



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

# Economic and Environmental Impacts of COVID 19 and their implications for security

OCEEA Webinar

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**COVID-19  
RESPONSE**

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# COVID-19 Affecting all SGDs

- Economic recession, rise in unemployment, poverty, hunger, and inequality
- Devastating impact on health and education, disruption in access to basic services
- Exacerbating gender inequality
- Reduced commitment to climate action
- Potentially destabilizing society and eroding commitment to global partnership





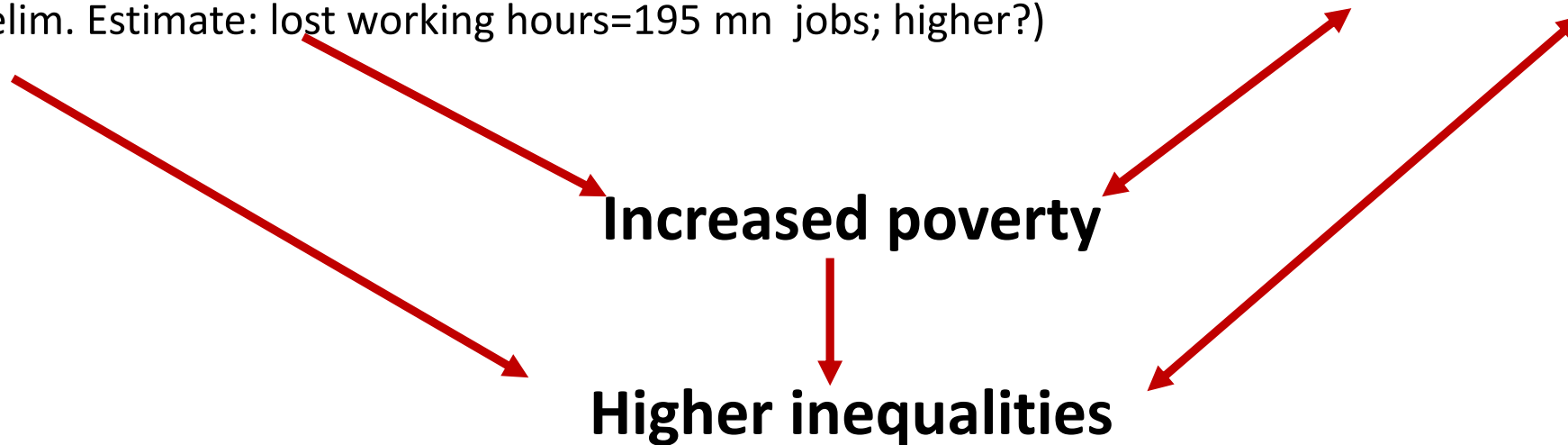
## Social impacts of the health crisis

### Employment losses

(vicious cycle: >consumption, >employment, >consumption;  
ILO prelim. Estimate: lost working hours=195 mn jobs; higher?)

### Direct burden of disease

(health costs; inability to work)



**Impacts on trust in institutions? Social cohesion?**





# Policy Responses

**151 countries announced emergency and stimulus packages**

## What:

- **Health emergency first** -- *increasing health budget in national emergency*
- **Protecting people and jobs** – *Targeted support or cash payment to support workers and families; extending unemployment benefits and paid sick/family leave; protecting jobs by paying employee wages and benefits in SMEs*
- **Promoting the recovery**

## How:

- **Increased social spending**
- **(Including through) Fiscal stimulus plans** – *averaging about 5% of national GDP, some as high as 10%*





## Apply lessons from 2008 financial and economic crisis

- Stimulus packages are larger and quicker – right direction for stronger recovery. Withdraw of stimulus measures should be slower than last time.
- Focus more on SMEs, funds to discretionary social protection and other income-support measures will be higher than the 25% last time.
- Protecting jobs better than protecting (laid-off) workers; Expanding existing programmes more effective than creating new (ad-hoc) ones; Extending support to groups that are usually not protected.
- Ad-hoc measures address short-term needs, yet most of them leave beneficiaries vulnerable to future shocks. Comprehensive social protection systems, when in place, play a much durable role.





## What Role Can OSCE Play

- **Build on security & cooperation mechanisms to promote coordinated actions** to stop the spread of virus, search for vaccine & therapy for COVID-19
- **Leverage political commitments of OSCE to support international solidarity** -- contribute to global resource mobilization such as UN WHO public health initiatives; UN humanitarian drive; direct technical and financial support to countries in vulnerable situations
- **Combat misinformation, stigma and discrimination to promote mutual understanding and trust**





# UN DESA COVID-19 dedicated website for updates: [bit.ly/UNDESACovid](https://bit.ly/UNDESACovid)



UN Chief Economist Elliott Harris and experts from UN DESA will share the main findings of three new briefing papers targeting the social, economic and financial impacts of COVID-19, as well as public policy recommendations. The online webinar will take place on Thursday, 9 April 2020, from 10 – 11:30 am EDT.

Registration is open until 8 April 2020. You may register at the [online registration page](#).



April monthly briefing on the world economy: “COVID-19: disorganizing economies and societies” **Social Inclusion**



Policy Brief 58: “Addressing the social



Policy Brief 59: “Corona crisis causes

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