

GENEVA ENVIRONMENT DIALOGUES

7 MAY 2020

9.00 - 9.50

WEBEX & FACEBOOK LIVE EVENT

SPEAKERS



CASPER EDMONDS
ILO MANUFACTURING,
MINING AND ENERGY
UNIT HEAD



MANAL AZZI
ILO OCCUPATIONAL
SAFETY AND HEALTH
SENIOR SPECIALIST



MITO TSUKAMOTO
ILO DEVELOPMENT
AND INVESTMENT
BRANCH CHIEF



M. KAMAL GUEYE
ILO
GREEN JOBS
COORDINATOR



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Organization



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COVID-19 IMPACTS ON THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL AGENDA

The Geneva Environment Dialogues special COVID-19 series discusses the impacts of the pandemic on the global environmental agenda. Experts are concerned that the world is losing critical time to turn around alarming trends in biodiversity loss, climate change, sound management of chemicals and other environmental threats.

ILO, COVID-19 AND THE WORLD OF WORK – FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The world of work is being profoundly affected by the global virus pandemic. In addition to the threat to public health, the economic and social disruption threatens the long-term livelihoods and wellbeing of millions. The ILO and its constituents – Governments, workers and employers – will play a crucial role in combating the outbreak, ensuring the safety of individuals and the sustainability of businesses and jobs.

► **ILO Monitor:**
COVID-19 and the world of work. Third edition
Updated estimates and analysis

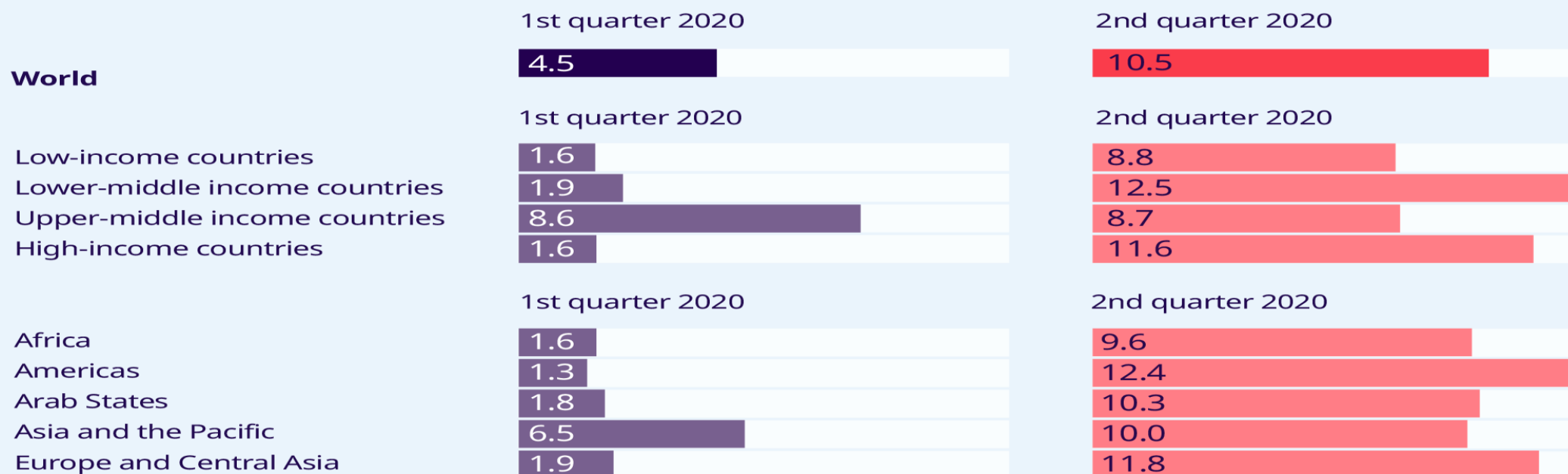
29 April 2020

Key messages

- ❑ **Workplace closure:** As of 22 April 2020, 68 per cent of workers (over 2.2. billion) were living in countries with workplace closures
- ❑ **Working-hours losses:** Compared to the pre-crisis (Q4 2019)
 - ❑ Q1 2020: 4.5 per cent (or equivalent to 130 million full time jobs)
 - ❑ Q2 2020: 10.5 per cent (or equivalent to 305 million full time jobs)
- ❑ **Regions at risk:** estimates indicate that the greatest loss in working hours
 - ❑ Americas (12.4 per cent)
 - ❑ Europe and Central Asia (11.8 per cent)
 - ❑ Lower-middle income countries (12.5 per cent)

► Figure 2. Estimated drop in aggregate working hours, globally, by region and by income group

Estimated percentage drop in aggregate working hours compared to the pre-crisis baseline
(4th quarter 2019, seasonally adjusted)

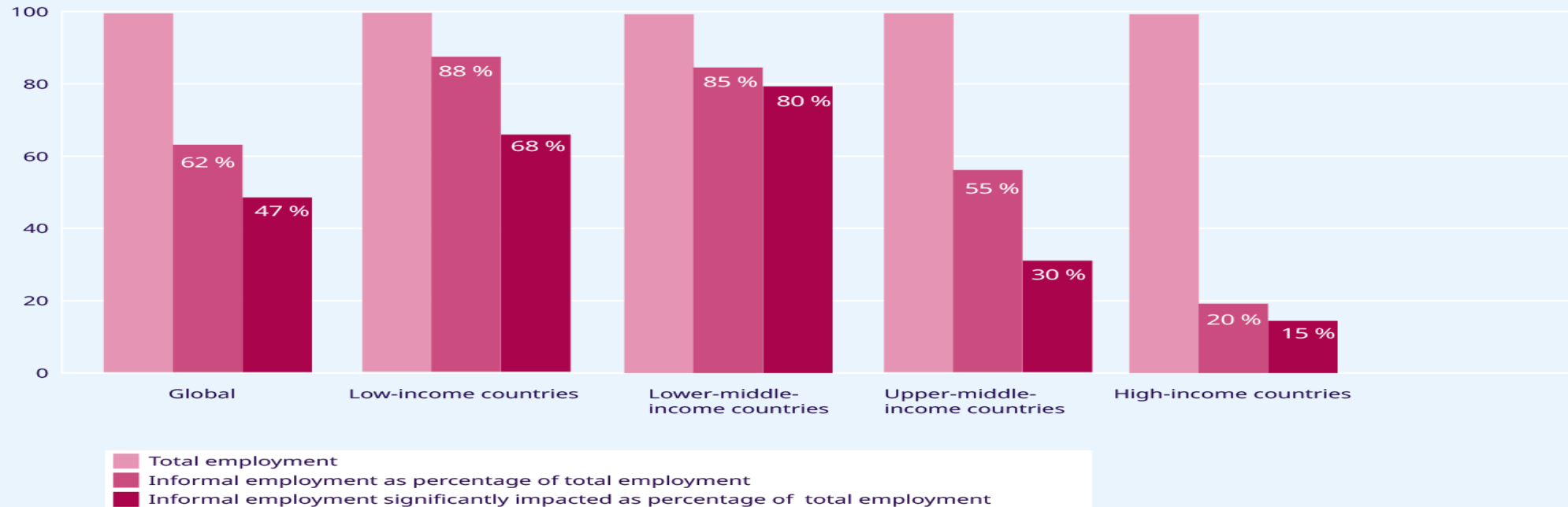


Source: ILO nowcasting model; see Technical annex 1.

And a tougher question: the question of informality

How many are “at risk”?

Figure 3. Informal economy workers: How many are significantly impacted?

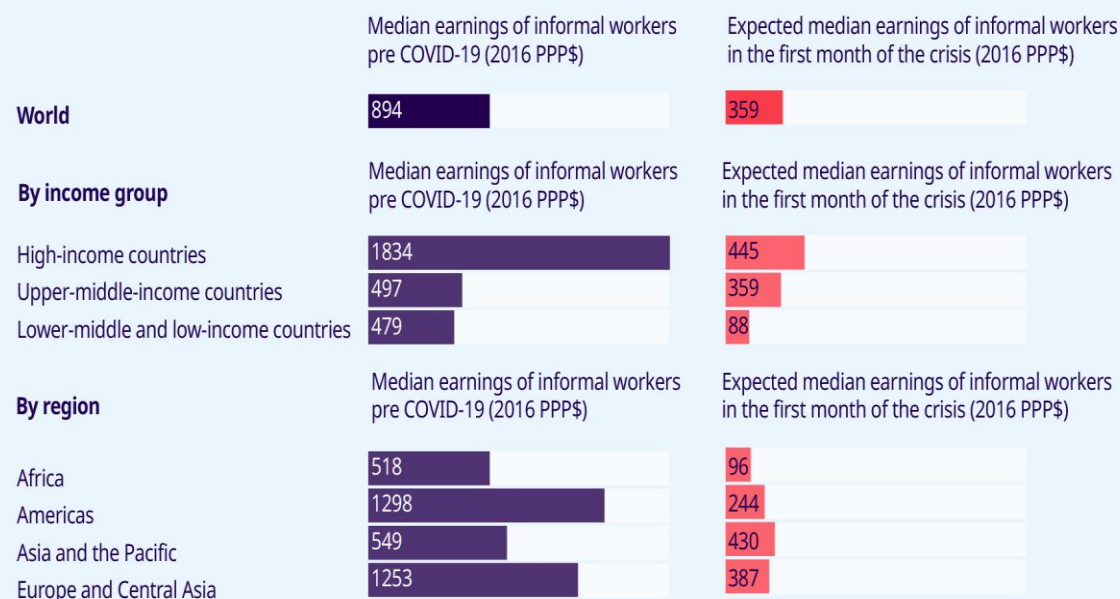


Note: Based on the analysis of national household survey data from 129 countries representing 90 per cent of global employment. Extrapolated to 2020 global employment and by sector. Total employment (represented in light purple) is used as the base of reference (100 per cent) for each income group of countries. Total informal employment is represented in light purple (2 billion informal economy workers). Informal economy workers significantly impacted by the crisis are represented in dark purple (1.56 billion in total). These significantly impacted workers are in countries with workplace closures and/or work in at-risk sectors. See Technical annex 2. The proportion of informal workers significantly affected is given by comparing the light and dark purple areas. Information by sectors classified by level of risk and size of enterprises available in table A3.

Income and poverty impacts:

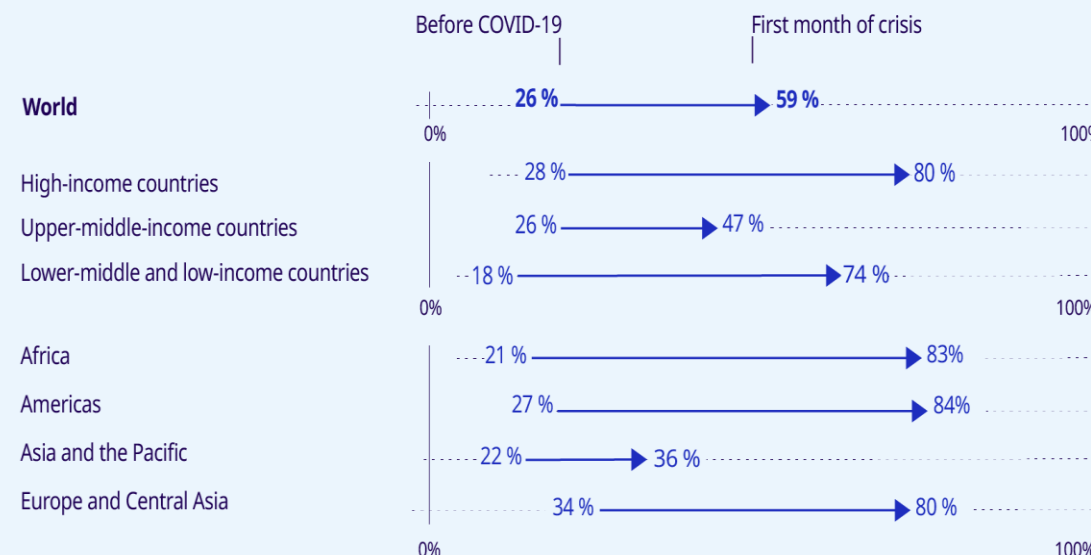
What would happen to informal workers in the first month when the crisis breaks out?

► Figure 4.
Potential impacts of the pandemic on earnings of informal workers



Note: Estimates are based on weighted averages from 64 countries with data collected on a time interval between 2016 to 2019. Earnings include earnings from own-account workers, employers self-reported earnings and wages of wage employees. The estimates exclude unpaid family workers who are not usually asked to declare monetary earnings. Whenever possible, estimates include earnings from jobs other than the main job. The original local currency values have been converted to constant 2016 PPP dollars. The countries covered represent 65 per cent of the world's employees and include the economies with the largest population in each region. No data is available for Arab economies.

Potential impacts of the pandemic on poverty levels of informal workers
Expected rise in relative poverty rates of informal workers



Note: Estimates are based on weighted averages from 64 countries with data collected on a time interval between 2016 to 2019. Earnings include earnings from own-account workers, employers self-reported earnings and wages of wage employees. The estimates exclude unpaid family workers who are not usually asked to declare monetary earnings. Whenever possible, estimates include earnings from jobs other than the main job. The original local currency values have been converted to constant 2016 PPP dollars. Relative poverty is defined as the proportion of workers with monthly earnings that fall below 50 per cent of the median monthly earnings. The countries covered represent 65 per cent of the world's employees and include the economies with the largest population in each region. No data is available for Arab economies.

► Figure 4. Policy framework: Four key pillars to fight COVID-19 based on International Labour Standards

Pillar 1

Stimulating the economy and employment

- ▶ Active fiscal policy
- ▶ Accommodative monetary policy
- ▶ Lending and financial support to specific sectors, including the health sector

Pillar 2

Supporting enterprises, jobs and incomes

- ▶ Extend social protection for all
- ▶ Implement employment retention measures
- ▶ Provide financial/tax and other relief for enterprises

Pillar 3

Protecting workers in the workplace

- ▶ Strengthen OSH measures
- ▶ Adapt work arrangements (e.g. teleworking)
- ▶ Prevent discrimination and exclusion
- ▶ Provide health access for all
- ▶ Expand access to paid leave

Pillar 4

Relying on social dialogue for solutions

- ▶ Strengthen the capacity and resilience of employers' and workers' organizations
- ▶ Strengthen the capacity of governments
- ▶ Strengthen social dialogue, collective bargaining and labour relations institutions and processes