A young girl with dark hair, wearing a light purple long-sleeved shirt, is sitting on a bicycle. She is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background is a bright blue sky with scattered white clouds. The bicycle's handlebars and front wheel are visible in the foreground. The overall scene is outdoors and brightly lit.

Shock-Responsive Social Protection: Scaling up Social Assistance to Mitigate Secondary Impact of COVID-19 on Children

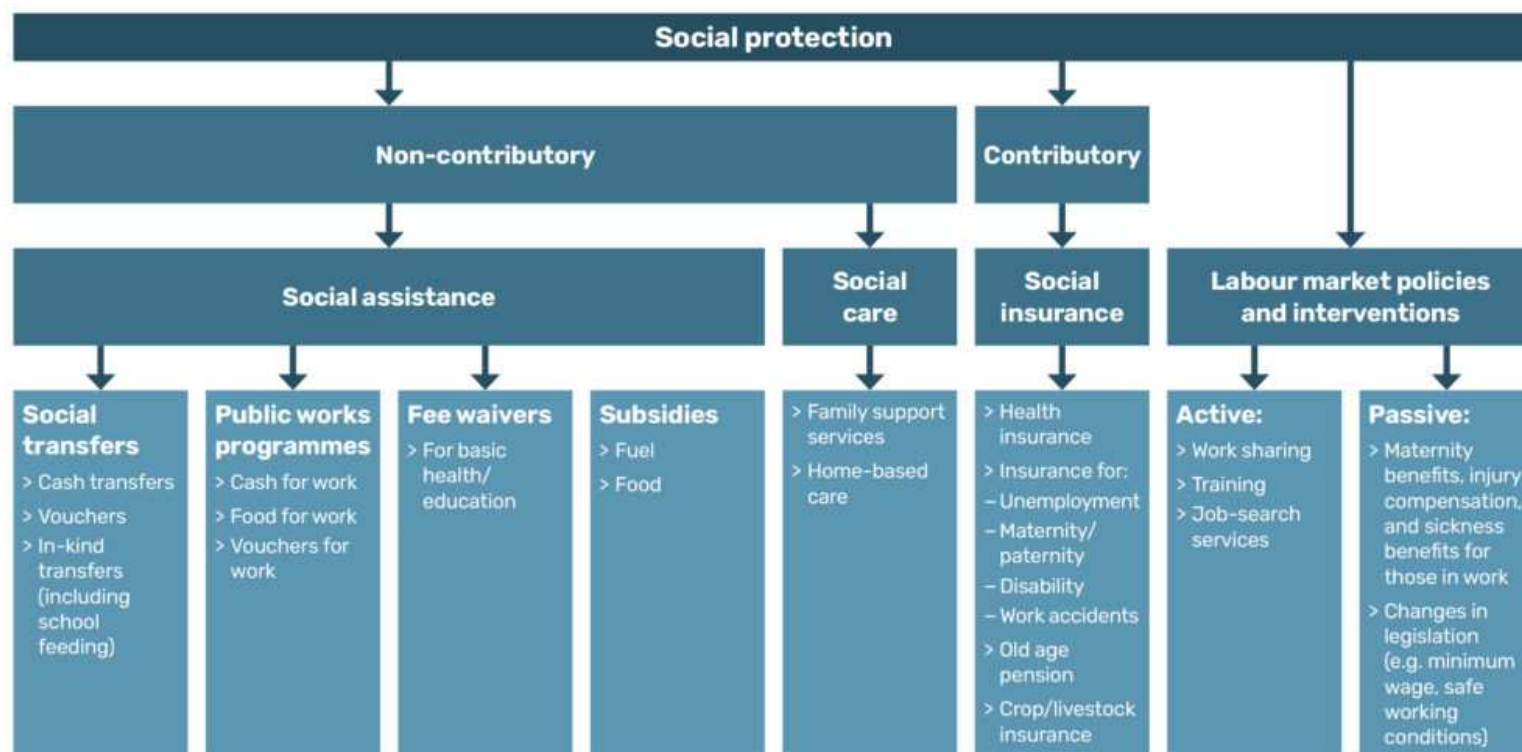
Maya Faisal and Christina Dankmeyer
UNICEF Eastern Caribbean Area

10 June 2020

Outline

- ❑ Social protection instruments across the Eastern Caribbean
- ❑ At a glance: social protection status across the region before COVID-19
- ❑ Impact of COVID-19 on social protection – and on children
- ❑ Social protection response to COVID-19: System elements and shock-responsive social protection
- ❑ Recommendations

Taxonomy of Social Protection Instruments



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Source: IDS, 2019

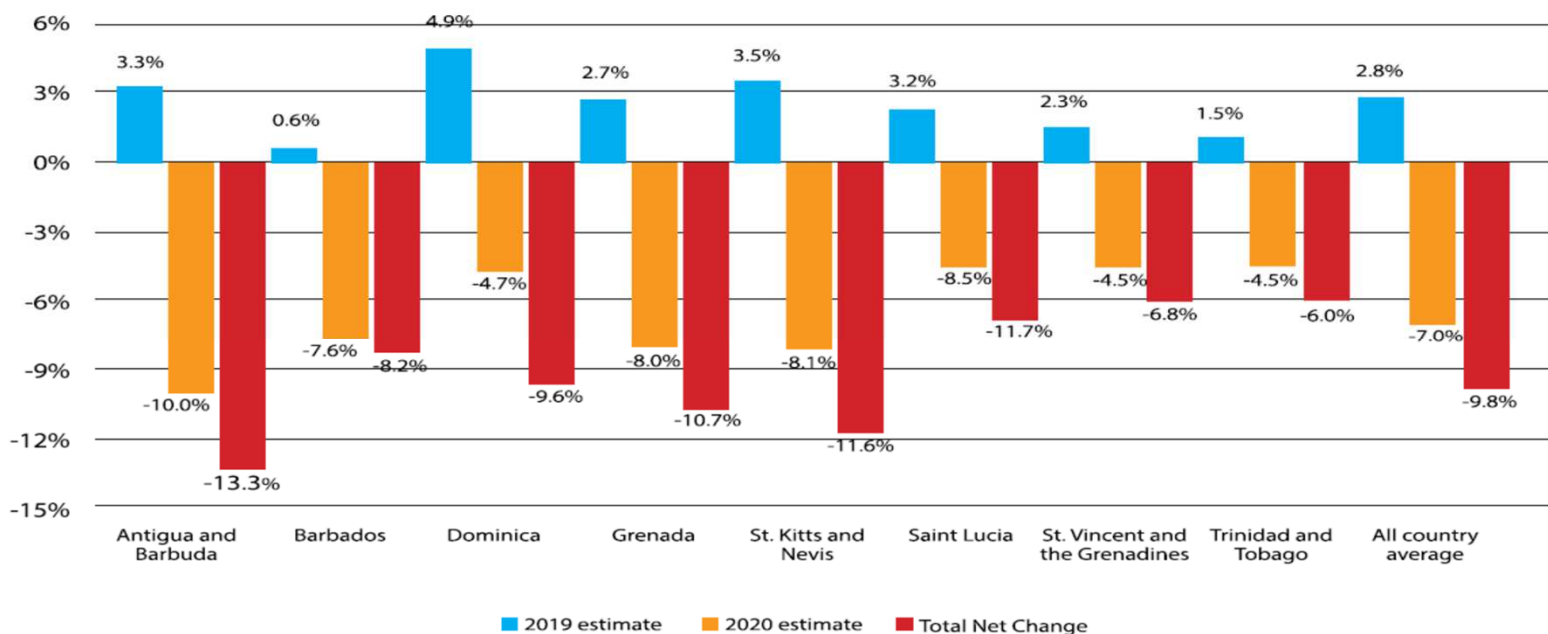
Carter, B., Roelen, K., Enfield S. and Avis, W. (2019). Social Protection Topic Guide. Revised Edition. K4D Emerging Issues Report. Brighton, UK: Institute of Development Studies <https://gsdrc.org/topic-guides/social-protection/types-of-social-protection/>

At a glance: Social protection status across the region

	Social Protection Policy	Social Protection Act	Operational and Targeting Tools (Social assistance)	Digitization of Social Registry	% Poor Coverage on Social Assistance
Anguilla	Developed	Passed since 2015	Yet to be developed	To be developed	14.6
Antigua & Barbuda	Pending approval	Drafted	Planned	Paper based	3.6
Barbados	Not yet developed	Social Assistance focus Passed 1969	Proxy Means Test (universal intake form)	To be developed (only MIS)	18.8
BVI	Planned	Not yet developed	Planned	To be developed	1.5
Dominica	Planned	Not yet developed	Operational Manual for Public Assistance Programme (PAP)	To be developed	11
Grenada	Developed – to be revised	Not yet developed	SOP for Support for Education, Empower and Development (SEED)	Online MIS	23.5
Montserrat	Planned	Drafted	Procedural Manual Public Assistance Programme – In Progress	Paper based	16.9
St. Kitts & Nevis	Developed – to be revised	Drafted	National Household Registry and Proxy Means Test	Household registry	37.2
St. Lucia	Developed – to be revised	Drafted	Saint Lucia National Eligibility Test (SLNET) Manual	Central Beneficiary registry	7.8
St. Vincent & Grenadines	Planned	Planned	Procedural Manual for Public Assistance	MIS in development	30.3

Negative GDP growth – Higher demand with more children living in poverty

Figure 2: Projected GDP growth rates in 2020



NB. Data for Anguilla, British Virgin Islands, Montserrat and Turks and Caicos Islands are not available.
Source: IMF estimates, 2019 and 2020.

Impact of COVID-19 on social protection

— Figures for the Caribbean

Region	Percentage of children in poor households		Total number of children in poor households (in millions)		Change in percentage
	Baseline (ca.2018)	Projection (Q2 2020)	Baseline (ca. 2018)	Additional (Q2 2020)	
Central America and Mexico	50.1%	56.8%	33.3	3.9	+13.4%
South America	32.0%	41.2%	54.7	10.8	+28.8%
Caribbean	42.0%	49.8%	5.2	0.9	+18.6%
Latin America and Caribbean	38.2%	46.5%	71.6	15.6	+21.7%



Global Child Poverty Analysis on Impact of COVID-19, Save the Children and UNICEF, 2020

- Document under Embargo

Socio-Economic Impact on Children of COVID-19

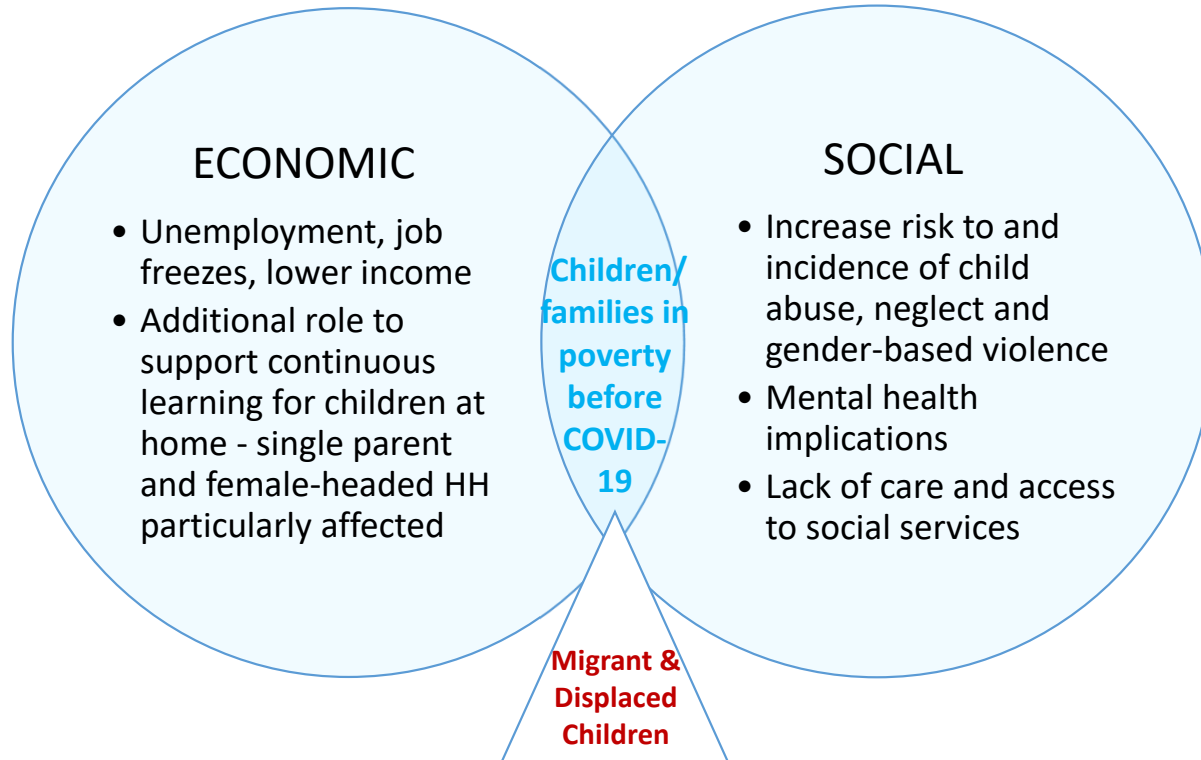


Table 3: Living arrangements of Children

Country	Living with both parents	Living with mother	Living with father	Living with neither parent	Not stated	All
Barbados	33.5	48.7	7.6	5.6	4.7	100.0
Saint Lucia	39.6	43.6	4.6	10.5	1.6	100.0
Trinidad & Tobago	54.9	31.5	4.9	6.6	2.0	100.0

Source: Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) – Trinidad and Tobago, 2011; Saint Lucia, 2012; Barbados, 2012.

UNICEF Social protection responses to COVID-19

Social assistance Social assistance scale-up incl. cash and food in-kind/vouchers

Social care Social care scale-up, psychosocial support services.

Social insurance Establishing unemployment benefits for formal/informal workers

Paid sick leave **COORDINATION**

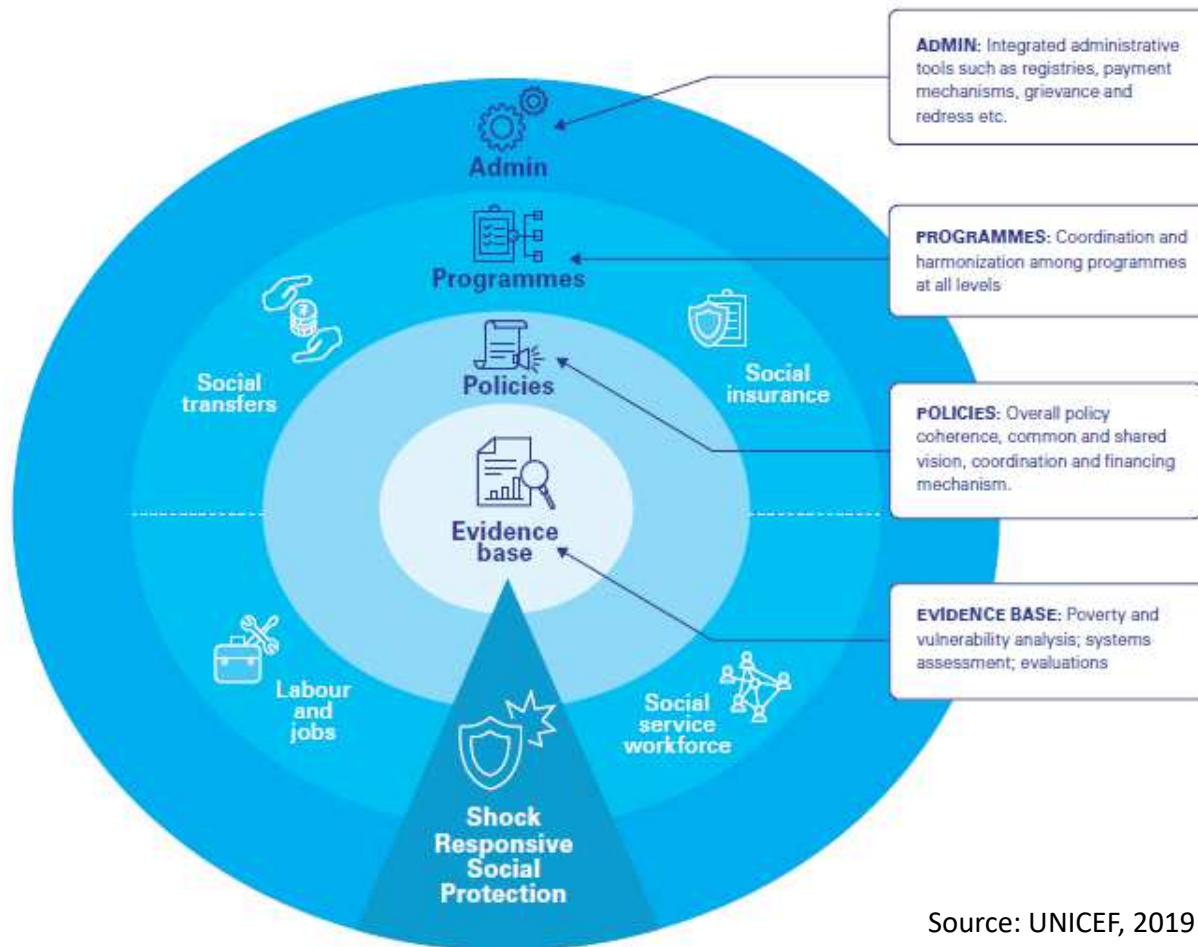
Labour Market Support to Small and Medium Size Enterprises

Interventions to support specific business sector

Coverage Gaps of Social Assistance – across the Eastern Caribbean

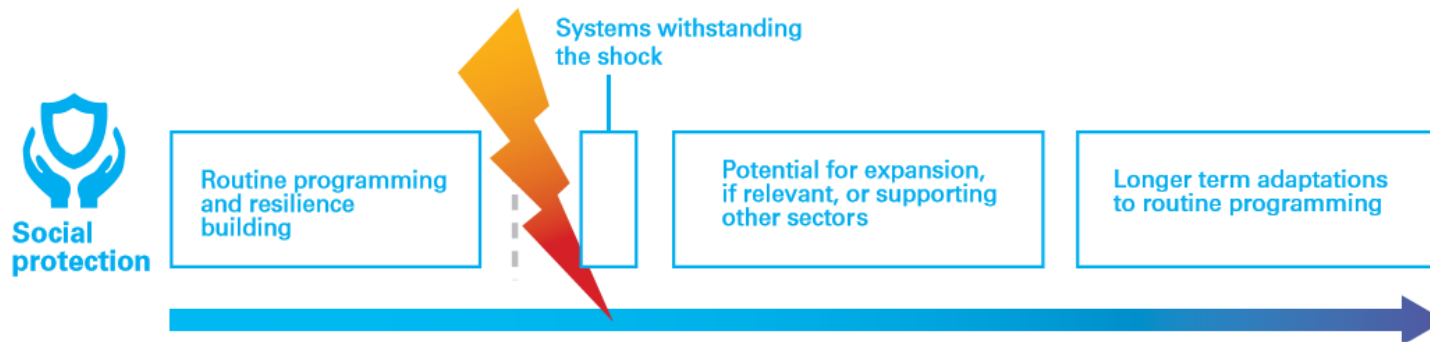
	Pre-COVID-19 Total Number of Children Living in Poverty	COVID-19 Social Assistance CT Expansion Coverage of Children
Grenada	20,289	998* (horizontal)
Anguilla	239	164
Antigua and Barbuda	6,562	387
St. Kitts and Nevis	5,690	408*
Dominica	9,024	535
St. Lucia	16,800	463
Notes *Does not include migrant and informal workers programme		

Child-sensitive Social Protection Systems



Source: UNICEF, 2019

Shock-Responsive Social Protection – to address children



- ❑ **Evidence-informed:** considering child vulnerability, not just poverty; analyses and system assessment incl. capacity to respond
- ❑ **Policy and legislation** to include focus on shocks, supporting their implementation with SOPs and coordination beyond 'routine' SP actors; determining fiscal space and contingency financing
- ❑ **Programme** design and implementation adapted, linking services to achieve continuous quality delivery
- ❑ **Administration** to ensure routine service delivery can be maintained throughout shocks, integrating services to facilitate response

UN Support to Social Protection in the Context of COVID-19



- [Joint SDG Fund Programme](#) “Universal Adaptive Social Protection to Enhance Resilience and Accelerate SDGs in the Eastern Caribbean”

USD 4.75 million



Barbados

- **COVID-19:** Supporting the National Insurance Scheme information management, monitoring and outreach
- Improving coherence of social protection and making it more adaptive



Saint Lucia

- **COVID-19:** Supporting the expansion of social assistance
- Strengthening policy, legislation and social protection programmes to be more shock-responsive



OECS

- Regional Social Protection Strategy
- Enhancing learning and evidence sharing on social protection

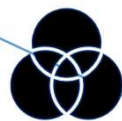
- COVID-19 Multi Sector Response Plan USD 29.7 million funding appeal (incl. USD 12 million for social protection)



Recommendations to ensure child-sensitive social protection post COVID-19



1. Integrate scale-up of programmes in existing social protection system (Relax existing criteria, not create new programmes)



2. Coordinate the overall response with social security to create a comprehensive framework of assistance



3. Advocate to expand social assistance and social security to be more inclusive where possible



4. Leverage financing opportunities of domestic resources and IFIs to support social protection needs



5. Invest in opportunities to strengthen systems in times of crisis (policy, delivery processes, data management)

THANK YOU Q&A

