

# Leading global social security organization

## THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ISSA)

### ALSO GUIDELINE OF WORLD EPIDEMIC: CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19):-WORLD & INDIA

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The social security system the greater is the element of compulsion and the smaller is the scope of individual choice. The term "social security" signifies the formal assumption of specified risks by the state through legislation.

Social security means the security, as provided by the society to its members, against the contingencies, they cannot meet out of their small means effectively. Such contingencies imperil the ability of the working man to support himself and his dependents in health and decency.

All state policy has some bearing on social security, it is convenient to regard as social security services only such schemes as provide the citizen with benefits designed to prevent or cure disease, to support him when unable to earn and to restore him to gainful employment. Not all such measures, however, can be considered as affording security. For security is as state of mind as well as an objective fact. To enjoy security, one must have confidence that the benefits will be available when required, and, in order to afford security, the protection must be adequate in quality and quantity. Neither of these conditions is realised in poor relief, society's ancient mode of coveting social risks.

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) is principal International Organization for Social Security Organisations, Governments and Department of Social Security. The ISSA promotes excellence in social security administration through professional guidelines, expert knowledge, services and support to enable its members to develop dynamic social security systems and policy throughout the world. ISSA is the world's leading international organization for social security institutions, government departments and agencies.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIAL SECURITY ASSOCIATION (ISSA)

The constitutional mandate of the ISSA is "to co-operate, at the international level, in the promotion and development of social security throughout the world (...) in order to advance the social and economic conditions of the population on the basis of social justice <sup>[1]</sup> .

The International Social Security Association (ISSA) which until 1947 bore the name of "International Social Insurance Conference" (CIMAS), was founded in Brussels on 4 October 1927. Its members are government departments, central institutions national federations of institutions administering social security, or one of its branches, or mutual benefit systems. The Association now has more than 330 members Organisation in 158 countries. Its head quarters in Zeneva, Switserzerland, in the International labour office "ILO". The ISSA President elected in 2016 zoacim Arever :Zermany" and Geneal Seceraty since 2019 is Marcelo Abi – Ramia Caetano :Brazil" .

**ISSAs' object** : The aim of the Association is to co-operate, at the international level, in protection, promoting and developing social security throughout the world. The ISSA's aim is to promote Dynamic Social Security <sup>[2]</sup> as the social dimension in a globalizing world through supporting excellence in social security administration. To face the evolving needs of the world's population, the ISSA advocates that social security must

increasingly adapt and innovate to foster integrated, coherent, proactive, and forward-looking social security policies with the aim of better ensuring universal access to social security <sup>[3]</sup>.

**ISSAs' activities** :-The Association's activities fall mainly into the following five categories.

1. organisation of international technical meetings, round-table discussions, training courses and seminars on social security.
2. Exchange of information comparison of experience and mutual technical assistance among members; 3. research and investigation into social security questions.
4. publication and distribution of documentation on social security;
5. collaboration with other international organisations in the field of social security .

**ISSAs' SOCIAL SECURITY**:-The ISSA is fostering the concept of Dynamic Social Security (DSS), which promotes the innovative use of integrated, proactive and forward-looking social security policies with the near-term aim of building high-performing social security organizations.

Social security is one of the most significant social polic of the 20th century. Social security may be defined as y programme of social protection established by legislation, or any other mandatory arrangement, that provides individuals with a degree of income security when faced with the contingencies of old age, survivorship, incapacity, disability, unemployment or rearing children. It may also offer access to curative or preventive medical care.

As defined by the International Social Security Association, social security can include social insurance programmes, social assistance programmes, universal programmes, mutual benefit schemes, national provident funds, and other arrangements including market-oriented approaches that, in accordance with national law or practice, form part of a country's social security system.

All countries must develop their social security systems according to their own socio-economic needs and circumstances. The social importance of social security systems for society is now widely accepted. However, there is less unanimity regarding the economic importance of social security systems. Regardless, that social security systems should be understood as a productive factor in economic development is a view that is gaining ground. According to available estimates, around 50 per cent of the global population has access to some form of social security, while only 20 per cent enjoy adequate social security coverage.

ISSA founded under the auspices of the **International Labour Organization** (ILO) on 4 October 1927 <sup>[4]</sup> in Brussels (Belgium), as the International Conference of Sickness Insurance Funds and Mutual Benefit Societies - Conference internationale des unions nationales de societies mutual's et de caisses d'assurance-maladie <sup>[5]</sup>. The name was changed in 1936, With the tide of war turning in 1944, the ILO's historic Declaration of Philadelphia called for the extension of social security measures, and for the promotion, on an international or regional basis, of systematic and direct cooperation among social security institutions. The ISSA is accorded General Category consultative status by the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) <sup>[6]</sup>.

**ISSAs' Important Publications:**-The Association publishes in English the following periodicals: International Social Security Review (quarterly). World Bibliography of Social Security (twice yearly). Current Research in Social Security (twice yearly). Automatic Data Processing Information Bulletin (three times a year). Appearing at irregular intervals are Social Security Documentation – European Series; African News Sheet. Asian News Sheet, and Studies and Research. The Association also publishes technical reports adopted by its General Assemblies. The ISSA publishes a quarterly journal in the social security field, the International Social Security Review in English, in collaboration with Wiley-Blackwell Publishing [1]. The ISSA's periodic series Developments and Trends and Social Policy Highlight disseminate new findings on social security policy and practice internationally. It co-publishes the series Social Security Programs Throughout the World, in co-operation with the [ United States Social Security Administration]]] In partnership with the OECD and the International Organisation of Pension Supervisors [8].

**ISSAs' constitution:**-The main organs of the Association are :

**The General Assembly**, composed of delegates from member organisations (each affiliate member has the right to appoint five delegates); it meets every three years.

**The Council**, composed of one titular delegate, or substitute delegate, from each country with an affiliate member in the ISSA; it meets on the occasion of each General Assembly.

**The Bureau (Officers);** consists of the President, the Treasurer, the Secretary- General, the Chairmen of the ten Permanent Committees of the Association and 24 other members elected by the Council; it meets at least once a year.

**Governance Structure of ISSA:**-The main statutory bodies of the ISSA are the General Assembly (meets every 3 years) that consists of delegates appointed by member organizations; the Council (normally meets at each session of the General Assembly) that comprises one titular delegate or one substitute delegate from each country where there is at least one affiliate member organization; the Bureau (meets twice annually) that comprises the President, Treasurer, Secretary General and elected representatives of the 4 geographical regions.

**Membership for ISSA:**-The ISSA's affiliate membership includes government departments, institutions, agencies and other entities and (non-international) federations of these. Associate membership includes (non-international) organizations with objectives compatible with those of ISSA but not qualified to become affiliate members.

**The Main Important work of the ISSA:**- consists mainly of the following activities :

1. **technical work undertaken by the Permanent Committees**, in which the major problems of social security are examined and discussed at a worldwide level;
2. **Regional activities**, which are decided on in relation to the particular needs of the member organisation, divided for the purpose into **four regions. namely. Africa, America, Asia and Oceania and Europe.**
3. Activities in the field of **Research and documentation**, which include the organisation of **research meetings, inquiries and studies** concerning specific **social security problems**, and the **Technical Information Service.**
4. The ISSA formalized an **Agreement in 2012 with the International Labour Organization** at reinforcing collaboration in support of the extension and **promotion of social security.**
5. The ISSA **launched in 2013 in its Centre for Excellence in Social Security Administration**, which consists of an innovative package of services to facilitate and support **administrative improvements by member's organization.**

**Social Security Programs Throughout the World** highlights the principal features of social security programs in more than 170 countries, while One of four regional volumes is issued every six months by the International Social Security Association (ISSA) [9] [10].

## **ISSA-CORONA VIRUS(COVID-19):-WORLD & INDIA**

The International Social Security Association(ISSA) providing information on how **Social Security** contributes to addressing the **economic and social consequences** of the Coronavirus(Covid-19).

### **ISSA-CORONA VIRUS-WORLD:**

**1. Corona Prevention Monitor:-**The Corona Prevention Monitor offers a selection of news and analysis from media and other sources around the world with regards to prevention and social security.

**2. Psychological Tips for coping with Covid-19 (Corona virus):-**Maintain a Healthy lifestyle. Key things that we know help include:-

**A. Stay Connected**- with friends and family via phone, email and video conferencing.

**B. Keep active** – create an exercise routine which can be completed within the home, to maintain physical fitness and reduce stress.

**C. Set up a daily routine** - Plan activities that are fun (such as reading, watching movies, hobbies) and that give you a sense of achievement (such as cleaning, completing work tasks, learning a new skill).

**D. Eat well** – plan ahead and eat a variety of nutritious meals.

**3. Psychological Safety Blog / CEO Health & Safety Leadership:-**There are a significant number of mental health resources that can be found on the blog page, and as partners come forward. To help leaders and their employees face the challenges ahead, Workplace Safety & Prevention Services (WSPS) and HowatTHR have launched this **Psychological Safety Blog**. It will be a trusted source for information, tools and resources to help leaders protect the health, safety and wellness of their people by addressing the mental health impacts of the pandemic and the social isolation.

**4. Coronavirus – Social Security Responses:-**Building on the experiences of the financial crisis from 2007, social security is a key part of this response. The outbreak and spread of the new corona virus is not only a health crisis. Governments and international organizations are today taking rapid steps to militate against the economic and social impact of COVID-19.

**5. Social security measures for self-employed during the COVID-19:-**Due to the coronavirus crisis, many governments have taken unprecedented steps to expand social security coverage for the self-employed. The self-employed are a key pillar of economic activity in many countries. While often belonging to lower income groups, their social security protection is usually significantly less comprehensive than the one provided to employees.

**6.Social Security Prevention Responses to COVID-19:-**The ISSA's Special Commission on Prevention has published a **list of measures** that can be shared by occupational accident insurances to ensure that the COVID-19 will not spread at the workplace.

**7.Can COVID-19 be considered an occupational disease?:-**Insurance covering occupational diseases is an important pillar of social security and a safety net to all workers who may be exposed to chemical, physical or biological agents arising from work activities, or may suffer from respiratory and skin diseases, musculoskeletal disorders, post-traumatic stress disorders or occupational cancer. Worldwide millions people die due to an occupational disease, compared to 0.38 million that die because of a work accident.

**8.Recognition Process for an Occupational Disease:-**Data relating to exposures in the workplace, as well as scientific surveys on occupational risks, are useful tools to be used in the recognition procedure. In order to assess whether or not COVID-19 is an occupational disease, it is essential to have distinct and transparent criteria for the definition of occupational diseases, which will help to distinguish these from diseases of different origins. Around the world, various recognition procedures exist that would determine the occupational nature of the disease. This procedure can be based on individual (medical and technical) assessments.

### **9.Systematic Approach to Occupational Diseases for Social Security:-**

The decision depends on the causality between the disease and the work place. A systematic approach to occupational diseases, starts from individual suspicion of an occupational disease and ends with the final decision on whether or not the disease will be recognized by the social security institution.

**10. COVID-19 be considered an occupational disease?-ISSA:-**In order to ensure insurance coverage, in particular for workers in the most exposed sectors, rapid measures to facilitate the recognition of COVID-19 have been implemented in a number of countries. In view of the rapid spread of the Corona virus, countries are now facing the urgent question of assessing COVID-19 as an occupational disease.

**11.The ILO List of Occupational Diseases:-**COVID-19 is of course not explicitly mentioned in the ILO list of occupational diseases (2010). It only lists HIV, Hepatitis B and Hepatitis C as virus infections, which are recognized as occupational diseases. However, COVID-19 falls under Article 1.3.9.

"1.3.9. Diseases caused by other biological agents at work not mentioned in the preceding items where a direct link is established scientifically, or determined by methods appropriate to national conditions and practice, between the exposure to these biological agents arising from work activities and the disease(s) contracted by the worker.

**12.Coronavirus News Monitor:-WHO: Healthy At Home - Mental health:-**As countries introduce measures to restrict movement as part of efforts to reduce the number of people infected with COVID-19, more and more of us are making huge changes to our daily routines. The new realities of working from home, temporary unemployment, home-schooling of children, and lack of physical contact with other family members, friends and colleagues take time to get used to. Adapting to lifestyle changes such as these, and managing the fear of contracting the virus and worry about people close to us who are particularly vulnerable, are challenging

for all of us. They can be particularly difficult for people with mental health conditions. Fortunately, there are lots of things that we can do to look after our own mental health and to help others who may need some extra support and care. Here are tips and advice that we hope you will find useful:-

**A.Keep informed.**

**B.Listen to advice** and recommendations from your national and local authorities.

**C.Follow trusted news channels**, such as local and national TV and radio, and keep up-to-date with the latest news.

**D.Have a routine. Keep up** with daily routines as far as possible, or make new ones. Get up and go to bed at similar times every day.

**E. Keep up with personal hygiene.**

**F.Eat healthy** meals at regular times.

**G.Exercise regularly.**

**H.Allocate time** for working and time for resting.

**I.Make time** for doing things you enjoy.

**13.The coronavirus crisis has disrupted life all around the world:- Social security plays a key Role:**

To support the efforts of social security institutions and enable effective exchanges on approaches and lessons learnt, the ISSA has launched an online “**coronavirus monitor**” and a “**Webinar series**” on “**Delivering social security in times of COVID-19**”

**14.The ISSA Webinar Series on COVID-19:-**

Coping with an increase in demand for social security benefits and services while implementing restrictions that significantly affect human resources, business processes and service delivery channels is a huge challenge for social security institutions. The corona virus (COVID-19) crisis has disrupted life all around the world, and social security plays a key role in national responses to mitigate its social and economic impact.

**15.This Webinar Delivering social security:- In times of COVID-19: Leveraging e-services-**

This webinar in English will focus on how institutions are adapting customer service channels, and specifically e-services, in the COVID-19 context. It will examine the following questions:

**A.What are the key factors for a successful application of e-services** in the current context?

**B.How are e-services being used to ensure the continuity of customer services?**

**C.What are the main service delivery challenges faced by social security institutions** in the corona virus context?

**D.What adaptations** have been made and what new e-services have been developed since the beginning of the pandemic?

## **16.This Webinar in (English) COVID-19:-**

**Adapting internal and human resources:-**This Webinar in English will focus on both internal processes and human resources in the COVID-19 response by social security institutions. It will examine the following questions:

**A.**What has been the value of **contingency or business continuity plans** established before the crisis?

**B.**What are the main **internal organization challenges faced by social security** institutions?

**C.**What are the **challenges and solutions** to remote and secure access to **data and information resources**?

**D.**What is the role of **leadership and internal communication**?

**E.**How do institutions implement flexible, remote, and mobile working methods for **staff**?

**F.**How are internal working methods and the **staff-based tasks/processes** being adapted? <sup>[11]</sup>

## **ISSAs View about CORONA VIRUS- INDIA**

The most important factor in preventing the spread of the Virus locally is to empower the citizens with the right information and taking precautions as per the advisories being issued by **Ministry of Health & Family Welfare.Government of India** is taking all necessary steps to ensure that we are prepared well to face the challenge and threat posed by the growing pandemic of COVID-19 the Corona Virus. With active support of the people of India, we have been able to contain the spread of the Virus in our country.

**ISSA has appreciated some very important steps taken by Government of India for Prevention of the spread of Covid-19,as mentioned below:-**

**1.Economy works excluded from Govt. measures, be it tax benefits or cash transfers:-** COVID-19 has already exposed the health vulnerabilities facing India, especially its rural poor, and urban slum dwellers.The pandemic is far more than health crises. The economics crises a severe fallout of the virus is grim and much grimmer for developing countries like India.

**2. Deposits are deferred, withdrawals rise of EPFO Income dips:-**A million workers have withdrawn their EPF savings in last five weeks to tide over income loss caused by the ongoing lockdown imposed to prevent the spread of the coronavirus. The Employees Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) is set to face an income crises, which will have a direct bearing on millions of its subscribers' PF earnings in 2020-21.

**3.Government to launch online portal for standard migrant workers:-**The portal , which has been tentatively named by the labour and employment ministry as the National Portal for COVID-19 Affected Unorganised Migrant Workers, will gather the details of all the unorganized sector workers who are stranded in relief camps, residential or industrial clusters. "Portal will allow the government to pass on relief benefits to the migrant workers – be it in the form of cash transfers or through other means," a top labour ministry officials said, requesting anonymity.

**4.Government fast tracks plan to provide social security for gig workers:-** The government has fast-tracked its plan to provide social security for gig economy workers and those in the unorganized sectors, anticipating a significant increase in their numbers as unemployment soars due to the COVID-19 crisis.

## **5.Social security for India- Activities of IGF on Migrant Workers / Construction**

**Workers during Lockdown:-**The Thinktank of the Govt. of India (Niti Aayog) has apprised the activities of IGFP on the Prevention of the spreading of COVID-19. During this unprecedented time the world and India are facing due to the Corona virus outbreak, it has been the endeavour of Indo-German Focal Point (IGFP) to rise to the occasion in supporting the important role of the State in investing in prevention, by addressing issues such as the vulnerability of migrant construction workers, the promotion of awareness programmes on prevention and the rescue of stranded workers.

**6.Free foodgrains and Cash transfers, for poor in Rs 1.7 lakh:-**The government announced a Rs 1.7 lakh crore package focused on emergency cash transfers into bank accounts of the poor, along with providing free food grains, pulses and cooking gas for three months in a bid to cushion them from the impact of the corona virus lockdown and economic disruption caused by the disease.

**7.More time for social security (ESI) contributions:-**The India government has given employees and employers more time to submit their monthly insurance contribution by relaxing provisions of the Employees' State Insurance Act in view of the Covid-19 outbreak. It has given 45 days, instead of 15 days as mandated under the Act, for submission of insurance contribution for February and March. The average monthly contribution to ESI Corporation (ESIC) by its subscribers is ₹1,300 crore. "Keeping in view the pandemic in the form of Corona virus (Covid-19) in the country, the director general has relaxed the provisions as entered in regulation 26 and 31 of the Employees' State Insurance (General) Regulations, 1950,"

**8.Allows Provident Fund Withdrawals As Emergency Measure:-**The Indian government will make amendments to the Employees' Provident Funds & Miscellaneous Provisions Act to allow members to withdraw up to 75 percent of their balance in the fund or three months' wages, whichever is lower, as an emergency measure to tide over any difficulties arising from the corona virus pandemic <sup>[14]</sup>.

9. **AarogyaSetu App:-**AarogyaSetu App for staying informed and alert against COVID19. Government initiative to develop a digital Bridge to fight against COVID\_19. Download with **Play Store APPIOS**



APP

**011-23978046 or 1075**  
**ncov2019[at]gov[dot]in**

**Helpline Number**  
**Email Id**

**10.NOTIFICATIONS & MESSAGE:-**UPDATES & NOTIFICATIONS BY GOVERNMENT OF INDIA THROUGH VARIOUS MYGOV SOCIALHUB /MESSAGE /VIDEO/ POSTER ETC IN ENGLISH & HINDI.

**11.MYTH BUSTERS:-**There is a lot of false information around. These are the facts:-  
**People of all ages CAN be infected by the coronavirus.** Older people, and people with pre-existing medical

conditions (such as **asthma, diabetes, heart disease**) appear to be more vulnerable to becoming severely ill with the virus <sup>[15]</sup>.

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