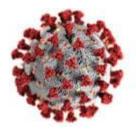




# Uganda Macro-economic impacts of social protection on poverty, inequality, and economic recovery



Wilson Asiimwe, Macro-economic Policy Department, MFPED Bazlul H Khondker, PhD

November 25, 2020

# **Presentation Outline**

# **Three Parts**

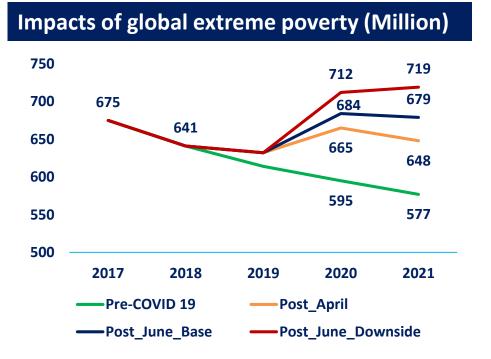
**Part A:** Global COVID 19 Impacts and Social Protection Response

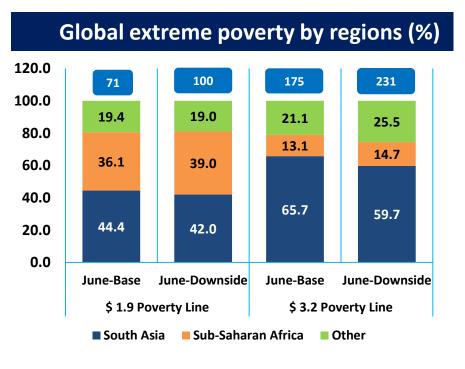
**Part B:** Uganda COVID 19 Microeconomic impacts and SP responses in Uganda

**Part C:** Macro and Socio economic Impacts of SP and Investment Responses

# **COVID 19 Impacts on Global Growth and Poverty**

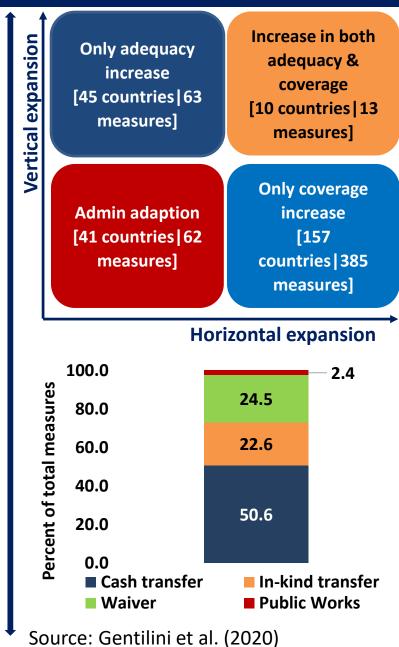
- COVID 19 (first wave) execrated unprecedent impacts on global economic growth and poverty.
- WB argued that poverty gains achieved in last three decades may be lost due to COVID 19.
- Main transmission channels are: reduced exports; remittances; tourist arrival and domestic lock down



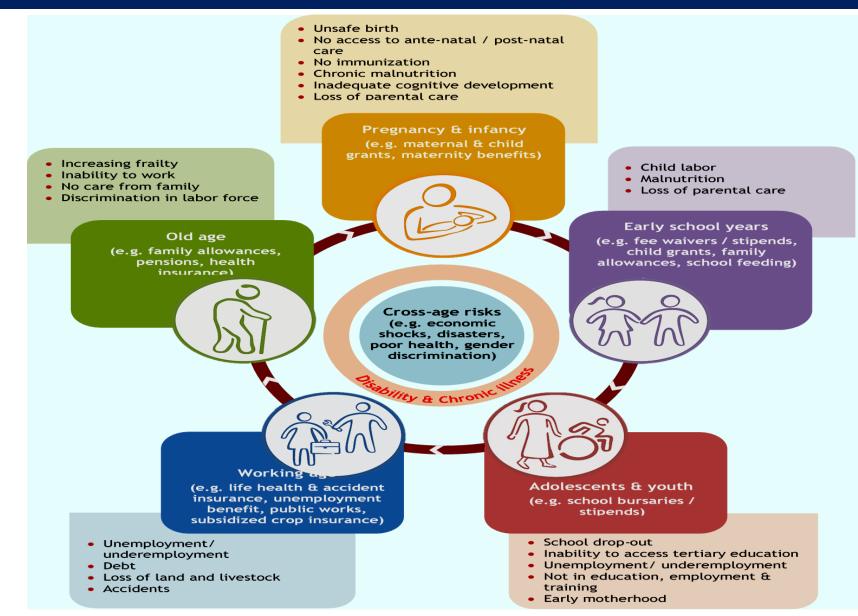


# **Global Approach to SP Responses**

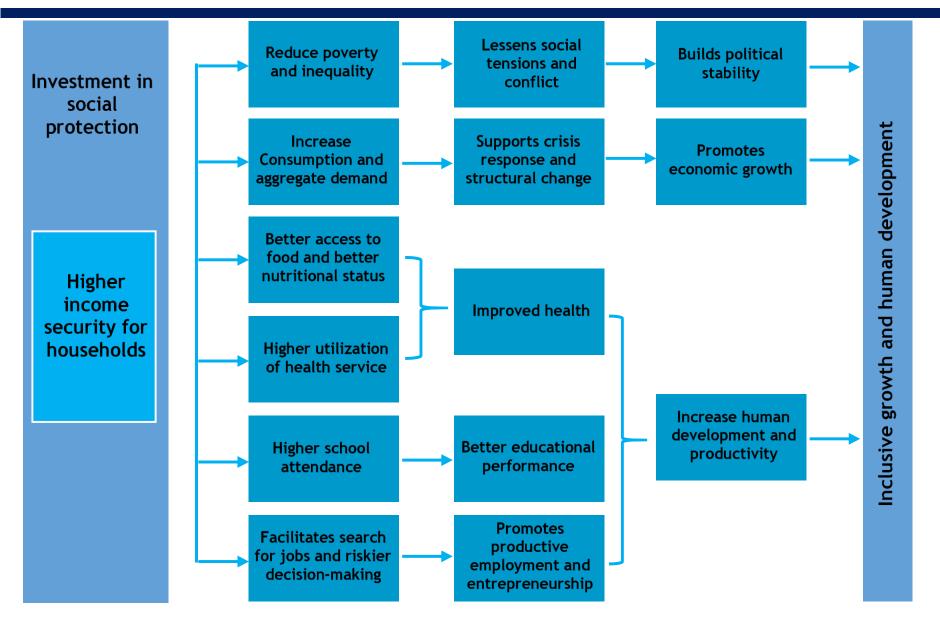
- Use existing SP by
  - Vertical expansion: increase the transfer values
  - Horizontal expansion: expand the number of recipients
- Introduce new scheme
- IMF/WB Joins UN for universal transfers SP
- Most countries increased cash transfers via digital infrastructure for registration and payment
- Fiscal injection of transfers less than 2% of GDP should be judged as inadequate" (Martin Ravallion, 2020)
- Survey of 173 countries social assistance dominates
- Non-contributory programme 60% of global response



# Life Cycle Risks and Associated SP Schemes

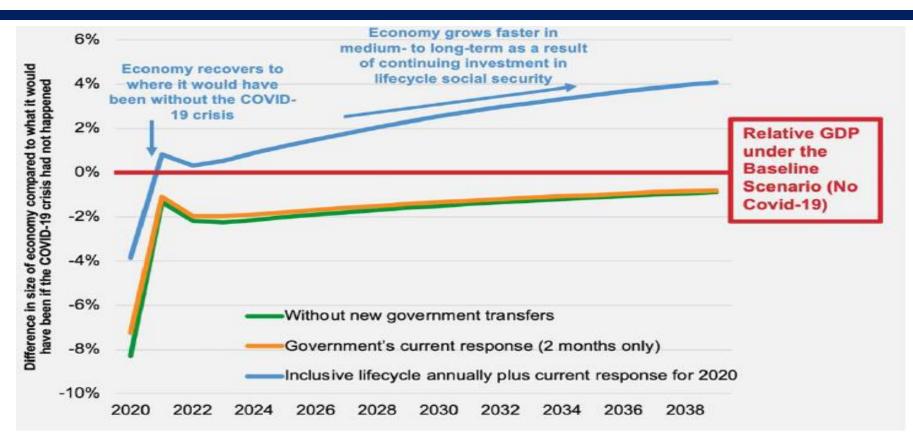


# **Benefits of an Inclusive SP system**



Source: World Bank and ILO (2017)

# **Lessons from Sri Lanka**



- An UNICEF (2020) report on Sri Lanka also found superiority of SP investment for long term recovery compared current measures
- IMF/WB/UN system called for SP interventions.
- The crisis also paved a situation to "build back better"

# PART B

# Uganda COVID-19: Micro-economic impacts and SP responses

Results from a Micro-simulation Model (MOFPED/IGC)

#### **Key Questions**

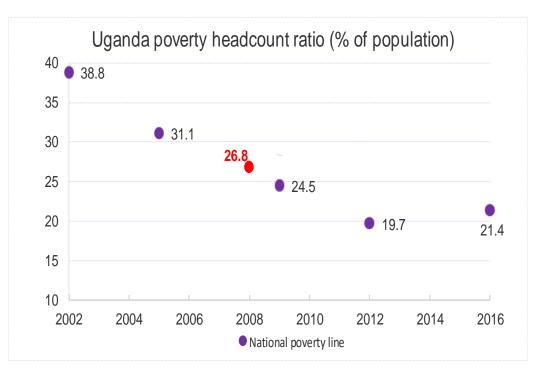
Estimate the economic impact of the COVID-19 crisis, as a result of the pandemic, domestic measures and global recession

Specifically:

- How much *income* have households lost ?
- How much has poverty increased ?
- How income loss varies by industry and by area of residence ?
- What possible social protection measures can help to mitigate impact on poverty and what is the associated fiscal cost?

#### **Preview of Key Findings:**

- Significant income losses: 9.1 percent of GDP, affects 65% of Ugandans
- Erasing poverty gains of past 10 years
- Rise in poverty sharpest for Kampala but crisis reaches well beyond urban areas
- Analysis covers only shortterm impact, longer-term effects would likely be dismal, underscoring need for post C-19 recovery plan



#### **Results 1: Income Losses are Severe**

Income loss								
	in USD (million)	Share of monthly GDP	# people in HHs losing income (million)	Share of population losing income				
National	184	9.1%	27.0	65%				
Kampala	31	1.6%	1.2	68%				
Other Urban	78	3.9%	6.0	72%				
Rural	74	3.7%	(19.8)	63%				

#### **Results 2: Poverty Increases Significantly**

Poverty Rate Changes								
	Before Crisis	After Crisis	People falling into poverty (millions)					
National	18.9%	26.8%	3.3					
Kampala	2.2%	18.9%	0.3					
Other Urban	9.1%	→ 22.0%	1.1					
Rural	22.4%	28.5%	1.9					

#### **Results 3: simulations of Policy Responses: SAGE (65yrs +)**

#### Expand SAGE grant to those 65 or older

	Poverty Rate			Total Budget,	
	Before Crisis	After Crisis	After Crisis + Transfer	monthly UGX (billion)	
National	18.9%	26.8%	25.5%	62.4	
Kampala only	2.2%	18.9%	18.4%	2.5	
Other Urban only	9.1%	22.0%	21.0%	11.5	
Rural only	22.4%	28.5%	27.1%	48.3	

Transfer = 10,609, Cost = 0.8% of monthly GDP, Poverty impact = -1.3 pp

#### The paper can be found at;

https://www.theigc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/Younger-et-al-2020-Final-report.pdf

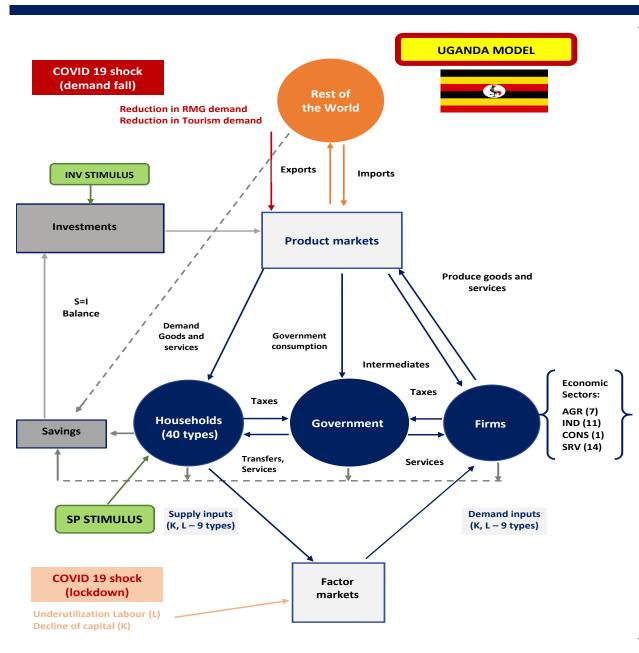
# Social Protection Responses adopted by Government

- —Roll out the Social Assistance Grant for the Elderly (SAGE) nationwide to persons aged 80 years and above, including the elderly aged 65 years in the piloted 15 districts
- -Relief to affected population like distribution of food to most vulnerable urban population
- —Provide seed capital to organised special interest groups under the Youth Fund, Women Entrepreneurship Fund and the 'Emyooga' Talent Support scheme
- -And many more

# PART C

# Macro and Socio-economic of Impacts of SP and Investment Responses in Uganda Results from a Simulation Model

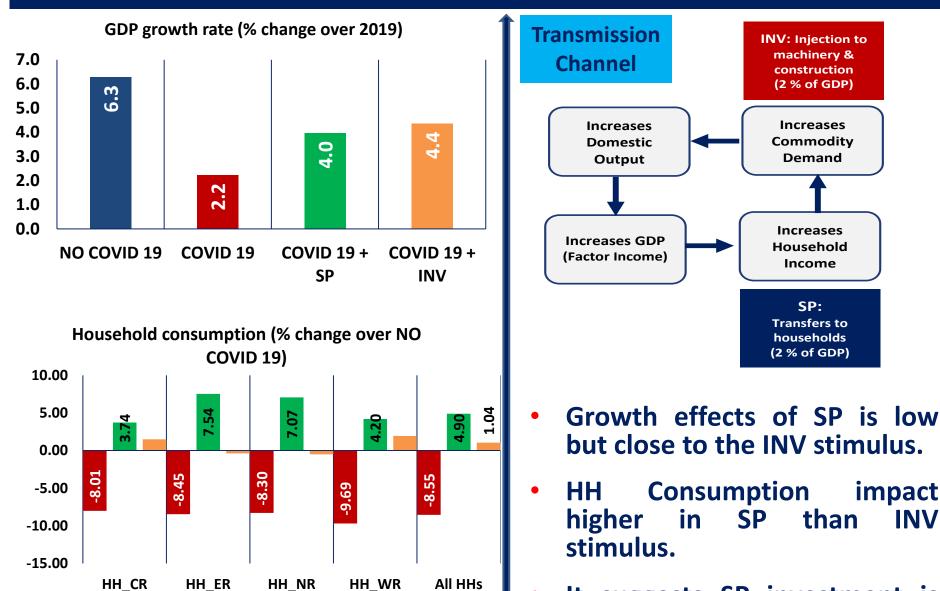
# **Simulation: COVID 19 and Responses**



Used a simulation model <u>Scenarios:</u>

- No COVID 19
- COVID 19: Tourism fell by 1 billion \$; 10% export fall in food and food processed food.
- COVID 19 + SP: 2 % of GDP injected as SP via 40 HHs.
- COVID 19 + INV: 2 % of GDP injected as via Construction and Machinery.

## Uganda: COVID 19 Impact of SP and INV



COVID 19 + INV

COVID 19

COVID 19 + SP

It suggests SP investment is superior!

**INV:** Injection to machinery &

construction

(2 % of GDP)

Increases

Commodity

Demand

Increases

Household

Income

SP: Transfers to

households (2 % of GDP)

than

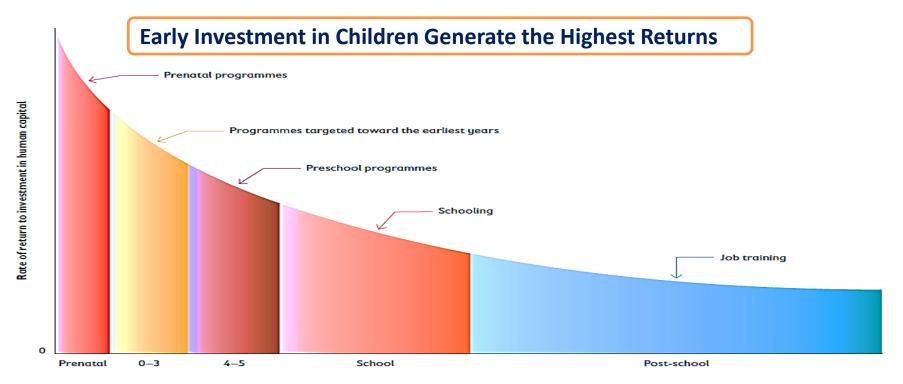
impact

INV

### **SP Responses**

#### **GOU has already Invested in SP to Build Back Better**

- 1. GOU has embarked on this: SAGE rolled out nationwide to persons aged =>80 years, including the elderly aged 65 years in the piloted 15 districts
- **2.** GOU may also embark on horizontal expansion by introducing Child Grant as it a suitable scheme that *build back better* from early years of life



**3.** GOU may also introduce Disability Grant for greater inclusiveness towards *build back better* 

# Conclusions

#### **Impacts**

- 1. Short-term effects on poverty & income are severe (incl. impact of both domestic measures and global recession)
- 2. Crisis erases poverty gains of the past 10 years, and reaches well beyond Kampala
- 3. Impact on sectors varies, depends on vulnerability to external shock as well as effect of lockdown

#### SP responses

- **1.** Uganda-Simulation results suggest effectiveness of SP measures compared to infrastructure investment in Short-term. Despite that, many countries could not adopt SP measures due to underdeveloped SP infrastructure
- 2. The COVID 19 crisis is an opportunity to "build back better" Uganda
  - It is important focus developing robust SP system for "Build Back Better"
  - Gov't has embarked on this: SAGE rolled out nationwide to persons aged
    =>80 years, including the elderly aged 65 years in the piloted 15 districts
  - GOU may also introduce Child Grant and Disability Grant

#### **QUESTIONS?**

# THANK YOU &..... GOD BLESS YOU

