

ANNEX I

UNITED NATIONS
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Online meetings on measuring poverty and inequality, 30 November - 2 December 2021**I. ABSTRACT**

Title	Impact of COVID-19 Assistance on Supplemental Poverty in the US
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Topic	Social policy

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and resulting economic downturn, in 2020 the U.S. government distributed more than \$400 billion in two rounds of economic stimulus payments. These stimulus payments helped lift 11.7 million people out of poverty in the United States in 2020. The Supplemental Poverty Measure (SPM), unlike the official poverty measure, incorporates the value of taxes and tax credits and therefore facilitates this type of analysis. The 11.7 million people lifted out of poverty by stimulus payments included 3.2 million children under age 18, 6.4 million adults between 18 and 64, and 2.1 million people over 65. These payments reduced the Black child poverty rate by 6.8 percentage points, Hispanic child poverty by 6.8 percentage points and white, not Hispanic child poverty by 2.8 percentage points. In addition, the expanded unemployment benefits enacted in response to the pandemic reduced poverty by 5.5 million. This presentation will break down the impact of these policies by age, race, Hispanic origin, and income-to-poverty ratios. In addition, the presentation will discuss the strategies used to impute the value of the economic impact payments and other COVID-19-related assistance.