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

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

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.

Potential Presenter 1 | Keynote:
- Brief overview of the current Covid 19 situation in the Region. WHO/Europe.
- Pan-European Commission on health and sustainable development, rethinking policy priorities in the light of the pandemic. Prof Mario Monti, Chair Pan-European Commission on Health and Sustainable Development. (tbc)

Discussants:
- Sexual and reproductive health service provision in the times of COVID 19, including cervical cancer screening programme and FP programme implementation. Dr Alban Ylli, Head of Sector for NCD
and Health Sector Research, Dr. Gentiana Qirjako, Head of Health Promotion Department in the Institute of Public Health.

- Policy options to enhance access to health and social protection measures for Women living with HIV (WLHIV) and other vulnerable women in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Ms Dasha Ocheret, UNAIDS Lead Consultant.
- Discussion

Policy action 2

Strengthen health and social protection services to improve access and coverage for vulnerable populations in times of crisis

Keynote:
- Policy solutions to reduce inequalities in unpaid care work and income insecurity. Ms Tanni Mukhopadhyay, UNDP/UNICEF Lead consultant

Discussant:
- Welfare policies to reduce income insecurity and income inequities between top and bottom 20% of the population. Prof Cathal O’Donoghue, Dean, College of Arts, Social Sciences and Celtic Studies, the National University of Ireland
- The Campaign/Men engaging in the COVID context. Ms Adel Orazalinova, TV host, producer, activist, volunteer
- Supporting rural older person living allowance, social protection during pandemic times. Ms Maka Peradze, Head of the Human Rights Secretariat, Administration of Government of Georgia
- Private sector engagement addressing the needs of older persons during pandemic and intergenerational solidarity, young people supporting older persons to utilize mobile services. Ms Irina Strajescu, Executive Director, Moldcell Foundation, Moldova
- Overview of social care systems in Europe and the need to build back better. Mr Thomas Kergall, Technical Advisor for Health Council of Europe Development Bank.
- Government representatives (tbc by UNDP).
- Eurasian Women’s Network on AIDS (EWNA). Ms Sveta Morozgen, Head of the Board, EWNA.
- Discussion

Policy action 3

Strengthen intersectoral collaboration and integrated policy solutions in crisis response to reduce inequalities (building forward better and fairer)

Keynote:
- Building forward better: Strategic policy approaches that are needed to step up efforts to ensure health and social protection at the centre and ‘no one is left behind’. Results from reviews of Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs). Ms Hilaire Armstrong, WHO consultant and UNDP
Discussants:
- Food safety related activities, taking into account the impact of coronavirus infection (COVID-19). Mr Almabek Aidakeev, Head of the National DRR Platform Secretariat under the Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Kyrgyz Republic
- International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC). Mr Davron Mukhamadiev, Head Regional Health and Care Unit, IFRC Europe
- European M-health Hub, mobile health, its deployment in Europe and its use in the context of Covid 19 recovery. Dr Miguel Angel Guzman, General Director of the Andalusian Health Service
- Young people and COVID-19, Ms Ana Mosiashvili, Y-PEER
- UNHCR intervention (tbc)
- Discussion

Conclusion

Moderator

Moderator | UNDP/UNFPA Representative
Dr. Bettina Menne, WHO Regional Office for Europe

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 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
**Lead organizer**  
Issue-based Coalition on Health and Well-being. Lead organizers: WHO and UNDP

**Contributors**  
ILO, UNAIDS, UNFPA, ITU, UNICEF, FAO, UNHCR, UNHCR, IFRC