

The UN Issue Based Coalition for Social Protection in collaboration with
the UN Development Coordination Office for Europe and Central Asia

WEBINAR Launch of a New Policy Paper

COVID-19 and Social Protection in Europe and Central Asia

**A moment of opportunity to expand and strengthen social protection to safeguard health,
well-being and livelihoods, leaving no one behind**



This new report from the UN Issue-Based Coalition for Social Protection discusses some of the key social protection interventions implemented in response to the COVID-19 emergency, including health protection, unemployment, family and child support, measures against social exclusion and housing insecurity. It makes the case for the crisis as a moment of opportunity to accelerate long-postponed reforms in well-developed welfare states and accelerate the establishment of national social protection floors in countries with still fragmented social protection systems to ensure universal access to health and income security for all.

**Date and Time: 10th July 2020
12:00 – 13.15 CET**

The meeting will be accessed [here on Microsoft Teams](#)

What's in the Publication?

The COVID-19 epidemic is a health and a socio-economic crisis without precedence.

- Governments across the European Region and Central Asia have introduced a variety of policy responses to mitigate the consequences of the containment measures on well-being and the economy, employment and incomes, and on families and children who are not able to access social and health services.
- The examples and findings in this brief show that where comprehensive social protection systems and policies are already well established, they protect people from risks during normal circumstances but are also better equipped to respond when emergencies hit and to mitigate against social and health inequities.
- The publication makes the case that the crisis is a moment of opportunity to expand and strengthen social protection mechanisms to safeguard health, well-being and livelihoods, leaving no one behind in country response and recovery plans.

Who is it for?

- Governments, UN organizations and policy makers involved in reducing income and health inequities
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PROGRAM

- 12.00 **Chairs Opening Remarks**
- Chris Brown Head, WHO European Office for Investment for Health and Development, contributing author of the report.
- 12.05 **'A Moment of Opportunity' - why this publication and why now**
- Dr. Hans Kluge, WHO Regional Director for Europe.
 - Mr. Heinz Koller, ILO Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia
 - Ms. Afshan Khan, UNICEF Regional Director for Europe and Central Asia
- 12.35 **Moderated Q&A with Social Protection and Health Financing Experts**
- Chair Mona Folkesson, UN-DCO Europe and Central Asia
- Expert Panel**
- Mr. Kenichi Hirose, Senior Specialist on Social Protection, ILO
 - Ms. Louisa Lippi, Social Protection Specialist UNICEF and contributing author of the report
 - Ms. Jasmina Papa, Social Protection Specialist, ILO
 - Dr. Sarah Thomson - Health Financing Expert, WHO Europe
- 13.15 **Closing remarks** from WHO Europe, ILO and UNICEF.