Motivation, scope, methodology

• Motivation
  • Sustainable Development Goals Progress Report, 2021
    • Provides the statistical update on the progress
  • SDO provides analysis of the progress and challenges faced
    • Provides policy suggestions for accelerating progress and overcoming challenges

• Scope
  • Focuses on some of the SDGs that are selected for review by HLPF

• Methodology
  • (i) In-depth country studies; (ii) development of future scenarios – BAU and optimistic; (iii) emphasizes interlinkages; (iv) offers policy suggestions; (v) highlights the cross-cutting policies
Structure of SDO 2021

• Executive Summary

• Chapter I (Introduction): Background; Scope and methodology; interlinkages; preview, including the Way Forward

• Chapter II (SDG 1 and 2); Chapter III (SDG 3); Chapter IV (SDG 8); Chapter V (SDG 10);

• Structure of chapters: a) pre-COVID progress; (b) impact of COVID; (c) post-COVID scenarios; (d) policy suggestions

• Chapter VI: Draws upon the cross-cutting policies to offer a 7-point program of action that the report calls Way Forward

• Different levels of engagement with the report

• Matrix of interlinkages
## Interlinkages among targets of SDGs 1, 2, 3, 8 and 10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SDG 1</th>
<th>SDG 2</th>
<th>Impacts of an SDG on the other SDGs</th>
<th>SDG 3</th>
<th>SDG 8</th>
<th>SDG 10</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Secure tenure rights to land (1.4) enables better agriculture (2.3, 2.4)&lt;br&gt;Financial constraints of the poor limit access to safe, sufficient and nutritious food (2.1, 2.2)&lt;br&gt;Poverty compromises nutrition and consumption of vitamins and minerals (2.1, 2.2)</td>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Poverty reduction can support good health and well-being (3.4)&lt;br&gt;Poverty is a major cause of ill health and a financial barrier to accessing health care (3.8)&lt;br&gt;Lower poverty reduces informality and unemployment for women and young people (8.3)</td>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Better nutrition can reduce non-communicable diseases and enhance well-being (3.4)&lt;br&gt;Agriculture production diversity (2.5) contributes to dietary diversity and good health (3.8, 3.9)&lt;br&gt;Chronic hunger (protein intake) and/or hidden hunger (micronutrients intake) lead to higher health risks (3.4)&lt;br&gt;Improved nutrition increases productivity, contributing to economic growth (8.1, 8.2)</td>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Access to universal health care (3.8) supports formal employment and productivity (8.3, 8.6, 11)&lt;br&gt;Good health and well-being strengthen productive capacities, reduce fiscal spending, and contribute to economic growth (8.1, 8.2)</td>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Lower income inequality boosts effective demand and fosters inclusive economic growth (10.1)&lt;br&gt;Pervasive prejudice and discrimination undermine access to decent work (8.5, 8.8)&lt;br&gt;Income inequality erodes economic growth by reducing education opportunities for disadvantaged children, social mobility and the propensity to consume (8.1)</td>
<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;People facing food insecurity have their physical capacities weakened and struggle to mobilize resources for investing in education, limiting economic options and further exacerbating inequality (10.1, 10.2).</td>
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<td><strong>Negative impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Malnutrition (2.1, 2.2) reduces productivity, reinforcing poverty (1.1, 1.2)</td>
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<td><strong>Positive impact</strong>&lt;br&gt;Higher health inequality can exacerbate overall inequalities (10.1, 10.2)</td>
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<td><strong>SDG targets are in parentheses</strong></td>
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<td>Good health and well-being supports income earning and security (1.1.1, 1.2.1, 1.4.1) Higher health risks can be fatal for populations living under extreme poverty (1.1.1, 1.2.1) Income loss due to sickness and out-of-pocket spending on health care (3.8.2) pushes vulnerable groups into poverty (1.1.1, 1.2.1) Increased populations with large household health expenditure as a proportion of income (3.8.2) can exacerbate poverty (1.1, 1.2), hunger and malnutrition (2.1, 2.2)</td>
<td>A health care system that provides immunization, early diagnosis and treatment (3.8, 3.b.1) reduces malnutrition (2.2.2)</td>
<td>Irregular food supply along with low quality food (2.1, 2.2) can compromise immunity (8.3.4)</td>
<td>Access to universal health care (3.8) supports formal employment and productivity (8.3, 8.6.1)</td>
<td>Good health and well-being strengthen productive capacities, reduces fiscal spending, and contributes to economic growth (8.1, 8.2)</td>
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<td>Faster economic growth reduces poverty (1.1, 1.2)</td>
<td>Improved resource efficiency reduces pressures on land, water and other natural resources and makes food production more sustainable (2.1, 2.2)</td>
<td>Economic growth can enable countries to increase public health spending (3.7, 3.8)</td>
<td>Economic crises disproportionately hit vulnerable firms and households, exacerbating inequality (10.1, 10.2)</td>
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<td>More inclusive growth reduces poverty in the most vulnerable groups (1.4)</td>
<td>Reduced gender inequity in education and employment decreases child malnutrition (2.2)</td>
<td>Inclusive growth with less informality leads to improved access to health care services (3.8)</td>
<td>Faster economic growth raises wages and increases job opportunities (10.1)</td>
<td>Decent work can support lower inequalities (10.2)</td>
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<td>SDG 10</td>
<td>Income disparity allows the malnutrition-poverty cycle to persist (1.1, 1.2, 1.4)</td>
<td>Income inequality increases the likelihood of food insecurity, undercutting the positive effect of economic growth (2.1, 2.2)</td>
<td>Economic inequality and disparity in access to public health resources and technologies leave disadvantaged households more vulnerable to the pandemic and other health risks (3.7, 3.8)</td>
<td>Lower income inequalities boosts effective demand and fosters inclusive economic growth</td>
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Chapter I: SDG 1 and 2:
(a) Pre-COVID progress toward SDG 1

Extreme poverty headcount ratio (SDG target 1.1), by region, 2000–2019
Chapter I: SDG 1 and 2:
(a) Pre-COVID progress toward SDG 2

Number of people suffering from undernourishment (SDG target 2.1), by region, 2000–2019

The graph shows the number of people suffering from undernourishment from 2000 to 2019, categorized by region. The regions include Sub-Saharan Africa, Southern Asia, Northern Africa and Western Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, and Central Asia. The data indicates a decrease in the number of people suffering from undernourishment over the years, with some regions showing more significant progress than others.
Impact of COVID on SDG 1

Extreme poverty headcount (SDG target 1.1), pre-COVID-19 and with COVID-19, 2010–2019 and projections to 2030

[Graph showing historical data and projections with and without COVID-19 impact]
Impact of COVID on SDG 2

Number of undernourished persons (SDG target 2.1) pre-COVID-19 and with COVID-19, 2000–2019 and projections to 2030.

Historical data

With COVID-19 projections

Pre-COVID-19 projections
Optimistic scenarios for SDG 1

Figure 0.3
Global projections for the number of people living in poverty, by scenario, 2020–2030
Policy implications

Aim at both growth and equity by choosing the best route to structural transformation
Economic growth alone will not be enough to reach SDGs 1 and 2; growth needs to be combined with reduction in income inequality.

Continue emphasis on human capital
The emphasis on human capital must continue, because growth based on human capital is more conducive to reduction of poverty and malnutrition.

Put social protection systems in place to avoid setbacks during crises
All countries need to either create new or bolster existing social protection systems.

Raise agricultural productivity
Agricultural productivity of developing countries needs to be raised to higher levels through increased research, development and innovation.

Reduce food waste, adopt healthier diet and ensure equitable distribution of food
Achieving the towards sustainability scenario will require reduction in food loss and waste and less animal-based foods and vegetable oils and fats in the diet.

Practice sustainable agriculture to protect the environment and to avoid recurrence of pandemics such as COVID-19
Switching to environmentally sustainable agriculture, requiring less land, water and other natural resources.
SDG 3: Pre-COVID progress

Pre-COVID-19 global trends of major communicable diseases and maternal, neonatal and infant mortality, 2000–2019

- Maternal mortality ratio (per 100,000 live births)
- Tuberculosis incidence (per 100,000 population)
- Malaria incidence at risk (per 1,000 population)
- Under-five mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
- New HIV infections (per 100,000 uninfected population)
- Neonatal mortality rate (per 1,000 live births)
Figure III.2
Progress towards SDG 3 across countries, 2020

Source: Recreated from van Zanten and van Tulder (2020).
Countries' recovery should include investing on improving efficiency, coverage, quality and affordability of UHC, while upgrading preparedness and preventive strategies.
The pandemic-led economic crisis has compounded the health risks and well-being of populations, many already facing climatic challenges, therein deepening health inequalities.

Vicious cycle of health inequality caused by COVID-19:

- Health inequality
- Less income further constrains their opportunities for treatment and care, leading to worsening of their health conditions
- Adverse health effects cause them to suffer more loss of employment and income
- People with pre-existing health problems and less access to health care suffer more from COVID-19
Many developing countries face now a double challenge of fighting the rise of communicable diseases and exacerbation of non-communicable diseases.

Relative importance of different causes of death
Figures III.8A and B
Scenarios of immunization disruption and impacts on deaths from measles (figure A) and meningococcal A (figure B), 2026–2030

A. Measles

B. Meningococcal A

Source: Recreated from Guytorpe and others (2021)
Note: The gray ribbon indicates the most extreme estimates for all scenarios.
There is no better opportunity for a transformative, inclusive and green recovery, with policy innovation that cut-across all five SDGs under study and beyond.

Interlinkages of SDG 3 with SDG 1, 2, 8 and 10
Economic growth is projected to return to disappointing trends
The return to growth is good news for inclusivity and for reducing informality.
The future of resource decoupling is uncertain.
Faster economic growth depends on immediate health policies and investments in transformative change

Short- and long-term drivers of the different post-pandemic outlooks

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Long-term macroeconomic and structural policies</th>
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<tr>
<td>Return to pre-crisis economy</td>
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<tr>
<td>Build new economic structure</td>
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<tr>
<th>Short-term health and recovery policies</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Slow vaccination and recovery</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rapid vaccination and recovery</td>
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</table>

1. Pandemic hotspots
   - Fail to catch up to pre-pandemic trends
   - Fail to achieve the SDGs

2. Rapid end to the pandemic
   - Return to pre-pandemic low growth
   - Fail to achieve the SDGs

3. Pandemic hotspots
   - Some countries accelerate growth
   - Some achieve SDGs, others are left behind

4. Rapid end to the pandemic
   - Accelerated growth
   - Achieve SDGs
The labor market recovery will depend on limiting the duration of the economic crisis.
Decoupling growth from environmental impact will require longer term transformative policies.
Each scenario points us towards specific policy actions, and to the interlinkages that exist among them

Selection of key policy priorities

- Global support for fiscal capacity to sustain economic activity during the crisis is imperative.
- Accelerate investments on structural change with a strong focus on inclusion and environmental sustainability.
- Make growth more inclusive by investing in equality and new opportunities.
- Reduce the legislative, fiscal, and economic incentives that exist for informality.
- Build a path for young people to enter the job market as early as possible.
- Shift to a knowledge economy and scale up research and development.
- Promote sustainable production and consumption patterns.
The vicious cycle between inequality and the pandemic

Pre-pandemic inequalities

Disadvantaged groups are more affected by the pandemic

Measures to cope with the pandemic are less inclusive in highly unequal societies

Post-pandemic inequalities are increased

Economic structural change induced by the pandemic could further existing inequalities

Worsened inequalities post-COVID-19 will add to the deficits that disadvantaged communities face when they confront the next epidemic/pandemic
Unequal distribution channels of COVID-19’s adverse effects

- More exposed to COVID-19
  - Women account for 70 per cent of global health professionals

- More susceptible to collateral health-related damages of the pandemic
  - The pandemic has diverted resources away from the provision of essential sexual and reproductive health services

- Less represented in clinical trials for vaccine development
  - 80 per cent of Pfizer, AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccine trial participants were of European descent, when Africa and Asia account for around 80 per cent of global population

- Less represented in policymaking processes
  - Women account for only 25 per cent of COVID-19 task force members globally

- Greater loss of employment and income
  - In EU, 27.3 per cent of immigrant workers have teleworkable jobs, compared to the 40.9 per cent among native-born workers

- Greater barriers for persons with disabilities to implement basic hygiene measures
  - The pandemic has made it more difficult for people with disabilities to access services and support they need

- Vaccine trials were disproportionately lacking in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean

- Globally, only 18 per cent of social protection and labour market measures in response to COVID-19 are gender sensitive

- Cross-country data show that women are 24 per cent more likely to lose their job than men during the pandemic

Source: UN DESA.
Vaccination gap projection, high-income countries versus middle- and low-income countries, December 2020–April 2022

Fully vaccinated (percentage of total population)

- High-income countries: 85.0%
- Middle- and low-income countries: 66.0%

- December 2020: 0.0%
- April 2021: 4.9%
- December 2021: 52.0%
- April 2022: 72.0%
A whole-of-government approach to tackle inequality

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Selected priorities</th>
<th>Vaccine production and distribution</th>
<th>Social protection</th>
<th>Labour market policies</th>
<th>Fiscal policies</th>
<th>Monetary policies</th>
<th>Competition policies</th>
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<td></td>
<td>Accelerate vaccine production and distribution</td>
<td>Universal social protection floors that create fundamental resilience for everyone</td>
<td>Invest in the institutions of work - from collective representation to labour market regulations</td>
<td>Targeted fiscal measures aim at reducing the risks borne by vulnerable firms and households</td>
<td>Consider distributional effect of monetary policy and possibly pursue inclusive outcomes</td>
<td>Address market power concentration that have distributional consequences</td>
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The Way Forward

• Make the COVID-19 **vaccine a public good** in order to accelerate vaccination

• Strengthen access to quality and affordable **universal health coverage**

• Put in place **universal social protection** that is flexible and not tied to residence

• Choose the path to structural transformation aimed at **growth, equality and protection of the environment**

• Raise **international solidarity** to a higher level

• **Share the Earth** equitably with other species

• Make **use of the crisis to overcome political barriers** to difficult policy changes