

# **Social protection to guarantee access to quality health care and enhance income security**

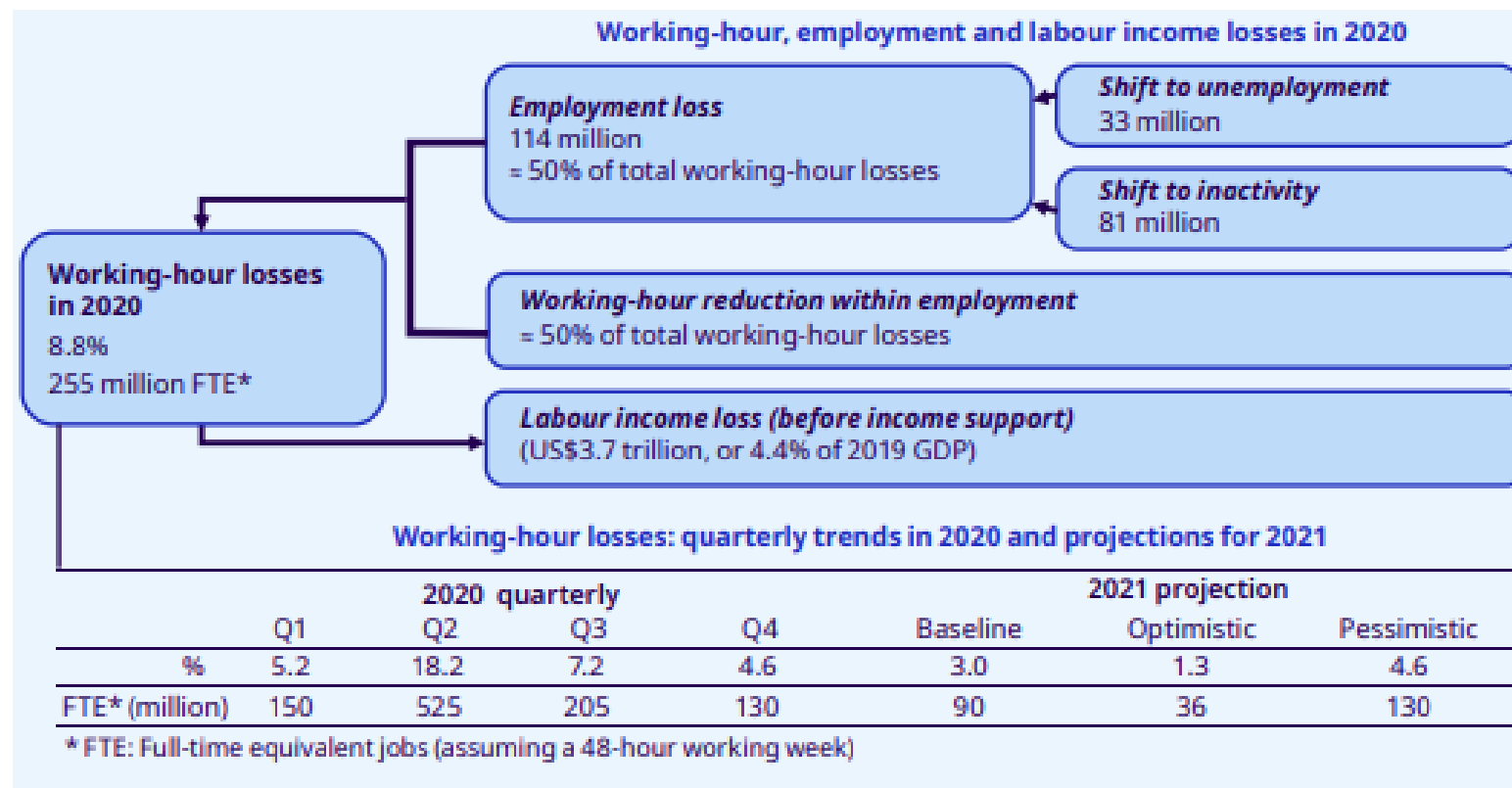
WHO Global Webinar No. 4: Confronting Poverty and Income Insecurity during COVID-19 through Strengthening Social Protection  
25 February 2021, 12.00-13.00

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## Public health challenge, socio-economic impacts

- ▶ The pandemic represents a public health challenge with serious economic and social impacts
- ▶ Total working-hour losses in 2020 (relative to Q4 of 2019) was 8.8%, equivalent to **255 million full-time jobs**

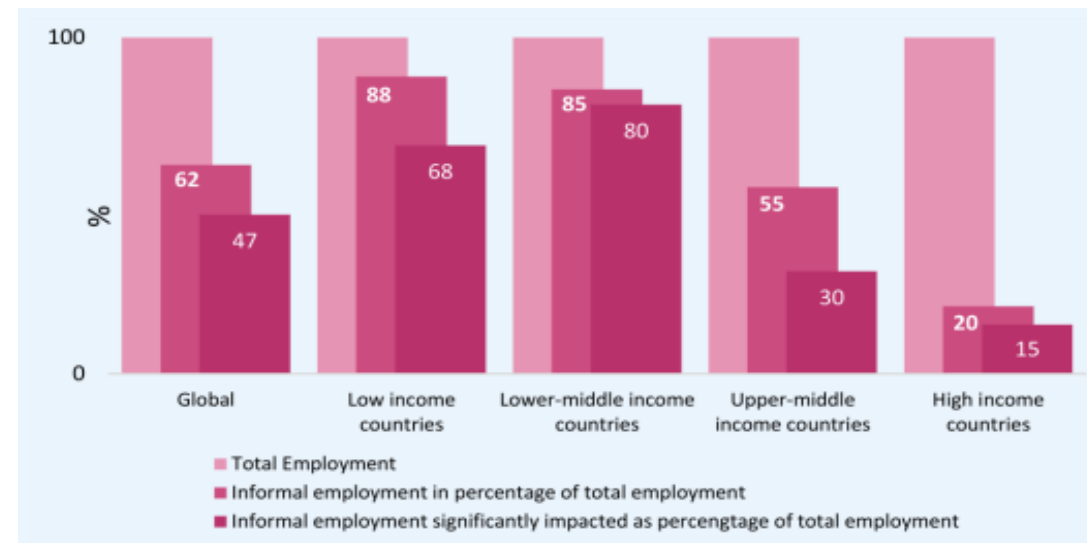


Source: ILO 2021. *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the world of work. Seventh edition Updated estimates and analysis*

## Structural inequality at the heart of the crisis

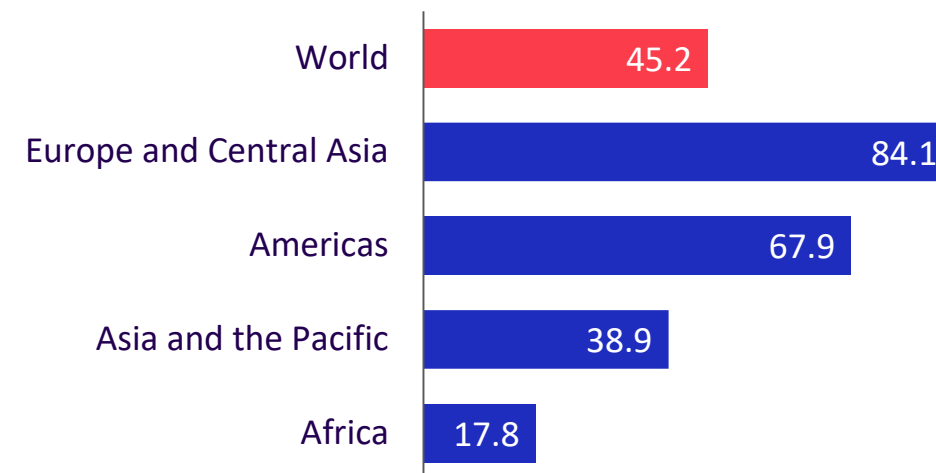
- ▶ The COVID-19 reveals huge coverage gaps in social protection (only 45.2% of global population covered)
- ▶ 61.2 per cent of the global workforce—2 billion workers in the informal economy—remain uncovered by social protection systems

How many informal economy workers have been affected?



Source: ILO. 2020. *ILO Monitor: COVID-19 and the World of Work. Third Edition Updated Estimates and Analysis.*

Only 45% of global population covered prior to COVID-19: 4 billion people excluded from coverage (SDG indicator 1.3.1)

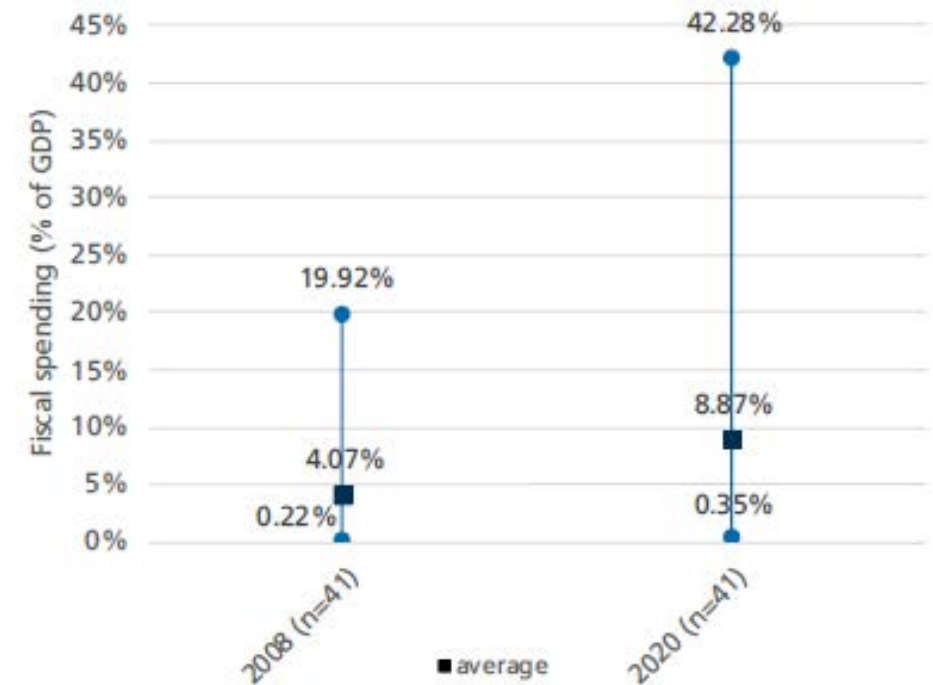


Source: *ILO World Social Protection Report, 2017-19*

## ► Social protection financing and the crisis response

- As of 1 February 2021, more than 196 countries have introduced domestic fiscal measures, totaling approximately US\$15.2 trillion.
- Most of these fiscal resources have been dedicated to the COVID-19 responses in high-income countries, with **only 0.06 per cent of the total being mobilized in low-income countries.**
- Low-income countries will to a larger extent have to rely on financing made available by IFIs and development partners.

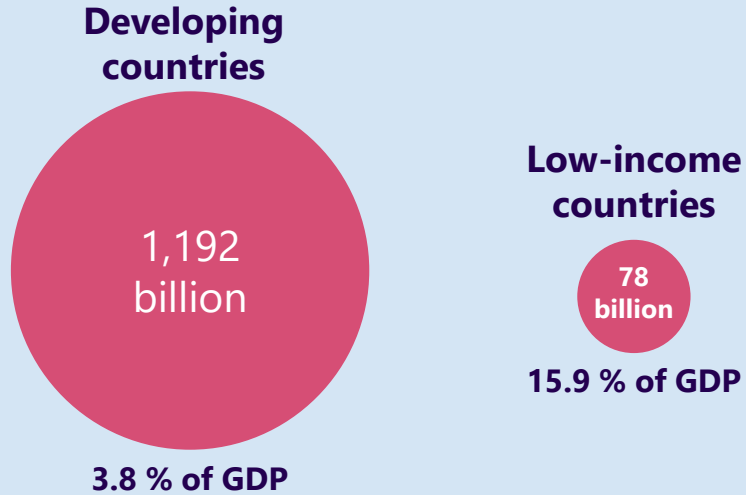
Economic stimulus packages, 2008–09 compared to 2020 (COVID-19 response more than twice as large)





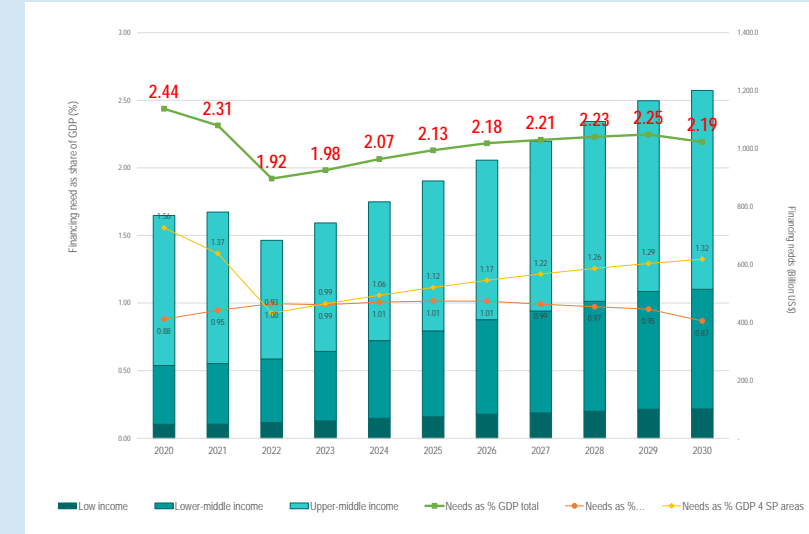
International  
Labour  
Organ

# SPF financing gap 2020:



# Incremental needs 2020-2030:

(in US\$ billions and as a % of GDP)



## Policy options:

- 1. Maximise domestic fiscal space, including taxes and social security contributions** (a priority)
- 2. Foster transitions from the informal to the formal economy.** Critical role of social security contributions.
- 3. Strengthen ODA.** Supporting the implementation and temporarily co-financing the benefits (priority in low-income countries).
- 4. Commit the IFIs to play a bigger part in protecting social expenditure.**
- 5. Global solidarity.** Increase financing for SP through global solidarity, prioritizing low-income countries.



Cost of Social  
Protection Floor  
Benefits:  
(% GDP developing countries )

Children  
  
0.6 %

Maternity  
  
0.1 %

Disability  
  
0.6 %

Old Age  
  
1.8 %

Health  
  
4.6 %

Total  
  
7.9 %