

Youth Co:Lab COVID-19 Response: Compilation of Policy Resources For Those 'Small Enough to Fail'

The COVID-19 crisis is affecting firms of all sizes - but micro, small, medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs) and informal sector workers are particularly at risk. Young entrepreneurs and young workers are disproportionately impacted - as the crisis amplifies their existing vulnerabilities.

[Youth Co:Lab](#)-UNDP conducted a rapid survey to assess how youth enterprises in Asia-Pacific were being impacted by COVID-19 ([see results](#)). In April we reviewed early policy responses from across Asia-Pacific relevant to MSMEs and informal sector workers ([COVID-19 Policy Responses for Those Small Enough to Fail](#) & a longer [stocktake of Asia-Pacific examples](#)).

In this [part 2 blog](#) (8th May), we discuss how to structure COVID-19 policy responses to support those 'small enough to fail' and rebuild our economies in ways that reduce their vulnerability in the long run.

Below we have compiled policy trackers, guidance notes, articles, and other resources which we hope will be helpful for practitioners seeking to design policy or programmatic responses to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on MSMEs, informal sector workers, and their households.

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1. Latest Forecasts of Global and Asia-Pacific Economic Impact

- a) [IMF World Economic Outlook April 2020: The Great Lockdown](#) [14/4/20]: The IMF projects global growth in 2020 to fall to -3 percent (downgrade of 6.3 points since

January). For the first time since the Great Depression, both advanced economies and emerging and developing economies are in recession. Income per capita is projected to shrink for over 170 countries. Growth in Asia-Pacific is expected to stall at zero percent in 2020 - the worst in 60 years. See [Asia-Pacific outlook](#) and [country-specific forecasts](#). So far in response to COVID-19, countries have taken fiscal actions of \$8 trillion.

- b) [ILO Monitor 4th Edition: COVID-19 and the world of work](#): The number of hours worked in the first quarter of 2020 declined by 6.5 per cent in Asia and the Pacific (driven by an 11.6 per cent decrease in East Asia). In the second quarter of 2020 working hours in Asia and the Pacific are projected to drop by 10 per cent.
- c) [ILO Monitor 3rd Edition: COVID-19 and the World of Work](#) [29/4/20]: ILO projects that in Asia-Pacific the COVID-19 crisis will wipe out ten percent of working hours - equivalent to 175 million full-time workers - in the second quarter of 2020. The first month of the crisis is estimated to have resulted in a drop of 21.6 percent in the income of informal workers in Asia and the Pacific. As of 22nd April, there were 829 million informal economy workers in the region in countries with full or partial lockdowns.
- d) [ILO Brief: COVID-19 crisis and the informal economy](#) [7/5/20]: Almost 1.6 billion of the world's 2 billion informal economy workers are significantly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic, leading to a 60 per cent decline in their earnings.
- e) [ILO's series of COVID-19 sectoral briefs](#), which provide a preliminary assessment of the impact of COVID-19 on specific social and economic sectors and industries
- f) [UN Secretary General - Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19](#): describes the speed and scale of the outbreak, the severity of cases, and the societal and economic disruption of COVID-19.
- g) [UNU-WIDER: Impact of COVID-19 on Global Poverty](#) [8/4/20]: projects that the economic fallout from the pandemic could push an additional 368.6 million people in Asia-Pacific into poverty (239.8 million additional people in East Asia & Pacific and 128.8 million additional in South Asia could be pushed under the \$5.50 poverty line).
- h) [The World Bank](#) applies new World Economic Outlook growth projections to PovcalNet data, and finds that COVID-19 is likely to cause the first global increase in poverty since 1998. Projects COVID-19 will push 49 million people into extreme poverty in 2020.
- i) [APEC in the Epicentre of COVID-19](#): projects real GDP in APEC will contract by 2.7 percent in 2020 (down from last year's 3.6 percent growth), translating to an estimated output loss of USD 2.1 trillion.
- j) [ADB Asian Development Outlook 2020](#) [3/4/20]: ADB forecast regional growth to decline from 5.2% last year to 2.2% in 2020. A longer containment scenario is projected to lead to \$690 billion losses for China (5% of GDP), and \$200 billion losses for the rest of LMICs in Asia (2.2% of GDP). See country-specific projections.
- k) [WTO Trade Forecast](#) [8/4/20]: WTO projects that world trade will fall by between 13% and 32% in 2020. Exports from North America and Asia will be hit hardest.
- l) [UNWTO COVID-19 World Tourism Review](#) [8/5/20]: 100% of destinations worldwide have COVID-19 related travel restrictions for international tourists in place and 72% have placed a complete stop on international tourism as of 27 April 2020.
- m) [World Bank April 2020 Economic Update for East Asia and the Pacific](#) [30/3/20]: projects growth in developing EAP to slow to 2.1% in the baseline and to -0.5% in the

lower-case scenario in 2020, from an estimated 5.8% in 2019. In the lower-case scenario, poverty is expected to increase by 11 million. See country-specific projections. Growth forecast to decline sharply in Malaysia, Thailand and Timor-Leste.

- n) [World Bank South Asia Economic Focus, Spring 2020](#) [12/4/20]: projects regional growth will fall to a range between 1.8 and 2.8% in 2020, down from 6.3% projected six months ago. That would be the region's worst performance in the last 40 years. Worst-case scenario in which the region would experience negative growth this year. See country-specific projections.
- o) [UNCTAD](#) [26/3/20] estimates that the pandemic could cut global investment by 40% in 2020-21. Commodity-rich exporting countries will face a \$2 trillion to \$3 trillion drop in investment in the next two years.
- p) [World Bank](#) projects global remittances will decline by about 20 percent in 2020 due to the economic crisis [22/4/20]
- q) [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on: Bangladesh, Brunei, Cambodia, Fiji, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam.

2. COVID-19 Socio-Economic Policy Response Trackers

- a) [IMF Tracker of Economic Policy Responses to COVID-19](#): captures key fiscal, monetary, macro-financial and exchange rate measures across 193 countries.
- b) [ILO Tracker of COVID-19 World of Work Country Policy Responses](#): captures four pillars: Stimulating the economy and employment; Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes; Protecting workers in the workplace; and Social dialogue for solutions
- c) [Country Social Protection Responses to COVID-19](#): weekly tracking by Ugo Gentilini and World Bank and UNICEF colleagues of country social protection measures in response to COVID-19.
- d) [ILO Monitor of Social Protection Responses to COVID-19](#)
- e) [OECD Inventory of SME Policy Responses](#): discusses how SMEs are affected by COVID-19, reports early estimates of impact, and provides a preliminary inventory of country responses. See also broader [OECD Country Policy Tracker](#).
- f) [OECD Tracker of Tax Policy Responses to COVID-19](#): includes breakdown of cash flow measures and changes in tax policies for firms & households.
- g) [IGC Tracker of Economic Support Measures in Response to COVID-19](#): focus on developing countries.
- h) [Oxford COVID-19 Government Response Tracker](#): collects 13 indicators of government response, including fiscal or monetary measures.
- i) [Yale School of Management's Program on Financial Stability COVID-19 Financial Response Tracker](#): interventions by central banks, fiscal authorities, and IOs.
- j) [ODI Country Policy Responses Tracker](#) tracking country fiscal and monetary policy responses.
- k) [ODI Donor Responses Tracker](#): multilateral, bilateral and private donor responses.

- l) [**IMF Lending Tracker**](#): tracking emergency assistance under the Rapid Credit Facility, Rapid Financing Instrument, and debt relief grants financed by the Catastrophe Containment and Relief Trust. See Nepal and Solomon Islands approved in APAC.
- m) [**Observatory for Public Sector Innovation \(OPSI\) tracker**](#): submissions of innovative government responses / public sector innovation responses to the COVID-19 crisis.
- n) [**Green Equitable COVID-19 Stimulus / Recovery Plans Tracker**](#): examples of recovery plans that could also produce benefits in equity and climate change mitigation.
- o) [**Vivid Economics Greenness of Stimulus Index**](#): examines 11 major economies to assess the green vs. brown orientation of their stimulus funding.
- p) [**UNDP Regional Innovation Centre for Asia-Pacific Innovation Dividend series**](#): capturing government innovations related to COVID-19 as they emerge.
- q) [**Open Government Partnership Tracker of Open Government approaches to COVID**](#)
- r) [**International Trade Centre Tracker of COVID-19 Temporary Trade Measures**](#): tracking temporary import measures and temporary export measures.
- s) [**COVID-19 Economic Stimulus Index**](#): tracks COVID-19 fiscal, monetary and exchange rate policy measures and creates a combined Economic Stimulus Index
- t) [**PwC Tracker of Tax, Legal and Economic Measures in response to COVID-19**](#)
- u) [**Coronavirus Tech Handbook**](#): crowdsourced library of tools and resources, includes government responses by country
- v) [**Stocktake of Asia-Pacific policy responses**](#) to mitigate the impacts of the crisis on MSMEs and the self-employed gathered by Youth Co:Lab (as of 9th April)

3. Overall Guidance on Policy Measures to Mitigate Impacts on MSMEs and Self-Employed

- a) [**The Social and Economic Impact of COVID-19 in the Asia-Pacific Region**](#): Position Note by UNDP Asia Pacific Economist Network [28/4/20]: see also highlights [here](#).
- b) [**UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19**](#): Includes Protecting Jobs, Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises, and Informal Sector Workers
- c) [**ILO Brief: COVID-19 crisis and the informal economy: Immediate responses and policy challenges**](#) [7/5/20]
- d) [**Interventions to support enterprises during the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery**](#) (ILO) [16/4/20]
- e) [**Mitigating the COVID Economic Crisis: Act Fast and Do Whatever It Takes**](#) [18/3/20]: CEPR/Vox e-book with recommendations from leading economists.
- f) [**World Bank Blog Series on Confronting the Jobs Impacts of COVID-19**](#): topics include support to firms, wage subsidies, unemployment insurance, cash transfers.
- g) [**Managing the Employment Impacts of the COVID-19 Crisis**](#) [29/3/20]: World Bank draft note discussing short-term policy options (see also blog series above).
- h) [**ITC: Policies to Support Micro and Small Businesses Hit by COVID-19**](#) [2/4/20]: recommendations including concessional financing, tax reductions and grants, employment incentives, technical assistance and regulatory measures.
- i) [**ITC: How can we help small businesses affected by the COVID-19 crisis?**](#) [7/4/20]: Includes threats MSMEs face and suggestions for recovery measures.

- j) [ITC: From shutdown to recovery: unraveling the impact of COVID-19 on small firms](#) [27/3/20]
- k) [ILO: Which policies can help small businesses withstand COVID-19](#) [16/4/20]
- l) [ADB: Three ways to support businesses and their workers during a pandemic](#) [April 2020]
- m) [IMF: A Post-Coronavirus Recovery in Asia—Extending a “Whatever it Takes” Lifeline to Small Businesses](#) [23/4/20]: discusses special purpose vehicles to facilitate new working capital loans to small and mid-sized firms.
- n) [What can low-income countries do to provide relief for the poor and the vulnerable during the COVID-19 pandemic?](#) [19/3/20]: guidance on targeting of social protection systems (especially cash transfers) to the vulnerable in low-income countries.
- o) [Tony Blair Institute for Global Change Economic Response Guide for Developing Economies](#) [3/4/20] Includes policy options for protecting livelihoods.
- p) [International Growth Centre COVID-19 guidance note: Containment strategies and support for vulnerable households](#): Includes policy response: Supporting vulnerable households.
- q) [IMF Fiscal Monitor: Policies to Support People During the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [6/4/20]: So far, countries have taken fiscal actions amounting to \$8 trillion. Includes principles for guiding choice of instruments to support firms and households.
- r) [World Bank: Macroeconomic Policy in the Time of COVID-19: A Primer for Developing Countries](#) [26/3/20]: includes guidance on relief and recovery measures - including loan guarantees, direct lending, tax holidays, and direct cash payments.
- s) [World Bank: Assessing the impact and policy responses in support of private-sector firms in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic](#) [26/3/20]: includes instruments to reach informal firms and MSMEs
- t) [IMF Blog - Fiscal Policies to Contain the Damage from COVID](#)
- u) [Tony Blair Institute for Global Change Economic Considerations for Health Response Options in Developing Countries](#) [24/4/20]: Includes framework differentiated by industry, also looking at economic vulnerability of workers.

4. Guidance on Tax-Specific Measures (see also section 3)

- a) [IFS – The Tax Policy Response to Coronavirus Should Aim at Targeted Support, Not Broad-Based Stimulus, Especially in Low- and Middle-Income Countries](#) [27/3/20]: Guidance on targeted tax policies for LMICs.
- b) [How tax officials in lower-income countries can respond to the coronavirus pandemic](#) (ODI)
- c) [OECD Tax and Fiscal Policy in Response to the Coronavirus Crisis](#) [15/4/20]
- d) [International Centre for Tax and Development webinar on Covid-19 and the informal economy](#) [16/4/20]: COVID-19 responses related to informal economy.

5. Guidance on Social Protection-Specific Measures (see also section 3)

- a) [**Social Protection Response to the COVID-19 Crisis: Options for Developing Countries**](#) (ECONFIP) [April 2020]: overview of the policies that could form a comprehensive social protection strategy in LMICs, with examples from recent days.
- b) [**Cushioning the Poor from the COVID-19 Shock**](#) (Hanna, Olken) [15/4/20]: advice to resource-constrained governments to design most effective and efficient programs.
- c) [**How Can Social Protection Systems Respond to the COVID-19 Crisis**](#) (webinar) [7/4/20]
- d) [**Using What You Have to Scale up Payments for COVID Response: Early Indications from South Asia**](#) (CGD) [24/4/20]
- e) [**Gender-sensitive social protection: A critical component of the COVID-19 response in low- and middle-income countries**](#) (IFPRI)
- f) [**How Can Cash Transfers Support Informal-Sector Workers in the COVID-19 \(Coronavirus\) Crisis?**](#) (World Bank)
- g) [**CGD Webinar: Cash Transfers for COVID-19 in Low- and Middle-Income Countries**](#) [16/4/20]
- h) [**CGD: Can We Use Digital Technology to Cushion the Pandemic's Blow—and in the Longer Run, Deliver on the SDGs?**](#) [31/3/20]: blog post on report (next)
- i) [**CGD: As Governments Turn to Digital Payments to Cushion Coronavirus's Blow, New Report Finds Many Developing Countries Not Ready**](#) [31/3/20] (full report)
- j) [**COVID-19: How Countries Can Use Digital Payments for Better, Quicker Cash Transfers**](#) (CGD) [6/4/20]
- k) [**Responding to crisis with digital payments for social protection: Short-term measures with long-term benefits**](#) [31/3/20]
- l) [**5 Lessons for Using Universal Basic Income During a Pandemic**](#) [13/3/20]
- m) [**How to Maximise the Impact of Cash Transfers, During and After COVID-19:**](#) [1/4/20] lessons from behavioural science to inform design of cash transfer schemes.
- n) [**The digital safety net: citizens and technology in the age of COVID-19**](#) [9/4/20]: ODI webinar on the digital safety net and how tech is being used in COVID-19 response.
- o) [**The Transfer Project: Cash Transfers and COVID-19**](#) resource page
- p) [**Better than Cash Alliance**](#)
- q) [**Exploring universal basic income: lessons for COVID-19 response and beyond**](#) [31/3/20] (Social Protection webinar)
- r) [**Universal basic income is the answer to the inequalities exposed by COVID-19**](#) [17/4/20]
- s) [**Issue Brief - Universal Basic Income – Findings from China & Implications for Responses in COVID-19**](#) [10/4/20]: reviews previous research on UBI in China, as well as the potential for applications of UBI as a policy option for COVID-19 recovery.

6. Surveys Measuring Impact on MSMEs

- a) [**Presentation on SME Impact Assessments**](#) (Connecting Business initiative) [19/5/20]
- b) [**COVID-19's Impact on China's Small and Medium-sized Businesses:**](#) results of the ESIEC Peking University nationwide survey in China, see also [here](#) and [here](#). See also IFPRI blog [here](#).

- c) [Survey Instrument for Measuring the Impact of Coronavirus on SMEs](#): originally used for the national SME survey in China led by ESIEC Peking University (above), now available in other languages.
- d) [UNDP COVID-19 MSME Impact Survey \(prototype\)](#): UNDP digital survey to assess impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on MSMEs.
- e) [Assessment Report on Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese Enterprises](#) [7/4/20] (UNDP)
- f) [Results of Youth Co:Lab Survey on the Impacts of COVID-19 on Young Entrepreneurs in Asia-Pacific](#): impacts on and responses by young entrepreneurs in Asia-Pacific.
- g) [ILO Global Survey on Youth Employment and COVID-19](#): ILO and partners of the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth are conducting a survey on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on youth and the world of work (launching 20th April)
- h) [ITC's Youth & Trade Programme survey on challenges and opportunities for young entrepreneurs in Covid-19](#)
- i) [Business Call to Action \(BCtA\) Survey on Business Impact and Response to COVID-19](#)
- j) [Business for Goals Survey on Impact of COVID-19 on Enterprises and Needs](#)
- k) [Survey on supporting MSMEs in the Philippines during the COVID-19 Pandemic](#): Philippines Disaster Resilience Foundation (Connecting Business Initiative - see below).
- l) [UNDP Philippines Survey on the Impact of COVID-19 on the MSME Value Chain](#): survey to understand the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on MSME value chains.
- m) [UN Women / WeEmpowerAsia Survey on Effects of COVID-19 on Women Entrepreneurs](#): survey targeting SMEs, accelerators/incubators, investors.
- n) (Startups) [Startup Genome Impact of COVID-19 on Global Startup Ecosystems: Global Startup Survey](#) [16/4/20]: 42% of startups have 3 months or fewer of runway.
- o) [J-PAL Best Practices for Conducting Phone Surveys](#)

7. Leave No One Behind

Measures to mitigate impacts on women, youth, migrants, informal sector workers, people with disabilities, other marginalized groups

- a) [UN Policy Brief: The Impact of COVID-19 on Women](#) [9/4/20]: UN Secretary-General policy brief, explores how women and girls' lives are changing in face of COVID-19, and outlines priority measures for immediate response and longer-term recovery efforts.
- b) [Gender-sensitive social protection: A critical component of the COVID-19 response in low- and middle-income countries](#) (IFPRI)
- c) [World Bank: Gender Implications of the COVID-19 Pandemic](#) [16/4/20]: Includes section on gender implications for economic conditions and suggestions of targeted measures to help self-employed women.

- d) [**COVID-19 and Informal Workers \(WIEGO\)**](#): includes rapid assessment of impacts of COVID-19 on informal workers.
- e) [**Impacts of the COVID-19 crisis on employment: \(potential\) solutions for informal/self-employed workers**](#) [21/4/20]: WIEGO and ILO webinar - slides [here](#).
- f) [**The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 and Gender Inequality: Recommendations for Policymakers**](#) (UNDP LAC) [17/4/20]: offer 3 inc. targeting women-owned MSMEs.
- g) [**The First 100 Days of the COVID-19 Outbreak in Asia and the Pacific: A Gender Lens**](#) (UN Women): snapshot of the gender dimensions of the socio-economic impacts.
- h) [**Guidance Note for Action: Supporting SMEs to Ensure the Economic COVID-19 Recovery is Gender-Responsive and Inclusive**](#) (UN Women): shows how the barriers women entrepreneurs already face in starting and retaining a business are likely to increase in the aftermath of COVID-19.
- i) [**Guidance Note for Action: Women as a Force for Accelerated and Inclusive Economic Recovery Post-COVID-19 in Asia-Pacific**](#) (UN Women): provides recommendations on gender-responsive approach to post-pandemic challenges.
- j) [**The impacts of COVID-19 on people with disabilities: a rapid review**](#) [6/4/20]: SDD response to DFID Disability Inclusion Helpdesk Query. Assesses primary and secondary impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on people with disabilities.
- k) [**How Will COVID-19 Affect Women and Girls in Low- And Middle-Income Countries?**](#) (CGD) [16/3/20]: In addition to the many other gendered impacts of COVID-19, the economic crisis is expected to affect women and girls disproportionately, on top of exacerbating women's unpaid care work burden.
- l) [**Young Workers Will Be Hard Hit By COVID-19's Economic Fallout**](#) [15/4/20] (Decent Jobs for Youth / ILO)
- m) [**Playing the Long Game: How a Gender Lens Can Mitigate Harm Caused by Pandemics**](#) (CGD) [18/3/20]
- n) [**Coronavirus: Five ways virus upheaval is hitting women in Asia**](#) (BBC) [8/3/20]
- o) [**Inter-Agency Standing Committee: Gender Alert for COVID-19 Outbreak**](#) (IASC) [March 2020]
- p) [**Supporting vulnerable temporary workers and businesses coping with coronavirus challenges**](#) (World Bank blog) [8/4/20]
- q) [**A Majority of India's Poor Women May Miss COVID-19 PMJDY Cash Transfers**](#) (Yale Economic Growth Center) [17/4/20]: combines PMJDY ownership reports and data from the nationally representative 2018 Financial Inclusion Insights Survey.
- r) [**Key considerations: COVID-19 in informal urban settlements \(IDS\)**](#) [March 2020]
- s) [**COVID-19, Gender Equality and Private Sector**](#) [15/4/20]: Webinar including Business for Gender Equality, Business Call to Action, Connecting Business Initiative, IFC.

8. Data Resources / Research

- a) [**Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data COVID-19 Data Resources**](#): round-up of resources – including data, dashboards, visualisations, maps, and tools.
- b) [**World Bank COVID-19 Related Datasets**](#): includes datasets on policy measures taken at country-level in support of the financial sector; and jobs indicators.

- c) [Google COVID-19 Community Mobility Reports](#): country-specific movement trends allow you to see what has changed in response to COVID-19 containment measures.
- d) [COVID-19 UK economy datasets](#): UK Office for National Statistics new, weekly release of data and experimental indicators about the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- e) [Ash Center at Harvard Kennedy School COVID-19 Public Sector Resources](#): to highlight cases, policy solutions, and examples of how governments are responding.
- f) [IPA's RECOVR Research Hub](#): includes active research studies taking place on COVID-19's socio-economic impacts—and results as they come in.
- g) [Young Lives at Work longitudinal phone survey](#): includes India and Viet Nam
- h) [COVID-19 International Academic Social Science Research Project Tracker](#): open tracker.
- i) [Startup Blink's Coronavirus Innovation Map](#): tracks innovative solutions developed in response to COVID-19 around the world.
- j) [GovLab Data Collaboratives in Response to COVID-19](#): repository for data collaboratives seeking to address the spread of COVID-19.
- k) [OECD - GovLab open repository of use of Open Government Data](#) in response to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- l) [Vox and CEPR page on economic responses to COVID-19 pandemic](#)
- m) [World Economic Forum COVID-19 Series](#): Includes content on government responses; as well as workforce impact, impact on trade, and impact on financial markets.
- n) [JEEA Register of COVID-19 Related Research Projects](#)
- o) [ILO Rapid Social Protection Calculator for COVID](#)
- p) [UNDP Compilation of Open Source Digital Tools to tackle COVID-19](#): The tools are split into three areas - disease monitoring, prevention and containment, diagnosis.
- q) [Compilation of emerging technologies to increase regulatory capacity in the context of the global Covid-19 crisis](#)
- r) [Private Enterprise Development in Low-Income Countries have a research call](#) to fund data collection/studies on disruption to supply chains; income transfers to labour and firms; and disruption to markets.
- s) [UNU-WIDER constructs a lockdown readiness index](#) 5 indicators: access to clean drinking water, electricity, sanitation and a phone at home; and household head in work.

9. Selection of Country-Specific Reading (Asia-Pacific) on impacts on MSMEs and Informal Sector

Afghanistan:

- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Afghanistan](#) (ODI) [8/4/20]: The economy is expected to contract by 4% in 2020.

Bangladesh:

- [BRAC - PPRC Livelihoods, Coping, and Support during Covid-19 Crisis survey results](#) [16/4/20]: based on telephone survey of 5471 respondents from 4-12 April. Shows 82% drop in household income in urban slum areas and 79% drop in rural areas.
- [How can we figure out who to give rice to](#) (Nabila Idris) [23/4/20]
- [BRAC survey on COVID-19 economic impact](#) [9/4/20]: Average household income down 75%, to roughly \$44/mo. 96% of people receiving no support from the government.
- [Bangladesh cannot afford to close its garment factories](#) (The Economist) [30/4/20]: Between 150,000 and 200,000 workers were not paid in March.
- [Bangladesh Hrishipara Daily Diaries](#): Financial Diaries is a research methodology which collects data about, and provides insights into, how people manage money. Hrishipara is a neighbourhood on the outskirts of Kapasia, a market town in central Bangladesh.
- [The Impact of Covid-19 on Workers and Businesses at the Bottom of Global Garment Supply Chains - Bangladesh evidence](#) [27/3/20]: More than one million garment workers in Bangladesh already have been fired or furloughed.
- [Islam and Divadkar op-ed](#) [13/4/20]: calls for “an unconditional cash transfer program for an initial period of three months at a rate of \$95 per month”
- [PPRC - Brac Institute of Governance and Development Rapid Response Survey on Poverty Trends Under COVID](#): The survey found economic activities dropped by 71% in urban and 55% in rural areas. Income of the country’s low-income group has fallen by 70%. Telephone survey of 5,471 respondents from 1st - 12th April.
- [The coronavirus pandemic and global value chains: emerging evidence](#) (ODI) [3/4/20]: Garment factories in Bangladesh have now had orders worth more than \$2 billion cancelled. This is likely to exert major pressure on firms and their 4 million employees.
- [Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak](#) interview [3/4/20]
- [Using What You Have to Scale up Payments for COVID Response: Early Indications from South Asia](#) (CGD) [24/4/20]

Bhutan:

- [Druk Gyalpo’s Relief Kidu gets off to a roaring start](#) [18/4/20]: Relief Kidu will be available for the months of April, May and June 2020.

Cambodia:

- [Cambodia poised to be big Covid-19 loser](#) (Asia Times) [12/5/20]: “180 apparel factories have now suspended operations, and another 60 are thought to be close to suspension, adversely affecting as many as 150,000 workers.”
- [Trade in services and the coronavirus: many developing countries are at risk](#) (ODI) [30/3/20]: Cambodia is at risk due to its high services exports as a share of GDP.
- [Garment sector impacts](#) [10/4/20]: The industry accounts for 60% of all manufacturing jobs in Cambodia and more than 60% of exports.
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Cambodia.
- Young Entrepreneurs Association of Cambodia conducted a COVID-19 Business Impact survey 20-25 March 2020.

China:

- [Why China Isn't Sending Money to Everyone](#) (Andrew Batson) [3/5/20]
- [China struggles with sharp rise in unemployment](#) [23/4/20]: Unemployment rate 26 million in March. "The real jobless population could be more than double if the 50m migrant workers unable to find jobs outside their home province were included."
- [Saving China from the coronavirus and economic meltdown: Experiences and lessons](#) [23/3/20] (updated chapter from CEPR/Vox eBook - above)
- [COVID-19's Impact on China's Small and Medium-sized Businesses](#): results of the ESIEC Peking University nationwide survey in China, see also [here](#) and [here](#). See also IFPRI blog [here](#).
- [The COVID-19 Outbreak and Its Implications for China's Economy](#) [31/3/20] (EAI)
- [Assessment Report on Impact of COVID-19 Pandemic on Chinese Enterprises](#) [7/4/20] (UNDP)

Fiji:

- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu](#) (ODI) [20/4/20]
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Fiji.

India:

- [Unemployment rate touches 26%](#) (CMIE) [21/4/20]
- [How has India's lockdown impacted unemployment rates and income levels?](#) (webinar) [22/4/20]: household survey findings: unemployment increased to 23%-24% from 7%-8%, 45% of households reported a reduction in income compared to a year ago.
- [CEPR President Op-Ed](#) [16/4/2] "Data collected from 11,000 distressed workers reports that by the third week of the lockdown, 96% had not received rations".
- [A Majority of India's Poor Women May Miss COVID-19 PMJDY Cash Transfers](#) (Yale Economic Growth Center) [17/4/20]: combines PMJDY ownership reports and data from the nationally representative 2018 Financial Inclusion Insights Survey.
- [Using What You Have to Scale up Payments for COVID Response: Early Indications from South Asia](#) (CGD) [24/4/20]
- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from India](#) (ODI) [9/4/20]: India's PMI Index fell to 51.8 in March from 54.5 in February. According to the Federation of Associations in Indian Tourism & Hospitality, around 70% of the sector's workforce could be unemployed as a result of the downturn.
- [Ideas for India \(I4I\) series \(IGC and Tata Centre for Development\)](#): economics and policy portal with evidence-based analysis and commentary series on COVID-19.
- [Coronavirus: India's lockdown has led to chaos because the government misunderstood how cities work](#) [10/4/20]
- [CEPR COVID-19 analysis page](#)
- [Sen and Banerjee op-ed](#) [17/4/20]
- [Arundhati Roy: 'The pandemic is a portal'](#) [4/4/20]

Indonesia:

- [The clock is ticking for survival of Indonesian enterprises, jobs at risk](#) (ILO) [18/5/20]
- [Indonesia First-Quarter GDP Growth Seen at Slowest in 18 Years, Worse to Come](#) (Reuters) [30/4/20]
- [Indonesia gives tax breaks to small firms, incentives to keep jobs](#) [30/4/20]
- [Is Indonesia Facing a Looming Food Crisis?](#) (The Diplomat) [5/5/20]
- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic early evidence from Indonesia](#) (ODI) [8/4/20]: includes overview of economic and social impacts, fiscal impacts, monetary and financial policy measures, and fiscal policy measures. Main channels of impact include food, beverages, retail, tourism and finance.
- [Insight: Don't forget the middle class in social protection programs](#) [16/4/20]: Many of the government's social protection programs, such as the PKH and Sembako Program, are geared toward the poor. The piece suggests three ideas to target workers recently hit with a major shock, such as lost wages or lost income from business.
- [The time to ramp up protection against Asian financial contagion is now](#) [7/4/20]: In Asia, Indonesia is the frontline of defense against financial contagion. The Indonesian rupiah has lost almost 20 percent of its value since January.
- [Effect of Indonesia's COVID-19 stimulus packages](#) [2/4/20]

Japan:

- [Japan Scrambles to Get \\$930 to All Who Apply as Virus Spreads](#) [17/4/20]: "Abe apologized for confusion caused by his decision to switch to 100,000 yen handouts for all who seek them, from an earlier plan to target larger sums at households in need."
- [Here's how coronavirus has affected Asia's factories](#) [1/4/20]: "Japan's factory activity contracted at the fastest pace in about a decade in March, adding to views that the world's third-largest economy is likely already in recession... Japan's Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) fell to a seasonally adjusted 44.8..., its lowest since April 2009."

Malaysia:

- [One million Indonesian migrants in Malaysia lack food under lockdown](#) [23/4/20]
- [12th Malaysia Plan to be reviewed, restructured in wake of Covid-19](#) [27/4/20]

Myanmar:

- [Limited relief for microfinance borrowers as the clock ticks on debt payments](#) (Frontier Myanmar) [13/5/20]
- [COVID-19 Response 'a Chance to Reimagine Myanmar's Future'](#) [7/5/20]
- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic early evidence from Myanmar](#) (ODI) [8/4/20]: Main channels of impact include garments and tourism. The Chamber of Commerce warns that 80% of garment factories could shut, leaving 400,000 people unemployed.

- [Coronavirus policy response, needs and options for Myanmar](#) (IGC) [April 2020]: See in particular section 3 - the economic, social and political threats to Myanmar.
- [From north to south, ethnic armies confront an unseen enemy](#) (Frontier Myanmar) [15/4/20]: The way each armed group has responded to the COVID-19 threat has differed significantly, depending on its resources and capacity, the level of conflict in its area, and the demographics of its communities.
- [Doomsday' for informal workers as COVID-19 rocks the economy](#) [8/4/20]: Frontier Myanmar reporting on the informal economy.
- [Myanmar economy still forecast to grow despite global recession: IMF](#) (Myanmar Times) [20/4/20]: "Myanmar is among just 10 percent of the globe projected by the IMF to post economic growth this year."
- [Myanmar's Pandemic Opportunity](#) [24/4/20]

Nepal:

- [See Ahmed Mushfiq Mobarak on re-interview of sample of rural individuals in Nepal immediately after lockdown](#) [10/4/20]: rural labourers are working less than half the number of hours they would even in the leanest part of the agricultural season.
- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Nepal](#) (ODI) [9/4/20]: Main channels of impact include tourism, remittances and services.
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Nepal.

Pakistan:

- [COVID-19 and Future of Microfinance: Evidence and Insights from Pakistan](#) [27/4/20]: A phone survey of microfinance borrowers in Pakistan suggests that, "week-on-week sales and household income both fell by about 90%... 70% of the sample of current microfinance borrowers reported that they could not repay their loans"
- [Is COVID-19 Pakistan's Black Swan Event for Digital Payments?](#) (CGD) [1/5/20]
- [Pakistan's virus-idled workers hired to plant trees](#) [29/4/20]
- [Pakistan Has A Plan To Keep Millions From Going Hungry During Shutdown. Will It Work?](#) (NPR) [14/4/20]
- [Workers Face Health, Economic Risks](#) [1/4/20]: "Experts estimate that between 12.3 million and 18.5 million people in various sectors may lose their jobs."
- [COVID-19: Pakistan's preparations and response](#) (IGC) [6/4/20]: See in particular section on protecting businesses.
- [Using What You Have to Scale up Payments for COVID Response: Early Indications from South Asia](#) (CGD) [24/4/20]

Papua New Guinea:

- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu](#) (ODI) [20/4/20]

Philippines:

- [University of the Philippines experts urge universal approach to address people's needs during pandemic](#) [28/4/20]: see also full report below
- [Addressing the Immediate Needs of All, Especially the Most Vulnerable Sectors: Analysis and Recommendations](#) (University of the Philippines Pandemic Response Team) [26/4/20]
- [Vulnerable Filipinos fight for survival during lockdown](#) (DW) [27/4/20]
- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Philippines](#) (ODI) [8/4/20]: The economy is estimated to contract -0.6% in 2020. The government expects a 1.8 million people employment loss. Main channels of impact are through losses in tourism, remittances, exports and consumption.
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on the Philippines.

Samoa:

- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Samoa.

Singapore:

- [The S11 dormitory: inside Singapore's biggest coronavirus cluster](#) [21/4/20]: COVID threat among migrant workers - mainly from South Asia - in Singapore.

Small Island Developing States:

- COVID-19 and Trade [1/4/20]: [Challenges Ahead for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States](#): Trade in goods and services comprises 60% of GDP in SIDS on average.
- [Impact of COVID-19 on tourism in small island developing states](#) (WTO) [24/4/20]

South Asia

- [South Asia's economic outlook in the era of COVID-19](#)
- [Asia's growth after Covid-19](#) [1/5/20] (ODI): After addressing the immediate pandemic threat, South Asian countries should resist the temptation to stop at stabilisation and undertake pro-poor reforms. Such reforms should address the complex issues of food security, targeted social safety nets, women's empowerment, and small businesses.

South Korea:

- [Here's how coronavirus has affected Asia's factories](#) [1/4/20]: South Korea's PMI plunged to 44.2, its lowest since January 2009 when the economy was reeling from the financial crisis.

Sri Lanka:

- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Sri Lanka](#) (ODI) [8/4/20]: Main channels of impact include garments and tourism.
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Sri Lanka.

Thailand:

- [Formally employed Thais also hit by coronavirus outbreak/shutdown: Social Security Office under pressure](#) [4/5/20]
- [Research on the impact of the COVID-19 lockdown on Thailand 's labour market](#) (in Thai) [17/4/20]: uses 2019 Thai Labour Force Surveys and Occupational Information Network (O*NET) to evaluate impact of the lockdown on the Thai labour market.
- [Thailand job losses may hit 10 million if virus outbreak drags on](#) [13/4/20]: “We think about 7 million jobs have been lost already, and the figure will hit 10 million if the outbreak drags on for 2-3 months (Thai Chamber of Commerce)”
- [18 Thammasat econ profs call for the suspension of the 5,000 baht scheme and switch to a 3,000 baht universal payment](#) [15/4/20]
- [Thai economy could lose over \\$40 billion if virus crisis goes beyond second quarter](#) [14/4/20]: Impact on tourism sector - Thai Bankers’ Association
- [The IMF has revised down Thailand’s growth forecast to -6.7 percent.](#)
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: particular focus on Thailand.

Timor-Leste:

- [Rethinking Timor-Leste’s COVID-19 State of Emergency](#) (The Diplomat) [27/4/20]
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Timor-Leste.
- [World Bank April 2020 Economic Update for East Asia and the Pacific](#) [30/3/20]: Growth forecast to decline particularly sharply in Timor-Leste.

Vanuatu:

- [Economic impacts of and policy responses to the coronavirus pandemic: early evidence from Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu](#) (ODI) [20/4/20]

Viet Nam:

- [Vietnam says five million workers, 84.8% of companies, affected by coronavirus pandemic](#) [24/4/20]
- [Viet Nam Labour Update](#)
- [ILO: COVID-19 and the tourism sector: Impact and response in Asia and the Pacific](#) [24/4/20]: focus on Viet Nam.

Notes

Co-led by UNDP and Citi Foundation, [Youth Co:Lab](#) establishes a common agenda for countries in Asia-Pacific to empower and invest in youth so that they can accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through leadership, social innovation and entrepreneurship. Read more on Youth Co:Lab [here](#).

[UNDP](#) is providing the technical lead in the UN's socio-economic recovery efforts to COVID-19. UNDP is on the ground supporting 170 countries and territories to prepare for, respond to and recover from the pandemic, focusing particularly on the most vulnerable. Read more on UNDP's integrated response to COVID-19 [here](#).