Peer Learning Round Tables

## Cluster 1: People

Strengthening health, food and social protection systems
towards COVID-19 recovery and resilience

Session 1-1

# The impact of COVID-19 on people's lives and sustainable development: strengthening health system and social protection

Wednesday, 10 March 2021, 14:00 – 16:00

## Guiding questions for round table

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| **Question 1** | Which challenges have governments addressed in responding to COVID19? |
| **Question 2** | How to encourage/ promote the health and social protection in the COVID 19 response? |
| **Question 3** | What are effective policies to promote health and well-being and social protection to build back better? |

## Policy actions for discussion

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| **Policy action 1** | Strengthen health and social protection governance capacities for emergency preparedness and resilience building in crisis situations to leave no one behind and achieve the SDGs. |
| **Policy action 2** | Strengthen health and social protection services to improve access and coverage for vulnerable populations in times of crisis. |
| **Policy action 3** | Strengthen intersectoral collaboration and integrated policy solutions in crisis response to reduce inequalities (building forward better). |

# Moderator

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| **Moderator** | Dr. Bettina Menne, WHO Regional Office for Europe (provisionally)<br>*Dr Sheila Marnie PhD (TBC) International Consultant* |

# Background

COVID-19 is a defining global crisis of our time – disrupting and transforming our world with profound consequences for governments, institutions, cities, communities, families and individuals. COVID-19 and its containment measures have negatively impacted the social, economic, and environmental domains of sustainable development and are threatening to reverse progress on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). COVID-19 is a reminder that human health and social protection are inextricably connected to planetary, economic, and societal health. COVID-19 has added urgency to the implementation of the principle of Leaving no one behind (LNOB). The pandemic's severe socio-economic impacts call for an integrated approach to LNOB through multisector initiatives. The importance of the principle is recognized by the 2019-2020 VNR countries although comprehensive approaches to LNOB remain limited. To accelerate progress on SDG mainstreaming, all levels of government need to step up their multidimensional, systemic and gender-responsive integrated policy solutions. At the same time social protection is an essential COVID-19 related response with over 1400 new social protection measures introduced since 2020. However vulnerable people are increasingly not able to access many of these social protection measures.

The disruption caused by COVID-19 has been transformative, demonstrating how rapidly economic and social behaviours can change, providing a glimpse of what a better world might look like and offering a window of opportunity to shape the future of sustainable development. In this session we will present and discuss innovative ways on how governments have and can take action to reduce the COVID burden, while aiming at inclusive sustainable development.

# Organizers

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| **Lead organizer** | Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being, WHO and UNDP |
| **Contributors** | ILO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, ITU,<br>UNICEF, FAO, IFRC |