Experiences and lessons from assessing impacts of COVID-19

International Recovery Forum 2021

Ronald Jackson,
Head, Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team
UNDP
Context

• This presentation builds on lessons and experiences of conducting over 200 COVID-19 Recovery Needs Assessment (CRNA) and Socio-Economic Impact assessment (SIEA) and Socio-Economic Response Plans (SERPS) with UNDP as the technical lead for the UN system.
Lesson 1

- Pre-existing vulnerabilities such as poverty, inequality, lack of basic services, debt burdens, disasters, climate change, conflicts — exacerbated still further by COVID-19.

Women
- 18 thousand women are healthcare workers
- Women in hospitals (from February to June):
  - 258 pregnant girls (10-14 years old)
  - 6,581 adolescent pregnant women
  - 2,427 cases of gender-based violence

Youth
- 16 thousand left Higher Education
- Increase in youth unemployment

Disabled and Elderly
- Chronic diseases increase their vulnerability
- Hospital saturation did not allowed access to regular doctor appointments
- Precarious labor conditions preventing income opportunities

El Salvador
Three poorest provinces hit hardest
Lesson 2

Recognition that risk has become increasingly systemic and multi-dimensional
Lesson 3

• The fluid nature of the COVID-19 pandemic, responses cannot be linear from crisis to recovery; but circular in nature with a continuous iteration from crisis to recovery.
Lesson 4

• There are regional and cross-border dimensions of recovery that require critical attention, particularly where the movement of people across national borders are closely linked to livelihoods and overall wellbeing.

• These interdependencies on trade, transport, food imports, economic goods, labor can only be addressed at the regional level.
Lesson 5

• Resilience to systemic shocks is no longer a theoretical concern. COVID-19 has made governments and companies painfully aware of the fragility of the critical systems upon which they depend.

• Governments have become acutely aware of the importance for the global recovery of building both socioeconomic and climate and disaster resilience – and of the synergies between them. Countries are calling for a “reset” a “pivot” of their development pathways.
AZERBAIJAN
RECOVERY STRATEGY

BUILDING BACK BETTER
“We need to turn the recovery into a real opportunity to do things right for the future”
– United Nations Secretary-General–

CONSIDER A NEW SOCIAL COMPACT
Focus on people, human rights and equality.
Introduce a universal social protection system in the country that guarantees universal access to health, education, unemployment insurance and a universal income.

CLOSE THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
Access to universal Internet can save lives, protect human rights, create employment, protect access to health, education and other services.
Multiply the benefits of its stimulus package, protect the SDGs, and ensure no one is left behind.

PROMOTE A GREEN RECOVERY AND STRENGTHEN CLIMATE ACTION
• Deliver new jobs and businesses through a clean, green transition.
• Rescue businesses tied to green jobs and sustainable growth.
• Incorporate climate risks and opportunities into the financial system and all public policies.
Lesson 6

- Successful recovery also requires **fit-for-purpose governance systems** – with institutions, policies, personnel, that can guide the recovery process while facilitating coordination across sectors and among all stakeholders at all levels towards the achievement of the common goal.
Lesson 7

- The “recovery” from pandemic is not only about health but broader based to address multidimensional risks and draws on the concepts of 'build back better' (BBB), gender equality, support to most vulnerable and make green investments and transitions a priority within the recovery process. It also has a strong link to national and regional priorities for sustainable development.
In Conclusion

“The next frontier for human development is not about choosing between people or trees; it’s about recognizing, today, that human progress driven by unequal, carbon-intensive growth has run its course; By tackling inequality, capitalizing on innovation and working with nature, human development could take a transformational step forward to support societies and the planet together”.

Pedro Conceição : UNDP Lead author of the Human development report