

What the experts say: Coronavirus and support for families

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The socioeconomic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic means that an additional **86 million children** may fall into poverty this year alone. Social protection can help to prevent this and secure a brighter future for every child.

Avoid doing harm in the rush to save lives

Livelihoods have severely been impacted by COVID-19 containment measures. Children are suffering from losses of family income and related impacts, including increases in violence and limited learning opportunities. Measures to address pandemics and economic crises must be adapted to the specific needs of children.

Put investments in children at the top of the agenda

Amid the global economic crisis, lower remittances and other financial inflows, including funding from donors, countries must prioritize investments in children and ensure that these are adequately funded.

Social protection is an investment for the future

Developing human capital through investing in children is a global public good that the world cannot afford to ignore. Social protection not only supports this, but it also promotes social cohesion, closes equity gaps, and secures the well-being of future generations. What's more, it has an economic benefit: **for every \$1 spent on cash transfers, up to \$2.52 is added to local economies.**

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\$1: the amount per person that low income countries spend on social protection.

Fiscal stimulus is notably less effective than social protection to protect families and children during crises.

Only 2% of sub-Saharan Africa's population is covered by COVID-19 cash transfers.

"Building back better" requires going further than short-term support; it also necessitates investment in sustainable social protection systems.

Political will and commitment to social protection is essential but often lacking.

Faced with financial constraints, governments must make better use of available funds, including addressing issues such as corruption and waste.

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