Behind the scenes during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly (New York, 22 September 2019)

Introduction

KEY PRIORITIES

• Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development
• Maintenance of international peace and security
• Development in Africa
• Promotion and protection of human rights
• Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance
• Promotion of international justice and law
• Disarmament
• Drug control, crime prevention and combating terrorism
In 1945, world leaders gathered in San Francisco to sign the Charter of the United Nations, which gave birth to an organization that represented new hope for a world emerging from the horrors of the Second World War. Our founders were in no doubt about the kind of world that they wished to banish to the past.

In 2020, as the United Nations celebrates 75 years since the Charter’s signing, we have an opportunity to reflect on our shared progress, as well as our common future. Our vision and values – based on equality, mutual respect and international cooperation – helped us to avoid a Third World War, which would have had catastrophic consequences for life on our planet. For 75 years, we have forged productive cooperative relationships for global problem-solving and the common good. We have put in place vital norms and agreements that codify and protect human rights, set ambitious goals for sustainable development and charted a path towards a more balanced relationship with the climate and the natural world. Billions of people have emerged from the yoke of colonialism. Millions have been lifted out of poverty.

Today, day in and day out, around the clock, around the world, the United Nations is helping to save millions of lives every year. Women and men of the United Nations are assisting 80 million refugees and displaced people and enabling more than 2 million women and girls to overcome complications from pregnancy and childbirth. Over 40 political missions and peacekeeping operations comprising 95,000 troops, police and civilian personnel strive to bring and keep the peace and to protect civilians. Our electoral assistance now extends to 60 countries each year, and our help for victims of torture reaches 40,000 people. Some 7,500 monitoring missions every year seek to protect human rights, make violations known and hold perpetrators accountable.

Yet these efforts have not been enough to hold back the tides of fear, hatred, inequality, poverty and injustice. Moreover, early in 2020, we were brought to our knees by a microscopic virus: the virus responsible for the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has taken a horrific toll on individuals, communities and societies, with the most vulnerable disproportionately affected.

The United Nations family mobilized quickly and comprehensively, leading on the global health response, continuing and expanding the provision of life-saving humanitarian assistance, establishing instruments for rapid responses to the socioeconomic impact and laying out a broad policy agenda in support of the most vulnerable communities and regions.¹ But the setback to the fundamental Charter goals of peace, justice, human rights and development has been deep and may be long-lasting.

¹ In June 2020, the Secretary-General launched the United Nations Comprehensive Response to COVID-19: Saving Lives, Protecting Societies, Recovering Better.
BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE FUTURE

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world was not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by the target date of 2030. Now, we face the deepest global recession since the Second World War and the broadest collapse in incomes since 1870. Approximately 100 million more people could be pushed into extreme poverty. Already in its fifth year of implementation, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development remains humanity’s blueprint for a better future. In January 2020, the United Nations launched a decade of action to accelerate implementation; the COVID-19 pandemic has made the decade of action both more challenging and more urgent.

With the onset of the pandemic, the United Nations called for massive global support for the most vulnerable people and countries – a rescue package amounting to at least 10 per cent of the global economy. Developed countries have stepped up support for their own people, but we are promoting mechanisms of solidarity to ensure that the developing world will also benefit, including through a debt standstill, debt restructuring and greater support through the international financial institutions. This rescue package has yet to fully materialize.

This failure of solidarity compounds a much longer-standing struggle to secure the financing necessary for the success of the 2030 Agenda, complicated by slow growth and high debt. We must act now to maintain progress made on sustainable development. We share a common fate. Only with true solidarity and unity will we achieve our shared goals and uphold our values.

COVID-19 also brought home the drastic need to rebalance the human relationship with the natural world. We were already approaching the point of no return on climate change. Recovery from COVID-19 must go hand in hand with climate action. With global emissions reaching record levels, I hosted the Climate Action Summit and the Youth Climate Summit in 2019. Seventy countries committed themselves to more ambitious national climate plans to reach net zero emissions by 2050. Beyond climate change, and after more than 15 years of intense efforts, the 2020 intergovernmental conference on marine biological diversity of areas beyond national jurisdiction must now be the starting point for greater harmony with nature as a whole.

In these challenging times, we must not lose sight of our shared goals and commitment to sustainable peace.

Maria Luiza Ribeiro Viotti, Chef de Cabinet
Over 36,000 United Nations Secretariat staff and about 95,000+ uniformed personnel working...

...across 8 priorities in 35+ programmes...

...in 140+ countries...

...with the support of $14.2B in resources, including $3B regular assessed, $7.2B peacekeeping and other assessed, and $4B voluntary...

...to achieve results in 2019, for example:

**Sustainable Development**
Through the repositioned United Nations development system, resident coordinators worked with Governments and partners in 162 countries and territories for the 2030 Agenda

**Peace and Security**
Deployed 40+ peacekeeping, special political missions and offices to prevent conflict and support peacebuilding efforts

**Development in Africa**
Supported the implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, one of the largest trading blocs covering about 1.2 billion people and GDP of over $2.5 trillion

**Disarmament**
Advanced implementation of the Agenda for Disarmament, which focuses on weapons of mass destruction, conventional weapons and new battlefield technologies

**Humanitarian Assistance**
Helped mobilize and coordinate international assistance worth $18 billion for 117 million people in need

**Drugs, Crime, Terrorism**
Engaged more than 170 Member States in preventing and countering violent extremism through outreach and capacity-building activities

**Human Rights**
The Secretary-General launched his Call to Action for Human Rights to advance enjoyment of human rights by all

**International Justice and Law**
Supported the Singapore Convention on Mediation with a record 46 State signatories at the opening of a United Nations trade-related treaty

Serviced Member States in over 36,900 intergovernmental meetings and conferences to help foster global consensus on the issues facing the world
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S KEY AREAS OF FOCUS FOR 2019–2020

2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE DECADE OF ACTION
Supported Governments and key stakeholders at all levels to kick-start the decade of action to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030.

CLIMATE ACTION
Ambitious action to combat climate change and its impacts, including through the 2019 Climate Action Summit initiatives, is vital to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the goals of the Paris Agreement, and to recovering better, together, from the COVID-19 pandemic.

GENDER EQUALITY
Placed the spotlight on dismantling gender inequality and ensuring that equal participation and women’s leadership are at the heart of United Nations efforts to respond to global challenges.

UNITED TO REFORM
Implementation of the Secretary-General’s reform agenda across development, management, and peace and security is improving the ability of the United Nations to effectively and accountably deliver on its mandates. Below are key accomplishments achieved to date and major ongoing changes that are part of the United to Reform agenda.

DEVELOPMENT SYSTEM
Repositioning the development system to accelerate implementation of the 2030 Agenda
- A new generation of United Nations country teams for more tailored support to countries
- A new resident coordinator system for strengthened leadership
- A Funding Compact with Member States with mutual-accountability targets
- Revised United Nations cooperation frameworks for more holistic responses to national priorities
- Unprecedented effort launched to strengthen the impact of United Nations regional assets and multi-country offices
- More transparency, accountability and oversight for results
- Ambitious measures to increase efficiency in country team operations
- Enhanced country team capacity to help countries scale up financing and partnerships for the Sustainable Development Goals

PEACE AND SECURITY ARCHITECTURE
Enabling a whole-of-pillar approach to confronting threats to international peace and security
- A restructured peace and security architecture at Headquarters with joint regional teams
- Prioritized support for prevention and sustaining peace
- Stronger focus on regional approaches and strategies
- Integrated approach to United Nations mission transitions and better alignment with United Nations country teams

MANAGEMENT REFORM
Shifting the management paradigm to enable nimble, effective and efficient operations
- Decentralized operations through more delegation to managers, accompanied by extensive training
- New accountability framework for decision-making authorities
- Strengthened data analytics and evaluation capacities
- Two new management departments at Headquarters, with clear roles and responsibilities
- New annual programme budget with better performance, planning and resource information
- Ongoing simplification of policies and processes, supported by a senior-level client-feedback mechanism
UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE ACTION SUMMIT: 12 KEY OUTCOMES

Ambitious national climate plans are needed to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050
Public, private and accessible finance is key to net-zero emissions and climate resilient economies
Focused discussion to end new coal-fired plants beyond 2020
Nature-based solutions as economically viable options for climate action
Climate risks must be integrated into decision-making systems
Access to finance agreed for small island developing States to deliver on climate action

The critical role of cities for implementing national climate plans
Measures for increasing energy efficiency and reducing greenhouse gas emissions
Solutions proposed to support the most vulnerable members of society
Least developed countries are most impacted by climate change and most committed to climate action
Multi-stakeholder initiatives recognizing the benefits of climate action must leave no one behind
New partnerships on how net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 is possible

UNITED NATIONS DISABILITY INCLUSION STRATEGY: BRINGING ABOUT TRANSFORMATIVE CHANGE

The Strategy’s wide-ranging scope covers all three United Nations pillars—human rights, peace and security, and development—as well as programmes and operations
The Strategy includes concrete benchmarks to accelerate and measure progress on disability inclusion
58 United Nations entities reported on the Strategy in its first year to establish a system-wide baseline on disability inclusion

Secretary-General António Guterres opens the United Nations Climate Action Summit 2019. The Summit aimed to boost ambition and accelerate action on climate change and the goals of the Paris Agreement (New York, 23 September 2019)

Montserrat Vilarrasa, Secretary of the Assembly of Human Rights Montserrat Trueta and Member for Intellectual Disability at the City Council of Barcelona, speaking at the high-level meeting of women with disabilities in political and public leadership (New York, June 2019)
RAISING OUR VOICES FOR PEACE

The pandemic is having profound social, economic and political consequences, and we must do everything possible to find the peace and unity that our world needs. There can be only one fight in our world today: our shared battle against COVID-19. That is why, on 23 March 2020, I issued an appeal for a global cease-fire, which has been widely endorsed by the Security Council, nearly 180 countries, more than 20 armed groups and 800 civil society groups. My special envoys and I are working together to establish effective cease-fires and overcome the legacy of long-lasting conflicts. Violence is not confined to the battlefield; it affects many women in their homes, where they may now be confined in lockdown or quarantine with their abusers. In April, I called for an end to violence against women everywhere. Some 146 Member States committed themselves to including violence prevention and response in their COVID-19 response plans.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The COVID-19 pandemic hit at a time of widespread disregard for human rights. In February, we launched a call to action on human rights by which we committed ourselves to making human dignity the core of the Organization’s work, with a special focus on such areas as rights at the centre of sustainable development; rights in times of crisis; gender equality and equal rights for women; public participation and civic space; rights of future generations, especially climate justice; rights at the heart of collective action; and new frontiers of human rights. The pandemic immediately put these commitments to the test. Human rights formed a cornerstone of the United Nations response.

RENEWING MULTILATERALISM

As we emerge from this pandemic, we cannot go back to a world that was delivering only for the few. We need a new social contract within States and a new global deal between States. We need new global governance, rebalanced financial and trade systems, effective delivery of critical global public goods and decision-making guided by standards of sustainability. Our recovery from COVID-19 and our renewal of multilateralism must be based on fair globalization, on the rights and dignity of every human being, on living in balance with nature, on taking account of the rights of future generations and on success measured in human rather than economic terms.

These are not only the lessons of COVID-19. They are also the clear wish expressed in the worldwide consultation process for the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations. People want a global governance system that delivers for them and is based on full, inclusive and equal participation in global institutions. I look forward to working with Member States and civil society to chart a way forward that allows us to jointly live up to these expectations.

As we build multilateral approaches, we also need stronger digital cooperation. Technology can turbo-charge recovery from COVID-19 and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. My Road Map for Digital Cooperation promotes a vision of an inclusive, sustainable digital future for all.

A CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Our work preventing, responding and rebuilding from crises must always be guided by the principles of equality and inclusion of all. We must strive in particular to achieve gender equality and disability inclusion.

Volker Türk, Assistant Secretary-General for Strategic Coordination

Our legacy is defined by when, how and for whom we mobilize global action.

Ana Maria Menéndez, Senior Adviser on Policy
The long-term objectives of the United Nations revolve around transformative agendas endorsed or welcomed by the Member States.

SELECT TRANSFORMATIVE AGENDAS*

BEIJING DECLARATION
Fourth World Conference on Women, and Platform for Action

WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

MILLENNIUM DECLARATION
Summit and Millennium Development Goals

DURBAN DECLARATION ON RACISM
Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, outcome document of the Durban Review Conference 2009

MONTERREY CONSENSUS
International Conference on Financing for Development

2030 AGENDA AND AGENDA 2063
Framework for a Renewed United Nations-African Union Partnership on Africa’s Integration and Development Agenda 2017–2027, in support of the African Union’s Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want

OCEAN DECLARATION
Our Ocean, Our Future: Call for Action

MAURITIUS DECLARATION
Further implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States

NEW URBAN AGENDA
United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

DOHA DECLARATION
Follow-up Conference on Financing for Development

ISTANBUL DECLARATION
Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

SAMOA PATHWAY
SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway

RIO+20
Conference on Sustainable Development

DOHA DECLARATION
Thirteenth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

ADDIS ABABA ACTION AGENDA
Third International Conference on Financing for Development

VIENNA DECLARATION
Programme of Action for Landlocked Developing Countries for the Decade 2014–2024

SENDAI FRAMEWORK
Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030

PARIS AGREEMENT
Agreement of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

ADDIS ABABA DECLARATION
Programme for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020

UNITED TO REFORM
Implementation of the Secretary-General’s development, management, and peace and security reform agenda

HUMAN RIGHTS
The Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights

PLANET ONE
Agenda 21

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY TO FIGHT COVID-19
General Assembly resolution 74/270 and Security Council resolution 2532 (2020) on a global ceasefire

AGENDA 2030
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a shared blueprint for peace and prosperity for people and the planet, now and into the future. At its heart are 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

* The diagram shows select transformative agendas since 1995. The list is not exhaustive. The United Nations programme of work is also guided by several other legislative mandates.
STRENGTHENING OUR ORGANIZATION

As part of our efforts to revitalize multilateralism, we continued the implementation of an ambitious reform agenda to improve the effectiveness and accountabil-ity of the United Nations. New structures across the development, peace and security and management architectures of the Secretariat were established in 2019 to allow the Organization to respond more nimbly to emerging requirements and better cooperate across the pillars of its work. The new approaches introduced as part of these reforms have been validated through a trial by fire, as they allowed the United Nations to continue its critical work uninterrupted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

Only an Organization that is inclusive and equitable will sustain us for the future. We have maintained gender parity among senior management, and we now have the highest number of women serving as heads and deputy heads of mission in our history. We are also working to build a more geographically diverse workforce. In March 2020, I launched the Geographical Diversity Strategy to improve the representation status of unrepresented and underrepresented Member States within the Secretariat. In 2019, I launched the first ever United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy to raise the Organization’s standards and performance and enhance coordinated efforts to mainstream disability inclusion across the United Nations system.

To improve our fitness for the challenges of the twenty-first century, 50 United Nations entities jointly designed a data strategy as a comprehensive playbook for data-driven change. Data permeate all aspects of our work, and their power – harnessed responsibly – is critical to the global agendas that we serve.

The work and reforms of the Organization remain at risk of financial disruption. In 2019 the Organization faced its worst regular budget cash shortage in a decade, and the situation in 2020 may worsen further. Cash constraints are forcing us to prioritize our work on the basis of availability of funds, rather than programmatic priorities.

Implementation of the Gender Parity Strategy has progressed well at United Nations Headquarters, and most entities are on track to reach parity at each level by 2028.

Implementation of the Gender Parity Strategy has progressed well at United Nations Headquarters, and most entities are on track to reach parity at each level by 2028.

The Secretary-General achieved his 50/50 gender parity target among senior leadership in full-time Under Secretary-General and Assistant Secretary-General posts in January 2020, almost two years ahead of schedule.

Challenges remain to reaching parity in the field, particularly in peace operations, where the full attention of senior leadership will be focused on achieving the target of parity at every level in the Organization by 2028.
THE SECRETARY-GENERAL’S DATA STRATEGY FOR ACTION BY EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE

To strengthen our fitness for the challenges of the twenty-first century the Data Strategy of the Secretary-General for Action by Everyone, Everywhere was launched. It is a comprehensive playbook for data-driven change based on global best practice.

Data permeates all aspects of our work, and its power – harnessed responsibly – is critical to the global priorities we serve. The footprint, expertise and connectedness of the United Nations family create unique opportunities to advance global “data action” with insight, impact and integrity.

The Strategy will guide us through a long-term transformation: so that everyone, everywhere, can nurture data as a strategic asset for insight, impact and integrity, to better deliver on our mandates for people and the planet.

LOOKING AHEAD

As we grapple with the effects of COVID-19, we have an opportunity to build a more equal world. This means creating a new social contract – integrating education, employment, sustainable development and social protection – based on equal rights and opportunities for all. Social protection systems for the future must include universal health coverage and promote women’s employment and gender equality, investment in public services and economies that work for people and the planet.

We also need a global new deal in which global governance and financial and trade systems are rebalanced and decisions are guided by standards of sustainability, giving light to the aspirations in the 2030 Agenda. COVID-19 is a human tragedy, but it has also created a generational opportunity. Let us make the commitment to build back better, upholding the vision and resolve reflected in the Charter signed 75 years ago, which continues to guide our way forward together.
Children

Feeds 16 million children with daily school meals
Benefits 81 million children with cash transfer programmes
Supports 4.1 million children in receiving treatment for severe acute malnutrition
Supplies vaccines to 50% of the world’s children, helping to save 3 million lives a year

Benefits 51 million children with cash transfer programmes

Supports the vaccination of 108 million people against yellow fever
Assists with the shipping of 21 million doses of oral cholera vaccine
Helps train thousands of health workers, tested 220,000 samples and vaccinated 303,000 people as part of a 22-month-long response to an Ebola outbreak

Supports over 81,000 stateless individuals in acquiring and/or confirming their nationality
Assists and protects 82.5 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution

Safe water and sanitation
Facilitates access to safe drinking water for 18.3 million people

Registered 9 million refugees last year in the United Nations Biometric Identity Management System in 69 countries

Food security
Provides food and assistance to 87 million people in 83 countries
Assists 25 million people with cash transfers in 62 countries, empowering people to achieve nutrition outcomes while boosting local markets

Provides food and assistance to 87 million people in 83 countries

Climate action
Protects, improves or restores 344 million hectares of landscapes and marine habitats
Mobilizes funding and supports renewable energy development across more than 27 developing countries
Supports clean, affordable and sustainable energy access for 800,000 households headed by women in 16 countries

Mobilizes funding and supports renewable energy development across more than 27 developing countries

Livelihoods
Supports 5 million people in 28 crisis-affected countries in getting a job or a better livelihood
Helps 24 million people in 22 countries gain access to financial services
Engages with 30 Governments to build multi-dimensional poverty indices to improve social inclusion

Displacement
Registered 9 million refugees last year in the United Nations Biometric Identity Management System in 69 countries
Assists over 81,000 stateless individuals in acquiring and/or confirming their nationality
Assists and protects 82.5 million people fleeing war, famine and persecution

Women
Assists over 337,000 girls and women in preventing or addressing female genital mutilation
Helps over 2 million women a month overcome pregnancy and childbirth complications
Supports 150,000 women in receiving legal aid
Advocates for and empowers women in the economy, including through 82 laws and policies adopted in 40 countries

Human rights
Seeks to protect human rights, make violations known and hold perpetrators accountable, with 7,500 monitoring missions
Helps 40,000 victims of torture in 78 countries
Partners with 89 countries to reform discriminatory laws

Peace and security
Maintains more than 40 political missions and peacekeeping operations, including 95,000 peacekeeping personnel
Deploys special envoys and representatives of the Secretary-General in 54 contexts in efforts to secure sustainable peace
Assists some 60 countries with their elections

Displacement

Food security

Disease prevention

Climate action
We are pursuing a three-pillar response: first, a large-scale health response, including accelerating work towards a vaccine, diagnostics and treatment for everyone, everywhere; second, an effort to address the devastating socioeconomic, humanitarian and human rights effects of the pandemic; and third, a recovery that builds back better – towards more equal, inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies, as well as an international system that can protect and deliver on critical global public goods.
JOIN OPERATIONAL RESPONSE STRATEGIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FAMILY AND PARTNERS

1 – HEALTH: COVID-19 STRATEGIC PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PLAN

**Strategic objectives**

1. Mobilize all sectors and communities
2. Control sporadic cases and clusters, and prevent community transmission
3. Suppress community transmission
4. Reduce mortality
5. Develop safe and effective vaccines and therapeutics

**Partners**

- Governments, international and non-governmental organizations, research institutes and businesses

**Funding requirements**

- **$1.74 billion** required; **$1.44 billion** received (83% funded)

2 – HUMANITARIAN: GLOBAL HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE PLAN

**Strategic objectives**

1. Contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic and reduce morbidity and mortality
2. Decrease the deterioration of human assets, human rights, social cohesion and livelihoods
3. Protect, assist and advocate for refugees, internally displaced persons, migrants and vulnerable communities

**Partners**

- International and non-governmental organizations

**Funding requirements**

- **$10.31 billion** required; **$2.475 billion** received (24% funded)

3 – DEVELOPMENT: UNITED NATIONS SOCIOECONOMIC RESPONSE FRAMEWORK

**Strategic objectives**

1. Protect health services and health systems during the crisis
2. Protect people, provide social protection and basic services
3. Protect jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises, informal sector
4. Facilitate macroeconomic response and multilateral collaboration
5. Support social cohesion and community resilience

**Partners**

- National institutions in countries and territories with United Nations country teams

**Funding requirements**

- **$1 billion** required; **$0.42 billion** received (41% funded)

ATTENTION TO THE HARDEST-HIT COUNTRIES AND POPULATIONS

Since the outset, I have advocated for special attention to be given to those hardest hit by the pandemic. This includes 63 countries already facing humanitarian or refugee crises, and vulnerable groups, including women, children, older persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) individuals, those with disabilities, those with mental health considerations and those who are on the move, among others.

We cannot afford to leave anyone behind in our response and recovery. To support global leaders, I have issued policy briefs to guide the response to those most in need. No one is safe until everyone is safe.

RESPONSE OF THE BROADER UNITED NATIONS FAMILY

The entire United Nations system has mobilized behind the World Health Organization-led health response to distribute medical supplies, train health workers, support testing and tracing, prevent the spread of the virus, disseminate information and support national plans.

As Secretary-General, I convened world leaders to cooperate on a vaccine that is universally available and affordable, as well as on financing and debt relief. On 23 March, I appealed for a global ceasefire, which has been endorsed by close to 180 Member States, over 20 armed movements and 800 civil society organizations.

Our humanitarian agencies already support more than 100 million people around the world and are placing a high priority on continuing to provide life-saving help while also supporting the response of the wider United Nations system to the pandemic through the Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19.

Through the United Nations development system, we are assisting in five areas: essential health services; social protection and basic services; protecting jobs and providing support to small and medium-sized enterprises and informal sector workers; financing; and social cohesion and resilience.

The United Nations country teams have mobilized to support a coherent response to the pandemic, collaborating with Governments, international financial institutions and others in socioeconomic impact assessments and expeditious solutions in a “development emergency” mode.

The specialized agencies are supporting Governments and partners with guidance on public health measures, aviation, shipping, tourism, technology, food supply and security, agriculture and other areas on which the pandemic had an impact.

The peacekeeping missions have put in place mitigation measures to continue protecting vulnerable communities while promoting the safety and health of our personnel and maintaining continuity of operations.

The United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) trained young social workers and activists to educate communities on how to protect themselves from COVID-19 (Bor, South Sudan, 15 July 2020)

The United Nations Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19 in South Sudan is on track to achieve its objectives.
UNFAMILY SUPPORT ON THE GROUND

MEDICAL COORDINATION
174 countries coordinating with World Health Organization (WHO) on strategic preparedness and response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

MEDICAL SUPPORT
123 countries supported in formulating national health plans and registering financial needs on WHO Strategic Partnership Portal.

CRISIS RESPONSE
12 million households benefiting from new or additional social assistance provided by Governments with United Nations family support.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
2.1 million health and community workers trained in detection, referral and appropriate management of cases on the ground.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
4.2 million learners in 119 specialized OpenWHO COVID-19 courses.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT
2.6 billion people reached with messaging on prevention and access to health services.

MEDICAL COORDINATION
12,000 beds provided by WHO Global Emergency Management Team to bolster clinical-care capacity.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN
>452 million items of personal protective equipment shipped or to be shipped.

MEDICAL SUPPLY CHAIN
29 million diagnostic tests and collective kits shipped or to be shipped.

CRISIS RESPONSE
110 Governments and non-governmental organizations contributing funds to the global humanitarian response plan.

CRISIS RESPONSE
63 countries rapidly targeted for priority emergency assistance with the help of the INFORM risk framework for COVID-19.

CRISIS RESPONSE
22,493 households affected by COVID-19 receiving humanitarian multi-sector cash grants for basic needs.

CRISIS RESPONSE
36 million households benefiting from new or additional social assistance provided by Governments with United Nations family support.

As of 31 August 2020

RECOVERING BETTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has underscored fragilities, which extend far beyond global health. Recovery will be an opportunity to address inequality, exclusion, gaps in social protection systems, the climate crisis and many other injustices that have been exposed. Instead of going back to unsustainable approaches, we need to transition to renewable energy, sustainable food systems, greater gender equality, stronger social safety nets, universal health coverage and an international system that can deliver.

CONTINUING OUR WORK

The United Nations has been able to continue delivering with minimal interruption during the COVID-19 pandemic as a result of strong business continuity measures in place, including investments over the past few years on information and communications technology platforms that have enabled uninterrupted productivity and collaboration for the Organization’s workforce, of which significant numbers of staff members were required to shift abruptly to remote working arrangements.

Reforms implemented since January 2019 have also allowed us to effectively meet the challenge of operating during a pandemic. The changes brought about by reform include a new, empowered and independent system to coordinate sustainable development efforts, enhanced delegation of authority to senior managers, a unified structure that was better able to coordinate medical support and evacuation arrangements for United Nations personnel. COVID-19 therefore served as an important validation of the principles of the reforms.