



**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs

**EVERYONE INCLUDED**



# Key messages and policy recommendations

## ACCELERATING GLOBAL ACTIONS FOR A WORLD WITHOUT POVERTY: GAPS, CHALLENGES AND PROGRESS

Virtual Inter-agency Expert-Group Meeting on Implementation of  
the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty  
(2018-2027)

16-18 May 2022

*Hanta Rafalimanana and Meron Sherif*

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs

# CHALLENGES related to SDG1

# Poverty and Inequality

- *Poverty is both monetary and multidimensional*
- *Inequality has a high cost*
- Unprecedented **increase in global poverty** with onset of COVID-19 pandemic
  - Poverty is concentrated in fragile contexts, Africa, women, children
- Unprecedented **increase in global inequality** with onset of COVID-19 pandemic
  - Mainly due to increasing between-country inequality
- **Increase in within-country inequality** in some regions even before the pandemic
  - Latin America
- **High cost of inequality** for society as a whole
  - Social tensions and instability

# Food insecurity and Fragile contexts

- *Rising food insecurity and fragility will imperil efforts to eradicate poverty*
- **The 4Cs** (**C**COVID-19, **c**limate change, **c**onflicts and rising **c**ost of food, fertilizers and fuel) have amplified fragility in recent times, contributing to widening acute food insecurity, growing humanitarian needs, increasing extreme poverty and lack of progress towards global development goals
- At least **40 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty** by the current global **food and energy prices spike**
- Food prices and insecurity had been rising even prior to the **COVID-19 pandemic** and are sharply increasing with the **Russia-Ukraine conflict**
- **Food insecurity and fragile contexts are concentrated in Africa**



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# PROGRESS



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# Positive developments amid challenges

- *New ways and tools for development have been used*
- Countries found ways to extend social protection to uncovered groups such as workers in the informal sector through important innovations, including digital technology
- New analytics and diagnostic tools are being developed to inform policy and programming
- Development actors are developing strategies to leverage comparative advantages
- New and deepened partnerships with UN agencies are enabling development actors to reach the most vulnerable and support governments
- African governments are taking leadership roles in their countries' development

# POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



# Employment and Health

## Employment

- *ILO Global Call to Action for a human-centred recovery*
- Mitigate the impact of inflation
- **Create jobs in the green, care and digital economies**
- Support hard-hit groups and sectors, including those in the informal economy
- **Invest in female and youth dominated sectors hit hardest by the crisis (e.g., care economy)**
- Monitor and assess the impacts of multiple crises on the world of work.
- Have labour market and **employment policies** and regulation for **decent, productive and freely chosen employment**
- An integrated policy response addressing employment and social protection needs is important as stated in the SG's **Global Jobs and Social Protection Accelerator for Just Transitions**

## Health

- *WHO has 7 recommendations for building resilience and seeking integration between the promotion of UHC and ensuring health security*
- Leverage the current response to **strengthen both pandemic preparedness and health systems**
- **Invest in essential public health functions** including those needed for all-hazards emergency risk management
- **Build a strong Primary Health Care foundation**
- Invest in institutionalized mechanisms for whole-of-society engagement
- **Create and promote enabling environments for research, innovation and learning**
- Increase domestic and global investment in health system foundations and all-hazards emergency risk management
- Address pre-existing inequities and the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on marginalized and vulnerable populations



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# Education and Social protection

## Education

- *Allocate sufficient national budget for the education sector, especially for girls*
- **Development partners** also need to allocate sufficient resources for basic education
- The **private sector** should also contribute financial resources for education

## Social Protection

- *Extend and strengthen social protection systems*
- *Build universal social protection, including floors*
- Provide adequate social protection for all, including workers in all types of employment, through a combination of contributory and non-contributory schemes



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# Economy and Productive transformation

## Economy

- *Promote inclusive and sustainable growth*
- *In Africa, focus on economic recovery that is inclusive, strong and sustainable*
- Promote economic **diversification**
- Promote **industrialization** and **structural transformation**
- Invest in the **ocean economy**

## Productive transformation

- *Interest rate and exchange rate policy that is conducive to productive transformation*
- Investment promotion and FDI, industrial parks, trade policy and strategic market development
- Technical and vocational skills development and local content policy
- Lifting core binding constraints such as those related to infrastructure, access to inputs and market credits
- Strategic approach to FDI, which should not be promoted at the expense of domestic investment
- Use of technologies
- Education and training programmes aligned with private sector demand
- Regional cooperation in Africa



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# Climate and CSOs

## Climate change

- *Curb climate change to save lives and reduce inequality*
- Reaffirm mitigation. Cut greenhouse emissions in line with the Paris Agreement
- Mobilize efforts to enhance adaptation capacities in developing countries and across the most vulnerable regions within countries

## Civil Society Organizations

- *CSOs can play a major role in poverty eradication*
- People living in poverty should be seen as real actors in the fight against poverty and not only beneficiaries
- Governments, institutions and internal organizations have a special role in fostering participatory spaces
- CSOs have the capacity to support these processes



**DESA**

Social Inclusion



# Financing for development

- *Financing is important: ODA and domestic*
- ODA and foreign aid has had a positive impact on poverty reduction
- Fiscal policies (taxation) are important for domestic resource mobilization
- Domestic revenue mobilization is the most sustainable way (taxation, IFFs, tax even ODAs)



**DESA**

Social Inclusion





**United Nations**

Department of  
Economic and  
Social Affairs



# Thank you

[social.un.org](https://social.un.org) | [unsdn.org](https://unsdn.org)  
#EveryoneIncluded