



United Nations



Easy to read

What the United Nations has been working on in 2020 and 2021

This report is about a part of the United Nations called
the United Nations Secretariat





About this report

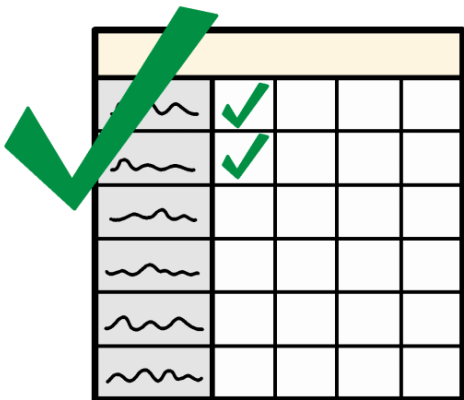
My name is António Guterres.

My job is Secretary-General for the United Nations (UN).



The United Nations is a place for 193 countries to meet and work together.

They are working to make the world better, fairer and safer.



This report is about some of the main work that we have done in the last year.

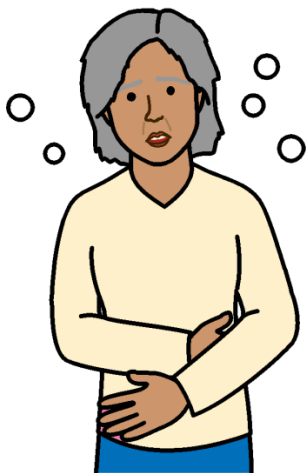
We means the United Nations.

We worked with many countries and organizations on this.

Some of our main work in the last year

Making the world better and fairer for everyone in the future

Covid-19



Covid-19 has made life very hard for many people.

Covid-19 is an illness that many people in the world have been getting.

It is also called Coronavirus.

We supported 160 countries to cope with big problems because of Covid-19.

This includes problems with:

- Health care
- Food and water
- Money and jobs
- People's rights



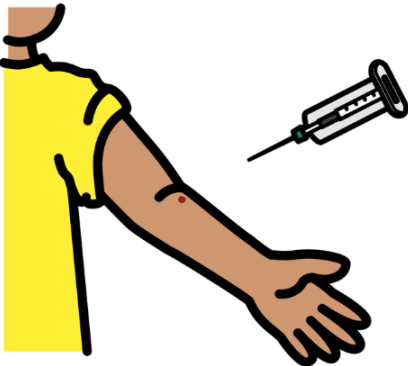


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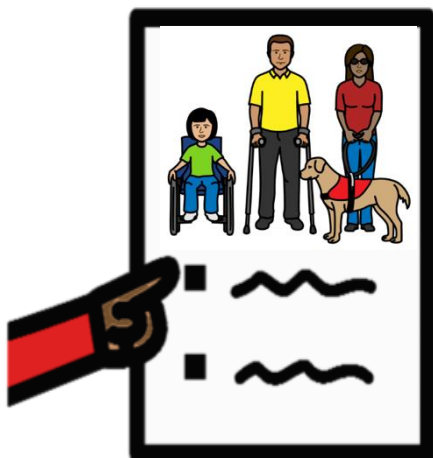
We supported many people to get the things they needed during Covid-19, like health care, food, water and money.



We helped many children to keep learning when their schools closed during Covid-19.



We are helping every country that needs help to get tests, treatments and vaccines for Covid-19.



We made plans to help countries recover from Covid-19 in the best way for everyone.

This includes women and girls and people who need more support.

We supported countries to help them get more money for that work.



Making sure that no one is left out

We are helping countries work together to make the world better for everyone by the year 2030.

There are 17 things that countries are working on.



For example, countries want to stop people being poor and make sure that everyone gets a good education.

This is even more important now after Covid-19.



In 2020 there was a big meeting about making the world better and fairer for everyone by 2030.

Many leaders and people around the world took part on the Internet.



We helped to make sure that everyone can use the Internet.

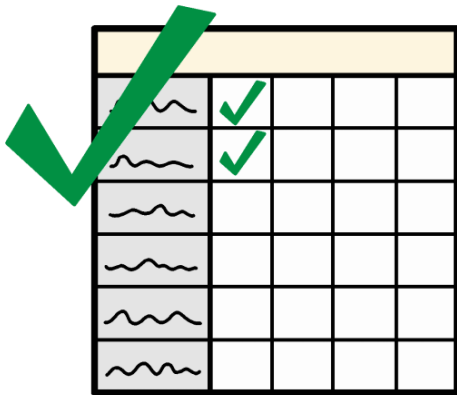
For example, women and girls, older people and people with disabilities.

Climate change

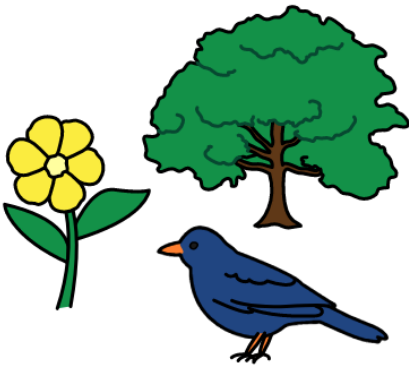
Climate change is about the earth getting warmer.

This is causing big problems for people and the planet we live on.

For example, bad storms, floods and forest fires.



Many countries and businesses have promised to work faster to stop climate change.

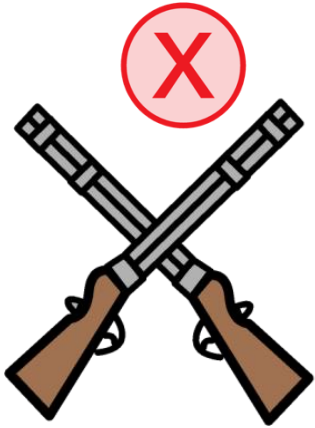


We had a big meeting in 2020 about saving the world's plants, trees and animals.



We helped with a project to warn people early on if there might be an emergency because of climate change.

This helps people to get ready for an emergency and keep safe.



Helping the world to be peaceful and safe

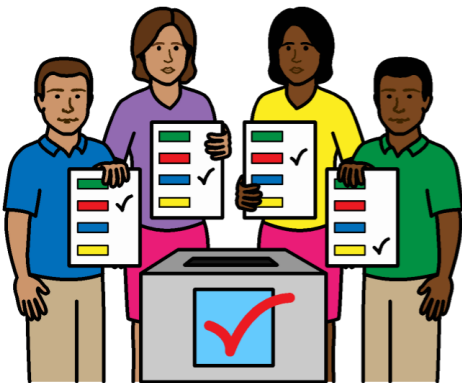
We have worked to keep the peace and keep people safe in many parts of the world.



For example:

We asked the world to stop wars and fighting during Covid-19.

Fighting stopped in some countries after that.



We have helped many countries to make sure that voting and choosing new leaders happens in a fair and safe way.

This includes making sure that more women can take part.



We started a new project to make our work to keep the peace better and safer.

Many countries have agreed to some new rules about that.



We used the Internet to include different groups of people in keeping the peace.

Like women and young people.



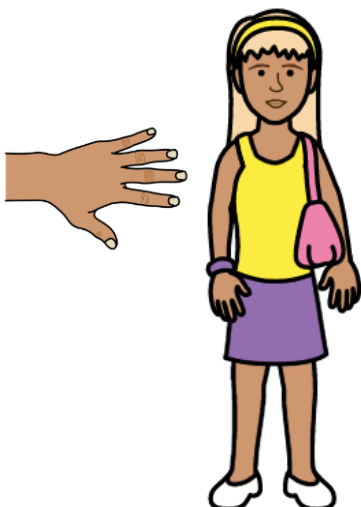
We have worked to stop problems on the Internet, radio and TV.

For example, problems where people share information that is not true or say bad things about other groups of people.



More women are working to keep peace around the world. This includes women leaders.

We have asked countries to support more women to take part in that work.



We are working with countries to help stop violence that happens to children during war.

For example, violence where children are forced to fight in wars.

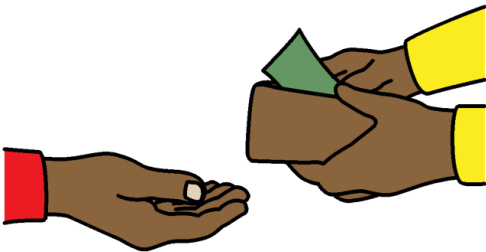
Our work in Africa

Africa is an important part of the world that we work in.



We supported people in Africa to find out true facts about Covid-19.

For example, we started a new way to find information about Covid-19 in Africa.



We supported countries in Africa to buy and sell things in a better way for Africa.

This includes a new website to buy Covid-19 vaccines at a fair price.

Making sure we respect people's human rights

Everyone in the world has human rights.

They are about how we should all be treated.

For example, everyone has the right to be safe and treated fairly.





We started a new website for countries and organizations to use.

It has information and ideas to help them follow human rights laws.



We are doing more to include human rights in our work in different countries.

We made new information to help our staff with that.



We are working harder to stop some groups of people being treated badly.

For example, women and girls and people from different cultures and religions.

This includes work to stop unfair laws and violence against women and girls.

Giving people the right support when big problems happen in the world

Like war and bad weather problems.

We helped to get more money for people who need support in many countries.



We supported more countries to get ready for problems before they start.

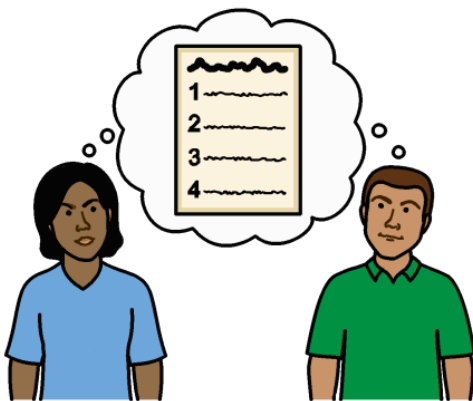
For example, some countries got money to help them get ready for floods.

This helped people to get support more quickly.

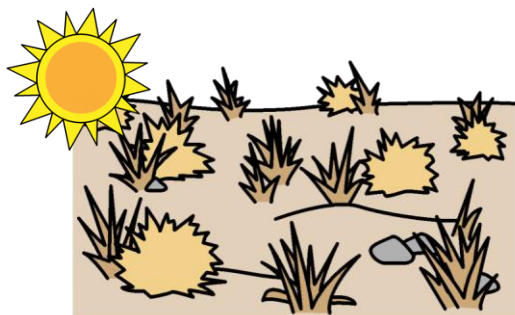


Many countries now have plans to get ready for big problems that might happen.

This has already saved lives.



We set up a group to help stop big food problems where people do not have enough to eat.

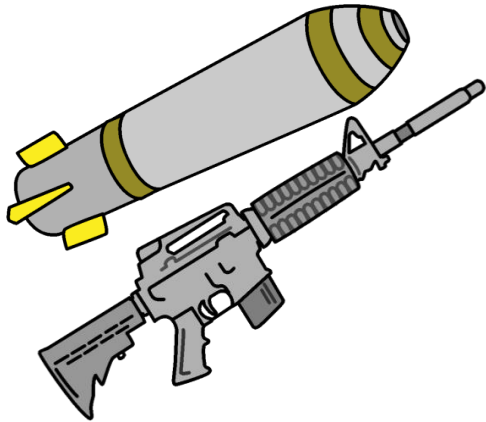


Our work on weapons, drugs and crime



We have helped to make sure that people who do big crimes go to court.

This includes crimes where many people might have been hurt or killed.



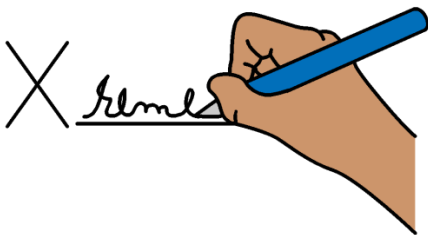
We are helping countries work together to have less weapons in the world.

Weapons are things that can kill people, like bombs and guns.

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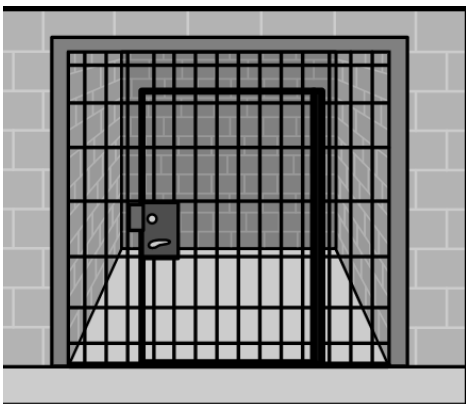
Many countries have signed a new document to stop nuclear weapons.

Countries who sign the document cannot make or use the weapons.



We did other work to:

- Stop guns being used as much
- Make prisons safer during Covid-19
- Support families to stop using drugs

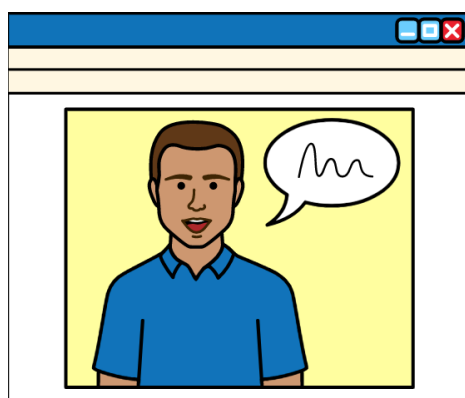


Changing the way we work



We made some changes to the way we do our work.

This meant we were ready to help countries quickly when Covid-19 started.



We made sure that our staff could work in a safe way during Covid-19.

For example, we used the Internet more.



We started better ways to check how our work is going and to plan how to spend our money on doing this work.



We set up a group to make sure that some people are not treated unfairly by the United Nations.

The group will make a plan about what to do next.