

Covid-19:

Social Protection for the Recovery

The International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Employment Confederation (WEC) are jointly organizing a webinar on “**Social protection for the recovery**”. It brings together social partners, representatives from public and private employment services, government policymakers and academia to discuss social protection responses to Covid-19 crisis and strategies for building back a better and resilient labour market.

Key takeaways

The webinar will shed light on:

- The impact of the Covid-19 crisis on social protection systems and the short, medium and long term solutions for an inclusive and shock-responsive social protection;
- The role of occupational safety and health (OSH) for a safe return to work;
- The intersection and synergy of social protection and OSH for a better and more resilient labour market; and
- The role of private sector social innovation programmes in supporting workers and contributing to a resilient social protection infrastructure.

The webinar will benefit from the perspectives of social partners on key areas and strategies for ensuring inclusive and resilient social protection and OSH systems in the short and long term.

PROGRAMME

10:30 - Introduction

Introduction by the Moderator Tom **Hadley**

10:40 - Social Protection: From Challenges to Solutions

This part will discuss the impact of the Covid-19 shock on social protection systems and on beneficiaries, highlight policy and programme responses adopted by countries at different levels of development and provide insights into the short, medium and long-term solutions and opportunities for building back a better, fairer, inclusive and more resilient labour market. In addition, the session will look at the private sector's contribution to innovative social assistance programmes and how these can contribute to long term social protection systems. Furthermore, the role of OSH for a safe return to work will be explored with special attention being given to how OSH and social protection measures can work together to mitigate the Covid-19 virus in the workplace and promote more resilient safe work places.

- The impact of Covid-19 crisis on social protection systems and on labour market groups; policy responses in the short, medium and long term.

Christina **BEHRENDT**, Head of Social Policy Unit, SOCPRO, ILO

- The role of OSH for a safe return to work and the interplay with social protection to fight the virus and promote more resilient and safe work places.

Joaquim Pintado **NUNES**, Branch Chief, LABADMIN/OSH, ILO

- Safely back to work through Social Innovation.

Sebastien Delfosse, Board Member World Employment Confederation and Chair of the EU Sectoral Social Dialogue Committee

11:10- Social Partners: Shaping Futureproof Social Protection and OSH to Support Recovery

The global Social Partners will provide their perspectives on the future of social protection systems. What are the key elements for them to integrate in building futureproof social protection systems?

- Workers' perspectives on the short- and long-term needs and strategies for better social protection systems.

Evelyn **ASTOR**, Policy Advisor, Economic and Social Policy, ITUC

- Employers' perspectives on the short- and long-term needs and strategies for better social protection systems.

Luis Rodrigo **Morales**, Senior Advisor IOE

11:30 – Q&A

Speakers will respond to questions and themes put forward throughout the webinar by the attendees.

11:45– Wrap up

Representatives from the ILO and Public and Private employment Services will provide their key take-aways from the webinar

Sangheon **LEE**, Director, Employment Policy Department, ILO

Bettina **SCHALLER**, President, WEC

Jiyoung **YOON**, Director of International Cooperation at Korea Employment Information Service (KEIS)

ABOUT THIS SERIES OF WEBINARS

The Covid-19 pandemic is causing unprecedented turmoil in the labour markets. Recent estimates by the ILO show that 2.7 billion workers, representing 81 per cent of the global workforce, were affected by the full or partial lockdown measures implemented to contain the pandemic and an equivalent of 400 million full time jobs were lost in the second quarter of 2020. Workers in the informal and gig economies are the hardest hit as are the workers in worst affected sectors such as retail, trade, transportation, accommodation and food services, and manufacturing. Low - and middle - income countries face particular risks of high numbers of workers falling into poverty, unemployment and threatened livelihoods during recovery. This results from the disproportionate share of informality in total employment and poor access to health services and social protection. As many countries ease lockdowns and mobility restrictions, workers start to go back to work. Return-to-work policies and activation measures for the unemployed, including those that lost their jobs or have to change jobs or occupations due the pandemic, are thus fundamental for recovery.

In the framework of the ILO-WEC collaboration, a series of webinars are organized throughout to exchange knowledge and discuss policy options for a sustained recovery and reintegration of workers in decent employment. The outcomes of the discussions will inform support actions to the constituency of both organizations and promote further collaboration between them. The webinars will address the impact of the pandemic on employment, employment services and social protection and will take stock of responses, initiatives and lessons learned that could inspire the road to recovery.