



Central European Social Policy
and Social Work Network
3rd REGIONAL WEEK
The Role of Social Work
in Natural Disasters:
Lessons Learned
from Covid-19
Pandemic

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Impact of Covid-19 on shock responsive social protection in Macedonia

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Shock responsive social protection*

- Routine social protection focuses on support of shocks as a result of life cycle events such as a loss of jobs, illness or death (idiosyncratic shocks).
- 'Shock-responsive social protection' focuses on shocks that affect a large proportion of the population simultaneously (covariate shocks).
- Adaptation of routine social protection programmes and systems to cope with changes in context and demand following largescale shocks.
- Ex-ante by building shock-responsive systems, plans and partnerships in advance of a shock to better prepare for emergency response;
- Ex-post, to support households once the shock has occurred.

* As defined in: O'Brien, C., Holmes R. and Scott, Z., with Barca, V. (2018) 'Shock-Responsive Social Protection Systems Toolkit–Appraising the use of social protection in addressing largescale shocks', Oxford Policy Management, Oxford, UK.

Use of mechanisms for shock-responsive social protection in North Macedonia

	Design tweaks: making small adjustments to the design of routine social protection interventions	Piggybacking: using elements of an existing social protection programme or system while delivering a separate emergency response	'Vertical expansion': temporarily increasing the value or duration of benefits for existing beneficiaries	'Horizontal expansion': temporarily increasing the number of recipients in an existing social protection programme	'Alignment': aligning social protection and/or humanitarian interventions with one another
One-off support, Wage subsidies and paid leave			✓		
Contributory Unemployment compensation	✓			✓	
Contributory pensions			✓		
Non-contributory Social Assistance	✓			✓	
Non-contributory Energy subsidy			✓		
Non-contributory Educational Allowance	✓				
Health care				✓	
Access to social services			✓		

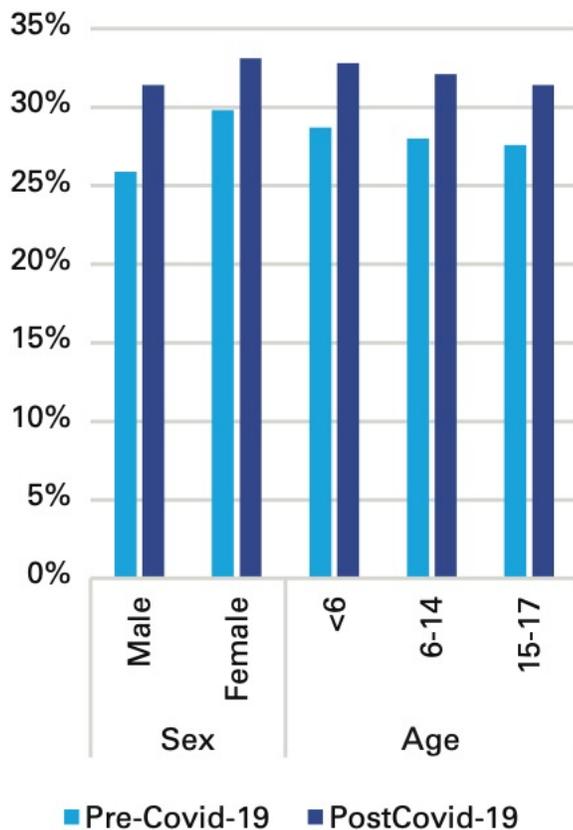
Immediate effects of shock-responsive social protection on child poverty in North Macedonia

	Pre-COVID-19	Post-COVID-19				Assessment for 2020
		Individual impact of considered factors				
	Actual 2019	Impact of wage income decline (incl. informal wages)	Impact of self-employment income decline	Impact of social assistance relaxation	Impact of one-time cash assistance	
	(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)
Relative poverty (below 60% of the equiv. median income)	27.8%	30.9%	31.3%	28.4%	28.3%	32.4%
Absolute poverty, below extreme-low-income threshold	1.5%	2.1%	2.8%	0.5%	0.4%	0.6%
Absolute poverty, below upper-middle-income threshold	8.1%	8.5%	9.3%	8.1%	7.1%	7.5%

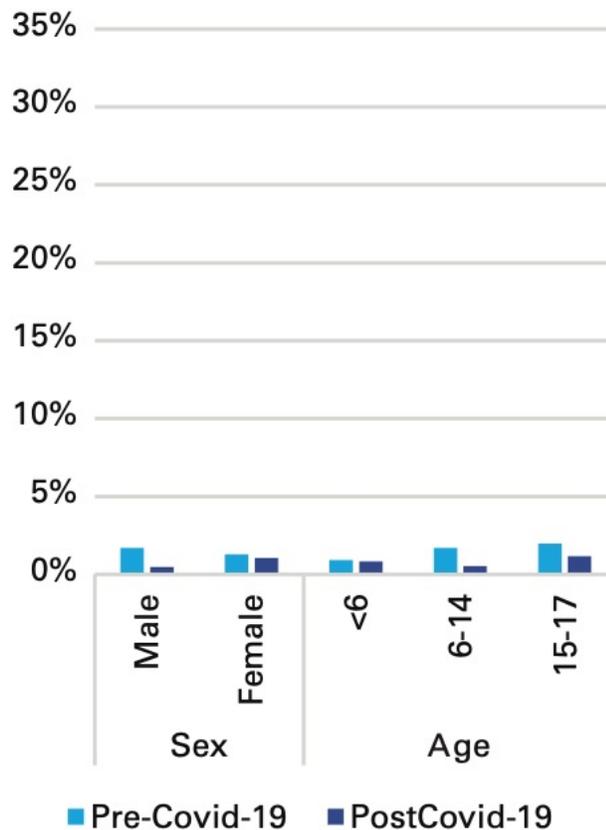
Source: Petreski et. al, 2021 (UNICEF).

Immediate effects of shock-responsive social protection on child poverty in North Macedonia

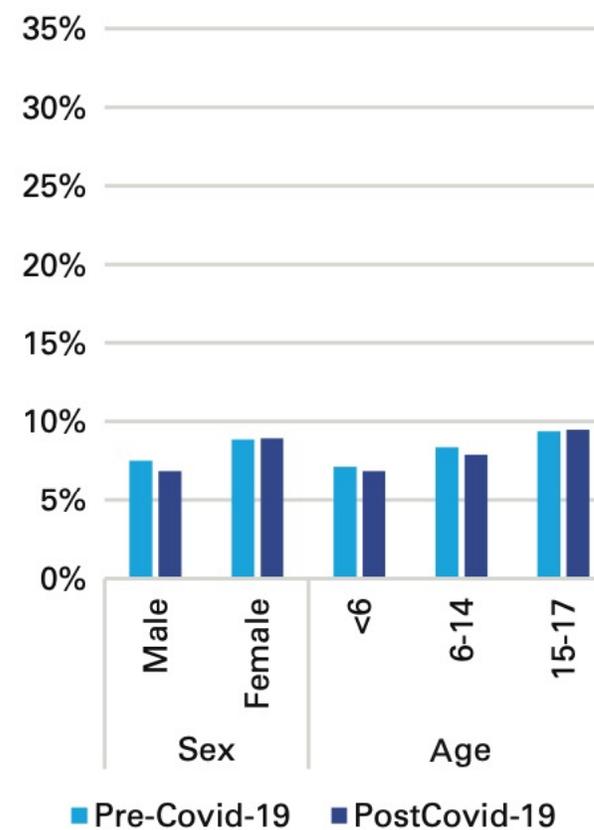
Relative poverty (below 60% of the equiv. income median)



Absolute poverty, below extreme low income threshold



Absolute poverty, below upper middle income threshold



Note: Absolute poverty below extreme low income threshold (at 1.90\$ a day)
 Absolute poverty below upper middle income threshold (at 3.20\$ a day)

Source: Petreski et. al, 2021 (UNICEF).

Effects of shock responsive mechanisms towards improved social protection in North Macedonia

	Design tweaks	Vertical expansion	Horizontal expansion
Meeting needs	Medium	Medium to high	Medium to high
Coverage	Medium	Medium to high	Medium to high
Timeliness	Low	Low	Low
Predictability	Low	Low	Low
Duplication	Low	Low	Low
Sustainability	Low to medium	Low	Low