



Universal basic income to fight COVID-19 and to overcome social and economic inequalities.

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The COVID-19 pandemic poses a serious threat to global food security. According to World Bank estimates, the economic repercussions of the pandemic could lead some 49 million people to extreme poverty. Rising unemployment rates, lost income and rising food costs are undermining access to food in developed and developing countries and will have long-term effects on food security. Family agricultural production accounts for most of the production of food intended for domestic consumption in developing countries but has significant economic vulnerability, due to different factors such as scale of production, exploitation of middlemen, among other mechanisms. As a result of the emergency measures that are being adopted due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the sale of food, especially in open markets, is directly affected, limiting or even eliminating the income of peasant families. Based on this diagnosis, the purpose of this paper is to analyze, from a critical perspective, the importance of a universal basic income with the aim of promoting human dignity. Understanding that the universal basic income draws strength from the basic institution of capitalism, which is the obligatoriness need for wage labor. For Marx, wage labor is the core of capitalist socialization. That is, the product of labor becomes a commodity, the means of production and the land become private property. In this way, basic income is an instrument that not only has the potential to reduce

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inequalities and guarantee basic rights, but also to make possible through its means of financing a change in the historical imbalance of the tax burden in developing countries. In this sense, it is necessary to think of basic income as an instrument, also, for economic development, enabling its payment through mechanisms of solidary finance, such as community banks that use social currency.