

# Impact of COVID-19 on global social protection (SP) systems

Prior to COVID, only 45 per cent of the global population was effectively covered by at least one social protection benefit (International Labour Organization, 2021).

**Table 1. Impact of COVID-19, Global**

Indicator	2019	2020
Food security (People acutely food insecure) (Mil.) <sup>i</sup>	135	265
Migrants (Mil.)	272	281
Refugees (Mil.)	25.9	26.4
IDPs (Mil.) <sup>ii</sup>	50.8	55
World output (Annual % change in GDP) <sup>iii</sup>	2.3	-3.5
General government fiscal balance (% of GD) <sup>iv</sup>	-3.6	-10.8
World trade (Annual % change in trade volumes)	0.9	-8.5
Remittance flows (Annual % change in remittance flow to low and middle-income countries) <sup>v</sup>	3.2	-7.0
Jobs (% Working-hour loss (Mil. FTE jobs)) <sup>vi</sup>	-	8.8 (255)

<sup>i</sup> WFP: COVID-19 will double number of people facing food crises, April 2020

<sup>ii</sup> UN SG Policy Brief on COVID-19 and People on the Move, UNHCR and IDMC data

<sup>iii</sup> IMF WEO, April 2021

<sup>iv</sup> IMF WEO, April 2021.

<sup>v</sup> World Bank & KNOMAD staff estimates, October 2020

<sup>vi</sup> ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition, January 2021

Impact of the pandemic:

- Creation of new vulnerabilities and exacerbation of existing ones
- Global job losses
- Increased debt distress and surging fiscal deficits
- Increased poverty and inequality – within and between countries
- Varied government responses due to factors including readiness of SP systems and fiscal space