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
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??
New Categories of Vulnerable people
The Human Face of COVID 19: Single black African female heading a household with kids

PAID LABOUR
- Those in formal employment
  - UIF & INCOME PROTECTION
  - JOB SECURE MIDDLE CLASS
  - ON & OFF WORK

SELF-EMPLOYED
- SMME owners & informal sector
  - JOB LOSS NO INCOME PROTECTION
  - JOB INSECURE LOW WAGES
  - NO SAFETY NET
  - RELIEF GRANT

UNEMPLOYED
- Reliant on grants primarily
  - LOSS OF INCOME
  - OLD GRANTS OR 6-MONTH GRANT

PLUMMET BELOW THE POVERTY LINE
- Low chance of recovery without intervention
- Those on margins of middle class drop below UPL
- Those on margins of LPL drop into extreme poverty

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.

IMPACT ON WOMEN AND GIRLS

As in many other countries, women and girls are suffering in unique and specific ways.
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

• 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)
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<th>Social assistance</th>
<th>Social insurance</th>
<th>Others</th>
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<td>Paid leave</td>
<td>Labour market e.g. prohibition on retrenchments</td>
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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
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

- 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.
Challenges

• 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.
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 (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