**Social support of the state during the pandemic: Latin American experience.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has had catastrophic social consequences in Latin America. The healthcare systems of most countries in the region, which had a lot of problems during the prosperous period, turned out to be powerless in the face of new, unforeseen challenges. The crisis has also engulfed the social protection system. In 2020, the number of poor increased by 28.7 million people compared to 2019 and amounted to 34.7% of the population (214.7 million inhabitants)[[1]](#footnote-1). The education system faced serious problems: distance learning, directly related to information literacy and computer equipment of educational institutions and students, with the ability to connect to the Internet, turned out to be inaccessible to a significant part of schoolchildren and students, especially in poor countries of the region. The deepest lag affected schooling in remote rural and marginal urban areas of Latin American countries. Thus, the events of 2020-2021. They led to a significant retreat in all social spheres, reversed the processes of social development that were successfully launched in the first decade of the XXI century.

Nevertheless, since the beginning of the pandemic, the States of the region have provided targeted assistance to support the most vulnerable groups of the population most affected by quarantine measures: workers in the tourism sector, small businesses, informal individual entrepreneurs, owners and employees of small cafes, drivers of public transport that has stopped working, families with children, the officially unemployed, etc. categories. Despite the fact that this assistance mainly had signs of temporary, limited social compensation, its targeted orientation and scale were significantly diversified in each country, were due to a number of internal circumstances. The analysis of how the social specifics and economic opportunities of the states of the region, as well as the political course of the governments in power, influenced the formation of social policy during the COVID-19 pandemic, is an urgent research task. Significant interest is also associated with the possibility of identifying certain models of social support formed in Latin American countries under the influence of both political and economic trends, and analyzing their effectiveness. At present, the growing social contradictions and disillusionment with the state's ability to counteract the crisis is the most negative trend in the formation of both the social and political landscape of the region.

1. CEPAL. Informe sobre impacto económico en América Latina y el Caribe de la enfermedad por coronavirus (COVID-19). Santiago de Chile: Naciones Unidas, 2020, p. 16. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)