

An illustration of six diverse people shown in profile, facing right. From left to right: a man with dark hair in a grey t-shirt; a woman with blonde hair in a teal tank top; a man with dark skin and glasses in a white shirt and teal vest; a man with a blue beard and hair in a red t-shirt; a woman with brown hair in a blue t-shirt; and a woman with dark hair in a yellow t-shirt. The background is a gradient of red, orange, and purple.

THE DAWN IS OURS

Moving Forward Together
For Peaceful, Just and
Inclusive Societies

PATHFINDERS

FOR PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES
HOSTED BY THE NYU CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION

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**"We've learned that quiet isn't always peace,
and the norms and notions
of what just is
isn't always just-ice.
And yet the dawn is ours
before we knew it.
Somehow we do it.
Somehow we've weathered and witnessed
a nation that isn't broken,
but simply unfinished."**

The Hill We Climb
Amanda Gorman, 2020
Wordsmith. Change-Marker.

FOREWORD

We are at a critical juncture in history. The COVID-19 pandemic presents us with a stark choice: allow the impact of the crisis to result in less equal, poorer, more divided, and more violent societies; or deliver a people-centered recovery that will bolster our future. The choices we face demand moral courage, bold action, smart solutions, high ambitions, and recognition that solidarity is needed to bring us all the security and peace we want.

The **Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies** come together to demonstrate such leadership. Bringing together 39 UN member states with over 100 partners among international organizations, civil society, and the private sector, we are dedicated to raising the political ambition on peace, justice, and inclusion (SDG16+) and to speed up the delivery of the SDG16+ targets.

This Annual HLPF Publication reaffirms that peace, justice, and inclusion remain central to harnessing the political will, collective action, and economic investments needed during the pandemic response to achieve the 2030 Agenda. It identifies the agenda, windows of opportunity, and pillars of action that we should unite behind to achieve measurable progress by the SDG Summit in 2023. It also navigates a path beyond recovery towards 2030: to turn one of the greatest reversals of human development into a historic leap forward, with peace, justice, and inclusion as our compass.

This publication comes at a time when progress on both SDG 16 and 10 will be reviewed at the High-Level Political Forum in 2021, under the theme: “Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.” It draws from several countries that have delivered Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and new ambitious actions over the last year. It also builds on the **Experts Group Meeting hosted by UN DESA** in preparation for the HLPF thematic reviews.

We extend our gratitude to the Pathfinder partners that have contributed to the global movement for peace, justice, and inclusion, most notably the SDG16+ Global Coalition co-led by Global Alliance for Reporting on SDG16+, 16+ Forum, TAP Network, and CSPPS, together with the Pathfinders.

Policy Priorities for a People-Centered Recovery



PEACEFUL SOCIETIES

Build linkages across dimensions of violence, particularly in fragile and conflict settings, as rates of violence against women are a strong predictor for broader conflict and violence.

Make a compelling investment case, aimed at mobilizing smart funding, scaling data-driven approaches, and propelling further research and innovation where there are evidence gaps and limitations.

Use cities as a unit of analysis, ambition, and action to drive innovation, and seize opportunities to influence policy and COVID-19 responses.

Strengthen data collection and evidence base, focusing on hotspots with systemically high levels of violence and proven interventions to reduce violence in urban contexts.

Invest in grievance procedures and dialogue mechanisms to resolve disputes, rebuild trust, and counter misinformation.



JUST SOCIETIES

Put people and their justice problems at the center of justice systems, making better use of data to understand what people want and need when they seek justice, and tailor actions to groups that are more likely to suffer injustice.

Transform justice institutions and broaden the range of formal and informal justice actors, to provide people with fair solutions to their justice problems and that enable them to realize their rights. Promote open justice and embrace high-tech, and low-tech innovations based on data, evidence, and learning.

Improve people's justice journeys, by empowering people and communities to understand, use, and shape the law, increasing meaningful participation in justice, and providing people-centered justice services that help them achieve fair outcomes.

Use justice as prevention, to reduce violence, and de-escalate conflicts and disputes, build trustworthy and legitimate justice systems, prevent recurrence of grave human rights violations, tackle the root causes of injustice, and use the law to reduce risks.

Eliminate legal, administrative, financial, and practical barriers that people face to obtain documents, access public services, and participate fully in society and the economy.



INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Build solidarity not only across groups within countries, but across countries by ensuring fair, equitable, and efficient vaccine distribution, mobilizing funds to support developing countries, and permanently shifting the relationship between countries.

Renew the social contract between the state and civil society through national dialogues focused on policy commitments, financing to back progressive agendas, addressing debt burdens, and sharing of health and environmental technologies.

Advance a mixture of highly visible, solidarity-building policies, and those that prevent backlash by preventing state capture and corruption, averting the reversal of policy programs, and ensuring sufficient financing externally to reform governments through transitions.

Reimagine fiscal compacts and identify sources of revenue, by securing funds lost to tax evasion, creating solidarity funds, and investing in better sources of disaggregated data to measure the fiscal impact on inequality.

Protect civic space and mobilize broadly to respect the right to freedom of association, by establishing partnerships with organized civil society to design, implement and monitor policies, and restrict the influence of money in politics.

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies brings together 39 member states, international organizations, major partnerships and networks, civil society, and the private sector. Through the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, we are working to accelerate implementation of peace justice and inclusion (SDG16+) by the second summit in 2023 to achieve three objectives:

- **National delivery** – increase national ambition, coherence, innovation, and reporting, so that a growing number of Pathfinder countries fulfil commitments to implement SDG16+.
- **International delivery** – strengthen strategies and momentum at international and regional levels, so that partners more effectively support implementation of elements of the roadmap.
- **Grand challenges** – raise ambition, increase political will, and set a policy and learning agenda in three key areas: promoting justice for all, halving global violence, and tackling exclusion and inequality.

Member States

	Afghanistan		Germany		Qatar
	Argentina		Ghana		Republic of Korea
	Brazil		Guatemala		Rwanda
	Cabo Verde		Indonesia		Sierra Leone
	Canada		Ireland		Somalia
	Central African Republic		Jordan		Spain
	Colombia		Liberia		Sri Lanka
	Costa Rica		Liechtenstein		Sweden
	Czech Republic		Mexico		Switzerland
	Denmark		Netherlands		Timor-Leste
	Dominican Republic		Norway		Tunisia
	Ethiopia		Peru		United Kingdom
	Georgia		Portugal		Uruguay

The Pathfinders is hosted by the New York University Center on International Cooperation

International organizations and global partnerships supporting the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

Alliance 8.7, Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, g7+, Geneva Peacebuilding Platform, Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies, Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Namati, Open Government Partnership, Peace One Day, SDG16+ Coalition, Transparency, Accountability & Participation Network, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, United Nations Development Programme, UN Global Compact, United Nations Habitat, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Office at Geneva, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, United Nations Women, World Federation of United Nations Associations/16+ Forum, World Bank.

Partners for the grand challenge on peace

ABAAD Resource Center for Gender Equality, African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes, BRAC, Elman Peace Center, g7+, Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control, Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children, Igarapé Institute, Office of the United Nations Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children, Peace in Our Cities, Small Arms Survey, United Nations Development Programme, Together We Build It, World Health Organization.

Partners for the grand challenge on justice

Cordaid, Global Citizen, Hiil, International Center for Transitional Justice, Inspiring Children's Futures, International Development Law Organization, International Legal Assistance Consortium, International Legal Foundation, International Development Research Center, Justice for All Campaign, Knowledge Platform Security and Rule of Law, Mott Foundation, Namati, National Legal Aid and Defender Association, Open Government Partnership, Open Society Justice Initiative, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, ODI, Responsible Business Initiative for Justice, Terre des Hommes, The Elders, United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UN Women, University of South Carolina Rule of Law Collaborative, World Bank, World Justice Project.

Partners for the grand challenge on inequality and exclusion

CIVICUS, Global Centre for Pluralism, International Trade Union Confederation, Inuka Foundation, Jasmine Foundation, Open Society Foundations, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, Oxfam, United Nations, United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, World Bank.

OPENING MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PATHFINDERS



In early 2020, we sat down to talk with a true justice champion, Clinton Washington. **Mr. Washington's life mission** was to support, educate, and inspire others. Since 2007, the Bronx Freedom Fund posted bail for residents who could otherwise not afford it. **They successfully lobbied for the reform of the New York bail system in 2019**, effectively ending cash bail and pretrial detention for the vast majority of charges. As a result of the Fund's and Mr. Washington's efforts, the inability to afford cash bail is no longer the reason people in New York state languished in jail without being convicted of a crime or why innocent people pleaded guilty, simply for their freedom. In 2020, Clinton Washington died of COVID-19.

Injustice and inequality are everyday struggles for people around the world. While most countries hold values of human rights, peace, and democracy in high esteem, we have experienced increasing tension, unrest, polarization, and anger in the past decade. Distrust in politicians and institutions has grown in parallel. Right now, billions of people have no chance of accessing justice and live in extreme poverty while they watch a small elite group run off with extraordinary wealth. Billions of people live with daily injustices, reinforcing the exclusion and injustices they experience and, more broadly, undermining efforts to build peace and prevent violence across the world. Unless we address this – raising our level of ambition to that of advocates like Clinton Washington – conflict and violence will continue to cripple our societies.

The multilateral system has come under heavy pressure over the last few years and has not delivered the solidarity we need during the pandemic. It is vital now to develop more effective international collaboration to ensure fair, equitable, and efficient vaccine distribution, mobilize solidarity funds to support developing countries, and build the solidarity pillars we need for a more peaceful world. All in all, the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent socio-economic spillover effects have highlighted and exacerbated existing injustices, inequalities, and vulnerabilities. Now is the time to put the world back on track to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The clock is ticking.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Liv Tørres".

Liv Tørres

Director of Pathfinders for Peaceful Just and Inclusive Societies
Hosted at NYU Center for International Cooperation

INTRODUCTION

SDG16+ targets are universal and can ignite action and innovation to help us overcome development deficits in all countries. They can help spearhead reforms towards a new social contract to tackle poverty, strengthen social protection, and restore public trust. And they are the pillars upon which we can ensure education, health, justice, economic development, and recovery. This simple but powerful message should guide our efforts as the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic and throughout the Decade of Action to achieve the SDGs. It is in that spirit that we need to take forward new social contracts and rebuild trust.

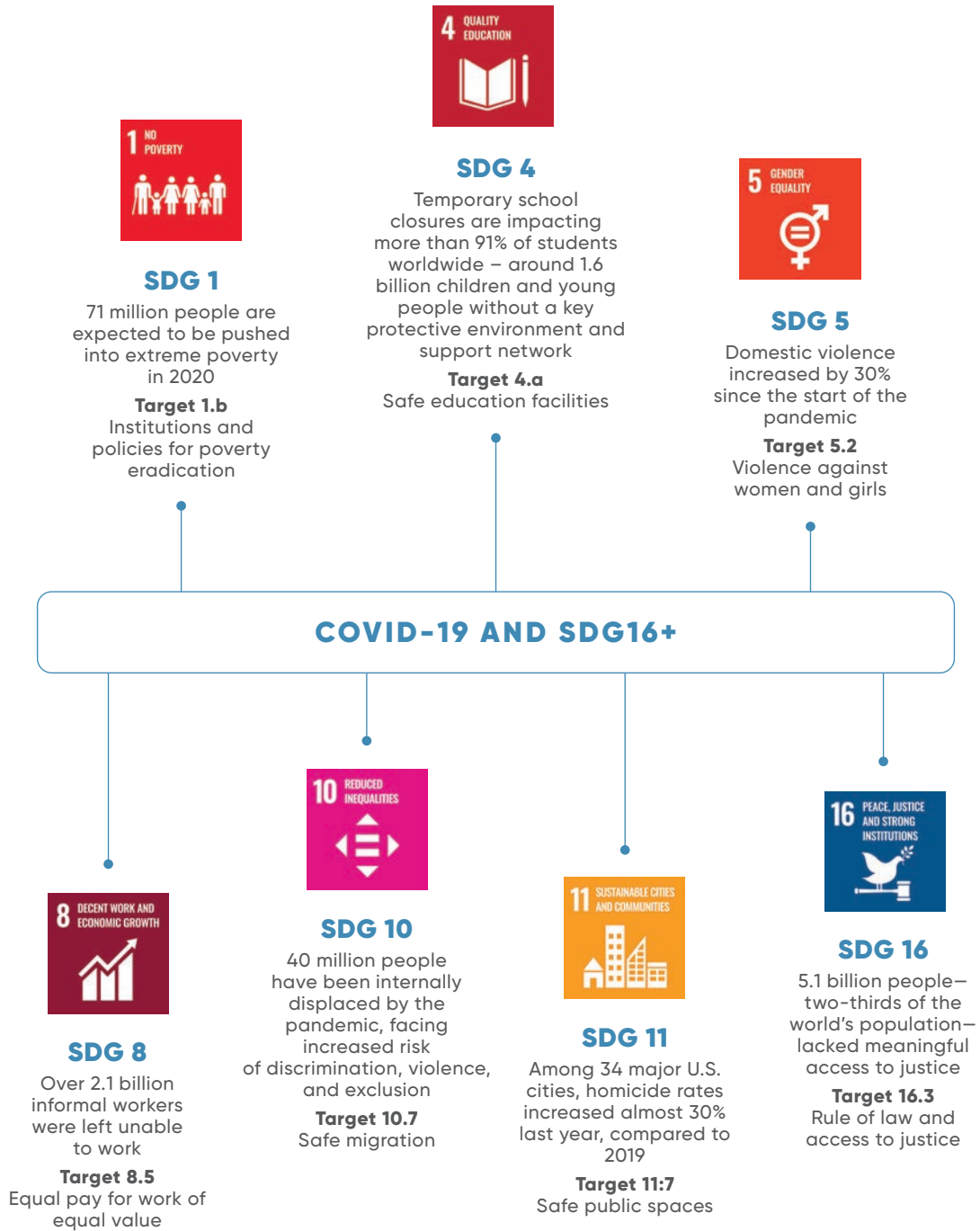
This policy brief is based on the recognition that while much more needs to be done, several countries are showing extraordinary leadership and progress in building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies. It explores three grand challenges to SDG16+'s delivery that are vital to increasing ambition and action in the post-pandemic response and recovery effort:

- 1 Peaceful societies:** reducing global violence levels by 50% until 2030.
- 2 Just societies:** shifting from a world where justice is only available to the privileged few, to one that provides justice for all.
- 3 Inclusive societies:** addressing the prejudices and the economic disparities that limit life chances, polarize societies, and destabilize democracies.

The concluding section identifies five pillars of action that SDG16+ partners must unite behind to achieve measurable results and ripen the field for bold action by the SDG Summit in 2023.

Annex 1 spotlights recent national actions where Pathfinder member states are turning ambitions into tangible steps to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

COVID-19 HAS AFFECTED SDG16+ PROGRESS





PEACEFUL
SOCIETIES

Reducing violence and building peaceful societies

The Agenda for Sustainable Development calls for “significant” reductions in global violence by 2030. Even so, before the COVID-19 pandemic, violence trends suggested that the world would struggle to achieve this goal with a ‘business as usual’ approach. Projections showed that levels of lethal violence would increase slightly by 2030, **costing 660,000 lives a year**. Conflicts have become more complex and protracted, and yet **over 80 percent of global lethal violence occurs outside of conflict zones**, largely in specific cities and neighborhoods. **In 2017, 464,000 intentional homicides took place worldwide**, with young men the vast majority of victims and perpetrators.

Conflict was also a key driver of displacement in 2020 – **surpassing 80 million** at mid-year, numbers not seen since the Second World War. Violence against women and children was endemic in virtually every country. **30 percent of women globally** experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner, and **137 women worldwide were killed by a family member daily**. Violence against children was also widespread: in 69 countries, **nearly eight in ten children aged one to 14 were subjected to some form of abuse at home**.

The effects of the COVID-19 pandemic seem to exacerbate the drivers of violence and constrain existing capacities for an effective response. At the outset of the crisis, there were initial signs during the lockdowns that the pandemic contributed to **declines** in many types of violent crime. Over time, however, lockdowns **condemned** many women, children, and members of the LGBTQ+ community to abuse in their own homes. Estimates of cases of domestic violence **increased by 30 percent** since the start of the pandemic. Other types of violence levels spiked a few months after the pandemic hit. Travel restrictions, plus the fear amongst people because of misinformation, triggered spikes in xenophobia and racial profiling cases.

2020 furthermore saw **protests and unrest** in countries like Brazil, India, South Africa, France, and the United States, and **high levels of police repression** in countries like Kenya, Nigeria, or the Philippines. The U.S. experienced the world’s clearest mid-pandemic-documented **spike in homicides**. In some countries, 2020 also saw an **increase in drug-related violence**, linked partly to the changes in global markets because of the pandemic. COVID-19 is transforming organized crime. It has heightened the risk of violence, indirectly strengthening the clout of criminal organizations and overstressing enforcement and criminal justice systems. The cost of inaction is increasingly evident. The pandemic threatens to set back the peacebuilding gains of the past decades and create new challenges that could drive high violence levels..

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

The ambitions for violence reduction must correspond with the scale of the epidemic we are facing. We expect to see the **Halving Global Violence Task Force**—a powerful unifying coalition of governments, mayors, leading international agencies, dedicated NGOs, business groups, and philanthropic actors—charged with convening a movement to halve global violence by 2030. The goal is to set ambitious but achievable targets, accelerate collective action, expand financing, and deliver measurable results in terms of lives saved, victims assisted, and future violence prevented.

WHAT WORKS TO PREVENT AND REDUCE VIOLENCE

Conflict Prevention

- Promote macro-economic stability
- Strengthen democratic participation
- Expand and enhance gender equality
- Promote peaceful narratives and behaviors
- Ensuring fair, high-quality service delivery
- Support early-warning systems
- Fostering mediation across fractured groups
- Promoting inclusive dialogue for peace processors
- Fostering power-sharing
- Engage in security sector/system reform

Preventing HR abuses/mass atrocities

- Strengthen national strategies
- Build capacity of national and local systems
- Promote plural and diverse civil society
- Training of security and justice sectors
- Promote plural and diverse civil society
- Advocate for international instruments
- Historical memory and transitional justice
- Build mechanisms to end all forms of torture

Ending violence against children

- Implementation and enforcement of child protection legislation
- Norms and values that favor child protection and development
- Safe environments and spaces for children
- Parent and care giver support
- Income and economic strengthening
- Responses and support services
- Education and life-skills

Urban Violence Reduction

- Hot spot policing
- Focused deterrence
- Alternate sentencing/restorative justice
- Cognitive behavioral therapy and life skills development
- Early childhood interventions
- Crime prevention through environmental design
- Security-related technologies
- Targeted alcohol and firearms regulations

Ending Violence against women

- Relationship skills strengthened
- Empowerment of women
- Services that protect women
- Poverty and inequality reduced
- Environment made more safe and secure
- Child and adolescent abuse prevented
- Transformed attitudes, beliefs and norms

Preventing violent extremism

- Avoid and limit repressive security measures
- Strengthen social and economic inclusion
- Support opening of civic space
- Foster dialogue and promote tolerance with intermediaries

A key priority is to center recovery efforts on rebuilding resilience, social cohesion, and trust, including between police forces and the communities they serve. Governments and partners must work together to tackle violence across its different dimensions and levels at the national level, delivering tangible results and contributing to a shared research agenda on what works. This requires communities operating across a broad spectrum of violence prevention (e.g., interpersonal, urban, conflict, and human rights violations) to work in partnership, break down silos, and bridge interconnections across various forms of violence. We must also work together to make a compelling investment case to mobilize innovative funding, scale data-driven strategies, and propel further research and innovation where there are evidence gaps and limitations.

Violence prevention and reduction efforts must engage wide-ranging representatives of civil society, among them youth and child advocates, women's rights organizations, trade unions, religious groups, businesses, as well as local and city authorities. International and regional stakeholders also need to play a supporting role. Tangible progress can only be achieved through lasting partnerships, everyday language, and common approaches.



JUST SOCIETIES

People-centered Justice for All

SDG16 promises to provide access to justice for all. Yet even before the COVID-19 pandemic, the world failed to meet most people's everyday justice needs. In 2019, 5.1 billion people—two-thirds of the world's population—lacked meaningful access to justice. At any one time, **1.5 billion people** had a civil, administrative, or criminal justice problem they could not resolve. 253 million people lived in extreme conditions of injustice with no legal protection – in modern slavery, in situations of statelessness, or in countries bedeviled by violence and insecurity, without the rule of law. Meanwhile, at least **4.5 billion people** lacked documentation required to attend school, secure employment, marry or own property, set up a business or secure employment, or access public services. This estimate of the global justice gap was presented in 2019 by the **Pathfinders' Task Force on Justice in its Justice for All report.**

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to a **rise in justice problems caused by the public health emergency,** the measures taken to prevent the spread of the virus, and the **economic crisis** that resulted from it. Family disputes have multiplied, with an increase in divorce rates and inheritance disputes. Patterns of crime shifted, leading to a **rise in online theft and identity theft.** The economic crisis has brought more housing problems, with tenants and mortgage-holders struggling to meet their financial obligations. School closures, closures of government services, and immense pressure on health care systems affected access to and the quality of public services. Many of the world's 2.1 billion informal workers lost their income, leading to problems with money and spiraling debts, while in the formal sector, bankruptcies spiked. These developments will increase demand for justice from systems that have seen their capacity eroded by the pandemic.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

A new global equity agenda is taking shape, as people worldwide sound the alarm and call for social justice, racial justice, gender justice, climate justice, and an end to inequality, corruption, and violence. People want their governments and their justice systems to work for them, overcome structural injustices, and deliver solutions to the problems that affect their lives and opportunities. Justice systems need to urgently ramp up their capacity to provide justice and fairness and to contribute to correcting the structural injustices and inequalities that have persisted for too long.

At the national level, countries need to design justice journeys that empower people and communities, provide access to people-centered justice services, and deliver fair outcomes. They need to invest in justice as prevention by ensuring justice systems are trustworthy, tackling the root causes of injustice, and using the law to reduce the risk of violence occurring and conflicts escalating. Justice actors need to innovate, embrace high-tech and low-tech innovations, adopt smarter financing strategies to make the best use of scarce resources, and build more diverse partnerships that stretch beyond formal institutions and structures.

Recent years have seen a growing movement for people-centered justice at the global level that places people's need for fair treatment and fair outcomes at its heart. The Task Force on Justice brought justice leaders and actors worldwide together around a new understanding of access to justice. This momentum can contribute to building just recoveries from the pandemic, renewing trust, and repairing the damage to the social contract. Building on this momentum,

the **Justice Action Coalition** is a new multi-stakeholder, high-ambition coalition of countries and organizations coming together to champion equal access to justice for all. It aims to make measurable progress towards this goal by the second SDG Summit in 2023. The coalition will be a docking station for workstreams, campaigns, and partnerships that contribute to the overall goal of closing the justice gap.

JOINT LETTER TO THE UN SECRETARY-GENERAL – REIMAGINING SOCIAL CONTRACTS: A CALL TO PUT PEOPLE AT THE CENTER OF JUSTICE

Sixteen ministers from a diverse group of countries came together to unite behind a call to put people at the center of justice. In their joint letter to the Secretary-General, they agreed that it is necessary to rethink the social contract and the fundamentals of our societies.

“By embracing people-centred justice, we can reduce inequality and exclusion, reduce all forms of violence, revive the social contract and rebuild trust. This will enable us to more effectively uphold human rights, combat racism, discrimination and other forms of structural injustice and to better meet demands from the next generation, most notably for climate justice.”

*We ourselves plan to contribute to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies in various ways, including through a **justice action coalition** that will serve as a platform where justice actors can exchange experiences. We are mindful that some countries will require institutional or financial support, to enable them to provide access to justice for all. We aim to forge new partnerships and strengthen collaboration across borders in line with your vision of inclusive and networked multilateralism. ”*



The Joint Letter was endorsed at the Ministerial Meeting on Building Peaceful and Inclusive Societies through Justice for All organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the g7+ secretariat, The Elders, and the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just & Inclusive Societies.

The meeting was hosted virtually on 14 April 2021. Representatives of IDLO, OECD, OGP, UNDP, World Bank, USAID, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Norway took part in the meeting as observers

<https://www.justice.sdg16.plus/ministerial>



INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Inclusive societies with fair distribution

While being described as **'the defining issue of our time,'** inequality and exclusion have been rising both within and among countries during the pandemic. Disparities in incomes and wealth, but also health, education, tax burden, and housing make it challenging for people to break out of the cycle of poverty, transmitting disadvantage from one generation to the next. The increasing concentration of wealth and **income consolidates power and decision-making** among those who are already better off, preserving privilege at the top and **widening inequality gaps**. This stark unfairness undermines trust in politicians and public institutions. Income inequalities and divisive political narratives that pit groups against each other to distract from growing wealth further threaten the underlying fabric that holds societies together.

Business as usual has failed us all. It has made COVID-19 more deadly, fractured political stability, and undermined our collective future. Data shows that more **unequal societies were less able to manage the pandemic**, and the **most severe impacts were shouldered by poor and vulnerable populations** struggling to cope due to a loss of income, savings, poor living conditions, and limited access to services. The crisis has also shed light on **previously hidden layers of vulnerability**, such as the "new poor" in urban settings, and people not adequately protected by healthcare and social protection systems. These inequalities disproportionately affect historically discriminated groups. Women have been harder hit by the pandemic, as have racial and ethnic minorities in some countries. For example, **Afro-descendants in Brazil were 40 percent more likely to die from COVID-19**. **Women were disproportionately affected** as they accounted for 54 percent of the overall job losses, although they represented 39 percent of global employment. In contrast, **the 1,000 wealthiest people on the planet recovered their COVID-19 losses in nine months**, and **billionaires increased their wealth by \$3.9 trillion between 18 March and 31 December 2020**.

Such sharply rising inequality and exclusion affects everyone, not only those left behind. A Pathfinders' **study of 70 countries** in late August 2020 suggests that by the end of the first wave of virus, just one additional Gini coefficient point correlated with a roughly 1/3 higher overall number of infections (Figure A). In other words, the more equal countries enjoyed an "equality dividend," which effectively gave them better shock resilience during the crisis.

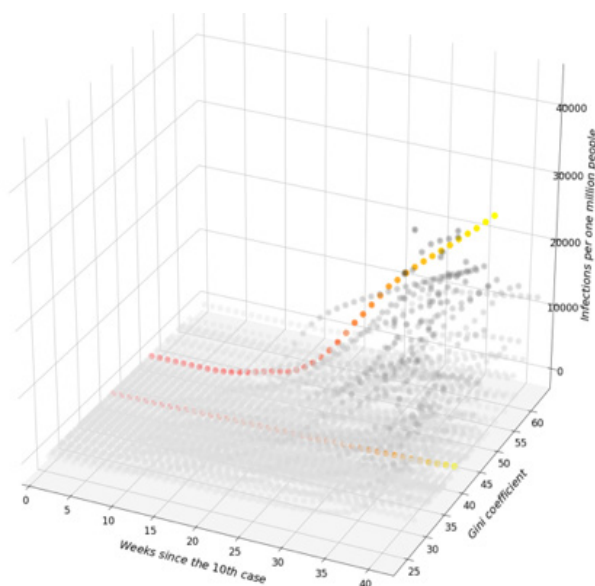


Figure A:
Inequality and
Covid-19 deaths

Inequality between countries will also worsen if vaccines are not readily available. **Developing countries will require a \$2.5 trillion international COVID-package**, but have **mobilized around 1 percent of the funds** dedicated to the recovery in rich countries. Competitive procurement among developed countries in securing vaccines and patent disputes are obstacles to manufacturing vaccines and treatment for COVID-19 at scale. Low production of vaccines and treatments will hurt everyone, and inequitable access will foment distrust. If left unaddressed, our societies will be divided into a world of COVID haves and have-nots, with rifts between and within countries.

PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

Beyond meeting the urgent COVID-19 testing and treatment requirements, governments and national health authorities need to ensure fair and equitable access to medical technologies without discrimination. Currently, competitive behavior among developed countries and patent disputes prevent vaccines and treatments; it is estimated that **vaccine nationalism can cost about £153 billion a year in GDP**. Chronic underinvestment and misappropriation of public funds must be reversed, and efforts to achieve universal health coverage must be redoubled.

The crisis also represents an opportunity to build on immediate response measures to address systemic inequality and drive long-term policies. Public awareness about the role and value of essential workers, our inherent interconnectedness, and uneven impacts on women and marginalized groups has created a moment of solidarity that provides politicians with fertile soil to grow more collective and redistribution policies. This includes prioritizing public policies that lift the poorest and build resilience across low- and middle-income groups – through social protection floors, quality public services, and basic infrastructure. **By redistributing income, investments in social protection help reduce inequalities** – as evidenced by the 2008 financial crisis, which showed that countries with robust social protection systems and essential services suffered less and were able to recover the fastest. Other areas exposed by COVID-19, such as **inequalities in digital connectivity**, must also now be prioritized in government policy plans and global development.

COVID-19 has taught us about essential workers, at-risk workers, informal sector workers, and precarious and 'gig economy' workers. This includes efforts to help to ramp up social protection, higher wages, and more rights for workers, including **hazard pay for frontline workers**. The unequal impacts of the pandemic have made the implementation of solidarity taxes more relevant than ever. These can take the form of **windfall taxes on corporations** that have profited from COVID-19, taxes to those earning above a certain threshold whose income has stayed constant or increased during the pandemic, and voluntary contributions from businesses and high net worth individuals.

Finally, to ensure that countries can efficiently allocate their resources towards combating inequality, better-disaggregated data is essential. As it currently stands, many data systems can capture poverty but cannot capture inequality. These systems determine how policies will affect people differently, depending on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability. Thus, better data is an essential part of making inequality and exclusion a central point of national policies and international development discussions.

EMERGING REFLECTIONS, LESSONS, AND OPPORTUNITIES

The crossroads we find ourselves at presents us with some stark choices. **Times of crisis are also times of opportunity and, indeed, a revelation.** We can either go back to the post-2008-financial crisis' levels of escalating polarization, anger, and distrust, or we can turn things around. The choices we make will have a tremendous impact on the quality of life for people and communities worldwide, and the level of tension, conflicts, and instability felt worldwide. These choices depend on us; on the quality of leadership, our evidence and imagination to inspire change, the strength and mobilization of civil society, and collective action across sectors. While countries have responded differently to the pandemic, essential lessons are emerging. Successful responses can lead to multiple and cross-cutting benefits, not only driving recovery but also building just, inclusive, and peaceful societies. This section explores some of the key opportunities of this moment that, if adequately harnessed, offer great potential to accelerate action.

Ensure no one is left behind

The pandemic has underscored the need for greater ambition to break cycles of injustice, inequality, and violence that threaten to leave people behind. With up to 100 million more people pushed into extreme poverty in 2020, the pandemic is hitting all dimensions of human development hard. Governments face difficult and cross-cutting political, policy, and fiscal decisions as they act to save lives and continue to work to build a more peaceful, just, and inclusive future. Accelerating action on SDG16+ targets can shape a recovery that sets a course for the next decade, fosters long-term transformation for all people, and significantly reduces poverty.

By focusing efforts, we gain a tremendous opportunity to boost growth in the areas that need it most, and avoid extended and severe unemployment, which could further destabilize politics and societies globally. Moreover, a unified '**SDG Push**' that focuses on vital investments in peace, justice, and inclusion could not only prevent the rise of poverty but could accelerate the development trajectory the world was on before the pandemic. This ambitious, yet feasible, scenario would **lift an additional 146 million people out of extreme poverty.** It would also **narrow the gender poverty gap by 74 million, with the greatest gains in conflict-affected countries where the risk of falling into poverty is highest.** It would ensure a people-centered "bottom-up" recovery process with massive potential.

Establish a new social contract

COVID-19 has made clear that restoring the social fabric will involve **more than policy frameworks:** it will require a **new social contract** between the state and civil society. Rather than returning to an old and broken pre-pandemic normal, countries need an inclusive vision and a renewal of the relationships

that are the backbone of a functioning and fair society. This new vision cannot be driven from the top or constitute only a rhetorical appeal. To be meaningful, it should ensure broad dialogue focused on policy commitments and financing to back progressive agendas inspired by shared responsibility and collective action. National social contracts must be complemented and supported by a renewed global compact between high, middle, and low-income countries. This could include commitments to address debt burdens and a sharing of health and environmental technologies that extend beyond redistributing vaccines to a permanent shift in the relationship between countries.

Inclusive engagement of all parts of society is vital to the social contract. Participatory and consultative processes enable people to express their needs and expectations and will, on that basis, also increase trust. The 'bond' between states and people needs to be rebuilt. Successful social pacts—with dialogue between organized parties, discussing and negotiating concrete deliverables—have indeed delivered growth, and what is generally seen as fair distribution and increased trust.

Revitalize systems to combat corruption

Corruption is a crucial obstacle to building peaceful, justice, and inclusive societies, diverting public funds from critical healthcare, education, and infrastructure investments. **Inequitable distribution of resources and elite capture** resulting from corruption has also become a **great concern to many people**. Its impunity fuels grievances, weakening the legitimacy of institutions and eroding the social contract between people and their leaders, **as shown in recent surveys**. The COVID-19 pandemic poses additional challenges, as the urgent need to respond quickly to the health, economic, and social problems opened up opportunities for corruption. Increased awareness of corruption scandals has also resulted in greater public demand for anti-corruption efforts. COVID-19 recovery efforts offer an essential window for action to tackle corruption and restore trust in institutions. Transparent disclosure of budgetary spending is necessary, with the imperative of protecting people and civil society actors who monitor and keep institutions accountable.

No country, however, can fight corruption alone. **International cooperation** that results in standards, practical instruments, and concrete follow-on instruments can create both positive and constructive pressure for implementation. Tackling corruption nationally will require supporting existing international efforts and raising ambitions in areas of beneficial ownership, asset recovery, and open contracting. This is vital to encourage a shared understanding of the problem and coordination in implementing the solutions.

Leverage the power of cities

While the COVID-19 pandemic has thrown many future projections into question, one thing remains certain: the world's future is urban. Urban spaces across Africa, Latin America, and Southeast Asia are **projected to grow rapidly in the next decade**. Consequently, both hopes and problems faced by a growing global population will take place in cities. Tasked with responding to these increased expectations and challenges are mayors and local leaders.

They are often ambitious, eager to experiment with new policy approaches, and keen to gain political capital for keeping their communities safe, vibrant, and inclusive.

In parallel, **cities are also emerging as important actors in international relations**, with the proliferation of city-to-city peer networks and city-diplomacy initiatives. Increasingly, innovative global networks are acting as engines for political mobilization and creating more openings for local leaders to contribute to accelerating SDG16+ delivery. For example, the **Peace in Our Cities network**, established in 2019 and currently gathering 20 cities and over two dozen local CSO partners, acts as a platform to bring greater attention to the scale of the urban violence challenge, and to amplify the promise of evidence-based solutions to save lives and heal communities.

Other city networks such as the Global Parliament of Mayors and United Cities Local Governments have been championing local leaders to take on a more significant role in addressing global challenges and participating in national governance debates. The Strong Cities Network, Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children's Pathfinding Cities, and UN Women's Safe Cities, Safe Public Spaces initiative all address other aspects of how violence (including violent extremism, violence against children and women) manifests itself in urban areas. In the U.S., Mayors for Guaranteed Income are working to advance economic inclusion in their communities. These networks—bringing together local knowledge of problems and the openness to look elsewhere for potential solutions among their city peers—are best positioned to push for more peaceful, just, and inclusive societies in the locales most of humanity inhabits

Invest in good governance

Without trusted and effective governance, the “peaceful, just, and inclusive” societies promised in SDG16 will be made ever more elusive by the fallout from the pandemic. SDG16 commits to building “effective, accountable, and transparent institutions” from the local level to the global level – key to supporting the creation of public goods that facilitate sustainable development, including infrastructure, education, and health care. **Reforming institutions to become more effective, accountable, and transparent** can also provide enduring means of resolving conflict and unrest, contributing to further development opportunities and **strengthening the foundation for even better governance**.

To address these challenges, countries will need to revitalize institutions, put people at the center of what they do, build mechanisms for dialogue and, where necessary, employ mediation and conflict resolution. Protecting civic space for civil society to organize and continue to offer services alongside the state is critical to a meaningful recovery. Civil society and community-based groups are essential stakeholders in good governance. They have in many places strengthened response strategies, bridged service provision gaps, and provided targeted assistance throughout the crisis. Respect for civil society and the strengthening of organized civil society will also promote transparency and bold public trust in government.

PREPARING FOR THE SDG SUMMIT IN 2023

While the ongoing pandemic has imposed huge human and societal costs, it also provides us with an opportunity to accelerate change and build a more peaceful, just and inclusive world. Our success hinges on our ability to put people at the center, leave no one behind, and prepare for future crises. As we approach the midpoint of the 2030 Agenda in 2023, UN member states, international organizations, the private sector, and civil society organizations should come together to:





1. Mobilize urgent SDG16+ action

The post-pandemic reset and recovery period will demand from all of us the ability to make tough choices about our priorities. Smart and responsible crisis management are both about managing the crisis itself and reducing or preventing the spillover effects of the crisis. While the COVID-19 emergency demands immediate attention, we need to urgently reduce and prevent the worst negative socio-economic fallout from the crisis to avoid unrest, tensions, and conflicts. This requires focusing and organizing resilient systems and alliances around a set of urgent priorities to:

- Significantly reduce violence everywhere, to **halve global violence by 2030**.
- Shift from a world where justice is only available to the privileged few, to one that provides **justice for all**.
- **Tackle inequality and exclusion** so that everyone can enjoy a fairer and more sustainable future.
- **Combat corruption, transform institutions and strengthen good governance** to meet the aspirations of current and future generations.

Annex 1 spotlights recent national actions where Pathfinder member states are leading by example in each of these four areas. These actions provide insights and inspiration for other countries interested in turning ambitions into tangible steps to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.



2. Strengthen political leadership

The crisis has proven that when there is enough political will and flexibility, change can happen. While the response so far has been extraordinary, commitment for longer-term action is not a given. Harnessing the transformative potential of the response to COVID-19 is vital to drive the structural changes necessary to build peaceful, just, and inclusive societies for all. To get on track to fulfill these goals by 2030, we need to:

- **Raise the ambition for a people-centered recovery** to drive high-impact and evidence-based SDG16+ solutions to rapidly reduce violence, resolve people's justice problems, and tackle inequality and exclusion.
- **Help prioritize peace, justice, and inclusion at the highest level of government** to shape the national debate, support recovery strategies aligned with the SDG16+ targets, and forge a coordinated whole-of-society response.
- **Support leaders to make clear and ambitious SDG16+ commitments** with the greatest potential to demonstrate measurable results by 2023. Policy coherence and effective communication of these commitments are essential to long-term responses to COVID-19 and action towards our 2030 goals.
- **Promote and invest in local solutions and city leadership** to deliver recovery measures—from justice services, to social protection, to economic development—making international efforts and investments more effective and sustainable.



3. Accelerate SDG16+ implementation

Political leadership increased national action is needed to achieve measurable progress by 2023. Governments must have the evidence, policy options, and resources needed to translate ambition into measurable progress. All stakeholders need to identify better ways to share information, leverage resources, and coordinate actions. Delivery will depend on the willingness and ability of partners to:

- **Promote country-driven solutions to SDG16+ implementation**, streamlining and scaling up integrated support to countries in need.
- **Encourage all countries to report on SDG16+** during HLPF processes and voluntary national reviews that include dedicated sections on improvements, ambitions, and policy innovations relevant for SDG16+. A regular HLPF special session on acceleration actions will help ensure that policy responses are ambitious, achievable and transparent.
- **Systematically track the progress of SDG16+ implementation**, developing the data needed to reliably map challenges and demonstrate measurable change by 2023. Where necessary, this includes harmonizing existing data sources to track progress on the implementation of SDG16+ to minimize the reporting burden on countries.
- **Respect civil society space** and promote collaborative, delivery-oriented dialogues and processes to ensure a people-centered recovery.
- **Increase collaborative strategic thinking** about accelerating implementation and division of labor, burden sharing, and pooling of resources across various partners and sectors based on their comparative advantages, capacities, and expertise.



4. Sustain momentum with powerful advocacy

Driving a people-centered recovery demands scaling up and transforming advocacy efforts to ensure SDG16+ remains high on the agenda for both governments and civil society leaders. Advocacy will have the most impact when it is solutions-oriented and appeals to the hearts and minds of the public and leaders, through positive and coherent narratives. It should underline the importance of peace, justice, and inclusion to enable progress in sectors such as health, education, city development, environment, and others. To be successful, we need to ensure that we:

- **Develop strategies that can serve as an inclusive, multilateral** acceleration platform for a people-centered reset and recovery strategy.
- **Engage youth, global champions, civil society, and grassroots leaders** to put people at the center of recovery efforts, keep peace, justice and inclusion high on political agendas, and build consensus on concrete strategies action.
- **Elevate SDG16+ within global political processes**, such as the Generation Equality Forum and the G20, further establishing peace, justice and inclusion as enablers across sectors while celebrating successes, achievements, and commitments.

- **Build a strong network of champions as agents of change** to push ambitious agendas and build political support for SDG16+ during response and recovery efforts.
- **Prepare for the launch the SDG Summit in 2023** as an essential milestone to take stock of progress at all levels, build evidence of what works, and redouble efforts on the road to 2030.



5. Forge coalitions for success

The current crisis has shown us that we need to strengthen collaboration between countries and build stronger sectoral coalitions. Building coalitions will be crucial to ramp up action at the national and local level and deliver a people-centered recovery that benefits all people and all countries. Global partners should work together to:

- **Support the formation of "action coalitions"** for the major priorities under SDG16+ to accelerate progress, build political will and consensus, and allow partners across sectors to drive shared outcomes.
- **Mobilize sufficient and sustainable resources for SDG16+ delivery in line with GDP growth and government-agreed targets**, facilitating policy dialogues with finance ministers, incentivizing private sector investments, encouraging partnerships with civil society, and enhancing collaboration between international agencies.
- **Inspire new private and civil sector leadership** to encourage innovation and facilitate integrating new technologies into existing programmatic efforts, measuring their effectiveness.
- **Strengthen links between SDG16+ and other parts of the 2030 Agenda**, to develop Acceleration Actions that relate to the Decade of Action and issues of global concern outlined in the UN75 Declaration, such as health, education, digital inclusion, gender equality, global peace and security, and more.
- **Establish a shared narrative that puts people at the center of all our sustainable development efforts** and focuses on rebuilding trust, reducing violence and corruption, addressing inequalities and exclusion, and providing equal access to justice for all.

KEY GLOBAL MOMENTS

2021

July

- Generation Equality Forum | 30 June – 2 July
- The 9th Pacific Islands Leaders Meeting | 2 July
- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 6 – 15 July
- The Women 20 Summit | 13 – 15 July
- G20 Youth Summit | 19-23 July
- One Young World Summit | 22 – 25 July

September

- 76th UN General Assembly Session | 14 – 30 September
- Peace One Day 2021 | 21 September
- Pathfinders Report Launch – The UN Common Agenda: How To Deliver On Reducing Inequality & Exclusion | 23 September
- Global Citizen Live | 25 September
- Civil Society Policy Forum | 27 September – 08 October

OCTOBER

- Second Global Week for Justice
- Nobel Prize 2021 announcements | 4-11 October
- IMF and World Bank Annual Meeting | 15 – 17 October
- UN Biodiversity Conference (COP15) | 11 – 17 October
- G20 Heads of State and Government Summit | 30 – 31 October

November

- UN Climate Change Conference (COP26) | 1 – 12 November
- 2021 Stockholm Security Conference | 8 – 11 November
- Paris Peace Forum | 11 – 13 November
- Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit | 20 – 22 November

December

- Annual Showcase on SDG16+ | 6 – 9 December
- Internet Governance Forum | 6-10 December
- Open Government Partnership Global Summit | 13 – 17 December
- 9th Conference of State Parties to the UN Convention against Corruption | 13 -17 December 2021

2022

March

- HiIL Innovating Justice Forum
- Commission on the Status of Women 66 | 14 – 25 March
- 21st Conference on Land and Poverty | 21 – 25 March
- Global Festival of Action

April

- Annual SDGs Progress Report by the UN Secretary General
- World Bank Spring Meetings | 22 – 24 April

June

- World Justice Forum: Building More Just Communities | 30 May –2 June
- Stockholm+50 | 2 – 3 June
- UNDP Annual Meeting on Rule of Law and Human Rights

2023

September

- Transforming Education Summit
- UN General Assembly 77 | September
- Peace One Day | 21 September

November

- IDLO Conference of State Parties | November

March

- Commission on the Status of Women 67 (CSW67)
- Launch of UN Global Sustainable Development Report

June

- Paris Agreement Global Stocktake

September

- 2nd SDG Summit Heads of State and Government 2023
- UN General Assembly 78
- Peace One Day | 21 September

July

- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development

October

- Third Global Week for Justice
- World Bank Annual Meeting | October 14 – 16

December

- International Conference on Education for Sustainable Development | 20–21 December

February

- HiiL Innovating Justice Forum

April

- Annual SDGs Progress Report by the UN Secretary-General

July

- High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development 2023

ANNEX 1: NATIONAL ACTIONS

All Pathfinder country case studies focus on SDG16+ actions between 2020-2021 to provide justice for all, prevent and reduce violence, and tackle inequality and exclusion during the pandemic.



Afghanistan

In July 2020, the government launched the **second National Peace and Development Framework** for delivering, self-reliance, economic growth, and peace into Afghanistan's decade of transformation from 2021 to 2025. The Framework prioritizes a "peace support program" to roll out national dialogues to build a common vision of the future based on local community needs, and resolve conflict and disputes through legal and political means. It also includes a "justice for all" mandate to build people's trust in government and strengthen coordination between formal justice systems and grassroots justice providers.

The '**Women Grand Council**' was established in August 2020, under the leadership of the Office of the President, to scrutinize the implementation of the National Plan on Women's Empowerment and ensure the success of gender legislation and policies. The Council will work closely with the Gender and Women's Affairs Committee of the Cabinet and the High Commission on Elimination of Violence against Women. A joint mechanism for civil society participation is also in place to engage civil society organizations and women's rights activists in the Council, and to make sure that women's views, needs, and perspectives are systematically collected and reflected.



Argentina

A combination of urgent measures has been put in place to address the rise of violence during the pandemic. The Ministry of Women, Gender and Diversity, together with the Ministry of National Security, **passed a resolution and supporting procedures** exempting people at risk of gender-based violence from isolation measures when they need to request assistance, judicial protection, or make a complaint. An agreement was also reached with **pharmacies to serve as safe spaces for women** to request assistance (by asking for a "red facemask") and get in direct contact with a national helpline. Existing **access to justice centres** and **e-justice mechanisms** have helped people find concrete solutions to their pressing justice problems during the pandemic.



Cabo Verde

In the context of national post-COVID-19 economic recovery plans, the Ministry of Finance launched the **National Plan for Response, Recovery and Promotion** of the Economy, an integrated program to formalize informal economic activities up until 2023. This program falls into Cabo Verde's **budget**

priorities to address existing vulnerabilities amplified due to the pandemic in the health, economic and social areas, as 2021 will be the year of sustainable recovery. The program adopts a gender equality perspective in its analysis and integrates women's empowerment objectives, including training in business development for women.

The government has run several campaigns to raise awareness about gender-based violence and how survivors can seek help during the pandemic. These include a television spot **'Bu ka sta bo so!' ('You are not alone')**, produced by the Institute for Gender Equality and Equity, aired on prime time public and private television, as well as a campaign, **'Men Against Violence'**, in partnership with the National Football League. The Institute for Gender Equality and Equity created an SMS service and a specific email address for survivors of GBV to receive immediate support from specialists in coordination with the National Police. The Government also reinforced the service provided by shelters on all islands to protect women at risk of violence and stepped up with the recruitment of social workers, caregivers, and volunteers.



Canada

The Government has provided **up to CAD 30 million (USD 24 million) to Women and Gender Equality Canada** to address the immediate needs of shelters and sexual assault centers, and an additional CAD 10 million (USD 8 million) for emergency shelters to support Indigenous women and children fleeing violence. The Government has also deemed shelters to be essential services to ensure their continued operation. Women and LGBTIQ+ persons experiencing violence are exempt from social distancing measures. To ensure their continued access to justice, **Canadian courts are offering online hearings** to reduce the number of attendees, identifying a list of 'urgent matters' which can continue to be brought to court and, in some cases, hearings over the telephone or video conferencing.

Canada has taken a wide array of emergency measures to address the economic impact of the pandemic. This includes a temporary **one-time boost** to the Canada Child Benefit of an extra CAD 300 (USD 240) per child; **establishing childcare centers for essential workers**; and committing up to CAD 1.2 billion (USD 1 billion) for a **Safe Long-term Care Fund** to help provinces and territories protect people in long-term care facilities.



Central African Republic

The Government of the Central African Republic launched a few measures to address the socio-economic impact of the pandemic. These included **premiums of CFAF 1 billion to health personnel** involved in the fight against the pandemic and the provision of food kits to vulnerable households through a support program in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Furthermore, with this additional funding the Ministry of Humanitarian Action and National Reconciliation launched a project to provide **cash transfers to displaced communities impacted by the pandemic**.

As of 1 June 2021, the government intends to provide financial support to vulnerable households and companies, and implement fiscal measures to help the private sector, including tax reliefs. To finance these provisions, the

government has requested the support of its development partners through grants and loans. Furthermore, a **supplementary budget law** was adopted and included around 44 billion CFAF donors and additional support related to COVID-19. The extra spending related to COVID-19 amounts to about CFAF 15 billion, mainly broken down as 12 billion for prevention and management of the pandemic, CFAF 0.5 billion as support to vulnerable households, and CFAF 2.6 billion for the support to the private sector.



Colombia

The Ministry of Justice and Law rolled out a **free, web-based tool called LegalApp** to promote justice access to citizens, boost alliances with legal clinics, and adapt to new procedures and regulations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The LegalApp uses simple language that is easy for people to understand, offering “justice routes” for conflict resolution. It also connects users with a wide range of digital tools and virtual content to address people’s justice needs, specifically in domestic violence during the pandemic. LegalApp also provides a space for legal clinics to connect and promote legal actions in Family Commissariats, which began the virtual services process due to regulation by the Ministry of Justice and Law.

The Government of Colombia has also put in place **economic support measures** to give relief to both companies and individuals, focusing on the most vulnerable. Colombia approved a **“clean state” law** that would provide debtors with a year-long grace period to catch up on their payments, as an immediate response. Some conditions were also given for students to ease loan repayments. The government also launched the **Programa Ingreso Solidario (Solidarity Income Program)**, a program to provide support to vulnerable households in an effort to mitigate the impact caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. The program seeks to support three million households in conditions of poverty and economic vulnerability that are not beneficiaries of other existing social programs.

The Government is working to implement the **“Plan Nacional de Desarrollo 2018-2022”** (National Development Plan 2018-2022). **Some of the goals within the plan include** reducing the homicide rate to minimum levels, dismantling organized crime groups, preventing and sanctioning crimes while improving police response capacity, improving access to justice, improving the justice system, guaranteeing equality, and eradicating discriminatory practices.



Costa Rica

Right after the pandemic hit, the government of Costa Rica put in place **comprehensive measures to support vulnerable groups** that would be highly affected by the social and economic consequences of the pandemic. Targeted vulnerable population groups include children, women, the elderly, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, homeless people, and people living in poverty. These measures include developing social protection strategies specific to some groups, stimulus money, personal hygiene and food packages, provision of information to all citizens through various communication channels (e.g., WhatsApp, Facebook, traditional media). Furthermore, the government offered **other social assistance measures**, which

include: a cash transfer of USD 223 to 33,000 households living in poverty that did not receive other social transfers and a 25% reduction in health and pension base salary contribution.



Czech Republic

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the government launched the **Antivirus Employment Protection Program**, which provides workers with a sickness allowance. An insured employee affected by COVID-19 or ordered to quarantine, is entitled to receive sick pay through this program. This same rule applies to an ill worker entitled to get salary reimbursement in the amount of 60 percent of reduced average earnings for the first 14 calendar days of the quarantine, with no waiting period; after 14 days, the employee is further reimbursed through sickness insurance.

In March 2020, a **new law passed that provided care/nursing allowance for the whole period of school closure** due to the pandemic for those workers taking care of children aged 0-13 or disabled persons provided the facility designed for their care has closed.

In May 2021, the Government of the Czech Republic passed the **National Recovery Plan**, with a budget of approximately 7 billion Euros. The plan will support the restart of the country's economy. The funds will be invested in various areas such as digital transformation, physical infrastructure and green transition, education and job market, institutions, (in which anti-corruption measures are included), research, development and innovation, and finally, health and resilience of the citizens.



Denmark

The Danish Government has **introduced new measures to address domestic violence** since it announced lockdowns. At the local level, municipalities continue to provide women's shelters for victims of domestic violence countrywide, and the Parliament agreed to establish extra 55 new temporary rooms in these shelters. The Danish Parliament has also allocated funds for providers of outpatient counseling services for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence to increase their capacity and increase the capacity in shelters for male victims of domestic violence. Furthermore, the national hotline on domestic violence introduced an e-mail service to reach victims of domestic violence who may not be able to make anonymous phone calls as they are in their home with their children and partner at all times. Because some counseling services for victims have had to close temporarily due to the crisis, the national hotline has introduced new scheduled phone counseling sessions.

In April 2021, the Danish Government and the Danish Parliament adopted a **Recovery and Resilience Plan**. The funds invested in the plan will help stimulate the economy and support jobs and companies in the short term, as well as contribute to speeding up the green transition in the medium to long term.



Dominican Republic

The Government of the Dominican Republic launched **vital measures to provide social assistance support**. The 'Stay at Home' program (Quédate en Casa) includes a top-up to the safety net of 5,000 pesos (US\$92) for two months to 811,000 beneficiary families that have the Solidarity payment card to purchase food and necessities. It also extends the same amount to 690,000 non-poor and vulnerable nonbeneficiary families in the SIUBEN social registry. This program was extended until the 31st of December 2020 by Decree 358-20. The government also launched the work assistance program (Pa 'Ti). The program provides temporary support to freelancers/ self-employed workers who have not been able to work due to the social distancing measures with an unconditional cash transfer of RD \$5,000. In June 2020, 200,00 people received those benefits.

The Ministry of Women, together with the Ramos Group supermarkets, partnered and launched the **"Tax Receipt 212" campaign**. Through this campaign, the government aimed to detect domestic violence cases to provide them with assistance through a rigorous and discreet protocol. Women who suffer from domestic violence will ask the cashier of the supermarkets for the "Tax Receipt 212," after which the cashier will call the supervisory personnel to accompany the women to a safe place to make a call to the Women's Line.



Georgia

The Government of Georgia implemented measures to address the increased risks of violence against women and domestic violence during the pandemic. The Inter-Agency Commission on Gender Equality, Violence against Women and Domestic Violence at the Human Rights Council adopted the **Communication Strategy on Violence against Women and Domestic Violence during the COVID-19 Crisis**. The strategy aims at ensuring access to information and providing alternative ways to report domestic violence. The Ministry of Internal Affairs developed a new methodology to both detect and respond to domestic violence cases. The government also ensured access to free services for survivors despite the COVID-19 containment measures, including access to crisis centers and shelters.



Germany

The Government of Germany took various measures to address domestic violence during the COVID-19 pandemic. The government continued running the **National Violence Against Women Helpline**, which offers free and confidential support in 17 languages. The government also created a social security umbrella to provide easier access to social security and social protection services due to the pandemic, which include women's shelters and women's support services.

The Government of Germany offered 120 Million Euro to support the program "Gemeinsam gegen Gewalt an Frauen" (Together against violence towards women) for the 2020-2023 period. This program supports the expansion and further development of aid services and facilities for women affected by violence.



Ghana

The Government of Ghana launched a GH¢11 million **COVID Relief Fund** to provide cash transfers to daily wage earners affected by COVID-19. The **targeted populations** are vulnerable households from the Greater Accra, Western and Ashanti regions, with 75,000 beneficiaries identified who align with national poverty and food insecurity indices, requiring 60% of beneficiaries to be women. The cash transfer amount depends on the number of eligible household members, and it would be transferred through mobile money wallets monthly for five months. The minimum payment is GH¢53. The Government also announced hotlines for communities and households to provide food while the country is on lockdown. It provided food for up to 400,000 people with a total cost of GH¢280 million.



Guatemala

Through its Ministry of Labor, the Government of Guatemala **introduced an emergency cash transfer** of USD 130 per month per beneficiary to reach 2 million beneficiaries for three months. It also removed the additional conditionality of the existing Bono Familia cash transfers to ease disbursements to beneficiaries. A new Risk Cash Bonus also provides cash grants to frontline health personnel during the pandemic.

To address the increase in domestic violence cases, the Public Prosecutor adapted the national 1572 helpline to receive reports on women's disappearances and violence against women and girls. The adaptation has also included a **'Panic Button'** application for smartphones, through which victims can also report cases of violence. This new measure is promoted through **awareness-raising campaigns** to report incidents of violence safely.



Indonesia

In response to the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic to the SDGs progress, Indonesia is working towards a **systemic reform in four key areas**: social protection system, national health system, disaster resilience system, as well as industry recovery, tourism, and investment towards a green economy. The government also announced **a COVID-19 relief spending estimated to be around US\$51 billion**. Around one-third of the estimated COVID-19 relief spending (US\$17 billion) is targeted to expand existing social protection benefits, cash transfers, food vouchers, low-cost housing, and electricity. Specifically, through the **Program Keluarga Harapan** (the flagship cash transfer program), the government transferred cash to 10 million households, expanding from 9.2 million, which increased by 25% for 3 months.

The Government of Indonesia **authorized the release of low-level, non-violent juvenile and adult prisoners**. As of June 2020, this resulted in 992 children being released from detention, representing 50 percent of the total number of children in detention in Indonesia. The Government of Indonesia also delivered online training programs for correction officers in remote areas to provide counseling and support to the released children and the reintegration process back into their communities.



Ireland

As part of the COVID-19 Response plan, the Government of Ireland has developed an **inter-agency Action plan for Domestic Abuse**. The plan ensures justice services and protection from violence are available for victims of abuse. It also rolled out an initiative called 'Operation Faoisimh' to protect victims of domestic abuse and make arrest interventions based on any report of domestic violence. The **Department of Justice and Equality** is also actively supporting NGOs to support victims of domestic abuse, and additional funding (over €160,000) has been provided to grassroots justice providers to help victims of domestic violence during the pandemic.

The Government of Ireland has also put in place **several measures to support the socioeconomic consequences of the pandemic**. Some of these measures include the "COVID-19 Pandemic Unemployment Payment," a social welfare payment directed at employees and self-employed people who have lost their employment due to the COVID-19 pandemic crisis. Furthermore, there is also a paid sick leave of €305 per week (higher than the average sick leave of €203). Also, the government is introducing legislation to protect tenants by preventing the termination of residential tenancies and any rent increases for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.



Jordan

The Government has launched a **new project** to deliver cash support in response to the pandemic and expand the national Takaful cash transfer program to about 293,000 poor and vulnerable households. It includes two parts: a temporary six-month cash transfer to 200,000 additional vulnerable families; and a temporary six-month benefit top-up for 93,000 existing beneficiaries.

The Minister of Social Protection also launched a **new social protection program to support daily wage workers** financed by donations collected from citizens and the private sector through the newly formed 'Emergency Response Fund—Himat Watan'. The benefit amount consists of JOD70 per month for 2-member households and JOD136 per month for families consisting of 3 members or more paid for three months.



Liberia

In September 2020 **President George Weah declared rape a national emergency** and called for the development of a **National Roadmap by multi-stakeholders** to end sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). The President also allocated **new violence prevention measures** such as the appointment of a Special Prosecutor for rape, the creation of a National Sex Offenders Registry, and the establishment of a National Security Task Force on SGBV. The Task Force is composed of various Ministries within the Government of Liberia, including Gender, Children and Social Protection, Health, Justice, Internal Affairs, Education, Labor, and Information. The Taskforce developed

a roadmap, “Government of Liberia & Partners’ Roadmap on Ending Sexual and Gender-Based Violence 2020-2022,” which will serve as a working tool to tackle GBV until September 2022.



Liechtenstein

Liechtenstein’s commitment to prevent and combat illicit financial flows (SDG 16.4) and to end human trafficking (SDG 16.2), along with other SDG16+ related targets, resulted in the creation of a global public-private partnership: the “Liechtenstein Initiative” for a Financial Sector Commission against Modern Slavery and Human Trafficking. The Commission aimed to consider how to put the financial sector at the heart of global efforts to address modern slavery and human trafficking through a year-long international consultative process. The Commission released the **Blueprint for Mobilizing Finance Against Slavery and Trafficking (FAST)** that sets out five Goals for financial sector actors to address modern slavery and human trafficking:

Goal 1. Compliance with laws against modern slavery and human trafficking;

Goal 2. Knowing and showing modern slavery and human trafficking risks;

Goal 3. Using leverage creatively to mitigate and address modern slavery and human trafficking risks;

Goal 4. Providing and enabling effective remedies for modern slavery and human trafficking harms;

Goal 5. Investment in innovation for prevention.

The **FAST initiative** is based at United Nations University Centre for Policy Research. It is supported by the Governments of Australia, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, and the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD).



Mexico

The Government of Mexico **launched an 11-point economic plan** that included measures to reduce expenses such as pay cuts of as much as 25% for high-level public workers, removing ten deputy minister posts, and a commitment to austerity. It also offered an **advance payment of the pensions** for senior citizens for July to October 2020, and it granted life insurance to those health workers attending Coronavirus patients. The Government wants to **scale-up the existing Tandás para el Bienestar program (Microcredits for Welfare)**, and relaxed its repayment conditions as well as its eligibility requirements. Its **goal** is to reduce poverty by strengthening economic activity and employment with local and regional development.



Netherlands

The Netherlands took various measures to **prioritize, fast-track the legal processes, and offer digital access to justice**. In April 2020, the Council of Judiciary introduced measures to cases held virtually using video software,

a new secure email system, and digital notarial services and documents. Furthermore, the **Public Prosecution Service ('Openbaar Ministerie')** prioritizes cases involving sexual violence and vulnerable victims, and law enforcement is closely monitoring domestic violence cases. Victims of domestic violence have access to a hotline ('Veilig Thuis') to receive professional and anonymous advice, as well as an emergency hotline ('112') to receive immediate assistance from the police.



Norway

The **Norwegian welfare society is key to ensure that no one is left behind**, by securing opportunities for income, providing education and health services for everyone. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Norway implemented **various measures to provide social assistance and social insurance**. Students who were able to prove loss of income, were able to apply for additional financial support. Parents were entitled to a total of 12 months of parental leave in connection with the birth and after the birth of their children. Furthermore, employers are to be reimbursed for sickness benefits paid from the fourth day onwards for absences due to the coronavirus. In terms of unemployment benefits, the rate has been raised to 80% of their income for an income of up to 300 000 NOK (28 350 USD) and 62.4% of income between 300 000 and 600 000 NOK. The maximum duration of the furlough scheme has been suspended, and the scheme has been extended until at least 1 July 2021. The government has also made it possible for those who lost their jobs to receive the unemployment benefits faster.

The government will submit Norway's first national Action Plan for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda to Parliament in 2021.



Peru

The Government of Peru provided **access to national services for vulnerable refugees and migrants in the country**. This measure allowed refugees to access the national healthcare systems, State Health Insurance coverage, as well as a legal stay addressing concerns of high vulnerability. The **coverage is provided to refugees and migrants suspected or positive of COVID-19**. By granting them the Special Immigration Status and providing them with the Carné de Extranjería (Special Immigration Card), they have access to free healthcare through the state Public Healthcare System and access to a range of rights education, work, and healthcare, among others.



Portugal

Early in the pandemic, the Government of Portugal **granted temporary residency rights to all migrants and asylum seekers**. This measure has allowed the country to grant access to healthcare to all asylum seekers and migrants and thus reduce the public health risk. This measure also protects migrants from rights abuses. In November 2020, Portugal approved a new nationality law allowing children of immigrants (including children of parents who have lived in Portugal illegally) who have been in the country for at least one year to gain Portuguese nationality at birth.

Portugal also approved various measures to address the socio-economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, such as **suspending rents for vulnerable households and cash-strapped small firms** and **extending unemployment benefits and all social security benefits**. The Government also provided **financial support to employees and self-employed workers** who had to stay home to be with their children (up to 12 years of age). This support amounted to 66% of the base salary (33% paid by the employer, 33% paid by Social Security), and 33% of base salaries for self-employed workers.



Qatar

The Government of Qatar has taken various **employment-related measures to address the COVID-19 crisis**. The government requires employers to pay salaries and allowances, as per their contracts, in those businesses who continued working despite the COVID-19 precautionary measures. Should workers' contracts be terminated, employers must provide them with free food and housing or equivalent cash allowances until the worker can leave the country. **Health insurance Treatment for COVID-19 is also provided to anyone free of charge** – the possession of a health card or the Qatar ID (QID) is not necessary to be tested or receive treatment. Furthermore, the government granted a waiver of rental and utilities fees to households and businesses until February 2021. Those migrant workers in quarantine or undergoing treatment would receive their full salaries.



Republic of Korea

The Government of the Republic of Korea implemented various socioeconomic measures, with a particular focus on vulnerable households. Some of them include **emergency relief checks** to about 800,000 people vulnerable to job loss; **childcare support to low-income households** as they shift from child daycare to homecare by providing parent employees with W50,000/day; the **reintroduction of job seekers' allowance for low-income households**, with such allowance being increased from W200,000 to 500,000 for up to 3 months; and **emergency relief payments** of 9.1 trillion won to 14 million households in the bottom 70 percent income bracket. Furthermore, the government decided to **extend this emergency relief payment and offered universal emergency relief payments to roughly 21.71 million households through the universal program**. Around 2.8 million vulnerable households received the funds first. The government will also give gift vouchers for an amount that will depend on the size of the eligible household to ensure that consumption is stimulated. A one-person household can expect to receive 400,000 won (US\$326), a family of four 1 million won. W2.8T are provided via a 4-month-worth purchase vouchers to households receiving child and social assistance.



Rwanda

The Government of Rwanda **established social protection measures focusing on the most vulnerable** by capitalizing on its well-established decentralized structures. The government has provided in-kind food and other essential items to 20,000 families, targeting casual laborers whose livelihoods depend on daily wage and self-employed mainly in the informal sector who can't

work due to COVID-19 containment measures. The local level administrative committees identify beneficiaries at the lowest local administrative entity known as "isibo." To avoid crowds and in line with social distancing protocols, the distribution is done house to house by "Youth Volunteers" and people within the communities, with the coordination of local leaders. The communities and individuals within them can freely supplement these efforts by donating money, food, and essential items through the head of "Isibo".



Sierra Leone

During the first year of the COVID-19 crisis, **the justice sector in Sierra Leone continued to work to provide justice for all**, particularly to the underprivileged. In 2020, 413,169 people received free legal representation, advice, and related services thanks to the Legal Aid Board established in 2015. This is a 93% increase from 2018. Interventions covered child and women rights issues, land disputes, and criminal cases, including domestic violence, rape, and juvenile offenses; rural communities provided special attention. Sierra Leone increased the number of Magistrates and Judges from 63 in 2019 to 77 in 2020 across the country to reinforce these efforts.

The Government of Sierra Leone also **launched the emergency response program 'Quick Action Economic Response Program'** with a US\$166 million budget. The program supports businesses, ensures stock of commodities at stable prices, and provides cash payments to vulnerable families in rural and informal sector workers in major cities. The Government also launched the "COVID-19 Social Safety Net (SSN) Cash Transfers" based on its response to the Ebola crisis in 2014. This package doubled the cash offered through the Ep Fet Po cash transfer program to US\$ 30 for nine months.



Somalia

The Government of Somalia **launched the first ever cash transfer program in April 2020: the Baxnaano program**. The **program intends to provide a safety net to reduce poverty and increase human capital** by providing cash transfers to vulnerable households and establishing a national shock-responsive safety net system. The program is targeting 270,000 poor and vulnerable families (approximately 1.2 million individuals or 9.6 percent of the population) across the Federal Member States of Somalia and provide them with nutrition-linked cash transfer. The transfers will allow families to use the money for their immediate needs, such as food and accessing essential services. This program will target fragility areas affected by high poverty levels, acute drought, and long-drawn-out conflicts and insecurity.



Spain

The Government of Spain introduced measures to tackle the socioeconomic effects of the pandemic, many targeting vulnerable populations. Some of these measures include introducing the **Guaranteed Minimum Income (GMI)** for around 5 million low-income people; a **family benefit to pay for parents caring for children at home due to school closures**; and **cash transfers support delivered through wallet cards, wire transfer, and vouchers in supermarkets**.

The government also **suspended evictions** until six months after the end of the State of Alarm without alternative housing in vulnerable homes. It mandated that tenants can't raise the rent for six months. It also offered microcredits guaranteed 100% by the State access to tenants, a mortgage moratorium, a prohibition to cut access to utilities such as water and electricity until after the State of Alarm, amongst many others.

The Spanish Ministry of Equality launched a **Contingency Plan against gender-based violence during the COVID-19 crisis**. The plan declares that all comprehensive assistance services directed at victims of gender-based violence as essential services during the lockdown, thus making available all service operators, emergency response and reception to survivors at risk, emergency shelters, centers, and safe houses for survivors of sexual exploitation and trafficking, as well as in-person psychological, legal and social services. The government suspended sanctions for breaking lockdown for those survivors of violence escaping from a dangerous situation.

In June 2021 and in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Spanish Government approved the **Estrategia de Desarrollo Sostenible 2030** (Sustainable Development Strategy 2030). The strategy aims at ending poverty and inequality, end gender inequality and discrimination, mitigating the climate change emergency, improve the economic system, end job insecurity, address the public services crisis, end global injustice and threats to human rights, democracy, and planet sustainability, as well as revitalize Spain's rural environment and address the demographic challenges. The IV Plan de Gobierno Abierto 2020-2024 (Open Government Plan) links these goals with a reform of institutions to render them more transparent.



Sweden

Sweden views promoting **multidimensional poverty reduction, social dialogue, and decent work as critical elements to leave no one behind**. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Sweden issued response measures such as ensuring employees received **sickness benefits** from the moment they need to be absent from work; providing self-employed people to receive **unemployment insurance**; and offering a **temporary reduction of employers' social security contributions**. Furthermore, families also received a **temporary parental benefit** to allow parents to stay home with their children if schools were closed. Parents receive approximately 90% of the regular temporary parental leave, and, temporarily, they don't need a statement from a doctor for children between 12 and 16.



Switzerland

In March 2020 and under the Swiss Federal Office for Gender Equality (FOGE) leadership, the Swiss federal government and the cantons created the **task force against domestic violence**. The task force's goal is to ensure regular exchange and assessment between the experts in the advice centers, the police, as well as the Confederation and close cooperation with the responsible cantonal conferences (Conference of Cantonal Directors of Social Services CDSS, Conference of Cantonal Justice and Police Directors CCJPD, Swiss Conference against Domestic Violence SKHG). The task force checks the status

of police reports on domestic violence, the availability of shelters for victims of domestic violence, and supports the cantons in securing victim assistance.

At the cantonal level, the **victim support services** are still assisting victims of domestic violence. The protection of victims of domestic violence is still a top priority for the police. Despite the pandemic social distance measures, police can remove the aggressor from their house and report threats to children in violent incidents. Furthermore, the Federal Office of Public Health launched a new platform for mental health in times of the COVID-19 pandemic with relevant information on family and domestic conflicts and help-line numbers for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence.



Timor-Leste

The Timorese government has launched two notable social protection initiatives. The first is an unprecedented **universal cash transfer** delivered in June 2020 worth \$200 per household. The government also approved the payment of a **remuneration supplement** for employees, agents, and workers, including effective security forces on the front line of COVID-19. The decree-law, proposed by the Interim Minister of Finance and the Council of Ministers, provides that the supplement varies between USD 5 and USD 25 a day depending on the degree of exposure to the risks associated with COVID-19.



Tunisia

In March 2020, the Government of Tunisia announced an US\$850 million (2.3% of GDP) **emergency relief plan** to support Covid-19 response and affected sectors. The government also announced a program to address long-standing structural reforms to strengthen the public sector performance and transparency and increase citizen trust. The government also took **compensatory measures** to benefit 260,000 needy families, 370,000 low-income families, 140,000 people with low pensions and 301 thousand people in jobs with variable income. A 23-measure plan has been put in place to support businesses in the face of Covid-19, including the creation of two investment funds. Furthermore, the **'Tunisia First Resilience and Recovery Emergency Development Project'** aims to support the Tunisian government's response to the COVID-19 crisis and will include cash transfers that reach poor and vulnerable individuals, 36 percent of the population. Other measures include a monthly cash transfer for 50,000 children 0-5 years old registered in the social assistance registry.



United Kingdom

The United Kingdom implemented various measures to address the increase in domestic violence cases during the COVID-19 pandemic. Early in the pandemic, the government **pledged £2 million to assist domestic abuse helplines and online support** and **£76 million in supporting vulnerable people**. The government also launched **a public awareness campaign, #YouAreNotAlone**, to reassure survivors of domestic abuse that police and specialist services remained open during the pandemic. In November 2020, the Government **provided £10.1 million to aid rape and domestic abuse support and £683,000**

to domestic abuse organizations. In early 2021 the government partnered with pharmacies across the country to launch the **'Ask for ANI scheme' (Action Needed Immediately)** to support domestic violence survivors.'

Furthermore, **the police have encouraged survivors to use a disguised app called 'Bright Sky.'** The free app provides contact information for all available domestic abuse support services, allows users to track episodes of abuse, and includes a 999-emergency button. Collecting this data can support victims if they end up in court proceedings as they can provide valuable evidence to support their case.



Uruguay

In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Government of Uruguay has set new goals for the next years including building a sustainable economy that innovates and creates employment, transform institutions that are efficient and accountable to citizens, develop public policies that ensure education, social protection and health for all, and works towards a society that promotes development, human rights, and leaves no one behind. With these goals in mind, the Government of Uruguay is implementing a **range of measures to protect children's rights who remain in detention during the pandemic.** These measures are designed to enable social distancing and better hygiene and allow continued education and family contact. The Juvenile Detention Centres are monitored through an inter-institutional steering group comprising the Judiciary, the Attorney General's Office, the Ministry of Interior, and the National Institute for Adolescent Social Inclusion, as well as through follow-up meetings with new justice authorities. The National Institute for Adolescent Social Inclusion has also developed a contingency plan that includes preventive measures, information materials, and procedures for when positive cases of COVID-19 arise.

To address the increasing rates of violence against women, the government launched an **awareness campaign on social media, a national phone number for emergencies, and a protocol** created together with the Health Ministry for personnel to detect possible instances of domestic violence. The Ministry of Social Development also revised protocols to enable health workers to detect cases of domestic violence.



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