

# Interrelated well-being of children and their families in a changing world

**COFACE Families Europe and Family Initiative, European Expert Meeting  
The position of larger families with children in society: strengths and barriers**

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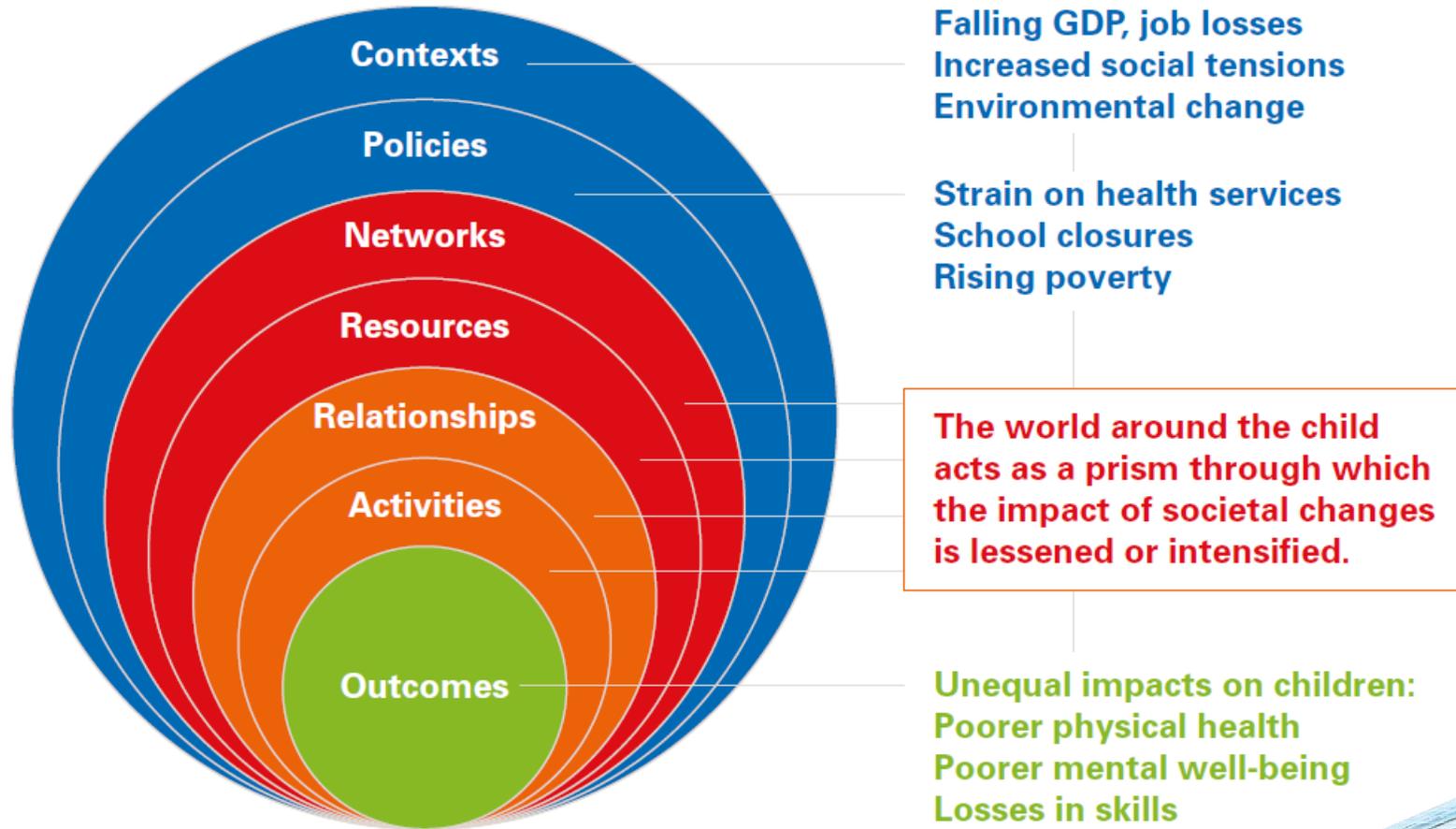


# Main messages

- Strong families are at the heart of economic and social development
- COVID-19 crisis is unique with multiple routes to affecting family life
  - A story of inequality before, during and after the crisis
- A complex multifaceted situation requires careful response
  - The role of stimulus and austerity?
- Evidence for positive effects of policies for families, and with families
- And so, focus on family is more relevant than ever – but most countries are not equipped
- Opportunity for resetting the public policy discourse



# Cascading impacts of the COVID19 crisis on families and children



# Family policies and the SDGs

- Family cash benefits consistently reduce poverty and deprivation – can promote employment and gender equality (SDG 1)
- Family focused health approaches are effective – behavioral interventions need family therapists too (SDG 3)
- Parental factors are key to education success, family policies can work for access – less so learning (SDG 4)
- Family policies need to be gender neutral in outcomes (SDG 5)
- Violence prevention by conditions and education (NFP) (SDG 16)

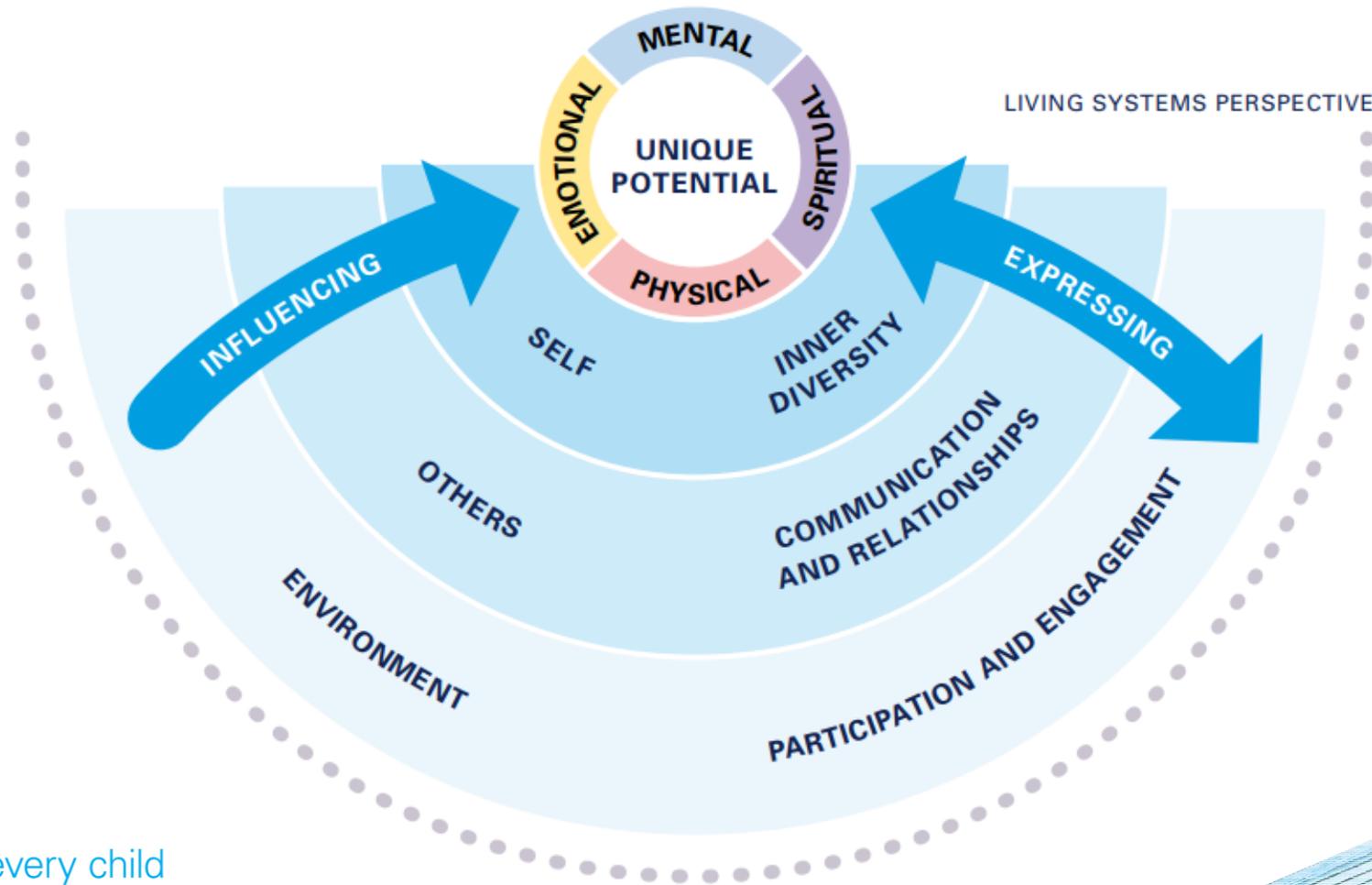


Effects on >>>	1 NO POVERTY	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	4 QUALITY EDUCATION	5 GENDER EQUALITY	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS
Policies and programming for						
1 NO POVERTY		e.g. Access to health in multiple countries, and health outcomes				
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING						
4 QUALITY EDUCATION						
5 GENDER EQUALITY						
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH						
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS						

- Observed SDGs connections via family focused policy and programming
- Strong spillover effects found in the majority of cases
- Yet to cover:
  - Health system effects



# Child development and well-being, evolving capacities, agency and rights



# New evidence on child development: What Makes Me?

- Core capacities are essential prerequisites to child development in terms of cognitive development, mental health, physical health, pro-social behaviours, and more
- Evident in children from the earliest ages
- Need to be protected *and* promoted to
  - Significantly improve children's life chances, and personal growth...
  - Maximise the potential of education systems globally, and expedite social, economic, and human development goals

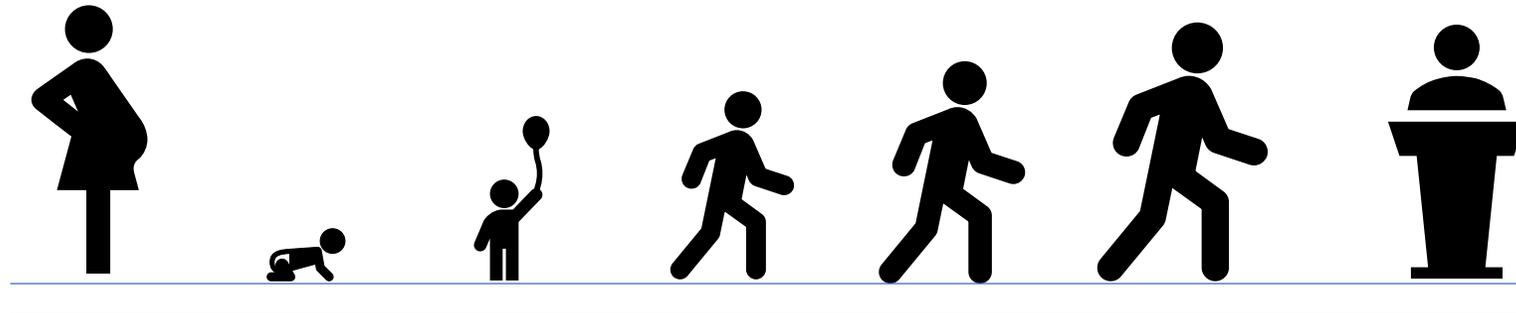


# Age-related development of core capacities

Listening, Empathising, Inquiring

Discerning patterns, Embodying, Observing, Reflecting, Relaxing, Sensing

Fluency in ideation, divergent thinking, self-regulation (ado), affective empathy, intuition

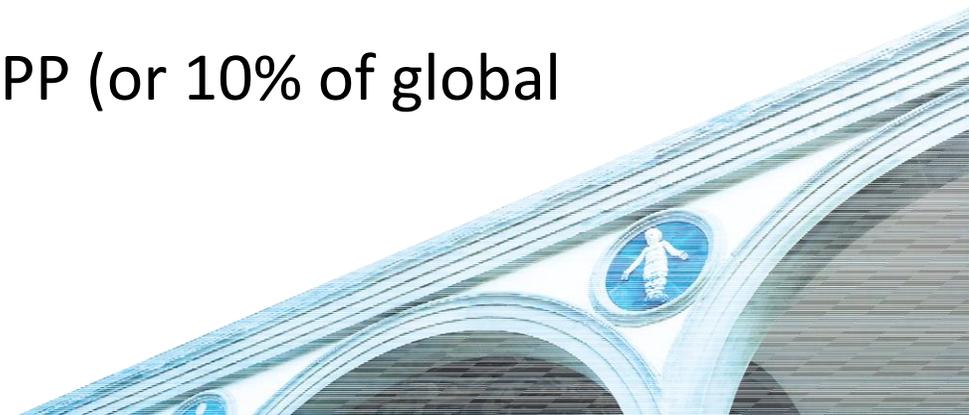


Speed of development and 'type' also matter!

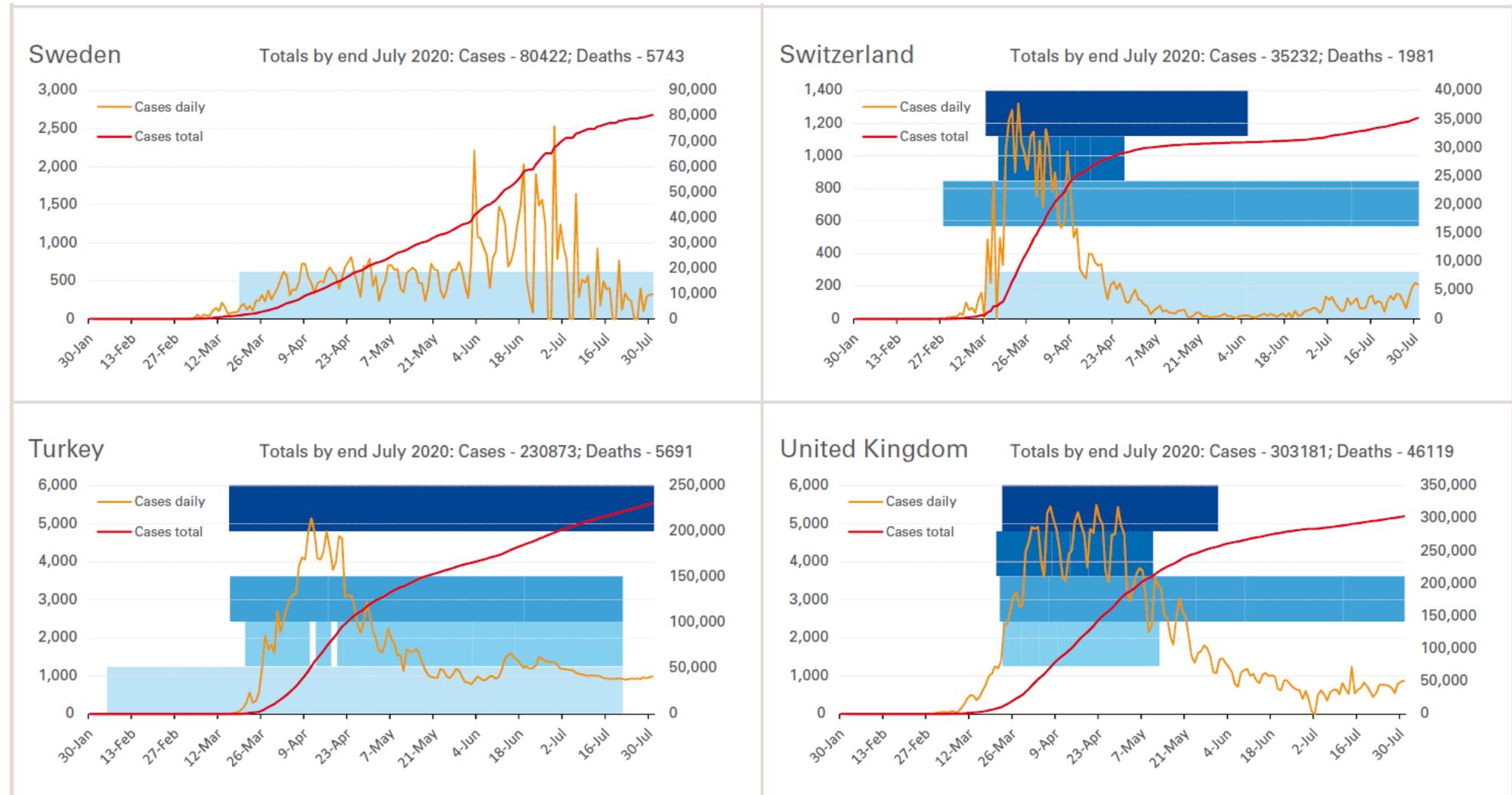


# What has happened during COVID?

- OECD predicted between 6 and 12% fall in the major economies, based on a single wave COVID
  - GFC saw a fall in GDP growth of 5-10%, higher in southern and eastern Europe
  - Resulting in sustained GDP per capita falls – (focus of our test, better measure of sustained effect of the crisis)
- Second and third waves passed: more lockdowns
- This is replicated in other country groupings: ECAR, WCAR
- Governments in HICs have spent 10tn+ USD PPP (or 10% of global GDP) on responses in first 6 months



# Schools closed workplaces open!

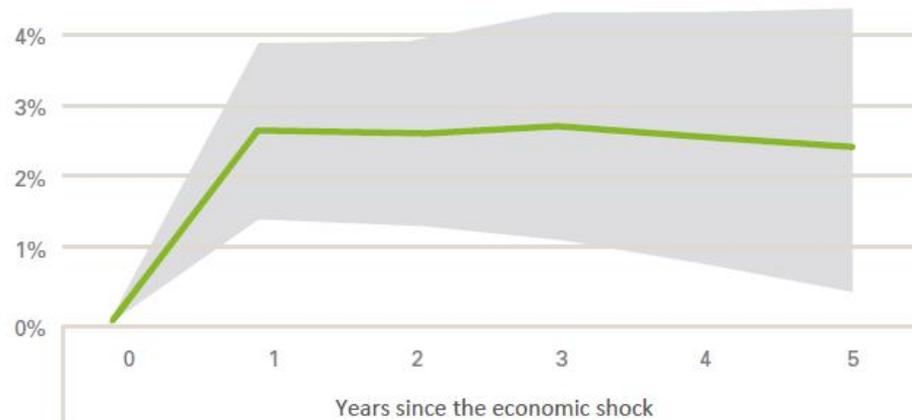


School (top)
  Workplace
  Public events
  Lockdowns
  International travel (last)

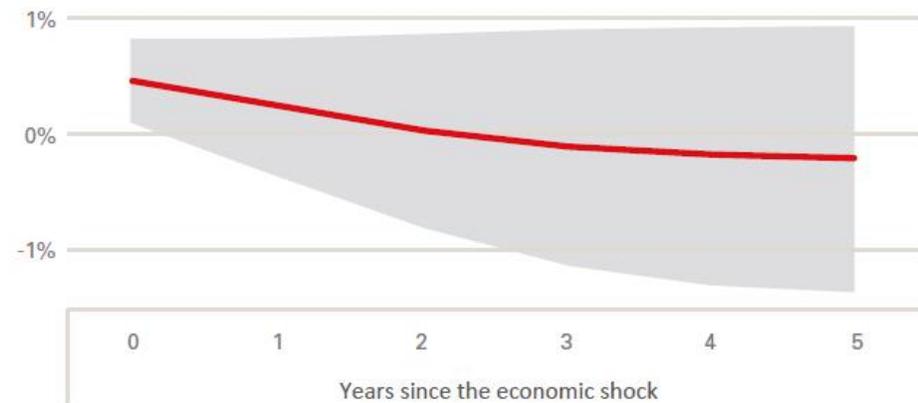
# What do we expect to happen to child poverty in Europe?

A sustained increased in child poverty, of 3% per 1 SD change growth

GDP per capita effects on child income poverty

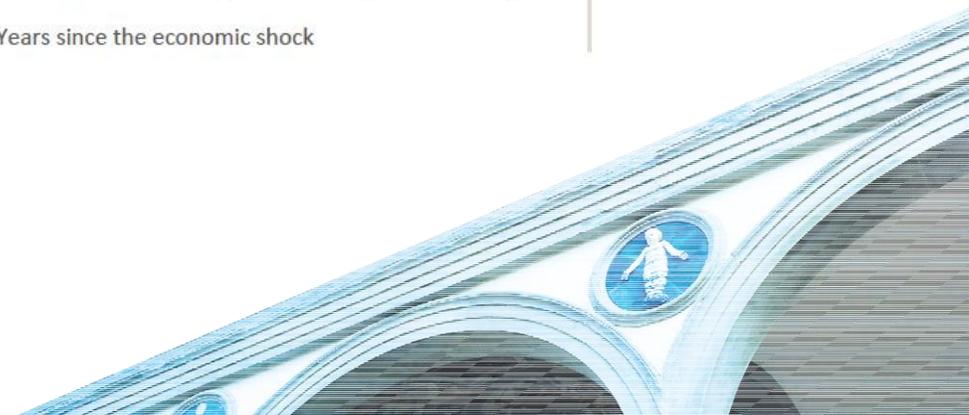


Child income poverty effects on GDP per capita



Green: significant at 95%

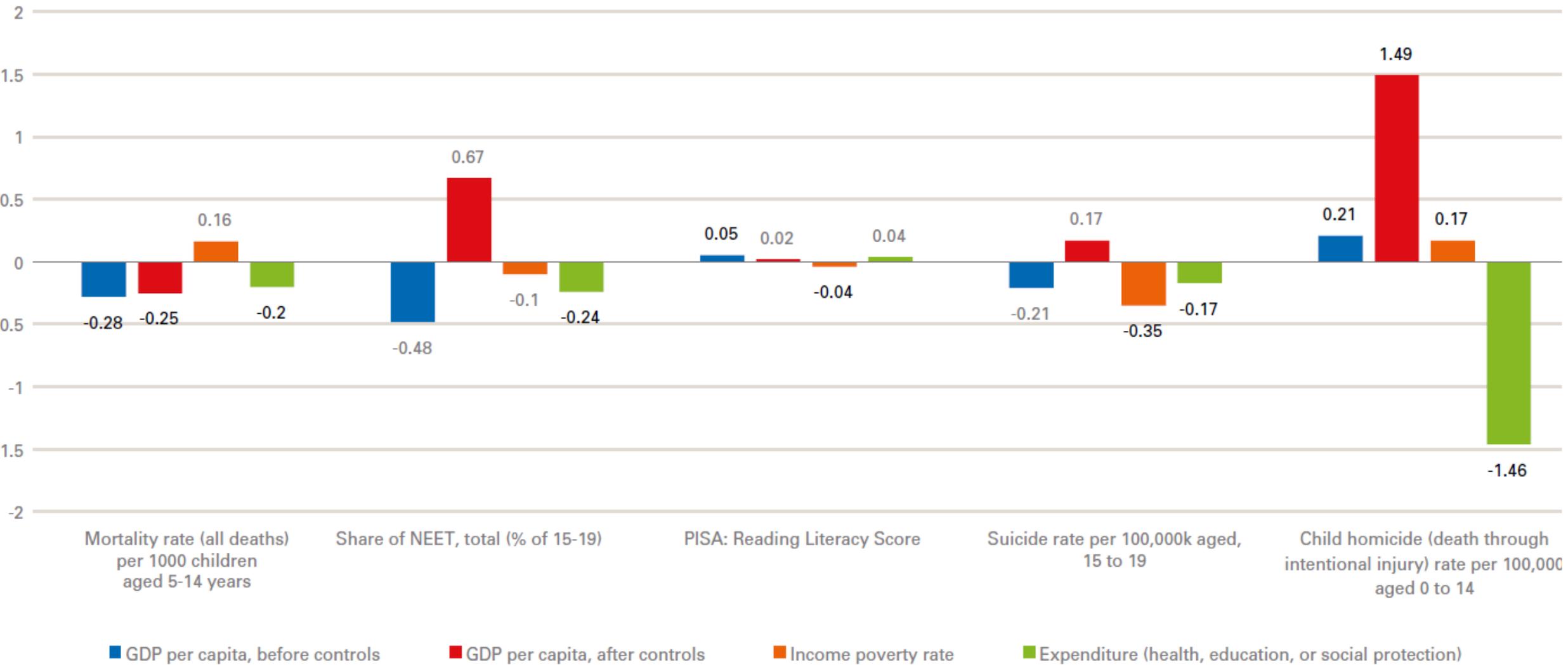
Red: NS



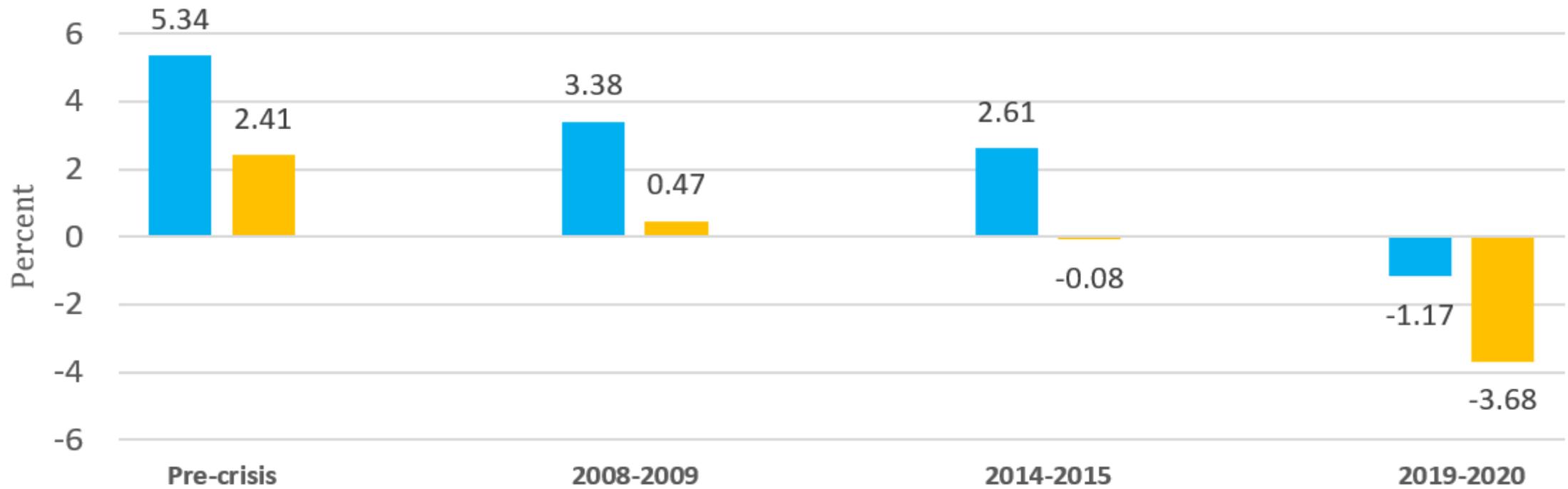
Country	Income poverty rate (cut-off point: 60% of median equiv. income)	Mortality rate (all deaths) per 1000 children aged 5-14	Share of NEET, total (% of 15-19)	PISA: Reading Literacy Score	Suicide rate per 100,000 aged 15-19	Child homicide (death through intentional injury) rate per 100,000 aged 0-14
<b>SDG targets</b>	<b>1.2.1</b>	<b>3.2.2</b>	<b>8.6.1</b>	<b>4.1.1</b>	<b>3.4.2</b>	<b>16.1.1</b>
Austria	19.2	0.8	5.3	484	6.6	0.57
Czechia	11	0.81	2.4	490	8.3	0.31
Germany	14.5	0.72	3.4	498	4.9	0.23
Slovak Republic	20.5	1.27	6.7	458		
<b>Slovenia</b>	<b>11.7</b>	<b>0.74</b>	<b>1.9</b>	<b>495</b>	<b>5.3</b>	<b>0</b>
Average (int.)	<b>19.6</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>6.3</b>	<b>485.1</b>	<b>5.9</b>	<b>0.3</b>

Source: Richardson et al. (2020). Note: In this country note we compare a selection of neighbouring European countries with similar economic and social conditions.

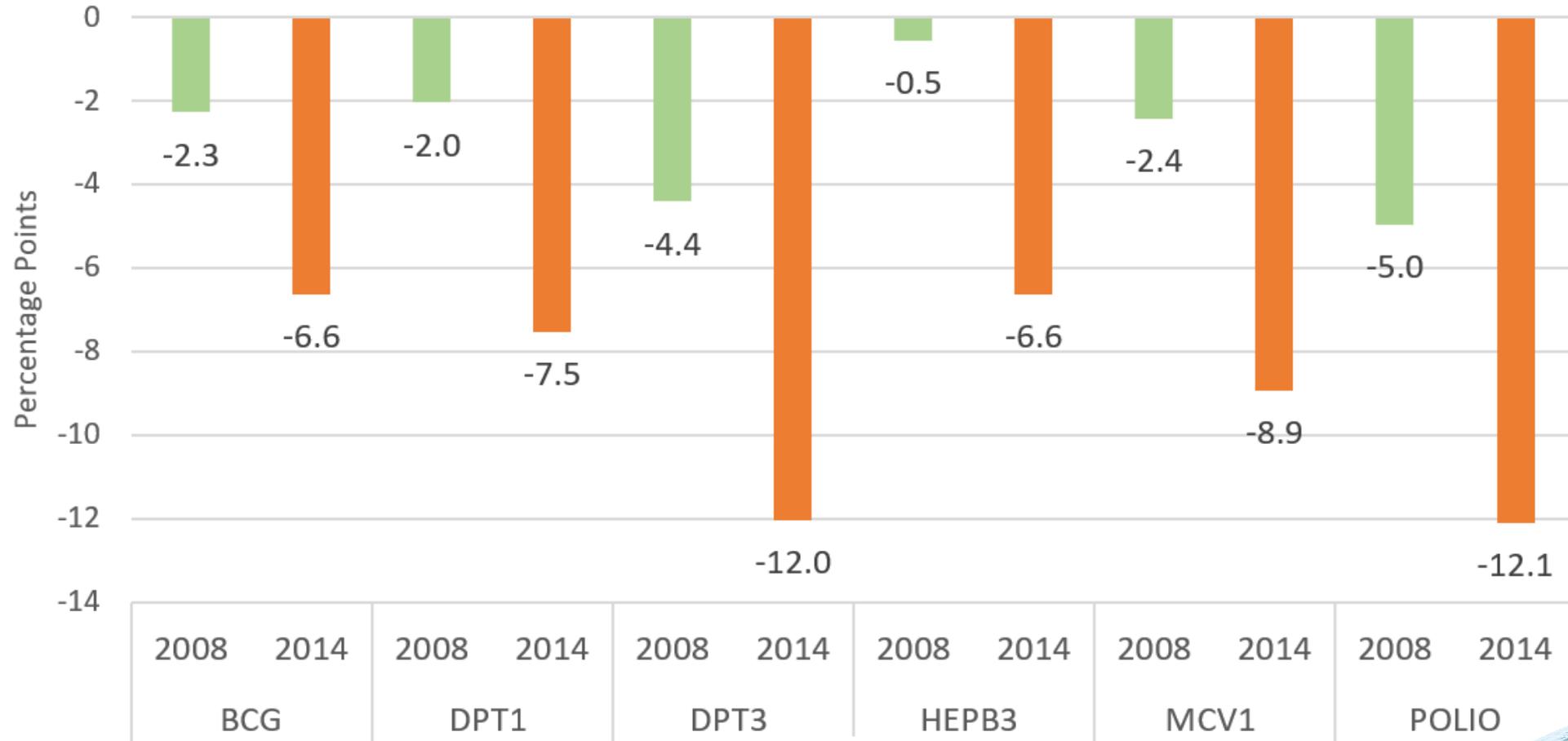
# What do we expect to happen to child-focused SDGs?



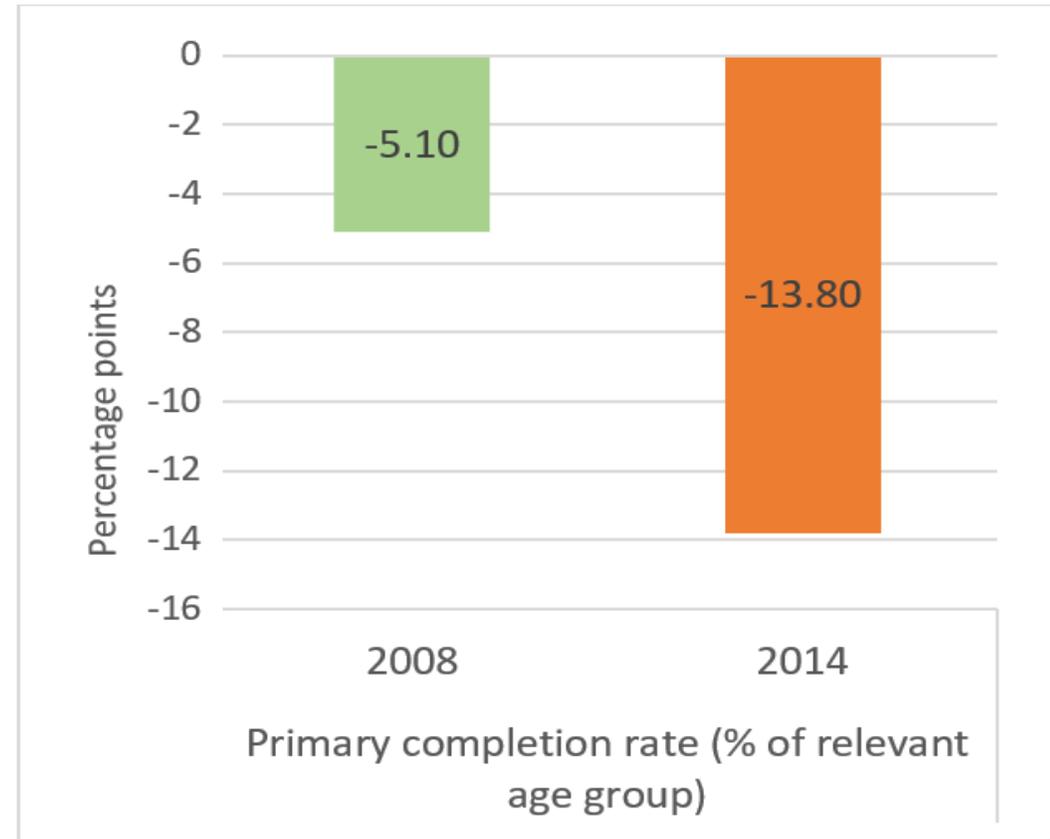
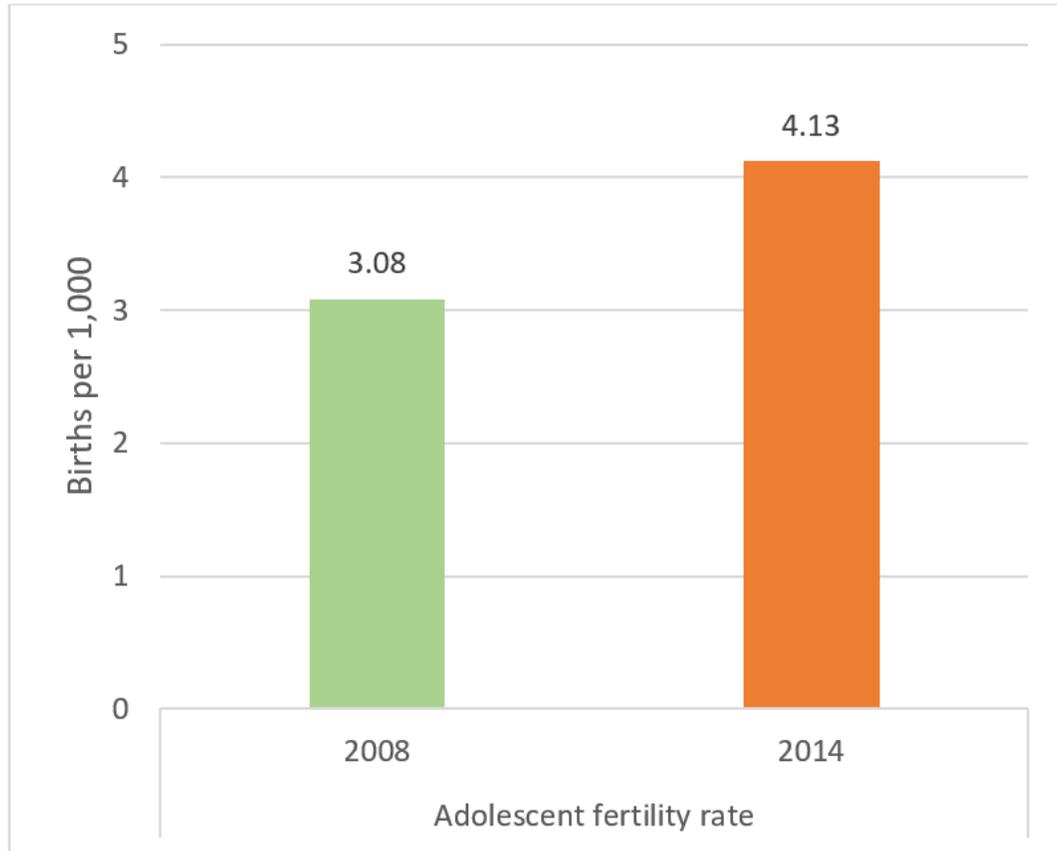
# GDP in West and Central Africa



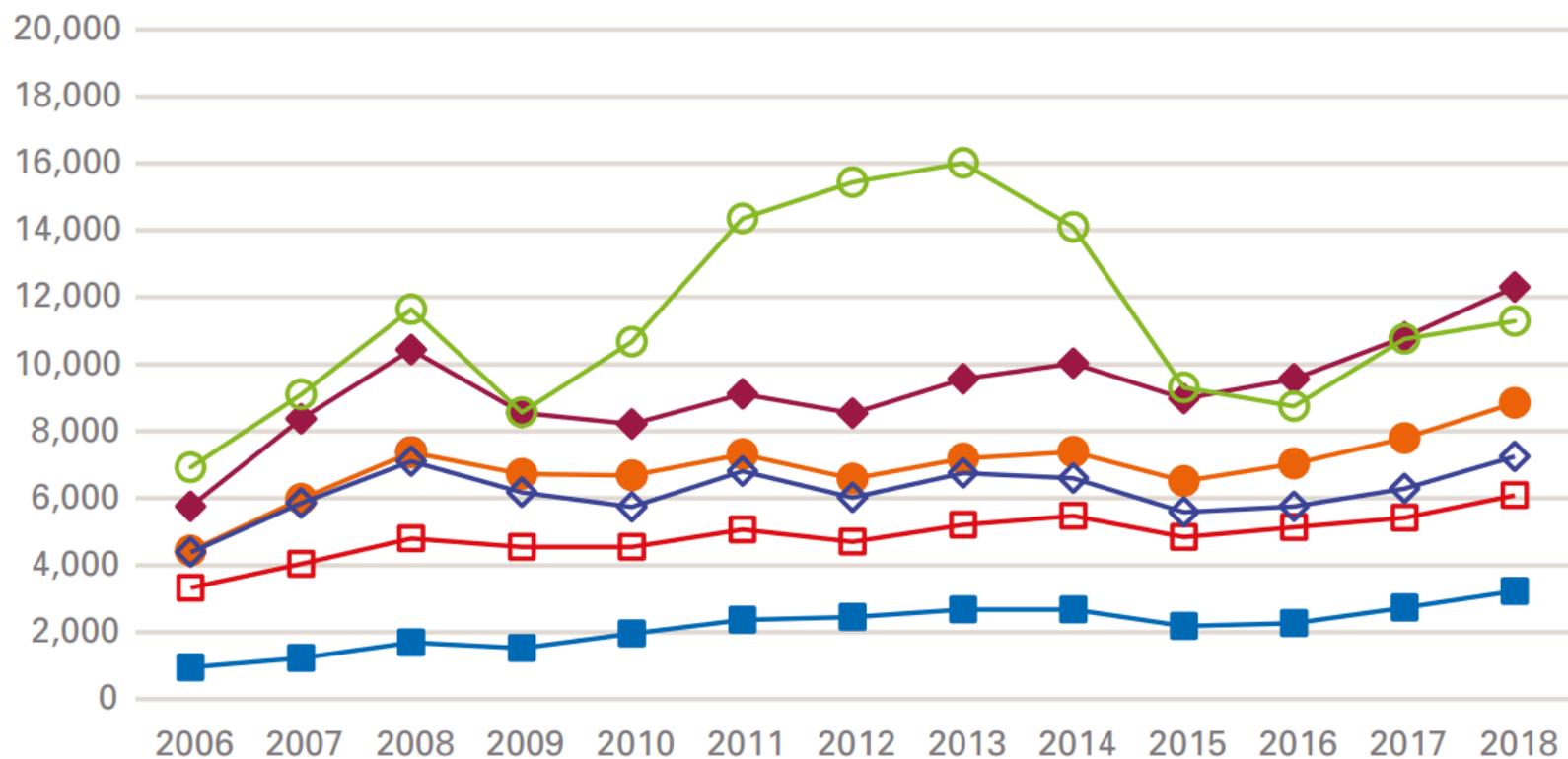
# Effects of crises in WCAR I



# Effects of crises in WCAR II



# GDP per capita trends in eastern Europe and Central Asia



■ Moldova  
◆ Romania

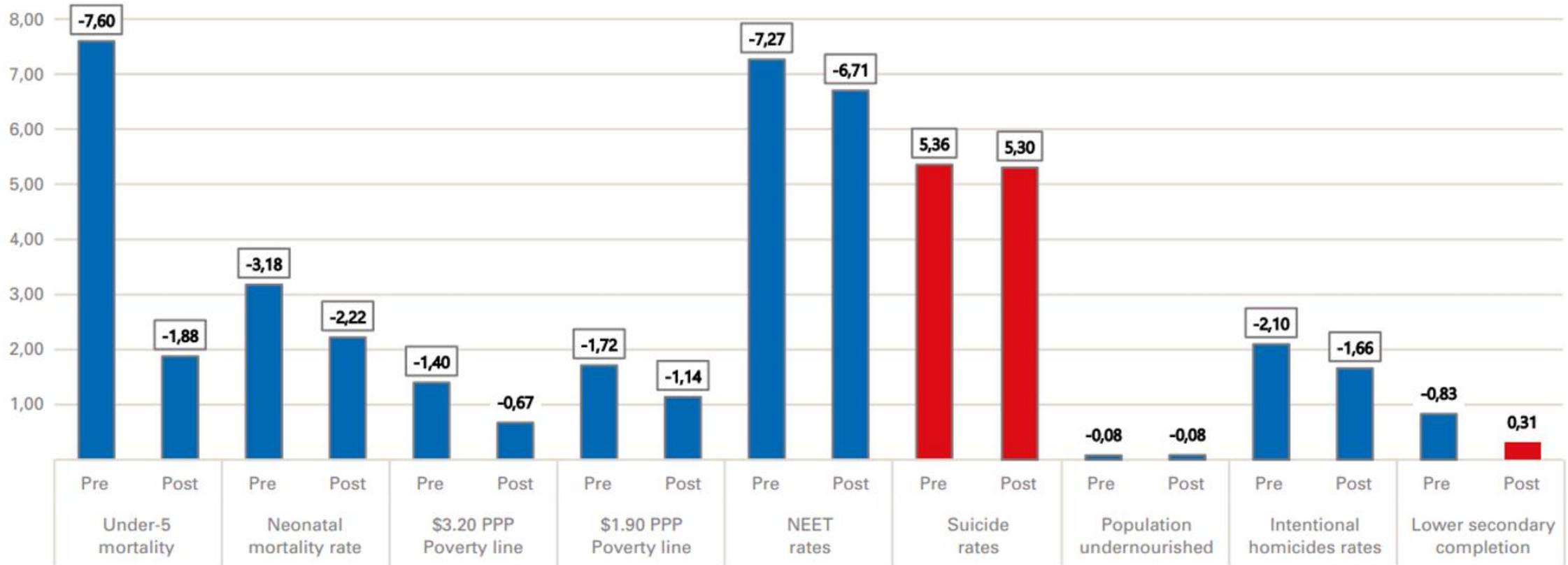
● Montenegro  
○ Russian Federation

□ North Macedonia  
◇ Serbia



# Significant impacts on mortality and poverty

Elasticity effect sizes: GDP per capita effects on SDG outcomes in ECA countries (2006-2016)



Source: Author's calculations of data. Sources reported in Annex Table 1.1, series from 2006 to 2018 where data is available. Full data, including lists of control variables, and associated test statistics are reported in Annex Table 3.1.

# Rapid Review: Crises and Disasters

**Rapid in onset, wide-ranging geographical reach**, disruption of social services and economic sectors without affecting governance systems.

Global financial crisis (2007–2008), West Africa Ebola Virus Disease outbreak (2013), SARS/MERS, H1N1 outbreaks, Indian Ocean tsunami (2003–2004), regional financial crises, extreme weather events, earthquakes

Lessons also drawn from **HIV/AIDS pandemic**

# Methodology: Selection criteria

**Economic policy responses:** economic stimulus; business grants; tax relief, rent/mortgage/utilities relief

## **Social protection responses:**

- **Social insurance** e.g. pensions, health insurance, paid sick leave
- **Social assistance** e.g. cash or in-kind transfers, public works
- **Job programmes:** minimum wage laws, training
- **Social services:** spending on health and education, social care

<b>Outcome domain</b>	<b>Indicators</b>
<b>Income and economic security</b>	poverty, household income, remittances, household consumption, indebtedness, savings, access to credit, food security, asset wealth, inequality
<b>Work</b>	adult employment, child labour, livelihood opportunities
<b>Health</b>	healthcare utilization, SRH, child health and nutrition, mental health, mortality rates, and risky health behaviours.
<b>Child education</b>	literacy, school attendance, enrolment, drop-out, academic skills, cognitive abilities.
<b>Safety, gender equality, GBV</b>	child marriage, intimate partner violence, women's autonomy in decision-making, care work/unpaid work; homelessness, crime.

# Methodology: Selection criteria

Evidence from study designs

- **Quantitative and qualitative**
- Systematic reviews
- Experimental and quasi-experimental impact evaluation studies
- Descriptive studies, policy reviews and policy papers

Publications (**from 2000-2020**): Peer reviewed published articles, grey literature, working papers, monographs, edited books, PhD theses

POLICY RESPONSES TO CRISES & THEIR IMPACTS		Income	Health	Education & Childcare	Work	Safety
 <p><b>Fiscal Measures</b></p>	Stimulus	Green	White	White	Orange	White
	Austerity	White	Red	Red	White	Red
 <p><b>Social Insurance</b></p>	Health Insurance	White	Green	White	White	White
	Unemployment Insurance	Green	White	White	Orange	White
	Weather Insurance	Green	White	White	White	White
 <p><b>Social Transfers, Social Services, &amp; Job Programmes</b></p>	Cash Transfers	Green	Green	Green	Green	White
	Food & School Feeding	White	Green	Green	White	White
	School & Health Subsidies	White	White	Orange	White	White
	Social Services	White	Green	Green	White	White
	Job Programmes	Green	Green	Red	Green	White

# Responses to past crises

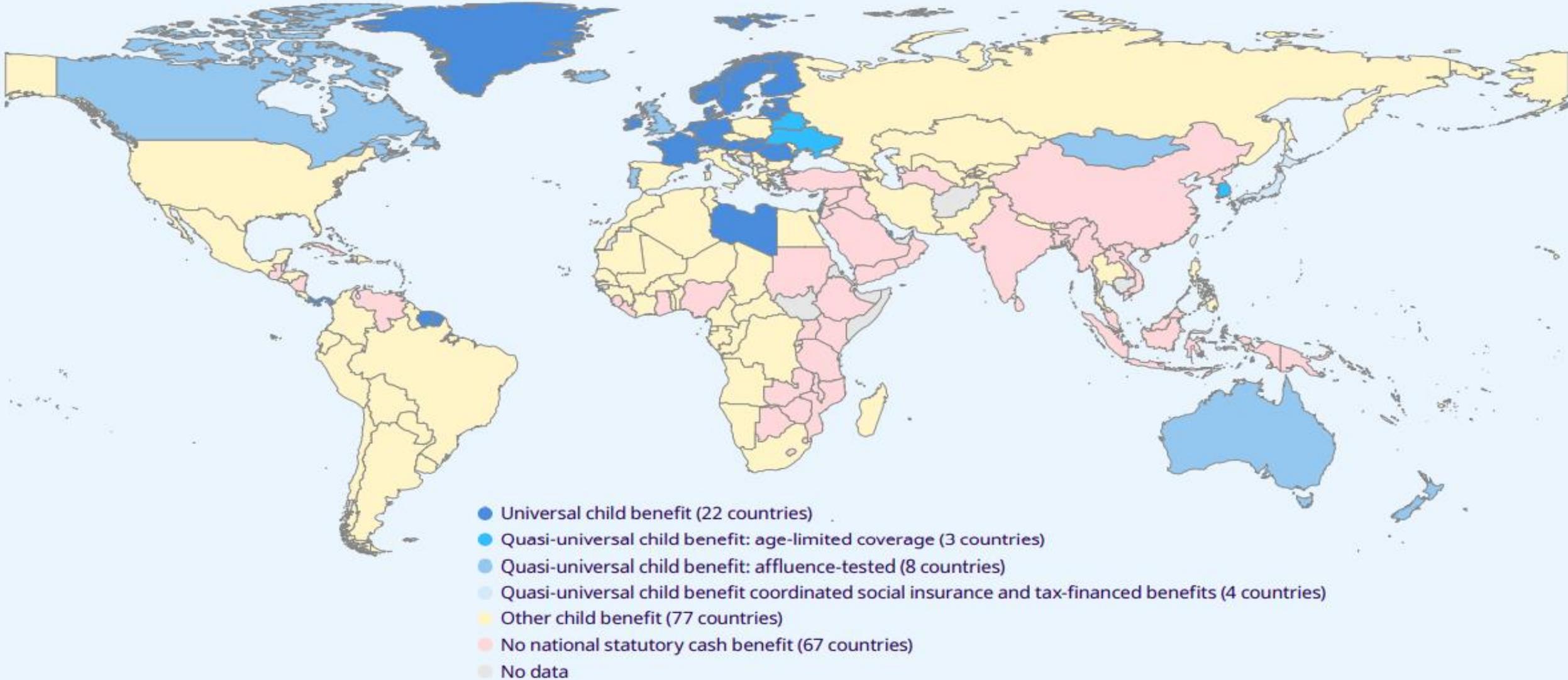
One-off emergency cash transfers a common response to natural disasters. Cash transfers rarely long-term.

Weak social protection systems and low revenues constrained responses in low-income countries.

High rates of informal labour limit coverage and budgets.

Inequality increased during past crises and austerity, highlights an important mitigation role for social protection

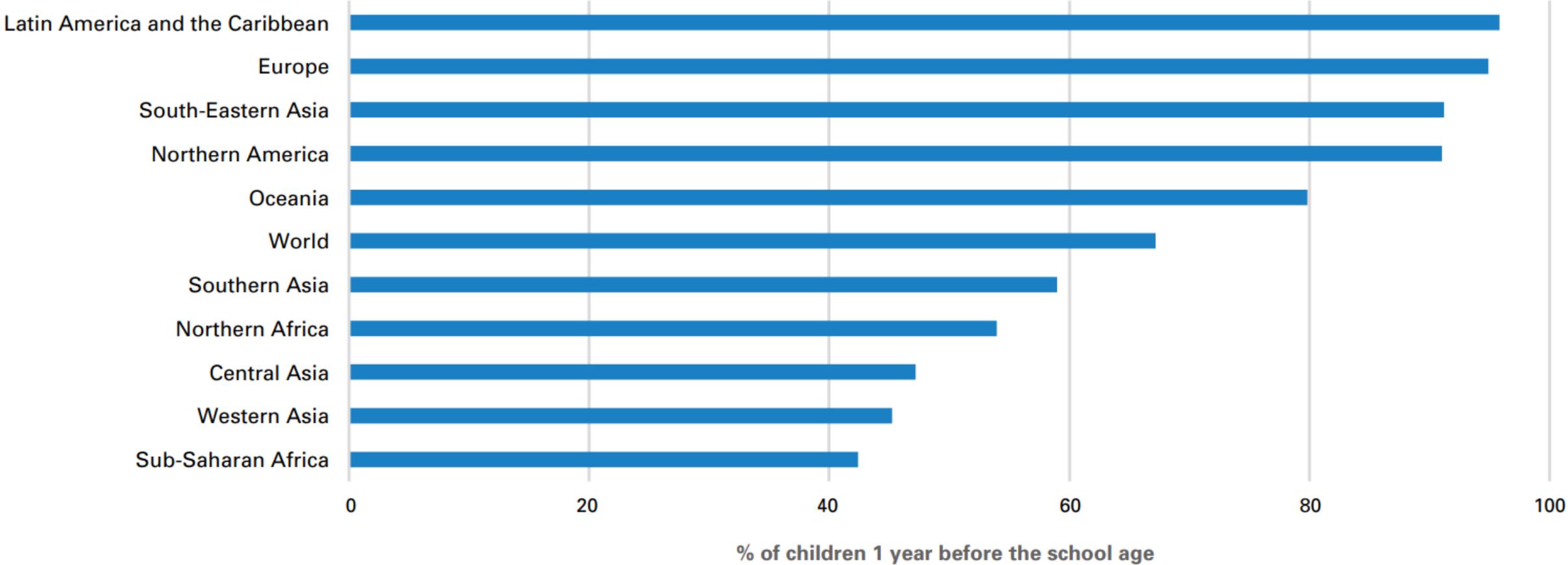
► **Figure 4.1 Child and family protection (cash benefits) anchored in law, by type of scheme, 2020 or latest available year**



Sources: ILO, [World Social Protection Database](#), based on the SSI; ISSA/SSA, Social Security Programs Throughout the World; ILOSTAT; national sources.

# Access to childcare is variable and low

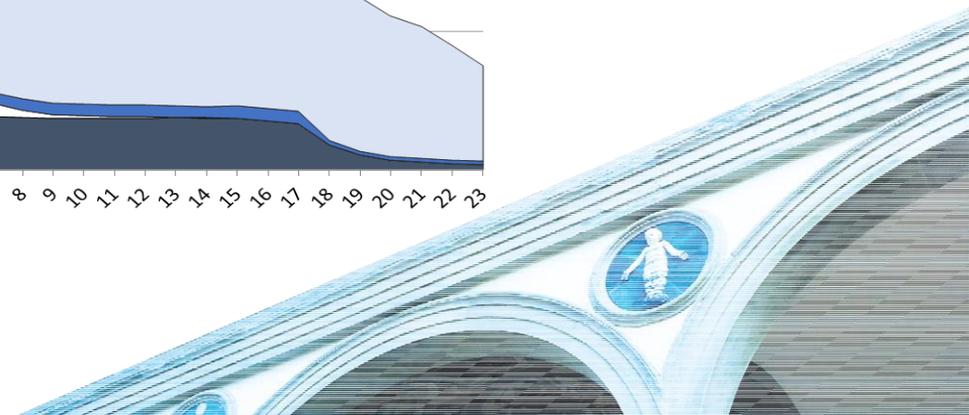
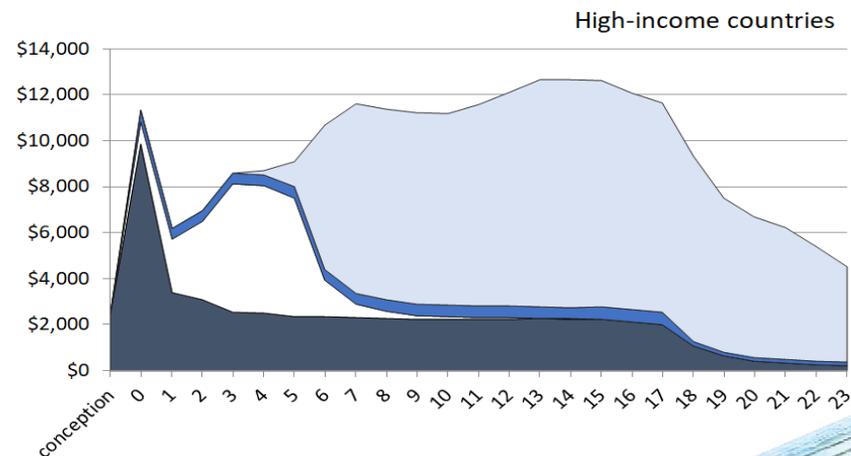
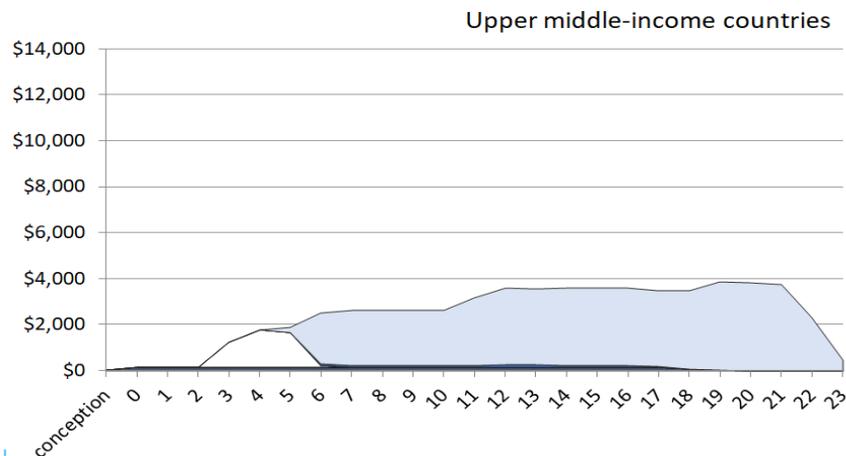
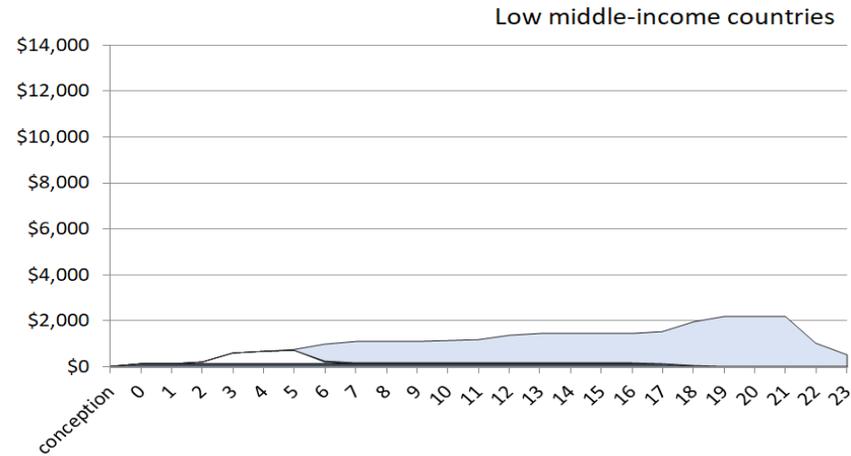
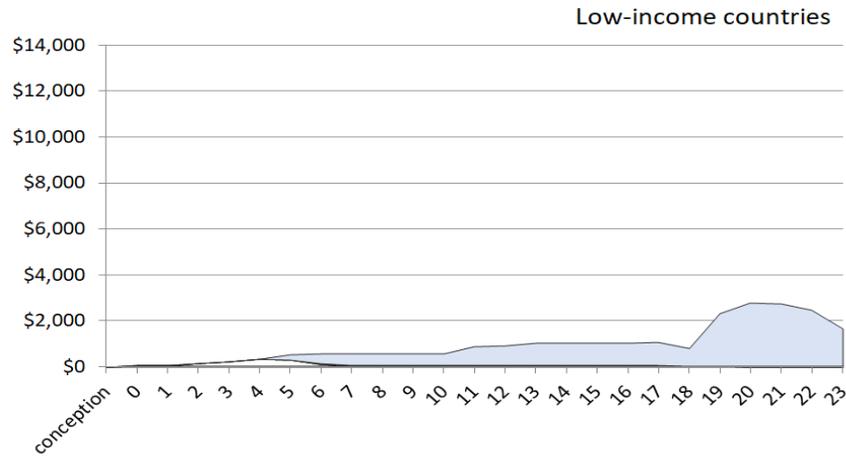
Enrolment in education and care one year before school age in 2018, by region



Source: UNSTATS, accessed 5 May 2020.

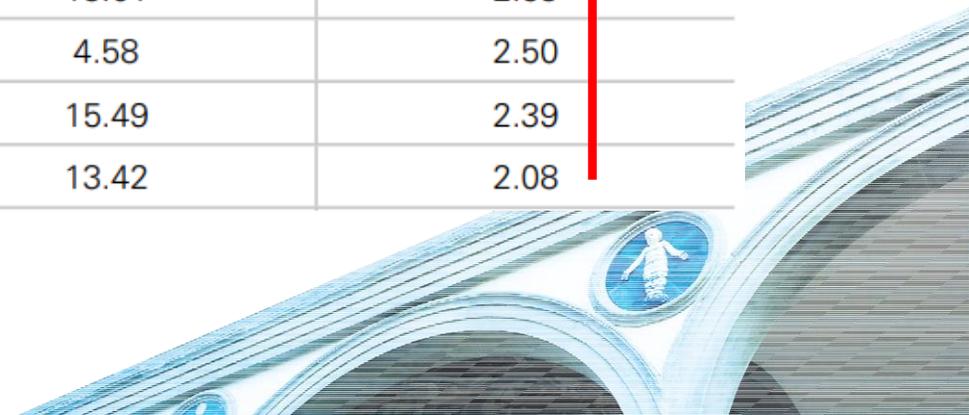
# How & when money is spent on families matters!

■ Cash benefits and tax breaks ■ Childcare ■ Other benefits in kind+ALMP ■ Education

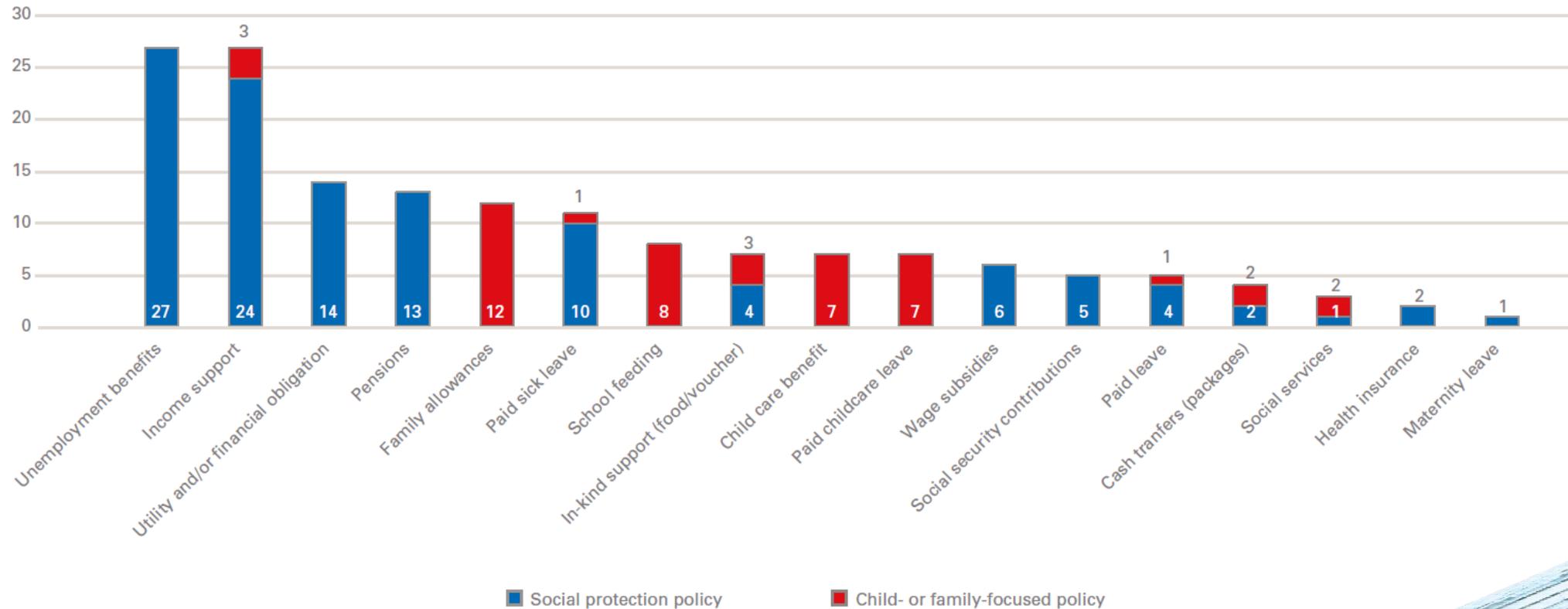


# Debt and social spending

	Country	Total social spending (as % of GDP)*	Debt service (as % of GDP)	Debt service as proportion of social spending
Countries with a red tab: 60% of children living in multidimensional poverty				
Countries with an orange tab: 60% of children living in monetary poor households post-COVID-19				
Countries with a yellow tab: reports of declining public expenditure in response to COVID-19				
1	 South Sudan	1.21	13.54	11.19
2	 Haiti	5.46	21.25	3.89
3	 Gambia (The)	7.19	23.95	3.33
4	 Chad	3.44	10.71	3.11
5	 Togo	6.59	18.45	2.80
6	 Sri Lanka	5.26	14.65	2.79
7	 Ethiopia	5.14	13.01	2.53
8	 Zimbabwe	1.83	4.58	2.50
9	 Ghana	6.47	15.49	2.39
10	 Congo	6.46	13.42	2.08



# Fewer than half of countries provided support specifically to families with children



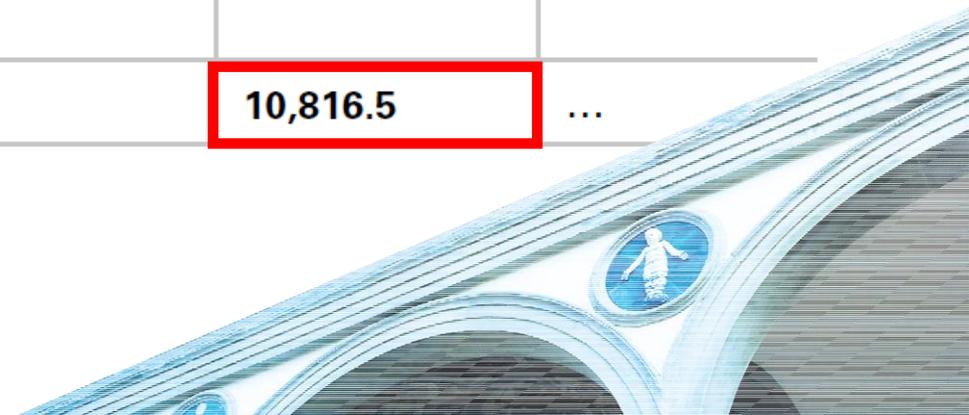
# More details on the social protection response in HICs?

- Spending 90%+ on straight to business fiscal stimulus
- Under 7.5% on 159 social protection policies
  - 47 are family or child policies – 6 in combination packages
  - 14 on childcare, 12 on family allowances,
  - 2 health insurance policies
  - 15 did not make payment conditional upon previous employment or previous receipt of benefits
  - 102 social assistance; 55 social insurance; 2 labour market policies
  - Lasting 3 months in most cases (4.9 months on average)
  - Of 114 policies with info: one-off (24) or temporary (89) – 1 permanent
- Totaling 2.3% of total stimulus packages until July 2020



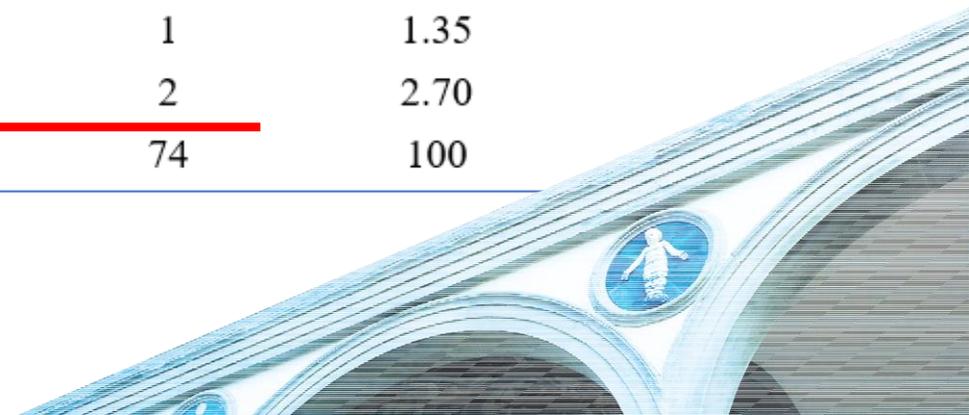
# Policies and costs (USD PPP, in billions) for fiscal stimulus and social protection

Type of intervention	No. of responses	No. of costed responses	Total reported costs	Median cost per intervention (based on reported costs)	Estimated cost of all interventions	Proportion (%) of total sum
Fiscal stimulus	182	145	9,686.6	8.8	10,012.3	92,6%
Social protection – all	159	45	688.3	1.0	804.2	7,4%
(Child- and family-specific)	47	15	186.7	2.0	250.3	2,3%
(Social protection – other)	112	31	501.6	0.9		
<b>Total</b>	<b>341</b>	<b>190</b>	<b>10,374.9</b>	...	<b>10,816.5</b>	...



# West and Central Africa, by end 2020

<b>Social Protection Category</b>	<b>Specific Measures</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Share (%)</b>
<b>Cash-based transfer</b>	General Cash Transfer	20	27.03
	Child grant & Childcare support	1	1.35
<b>In-kind transfers</b>	Food, vouchers, etc.	17	22.97
	Child nutrition/School Feeding	3	4.05
<b>Utility waivers &amp; Subsidy</b>	Mobile money user fee	10	13.51
	Water & electricity subsid	12	16.22
	Housing subsidy & Debt/Tax moratorium	4	5.41
<b>Social Insurance</b>	Health Insurance	1	1.35
	Pensions	2	2.70
	Social Security contributions	1	1.35
<b>Wage subsidy</b>	Formal sector workers	1	1.35
	Informal sector workers	2	2.70
		74	100



# What can family policymakers do?

- Rebalance expenditure to put more into social protection
- Ensure there is appropriate coverage by type of need
- Ensure coverage of the 'near poor' families
- Seek alternative to austerity / avoid austerity in family and child policy
- Plan for the long-term
  - Strengthen systems
  - Ensure policies reflect the long-term risks (3 months is too short)
- Extend Debt Service Suspension Initiative / forgive debt



# ... and specifically for caregivers

- Provide a suitable mix of paid leave – prenatal to 1 - at least
- Leave should be gender-sensitive, yet gender-equitable, bring fathers in line
- Leave should be granted also those in non-standard forms of employment or training
- Make accessible, flexible and affordable quality centre-based childcare available to all parents.
- Align parental leave with childcare to close gaps in provision
- Publicly provided and regulated childcare with fees systems
- Invest in the childcare workforce, implement National Quality Frameworks for childcare
- Employers to support working parents with flexible work arrangements
- Strengthen the family policy portfolio – including universal cash benefits



# Thank you!

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