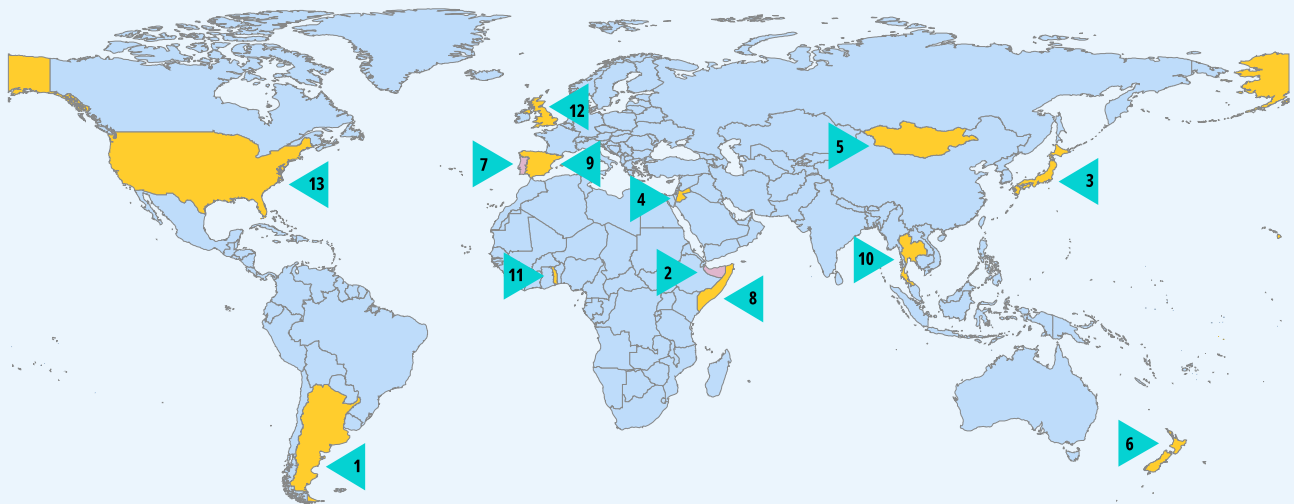


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► **Figure 3.3 Summary of COVID-19 policy response measures, with selected country examples**



- 1** Ensuring income security in old age. **Argentina** advanced the payment of its old-age pension and increased its value.
- 2** Providing income support and access to social services for people with disabilities. **Bahrain** doubled its disability pension.
- 3** Introducing exceptional family leave and care policies. **Japan** subsidized employers providing paid family leave.
- 4** Preventing job losses and providing unemployment protection to those who lost or were at risk of losing their jobs. **Jordan** extended unemployment benefits to workers from crisis-affected sectors.
- 5** Providing child and family benefits. **Mongolia** increased the value of its monthly child benefit fivefold for six months.
- 6** Ensuring income security for vulnerable workers by adapting or introducing employment promotion measures. **New Zealand** established a programme focused on providing ecosystem restoration work for workers in the adversely affected tourist sector.
- 7** Extending provision to migrants and the forcibly displaced. **Portugal** temporarily regularized the status of asylum seekers, facilitating access to healthcare, social support, employment and housing.
- 8** Cash transfers in fragile contexts. **Somalia** launched the Baxnaano programme to provide – for the first time – cash transfers to 1.2 million people.
- 9** Extending or introducing new social assistance benefits for vulnerable persons. **Spain** introduced a new permanent guaranteed minimum income programme, covering 2.3 million vulnerable people.
- 10** Guaranteeing access to healthcare. **Thailand** extended financial protection against health expenses to both nationals and legal residents by granting access for COVID-19 patients to its universal coverage system for emergency patients. This enabled patients to seek treatment at a public or private hospital free of charge.
- 11** Protecting workers in the informal economy by extending coverage. **Togo** implemented the three-month long “Novissi” mobile cash transfer programme – via a phone app – for informal economy workers, reaching over half a million workers within a month.
- 12** Ensuring income security during sick leave through sickness benefits. The **United Kingdom** extended sickness benefits to all workers, including gig economy workers, required to quarantine.
- 13** Exceptional, society-wide generalized one-off or multiple universal payments and emergency universal basic income (UBI). The **United States** made three quasi-universal payments equating to around US\$4,000 per head.

Sources: Gentilini, Dale, and Almenfi (2020); ILO (2020m, 2020u, 2021d, forthcoming d); Stewart, Bastagli, and Orton (2020); UK (2020); Thaiger (2020); Gnassingbé (2020); UN (2020f, 2020h); [United States CARES Act 2020](#); [American Rescue Plan Act of 2021](#).