

COVID- 19 Stimulus Response

Assessing Social Security Country Measures

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Outline of Presentation

- Detailing the position of social Protection
- Elements of the call at the international level (SPIAC-B)
- Contextual reality
- Classification of Responses
- Challenges
- Conclusion & Recommendations



The Significance of Social Protection

- The universal right to social protection must be built into national policies and laws and global and regional frameworks in order to reduce poverty, inequality and social exclusion and to allow such protection to act as an automatic social and economic stabilizer
- Social protection both reduces poverty and prevents people from falling into poverty. With political will, sound design, costing and fiscal space analysis, as well as inclusive social dialogue, even in times of austerity, social protection systems, including social protection floors, can be progressively established and strengthened (66)”



- Social protection systems are an indispensable part of a coordinated policy response to the unfolding crisis, ensuring that people can effectively access health care while supporting job and income security for those most affected. They increase resilience, contribute to preventing poverty, unemployment and informality and are powerful economic and social stabilizers that can contribute to a swift recovery (ILO 2020a). By combining health interventions with social protection measures,

governments can respond effectively to the crisis. In doing so, especially in countries with a large informal sector, extending protection to those not yet covered should be at the centre of policy efforts (ILO 2020d). Social dialogue and consultations with social partners and other stakeholders are particularly important for such coordinated policy responses.

International Call

SPIAC-B

- Ensure access to health services and support people in adapting necessary prevention measures
- Income security and access to essential goods and services and protect human capabilities
- Prioritise the most vulnerable
- Mobilize substantial domestic and international financing to protect and enhance fiscal space for health and social protection in all countries
- Ensure continued/scaled up and coordinated delivery capacities of social protection and humanitarian crisis response programmes
- Design crisis response measures also with a view to strengthening social protection systems in the medium and long term

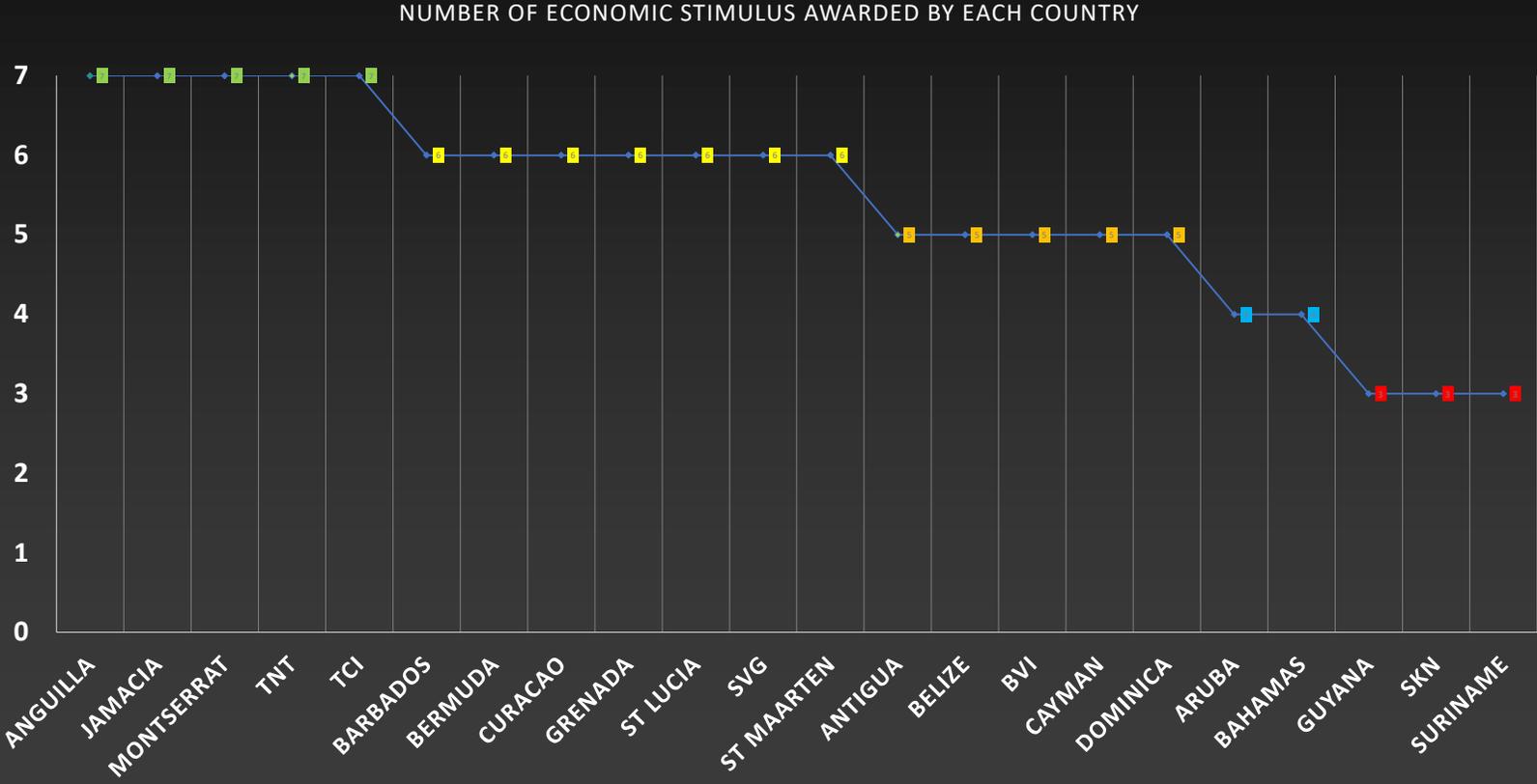
Contextual Position

- ECONOMIC- low/slow growth rate, high debt to GDP ratios, high unemployment/high levels of informality, limited fiscal space, high dependency on remittances
- HEALTH & DEMOGRAPHIC -NCDs leading cause of death with social and economic impact, declining fertility/ birth rates
- SOCIAL PROTECTION- low coverage, unemployment, wage levels
- INFORMALITY-
- FINANCIAL & Actuarial - Admin expenses, dependency/ratio burden, sufficiency periods, reserve levels, compliance rates/level of delinquency

Classification of Responses

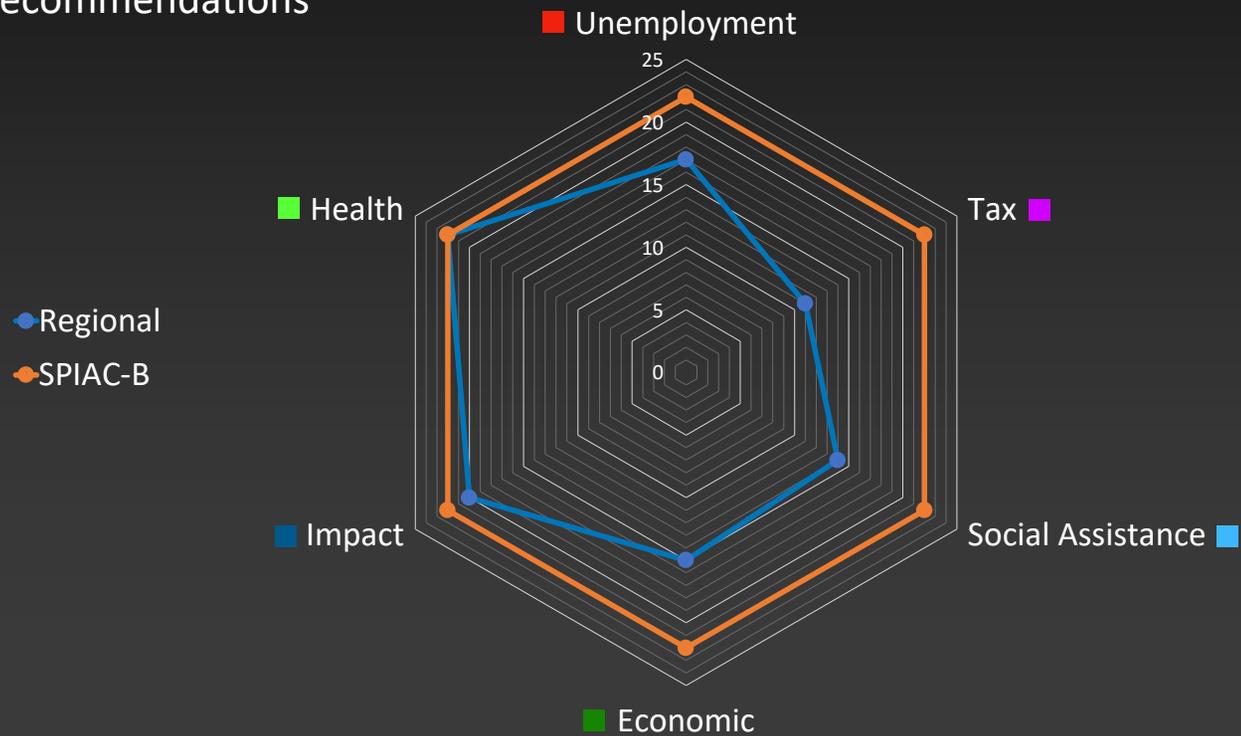
	Unemployed, Multisectoral unemployed and Underemployed Measures - refers to the assistance provided to persons as a means of income replacement targeting those who were rendered unemployed and underemployed.
	Tax Measures - pertains to assistance or rescheduled VAT payment and tax relief both at the personal and business level.
	Social Assistance Measures – assistance given to vulnerable or destitute persons, aged, at risk households, food assistance relief etc.
	Economic Injection Measures - extent of injection by central Government of financial stimulus, including moratoriums on mortgages, to keep the economy moving.
	Economic Sector Measures - sectoral injection in the dominant employment areas and specific targeted injections to key sectors e.g. tourism and small businesses.
	Impact extent of distribution (number of persons) - the specific targeted, dominant areas, personal/households.
	Health Assistance Measures – Assisting with internal (specific to the institution) and community measures to support compliance with COVID-19 preventative measures (social distancing, protective gears etc.)

Classification of Responses Continued...



Classification of Responses Continued...

Regional Measures Mapped
Against SPIAC-B
Recommendations



Challenges

Representation

- What is on offer Noted were:
- Width and breath of the responses in terms of who are in receipt of assistance - unemployed, underemployed
- Level % of insurable earnings income replacement
- Duration of benefit verses the timeline of the virus impact and ability to return to work
- Size of the dominant employment sector and how it has been accommodated

Challenges

Responsiveness

- The timeliness- what impacted the offering
- Availability of data set required to design and develop intervention measures
- Systemic challenges ICT, manpower- need to social distance but not having the ability to work from home, internet connectivity
- Completeness of individual data in the NIS system for registrants
- Compliance - submission of contribution data set to verify UB receipt claims
- Roll out of benefit -approval process given the limitations of the current environment

Challenges

Reliability

- How and to what extent are the needs met-
- level of income replacement
- The equity notion as it relates to the underemployed / unemployed
- Treatment of quarantined isolated persons

Challenges

Responsibility

- The measure of appropriate balance-
- role and function of social safety net
- Being mindful of the extent of the shock and the financial and Actuarial risk
- soundness, sustainability
- Safeguards attached to social protection framework

Recovery

- Confronted with an uninsurable shock like the COVID-19 Pandemic, what institutional and public policy measures are deemed necessary to provide an operational framework that will impact recovery and seek to support the fundamental of a social protection safety net that is all embracing?
- What is deemed appropriate in terms of interventions specific to Labour force and Labour market protection in an era fraught with economic, social and health challenge that are all made worst by the COVID-19 pandemic?
- The **new normal** what will need to change, what will it be? Will there now be a mandate for all forms of work to be covered by Social Security? Will Self Employed coverage now be mandatory? What will be the role for regulation, or will there be the need for more deregulation to lessen the tax burden and so expand disposable income?

Conclusion

- The COVID-19 Pandemic impacted every aspect of life, livelihood, stability and productivity. No Economic sector was spared, the supply chain was impacted in ways that led to panic buying, hoarding and shortages. Social cracks were expanded and the need for a safety net has become not only essential but a critical imperative.
- On the Global seen unemployment level spiked given the unprecedented levels of business closures.
- How and what response is deemed necessary and sufficient? Into this mix comes the reality that human dignity, well-being, and safeguard from poverty must be key essentials of any framework being assessed as possible solutions.
- Given the high level of uncertainty associated with the pandemic, the measures that would be deemed sufficient or appropriate can only be fully determined at a subsequent time.

Conclusion Continued...

- Whatever the direction, it is clear, that Social Protection must be safeguarded. As stated in the World Social Protection Report (2017-2019) “Social Protection plays a key role in ensuring income security for women and men of working age, in the form of maternity protection, unemployment support, employment injury protection and disability benefit. These schemes contribute to smooth incomes and aggregate demand, enhance human capital and promote decent and productive employment. Social Protection also facilitate structural change within economies and labour market, and contribute to inclusive and sustainable growth”
- The key Economic indicators and enablers must be enhanced by a public policy framework that when implemented expands the Labour market as well as create new protocols to safeguard wellbeing and expand economic growth.
- Let us explore all the opportunities to expand this safeguard in the face of this Pandemic.

Recommendations

- Commencement of an Enhanced Social dialogue framework process, to address renewal and expansion within the labour market, taking into consideration the contribution that social protection makes to structural change within economies and sustainable growth while at the same time enhancing human capital and promoting decent and productive employment.
- The design of an expanded labour market information System to collate multi sectoral, health, occupation and employment data linked to the free movement of labour system and
- Social Security Systems data base to provide critical data as a one stop shop

Recommendations Continued...

- Protection of strategic sources of employment- all systems to be expanded to include unemployment insurance/coverage
- Long term visionary approach for Social Protection - self-employed to be no longer optional within Social Security
- Risk and resiliency framework - as a crisis response mechanism - to limit the impact on the Social Security reserves and so heighten the issue of sustainability as a critical Actuarial and financial imperative
- Examine the public policy requirement for Enhancing the regional frame to advance the implementation of National Health Insurance to improve access to health care while at the same time impacting wellness and wellbeing



Thank You!