/maestras-hondure%C3%B1as-entregan-alimentos-estudiantes-domicilio-durante-la-emergencia-por
45 Gali Warma food distribution nationwide began in late April. The people responsible for the beneficiary must collect their baskets from the corresponding educational centers. See Deputy-Ministerial Resolution No. 091-2020-MINEDU of April 3, 2020 and Resolución Ministerial N° 176-2020-MINEDU, de 24 de abril de 2020.
46 Pedagogical plan for prevention and protection Coronavirus (COVID-19) Every family a School |Plan pedagógico de prevención y protección Coronavirus (COVID-19) Cada familia una Escuela|
47 The People’s Power is a group of organizations, under the stewardship of the National Executive Power, that promotes citizen participation or “popular initiative,” that is, it promotes the direct exercise of sovereignty through “participatory, leading and jointly-responsible democracy.” For further references consult https://www.uma.edu.ve/admin/ckfinder/userfiles/files/Daniela%20Urosa.pdf

Social Protection and Response To Covid-19 in Latin America And The Caribbean
2nd edition: social assistance
benefit delivery. Two cases illustrate this dynamic: Guatemala, where Parent and Family Organizations can buy food, prepare kits and organize their distribution; and Peru, where School Feeding Committees are responsible for delivering food from the Qali Warma Program in educational centers. This reinforces the significance, on the one hand, of national governments developing protocols that guide the process —from the purchase to the delivery of food in educational institutions— in order to guarantee that food is delivered to children with biosafety in all the stages of program implementation; and on the other, to ensure that there are no major discrepancies in the content of each basket.

The information available so far —official communications from some governments and press releases in the media— suggests that food is delivered under the guidelines of sanitary protocols. However, only 4 countries (Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica and Peru) have detailed protocols or guidelines, accessible to the public and specifically oriented to guide the implementation of the SFP in the emergency context. The protocols guide various biosecurity measures at all stages of implementation. These measures include, for example, valuing the health control of distributors; maintaining a minimum distance between one person and another at the time of distribution; organizing different times for food delivery, serving a maximum number of parents and guardians per hour; enabling points for washing hands with soap and water for people who enter the educational center; and carry out the distribution in large and airy environments. Other countries like Guatemala have a smaller protocol, made up of six main points.

With regard to the benefit itself, or the composition of the food basket, it is also positive to note that all LAC countries already report on the basic content that such baskets should contain. An example of good practice is the case of Chile, which defines the content of the baskets according to the availability of food and the reality of each region (and in some cases even of the municipalities) of the country. Costa Rica also reports the content with perishable and non-perishable foods in the baskets, in addition to offering various replacement options. These parameters help to ensure program coherence at the national level. However, there is very little evidence as to whether the quality rules have been altered after the onset of the crisis. In Costa Rica, for example, it is known that the inability of some educational centers to distribute and store perishable food can affect the delivery of some types of animal protein. In Brazil, efforts are made to maintain the distribution of fresh fruits and vegetables whenever possible and to order that preference be given to the purchase of longer-lasting fruits, roots and tubers, in addition to specifying that the contracts with family farming should continue and that the delivery and management conditions be negotiated directly with suppliers, provided they do not impose a burden on farmers. It is recommended that the different

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48 “The School Feeding Committees are spaces for representative participation of teachers, parents and the educational community in general, who are recognized by the PNAE Qali Warma to implement and monitor the provision of food service.” For further references consult: [https://www.gob.pe/programa-nacional-de-alimentacion-escolar-qali-warma](https://www.gob.pe/programa-nacional-de-alimentacion-escolar-qali-warma)
49 The video of the Emergency School Feeding Protocol COVID-19 is available here [aquí](https://www.gob.pe/programa-nacional-de-alimentacion-escolar-qali-warma).
50 School Feeding Program of the Ministry of Popular Power; see [https://plataformacelac.org/programa/901](https://plataformacelac.org/programa/901).
51 Content of the individual Junaeb Baskets by region (JUNAEB), available at [https://www.junaeb.cl/archivos/46171](https://www.junaeb.cl/archivos/46171).
52 The Protocol for the distribution of food establishes that the purchase of pork roast only applies in “educational centers that are supplied by the National Production Council in the planning regions of Brunca and Chorotega and only in educational centers with 100 - 150 of beneficiaries.” In addition, it states that “the delivery of this product can only be carried out if the educational center has the freezing storage capacity for meat.”
programs that have arranged these adaptations submit information on possible modifications in the components of the food baskets and how this affects—or not—the quality of the services provided.

Regarding the actions of horizontal and vertical expansion of food programs, progress in the region has been more subdued. In most cases, attempts are made to maintain coverage of the pre-existing program and to prioritize delivery to vulnerable areas. Chile, for example, only serves those who were already registered; and considering that the name given to the adapted form of the benefit, Individual Basket of the National Board of School Aid and Scholarships is the same, reinforces the notion that this food only responds to nutritional needs of the beneficiary and not of the beneficiary’s families. Peru is the most positive example of horizontal expansion, where a decree allowed the Purchase Committees of the Joint Management Model of the National School Feeding Program Qali Warma to acquire more food to provide supplementary food assistance to people in vulnerable situations. However, it is necessary to consider that in practice, by allowing school feeding at home, all the programs that have been adapted are indirectly promoting horizontal expansion, since food can be divided among all family members and not addressed only to the beneficiary child. An inherent problem with this situation is that food distribution within households is often not “fair”, nor does it guarantee the nutritional needs of minors.

That is why it is essential that SFPs adopt vertical expansions, that is, that they guarantee more food to benefit the entire family. In Costa Rica, the Resolution of the Ministry of Public Education guarantees that all boys, girls and adolescents receive baskets that contain the equivalent of a lunch in the largest portion size allowed (the one defined for an adult). Argentina has already reinforced the supply of food and whole milk powder to help children in extreme vulnerability, in addition to having contributed an additional $2 billion pesos (about USD 30 million) to finance more food for school and community cafeterias. As the survey carried out by UNICEF in Argentina shows, since the beginning of the COVID-19 crisis, 28.3% of households nationwide stopped buying food because they had no money.

A measure to avoid new registrations, by all countries, was the use of the pre-existing SFP bases to continue delivering the benefit to those who already received it. Uruguay, the exception, chose to initiate an on-demand registry, which, as soon as the schools were closed, was carried out for two days in person at each educational center. This registry will remain open during the emergency period. According to the country’s authorities, not all the people who receive school feeding depend on it to guarantee their food security, so the opening of this new registry allows focusing attention on the most vulnerable. At the beginning of April, 51,700 children were being assisted across the country, which is less than one fifth of all the youngsters who lost access to school meals due to school closure (273,000 boys and girls). The students’ guardians who participated in the SFP re-registration have to go to the educational centers to collect the food baskets.

Regarding the supply of products for the school basket, many programs pursue purchasing from...
family farmers and local producers. The modality of food delivery has the potential to continue supporting these producers, who are also vulnerable to the effects of the current crisis. In Brazil, for example, the order was upheld for at least 30% of SFP resources to be used to buy food from family farming. This type of procurement is facilitated by the exemption of bids ordered during the state of emergency and also by the virtual purchase of these foods. In Uruguay, “emergency menus” were devised, which schools in the urban areas of the interior of the country can buy, at local bakeries and grills. In Guatemala, where the law stipulates that 50% of food must be purchased from family farmers, producer families strive to include their products in the new baskets. According to monitoring in Chiquimula, the sudden pause in the school year has caused a 35% drop in the income of the producer families that are associated with the SFP.

ii. Change of food to cash transfers

Two Caribbean countries decided to replace meals traditionally received in schools with cash transfers. In Jamaica, immediately after schools closed, food packages were distributed to children who benefited from PATH’s school feeding component. However, after considering the concerns expressed by the Jamaica Teachers’ Association regarding biosecurity at the moment of delivery and the additional costs of transporting families to the place of delivery, the benefit modality was re-adapted, and parents of the beneficiary students began to receive an additional monthly PATH payment, corresponding to the children’s breakfast and lunch. This adjustment of the benefit of the transfer program to supply school feeding is an example of an efficient and appropriate adaptation to an emergency, given the risk of contagion.

iii. Mixed approach: the Colombian case

The Colombian response, due to the characteristics of the program, differs from the other responses in the region by allowing each territorial entity to select the most appropriate type of benefit, submitting a more flexible and complete response. The territorial entities must undertake a reorientation process to tend to the most vulnerable and implement any of the following modalities of transition and delivery for school meals:

- industrialized ration: ready-to-eat food supplements, delivered weekly, biweekly or monthly, depending on the expiration date of the products to be delivered and the logistics available;

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64 https://moey.gov.jm/education-ministry-provide-nutritional-support-path-students-amid-school-closure
65 https://moey.gov.jm/parents-path-students-be-given-cash-prepare-breakfast-and-lunch
66 The program began to be implemented in 2019; it consists of monetary transfers on prepaid cards that can be used to buy food.
67 Resolution (Resolución no. 0006, de 25 de marzo de 2020). Updated by Resolution (Resolución no. 0007, del 16 de abril de 2020), which extends the adaptation of the program until May 31.
ration to prepare at home: basic food basket equivalent to one meal a day (5 days a week) for one month, for preparation and consumption at home;

- food voucher: document or debit card for $50,000 Colombian pesos (USD 13) of monthly delivery scheduled by territorial entities, which can be used to purchase certain foods and at the points established by each Territorial Entity.

It is notable that the Resolution is culturally relevant, explicitly incorporating indigenous populations and determining that the territories must take into account the pre-established agreements with these communities to choose the most appropriate delivery method for them. It also establishes monitoring and control mechanisms for emergency food, with supervision and inventory schemes, ensuring that the delivery logistics of any modality obey the recommendations of the Ministry of Health and paying attention to avoid crowds. In addition, the Ministry of National Education published a Decree that allows increasing the SFP financial resources for the territories with the highest poverty rates.

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**Bogotá: Implementation of mixed approaches also at the municipal level**

In the first week of class suspension, the Bogotá public schools provided food supplements to beneficiaries of the school feeding program. After national resolutions regulated the possibilities of adapting the SFP, Bogotá also made available a Food Bonus (*Bono Alimentario*), which can be requested through online forms.

The information of the possible beneficiaries is validated on the database of the Integrated Registration System. Using their cell phone and email, recipients of this voucher collect information on the day and time when they will be able to use the benefit, as well as material of the closest associated supermarket to their residence, using georeferencing technology. The city also maintained the delivery of a food basket to prepare at home as an especially viable option for rural areas, which may have difficulty accessing any of the 78 associated markets.

To finance these initiatives, the Office of the Secretary of Education will invest $38 billion Colombian pesos per month (around USD 9.6 million). Thus, the response of the Colombian capital stands out for its speed, for providing more than one form of benefit, for allocating extraordinary financial resources, and for the use of existing technologies and data for the local adaptation of the SFP.

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68 Decree (Decreto 533 de 9 de abril de 2020) Art. 3, during the time of the emergency, a residual sum may be distributed to each district, municipality or department, which will be distributed according to the poverty indicator certified by DANE

69 [https://www.educacionbogota.edu.co/portal_institucional/read/7169](https://www.educacionbogota.edu.co/portal_institucional/read/7169)
Lastly, the cases of the 8 countries (Mexico, Cuba, Bolivia, Panama, Nicaragua, Haiti, Guyana and Suriname) are particularly concerning, since 11 million boys, girls and adolescents have lost access to school meals. There is still no information on the taking of measures to adapt their SFP during this COVID-19 period.\textsuperscript{70} Seeing that food programs face short-term inflexibilities, mainly stemming from purchasing or contracting arrangements, the likelihood of expansion (horizontal or vertical) is critical, in light of the significant impact on livelihoods that have been caused by this emergency. In fact, consideration should be given to the possibility, in the medium term, of making contingent purchases, and/or increasing the resources available for family feeding through school feeding committees. Certainly, this mechanism can be one of the most effective forms of assistance due to its proximity to the final beneficiaries, unlike other options for distributing food resources.\textsuperscript{71} The existing broad coverage of these programs can be an advantage to reach more people in times of crisis, as well as a strategy that can implement social oversight.

4. Final thoughts

1. The socioeconomic crisis derived from the COVID-19 health emergency has worsened in the last month, and the social protection response of the countries in the region has had to evolve, to provide timely and sufficient assistance to households. The initial mapping of the measures adopted in Latin America and the Caribbean included in the Technical Note of March 27 was followed by this document, updating the response measures and providing a more detailed analysis of the main social assistance interventions (cash transfers and SFPs).

2. A notable change with respect to the first Note is as follows: at the beginning, the use and adaptation of existing cash transfer programs constituted the most frequently-used response by the countries, but the extent of the impact, and the limited coverage of social protection instruments –which left specific populations uncovered (such as informal workers and vulnerable households, but not necessarily living in poverty)– prompted the creation of new instruments to attack this problem. Today, the new bonds and cash transfer programs designed for the emergency are the most widely used social protection measure in LAC to respond to the crisis in social protection.

3. The new programs, however, face the challenge of identifying a population that they do not necessarily know, and having to do so within a context of mobility restrictions due to contagion mitigation actions. The evidence shows that the countries with the best pre-crisis registration systems, such as Brazil, Chile, Colombia and the Dominican Republic, were in better position for targeting and, therefore operating, new programs. Others have had to rapidly develop alternatives, generally through online platforms, to a lesser extent through calls and telephone messages, and lastly, even using energy consumption records. However, the time it takes to develop these alternatives reduces timeliness

\textsuperscript{70} In Panama, the Ministry of Education is transferring food from the school feeding program and the Studying without hunger initiative, to be used in the Panama Solidarity program, which seeks to distribute food packages to the poorest families. In Cuba, school kitchens are working and preparing food for the Family Care System. Although these initiatives are positive, they do not necessarily correspond to the SAPs’ same scope and operational experience.

\textsuperscript{71} For example, in Peru $200 million soles were awarded for food distribution, although there was indication of poor resource execution, as well as corruption when used: https://elperuano.pe/noticia-municipios-recibiran-s-200-mllns-b3537.aspx y https://andina.pe/agencia/noticia-contraloria-43-municipios-no-reporta-cifra-beneficiarios-canasta-alimentos-795674.aspx
–and sufficiency– of the assistance provided, which seriously begs the question, in some cases, of the fulfillment of the State’s obligation to protect families.

4. UNICEF, WFP and the World Bank have advocated in recent years for the adaptation of social protection systems to emergencies. As this emergency has revealed, adaptation is literally vital. Although COVID-19 has accelerated this adaptation, it can in no way be considered complete. In fact, in a scenario of uncertain crisis evolution, where the impact on employment and the income of millions of families may well extend beyond quarantine, governments should consider the need for assistance in the coming months. This has direct implications in the way that the instruments and mechanisms will change to flexibly operationalize aid and to address the variations in the potential population that requires assistance. In these efforts, it becomes essential to adopt a systemic approach to social protection, which includes the objective of universalization of this right, even if it is gradual. The role of international technical assistance can be crucial for this, and it is available to the different countries.

5. Two critical operational issues in the transfer programs are identification and payment. Regarding the first, the decision between identifying households (and the household member who collects the transfer) or people as recipients of assistance, is not a trivial one. While existing cash transfer programs to combat poverty generally focus on families and have comprehensive instruments for capturing information, universal basic income programs rely on the identification of individuals. For the purposes of this emergency, identification, registration and payment at the person level can be a much more supple and effective strategy. On the payments side, the innovations that respond to the need to maintain social distance are significant and have led to the implementation of electronic money methods, as well as payments via SMS messages by basic and/or smart cell phones. This example of synergy between governments, financial service providers and telephone companies can –and should– be enhanced.

6. School Feeding Programs have been revealed as the second most important social protection measure to respond to the emergency. Their adaptation to contextual constraints becomes essential to contribute to food security under biosafety conditions, not only for school-age boys and girls but also for their families, many of them hard hit by the economic crisis. Therefore, although many countries have adapted these programs, it is necessary to make further progress in vertical and horizontal expansions of SFPs, a situation that is especially urgent in those countries where changes in their operation have not been announced so far and which could leave millions of children in the region without essential food. Similarly, local and community management of these programs is central, mainly due to the closeness and knowledge that the authorities and managers at the sub-national level have about the beneficiaries, and due to their ability to monitor logistics or quality in an emergency context. Once again, the spotlight is on the importance of emergency operation protocols for these programs, clarifying the roles of the different actors. An example is a central level that prepares protocols with security measures and ways of delivering benefits to guarantee the security of people; while the local level ensures operational logistics, and
supervision of the monitoring of these protocols.

7. It cannot be ignored that, at the time of writing this second Note, the migrant population continued to be excluded from the social protection responses. The next editions will try to approach the mechanisms used to serve these populations, whether implemented by governments, civil society organizations or the international community.

8. To conclude, the technical analysis should not eclipse the central point, which is to guarantee fundamental citizen’s rights, children’s rights. Households whose livelihoods have been affected by this emergency are entitled to prompt and sufficient protection. Awarding this assistance is a task for the State, and with each passing day –where we are already entering the second month of quarantine–, it becomes more pressing. The agonizing evidence that hunger and destitution are a reality for many does not require further footing, since it has been palpable and, ultimately, a demonstration of the limitation of protection strategies in many countries. Due to the degree of impact on families, and given the uncertain progression of this pandemic, it is essential not only not to skimp on technical and financial resources so that the aid can arrive quickly, but to consider, in the coming months, scenarios of temporary expansion of monetary aid to a population that will be affected beyond quarantine periods. With vision, this emergency will also become an opportunity to rethink a future with universal, supportive and child-sensitive protection systems.
# Social Protection Response to the COVID-19 Emergency in LAC

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Social Assistance</th>
<th>Social Protection Response</th>
<th>Access to Services</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Argentina</td>
<td>- <strong>Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia (IFE)</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Emergency Family Income (IFE)]&lt;br&gt;Exceptional non-contributory monetary benefit. It is granted to unemployed workers, workers in the informal sector, taxpayers under the Simplified Tax Regime in the two lowest categories, and private domestic workers. Single delivery. Amount of benefit: $10,000 Argentine pesos (USD 148.66).&lt;br&gt;Registration method: (1) Automatic registration for former ANSES registrants (2) New beneficiaries: online registration.&lt;br&gt;Reglamentado por Decreto 310/2020&lt;br&gt;Regulated by Decree 310/2020</td>
<td>- <strong>Bono extraordinario para Jubilados/as y pensionados/as</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Extraordinary bonus for Retirees and pensioners]&lt;br&gt;In April 2020, an extraordinary subsidy will be granted to the beneficiaries of social security benefits, the universal pension for the elderly and non-contributory pensions for old age, disability, mothers of 7 children or more, and other ex gratia pensions. Single delivery. Vertical Expansion Program. $3,000, for retirees and pensioners who collect a single credit, until reaching $18,892 including the bonus. Register of holders of pensions for work disability and people who collect the Universal Allowance.&lt;br&gt;Reglamentado por Decreto 309/2020: <a href="https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227114/20200324">https://www.boletinoficial.gob.ar/detalleAviso/primera/227114/20200324</a>&lt;br&gt;Regulated by Decree 309/2020</td>
<td>- <strong>Congelamiento temporario de alquileres y suspensión de desalojos</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Temporary freezing of rentals and suspension of evictions]&lt;br&gt;To guarantee the basic housing rights of Argentines. Valid for 6 months.&lt;br&gt;Decreto 316/2020&lt;br&gt;Decrease 320/2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Asignación Universal por Hijo (AUH) y Asignación Universal por Embarazo (AUE)</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Universal Child Allowance (AUH) and Universal Pregnancy Allowance (AUE)]&lt;br&gt;To offer an extraordinary increase of $3,100 Argentine pesos (USD 47) for all the program beneficiaries. Single delivery. Aimed at older adults and pregnant women. Vertical expansion. Automatic registration on the Registration System of the AUH and the National Social Security Administration.&lt;br&gt;Reglamentado por Decreto 309/2020</td>
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<td></td>
<td>- <strong>Seguro de Desempleo</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Unemployment insurance]&lt;br&gt;To protect dismissed salaried workers without just cause with a monthly payment, family allowances and medical coverage while the unemployment situation lasts. Intended for: Population of working age.&lt;br&gt;Decreto 332/2020&lt;br&gt;Decrease 332/2020</td>
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<td>- <strong>Tarjeta Alimentar - AUH y AUE</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Food Card - AUH and AUE]&lt;br&gt;All families with one child will receive extraordinary monetary reinforcement to strengthen their nutrition and to facilitate the purchase of products from the basic food basket. The amount will be credited together with the AUH payment. Single delivery. Aimed at mothers or fathers with sons and daughters up to 6 years of age, pregnant women and persons with disabilities. Amount of benefit: $4,000 (USD 59.46) for families with one child up to 6 years of age; $6,000 (USD 89.19) for families with more than one child up to 6 years old. Automatic registration cross-referencing data between ANSES and AUH.&lt;br&gt;Comunicado de Prensa del 25 de Abril de 2020&lt;br&gt;Press Release, April 25, 2020.</td>
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<td></td>
<td><strong>Suspensión temporaria del corte de servicios por falta de pago</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Temporary suspension of utility shut-off for non-payment]&lt;br&gt;Energy, water, natural gas through pipeline, landline and mobile telephony and Internet and cable television may not be shut-off in order to guarantee essential services for the development of daily life in the framework of the health emergency. Validity: six months.&lt;br&gt;Decreto 311/2020&lt;br&gt;Decrease 311/2020</td>
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<td><strong>Línea gratuita de consulta para adultos mayores</strong>&lt;br&gt;[Free consultation line for older adults]&lt;br&gt;The National Institute of Social Services for Retirees and Pensioners (PAMI) has set up an exclusive toll-free line (138 Option 9) so that the elderly can make inquiries about the new coronavirus and access the information regarding the specific recommendations for care of their health.&lt;br&gt;PAMI</td>
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</table>
**Asignación Adicional de Pensión Mínima**
[Additional Allocation of Minimum Pension]

Seniors who receive a single retirement or minimum pension (currently $15,892), will charge a one-time additional $3,000. If receive less than $18,892, person will collect the difference between the person’s credit and this amount to mitigate the pandemic’s negative effects. Single delivery. Aimed at Older Adults. Amount of benefit: $3,000 Argentine pesos. Automatic registration cross-referencing data between ANSES and AUH. Single delivery. Aimed at Older Adults. Vertical expansion. Amount of benefit: $3,000 Argentine pesos. Automatic registration cross-referencing data between ANSES and AUH.

Resolución 75 y 76/2020-ANSES (17-03-2020)
Resolution 75 and 76/2020-ANSES (03-17-2020)

**Incorporación del COVID-19 al régimen de enfermedades de notificación obligatoria**
[Inclusion of COVID-19 into the mandatory disease notification system]

In order to generate updated information for the adoption of timely and transparent measures to mitigate the spread of the new coronavirus. Aimed at the entire population. Reglamentado por Resolución 680/2020 Regulated by Resolution 680/2020.

**Alimentación Escolar**
[School Feeding]

A food or food modules system was organized for delivery in educational institutions to the parents of beneficiary children, respecting the indications of prevention and social distancing following hygiene and safety measures. Also incorporated were “school meal reinforcements and supplements” and “bulk food and whole milk powder to assist situations of extreme vulnerability in children” were delivered.

**Belize**

**Alimentación Escolar**
[School feeding]

Children who received meals under the national school feeding program will continue to receive food and nutritional support in take-home food rations.

**The Boost Program (TBC)**

To facilitate the purchase of food for the population with the greatest needs that is part of the BOOST assistance program, with a monetary transfer to buy food, alleviating the distribution of the Ministry of Human Development. The program is considering the possibility of including more beneficiaries, transferring the users of the food programs to this program. Horizontal Expansion Program. Automatic registration - Food Pantry Assistance Programme BOOST.

**COVID-19 Unemployment Relief Program**

To offer financial assistance to workers who have been laid off as a result of the COVID-19 crisis; and it helps people who were unemployed before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic and are now experiencing even more difficulties. For 3 months. Intended for: Population of working age. Registration Method: Applications on virtual form. Comunicado de Prensa del 3 de abril de 2020 Press Release of April 3, 2020

**Advance Payment of Contributory Pensions**

The Social Security Board, committed to safeguarding the health, security and well-being of our staff, decides to make an Advance payment of contributory pensions (retirement, disability, survivor, disability and death). Two months (March and April). Intended for: Pensioners, Survivors, Persons with disabilities. Social Security Board Registration.

**Reducción en las tarifas y suspensión en las decisiones de corte de servicios**
[Reduction in fees and suspension in decisions for utility cut-off]

Alleviate the economic impact of the state of emergency against COVID-19 contagion. Validity: from April until the state of emergency requires it.
### Belize

**COVID-19 Food Assitances Program**
To offer staples to alleviate the impact of the covid-19 pandemic quarantine to people most in need. Specifically, for people who are not beneficiaries of other programs. Three months. Amount of benefit: basic food basket. Applications through virtual form.

**Food Pantry Assistance Programme**
To expand the food assistance program to the population located in the most remote areas. Changed distribution weekly to b-monthly. Beneficiaries paid a minimum amount for the benefit, now it is free for everyone. Horizontal Expansion Program. Amount of benefit: weekly basic food basket (free). Automatic registration in the program.

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### Bolivia RP

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Details</th>
<th>Document</th>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Bono Universal</strong></td>
<td>To provide a care resource for people who do not have aid or income, do not have public or private wages, through a care resource. The Universal Bond is the third specific benefit of this type in the country arranged by the government. Single delivery. Aimed at informal workers. Amount of benefit: 500 bolivianos (USD 72). Beneficiary application to financial entities and validation through sources of the General Identification Service, Pension Fund Administrators, Financial System bases, lists of payroll employees of private companies and database of public officials.</td>
<td>Decreto Supremo Nº 4215</td>
<td>Press Release SSD30 March 2020</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bono Familia</strong></td>
<td>To assist families with girls and boys at the initial, primary and secondary level of the fiscal, in agreement and private educational units with an extraordinary bonus of 500 bolivianos (USD 72). Single delivery. Aimed at Families with school-age boys or girls. Registration in the Single Registry of Students (RÜDE) of the Ministry of Education.</td>
<td>Decreto Supremo Nº 4197</td>
<td>Press Release SSD30 March 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Canasta familiar</strong></td>
<td>The beneficiaries of the Renta dignidad, Bono Juana Azurduy and disability voucher programs will receive, as part of emergency measure 2, a Family Basket that will be paid in money and not food. Single delivery. Aimed at older adults; women; Persons with disabilities. Amount of benefit: 400 bolivianos (USD 57). Records of the Dignity Income, Juana Azurduy Bonus and disability voucher programs.</td>
<td>Decreto Supremo Nº 4200</td>
<td>Press Release SSD30 March 2020</td>
</tr>
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**No Descuento de Salud en los pagos de Pensiones**
To extend the validity two months for requests for No Health Discount in Pension payments submitted by Insured or Beneficiaries.

**Garantía en la prestación de los servicios básicos, reducciones, pago de tarifas luz y agua**
To guarantee the continuity of services. The monthly payment of the basic services of water, electricity and gas is reduced by 50% while the emergency declaration lasts. A period of 3 months is provided after the emergency is lifted to regularize the corresponding payments. The Government will pay 100% of the monthly electricity bills ranging between 1 and 120 bolivianos, in addition to what is established for public lighting, urban cleaning and others. It will pay the energy bills at the level. The payment of 100% of the energy bills is expected to benefit more than 2 million users, while staggered discounts will benefit 584,957 users. Valid for 3 months. (According to consumption and staggered).

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**Two-month Waiver for Employers’ Contribution Payment**
Two-month exemption for payment of employers’ contribution to the Social Security Board. Employers can choose to make payments without penalty or organize a payment plan. Two months (March and April). Intended for: business/companies.

**Amendment to the Benefits Regulation**
Modification of benefits regulation provides sickness benefit coverage to unemployed workers who become ill as a result of COVID-19.

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SSD Press Release SSD30 March 2020
Bolsa Família (Family Bag)
Include new beneficiaries, suspend the blocking of benefits for non-compliance with conditions and guarantee benefits from the Bolsa Família Program. Reduction of the waiting list of beneficiaries that benefited 1.2 million families. Horizontal expansion.
Medida Provisória № 929, de 25 de março de 2020
Provisional Measure No. 929, of March 25, 2020

Bono de Emergencia COVID-19 (COVID-19 Emergency Bonus)

Anticipación de una prestación mensual por enfermedad del salario mínimo (Anticipation of a monthly sickness benefit of the minimum wage)
The INSS is authorized an advance payment of 1 monthly minimum wage for applicants for sickness benefits. The insured must attach a medical certificate with the application, declaring responsibility for the document presented, on the portal or the Meu INSS application.
Lev № 13.982, de 2 de abril de 2020
Law No. 13,982 of April 2, 2020

Autorización temporal para retirar FGTS (Temporary authorization to withdraw FGTS)
Release of BRL 1,045 for withdrawals from FGTS (Time of Service Guarantee Fund) accounts from June 15 to December 31, 2020. Intended for formal workers.
Medida Provisória № 946, de 7 de abril de 2020
Provisional Measure No. 946, of April 7, 2020.
Salary prepayment for formal workers (BRL 12.8 billion or USD 2.5 billion).

Anticipación del 13o. salario para pensionistas INSS (Prepayment of the 13th INSS pensioner salary)
In order to contain the economic damage caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, the income criteria can be extended up to ½ minimum wage (BRL 522.50 - USD 92~) Validity: during the period of the isolation period. Intended for: older adults and people with chronic diseases, pensioners for retirement, pensioners for the deceased.

Tarifa Social de Energía Eléctrica (Social Electricity Rate)
100% discount for the portion of electricity consumption less than or equal to 220 kWh/month. Valid: from April 1 to June 30, 2020 (three months).
Medida Provisória Nº 950, de 8 de abril de 2020.
Provisional Measure No. 950, of April 8, 2020

Protección de niños, adolescentes y profesionales del Sistema Único de Asistencia Social–SUAS (Protection of children, adolescents and professionals of the Single Social Assistance System (SUAS))
In the localities affected by the pandemic, to ensure the continuity of the provision of reception services, the prevention of the transmissibility of the novel Coronavirus, Covid-19, and the protection of children, adolescents and professionals of the Single Social Assistance System (SUAS)
Recomendação Nº 1, de 16 de Abril de 2020
Recommendation No. 1, of April 16, 2020

Bono de Emergencia COVID-19 (COVID-19 Emergency Bonus)
CLP 50,000 bonus (single installment) destined to the same beneficiaries of the Single-Family Subsidy (SUF), families of the Security and Opportunities Subsystem (SSyOO) and thousands of other families who do not have formal income from work or pension. They receive their benefits on the Rut Account of Banco Estado, and others by face-to-face collection. It can be requested within a year from April 2, 2020. Aimed at Children; mothers; Persons with a disability. On the Single Registry. Unregistered people must register online. Use of a phone application for users to identify eligibility.
Lev 21 225, de 2 de abril de 2020
Law 21,225, of April 2, 2020

Licencia con goce de sueldo (Leave with pay)
Guaranteed through the Solidarity Unemployment Fund for all workers, public and private, who due to emergency reasons must remain at home without the possibility of remote work.

Garantías de cotizaciones previsionales y de salud (Guarantees of benefits and social security contributions)
To guarantee that employers continue to pay pension and health contributions to their workers in the event that the employment relationship or contract is suspended due to the pandemic and in compliance with the Law. Validity of 6 months. Dictamen 1204-2020
Opinion 1204-2020

Protección a personas en situación de calle (Protection of people living on the street)
Delivery of hygiene kit for preventive measures to avoid contagion, in addition to information and food spaces. Additionally, jointly with the municipalities and civil society, shelters will be available for people who have to be quarantined or older adults and have a place to be. Special protection plan for the care and accompaniment of older adults: a free phone to be delivered was enabled.
Postergación del pago de las cuentas de luz, agua, gas y telefonía, gas por red e internet fija (TBC) (Postponement of the payment of electricity, water, gas and telephone bills, gas by pipeline and fixed internet (TBC))
Canastas Individuales Junaeb
(Junaeb Individual Baskets)
To give continuity to the delivery of food to the most vulnerable students during the period of suspension of classes, adapting the Food and Early Childhood Program. The baskets with food for preparation and consumption at home are delivered to educational centers, at scheduled times, to parents of GBA who are beneficiaries of school feeding programs.

Ingreso Familiar de Emergencia–IFE (TBC)
(Emergency Family Income - IFE (TBC))
To deliver monetary income for 3 months (with temporary gradualness for a family of 4 belonging to the 60% most vulnerable in Chile and whose source of income comes mainly from the informal sector (approx. 1.8 million households).

Amount of benefit: $260,000 (USD 303) the first month, $221,000 and $182,000 the second and third month for a family of 4 people. Update in the Social Registry of Homes. Bill is in process.

Colombia

Programa Familias en Acción y Jóvenes en Acción
(Families in Action and Youth in Action Program)
To grant an additional and extraordinary monetary transfer (single delivery) for beneficiaries of the Families in Action and Youth in Action Programs. Validity: for the duration of the causes that motivated the State declaration. Vertical expansion. Amount of benefit: for beneficiaries of Familias en Acción COP 145,000 (USD 38-) for beneficiaries of Jóvenes en Acción COP 356,000. (USD 92-).

Circular 0021, of March 17, 2020
Decrees 458 of March 22, 2020 and Decree 417 of March 17, 2020

Compensación del impuesto sobre las ventas–IVA
(VAT offset)
Tax compensation for the beneficiary population of the Families in Action Program, Social Protection for the Elderly (Colombia Mayor) and Youth in Action. Validity: for the duration of the causes that motivated the State declaration. Vertical expansion. ANE provides information from various sources for implementation of compensation.

Decrees 458 of March 22, 2020 and Decree 417 of March 17, 2020

Vacaciones anuales anticipadas y colectivas
(Annual and collective vacations brought forward)
Protect the rights of the worker through the paid leave mechanisms facing the economic impacts of the pandemic, in accordance with the provisions of article 186 of the Substantive Labor Code.

Circular 0021, of March 17, 2020

Retiro de Cesantías
(Retirement Withdrawal)
The worker who has presented a decrease in monthly income as a consequence of the emergency crisis, certified by the employer, may withdraw each month from the severance account the amount that allows the worker to compensate said reduction, in order to maintain constant income.

Validity: while the events that gave rise to the Emergency remain.

Decreto Legislativo N. 488, of March 27, 2020

Compensación económica temporal para el afiliado al Régimen Subsidiado con diagnóstico confirmado de Coronavirus COVID-19
(Temporary financial compensation for the enrollee of the Subsidized System with confirmed diagnosis of Coronavirus COVID-19)
The financial compensation is hereby created, equivalent to 7 days of the Legal Minimum Daily Wage (SMVLDV), once and per family, for people enrolled with the subsidized health system who have a confirmed diagnosis of Coronavirus COVID-19.

Decreto Legislativo Número 538 (12-04-2020)
Decreto Legislativo Número 580 (07-04-2020)

Medidas para el ofrecimiento de servicios públicos durante el período declarado de Estado de Emergencia
(Measures for the provision of public services during the declared State of Emergency period)
Immediate reinstallation and/or reconnection of the water services of water, sewage and public sanitation by territorial entities: they may assume the cost of services, maximum subsidies of 80% of the cost of service for socio-economic level 1; 50% for socio-economic level 2; and 40% for socio-economic level 3, to the extent that they have resources for this purpose.

Decreto 441 (20-03-2020)
Decreto 441 (03-20-2020).

Subsidios y pagos para los servicios de acueducto, alcantarillado y aseo
(Subsidies and payments for water, sewerage and public sanitation services)
Municipalities and districts may assign, for the residential subscribers of the water, sewerage and public sanitation services, maximum subsidies of 80% of the cost of service for socio-economic level 1; 50% for socio-economic level 2; and 40% for socio-economic level 3, to the extent that they have resources for this purpose.

Payment of public services of water, sewerage and public sanitation by territorial entities: they may assume the cost of the public services of water, sewerage and public sanitation of the users, in whole or in part, taking into account the availability of resources for this purpose and the need to prioritize allowances for lower income people. Validity: until December 31, 2020.

Decreto Legislativo Número 580 (07-04-2020)
Legislative Decree Number 580 (07-04-2020).

Centros transitorios para la protección de la niñez
(Transitional centers for the protection of children)
During the term of the health emergency declared by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection, because of the Coronavirus COVID-19 pandemic, the Colombian Family Welfare
Canastas Individuales Junaeb

Para deferir el pago de servicios básicos para el 40% de la población vulnerable, de edad legal, de las personas que han aceptado el

Para continuar el suministro de alimentos a la población más vulnerable durante el período de suspensión de clases, adaptando el Programa de Alimentación y Educación de NNA.

El Ministerio de Educación ha dispuesto el uso del portal aprendoenlinea.mineduc.cl, que tiene contenido pedagógico para todos los temas de la curricula escolar; sin embargo, el foco es la entrega de ingresos monetarios por 3 meses (con carácter temporal). El monto de beneficio es COP 260,000 (USD 303) el primer mes, COP 221,000 y COP 182,000 el segundo y tercer mes, para una familia de 4 personas. Actualización en el Registro Social de Hogares. El proceso está en proceso.

Vacaciones anuales anticipadas y colectivas

Programa Familias en Acción y Jóvenes en Acción

[Circular 0021, of March 17, 2020]

Programa Alimentación Escolar para aprendizaje en casa

Programa de Protección Social al Adulto Mayor - Colombia Mayor

Reglamentado por Decreto 518 de 4 de abril de 2020
Regulated by Decree 518 of April 4, 2020

Apoyo económico excepcional para la población en proceso de reintegración en el marco del Estado de Emergencia Económica, Social y Ecológica

[Exceptional economic support for the population in the process of reintegration within the framework of the State of Economic, Social and Ecological Emergency]

Para mitigar los efectos negativos en el empleo y el ingreso básico de las personas desmovilizadas que no acceden a los programas de la institución ICBF. La ICBF puede crear centros temporales para la protección de los niños. Cantidad de beneficio: COP 320,000 (USD 35)

Decreto Legislativo N.° 580 (07-04-2020)

Resolución N° 2900 del 16 de marzo de 2020

Incentivo económico para los trabajadores y productores del campo

[Second edition: social assistance]

Para mitigar las consecuencias en el empleo y el ingreso básico de los trabajadores del campo. Cantidad de beneficio: COP 80,000 (USD 21)

Decreto 486 de 28 de Marzo de 2020

Resolution N° 2900 of March 16, 2020

Incentivo económico para los trabajadores y productores del campo

[Second edition: social assistance]

Para mitigar las consecuencias en el empleo y el ingreso básico de los trabajadores del campo. Cantidad de beneficio: COP 80,000 (USD 21)

Decreto 486 de 28 de Marzo de 2020

Resolution N° 2900 of March 16, 2020

Programas de Protección Social al Adulto Mayor - Colombia Mayor

[Second edition: social assistance]

Para mitigar los efectos negativos en el empleo y el ingreso básico de los adultos mayores. Cantidad de beneficio: COP 80,000 (USD 21)

Decreto 570 de 15 de abril de 2020.

Medidas transitorias y excepcionales en la prestación de servicios de bienestar familiar del Instituto Colombiano de Bienestar Familiar

[Second edition: social assistance]

Para mitigar los efectos negativos en el empleo y el ingreso básico de los trabajadores del campo. Cantidad de beneficio: COP 80,000 (USD 21)

Decreto 570 de 15 de abril de 2020.
### Colombia

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>An unconditional, additional and extraordinary monetary transfer for the beneficiaries, for COP 240,000 (USD 62~), divided into three months to mitigate the economic and social effects caused by COVID-19 to the most vulnerable population in the country. Validity: three months. Aimed at older adults. Vertical expansion. Amount of benefit: COP 80,000 (USD 21). The databases of beneficiaries of existing programs are used.</strong></th>
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<td><strong>Decree 553 of April 15, 2020</strong></td>
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### Costa Rica

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<tr>
<th><strong>Bono Proteger</strong> [Protect Bonus]</th>
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<tr>
<td>To provide temporary economic relief to people who have had their income affected by COVID-19. The following can apply: workers have been dismissed, with reduced working hours or with a suspended contract, as well as independent, informal and temporary workers. Validity: three months. Aimed at informal workers, working age population. Amount of the benefit: CRC 125,000 (USD 220~).</td>
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<td><strong>Decreto Ejecutivo N° 42305-MTSS-MDHIS</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th><strong>Subsidio del IMAS</strong> [IMAS subsidy]</th>
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<tr>
<td>A subsidy to 33,000 poor families whose condition makes them especially vulnerable to the socioeconomic impact of the emergency caused by COVID-19. People are chosen in accordance with social information systems of the Mixed Institute of Social Assistance (IMAS) and SINIRUBE. It is a single amount of 125,000 colones. People with National Bank accounts receive it directly; unbanked families will be contacted and will receive the amount on specific days according to the last number of their ID card.</td>
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<td><strong>Comunicado de Prensa (17-03-2020)</strong></td>
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</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Adelanto de Pensión RNC</strong> [Advance of RNC Pension]</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Advance payment and to allow financial institutions to have the resources in advance so they can organize their service platforms and avoid crowds in their offices. The government hopes to include 10,000 new beneficiaries (to be confirmed). Aimed at older adults. Horizontal and Vertical Expansion. Amount of the benefit: CRC 82,000 (USD 144~). Existing Register of Disability, Old Age and Death Insurance (IVM).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Comunicado de Prensa (17-03-2020)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Note:**
- **Servicios de voz e internet móviles exentos del impuesto sobre las ventas** [Mobile voice and internet services exempt from sales tax]
- **Subsidio del IMAS** [IMAS subsidy]
- **Adelanto de pensiones del presupuesto nacional** [Advance payment of pensions from the national budget]
- **Reconexión y no suspensión del servicio del AyA** [Reconnection and Non-Suspension of Water and Sewerage service]
- **Reforzamiento de atención de las mujeres** [Strengthening Care to Women]
**Comunicado de Prensa (17-03-2020)**

**Press Release (03-17-2020)**

**Programa de Alimentación y Nutrición del Escolar y del Adolescente (PANEA)**

(School-age Child and Adolescent Food and Nutrition Program (PANEA))

To guarantee the supply of food in public educational centers that have suspended study, continuing the School-age Child and Adolescent Food and Nutrition Program (PANEA). Aimed at GBA.

Resolución MS-DM-2382-2020
Resolution MS-DM-2382-2020

**Estrategia “Alimentos en casa”**

(Food at Home Strategy)

To guarantee the continuity of the food service during the national emergency for COVID-19, to boys, girls, pregnant and lactating mothers enrolled in the Children’s Comprehensive Care Centers (CEN-CINAI) of the country. Plan for the population of long-stay homes for the prevention and care of cases with a positive diagnosis, through normality of cash transfers and delivery of food to the elderly. Cash transfers of Avancemos of $22,500 colones or $35,000 colones are maintained depending on the grade level (USD 40~ and $62~ respectively) and the Crecemos program, which delivers an average of $19,900 colones for subsidy per student (USD 35~).

### Cuba

**Adecuaciones al ejercicio del trabajo por cuenta propia**

(Adjustments to self-employment)

The worker who has presented decreased monthly income, certified by employer, may withdraw each month from the severance account the amount that allows the worker to compensate for said reduction, in order to keep constant income. This provision applies only to withdrawals of funds managed by Private Pension and Unemployment Fund Management Companies.

Orden Ministerial 414 (1-04-2020).
Ministerial Order 414 (04-04-2020).

**Prorrogación de pensiones temporales**

(Extension of temporary pensions)

To extend for a period of 6 months the term of validity of temporary pensions, granted under the Fifth Special Provision of Law No. 105/2008 on Social Security. Validity: starting in March and while the exceptional situation lasts. Population of working age.

Orden Ministerial 414 (1-04-2020).
Ministerial Order 414 (04-04-2020).

### Ecuador

**Bono de contingencia - Bono de Proteción Familiar por la Emergencia**

(Contingency bond - Family Protection Bond for the Emergency)

Bonus aimed at people who do not collect the Human Development Bonus, for people who live from what they can make day to day whose income is less than USD 400 and it will only last 2 months (April and May), while the health emergency lasts. It is a non-eligible benefit, announced as part of the

**Aplazar pagos del Instituto de Seguridad Social afiliados voluntarios**

(Defer payments to the Social Security Institute for voluntary enrollees)

The Social Security Institute postpones, 90 days, the payment of contributions for April, May and June for voluntary and unrelated enrollees. Valid for 3 months. Intended for population of working age.
Ecuador

Economic Emergency Plan. Validity: two months. Aimed at working age population. Amount of benefit: one-time payment of USD 120 (total to be distributed in 2 payments of USD 60). Beneficiaries are identified in the Social Registry MIES will contact all beneficiaries through official calls or messages.

Decreto Ejecutivo Nro. 1022
Executive Decree No. 1022
Programa de Alimentación Escolar
School Feeding Program
Delivery of food rations to parents of public schools that are part of the School Feeding Program, for home preparation and consumption. Aimed at Children.

El Salvador

Bonos de compensación
Compensation bonds
Public employees who directly carry out activities to combat COVID-19 will receive USD 150 as a compensation bonus. Single delivery.

Licencias de incapacidades temporales
Temporary disability licenses
Quarantines ordered by the COVID-19 pandemic will have the same treatment for temporary disabilities due to common illness. Older adults will not be obliged to appear by law for the enjoyment of their pension during the validity of the Emergency Decree.

Guatemala

Kit saldremos adelante
We Will Overcome Kit
Preparation of the 200,000 boxes of food equivalent to GTQ 30 million (approx. US $3.9 million) with the coordination of efforts between the Government Center, public, private and voluntary institutions. Single delivery. Amount of benefit: 35 pounds of basic products. The Army forces were in charge of delivering them into the hands of those most in need.

Bono Familia de Q1 mil
Q1,000 Family Bonus
It is a temporary voucher to help families economically affected by COVID-19. The Superintendency of Banks and other financial entities shall create an instrument to facilitate banking and for beneficiaries to receive the contribution through the banking system. Validity: monthly for three months. Amount of benefit: GTQ $1,000 (USD 130~). The list of beneficiaries will be distributed by Energy Companies according to the level of energy consumption. The list of those who do not have energy service will be defined by the National Statistics Institute and other State institutions.

Acuerdo Ministerial N. MDT-2020-080 (28-03-2020)

Programa de Alimentación y Salud Escolar
School Food and Health Program
To ensure food for students during school stoppage. Food rations will be delivered to parents whose children benefited from the school feeding program. Aimed at Children.

Ley que regula el trabajo a distancia-teletrabajo
Law regulating remote work - telework
The initiative allows workers and companies to agree to workdays from home. The regulation establishes that remote and teleworking will be regulated by the Labor Code. This measure will be applicable to the public sector and private companies.

Código No. 600
Code No. 600.

Suspensión y prorrogación del pago de la cuota de energía eléctrica
Suspension and postponement of payment of the electric fee
Suspension and postponement of payment for 3 months of the water, telephone, cable and internet bills and of credits in commercial houses. These three payments are extended to two years without generating arrears, interest, or affecting credit rating.

Acuerdo Ministerial 105-2020
Ministerial Agreement 105-2020.

Social Protection and Response To Covid-19 in Latin America And The Caribbean
To support vulnerable families with food, including older adults and elderly people who are in centers and asylums. Amount of benefit: the redeemable coupon is GTQ 350. The Ministry of Social Development and the Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Food must coordinate the use of a single database of families in vulnerable conditions in order to avoid duplication of beneficiaries and compliance with containment measures ordered by the Government of the Republic.

Alimentación Escolar (School feeding)

To ensure that elementary and pre-primary students continue to enjoy school meals during the suspension of classes, with resources transferred to Parents of the Parents’ Organizations (OPP) to buy non-perishable food. Reach 2.4 million children to receive food even if they are not attending school. The Government allocated GTQ 589.9 million. The amount of the food delivered corresponds to GTQ 60 per student.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guyana</td>
<td>Utility support</td>
<td>Eliminate VAT on water and electricity for three months.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Haiti</td>
<td>Transfert en espèces unique</td>
<td>HTG 2,000 (USD 19) money transfer for families living in rural areas and 3,000 (USD 29) for families living in urban areas, per household, made through “Mon Cash” (mobile payment) for approximately 1.5 million vulnerable families. Aimed at families. Amount of benefit: 2,000 gourdes (USD 19~).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Honduras</td>
<td>Honduras Solidaria</td>
<td>To provide food to the approximately 800,000 families most affected by the emergency, through food supplies for at least 15 days, in two deliveries that add up to one month. A team will target the poorest households. The Armed Forces, together with other institutions, will coordinate the logistics and mobilization process, guaranteeing the oversight of national and international organizations.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Pago anticipado de pensión por vejez (Advance payment of old-age pension)

To safeguard and ensure that older adults can collect their pension payments during the COVID-19 pandemic. Vertical expansion. Registration Method: Guyana Post Office Corporation (GPOC) implements a pension registration and payment process, which consists of distributing the pension payment during the 5 working days of the week in alphabetical order each day.

Anticipación del salario a los funcionarios públicos (Advance payment of salary to public officials)

One month of advance payment of wages to public officials.

Kit alimentaire (Food kit)

Distribution of dry food rations to more than one million families. Aimed at families. Food kit containing 10 kilos of rice, two small bags of spaghetti, two boxes of salmon and two small bags of bread.

Garantía de acceso a la seguridad social (Guarantee of access to social security)

Workers will maintain the benefit of access to health at the Honduran Social Security Institute even when contributions are suspended due to the suspension of work or the period of the National Emergency.

No suspensión de los servicios de Telecomunicaciones (Non-suspension of Telecommunications services)

The National Telecommunications Commission confirms the non-suspension of landline and mobile telephone services, mobile and residential internet, while the emergency lasts.
Honduras
Reglamentado por Decretos Ejecutivos números PCM-025-2020, 026-2020
Regulated by Executive Decrees numbers PCM-025-2020, 026-2020
Programa Nacional de Alimentación Escolar (PNAE)
[National School Feeding Program (PNAE)]
Ensure that school feeding continues to reach hundreds of schoolchildren nationwide, under the methodology of delivery to parents in communities across the country, by the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion and the Ministry of Education. Aimed at Children.

Jamaica
Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education (PATH)
Parents of students benefiting from the PATH school feeding component began to receive an additional payment in the monetary component of the program, corresponding to the children's breakfast and lunch. Monthly delivery. Aimed at Children. School records are used, as well as payment mechanisms for the PATH cash transfer component.

The COVID Compassionate Grant
To protect every person in need with a money transfer. Application process required for individuals who are not formally employed, have not received, and do not intend to apply for any other cash benefits under the CARE Programme, with the exception of the Covid-19 PATH Grant. Validity: one month. Amount of benefit: JMD 10,000. Online application.

The PATH Covid Grant
People enrolled in PATH will receive 2 equal payments in the April-June 2020 period. The PATH Covid Grant will add another payment of equal amount increasing to 3 the total number of payments received in the April-June 2020 period. Three months. Aimed at Population of working age. Vertical expansion.

Food-packages
Approximately 300 prepared food packages will be distributed to 1,200 citizens. This is a one-time measure.

Provide sick leave and time for quarantine
Provide sick leave and quarantine time with pay to the extent possible, even above the law.

The Supporting Employees with Transfer of Cash (SET Cash) Programme
Provide temporary cash transfers to individuals where it can be verified that they lost their job on March 10, 2020 or after (the date of the first Covid case in Jamaica). Validity: three months. Intended for population of working age. Electronic registration at www.wecare.gov.jm

The Covid General Grant
Provide a one-time grant of JMD 25,000 to barbers, hairdressers, beauty therapists, cosmetologists, market vendors, taxi and bus operators, or JMD 40,000 to bar and nightclub operators, craft vendors, JUTA, MAXI and JCAL operators. Electronic registration at www.wecare.gov.jm

México
Pensión para el Bienestar de las Personas Adultas Mayores y de las Personas con Discapacidad
[Pension for the Well-being of the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities]
As a measure to strengthen the popular economy in the face of the health emergency, an advance payment is made of the next 4 months of the pension to 8 million beneficiaries (older adults). Those who collect their pension by bank card have already received the advance payment of March, April, May and June.

Seguro de Desempleo de la Ciudad de México
[Mexico City Unemployment Insurance]
To offer an economic incentive equivalent to the monthly amount of the Measurement and Update Unit, for up to 2 months. It also promotes labor reintegration of people through training and job opportunities. Validity: three months. Intended for population of working age. Horizontal Expansion Program. Registration Method: Registration in the job board of the National Employment Service.

Vacaciones anticipadas
[Early vacations]
Mechanism to preserve the sources of employment and economic activity of companies as part of the measures imple
### Panamá

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Plan Panamá Solidario</strong></th>
<th><strong>Accesso a vacaciones pagadas</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Solidary Panama Plan]</td>
<td>[Access to paid vacations]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Delivery of food bag, solidarity bonus and digital voucher. Offer bonuses to 550,000 families and food bags to 800,000 families. Single delivery. Institutional records of the Social Security Fund, Electoral Tribunal, General Directorate of Income, AMPYME, Ministry of Labor and Labor Development, Ministry of Commerce and Industries and others.</td>
<td>Workers aged 60 years or more, as well as those who suffer from chronic diseases and pregnant women will be able to take overdue or advanced vacations, for a minimum of 15 calendar days.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Decreto Ejecutivo N° 400</strong></td>
<td><strong>Decreto Ejecutivo No. 78</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Executive Decree No. 400</td>
<td>Executive Decree No. 78</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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### Paraguay

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th><strong>Programa Tekoporã</strong></th>
<th><strong>Licencias por enfermedad</strong></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>[Tekoporã Program]</td>
<td>[Sick leave]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advance payment of cash transfers for families benefiting from the Tekoporã program. Vertical expansion.</td>
<td>Expand the resources of the Social Welfare Institute to finance the expenses associated with the Sick Leave Subsidy.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programas de asistencia para pequeños productores (junto a Tekoporã)</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ley 6524 de 26 de marzo de 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Assistance programs for small producers (together with Tekoporã)]</td>
<td>Law 6524 of March 26, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To strengthen the Tekoporã program with two programs from the agricultural ministry relating to “Cultivation of self-consumption” and “Fruit and vegetable kit”, which will benefit the participants, for the production of food for their families and for marketing. Aimed at rural workers.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programa de Adultos Mayores</strong></td>
<td><strong>Exoneración temporal del pago de electricidad</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Seniors Program]</td>
<td>[Temporary exemption of electricity payment]</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To make an advance payment of the Senior Citizen Program (of the Senior Adult Program) for 207,000 people. Two months.</td>
<td>(bills up to approx. USD 40) and drinking water for vulnerable sectors and MSMEs and the possibility of deferring the payment for 3 months for other segments (such as telephony).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programa Seguridad Alimentaria Ñangareko</strong></td>
<td><strong>Ley 6524 de 26 de marzo de 2020</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Ñangareko Food Security Program]</td>
<td>Law 6524 of March 26, 2020</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>To guarantee, through accredited payments to the electronic wallet, the purchase of food and hygiene products for people living in poverty 300,000 families. Application through web platforms. Single delivery. Amount of benefit: PYG 500,000 (USD 86).</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Programa Pytyvõ</strong></td>
<td><strong>Digital Form Registration on the Pytyvo Subsidio Emergencia Sanitaria application.</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>[Pytyvõ Program]</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Temporary financial aid for workers with affected income (1 million people as of 29-04). Self-employed workers, dependent workers or in SMEs, among others, can apply. Two deliveries. Amount of benefit: PYG 548,210 (USD 84), which represents 25% of the current legal minimum wage.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
**Paraguay**

Ley 6524 de 26 de marzo de 2020
Law 6524 of March 26, 2020

**Distribución de almuerzo escolar**

[School Lunch Distribution]

The modification of current contracts for the provision of school meals will be authorized so that they can be replaced by the provision of “Non-perishable food kits” with nutritional values similar to people originally defined. Governors will be able to distribute school lunches for consumption at home.

Reference link.
Reference link.

**Peru**

**El Bono Familiar Universal**

[The Universal Family Bond]

To offer a bonus to households that have not been served through any of the monetary subsidies authorized by Emergency Decree No. 027-2020, supplemented by Emergency Decree No. 033-2020 and No. 042-2020. That register lists families that did not receive the 380 soles voucher of Yo Me Quedo En Casa or the 380 soles of the Bono Independiente (both are part of the Universal Family Voucher and a second installment is being carried out). Single delivery. Amount of benefit: PEN 760 (USD 223).

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 033-2020
Urgency Decree No. 033-2020

**Bono para independientes “bono de S/380”**

[Bonus for independent workers “S/380 bonus”]

Monetary subsidy for independent and informal workers, which is delivered throughout the national territory for PEN 380 (USD 58). Amount of benefit: PEN 380 expanded to PEN 760 (USD 223). From existing records of the National Program of Direct Support to the Poorest – JUNTOS of the Ministry of Development and Social Inclusion and the National Office of Electoral Processes.

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 033-2020
Urgency Decree No. 033-2020
Ministerial Resolution No. 075-2020-TR.

**Bono “Yo me quedo en casa”**

[“I stay at home” Bonus]

It is aimed at households that are living in poverty and extreme poverty. It applies to beneficiaries of other social programs, such as Pensión 65. It is divided into two payments of PEN 380 soles each (760 soles in total) (USD 223).

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 033-2020
Emergency Decree No. 027-2020

**Fondo de Pensiones en el sistema privado**

[Pension Fund in the private system]

Extraordinary withdrawal of the pension fund in the private system as a measure to mitigate the economic effects of compulsory social isolation and other measures. Intended for: Formal workers.

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 034-2020
Emergency Decree No. 034-2020 (04-01-2020)

**Fondos del monto intangible por depósitos de Compensación por Tiempo de Servicios (CTS)**

[Intangible Amount Funds for Compensation for Time of Service (CTS deposits)]

Workers who fall within the scope of the Single Text Ordered by the Law of Compensation for Time of Service and workers covered by a complete suspension of work are authorized to dispose of the funds of the intangible amount for CTS deposits. $2,400 Soles: Up to 2 times; or up to a gross monthly remuneration for each calendar month in arrears, for the duration of the complete suspension of work.

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 033-2020 (27-03-2020)
Decreto de Urgencia Nº 038-2020

**Continuidad de las prestaciones de salud del Seguro Social de Salud–EsSalud**

[Continuity of health benefits from the Health Social Security - EsSalud]

To guarantee continuity of the health benefits of the Social Security (ESSALUD). Continuity is hereby provided of the benefits of health prevention, promotion and care by the Social Health Insurance (EsSalud), for all workers included in a complete suspension of tasks.

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 038-2020
Emergency Decree No. 038 -2020

**Subsidio por incapacidad pacientes con COVID-19**

[Disability allowance for patients with COVID-19]

Temporary disability allowance for patients diagnosed with COVID-19 (workers whose remuneration is up to 2,400 soles per month). It is granted for the first 20 days of disability.

Decreto de Urgencia Nº 038-2020
Emergency Decree No. 038-2020.

**Fraccionamiento de servicios de energía eléctrica y de gas natural**

[Fractionation of electricity and natural gas services]

Fractionation of receipts pending payment for electric energy and natural gas services on pipeline of the vulnerable population.

Decreto Supremo Nº 006-2020-EM
Supreme Decree No. 006-2020-EM.

**Entrega de GLP (gás líquido de petróleo)**

[Delivery of LPG (Liquid Petroleum Gas)]

Additional delivery of a Discount voucher for the purchase of a single LPG balloon.

Decreto Supremo Nº 006-2020-EM
Supreme Decree No. 006-2020-EM.

**Se crea la Red de Soporte para la Persona Adulta Mayor con Alto Riesgo y la Persona con Discapacidad Severa**

[The Support Network for the High-Risk Elderly and Persons with Severe Disability is created]

It establishes a package of prioritized services for these populations that involves i) Counseling of healthy practices to prevent contagion and mitigate the effects of COVID-19; ii) Identification of warning signs for COVID-19 infection; iii) Immunization (pneumococcus and influenza); and iv) Follow-up of probable cases and research of intra-household contacts.
informed with a text message. For the duration of the Health Emergency. Amount of benefit: PEN 760.00. From existing records of the Household Targeting System (SIS-FOH).

**DECRETO DE URGENCIA N° 042-2020**

Fecha: 19/04/2020
URGENCY DECREE No. 042-2020
Date: 04/19/2020

*Programa Nacional de Alimentación Escolar Qali Warma*

[Qali Warma National School Feeding Program]

To guarantee the provision of school feeding service is the National School Feeding Program Qali Warma.

**Resolución Ministerial N° 136-2020-MINEDU**

Ministerial Resolution No. 136-2020-MINEDU

*Programa Nacional de Asistencia Solidaria–Pensión 65*

[National Solidarity Assistance Program - Pension 65]

To bring forward cash transfers to users of the National Solidarity Assistance Program, in order to guarantee resources that contribute to the well-being of the vulnerable population. Two months. Aimed at older adults. Users enrolled as of March 2020, according to the General Household Register (PGH).

**DECRETO SUPREMO N° 004-2020-MIDIS**

SUPREME DECREET No. 004-2020-MIDIS

*Programa Nacional de Apoyo Directo a los más Pobres–JUNTOS*

[National Direct Support Program for the Poorest - TOGETHER]

Advance payment of monetary subsidy for families benefiting from the program. The monetary transfers corresponding to the two-month periods March-April and May-June. Payments will be made progressively until May 14. PEN 760 (USD 223) per family (b) and advance the payment of two bimesters (c). Through application of National Office of Electoral Processes (ONPE).

**DECRETO DE URGENCIA N° 027-2020 (16 marzo de 2020)**

URGENCY DECREE No. 027-2020 (March 16, 2020)

*Bono Familiar Habitacional (BFH)*

[Family Housing Bonus (BFH)]

Part of the sectoral policy of the Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation. It provides beneficiaries, once, an incentive exclusively for the acquisition, construction on their own site or improvement of a low-income home. Amounts between PEN 33,600 and up to PEN 105,000/9,660.

**DECRETO LEGISLATIVO N° 1464**

LEGISLATIVE DECREET No. 1464

*Programa Contigo -Pensión No Contributiva a Personas con Discapacidad Severa en Situación de Pobreza*

[With You Program - Non-Contributory Pension for People with Severe Disabilities Living in Poverty]
Peru

Make advance cash transfers to users of the Programa Contigo for the March-April and May-June 2020 periods, according to the total number of users enrolled as of March 2020. Three months. Users enrolled as of March 2020, according to the General Household Register (PGH).

**DECRETO SUPREMO N° 004-2020-MIDIS**
**SUPREME DECREE NO. 004-2020-MIDIS**

**Canasta Básica Familia**
**[Basic Family Basket]**

Local governments are authorized, exceptionally during Fiscal Year 2020, to acquire and distribute basic necessities of the Basic Family Basket, for the vulnerable population. Existing records in local governments.

**Decreto de Urgencia N° 033-2020 de 27 de marzo de 2020**
**Emergency Decree No. 033-2020 of March 27, 2020.**

Dominican Rep.

**Programa Quídate en Casa**
**[Stay at Home Program]**

Homes of informal workers and families receiving the Come res Primero program will receive a quota increase for a period of 2 months. It is made up of several components: a) it increases the temporary subsidy of 5,000 monthly for 2 months (April and May) for people who have the solidarity card and it increases the number of beneficiaries; b) The fee received by the beneficiaries of the Come res Primero program increases and the number of beneficiaries will increase. There are no registrations. Inclusion will be automatic with the identity card.

For two months. Existing registry of the Single System of Beneficiaries (Siuben).

**Comunicado Ayuda económica**
**Financial Aid Statement**

**Distribución de Alimentos**
**[Food Distribution]**

Distribution of food rations to the most vulnerable sectors, with the support of the churches or parishes of the communities. For two months.

**Comedores Económicos**
**[Economic dining rooms]**

To guarantee cooked food to the population residing in the most vulnerable areas of the entire country, free of charge, as long as the declared state of Emergency as a result of the spread of the Coronavirus Pandemic, (Covid-19) remains. Covid-19 prevention. Cooked portions.

**Comisión de Asuntos Sociales**
**Social Affairs Commission**

**Programa de Alimentación Escolar (PAE)**
**[School Feeding Program (SFP)]**

Distribution of 1,800,000 food kits to the fathers, mothers and guardians of students of the Extended School Day and other modalities of the School Lunch Program corresponding to the week, replacing the cooked rations they receive daily.

**Comunicado INABIE**
**INABIE statement**

Dominican Rep.

**Comunicado INABIE**
**INABIE statement**

**Acceso a vacaciones pagadas**
**[Access to paid vacations]**

Employers whose establishments must remain closed must grant paid vacations to all workers who qualify for them; and those who have not acquired the right to vacations, will receive one week advance payment of vacations and one week of salary at the expense of the company.

Intended for: Population of working age

**Resolución 007/2020**
**Resolution 007/2020**

**Ampliación Cobertura Salud para afiliados del Sistema Dominicano de Seguridad Social (SDSS)**
**[Expansion of Health Coverage for enrollees of the Dominican Social Security System (SDSS)]**

SDSS enrollees that tested positive to Coronavirus will be seen in private clinics with no inpatient copayments. Two months

Surinam

**Distribution of food packages to populations in the interior of the country.**
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Country</th>
<th>Program/Grant</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trinidad and Tobago</td>
<td><strong>School Feeding Programme</strong></td>
<td>The Ministry of Social Development and Family Services will distribute food cards to families with children registered to receive school meals under the government’s school feeding program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Public Assistance Grant</strong></td>
<td>Affected individuals will receive TTD 150-500 (approximately USD 22-74) depending on the number of family members (1 to 4 or more).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Temporary Food Support Card</strong></td>
<td>A food card valued at TTD 510 (approx. USD 75) will be provided to a family or household for 3 months. The card can be recharged. Three months. From existing records of the Food Support Program.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Rental Assistance Grant</strong></td>
<td>Affected individuals will receive this grant for up to 12 months. The amount is TTD 2,500 (approx. USD 370) for 3 months initially and up to 6 months as needed. If the support is required more than 6 months, the amount will be reduced.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Uruguay</td>
<td><strong>Tarjeta Uruguay Social</strong></td>
<td>Doubling the amount of the Uruguay Social card and food baskets of households that have greater difficulties in accessing a basic level of food consumption during COVID-19. Aid between UYU 1,201 (USD 28.09) and UYU 6,460 (USD 151.10) according to the family composition.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Licencias Remuneradas</strong></td>
<td>Bring forward the leave generated in 2020, which requires the consent of both parties, invoking the health emergency. Leave can be applied for in its entirety or for at least 10 days. Population of working age.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Subsidio por enfermedad</strong></td>
<td>Extension of the common sickness allowance of Law 14,407 for people 65 years of age or older, so that they can fulfill isolation in their homes for a maximum of 30 days, except for people who can telework. Duration of the emergency measure.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Programa de Alimentación (PAE)</strong></td>
<td>Keeping the country’s school kitchens active. Each school committee can define the service modalities to ensure the feeding of the students. Aimed at Children.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Plan pedagógico de prevención y protección Coronavirus</strong></td>
<td>Pedagogical Coronavirus (COVID-19) prevention and protection plan.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bono especial quedate en Casa - Sistema Patria</strong></td>
<td>Special Bonus to stay at home for independent workers or on their own, who have reported this condition on the Labor option, and it is verified that there is no dependency relationship with any public, private or mixed entity. Single delivery. Amount of benefit: 450,000 bolivars. Using VeQR application. Scan the country card. VeQR application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Bono Disciplina y Solidaridad - Sistema Patria</strong></td>
<td>To offer a bonus to workers in the informal economy in order to reduce the impact on the commercial sector, due to the quarantine decreed by COVID-19. Single delivery. Aimed at Population of working age. Amount of benefit: 350,000 bolivars. Using VeQR application. Scan the country card. VeQR application.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Supresión del pago de alquileres de comercio y viviendas</strong></td>
<td>To protect people who have been unable to produce, with the suspension of rent payments for companies and individuals for a period of six months. That measure does not exempt people from payment.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td><strong>Gaceta Oficial N° 41.852</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Social Protection and Response To Covid-19 in Latin America And The Caribbean
2nd edition: social assistance
## School Feeding Programs

### Characteristics/Countries

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Coverage (in millions of people)</th>
<th>ARG</th>
<th>BEL</th>
<th>BRA</th>
<th>CHI</th>
<th>COL</th>
<th>CRI</th>
<th>DOM</th>
<th>ECU</th>
<th>GUA</th>
<th>HON</th>
<th>JAM</th>
<th>PRY</th>
<th>PER</th>
<th>TTO</th>
<th>URY</th>
<th>NEX</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.69</td>
<td>0.02</td>
<td>40.20</td>
<td>1.83</td>
<td>4.03</td>
<td>0.69</td>
<td>1.74</td>
<td>2.87</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>2.46</td>
<td>1.30</td>
<td>0.31</td>
<td>1.09</td>
<td>2.40</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>0.27</td>
<td>4.03</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

| II. School closing date | 16.03 | 20.03 | 12.03 | 15.03 | 16.03 | 12.03 | 16.03 | 13.03 | 12.03 | 15.03 | 13.03 | 10.03 | 12.03 | 14.03 | 15.03 | 16.03 |

| III. SFP operation restart date, in any modality | N/A | N/A | 07.04 | 18.03 | 24.03 | 23.03 | 23.03 | 09.04 | 17.04 | 19.03 | 31.03 | 16.03 | 31.03 | 24.04 | 23.03 | 18.03 | N/A |

| IV. Delivery frequency (days) | 15 | N/A | variable | 15 | variable | 21 | 7 | 18 | N/A | 15 | N/A | 30 | 10 | variable | 30 | N/A | variable |

| V. Modality of the benefit after educational closure | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|------------------------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| V.1 Prepared ration delivered to home                | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| V.2 Ration prepared to be collected from IIEE or collection area | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V.3 Basket of products to be collected at IIEE or collection area | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| V.4 Basket of products delivered to home              | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| V.5 Conversion of benefit in kind to money transfer  | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| VI. Recipient of the benefit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VI.1 Registered IIEE students | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X | X |
| VI.2 Registered IIEEE students and other vulnerable population (horizontal expansion) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| V.7 Other protocols related to the delivery of the benefit | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VII.1 Expansion of the benefit (greater budget for the same population to be served - vertical expansion) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VII.2 Existence of legislation for adaptation | 1 | 1 | Ley | 1 | Decreto | Resolución | 1 | Resolución | 1 | Acuerdo Ministerial | 1 | 1 | Guía | Resolución | 1 | Comunicado | 1 |
| VII.3 Existence of protocols for the operation, with biosecurity criteria | 1 | 1 | Orientaciones | Lineamientos | Resolución | Protocolo | 1 | 1 | 1 | Protocolo | 1 | 1 | 1 | Protocolo | 1 | 1 | Plan |