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## Codebook of the Global Dataset of Child Benefits



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### *Important Notice*

This codebook is an updated and extended version of the previously published Codebook of the Historical Dataset of Child Benefit (HDCB) from 2021 (Tonelli et al. 2021)<sup>1</sup>. The current version extends coverage of countries and includes more detailed information. Users are strongly encouraged to refer to this updated codebook when working with the data to ensure they are using the most accurate and comprehensive information available.

### *Abstract*

The Global Dataset of Child Benefits (GDCB) constitutes the most comprehensive and systematic longitudinal compilation of child benefit policies worldwide, spanning from 1926 to 2021. Developed within the framework of the Global Welfare State Information System (WeSIS), this dataset includes institutional and legal coverage data, as well as data on the scope of benefits across 120 countries, including both statutory entitlements and nationally administered cash transfer programs which have not been enacted into legal frameworks. Through an extensive data collection process, the GDCB captures the global diffusion, evolution, and institutional diversity of child benefit schemes. It distinguishes between employment-based and citizenship- or residency-based benefits and systematically documents targeting mechanisms and conditionalities. Particular attention is devoted to capturing the extension of child-related transfers in the Global South, integrating measures of effective coverage, poverty-targeted interventions and behavioral conditionalities. The dataset harmonizes national administrative data, legal texts, and international sources, offering standardized, cross-nationally comparable indicators. It thus provides a critical empirical foundation for scholarly inquiry into the historical development of welfare state institutions, the stratification of social protection regimes, and the pathways to universalism in family policy.

### *Keywords:*

Child benefits; conditional cash transfers; welfare states; social protection; comparative policy analysis; family policy

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<sup>1</sup> Tonelli, Simone, Tobias Böger, Keonhi Son, Petra Buhr, Sonja Drobnič, and Johannes Huinink. 2021. 'Codebook of the Historical Dataset of Child Benefit (HDCB)'. SFB 1342 Technical Paper Series/11/2021, Bremen: SFB 1342, doi:10.26092/ELIB/1544.

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# CODEBOOK OF THE GLOBAL DATASET OF CHILD BENEFITS

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Anh Tran, Simone Tonelli, Martin Gurín, Tobias Böger, Keonhi Son,  
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## 1. INTRODUCTION

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This codebook serves as a comprehensive guide for users of the *Global Dataset of Child Benefits* (GDCB), offering detailed information regarding the dataset's structure, data collection processes, and source materials. As part of the *Global Welfare State Information System* (WeSIS), the GDCB provides systematically compiled, internationally comparative, longitudinal data on cash transfers for families with children. The dataset includes country-year information on institutional policy design, legal and effective coverage, and the scope of benefits, beginning from the year of each country's policy introduction up to 2021. By assembling and harmonizing this information, the GDCB enables scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to analyze the global diffusion, institutional characteristics, and historical trajectories of child benefit programs. The dataset captures both statutory child benefit entitlements and child-related transfers that are implemented nationally although they are not embedded in national legislation.

The *institutional policy design* refers to the architecture of child benefit schemes, including their legal basis and eligibility criteria. *Legal coverage* identifies the segments of the labor market formally entitled to benefits under national legislation. These data were initially collected as part of the project *Formation and Diffusion of Family Policy in a Global Perspective*, conducted within the *Collaborative Research Centre 1342* (CRC 1342) at the University of Bremen between 2018 and 2021. This phase focused on gathering information on statutory entitlements to child benefits across all countries worldwide. The search covered the period from 1880,<sup>1</sup> although the earliest documented program at a national scale did not appear until 1926, when New Zealand and Spain introduced child benefit systems. The data collection process in this phase included all countries known to have enacted child benefit legislation.

In a subsequent research phase of the CRC 1342 (2022–2025), the dataset was significantly expanded as part of the project *Pathways to Family Policy Universalism: Coverage and Generosity of Family Policies in a Global Perspective*. This phase extended the dataset to include measures of effective coverage and the scope of benefits. These enhancements broadened the dataset's country coverage to 120 countries with either statutory child benefits or nationally administered child-related cash transfer programs. Temporal coverage was extended throughout 2021 and new data on the scope of benefits was collected for all countries for which information was available, spanning the period from 1960 to 2021.

Data collection was further expanded to cover the period starting in 1990, incorporating 53 countries in the Global South that have implemented child-focused cash transfer programs. This extension introduced additional indicators related to means-testing and behavioral conditionalities<sup>2</sup>. While the majority of these countries have not enacted statutory entitlements to child benefits within their national legal frameworks, they have nonetheless developed and implemented child-focused cash transfer programs that deliver effective national-level coverage to families with children. In contexts where benefits are subject to means-testing, countries—particularly those classified as low- or middle-income—employ a range of targeting instruments to identify eligible recipients. These mechanisms include geographic targeting, proxy means-testing, community-based targeting, and assessments of employment vulnerability. Such approaches serve as alternatives to direct income assessments, often driven by the limitations of administrative capacity or data infrastructure. A significant proportion of the programs in these countries take the form of Conditional Cash Transfers (CCTs), which tie benefit receipt to compliance with specific behavioral requirements. These conditions typically relate to children's school attendance, participation

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1 The starting year of 1880 was chosen to align with the first introduction of social insurance systems in the world. While no child benefit programs on a national scale were identified before 1926, the dataset includes this earlier period to reflect the full scope of the historical search.

2 The second stage of data collection covered countries in Africa, Asia (excluding Israel, Japan, and South Korea), Latin America and Oceania. This is based on the definition of the 'Global South' as set out by UNCTAD Classifications, available at: <https://unctadstat.unctad.org/EN/Classifications.html>.

in healthcare services, vaccination schedules, nutritional monitoring, or involvement in community-based activities such as parental workshops or training sessions. Data on targeting mechanisms, behavioral conditions, and effective coverage—measured by the number of recipients—were systematically collected for this subset of 53 countries.

Both projects were supported by the *Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft* (DFG, German Research Foundation) under Project Number 374666841, within the framework of Collaborative Research Centre 1342 (SFB 1342), spanning the periods 2018 to 2021 and 2022 to 2025.

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## 1.1 Data availability

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**Countries:** Longitudinal data on child benefits were collected for 120 countries out of a total of 167 countries in WeSIS, each with a population of at least 500,000 inhabitants.

**Years:** 1926-2021.

The GDCB includes all countries for which reliable information on child benefit programs is available and that have implemented such programs at any point in their history. For each country, available data on child benefits begins with the initial introduction of the policy and continues up to 2021—the most recent year for which data were systematically collected—or until the policy was formally abrogated. Overall, the time series for all 167 countries in WeSIS begins in 1880, including countries where no child benefit policy was identified or no information could be found.

The dataset includes both contemporary nation-states and historical entities. In the case of post-colonial and successor states, we assume that policies adopted by predecessor states (e.g., Yugoslavia) remained in effect until they were either reformed or explicitly repealed. This approach ensures analytical continuity while taking into account the institutional legacy of the predecessor states.

To guide the consistent coding of country-year observations, the country coding in GDCB draws upon the *Correlates of War* (COW) framework, a widely accepted standard in international comparative research. The COW framework was adapted to suit the specific needs of WeSIS, including the incorporation of additional country codes for related entities, including e.g. the Soviet Union (code “3651”) and Yugoslavia (code “3451”)—as well as for capturing the dissolution and reunification of Germany.

Table 1 presents a comprehensive overview of the countries included in the dataset, along with the length of their respective time series. For countries that introduced child benefits during a period of colonial rule or as part of a political federation, the table also records the year of independence, the name of the corresponding governing entity during the pre-independence period, and the applicable temporal span of the policy coverage.

Table 1: Temporal and spatial coverage of the Historical Dataset of Child Benefits

Country Name	Country code	Length of the time series	Year of independence	Related entity
Algeria	615	1941-2021	1963	France (1941-1963)
Angola	540	2011-2021		
Argentina	160	1957-2021		
Armenia	371	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Australia	900	1941-2021		
Austria	305	1948-2021		
Azerbaijan	373	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Bangladesh	771	2002-2021		
Belarus	370	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)

Country Name	Country code	Length of the time series	Year of independence	Related entity
Belgium	211	1931-2021		
Belize	80	2011-2021		
Benin	434	1955-2021	1960	France (1955-1960)
Bolivia	145	1953-2021		
Bosnia and Herzegovina	346	1950-1992	1992	Yugoslavia (1950-1992)
Brazil	140	1941-2021		
Bulgaria	355	1942-2021		
Burkina Faso	439	1955-2021	1960	France (1950-1960)
Burundi	516	1971-2021		
Cambodia	811	2014-2021		
Cameroon	471	1959-2021	1960	France (1959-1960)
Canada	20	1944-2021		
Cape Verde	402	1979-2021		
Central African Republic	482	1956-2021	1958	France (1956-1958)
Chad	483	1956-2021	1958	France (1956-1958)
Chile	155	1937-2021		
Colombia	100	1961-2021		
Congo	484	1956-2021	1958	France (1956-1958)
Costa Rica	94	2001-2021		
Croatia	344	1950-2021	1991	Yugoslavia (1950-1991)
Cyprus	352	1991-2021		
Czech Republic	316	1941-2021	1993	Czechoslovakia (1941-1993)
Democratic Republic of the Congo	490	1951-2021	1960	Belgium (1951-1960)
Denmark	390	1952-2021		
Dominican Republic	42	2005-2021		
East Timor	860	2008-2021		
Ecuador	130	1998-2021		
Egypt	651	2015-2021		
El Salvador	92	2005-2021		
Equatorial Guinea	411	1984-2021		
Estonia	366	1944-2021	1990	Soviet Union (1944-1990)
Finland	375	1943-2021		
France	220	1932-2021		
Gabon	481	1956-2021	1958	France (1956-1958)
Georgia	372	1991-2021	1991	USSR (1936-1991)
German Democratic Republic	265	1950-1990		
Germany	255	1936-2021		German Federal Republic (1954-1989)
Ghana	452	2008-2021		
Greece	350	1957-2021		
Guatemala	90	2007-2021		
Guinea	438	1960-2021		
Haiti	41	2012-2021		
Honduras	91	1990-2021		



Country Name	Country code	Length of the time series	Year of independence	Related entity
Hungary	310	1938-2021		
Indonesia	850	2007-2021		
Iran	630	1955-2021		
Ireland	205	1944-2021		
Israel	666	1959-2021		
Italy	325	1936-2021		
Ivory Coast	437	1955-2021	1960	France 1955-1960)
Jamaica	51	2001-2021		
Japan	740	1969-2021		
Kazakhstan	705	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Kenya	501	2004-2021		
Kyrgyzstan	703	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Latvia	367	1936-2021	1990	USSR (1936-1991)
Lebanon	660	1943-2021	1946	France (1943-1946)
Lesotho	570	2009-2021		
Libya	620	2013-2021		
Lithuania	368	1936-2021	1990	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Luxembourg	212	1947-2021		
Macedonia	343	1950-2021	1991	Yugoslavia (1950-1991)
Madagascar	580	1956-2021	1960	France (1956-1960)
Malawi	553	2006-2021		
Mali	432	1955-2021	1960	France (1955-1960)
Mauritania	435	1955-2021	1960	France (1955-1960)
Mauritius	590	1992-2021		
Mexico	70	1997-2021		
Moldova	359	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Mongolia	712	2005-2021		
Montenegro	341	1950-2021	2006	Yugoslavia (1950-1992) Serbia and Montenegro (1992-2006)
Morocco	600	1959-2021		
Namibia	565	1990-2021		
Nepal	790	2009-2021		
Netherlands	210	1939-2021		
New Zealand	920	1926-2021		
Nicaragua	93	1982-2021		
Niger	436	1961-2021		
Norway	385	1946-2021		
Pakistan	770	2007-2021		
Panama	95	2006-2021		
Paraguay	150	2005-2021		
Peru	135	1989-2021		
Philippines	840	2008-2021		
Poland	290	1947-2021		
Portugal	235	1942-2021		

Country Name	Country code	Length of the time series	Year of independence	Related entity
Romania	360	1944-2021		
Russia	365	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Senegal	433	1955-2021	1960	Mali Federation (Formerly part of France Africa)
Serbia	345	1950-2021	2006	Yugoslavia (1950-1992) Serbia and Montenegro (1992-2006)
Slovakia	317	1941-2021	1993	Czechoslovakia (1941-1993)
Slovenia	349	1950-2021	1991	Yugoslavia (1950-1991)
South Africa	560	1998-2021		
South Korea	732	2018-2021		
Soviet Union	3651	1936-1991		
Spain	230	1926-2021		
Sweden	380	1947-2021		
Switzerland	225	1949-2021		
Tajikistan	702	1936-1991	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Thailand	800	1990-2021		
Togo	461	1956-2021		
Tunisia	616	1961-2021		
Turkey	640	2003-2021		
Turkmenistan	701	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Ukraine	369	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
United Kingdom	200	1945-2021		
Uruguay	165	1943-2021		
Uzbekistan	704	1936-2021	1991	Soviet Union (1936-1991)
Yemen Arab Republic	678	2016-2021		
Yugoslavia	3451	1950-1992		
Zambia	551	2003-2021		
Zimbabwe	552	2011-2021		

Note: This overview includes only countries for which data on child benefits is available. Forty-seven countries are excluded from this table because either no information could be obtained or no child benefit policy existed.

## 1.2 Definition of child benefits

Child-related social protection policies exhibit considerable cross-country variation in both institutional design and implementation. Across the Globe, governments support families with the financial costs of childrearing through a range of instruments, including cash and in-kind transfers. These benefits may be disbursed as regular payments or one-time grants and can be financed through general taxation or contributory schemes. For the purpose of the GDCB, child benefits are defined as regular, cash-based payments provided to parents or caregivers on behalf of their child(ren).

The dataset is restricted to information on the *primary* child benefit in each country—that is, the main statutory or nationally administered program explicitly designed to provide financial assistance to families with children. Accordingly, the GDCB includes all countries that have enacted either legal entitlements to child benefits or nationwide cash transfer schemes with a clear child-centered policy rationale.

Excluded from the dataset are other benefits provided to households solely on the basis of low-income, marital status, or family structure (e.g., single-parent allowances, foster care supplements, or orphan benefits). Similarly, the dataset does not include minimum income schemes, child tax allowances (i.e., sums deductible from an individual's taxable income), or sub-national or pilot programs—unless such pilot programs were subsequently scaled up to the national level. In such cases, the pilot phase is included in the time series, as it represents the institutional origin of a now-national policy. For example, the Philippines' *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program* began as a pilot initiative in 2007 and was expanded to a national program in 2008.

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### 1.3 Cases of multiple parallel child benefits

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The GDCB is structured with country-year as the primary unit of analysis. In principle, this implies a single observation per variable for each country in a given year. However, the institutional reality in many countries is more complex: multiple parallel cash transfer programs—each potentially qualifying as a child benefit under the GDCB's operational definition—may coexist within the same time period. For example, it is not uncommon for an employment-based entitlement and a citizenship- or residency-based transfer to operate simultaneously within the same country and year (see Section 2). Moreover, multiple programs within the same benefit type—such as two overlapping citizenship/residency-based transfers—may also be in place concurrently.

To preserve analytical clarity and ensure comparability across countries, the GDCB accommodates the coexistence of one employment-based child benefit and one child benefit for citizens/residents. For each of these two categories, it includes only the *primary* child benefit for each country-year observation. As detailed in Section 1.2, other benefits which are provided solely on the basis of low-income, or have more narrow eligibility criteria based on marital status or family structure, are excluded. Nevertheless, the identification of the primary benefit requires nuanced judgment, particularly in systems characterized by overlapping or functionally equivalent programs. In such cases, a set of guiding principles was applied to identify the *primary* child benefit in the system:

- 1) Chronological precedence: The primary child benefit is often the earliest-established program among those coexisting at a given point in time.
- 2) Structural primacy: Additional benefits may be provided on top of the primary child benefit rather than functioning as stand-alone income support. In such cases, the dataset captures the underlying or primary policy.

Special considerations were made for countries in the Global South, where policy architectures often involve a patchwork of overlapping, targeted cash transfer programs. In instances where multiple cash transfers co-exist and target distinct groups of children (e.g. differentiated by age), these were treated collectively as the primary child benefit. The dataset reflects aggregate information that synthesizes institutional design, coverage and scope of benefits across the relevant programs.<sup>3</sup> In addition, the dataset accounts for programmatic transitions—periods during which older schemes are gradually phased out as new ones are introduced. For example, in Argentina, the *Jefas y Jefes de Hogar Desocupados* (2002-2008) and *Familias por la Inclusión Social* (2005-2010) operated concurrently from 2005 to 2008. During this transitional period, beneficiaries of the former program were gradually transferred to the latter. Both programs are thus treated as components of the primary child benefit system for those years.

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3 The *Index of child-focused cash transfers in the Global South* provides information on each program which may co-exist simultaneously in a given year.

In addition to the two categories of employment-based child benefits and child benefits for citizens/residents, the GDCB provides a set of indicators describing the overall child benefit system (see Section 2), with the unit of analysis measured as country-year data. These indicators are based on aggregate information regarding the institutional design, coverage, and benefit amounts of the overall system.

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## 1.4 Treatment of missing values

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As part of the WeSIS, the GDCB seeks to provide comprehensive and systematic information on the existence, design, and implementation of child benefit policies worldwide—including explicit documentation of cases in which no such policies are in place.

Despite this ambition, data collection inevitably encountered instances where complete information could not be obtained. To maintain transparency and analytical clarity, the dataset employs a standardized system for coding missing values. These codes are used consistently across all variables and country-year observations:

- » **-999 = No information available:** This code is used when data are unavailable or could not be found.
- » **-888 = Policy does not exist:** This code indicates that data collection was intentionally not pursued because it is known that no relevant policy exists for the country-year in question, or that the policy had been formally discontinued.
- » **-777 = Not applicable:** This code is applied when a variable is conceptually irrelevant to a given policy/context, or it was not collected because it was not relevant for a specific country or child benefit system.

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## 2. VARIABLES

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### 2.1 Overview

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Child benefit programs vary in their institutional foundation and eligibility criteria, most commonly falling into two broad categories: *employment-based* schemes and *citizenship- or residency-based* transfers. Employment-based child benefits are typically contingent upon labor market participation, formal sector employment, social insurance contributions, or affiliation with specific occupational groups. In contrast, citizenship- or residency-based programs provide benefits to families with children regardless of employment status, or they target low-income families who are not covered by social insurance schemes. To capture this institutional variation, the GDCB distinguishes between these two forms of provision through a systematic variable naming convention. Variables relating to employment-based child benefits are prefixed with “fam\_cben\_emp\_varname”, while those referring to citizenship- or residency-based benefits are denoted by the prefix “fam\_cben\_citres\_varname”. In addition, the dataset includes a set of indicators that describe the overall *child benefit system* in each country-year. These are identified by the prefix “fam\_cben\_varname”, and are constructed by synthesizing information from both employment-based and citizenship-/residency-based components. This integrated approach allows for accurate representation of hybrid systems, in which multiple forms of benefit coexist and contribute jointly to national child benefit provision. Table 2 provides a comprehensive overview of the variables included in the GDCB.

Table 2: List of variables

Technical variable name	Variable definition	Coding	Starting year of data collection	Spatial coverage
<i>Child benefit system</i>				
fam_cben_avail_intro	Introduction year of child benefits (irrespective of its type).	Date	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_avail_both	Simultaneous existence of both an employment-based child benefit and a benefit for citizens or residents of the country within the child benefit system.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_mt	Is the child benefit system means-tested?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_cond	Does the child benefit system include behavioral conditions?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_cov_groups	Legal coverage of the child benefit system, indicating the number of sectoral groups in the labor force covered by the employment-based child benefit; and the level of restrictions applicable, based on means-testing, to be eligible for the child benefit for citizens/residents. The possible groups include agriculture, industry, commerce and self-employed. The levels of restrictions include universal, means-testing/income-tested, means-testing/poverty-targeted.	Metric: Index with a value between 0 and 1.	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_amount_max_child_nominal	Maximum monthly child benefit amount per child in nominal values, expressed in national currency.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	1960	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_amount_max_child_real	Maximum monthly child benefit amount per child in real values, calculated based on the implied purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion rate (national currency per current international dollar).	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in international dollars (PPP adjusted)	1960	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_type	Institutional type of the child benefit system.	Multinomial variable: Residency/citizenship Residency/citizenship, means-tested Residency/citizenship, conditional Employment-based Employment-based, means-tested Employment-based, conditional	1926	Worldwide (N=120)

Technical variable name	Variable definition	Coding	Starting year of data collection	Spatial coverage
<i>Employment-based child benefits</i>				
fam_cben_emp_avail_intro	Introduction year of the employment-based benefit.	Date	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_avail_name	Name of the program or the law introducing the employment-based benefit.	String	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_elig_maxage	Upper age limit for child(ren) to be eligible for the employment-based benefit.	Metric: Age	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_elig_maxchild	Maximum number of children in a household for whom the employment-based benefit can be received.	Metric: Number of children	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_elig_minage	Lower age limit for child(ren) in a household to be eligible for the employment-based benefit.	Metric: Age	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_elig_minchild	Minimum number of children in a household for whom the employment-based benefit can be received.	Metric: Number of children	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_elig_mincont	Minimum duration of contributions required to be eligible for the employment-based benefit (in months).	Metric: Number of months	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_mt	Is the employment-based benefit means-tested?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_cov_agr	Legal coverage of parents/caregivers employed in the agriculture sector by the employment-based child benefit.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_cov_com	Legal coverage of parents/caregivers employed in the commercial sector by the employment-based child benefit.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_cov_ind	Legal coverage of parents/caregivers employed in the industrial sector by the employment-based child benefit.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_cov_self	Legal coverage of parents/caregivers who are self-employed by the employment-based child benefit.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_emp_amount_max_child1_age12_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the employment-based child benefit for the FIRST child, aged 12, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)
fam_cben_emp_amount_max_child2_age10_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the employment-based child benefit for the SECOND child, aged 10, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)

Technical variable name	Variable definition	Coding	Starting year of data collection	Spatial coverage
fam_cben_emp_amount_max_child3_age8_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the employment-based child benefit for the THIRD child, aged 8, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)
<i>Citizenship- or residency-based child benefits</i>				
fam_cben_citres_avail_intro	Introduction year of the child benefit for citizens/residents.	Date	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_avail_name	Name of the program or the law introducing the child benefit for citizens/residents.	String	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_avail_resid	Is the benefit available for all residents of the country, regardless of citizenship status?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_elig_maxage	Upper age limit for child(ren) in a household to be eligible for citizenship- or residency-based child benefit.	Metric: Age	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_elig_maxchild	Maximum number of eligible children in a household that can receive the child benefit for citizens/residents.	Metric: Number of children	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_elig_minage	Lower age limit for child(ren) in a household to be eligible for citizenship- or residency-based child benefits.	Metric: Age	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_elig_minchild	Minimum number of children in the household eligible for the child benefit for citizens/residents.	Metric: Number of children	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_child1_age12_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit for the FIRST child, aged 12, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_child2_age10_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit for the SECOND child, aged 10, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_child3_age8_nominal	This variable indicates the maximum monthly amount (nominal value in national currency) received from the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit for the THIRD child, aged 8, in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	2000	Global North (N=37)
fam_cben_citres_mt	Is the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit means-tested?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1926	Worldwide (N=120)
fam_cben_citres_mt_geo	If means-tested, is vulnerability determined by geographic location?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_mt_income	If means-tested, is vulnerability determined by income level?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)

Technical variable name	Variable definition	Coding	Starting year of data collection	Spatial coverage
fam_cben_citres_mt_income_threshold	If the means test is based on income, what is the (nominal) income threshold to be eligible?	Metric: Monthly income for eligibility threshold expressed in national currency Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_mt_pmt	If means-tested, is vulnerability determined by proxy means testing?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_mt_cbt	If means-tested, is vulnerability determined by community-based targeting?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_mt_emp	If means-tested, is vulnerability determined based on being outside of "formal" employment (e.g. unemployment, self-employment or informal)? Here, eligibility for the benefit is assessed based on vulnerability of the employment status rather than contributions from employment.	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit based on any behavioral conditions?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond_educ	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit conditional on school enrolment and/or attendance?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond_health	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit conditional on attendance at health appointments?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond_nutri	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit conditional on meeting nutritional requirements?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond_vaccin	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit conditional on immunization?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cond_particip	Is receipt of the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit conditional on attendance at trainings, meetings, activities or another form of social participation?	Binary: 0=no, 1=yes	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cov_eff_hh	If the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit is provided at the household-level, this variable indicates the total number of households who have received a benefit.	Metric: Number of households	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cov_eff_child	If the citizenship- or residency-based child benefit is provided at the child-level, this variable indicates the total number of children who have received a benefit.	Metric: Number of children	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_cov_eff_sharechild	This variable estimates the share of the child population (aged below 18) who received a benefit.	Metric: Percentage (%) of population aged < 18.	1990	Global South (N=53)



Technical variable name	Variable definition	Coding	Starting year of data collection	Spatial coverage
fam_cben_citres_amount_min_hh_nominal	Minimum monthly benefit amount per household in nominal values, expressed in national currency.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_min_child_nominal	Minimum monthly benefit amount per child in nominal values, expressed in national currency.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_hh_nominal	Maximum monthly benefit amount per household in nominal values, expressed in national currency.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_child_nominal	Maximum monthly benefit amount per child in nominal values, expressed in national currency.	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in national currency	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_min_hh_real	Minimum monthly benefit amount per household in real values, calculated based on the implied PPP conversion rate (national currency per current international dollar).	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in international dollars (PPP adjusted)	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_min_child_real	Minimum monthly benefit amount per child in real values, calculated based on the implied PPP conversion rate (national currency per current international dollar).	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in international dollars (PPP adjusted)	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_hh_real	Maximum monthly benefit amount per household in real values, calculated based on the implied PPP conversion rate (national currency per current international dollar).	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in international dollars (PPP adjusted)	1990	Global South (N=53)
fam_cben_citres_amount_max_child_real	Maximum monthly benefit amount per child in real values, calculated based on the implied PPP conversion rate (national currency per current international dollar).	Metric: Monthly amount expressed in international dollars (PPP adjusted)	1990	Global South (N=53)

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## 2.2 Coverage

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### 2.2.1 LEGAL COVERAGE

To assess the legal coverage of the child benefit system, the GDCB systematically documents the inclusion of specific employment sectors within the economy and labor market. This dimension is captured by the variable `fam_cben_cov_groups`, which reflects the proportion of occupational and population groups legally entitled to child benefits, expressed through a weighted index ranging from 0 to 1.

The variable comprises an index with a value between 0 and 1. Ideally, a measure of legal coverage considers the share of children or families that are covered by the child benefit system based on the national composition of the population and labor force. However, due to the limited availability of comparable data on national labor force composition across countries and over time, the GDCB employs an index-based proxy to offer an indicative measure of coverage. The index captures the extent to which a child benefit system is restrictive or inclusive in its legal eligibility criteria—ranging from ‘most selective’ (i.e., limited to narrow occupational groups) to ‘universal’ coverage. The index is calculated based on the cumulative score of citizenship- or residency-based child benefits and employment-based child benefits available in each country. The scores are calculated using several dimensions of the child benefit system which are assigned weights, as shown in Table 3.

For citizenship-/residency-based programs, the degree of means-testing serves as an indicator of the restrictiveness of access. Programs with stringent targeting mechanisms receive lower scores, while those that are universally available to citizens or residents without means-testing receive higher scores. Among means-tested programs, eligibility conditions are considered moderately restrictive when based on an income test or on the vulnerability of the employment status, which often relies on available information about the applicant’s income or work situation. Programs that rely on poverty-targeting mechanisms—including proxy means-testing or community-based targeting—are assumed to be the most restrictive. These mechanisms share the underlying assumption that only a narrowly defined subset of the population—those living below the poverty line or similar vulnerability thresholds—is eligible to receive support. Consequently, such programs are scored accordingly to reflect their limited coverage. For employment-based benefits, the index considers the presence or absence of entitlement across distinct employment groups (e.g., agricultural workers or the self-employed). As the dataset does not include country-specific labor force distribution data, equal weighting is applied to each group.

Table 3: Dimensions and weights of index of legal coverage of the child benefit system

Citizenship-/residency-based	Index value
Universal	1.0
Means-tested/Income-tested, employment vulnerability	0.4
Means-tested/poverty-targeted (PMT, CBT)	0.2
Employment-based	
Agriculture	0.15
Industry	0.15
Commerce	0.15
Self-employed	0.15

It is important to note that the legal coverage index does *not* account for the degree of overlap or mutual exclusivity among eligible groups. A value of 1 is assigned in cases where child benefits are universal—that is, provided to all families or caregivers irrespective of employment status, income, or other qualifying conditions. In such instances, it is assumed that no substantive eligibility restrictions apply, and therefore the legal coverage is considered complete. In systems where both employment-based and citizenship- or residency-based benefits coexist—and where the latter is means-tested based on

income—the cumulative scores can also result in an index value of up to 1. This is based on the assumption that the combination of both schemes is functionally universal. That is, taken together, the two components are presumed to cover the full spectrum of the labor force and population, albeit through differentiated mechanisms.

### 2.2.2 EFFECTIVE COVERAGE

The GDCB includes a set of variables (*fam\_cben\_citres\_cov\_eff\_hh* and *fam\_cben\_citres\_cov\_eff\_child*) designed to capture the effective coverage of citizenship- or residency-based child benefit programs in countries of the Global South. These indicators reflect the actual number of households and children receiving benefits, offering insight into how formal entitlements translate into real-world access. The effective coverage of households or individual children may differ annually or month-by-month, depending on how it is reported by the administrative organization. The dataset reports the value in December unless it is not available or reported differently (e.g. on an annual basis).

To facilitate cross-country comparability, the GDCB also provides an estimate of the proportion of the child population effectively covered by the benefit system, captured by the variable *fam\_cben\_citres\_cov\_eff\_sharechild*. This indicator estimates the share of children below the age of 18 who are recipients of the respective benefit.

The construction of this variable is based on the following methodological assumptions and calculations:

- » The share of children effectively covered is computed by dividing the number of child recipients in a given year by the total number of children aged under 18 in that country and year. Demographic data was obtained from the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) World Population Prospects (WPP) database.<sup>4</sup>
- » When the child benefit is distributed per individual child, the calculation is based on the actual number of child recipients (*fam\_cben\_citres\_cov\_eff\_child*) as published by administrative databases, relevant policy/program documentation or literature.
- » When the child benefit is distributed per household, an intermediate estimate of the number of children covered is derived by multiplying the number of recipient households (*fam\_cben\_citres\_cov\_eff\_hh*) by the average number of children (under age 15) living in households with at least one child under age 15, based on national-level household survey data.<sup>5</sup>

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## 2.3 Amounts

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The GDCB includes multiple sets of variables that capture the monthly amount of child benefits across countries. Given the diversity of institutional designs and benefit structures, these variables have been harmonized to facilitate comparability across countries and time.

The first group of variables pertains to countries in the Global North and follows the methodological conventions established by the *Comparative Family Policy Database* (Gauthier 2011). These data were compiled for the period 2000-2021 and are primarily based on the *Mutual Information System on Social Protection* (MISSOC).

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4 Available at <https://population.un.org/wpp/>.

5 Several household-level data sources compiled by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) are used to access the average number of children in a household per year, including Census data and the Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) Program. Available at: <https://www.un.org/development/desa/pd/data/household-size-and-composition>.

The variables reflect the maximum monthly benefit amount that would be received by a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10, and 12, following the assumptions and protocols articulated by Gauthier (2011):

- » The maximum monthly amount received for the FIRST child, aged 12 for the employment-based (*fam\_cben\_emp\_amount\_max\_child1\_age12\_nominal*) or citizenship-/residency-based child benefit (*fam\_cben\_citres\_amount\_max\_child1\_age12\_nominal*)
- » The maximum monthly amount received for the SECOND child, aged 10 for the employment-based (*fam\_cben\_emp\_amount\_max\_child2\_age10\_nominal*) or citizenship-/residency-based child benefit (*fam\_cben\_citres\_amount\_max\_child2\_age10\_nominal*)
- » The maximum monthly amount received for the THIRD child, aged 8 for the employment-based (*fam\_cben\_emp\_amount\_max\_child3\_age8\_nominal*) or citizenship-/residency-based child benefit (*fam\_cben\_citres\_amount\_max\_child3\_age8\_nominal*)

The second group of variables, which was coded for child benefits available for citizens/residents across countries in the Global South, record the minimum and maximum values provided per month. In many of these countries, child benefits are structured as flat-rate household-level transfers, with the benefit amount determined by the number of children in the household, often within a defined minimum and maximum threshold. Nominal values—reported in national currency—were collected at either the household or child level, depending on the design of each program. This includes all variables starting with *fam\_cben\_citres\_amount\_min\_varname* and *fam\_cben\_citres\_amount\_max\_varname*. To enable cross-country comparisons. These variables were subsequently calculated in real values, expressed in international dollars based on purchasing power parity (PPP) conversion factors. PPP conversion factors were derived from the *International Monetary Fund - World Economic Outlook* (IMF-WEO) Database, to translate nominal values into international dollars.<sup>6</sup>

In addition, two standardized variables were constructed: *fam\_cben\_amount\_max\_child\_nominal* and *fam\_cben\_amount\_max\_child\_real*, which report the maximum monthly child benefit amounts per child in both nominal and PPP-adjusted values, respectively. These variables are derived through a consistent set of calculations and assumptions:

- » In child benefit systems across Global North countries where benefit amounts vary by age or birth order, the reported value corresponds to the maximum (monthly) amount received for a school-age child in a hypothetical family with three children aged 8, 10 and 12 years, following the established logic of Gauthier (2011).
- » For the benefits provided at the household-level, the equivalent per-child amount is computed by dividing the total household benefit by the average number of children (under age 15) in households with at least one child under 15 in the respective country. These demographic averages are based on household-level data compiled by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).
- » Where comprehensive data were unavailable or when a maximum amount could not be determined due to program structure, the variable defaults to the minimum monthly value per child.

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### 3. COMMON SOURCES

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Below is a list of common sources used to gather information on multiple countries. For country-specific sources and calculations, please refer to *Appendix: Country-specific information and sources*. The

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<sup>6</sup> Available at: <https://www.imf.org/en/Publications/SPROLLS/world-economic-outlook-databases>.

Appendix provides more detailed information beyond the common sources, with a primary focus on countries in the Global South, which are often underrepresented in existing cross-national databases. It also includes information for five European countries, specifically detailing the process by which data on the scope of benefits was collected.

- Gauthier, Anne H. 2011. Comparative Family Policy Database, Version 3 [computer file]. Netherlands Interdisciplinary Demographic Institute and Max Planck Institute for Demographic Research (distributors). [www.demogr.mpg.de](http://www.demogr.mpg.de)
- International Social Security Association. 2022. Social Security Around the World: Country Profiles. Geneva: ISSA. <https://www.issa.int/databases/country-profiles>
- International Labour Organization. Various years. Legislative Series. Geneva: ILO. <https://www.ilo.org/public/libdoc/ilo/P/09607>
- Mutual Information System on Social Protection. MISSOC database: Comparative tables. <https://www.missoc.org/missoc-database/comparative-tables/>
- NATLEX. Database of National Labour, Social Security and Related Human Rights Legislation. Geneva: ILO. <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/natlex/natlex4.home>
- Social Security Administration. Various years. Social Security Programs Throughout the World. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office. 1949-1999 reports: <https://catalog.hathitrust.org/Record/003924614> 2001-2019 reports: <https://www.ssa.gov/policy/docs/progdesc/ssptw>
- Socialprotection.org. Programme Profiles. <https://socialprotection.org/discover/programme>
- United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>.
- UNU-WIDER. 2018. Social Assistance, Politics, and Institutions (SAPI) database [online]. Helsinki: United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research (UNU-WIDER). [/project/sapi-social-assistance-politics-and-institutions-database](https://project.sapi-social-assistance-politics-and-institutions-database).
- Waggaman, Mary T. 1926. Family Allowances in Foreign Countries: Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 401. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/4026>
- Waggaman, Mary T. 1939. "Family Allowances in 1937 and 1938", *Monthly Labor Review* 48 (5): 1026-45.
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- Wagemann, Mary T. 1945. Family Allowances in Various Countries, 1944-45: Bulletin of the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics, No. 853. Washington: U.S. Government Printing Office. <https://fraser.stlouisfed.org/title/4319>

## 4. APPENDIX: COUNTRY-SPECIFIC INFORMATION AND SOURCES

### Africa

#### Algeria

Country code: 615

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Allocation spéciale de scolarité* (2000-present), a means-tested program predicated on income eligibility criteria. Specifically, families qualify for this benefit if their monthly income does not exceed the statutory (monthly) minimum wage. Eligibility is further contingent upon the child's school attendance. The GDCB reports the minimum and maximum monthly amounts, which is calculated based on an annual transfer.

**Sources:** International Social Security Association. 2022. *Algeria*. ISSA Country profiles: Algeria.

Marcus, Rachel, Pereznieta, Paola, Cullen, Erin, and Jones, Nicola. 2011. *Children and social protection in the Middle East and Northern Africa*. Overseas Development Institute Working Paper 355. London: ODI.

Socialprotection.org. *Allocation Spéciale de Sclolarité* (Special Allowance for School Children). <https://socialprotection.org/discover/programmes/allocation-sp%C3%A9ciale-de-sclolarit%C3%A9-special-allowance-school-children>.

Social Security Administration. Various years. *Social Security Programs throughout the World: Africa*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

UNICEF. 2023. *Country Office Annual Report 2023: Algeria*.

#### Egypt

Country code: 651

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Takaful* program (2015-present), which targets poor households with children through a dual targeting mechanism comprising geographical selection and proxy means testing. Eligibility is conditional upon the school enrolment and attendance of children aged 6 to 18, as well as four visits a year to health clinics by mothers and children below the age of 7. These visits include child immunization and growth monitoring. Since 2015, the program has provided a basic monthly transfer per household, with variable amounts paid based on the age and education level of the child. The GDCB reports the minimum and maximum monthly amounts per child. This benefit is capped at a maximum of three children per household.

**Sources:** Government of Egypt. 2024. *Takaful & Karama Program*. State Information Service. <https://sis.gov.eg/Story/173372/Takaful-%26-Karama-Program?lang=en-us>.

Hteit, Rabab. 2023. "Takaful and Karama: cash transfer programs for marginalized groups (2015–ongoing)." *Pathfinders* [blog], June 4. <https://www.sdg16.plus/policies/takaful-and-karama-cash-transfer-programs-for-marginalized-groups/#policy-reference-20>.

Machado, Anna Carolina, Charlotte Bilo, Fábio Veras Soares, and Rafael Guerreiro Osorio. 2018. *Overview of Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region through a Child and Equity Lens*. Brasília: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

Social Security Administration. 2018. *Social Security Programs throughout the World: Africa*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

Tammam, Ahmed. 2019. *Reform of Social Protection in Egypt: Takaful and Karama Programme (TKP), A pro-women programme*. UNICEF.

United Nations. *Cash Transfer Programs: Takaful and Karama - Solidarity and Dignity*. Sustainable Development Goals Partnerships.

World Bank Group. 2018. "The Story of Takaful and Karama Cash Transfer Program." *World Bank Group* [blog], November 15. <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2018/11/15/the-story-of-takaful-and-karama-cash-transfer-program>.

#### Gabon

Country code: 481

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Prime de rentrée scolaire, Gabonais Economiquement Faibles* (GEF) program (2015-present), which targets low-income households with children under the age of 16 (or up to age 17 for apprentices, and age 20 for students and children with disabilities). Eligibility is determined through a means test based on an income threshold. Specifically, between 2017 and 2019, households with a monthly income not exceeding the statutory (monthly) minimum wage qualified for the benefit. Receipt of the benefit is conditional upon the school attendance. Between 2017-2019, the program has provided a flat-rate transfer amount per month.

**Sources:** Social Security Administration. 2017. *Social Security Programs throughout the World: Africa*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

Social Security Administration. 2019. *Social Security Programs throughout the World: Africa*. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

#### Ghana

Country code: 452

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Livelihood Empowerment Against Poverty (LEAP)* program (2008-present). Between 2008-2014, the program has targeted low-income households with members who meet certain social categories, which included: 1) aged 65 years or above without any other form of support, 2) severely disabled without productive capacity, and 3) orphaned and vulnerable children. Since 2015, the program has been expanded through the *LEAP 1000* program which targets extremely poor or vulnerable households with pregnant women and mothers with infants under one year. The GDCB reports information on the child-specific components of the LEAP program. The program begun targeting 21 districts in 2008, and was gradually expanded to cover more districts until it was rolled out nationally in 2016. Since 2008, the program has been means-

tested, based on a combination of geographical targeting, a proxy means test (PMT) and community-based targeting. Districts with eligible recipients are selected based on national-, regional- and district-level poverty rankings. Potentially eligible households participate in a questionnaire for the PMT at designated meeting points, after which their information is processed in the LEAP program Management Information System. Eligibility is subsequently determined based on a PMT formula and pre-defined eligibility thresholds applied to the PMT score. Receipt of the transfer is conditional on school enrolment and retention in public schools, registration in the National Health Insurance Scheme and renewal of member cards, registration of newborns (0-18 months) in the Birth and Deaths Registry, attendance at post-natal clinics, completion of an immunization program, and ensuring that no child in the household is the victim of trafficking or engaging in activities constituting the “Worst Forms of Child Labour”. The benefit is received bi-monthly. Each household receives an amount based on the number of eligible household members who meet the social categories. The GDCB reports the equivalent minimum and maximum monthly amounts.

- Sources:** ILO. 2015. *Rationalizing Social Protection Expenditure in Ghana: Consolidated Report*.  
Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection of Ghana. LEAP Programme, Eligibility Criteria. <https://leap.mogcsp.gov.gh/eligibility-criteria/>  
Otieno, Peter, Gustavo Angeles, Sarah Quiñones, Vincent Van Halsema, Jacob Novignon, and Tia Palermo. 2022. ‘Health Services Availability and Readiness Moderate Cash Transfer Impacts on Health Insurance Enrolment: Evidence from the LEAP 1000 Cash Transfer Program in Ghana’. *BMC Health Services Research* 22(1): 599.  
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UNICEF. 2021. Ghana: Social Protection Responses to COVID-19.  
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World Bank. 2016. Ghana: Social Protection Assessment and Public Expenditure Review. Social Protection and Labor and Poverty and Equity Global Practices, Africa Region.

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Kenya	Country code: 501
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (CT-OVC)* program (2004-present). The CT-OVC program targets low-income households with orphans and vulnerable children (0-18 years) through a combination of a proxy means test and community-based targeting. Prior to 2014, the CT-OVC was geographically targeted, by covering districts selected based on poverty rates. In 2004, the CT-OVC program was implemented in three districts with a high poverty rate, after which the program was gradually scaled up to cover more districts during the ‘pre-pilot’ (2004-2006), ‘pilot’ (2007-2009) and ‘expansion’ (2009-2014) phases of the program. The program has covered households nationally since 2014. Receipt of the transfer is conditional on school enrolment and attendance for children aged 6-17, as well as growth monitoring, immunizations, and vitamin A supplement provision among children below the age of 6. The program provides a flat transfer per household, regardless of the age or number of children in the household.

- Sources:** Bosworth, Joanne, Carlos Alviar, Luis Corral, Benjamin Davis, Daniel Musembi, Winnie Mwasiqji, Samuel Ochieng, Roger Pearson, Pamela Pozarny, Patrick Ward, and Will Wisman. 2016. ‘The Cash Transfer Programme for Orphans and Vulnerable Children’. In *From Evidence to Action*, eds. Benjamin Davis, Sudhanshu Handa, Nicola Hypher, Natalia Winder Rossi, Paul Winters, and Jennifer Yablonski. Oxford University Press, 117–45.  
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Mwasiqji, Winnie. 2015. *Scaling up Cash Transfer Programmes in Kenya*. Brasilia: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth. One Pager (286).  
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World Bank. 2017. Kenya - Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (P111545). Implementation Status Results Report: Sequence 17. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

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Libya	Country code: 620
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Allowances for Children and Wives* program (2013-present). The benefit is provided to all children, as well as certain categories of wives and unmarried women over the age of 18 who do not



receive a salary, wage or grant from "other institutions" - a designation that may implicitly exclude women working in the private sector (which are not included among "other institutions"). The program was implemented in 2013 based on Law No. 27. Limited information is available regarding its implementation between 2014-2020. According to UNICEF (2022), the program was suspended in 2014. The program has reportedly been reinstated by Decree No. 564 in 2020. The program provides a flat-rate transfer, with variable amounts for each eligible wife and each eligible child. The GDCB reports the per-child benefit amount.

**Sources:** Hammad, Maya, and Nourjelha Mohamed. 2021. *A Mapping of Libya's Social Protection Sector*. Brasília: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.  
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Lesotho Country code: 570

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Grants* program (2009-present), which targets low-income households through a dual mechanism combining proxy means testing and community-based targeting. Beneficiaries are enrolled in the National Information System for Social Assistance (NISSA). The transfer is provided quarterly. Between 2009-2012, the program provided a flat rate amount of M 360 per quarter to each household. Since 2013, the program has provided variable amounts based on the number of children in the household. The GDCB reports the equivalent minimum and maximum monthly amounts. The minimum monthly amount reflects the benefit received by a household with 1-2 children. The maximum monthly amount reflects the benefit received by a household with 5 or more children.

**Sources:** Ministry of Social Development and UNICEF. 2022. *Data in Focus (1)*. UNICEF Lesotho.  
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Morocco Country code: 600

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Tayssir* program (2008-present). The program targets families living in communes with poverty rates above 30 per cent and drop-out rates of at least eight per cent per year. Between 2008-2010, during the pilot phase, the program targeted the five poorest regions in Morocco out of 16 administrative regions. The program was subsequently expanded to further regions. Since the 2018/19 school year, a proxy means test was instated and the number of beneficiary households expanded nationwide, which was enabled by a fourfold increase in the budget of the program. The program covers up to three children per household. Eligible children between the age of 6 to 15 receive a transfer, conditional on school enrolment and attendance. This is monitored based on a maximum limit of school absences per month, including four for primary school students and six for secondary school students. Benefits are paid for 10 months per school year. The benefit amount varies based on the education level of the child. The minimum monthly amount per child reflects the transfer paid to a child in the first and second year of primary school. Between 2008-2010, the maximum monthly amount per child reflected the transfer paid to a child in the fifth and sixth year of primary school. Between 2015-2020, higher amounts were reported for secondary school students.

**Sources:** Benhassine, Najj, Florencia Devoto, Esther Duflo, Pascaline Dupas, and Victor Pouliquen. 2015. "Turning a Shove into a Nudge? A 'Labeled Cash Transfer' for Education." *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy* 7 (3): 86–125.  
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Mauritius Country code: 590

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Allowance* program (1962-present). The GDCB provides information on the program from 1992, when information is available through Statistics Mauritius. The Child Allowance has been payable to children of beneficiaries of the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP), Basic Widow's Pension (BWP), and Basic Invalid Pension (BIP). The program provides transfers for up to three dependent children per household below 15 years, or 20 years if they are in full-time education. Since 2013, the benefit is paid to children below 15 years, 20 years if the child is disabled, or 23 years if the child is a full-time student. Since 2012, the Child Allowance falls under the Social Aid Benefits program administered through the Social Register of Mauritius (SRM) using a proxy means test. Receipt of a transfer is conditional on school enrolment and attendance. For the period of 2002-2021, the GDCB provides information on the annual number of children receiving the Child Allowance, based on their attachment to the BRP, BWP or BIP. These numbers do not reflect child recipients under the Social Aid Act. The benefit amount



varies based on the program which receipt of the Child Allowance is attached to, as well as the age of the child. The amount has increased incrementally over time. The minimum amount reported by the GDCB is based on the Social Aid Act, for a child younger than age 3. The maximum amount is based on the Pension Act, for a child aged 10 or above.

**Sources:** McClanahan, Shea, David Hillson, Richard Chirchir. 2021. *Global research on governance and social protection: Case studies on Mauritius and Fiji*. United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and International Labour Organization.

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Malawi

Country code: 553

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the Social Cash Transfer, locally known as the *Mtukula Pakhomo* program (2006-present). The program targets 'ultra-poor' households, meaning that it aims to reach 10 per cent of the poorest households among the broader category of eligible households. The category of eligible households includes labor constrained households which have no 'fit-for-work' member or whose ratio of 'unfit-to-work' to 'fit-to work' is 3:1. This includes child-focused eligibility criteria, as the program targets children below 18 years who are considered 'unfit-to-work' or below 25 years if the child is still attending school. Older persons aged 64 and above and persons with disabilities or chronic illnesses, regardless of age, are also deemed 'unfit-to-work'. Initially targeted based on a combination of geographic targeting and community-based targeting, the program was rolled out in 2006 across seven districts and subsequently expanded to gradually target more districts. Since 2012, a proxy means test has been implemented as part of the Malawi National Social Support Program. Community Social Support Committees support the identification of potentially eligible households during community meetings, based on lists generated by the Unified Beneficiary Registry at District-Council-Level. A proxy means test is subsequently applied to identify 10 per cent households who are deemed eligible for the transfer. Since 2017, the program has covered households nationwide, as it no longer targets specific districts. Receipt of the transfer is unconditional, although children may receive an education bonus. The benefit amount varies based on household size (including children and adult members) and children's education level. The GDCB reports the minimum and maximum monthly benefit amounts per household based on household size, and minimum and maximum monthly benefit amounts per child based on the education bonus.

**Sources:** Angeles, Gustavo, Sara Abdoulayi, Clare Barrington, Sudhanshu Handa, Esmie Tamanda Kainja, Peter Mvula, Harry Mwamlima, Maxton Tsoka, and Tayllor Spadafora. 2016. 'The Social Cash Transfer Programme of Malawi'. In *From Evidence to Action*, eds. Benjamin Davis, Sudhanshu Handa, Nicola Hypher, Natalia Winder Rossi, Paul Winters, and Jennifer Yablonski. Oxford University Press, 281–305.

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Namibia

Country code: 565

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Maintenance Grant* (1977-present) and the *Vulnerable Grant* (2014-present). The GDCB provides information on the program from 1992, when information is available through secondary research and administrative reports. Limited information is available prior to 2000. Since 2000, the program has provided transfers to children aged 6 to 18 who meet certain criteria based on vulnerability. This includes the following characteristics: orphans as well

as children who are vulnerable due to the situation of their caregivers (e.g. being cared for by grandparents), the spouse receives a disability or old age grant, is deceased, or is serving a jail term of at least three months. Eligible households have been identified based on community-based targeting. Households who are potentially eligible for the program receive a referral by the Village or Ward Social Welfare Committee, the Village Development Committee, other leaders or concerned individuals for registration by a local authority. An orphan or their caregiver may also apply directly at a local authority. Since 2014, the Vulnerable Grant has additionally been implemented to target children living in poor households. To be eligible for the Vulnerable Grant, the household income should be below a given threshold. Eligible households are identified based on a combination of proxy means testing and community-based targeting. Therefore, households are identified based on referrals, similar to the Child Maintenance Grant, while households are also subjected to a proxy means test to determine their eligibility for the Vulnerable Grant.

**Sources:** Bank of Namibia. 2013. *Social Safety Nets in Namibia*.  
Chinyoka, Isaac. 2019. Namibia's Child Welfare Regime. 1990-2017. University of Cape Town.  
UNICEF. 2017. Social Assistance and Welfare in Namibia.

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Senegal	Country code: 433
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Programme National de Bourses de Sécurité Familiale (PNBSF)*, also known as the Conditional Cash Transfer for Orphans and Vulnerable Children (2013-present). Initially implemented as a pilot in 2013, the program targeted children aged 6 to 12. In the second phase of the program, which started in 2014, the target was extended to households with children aged 0–5 years as well as people aged 60 and above. The program targets poor households with children aged below 15 years, based on a combination of a proxy means test and community-based targeting. Quotas of beneficiaries are established for each municipality based on its poverty incidence. Subsequently, village or neighborhood committees establish lists of the perceived poorest households within the community which are validated by a municipal targeting committee. The national statistics office (*Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie*) then carries out a survey among households on the list, in order to conduct a proxy means test. Households deemed eligible based on their proxy means test score are subsequently considered to be eligible for the PNBSF, and registered in the Single National Register Database. Receipt of a transfer is conditional on enrolment and retention of children aged 6 to 12 in school, vaccination of children below 5 years, and the registration of all children in the civil registry. These conditions are, reportedly, monitored to a limited extent. Since its implementation, the program has provided a flat-rate transfer, regardless of the size of the household or the number of children. The amount is paid per quarter.

**Sources:** Organisation internationale du Travail. 2021. *Revue Globale et Analyse du Systeme National de Protection Sociale du Sénégal*. Dakar: Bureau pays de l'OIT à Dakar.  
Perin, Gabriela, João Pedro Bregolin Dytz, Lucas Sato, and Nourjelha Mohamed Yousif. 2022. The state of social protection for agrifood systems workers in West Africa. Brasília and Rome: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. IPC-IG working paper (196).  
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Tunisia	Country code: 616
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Programme d'Allocations Scolaires (PPAS)*, also known as the Education Benefit Program (2007-present). The program is means-tested based on an income threshold. The operation of the means test is linked to the *Programme National d'Aide aux Familles Nécessiteuses* (Tunisian National Programme for Assistance to Families in Need) which is a nationwide cash transfer. The PPAS provides an education benefit to students from families covered by the PNAFN aged 6 to 18 years. Receipt of a transfer is conditional on school enrolment and attendance and can be received for up to three children per household. The GDCB reports the minimum monthly transfer amount received by the PPAS, which is a flat-rate transfer for each child of school age. The maximum monthly amount per household is based on the transfer that a household can receive on the basis of three children.

**Sources:** Machado, Anna Carolina, Charlotte Bilo, Fábio Veras Soares, and Rafael Guerreiro Osorio. 2018. *Overview of Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Region through a Child and Equity Lens*. Brasilia: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.  
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South Africa	Country code: 560
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Support Grant* (1998-present). The maximum eligibility age was 7 between 1998-2002, age 9 in 2003, age 11 in 2004, age 14 between 2005-2010, and since 2011, the maximum eligibility age has been 18. The program is means-tested based on an income threshold, which is set separately for rural and urban areas. Since 2009, separate income thresholds are also determined for single persons and couples. Between 1998-1999, a number of behavioral conditions applied. Eligible parents and caregivers had to provide proof of immunization and registration at a health clinic, as well as proof of efforts to secure employment or join a development program. Single mothers had to provide 'proof of efforts' to obtain maintenance support from the father of the child. These conditions were abolished in 2000 by the Taylor Committee. The program provides a flat-rate transfer per child.

**Sources:** DSD, SASSA and UNICEF. 2012. *The South African Child Support Grant Impact Assessment: Evidence from a Survey of Children, Adolescents and Their Households*. Pretoria: Department of Social Development, South African Government. South African Social Security Agency. UNICEF South Africa.

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Zambia	Country code: 551
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Social Cash Transfer* (2003-present). Initially, between 2003-2010, five pilot programs were implemented across Zambia with limited connections among them. The pilot programs targeted ‘ultra-poor’ households, aimed at reaching the poorest 10 per cent of households in the broader categories of eligible households across each district where they were implemented. The categories of eligible households included children and female-headed households who were considered destitute and work incapacitated. Destitute or incapacitated households are defined as follows: female-headed households with 3 children or more, a household that is headed by a child aged 18 or below, households with person(s) who are chronically ill receiving palliative care, households with a person(s) with severe disability, or a household with an elderly member aged 65 years and above. Between 2010 and 2014, the program was implemented as two different components, including the Child Grant and the Multiple Category Transfer Grant, which aimed to address other forms of vulnerability. Children aged below 5 were eligible for the Child Grant. Since 2014, the Social Cash Transfer has been implemented through the Harmonised Targeting framework, based on a single eligibility criterion which identified households with high dependency ratios. This included households with children aged below 18 with higher dependency ratios. During the pilot phases of the program (2003-2010), households were selected solely through community-based selection mechanisms, whereby community organizations ranked households in terms of their poverty level. For the Child Grant (2010-2014), social workers, community workers and volunteers enrolled households with children below the age of 5. From 2014, social workers and community workers provide a list of potentially eligible households. These households are subsequently subjected to a proxy means test, which provides a ranking based on their estimated poverty levels. While the benefit amount differed across the five pilot programs, a single flat-rate transfer has been provided since 2010. From 2012 onwards, the value of the Kwacha (ZMW) was significantly reformed, resulting in the division of all transfer amounts by 1,000.

**Sources:** Arruda, Pedro, and Laura Dubois. 2018. *A brief history of Zambia’s social cash transfer programme* (62). Brasília: International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth.

Garcia, Marito, and Charity M. T. Moore. 2012. *The Rise of Cash Transfer Programs in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

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Zimbabwe	Country code: 552
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Harmonised Social Cash Transfer* (2011-present). The program’s design builds on conditional and unconditional cash transfer pilot programs implemented between 2009 and 2012 in two provinces. These pilots targeted food-poor and labor-constrained households. The program aimed to reach the poorest 20 per cent of households, as identified through a proxy means test that prioritized orphans, child-headed households, and households with persons with disabilities or chronic illness. Labor-constrained households were defined as follows: households with no able-bodied ‘fit-for-work’ household member between the age of 18 to 59, households with a dependency ratio of over three dependents per able-bodied member, or households with a dependency ration of between two and three dependents per able-bodied member when at least one household member has a severe disability or chronic illness who requires intensive care. Eligible households are identified based on a combination of geographical targeting, a proxy means test and community-based targeting. The program has gradually been expanded through a staggered implementation across districts with the aim of eventually covering all districts nationwide. Between 2011-2013, the program aimed to cover the poorest district of each of the 10 provinces. Between 2014-2015, the program covered households in 20 out of 65 districts in Zimbabwe. Coverage had increased to households in 23 districts in 2020. Benefit amounts vary based on household size, including both children and adults.

**Sources:** Angeles, Gustav, Averi Chakrabarti, Sudhanshu Handa, Frank Otchere and Gean Spektor. 2018. *Zimbabwe’s harmonised social cash transfer programme endline impact evaluation report*. The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

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Asia

Armenia Country code: 371

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Poverty Family Benefit* (1999-present). The program targets low-income households with children below the age of 18, using a combination of geographical targeting and a proxy means test. This is based on the 'PAROS' system: a scoring system for the assessment of vulnerability, comparing households in different geographical areas (e.g. mountainous, border communities) with different household composition as well as various socioeconomic conditions. In 2014, the program became integrated with the Family Living Standards Enhancement Benefits, a broader poverty-targeted program with two components: Family Benefits (FB) for vulnerable households with children and Social Benefits (SB) for vulnerable households without children. Between 1999-2002, the GDCB reports the number of child recipients, including disabled children under the age of 16 who receive a disability-specific component of the program alongside other children below the age of 18. From 2003, the GDCB reports the number of household recipients based on administrative data. The benefit amount consists of a basic benefit allocated per household, and a supplementary benefit allocated per child. The minimum monthly amount per household reported in the GDCB reflects the basic benefit. The minimum and maximum monthly amounts per child reflect the supplementary benefits.

**Sources:** Ghazaryan, Diana. 2023. Regional: Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Armenia: 2018 Social Protection Indicator. Manila: Asian Development Bank. Technical Assistance Consultant's Report (Project Number: 52012-001).

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Social Security Administration. 2018. Social Security Programs throughout the World: Asia and the Pacific. Washington, DC: Government Printing Office.

Azerbaijan Country code: 373

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Allowance* component of the Targeted Social Assistance program (2006-present). The program targets low-income households with children up to the age of one, using a means test based on an income threshold. The program provides a flat-rate monthly benefit per household. In addition to benefits for children up to the age of one, variable amounts are also provided to older children in specific circumstances: those with a parent in active military service, a parent disabled due to war or armed conflict, a parent with a chronic disability or deceased as a result of the Chernobyl catastrophe, or a parent who contributed to the containment of the Chernobyl catastrophe.

**Sources:** Azerbaijan Republic. 2023. Law of the Azerbaijan Republic of February, 2006 No. 55-IIIQ: About social benefits (as amended on 30-05-2023). <https://cis-legislation.com/document.fwx?rgn=11484>.

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Bangladesh	Country code: 771
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Primary Education Stipend (PESP)* (2002-present). Between 2002-2015, the program aimed to reach 40 per cent of students enrolled in grades 1 to 5 (age 6 to 11) from the poorest households, using a combination of geographical targeting and community-based targeting. Eligible students were identified at the school level and further reviewed for approval at the level of the Upazilla, a sub-unit of a district in Bangladesh. In 2010, the targeting strategy changed from covering 40 per cent of children in the poorest households to prioritizing areas with the higher poverty rates, where coverage in the poorest areas was up to a maximum of 90 per cent of students. Since 2016, the program is no longer poverty-targeted, as all students are eligible to receive stipends across government-supported primary education institutions. Access to the transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent, as well as passing school examinations. Between 2002-2018, households with eligible students would receive BDT 100 for 1 child, and only a slightly higher amount (BDT 125) for two or more children. Since 2019, the benefit amounts were revised as households started receiving higher amounts for more children. The maximum monthly amount per household is based on having four or more eligible children.

**Sources:** Tietjen, Karen. 2003. *The Bangladesh Primary Education Stipend Project: A Descriptive Analysis*. Washington, D. C.: World Bank.  
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Cambodia	Country code: 811
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Scholarship* program (2014-present) which targets students in primary and secondary school. Eligible students in primary schools are identified using a combination of geographical targeting, a proxy means test and community-based targeting. Certain schools are selected based on the proportion of households in the respective province possessing IDPoor 1 ('very poor') or IDPoor 2 ('poor') cards, based on the IDPoor household identification system, or if there is a significant presence of ethnic minorities. Eligible students in secondary schools are selected in schools with high poverty and low education indicators. A fixed number of scholarships are allocated to each school. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 80 per cent, passing grades with the average academic scores in the case of students in primary school, and passing tests for students in secondary school. The Scholarship program is implemented alongside food support, including school feeding and monetary assistance for take-home rations. The minimum monthly amount received per child is based on attendance at primary school. The maximum monthly amount received per child is based on attendance at upper secondary school. In 2019, the Cash Transfer for Pregnant Women and Children under 2 years (CT-PWYC) was implemented nationally in Cambodia providing specific payments to eligible women and children upon meeting certain health-related conditions. However, the latter is not captured by the GDCB as the program does not provide regular transfers.

**Sources:** Knox-Vydanov, Charles, and Betina Ramírez-López. 2022. *Review of the Cambodian National Social Protection Policy Framework* (DRAFT).  
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Georgia	Country code: 372
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Benefit* component of the Targeted Social Assistance program (2015-present). The program targets children below the age of 16 from low-income households, using a proxy means test. While the program is implemented as part of the broader Targeted Social Assistance program, eligibility for the Child Benefit is based on a higher threshold to meet the means-testing requirements. Eligible households with children are identified based on a so-called Targeted Social Assistance (TSA) score that is calculated based on socioeconomic information. Children are eligible to receive varying amounts based on the TSA score of their households. The minimum monthly amount reported in the GDCB reflects eligibility



based on having the highest proxied income based on the TSA score. The maximum monthly amount reflects eligibility based on having the lowest proxied income based on the TSA score.

**Sources:** Gugushvili, Dimitri, and Alexis Le Nestour. 2019. *A Detailed Analysis of Targeted Social Assistance and Child Poverty and Simulations of the Poverty-Reducing Effects of Social Transfers*. UNICEF.

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Indonesia	Country code: 850
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Program Keluarga Harapan (PKH)* program (2007-present) which targets low-income households with pregnant women and children below the age of 21, using a combination of a proxy means test and community-based targeting. However, variable eligibility criteria apply based on the characteristics of the household: eligible households with pregnant women may receive a transfer up to their second pregnancy, households may receive a transfer for up to a maximum of 2 children below the age of 6, and households may receive a transfer for up to 4 individuals who meet the criteria overall. The proxy means test is operationalized through the Unified Social Welfare List (DTKS) in which eligible families must be included. The DTKS is a database that aims to capture socioeconomic information on the poorest 40 per cent of households in Indonesia. Families may submit an application to be registered in the DTKS via the Village Heads, who organize forums to communicate eligibility criteria. If families are deemed eligible via these forums, their eligibility is confirmed at the sub district level by the Social Affairs Unit, which conducts home visits to verify family's information. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent, as well as visits to health facilities for general health monitoring – including weight and height measurement – nutrition support, and immunization for children below the age of 6. Since 2014, access to a transfer is also conditional on attendance at Family Development Sessions for mothers and female caregivers. This includes education sessions aimed at improving health and nutrition practices, children's education and parenting, financial management, child protection and social welfare. During each program cycle, compliance to conditions is monitored, and payments are temporarily stopped if households fail to comply.

**Sources:** Syamsulhakim, Ekki, and Khadijah Nurzanty. 2021. *Graduating from a Conditional Cash Transfer Program in Indonesia: Results of a Household Survey of Prosperous/Independent Graduates of the Family Hope Program (PKH) in 2020*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

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Kazakhstan	Country code: 705
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Targeted Social Assistance (TSA)* program (2002-present). The program is means-tested based on an income threshold. Between 2002-2017, families were eligible for the program if they had an average per capita income below 60 per cent of the national subsistence minimum. During this time, the program comprised the 'special state benefit for families with many children', a general assistance program for low-income households, and the 'child benefit for low-income families with children below the age of 18. Since 2018, these benefits were consolidated to be administered as one unified program under the TSA. Families are eligible for the revised TSA if their per capita income is below the national poverty line, equivalent to 50 per cent of the minimum subsistence level, regardless of having children in the household. In 2018, 64 per cent of recipients were children below the age of 18. Since 2015, a sub-component of the TSA program became conditional on the mandatory participation of able-bodied family members in active measures by the government to promote employment for a minimum duration of 6 months, such as vocational training or public works programs. If these conditions are not fulfilled, access to a full transfer is limited to children below the age of 7, while the amount is reduced by 50 per cent for all family members for the first 6 months and terminated after that. Recipient numbers reported by the GDCB only reflect the child-specific components of the program. In the absence of disaggregated data on benefit amounts by program component, the GDCB reports the average amount received by the program, which is assumed to be per child.

**Sources:** Abeldinova, Orynbassar. 2023. *Regional: Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Kazakhstan: Social Protection Indicator, 2018*. Manila: Asian Development Bank. Technical Assistance Consultant's Report (Project Number: 52012-001). [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/52012/52012-001-tacr-en\\_10.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/52012/52012-001-tacr-en_10.pdf).

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Kyrgyzstan

Country code: 703

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Ui-Bulogo Komok*, also known as the monthly benefit to citizens (families) in need who have children under 16 years of age (1998-present). The program targets low-income families with children below the age of 16, or 18 if they are a full-time student. The program is means-tested based on an income threshold. Families are eligible for the transfer if their per capita income during the 3 months preceding the application for the benefit is below the guaranteed minimum income (GMI). Between 1998-2014, the benefit amount was calculated as the difference between the average per capita income of the family and the GMI. The benefit amounts in these years are therefore not captured in the GDCB. Since 2015, the benefit amount has been set equal to the value of the GMI.

**Sources:** Burzhubaev, Temir. 2023. *Regional: Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Kyrgyz Republic: 2018 Social Protection Indicator*. Manila: Asian Development Bank. Technical Assistance Consultant's Report (Project Number: 52012-001).

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Mongolia

Country code: 712

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Money Program (CMP)* (2005-2009, 2012-present) and the *Human Development Fund* (2010-2011). In 2005, the program targeted families with at least 3 or more children below the age of 18, whose income was below the minimum subsistence level (MSL). This was operationalized through a proxy means test. Access to a transfer was conditional on enrolment in school, child immunization, and ensuring that the child is not engaged in any activities classified as the "Worst Forms of Child Labor". In 2006, the program was expanded, by removing both the means test and the condition that children should be immunized and not engaging in the child labor. Families were no longer required to have at least 3 children in order to be eligible. In 2010, the CMP was discontinued following a social welfare system reform that led to the introduction of the Human Development Fund, a cash transfer to all citizens, including children, which functioned as a universal basic income scheme. The CMP was reintroduced in 2012 as a universal child benefit for all children below the age of 18. In 2016, a proxy means test was reinstated with the aim of targeting children from lower income households, which limited coverage to 60 per cent of children in Mongolia. Coverage of the CMP had reportedly increased to 80 per cent of children in 2018 and 85 per cent of children in 2019. In 2023, the government announced that the CMP would target 91 per cent of children. The CMP provides a flat-rate transfer per month to every child.

**Sources:** Byambaa, Enkhsetseg. 2023. *Regional: Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Mongolia: 2018 Social Protection Indicator*. Manila: Asian Development Bank. Technical Assistance Consultant's Report (Project Number: 52012-001).

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Nepal

Country code: 790

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Grant* program (2009-present). In 2009, the program provided transfers to children below the age of 5 living in five poor and mountainous districts, as well as children from poor Dalit households throughout Nepal. Transfers may be received for up to a maximum of 2 children in the household. Since 2016, the program has gradually expanded to additional districts with the goal of eventually covering all children under the age of 5 nationwide. By 2021, the program was implemented in 21 out of 77 districts, alongside the provision of transfers to children from poor Dalit households. The benefit amount is a flat-rate transfer.

**Sources:** Kamra, Anmol. 2022. *Impact evaluation of the Child Grant Parenting Programme in Nepal*. Helsinki: Save the Children Finland.

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Pakistan

Country code: 770

**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Waseela-e-Taleem* (2012-present), *Bait-ul-Mal Child Support Program* (2007-present), and *Nashonuma* (2020-present). The Bait-ul-Mal system, overall, facilitates the distribution of cash and in-kind support to the poor based on Zakat. The Child Support Program has targeted children between the ages of 5 to 14, living in low-income families, using a proxy means test. The program has been implemented as part of the broader Benazir Income Support Program (BISP) since 2007. The Waseela-e-Taleem, which targets children from low-income families between the ages of 5 to 12, has also been implemented as part of the BISP since 2012, using a proxy means test. Overall, the BISP aims to provide support to the poorest 25 per cent of the population in Pakistan. Initially targeting households in 5 districts, the program has gradually expanded in coverage to reach households in 52 out of 169 districts in Pakistan by 2018. In addition to the existing programs, Nashonuma was implemented in 2020, targeting pregnant women and children below the age of 2 from low-income families in 45 districts, using a proxy means test. Access to a transfer from the Bait-ul-Mal is conditional on school enrolment. Access to a transfer from Waseela-e-Taleem is conditional on school attendance of at least 70 per cent. Children are removed from the program if they fail to meet the school attendance requirement for three consecutive quarters. Access to a transfer from Nashonuma is conditional on visits to health facilities to monitor children's growth, as well as participation in awareness sessions covering topics related to child feeding, dietary diversity, immunization, antenatal and postnatal care. In the absence of disaggregated data, recipient numbers for Nashonuma include both pregnant women and children. The benefit amount provided by the Bait-ul-Mal varies depending on whether the transfer is received on behalf of 1 child, or 2 or more children. The benefit amounts provided by the Waseela-e-Taleem, as well as Nashonuma, vary by gender, as girls receive higher amounts.

**Sources:** APP. 2023. *Benazir Nashonuma Program touches over 1025271 women, children*. The Nation, 13 September. <https://www.nation.com.pk/13-Sep-2023/benazir-nashonuma-program-touches-over-1025271-women-children>.

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Philippines	Country code: 840
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Pantawid Pamilyang Pilipino Program (4Ps)* (1999-present). In 2007, the program was implemented as a pilot – initially under the name ‘Ahon Pamilyang Pilipino – reaching 6,000 households in 4 municipalities and 2 cities. The program targeted low-income families with children below the age of 14. In 2008, the program was renamed to the 4Ps, and implemented nationwide. Since 2014, the upper eligibility age for the 4Ps was increased to 18. The implementation of the 4Ps coincided with the development of the Listahanan, a database to register eligible low-income households for social support, and to facilitate the implementation of a proxy means test based on socioeconomic data. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent for children aged 6 to 18, regular visits to the health center or rural health unit for children below the age of 5, as well as attendance at Family Development Sessions at least once a month. Variable benefit amounts are provided to recipients based on meeting either education or health-related conditions. The minimum and maximum monthly amounts per households captured by the GDCB reflect the actual amounts received by households based on the number of children and compliance with conditionalities. The minimum and maximum monthly amounts per child reflect the education-related transfer. Since 2014, higher amounts are paid to children in high school.

**Sources:** Dadap-Cantal, Emma Lynn, Andrew M. Fischer, and Charmaine G. Ramos. 2021. “Targeting versus Social Protection in Cash Transfers in the Philippines: Reassessing a Celebrated Case of Social Protection” *Critical Social Policy* 41 (3): 364–84.

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Thailand	Country code: 800
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Child Support Grant* (2015-present). The program is means-tested, based on an income threshold. Initially covering only children below the age of 1, the eligibility age has increased to 3 years in 2016, and 6 years in 2019. The program provides a flat-rate transfer per child.

**Sources:** UNICEF. 2020. *The 1st Three: Thailand’s Progressive Road Toward Universal Child Grant Coverage*. UNICEF Thailand.

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Timor-Leste	Country code: 860
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Bolsa da mãe*, also known as *Mother’s Purse* (2008-present). The program targets low-income households with children below the age of 18. Eligible households were initially identified using community-based targeting. Since 2013, a vulnerability scoring methodology was introduced to identify eligible households based on a proxy means test. However, based on a review by the World Bank (2013) eligible households were still predominantly identified at the community level. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 80 per cent for children aged between 6 to 17, immunization of children below the age of 1 and visits to nearby health centers every 6 months for children below the age of 5. Due to challenges with the monitoring of compliance, these conditionalities are not strictly enforced and recipients continue to receive payments if they fail to comply with them. Since 2015, access to a transfer has also been conditional on participation in community development sessions. The program provides a flat-rate monthly transfer per child. Households may receive a transfer for up to 3 children.

**Sources:** Beazley, Rodolpho, Carla Riquito, Bramka Arga Jafino, and Asha Williams. 2023. *Timor-Leste Adaptive Social Protection Assessment*. Washington, D.C.: World Bank.

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Şartlı Nakit Transferi (ŞNT)* Conditional Cash Transfer Program (2003-present) which comprises an education support program for school age children of 6 to 18 years, and a health support program for children below the age of 6. In 2003, the program was pilot tested in 6 regions, before it was expanded nationwide in 2004. The program targets the poorest 6 per cent of the population, using an income threshold. Households must have a per capita income below one third of the net minimum wage in order to be eligible to receive a benefit. The parents or caregivers must not receive any other social security benefits. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 80 per cent for children aged between 6 to 18, immunization, and regular visits to hospitals or health clinics for children below the age of 6. Since 2021, cash support to Syrian refugees across Turkey was aligned to the program, using the same transfer amounts and behavioral conditionalities. The benefit amount varies based on gender and level of education. The minimum monthly amount per child reflects the transfer received by a boy in primary education. The maximum amount per child reflects the transfer received by a girl in secondary education.

**Sources:** Akdemir, Tekin, Barış Alpaslan, and Halis Kırıl. 2020. Revisiting Conditional Cash Transfers: General Overview and Its Implementation in Turkey. In *Public Financial Management Reforms in Turkey: Progress and Challenges*, eds. Halis Kırıl, and Tekin Akdemir. Volume 1, Accounting, Finance, Sustainability, Governance & Fraud: Theory and Application. Springer, 119-129.

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Childcare Allowance* (1994-present), and the *Family Allowance* (1994-present). Both programs are means-tested, based on an income threshold. The Childcare Allowance targets low-income households with children below the age of 2. Eligible households must have an average monthly income, in total, of no more than 52.7 per cent of the minimum wage. The Family Allowance targets low-income families with children between the ages of 2 to 14. Eligible households must have an average monthly per capita gross income below 1.5 times the 'basic calculation unit', which is a value set by the central government to determine the value of benefit payments and taxes. The benefit amount provided by the Family Allowance varies based on the number of children in the household, and is calculated as variable percentage of the minimum wage. Up to 2016, the maximum monthly amount per household reflects the transfer paid to a family with 4 or more children. From 2018, the maximum monthly amount per households reflects the transfer paid to a family with 3 or more children. Households may receive a transfer for a maximum duration of 6 months, after which it is reviewed whether the household may continue to receive a transfer.

**Sources:** Hamdamov, Hamidulla. 2023. *Regional: Enhancing ADB's Support for Social Protection to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. Uzbekistan: 2018 Social Protection Indicator*. Manila: Asian Development Bank. Technical Assistance Consultant's Report (Project Number: 52012-001).

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Cash for Nutrition* program (2016-present). The program was implemented as part of the Yemen Social Fund for Development, which has since been integrated into the Emergency Crisis Response Project. The program targets pregnant women and children below the age of 5 living in low-income households. Eligible households are identified based on a combination of a proxy means test and community-based targeting. The program is

conditional on healthcare visits, and participation in training that aims to enhance nutrition outcomes. The program provides a flat-rate monthly transfer per household.

**Sources:** Kurdi, Sikandra, Yashodhan Ghorpade, and Hosam Ibrahim. 2019. *The Cash for Nutrition Intervention in Yemen: Impact Evaluation Study*. Working Paper 19. Cairo: IFPRI Middle East and North Africa.

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Europe	
Belgium	Country code: 211
<b>Notes:</b> Since 2017, child benefit amounts in Belgium have been determined by regional jurisdictions. The dataset incorporates data from 2017–2018 for both Brussels and Wallonia, while data from 2019–2021 pertain exclusively to Wallonia.	
France	Country code: 220
<b>Notes:</b> The calculation of child benefit amounts is based on the MISSOC database, which provides total benefit values for families with two or three children. To derive individual benefit amounts, the following methodology was employed: for a family with two children (aged 12 and 10), each child's benefit was calculated as half of the total amount allocated for two children, plus the applicable age supplements. For a third child (aged 8), the benefit amount was determined by calculating the difference between the total benefit for a family with three children and that for a family with two children.	
Italy	Country code: 325
<b>Notes:</b> Child benefit amounts in Italy vary according to household income and the number of dependents. To derive an approximate measure, we simulated the benefit amounts using EUROMOD's Hypothetical Household Tool. The simulation considered a household comprising two working-age adults earning 25% of the average income, compared with a single individual earning the same income but without dependents. The EUROMOD output on received benefits facilitated the value of child benefit amounts.	
Russia	Country code: 365
<b>Notes:</b> From 2010 onwards, data on child benefits are largely unavailable due to federal legislation delegating responsibility for benefit amounts to regional governments.	
Switzerland	Country code: 225
<b>Notes:</b> The dataset utilizes federal scheme child benefit amounts for mountain regions, where higher child benefit allocations are provided.	
Latin America and the Caribbean	
Argentina	Country code: 160
<b>Notes:</b> The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the <i>Jefas y Jefes de Hogar Desocupados</i> (2002-2008), <i>Familias por la Inclusión Social</i> (2005-2010) and the <i>Asignación Universal por Hija e Hijo – AUH</i> , also known as the Universal Child Allowance (2009-present). During years when more than one of these programs was active, the GDCB provides information on the combined provision of these programs, including the number of recipients. Between 2005-2008, households may have received transfers from either the <i>Jefas y Jefes de Hogar Desocupados</i> or the <i>Familias por la Inclusión Social</i> . Between 2009-2010, households may have received transfers from either the <i>Familias por la Inclusión Social</i> or the AUH. The GDCB does not provide information on whether receipt of each transfer was mutually exclusive or whether households received transfers from two programs at the same time. However, information from ECLAC suggests that receipt of transfers from the programs was mutually exclusive, as recipient households were gradually migrated to each new program. Each program comprised different eligibility criteria and targeting mechanisms. The <i>Jefas y Jefes de Hogar Desocupados</i> aimed to provide transfers to households with children below the age of 18, pregnant women or disabled members, whose household head was unemployed. Households were targeted based on community-based targeting, as local advisory councils identified eligible households for support. These eligibility criteria changed for the <i>Familias por la Inclusión Social</i> , which aimed to reach families at 'social risk' with children below the age of 19, pregnant women or disabled members. Eligible households are identified based on a proxy means test. The AUH aims to reach households with children below the age of 18 who are unemployed or rely on income from the informal economy. The program specifically targets domestic employees and 'social mono-tax' payers – a simple tax regime for lower income tax payers – who are enrolled in work programs aimed at informal sectors. While the operationalization of programs that monitored conditionalities differed for each, receipt of a transfer from the <i>Jefas y Jefes de Hogar Desocupados</i> and the <i>Familias por la Inclusión Social</i> was overall conditional on school attendance for children aged 5 to 18, health check-ups, immunization and training on nutritional practices for young children, as well as participation in activities that sought to improve family income generation, professional training and community gatherings. For the AUH, 80 per cent of the transfer is paid unconditionally, while 20 per cent is paid upon meeting the conditions. While the majority of conditions remained similar, any conditions related to participation in activities no longer applied for the AUH. The <i>Jefas y Jefes de</i>	

Hogar Desocupados provided a flat-rate amount per month per household. The benefit amounts provided by subsequent programs vary based on the number of children in the household. In the case of the AUH, benefit amounts also varied based on zone of residence and whether an additional 'school allowance is received' per child. The GDCB reports the minimum and maximum transfer sizes, based on these variable amounts.

**Sources:** Ministerio de Trabajo, Empleo y Seguridad Social. 'Seguridad Social.' <https://www.argentina.gob.ar/trabajo/seguridadsocial>

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Belize	Country code: 80
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Building Opportunities for Our Social Transformation (BOOST)* (2011-present). The program targets low-income households with pregnant women and children below the age of 18, based on a proxy means test. The benefit amount, paid per child, varies based on gender of the child and school progression. The minimum monthly amount, reported in the GDCB, reflect the basic amount. The maximum monthly amount reflects the transfer received by a boy in high school.

**Source:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Bolivia	Country code: 145
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Bono Juancito Pinto (BJP)*, also known as the *Juancito Pinto Grant* (2006-present), and the *Bono Madre Niña-Niño Juana Azurduy*, also known as the *Juana Azurduy de Padilla Mother-and-Child Grant* (2009-present). The GDCB provides information on both programs, which each focus on different age groups. In 2006, the Bono Juancito Pinto initially aimed to reach children in low income households below 13 years. This upper age limit was increased gradually to age 14 in 2008, age 16 in 2009, age 19 in 2013, and age 21 in 2014. The BJP does not explicitly target low-income households. Receipt of a transfer from the BJP is conditional on enrolment in a public school, and school attendance of at least 80 per cent. Enrolment and attendance are monitored based on school registration and attendance records. The Juana Azurduy de Padilla Mother-and-Child Grant targets mothers and children who are uninsured and do not have access to social security. Receipt of a transfer is conditional on health check-ups and immunization for children, and participation in meetings and educational activities for the mother.

**Source:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Brazil	Country code: 140
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Bolsa Escola* (2001-2003), and *Bolsa Família* (2003-present). These programs coexisted during the first year of the implementation of the Bolsa Família. Therefore, the GDCB provides information on the concurrent provision of these programs in 2003, and reports the cumulative total number of recipients during that year. The Bolsa Escola targeted households with children between the ages of 6 to 15 living below the extreme poverty line. This was operationalized as a means test based on an income threshold of 90 reais per month. However, a study of the decentralized implementation of the program found 'considerable variation in the types of information verification mechanisms used by municipalities', as some municipalities performed some type of verification of income – declared by households themselves – through home visits or requesting proof of income, while others did not perform any verification (de Janvry et al. 2005, 15). With the implementation of the Bolsa Família, operationalization of the means test was systematized by registering eligible families, and their incomes, in the Cadastro Único (Unified Registry) database. This database collects information every two years on all families in Brazil who have a per capita income of less than half the minimum wage or family income of less than three times the minimum wage. To finalize the list of recipients for the Bolsa Família, municipalities apply a quota which is determined based on the respective poverty headcount in each municipality. Access to the Bolsa Escola was conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent. Additional conditionalities were implemented as part of the Bolsa Família, including attendance at health care visits and child immunization. The Bolsa Escola provided a flat-rate transfer per child, for up to a maximum of three children per household. The Bolsa Família provides variable amounts, based on income level, age and number of children. Families are eligible to receive the Bono Variable if their per capita income is determined to be below the poverty line. Since 2007, these families with children aged 16 to 17 also receive the Bono Variable for adolescents. Families with a per capita income below the extreme poverty line, which is set at half the poverty line, can also receive the Bono Básico. The GDCB reports the minimum monthly transfer per household, which is equivalent to the Bono Básico. The minimum monthly transfer per child is equivalent to the 'Bono Variable'. Between 2003-2012, the maximum monthly amount per household that is reported, is calculated by ECLAC based on household composition and income per capita.

**Sources:** Brazil Learning Initiative for a World Without Poverty. 2017. How does the Bolsa Família Program target and identify people in a situation of poverty and extreme poverty?

de Janvry, Alain, Frederico Finan, Elisabeth Sadoulet, Donald Nelson, Kathy Lindert, and Peter Lanjouw. 2005. Brazil's Bolsa Escola Program: The Role of Local Governance in Decentralized Implementation. Washington, D.C.: World Bank. SP Discussion Paper.

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Chile Country code: 155

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Chile Solidario* (2002-2017), and *Chile Seguridades y Oportunidades* (SsyOO) also known as the *Ethical Family Income* (2012-present). Between 2012 to 2017, the GDCB provides information on the concurrent provision of both programs, including the total number of recipients that received a transfer from either program. Both programs target low-income families with children below the age of 18, based on a proxy means test. Families may receive the transfer for a maximum duration of two years, after which their eligibility needs to be re-certified for re-admittance to the program. Access to a transfer is based on similar types of conditionalities for each program, including enrolment and attendance of at least 85 per cent at a school recognized by the Ministry of Education, and attendance at health check-ups. In addition, access to the Ethical Family Income is conditional on participation in 'psychosocial support' or 'socio-labor' support. The GDCB captures the minimum monthly amount per household based on the 'Protection Grant' component of the program. The minimum and monthly amounts per child are based on the 'Schooling Allowance' for children between the ages of 6 to 18 who have met the education condition. Between 2006-2014, a variable maximum monthly amount per household applied for the Chile Solidario, which is based on how long the family had been receiving a transfer. During the first semester of receiving the program, the benefit amount is the highest, after which the amount gradually decreases until the fourth semester when the minimum amount is received based on the 'Protection Grant'.

**Source:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Colombia Country code: 100

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Familias en Acción*, also known as Families in Action (2001-present). Families eligible to receive support are registered in the Beneficiary Selection System for Social Programs (SISBÉN), which facilitates a proxy means test by collecting information on socio-economic information. The benefit is paid to households with children below the age of 18 that are classified as SISBEN I, II, or III, registered in Red Unidos, or classified as internally displaced or indigenous. Geographic targeting applies when all families in SISBEN-I are not covered due to funding restrictions, in which case areas with insufficient supply of financial and social infrastructure are excluded. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance for children between the ages of 5 to 18, attendance at growth and development monitoring visits at the health center for children below 7, child immunization, as well as participation at trainings and care conferences scheduled by municipalities. The benefit payment consists of a household transfer paid to families with children aged below 7 under the health component, as well as a transfer per child which is paid under the school component and can be received for up to three children per household.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

Urrutia, Miguel and Robles Báez, Christian. 2018. *Las Transferencias Condicionadas En Colombia: Una Historia Del Programa Familias En Acción* (2001-2018). Universidad de los Andes, Facultad de Economía, CEDE (54).

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Costa Rica Country code: 94

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Avancemos* (2006-present) and the *Crecemos* (2019-present). The *Avancemos* provides transfers to children attending secondary school between the ages of 12 to 25, while the *Crecemos* provides transfers to children attending primary school or pre-school. A minimum age requirement has not been stipulated by the program. Therefore, it is assumed that no minimum age requirement applies for children to be eligible for the program. Both programs target children in low-income households based on a proxy means test using data from the 'Social Information Card'. In addition, the *Avancemos* implements geographical targeting through census sweeps with the aim of collecting information from families in the 75 poorest districts of Costa Rica, out of a total of 492 districts, according to the poverty map of the National Institute of Statistics and Census (INEC). Access to a transfer is based on school attendance. While the benefit payment provided by the *Crecemos* includes a flat rate transfer provided to each child, the *Avancemos* provides varying amounts based on the grade in which the student is attending school. In 2021, the *Crecemos* was integrated with the *Avancemos* to become one unified program.

**Sources:** Romero, Karla Hernández. 2016. *How Does Avancemos Work? Best Practices in the Implementation of Conditional Cash Transfer Programs in Latin America and the Caribbean*. Inter-American Development Bank.

Mata, Catherine, and Karla Hernández. 2015. "Evaluación de Impacto de La Implementación de Transferencias Monetarias Condicionadas Para Educación Secundaria En Costa Rica (Avancemos)" *Revista de Ciencias Económicas* 33 (1): 9.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Dominican Republic Country code: 42

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Programa Solidaridad* (2005-2012) and the *Progresando Con Solidaridad* (2012-present). In 2012, the programs coexisted as recipients transitioned from one program to the other.

The Programa Solidaridad provides transfers to households with children below the age of 16. With the implementation of the Progresando Con Solidaridad, the age eligibility increased to 21. Both programs target households living in ‘extreme’ or ‘moderate’ poverty by registering eligible households in the Single System for the Identification of Beneficiaries (SIUBEN) which facilitates the implementation of a proxy means test. The targeting mechanism for the Programa Solidaridad also included an element of geographical targeting, by prioritizing registration in areas with high poverty rates. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent for the Programa Solidaridad, and 80 per cent for the Progresando Con Solidaridad. In both programs, children below the age of 5 are required to attend health monitoring visits, as well as participation in training programs. For the Programa Solidaridad, training programs were aimed at promoting health outcomes, while the Progresando Con Solidaridad focused more on the reduction of intimate partner violence.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Ecuador Country code: 130

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Bono Solidario* (1998-2003) and the *Bono de Desarrollo Humano* (BDH) (2003-present). In 2003, the programs coexisted as recipients transitioned from one program to the other. To avoid double counting, the GDCB reports the number of recipients of the Bono de Desarrollo Humano in 2003. Both programs target households with children below the age of 18 living in poverty. For the Bono Solidario, eligible households were identified based on self-selection and enrolment in church districts (*parroquias*). While the transfer aimed to extend access to social protection for informal workers, there were no specific eligibility criteria based on work status. With the implementation of the BDH, the targeting mechanism included a proxy means test based on spatial information of the National Institute of Statistics and Censuses (INEC), combined with the Unsatisfied Basic Needs Index. Households are identified in census sectors with a poverty incidence that exceeds 50 per cent and whose proxy means test score classifies them in a condition of ‘extreme poverty’. In very dispersed census sectors, such as the Amazon, households are mobilized for registration in public spaces through local authorities. No behavioral conditions were required to access a transfer through the Bono Solidario. In contrast, access to a transfer from the BDH is conditional on a school attendance rate of at least 75 per cent for children between the ages of 5 and 17, as well as frequent pre-natal and post-natal health check-ups until the child turns 1, and biannual health visits for children up to age of 5. Parents and caregivers are required to attend family planning training sessions. Between 2003-2007, the BDH provided variable amounts. The transfer amounts reported in the GDCB are based on calculations by ECLAC. Since 2018, the benefit amount varies based on the number of children in the household.

**Sources:** Palacio Ludeña, María Gabriela. 2021. “Falling through the Cracks: Digital Infrastructures of Social Protection in Ecuador” *Development and Change* 52 (4): 805–828.

United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Guatemala Country code: 90

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Mi Familia Progres*a (2008-2011) and the *Mi Bono Seguro*, also known as the *Bono Social* (2012-present). The programs target households with children below the age of 15 living in poverty, based on a combination of geographical targeting and a proxy means test. Priority is given to households living in municipalities with higher poverty rates and vulnerability to natural disasters and emergencies. The proxy means test is implemented through a Poverty Index generated from the Socioeconomic Conditions Evaluation Card (FECS). Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 80 per cent and attendance at medical check-ups for pregnant women and children below the age of 6. For the Mi Familia Progresa, recipients were also required to attend health trainings. Access to a transfer would be withdrawn if a household fails to comply with the conditionalities three times. For the Mi Bono Seguro/Bono Social, additional medical check-ups were implemented for households with children up to 24 months who experience chronic malnutrition. Eligible households receive different benefit payments for the respective health and education components of the program. Since 2017, recipients can only receive one of these respective transfers, which has resulted in a reduction of the total number of recipient households.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Honduras Country code: 91

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Programa de Asignación Familiar* (PRAF) (1990-2009) and the *Bono Vida Mejor* (2010-present). The PRAF was implemented in three phases. During the first phase (PRAF-I), the maternal and child component of the program could be received for up to three children in the household, while the education component could be received for one child. During the second phase (PRAF-II), a nutrition component was implemented, which could be received for up to two children per household, while the education component could be received for up to three children per household. Eligible households for the PRAF-I were identified based on a combination of geographical targeting and community-based targeting. Between 1998-2006, the PRAF-I operated in parallel with the pilot phase of the PRAF-II, which was financed by the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) using a proxy means test to identify eligible recipient households. For the Bono Vida Mejor, the program prioritizes villages, hamlets and neighborhoods with the highest concentration of households living in extreme poverty, according to information in the Unique Socioeconomic File (FSU) of the Unique Registry of Participants (RUP). The poverty status of



households is subsequently verified by Community School Committees (CEC). Access to a transfer through the PRAF is conditional on school attendance for children in grades 1 to 6, and attendance at health check-ups for children up to the age of 6. With the implementation of the third phase (PRAF-III) between 2006-2009, a nutrition component for pregnant women and children below the age 6 was introduced which requires consumption of nutritional supplements. Access to a transfer through the Bono Vida Mejor is conditional on school enrolment in the 1st and 2nd quarter of the year, and school attendance of at least 80 per cent in the 3rd and 4th quarter for all children aged between 6-17, as well as attendance at health visits and appropriate use of micronutrients for young children. In the absence of disaggregated data on recipients, the total number of recipients of the PRAF also includes older persons above the age of 65 and persons with disabilities. The GDCB reports the minimum and maximum monthly amount, which varied based on the different components of the program for the PRAF-II and PRAF-III. Between 1998-2005, the minimum monthly amount per child reflects the mother and child component of the PRAF-II, while the maximum monthly amount reflects the education component. Since 2007, the minimum monthly amount per child is calculated based on an annual amount of Lps. 1000 that is provided by the PRAF-I. The maximum monthly amount per child reflects the nutrition component of the PRAF-III. For the Bono Vida Mejor, the GDCB reports the minimum monthly amount per household received by the Basic Allowance components, which all recipient households receive upon meeting at least one conditionality in the areas of health or education. The maximum monthly amount per household is based on the amount that households may receive upon meeting multiple conditionalities.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Haiti	Country code: 41
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Ti Manman Cheri* (2012-present). Eligible households receive a transfer for a period of six months, which can be renewed up to ten times, for a maximum duration of five years. Although there is no specific age eligibility, the transfer is provided to children enrolled in grades 1 to 6 in public primary schools, whose ages can vary significantly. It is therefore assumed that any child from the earliest primary school age of six years would be eligible for a transfer if they are attending school. The program targets low-income households based on a combination of geographical targeting and a proxy means test. Certain areas and localities are priorities for the registration of households, based on the poverty incidence. Eligible households are registered in the Unique Registry of Beneficiaries (RUB) which facilitates the proxy means test. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance, which is monitored based on certificates with grades that must be presented at verification exercises which take place four times a year. Between 2012-2016, the benefit amount varied based on the number of children per household. Since 2016, this became a flat-rate transfer paid to each child, up to a maximum of three children per household.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Jamaica	Country code: 51
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Programme of Advancement Through Health and Education* (PATH) (2001-present). The program targets low-income households with children below the age of 17, using a proxy means test based on information in the Beneficiary Identification System (BIS). The program also targets low-income households with pregnant and/or lactating women, adults above the age of 60, persons with disabilities, and unemployed adults between the ages of 18 to 64. Access to a minimum transfer is not based on behavioral conditions. Access to further transfers of variable amounts is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent and visits to health centers of which the frequency varies based on the age of the child. In the absence of aggregated data on individual recipients, the GDCB reports the estimated number of households receiving a transfer based on all categories, beyond the child-specific component of the transfer. This estimation is based on calculations by ECLAC, using the median household size of the poorest quantile. Prior to 2008, the benefit payment included a flat-rate amount based on the Health and Education components of the program. These components reflect the minimum monthly benefit per child throughout the duration of the program. From 2008, the amount varies according to gender, and level of education of the child: the amount is 10 per cent higher for men, and it increases by up to 50 per cent if the child is enrolled in the first level of secondary education and up to 75 per cent if they are enrolled in the higher level of secondary education. The GDCB reports the minimum monthly benefit amount per household which is not based on meeting conditions. The minimum and maximum monthly benefit amount per child are based on variable amounts calculated by ECLAC based on the recipient's characteristics.

**Source:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Mexico	Country code: 70
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Progresa* (1997-2000), the *Oportunidades* (2001-2014), the *Prospera* (2015-2018) and the *Benito Juárez* (2019-present). The *Progresa* targeted rural households living below the food poverty line with children below the age of 18, based on a combination of geographical targeting, a proxy means test and community-based targeting. Eligible households were identified based on indices from the National Council for the Evaluation of Social Development Policy and the Demographic Planning Institute. With the implementation of *Oportunidades* in 2001, coverage was expanded to semi-urban and urban areas. Subsequently, with the implementation of *Prospera* in 2014, the registration of households was systematized through the System of Development Targeting (SIFODE). Access to these transfers was conditional on school

attendance of at least 85 per cent, attendance at medical checks for access to food support and a basic health package – including specific treatment of diseases and injuries – nutritional and child growth monitoring, as well as attendance at training and health counselling, and community training for self-care and other wellbeing promotional activities. After the termination of Prospera in 2019, the main child-focused program in Mexico has been the Benito Juárez, which is an education scholarship, conditional on registration in primary school, and continued enrolment in secondary, upper secondary education or tertiary education. The program targets households in areas with high rates of vulnerability and poverty, based on a socioeconomic survey conducted at village level. Priority is given to families that live in areas of indigenous populations, areas with high degrees of marginalization or with high rates of violence. The benefit amount consists of different components. The maximum monthly amount received per household through the Progresa, Oportunidades and Prospera, as reflected in the GDCB, includes food aid, energy support, food support, the ‘vivir mejor’ component and education scholarships. For Prospera, the per child amount reflects the education scholarship. For the Benito Juárez, the amount varies by age and level of education with the maximum amount received by students up to age 29 who are in tertiary education.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Nicaragua Country code: 93

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents included the *Red de Protección Social*, also known as the *Social Protection Network* (2000-2006). The program consisted of a health component for children below the age of 9, and an education component for children between the ages of 7 to 13. The program targeted low-income households based on a combination of geographical targeting and a proxy means test. Access to different components of the program was conditional on school attendance of at least 95 per cent, child immunizations, attendance at medical checks and attendance at bi-monthly training sessions on as part of a food security component. The maximum monthly amount reported in the GDCB is based on the cumulative receipt of the education transfer – which is the minimum monthly amount received per household – and the food security transfer. Between 2003-2006, the benefit amount decreased over the course of the first three years that households received a transfer.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Panama Country code: 95

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Red de Oportunidades*, also known as the *Opportunities Network* program (2006-present). The program targets households living in extreme poverty with pregnant women and/or children below the age of 18, based on a combination of geographical targeting and a proxy means test. Eligible households are identified based on townships ('Corregimientos') with the highest poverty incidence whose information is registered in the Social Vulnerability Survey to facilitate the proxy means test. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 per cent for children aged 4 to 17 and growth monitoring and immunization of children below the age of 5. Parents or caregivers are also required to attend meetings at the school and training sessions every two months. Recipient numbers reported in the GDCB also includes recipients of another component of the program which targets poor households in rural and indigenous areas.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Peru Country code: 135

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Juntos* program (2005-present). In 2005, the program targeted households living in extreme poverty with children below the age of 14, pregnant women, widowed parents, older persons, as well as indigenous families living in the Amazon. Since 2014, the age eligibility for the child-specific component has increased to 19. Eligible households are identified through a combination of geographical targeting, a proxy means test, and community-based targeting. The program targets households in districts and population centers with a poverty headcount above 40 per cent, based on the Geographic Weighting Index (GPI), as well as the indigenous population in the Amazon. The proxy means test is based on the Socioeconomic Classification of the Household Targeting System (SISFOH). The eligibility of households is verified by a Communal Validation Assembly (ACV) based on categorical criteria. Access to a transfer is conditional on school attendance of at least 85 percent for children aged 6 to 14, attendance at health check-ups, and participation in the Food Supplement Program for Higher-Risk Groups (PACFO) for children between 6 months and 2 years old.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Paraguay Country code: 150

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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Tekoporã* program (2006-present). The program targets poor households with children below the age of 18, based on a combination of geographic targeting, a proxy means test and community-based targeting. Eligible households are identified in the poorest and most vulnerable districts according to the Geographic Prioritization Index (GPI) which combines two metrics: the monetary poverty line and an Unsatisfied Basic Needs



measure. The proxy means test is operationalized through a Quality of Life Index (QLI) which is constructed based on information recorded in a Participant Selection Form. Eligibility of households is verified by the Community Participation Board. Access to a transfer is conditional on enrolment and regular attendance in school and participation in literacy programs, and attendance at Care Centers to monitor growth and development, and child immunization. The minimum monthly amount per child reflected in the GDCB are based on the health and education components of the program, not including a basic household transfer for food. The maximum monthly amount per household is based on the total transfer that can be received per household for a maximum of four children.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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El Salvador	Country code: 92
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens and residents in El Salvador included the *Red Solidaria* (2005–2008) and *Comunidades Solidarias* (2009–2016). These programs targeted households classified as living in ‘severe’ or ‘high’ levels of extreme poverty, with children under the age of 15. The Red Solidaria was initially implemented in rural areas, where eligible households were selected in 100 out of the country’s 262 municipalities, based on the Integrated Index of Municipal Marginality (Índice Integrado de Marginación Municipal, IIMM), which delineates four poverty levels by severity. With the launch of Comunidades Solidarias, the scope of coverage was expanded to include 412 urban settlements across 25 municipalities, identified through a national mapping of urban poverty and social exclusion. Both programs employed a proxy means test to determine eligibility; however, in municipalities classified as experiencing ‘severe’ poverty—the most acute designation—all households with children were deemed automatically eligible, and the proxy means test was not applied. Access to benefits was conditional upon school enrolment and attendance—beginning at age 5 in rural areas and age 6 in urban areas—as well as compliance with health-related requirements for children under 5, including routine weight and height monitoring and immunization. Although the programs also incorporated a social pension component, recipients of this benefit are excluded from the figures reported in the GDCB, which pertains exclusively to the child-specific components. The minimum monthly transfer per household reflects compliance with either health or education conditions, while the maximum amount reflects compliance with both sets of conditions.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/home>

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Uruguay	Country code: 165
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**Notes:** The child benefit available to citizens/residents includes the *Asignaciones Familiares - Plan Equidad*, also known as the *Family Allowances - Equity Plan* (2008-present). The program targets low income households with children below the age of 18 and employs a dual-targeting mechanism that combines an income test and a proxy means test to estimate the income situation of households. The income threshold for the income test is based on the Critical Deficiency Index (CCI). Information on incomes is verified based on information obtained in an entry form for registration with the Social Security Bank (BPS). Although the precise monetary threshold for eligibility is not publicly disclosed, access to benefits is contingent upon children’s compliance with conditionalities, including school attendance and regular participation in healthcare services. Benefit amounts vary by the age and educational level of the child: the minimum monthly transfer corresponds to the allowance provided for a child under the age of 5 or a child enrolled in elementary education, while the maximum is allocated for a child enrolled in secondary school.

**Sources:** United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean. Non-Contributory Social Protection Programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean Database. Santiago de Chile: UN ECLAC – Social Development Division. <https://dds.cepal.org/bpsnc/hom>