

# Session 4: Addressing Recovery of Vulnerable Groups



# Objectives of this Session

- Who are vulnerable groups
- Forms of support for most vulnerable people
- Role of Social Assistance in supporting vulnerable groups

# AUDIENCE QUESTION

Who are the vulnerable group, identify one vulnerable group and measures taken to support them in your country?



Grab the microphone and share your thoughts



Identifying Vulnerable Groups : Who are left out ??



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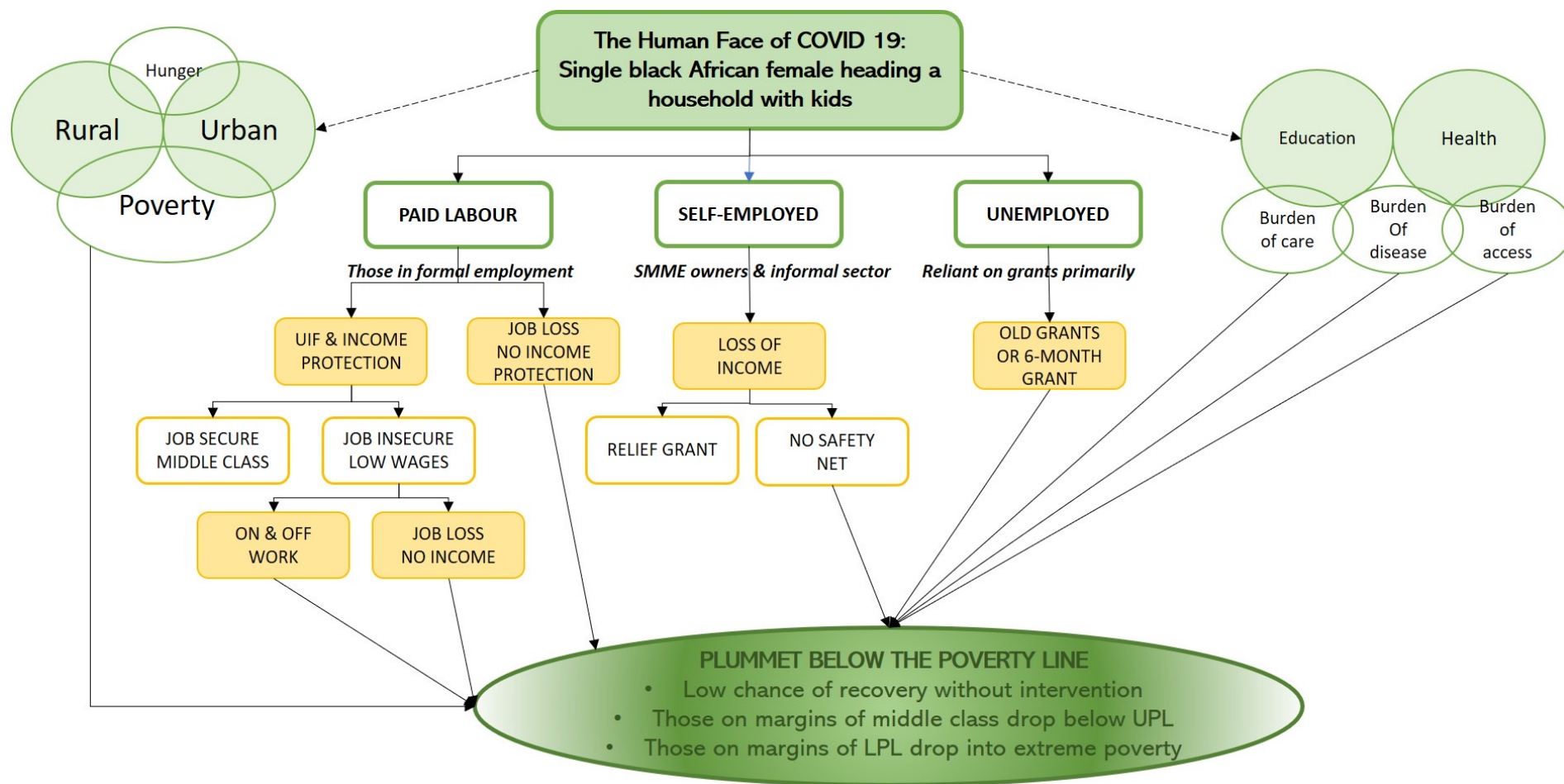


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## New Categories of Vulnerable people

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A COMPREHENSIVE SET OF INTERVENTIONS IS NEEDED, THAT RECOGNISE THAT WOMEN FACE MULTIPLE CHALLENGES, WHICH IN TURN INCREASE VULNERABILITY AND FRAGILITY. THE INTERVENTIONS MUST BE MULTI-FACETED IN ORDER TO ADDRESS THE MULTIPLE NEEDS OF WOMEN IMPACTED BY COVID 19.

# The Shadow Pandemic

## BEFORE THE PANDEMIC



**243 million**

women and girls, aged 15-49, experienced **sexual and/or physical violence** by an intimate partner in the past year.

## SINCE THE PANDEMIC

Violence against women, especially **domestic violence**, has intensified.

### Exacerbating factors include:



Security, health  
& money worries



Cramped  
living conditions



Isolation with  
abusers



Movement  
restrictions



Deserted  
public spaces

## ECUADOR

### CRNA

Women constitute 60 percent of general health personnel and 81 percent of nurses in Ecuador, which means they are exposed to additional risk.

Between March and May 2020, availability of essential sexual and reproductive health care services dropped 45-60 percent from a year earlier, and lockdowns have increased their care work and curbed their ability to report domestic and gender-based violence.

Maternal mortality could increase by 50 percent and an additional 2,282 children under 5 could die absent scaled-up maternal and child interventions, the study finds.





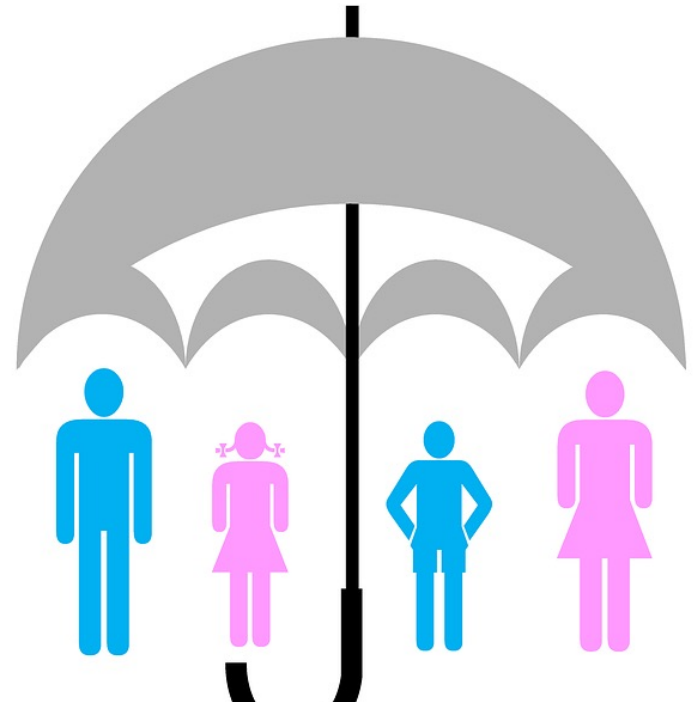
# Recovery Strategies

- Targeted support to current female food producers to ensure that they continue to produce food and do not exit out of the agricultural sector due to COVID 19.
- Temporary cash transfers to the most vulnerable households, including female headed households. Child Care Assistance
- Call centers established to record GBV , banning sale of alcohol, police squads deployed in GBV hotspots
- Credit and grants to women entrepreneurs, Rescue grants to big business with exclusive guidelines that women's jobs be protected
- Incentives for Community Health care workers

# SOCIAL PROTECTION

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- The COVID-19 pandemic proved to be a major catalyst for increasing the global focus on social protection.
- Over the course of 2020-2021, countries across the globe implemented [close to 4,000 social protection measures to respond to its economic impact](#).
- Cash transfers alone reached around 1.4 billion people or one out of six people in the world.
- (Source : World Bank)

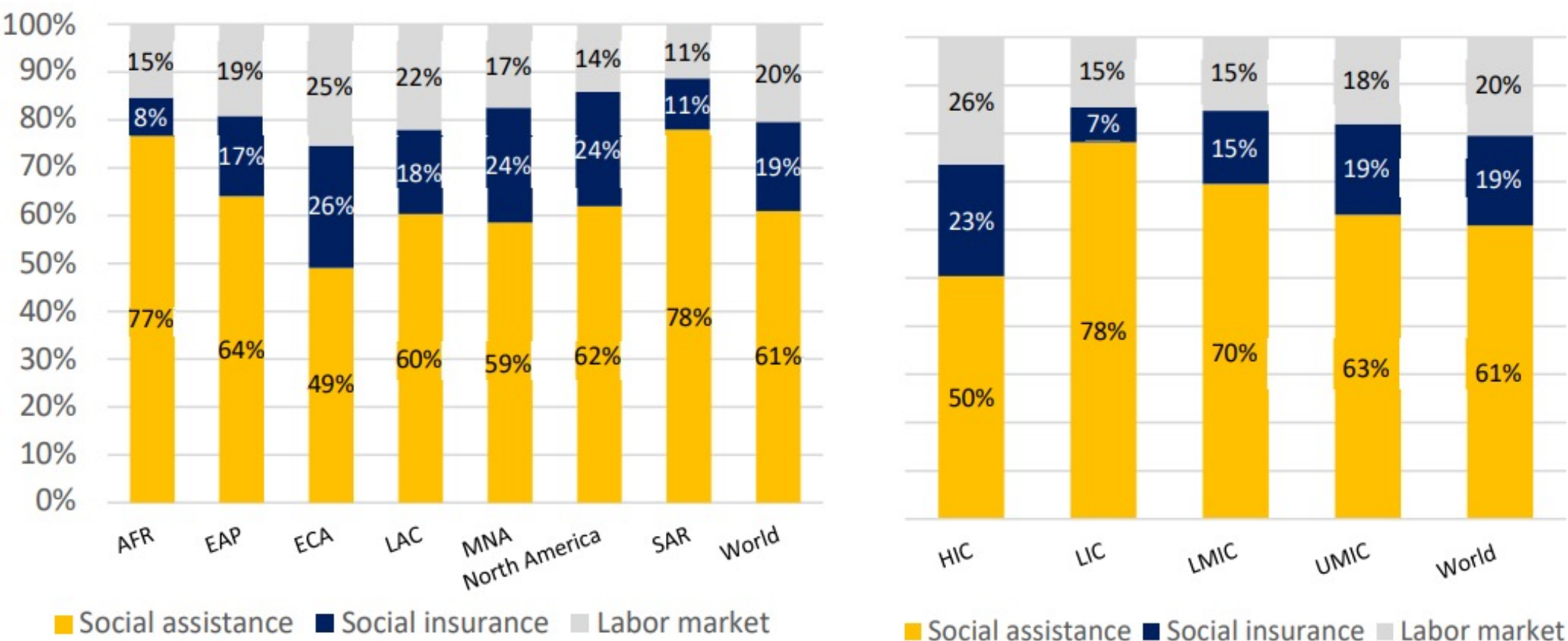


# Classifying Social Protection Response

Social assistance	Social insurance	Others
Cash transfers: new programmes	Paid leave	Labour market e.g. prohibition on retrenchments
vertical expansion	Health insurance	Process changes e.g. digitalisation
horizontal expansion	Pensions	SMEs tax or debt relief);
Food assistance	Unemployment benefits	Food security food price controls, export bans
School feeding	Social security contributions	
Utility subsidies		
Tax relief		
Debt relief and loans		

# OVERVIEW OF SOCIAL PROTECTION

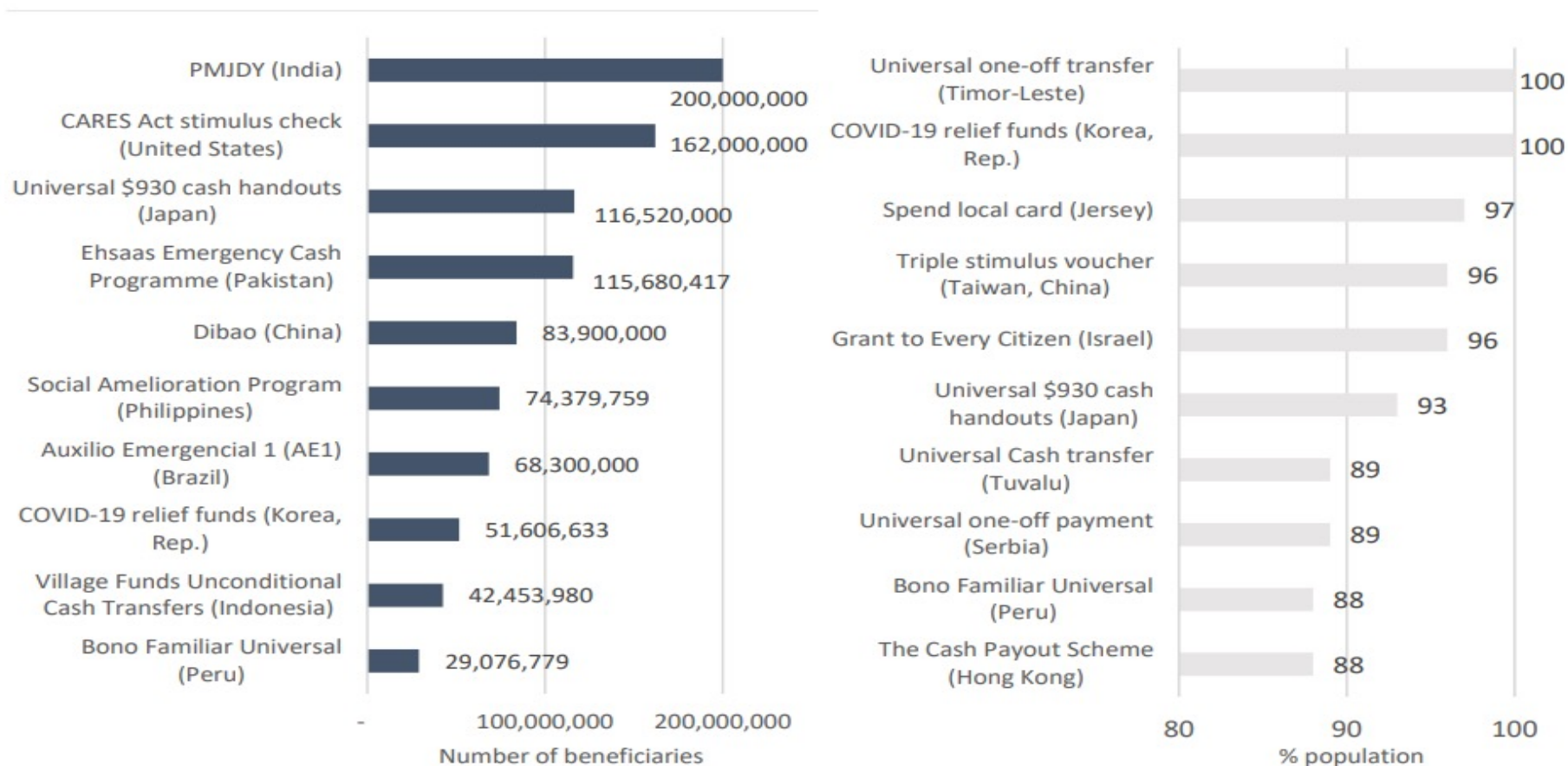
**Figure 3. Social protection and labor measures by component, region, and country income**



**As of January 2022, a total of 3,856 social protection and labor measures were planned or implemented by 223 economies. Source : World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measure, Jan 2022**

# POPULATION REACHED BY CASH TRANSFERS

**Figure 12. Coverage of top 10 cash transfer programs by number of beneficiaries (left) and share of the population (right)**



**As of January 2022**, the top-10 programs by coverage number and rates: the PMJDY program in India reached 200 million people, while the US CARES stimulus checks, Japan's universal transfers and Pakistan's Ehsaas all reached over a hundred million people. **Source : World Bank Social Protection and Jobs Responses to COVID-19: A Real-Time Review of Country Measures**, Jan 2022



# Opportunities

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- Large Allocations by all for Social Protection by all countries in cash, kind and other categories. Special Budgetary allocations
- Countries transitioned from food assistance to accelerated cash-based assistance and from manual delivery to electronic disbursement using banks (ATMs) or cell-phones (mobile money).
- One Stop shop for delivery of Social Assistance.



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# Challenges

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- Gaps in social protection provisioning were sharply exposed notably under-coverage, process gaps, delivery gaps
- Pandemic disrupted disbursement for upto six months in several countries (eg Ghana)
- Implementation challenges as government systems came under unprecedented strain. Systems for processing applications crashed due to the volume of applications received.
- As countries move towards a 'new normal' post-COVID-19, they face a crossroads: whether to maintain the expanded provision that was triggered as an emergency response to COVID-19, or to scale back to pre-COVID-19 levels.



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# Way Forward

Develop Social  
Protection  
Architecture,  
Policies and  
Laws

Strengthen the  
shock  
responsiveness  
of Social  
Protection  
systems

Extend Social  
Protection to  
informal  
workers and  
others  
excluded  
groups

Fill gaps in coverage, and to strengthen the overall regulation and administration of the system.

# Universal Social Protection

Universal social protection (USP) refers to a nationally defined system of policies and programmes that provide equitable access to all people and protect them throughout their lives against poverty and risks to their livelihoods and well-being.

- This protection can be provided through a range of mechanisms, including in cash or in-kind benefits, contributory or non-contributory schemes, and programmes to enhance human capital, productive assets, and access to jobs.
- This includes adequate cash transfers for all who need it, especially: children; benefits/support for people of working age in case of maternity, disability, work injury or for those without jobs; and pensions for all older persons.

# Questions and Feedback

