**Figure 1. Evolution in number of countries/territories and social protection measures**

**There has been an exponential growth in social protection measures** The updated database shows that between March, 2020 and Dec, 2021, a total of 958 social protection measures have been planned or implemented in 197 countries or territories.

**Figure 2. Composition of social protection responses by components in regions and country income groups**

Most of social protection measures are provided as social assistance.These represent 55% of global programs and are the predominant form of support in all regions expect Eastern Europe and Central Asia (ECA), as well as high income countries. In regions like South Asia and in low income countries, social assistance accounts for over 70% of social protection responses. Social insurance and active labor market programs range between 11% and nearly 30 % of the global portfolio.

**Table 1. Social assistance measures**

**Among social assistance measures, cash transfers remain the premier instrument**. A total of 975 cash-based measures (conditional and unconditional) have been planned or implemented in 202 countries. In addition to this, 61 non-contributory social pension programs were introduced in 48 countries, accounting for a total of 1036 cash transfer programs globally, equivalent to for 44.5% of total social assistance and 27% of global social protection responses (table 1). In-kind vouchers and school feeding are also widespread, including a total of 459 measures. Furthermore, 69 public works programs are present in 46 countries, while waiving or postponing payments for utilities and other financial obligations are adopted in an astounding 763 cases across 187 countries.

**Table 2. Social insurance measures**

**Moving to social insurance, our database includes an additional 384 measures since December**. The most widely adopted are waived or subsidized social security contributions (261 programs), followed by paid leaves (149) up by 11 percent from last version of the paper, and Unemployment (145). Pensions-related measures are present in 97 cases, with some countries, like Ecuador, allowing for advance withdrawals of pensions.

**Table 3. Labor Market measures**

**Active labor market programs and labor regulations have increased by a resounding 608 measures since the latest update**. Currently, those programs are present 788 schemes in 187 countries (table 3). Wage subsidies are featuring in 233 cases (down from 244) across 117 countries; but the most prevalent measures have been labor regulation adjustments, the count of which rose from 313 to 415 cases across 134 countries.

**Table 4. State in social assistance implementation**

**Zooming back into social assistance, most programs for which there is data are ongoing.** Data on whether programs are planned, ongoing or ended is available for 984 schemes. Most of these are concluded (594 programs), while a total of 575 or 44% are concluded. Only about 118 programs or 9% are being planned or announced and not yet started (table 4).

**Figure 3. Generosity of cash transfer size relative to pre-Covid level**

Among the highest country-level rates are low-income countries like Mongolia’s child money program (400%), Uganda’s emergency cash transfer program (240%), Trinidad and Tobago’s public assistance grant (200%). For 20 programs with comparable pre- and post- Covid data on generosity, the analysis shows that the size transfers were increased by an average of 120% during the pandemic (figure 3).

**Table 5. Adaptation of cash transfer programs**

Total no of programs adapted for social assistance measures doubled since May 2021. Only a minority of cash transfer programs are being scaled up based on existing schemes. Out of the 1527 cash transfer schemes, only 14% are old or existing programs and 38% are one-off interventions. The latter include 15 universal programs, with two interventions in Tuvalu and Timor Leste that featured multiple payments. Administrative simplifications are being put in place in 100 programs across 74 countries, while payments have been advanced in 26 schemes in 21 countries. A total of 48 programs were scaled up horizontally as well as vertically across 39 countries.

**Figure 4. Duration of cash transfer programs**

Information on the duration of cash transfer programs is available for 69 active schemes. Among these, the duration ranges between 1 and 9 months, for an average of 3 months (figure 4). This represents an average decrease by almost a month relative to the May 2021 estimate.

**Table 6: Beneficiaries**

The global number of beneficiaries remains significantly larger than previous version. The estimated global number of *planned* individual social assistance beneficiaries is little over 3 billion. This number includes people that benefited from *both* horizonal and vertical program expansion of cash and in-kind safety net programs. However, the *actual* number of beneficiaries – or those participating in programs for which reporting on implementation progress is available – is a little over 2.25 billion, or 28% of the world’s population (table 6). The number of planned and actual cash transfers beneficiaries is 1.4 and 0.9 billion, respectively. In other words, almost 12.5% of the world’s population has been covered with at least one Covid-related cash transfer payment between 2020 and 2021.

**Figure 5. Planned versus actual coverage rates for top 50 programs**

**The specific state in implementation progress of cash transfer programs continues to be relatively encouraging**. For the top 50 programs ranked by planned coverage rates, the average percentage points difference between planned and actual coverage rates is -0.2 (figure 5).

**Figure 6. Top 10 cash transfer programs by actual coverage (million people)**

**In terms of number of people covered, select countries have attained impressive six-digit levels**. Figure 6 lays out the top 10 interventions with coverage expressed as millions of people. With over 200 million individuals covered, India’s Pradhan Mantri Jan Dhan Yojana (PMJDY) program is the largest Covid-related cash transfer scheme worldwide. Such program is followed by three subsequent cash transfer interventions in US, all reaching over a hundred million people (CARES Act, American Rescue Plan & Consolidated Appropriations Act), Followed by Japan’s one-off universal program reaching about 115 million people in fifth place.

**Figure 7. Top 10 cash transfer programs by actual coverage (% population)**

In terms of coverage as percentage of the population, the top-10 ranks are dominated by universal one-off programs often combining monetary and fiscal policy. As shown in figure 7, some of these schemes reached the full population (e.g., Israel, Korea, and Japan). Tuvalu was, as mentioned, the only case where temporary universal transfers were delivered in multiple payments.

**Figure 8. Scale up rates of cash transfers relative to pre-Covid level**

The rate at which cash transfers have been scaled up relative to pre-Covid coverage levels remains high. For 15 countries with comparable data, the average scale up rate between pre and post-Covid coverage is 141%. Highest scale up rate was observed in Madagascar with 450% change in pre and post-Covid Coverage.

Table 7. **Spending by social protection component, region and country income group (USD)**

Per capita spending in High Income Country is $1347 that is 75 times higher than in $17.99 per capita spending in Low Income Countries. That is a reduction from May 2021 estimates of 211 fold difference.

**Table 8. Urban and Rural Cash Transfer Program**

Of the 362 total Rural, Urban and peri-urban cash transfer programs, 12% programs are rural only whereas 69% programs encompass both rural and urban regions. Of all the regions, Small state forum, (SSF) had highest no of urban only programs (46) that constitutes 68% of the total programs targeted to urban only areas.

**Table 9. FCS Cash Transfer Program**

Of 471 social protection programs in Fragile and conflict affected states, 77% are social assistance measures. In High Intensity Conflict zones, Only Afghanistan and Somalia offered social insurance measures.