

THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS

COVID 19



SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

THE HUMAN
RIGHTS
GUIDE TO
SUSTAINABLE
RECOVERY



INDEX

 <p>1 NO POVERTY</p>	04	 <p>2 ZERO HUNGER</p>	10	 <p>3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING</p>	16
 <p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p>	24	 <p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p>	30	 <p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p>	38
 <p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p>	44	 <p>8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH</p>	48	 <p>9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE</p>	56
 <p>10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES</p>	60	 <p>11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES</p>	66	 <p>12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION</p>	72
 <p>13 CLIMATE ACTION</p>	78	 <p>14 LIFE BELOW WATER</p>	82	 <p>15 LIFE ON LAND</p>	86
 <p>16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS</p>	90	 <p>17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS</p>	98		

INTRODUCTION TO THE RESOURCE

This resource provides guidance for sustainable recovery from COVID-19 using the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights as a blueprint, as proposed by the UN Secretary-General in “Human Rights and COVID-19: we are all in this together”.

It can be used by states, national human rights institutions, businesses, civil society and researchers to develop and influence sustainable recovery planning and monitoring.

This resource:

- Highlights key aspects of the 17 SDGs and related targets that have proven to be of utmost importance for COVID-19 response and recovery.
- Explains how the achievement of each of the SDGs is impacted by the pandemic.
- Summarizes critical response and recovery actions to be taken by states.
- Provides examples of how international human rights and labour standards underpin the SDG targets, thereby demonstrating the complementarity of human rights obligations and SDG commitments.
- Provides links to relevant guidance for each SDG from the international human rights system; COVID-19 specific guidance from the UN system, as well as resources from the Danish Institute for Human Rights, including the Human Rights Guide to the SDGs and the SDG Human Rights Data Explorer.

The information provided under each SDG (importance in the context of sustainable recovery; suggested response and recovery actions) draws on and summarizes the documents and guidance listed under “Key Human Rights Guidance”. Hence, we encourage users to explore the underlying documents and sources, to gain a deeper understanding of the human rights aspects of sustainable recovery. This UN website provides additional useful resources on COVID-19 and the SDGs: <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/blog/category/covid-19/>

1 NO POVERTY



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 1 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ERADICATE EXTREME POVERTY, REDUCE POVERTY AND ENSURE EQUAL RIGHTS TO ECONOMIC RESOURCES (TARGETS 1.1, 1.2 AND 1.4)

The economic recession caused by the COVID-19 pandemic has had and will continue to have significant impacts on global poverty levels. The economic fallout from the pandemic could increase global poverty by as much as half a billion people, or 8% of the total human population. This would be the first time that poverty has increased globally in thirty years (since 1990). The pandemic has exposed and exacerbated existing inequalities in access to resources and services within and between countries.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

The situation calls for a transformation of the economic structures to put the needs of the excluded first, with human rights at the heart of economic policies and choices. Ensuring minimum wages, equal access to economic resources (including land), financial and basic services as well as new technologies must be key priorities. Countries should strive for triple dividend measures that create decent jobs for people who are poor while reducing ecological footprint and expanding access to essential goods and services, thereby also fulfilling basic needs and human rights. Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. [...]

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 13: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular

(13.a) The right to family benefits; (13.b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C122 Employment Policy Convention: This ILO governance Convention aims at stimulating economic growth and development, raise levels of living, meet manpower requirements and overcome unemployment and underemployment.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C131 Minimum Wage Fixing Convention: This ILO Convention requires ratifying states to establish a minimum wage fixing machinery capable of determining and periodically reviewing and adjusting minimum wage rates having the force of law.



2. IMPLEMENT SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEMS AND BUILD THE RESILIENCE OF THE POOR (TARGETS 1.3, 1.5)

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused millions of people to lose their jobs and livelihoods overnight. The pandemic has disproportionately affected those not covered by adequate national social protection systems.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Sustainable recovery must include strengthening progress towards universal social protection, building on the increase of coverage during the COVID-19 response, redesigning social protection systems so they are more responsive to shocks, including climate shocks, and strengthening care systems so they respond to the needs of women and men throughout their lifecycle.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 9: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.

Convention on the Rights of the Child¹ (CRC), art 26.1: States Parties shall recognize for every child the right to benefit from social security, including social insurance, and shall take the necessary measures to achieve the full realization of this right in accordance with their national law.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C102 Social Security (Minimum Standards) Convention: Each Member for which this Part of this Convention is in force shall secure to the

persons protected the provision of [medical care benefit], [sickness benefit], [unemployment benefit], [old-age benefit], [employment injury benefit], [family benefit], [maternity benefit], [invalidity benefit], [survivors' benefit], in accordance with the following Articles of this Part.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) R202 Social protection Floors Recommendation: This provides guidance to Members to: (a) establish and maintain, as applicable, social protection floors as a fundamental element of their national social security systems; and (b) implement social protection floors within strategies for the extension of social security that progressively ensure higher levels of social security to as many people as possible, guided by ILO social security standards.

¹ The right to social security for specific groups is enshrined in a number of HR instruments and labour laws, including the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) as well as in ILO 102, ILO 118, ILO 157 and ILO Rec 202 among others.

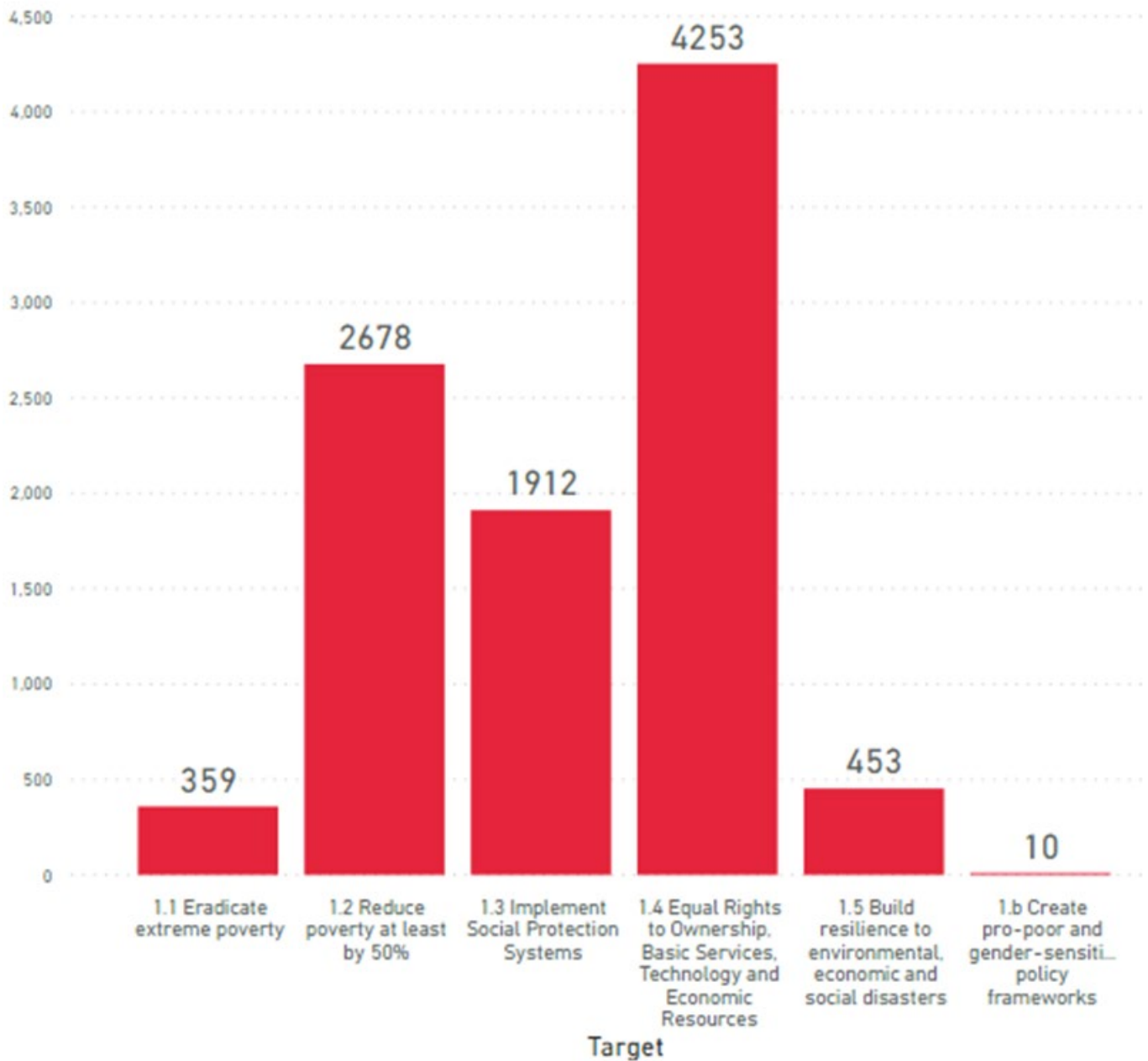


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Right to social security, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\), General Comment, No. 19 \(E/C.12/GC/19\), 2008](#)
- [Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Guiding principles](#)
- [Looking back to look ahead: A rights-based approach to social protection in the post-COVID-19 economic recovery, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty / Special Procedures, unofficial report, 2020](#)
- [The “just transition” in the economic recovery: eradicating poverty within planetary boundaries, UN Special Procedures, Report, 2020](#)
- [Observations by ILO Supervisory Bodies on the ILO instruments \(by convention and by country\), International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), search page](#)
- [Social Security, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Survey, 2011](#)
- [Social Protection Floors, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Survey Recommendation, No. 202, 2012](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 1 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 1 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 1



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 1 by country](#)



2 ZERO
HUNGER



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 2 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. END HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION (TARGETS 2.1, 2.2)

The COVID-19 pandemic is significantly increasing acute hunger in the world. Current estimates are that nearly 690 million people are hungry. FAO's preliminary assessment suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic may add between 83 and 132 million people to the total number of undernourished in the world in 2020.

COVID-19 containment and suppression measures are likely to be less effective among the chronically hungry, and the consequences of their imposition far more severe.

The combined effects of isolation, lockdown, disruption of trade and agri-food value chains, and the suspension of income-generating activities is affecting food security of different populations. For some, such as indigenous peoples from different regions, hunger has been identified as the main effect of the COVID-19 crisis. Also, nearly 369 million children who rely on school meals need to find other sources for daily nutrition.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Countries must take action to meet the immediate food needs of their vulnerable populations while strengthening nutrition-sensitive social protection programmes focusing on the most vulnerable, upholding global and domestic food supply chains and trade, and supporting smallholder farmers' ability to increase food production.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the "Key Human Rights Guidance" for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing [...]

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.2: The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger [...]

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 20.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to maintain and develop their political, economic and social systems or institutions, to be secure in the enjoyment of their own means of subsistence and development, and to engage freely in all their traditional and other economic activities.



2. INCREASE PRODUCTIVITY AND INCOMES OF SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS, ENSURE SUSTAINABLE FOOD PRODUCTION SYSTEMS AND PROPER, FUNCTIONING FOOD MARKETS (TARGETS 2.3, 2.4, 2.C)

The pandemic is affecting the entire food system. Restrictions on movement within and between countries can hinder food-related logistics services, disrupt entire food supply chains and affect the availability of food.

Restrictions on movement cause millions of seasonal workers to lose their livelihoods and pose challenges to food production, thus jeopardizing food security for all people, and especially people living in the poorest countries.

Regional cooperation and cross-border pest and disease monitoring and control activities have been impacted, potentially resulting in substantial losses in crop production. This poses an additional threat to food security.

Lockdown measures have impacted the ability of farmers, farm labourers, farm service providers, extension officers, input suppliers, processors and various other actors in the food system to perform their tasks. It has impacted markets and related services, including transport.

These disruptions translate into lower incomes for already vulnerable smallholder farmers, which then negatively affects their household food security. While some may experience temporary setbacks, the effects on more vulnerable smallholder farmers will be long-lasting.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is essential that countries ensure that COVID-related measures do not disrupt the food supply chain. Food production, marketing and distribution must be declared essential services, humanitarian and nutritional assistance preserved, food security monitoring systems expanded, and relief must reach the most vulnerable.

Mitigation measures must be taken to prevent disruption of crop production and protection systems, and to support smallholder farmers in the short term. Such measures could include deferring credit payments, reducing interest on loans, and establishing price controls on essential inputs. In the medium and long term the aims are to strengthen the resilience of local food systems to similar shocks, invest in agricultural research and development, and promote sustainable production and value chains.

Sustainable recovery also requires rethinking how we produce, process, market and consume food, and how we dispose of waste. This crisis can serve as a turning point to rebalance and transform food systems, making them more inclusive, sustainable and resilient.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.2.:

The States Parties to the present Covenant, recognizing the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger, shall take, individually and through international co-operation, the measures, including specific programmes, which are needed:

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 11.2.a:

To improve methods of production, conservation and distribution of food by making full use of technical and scientific knowledge, by disseminating knowledge of the principles of nutrition and by developing or reforming agrarian systems in such a way as to achieve the most efficient development and utilization of natural resources.

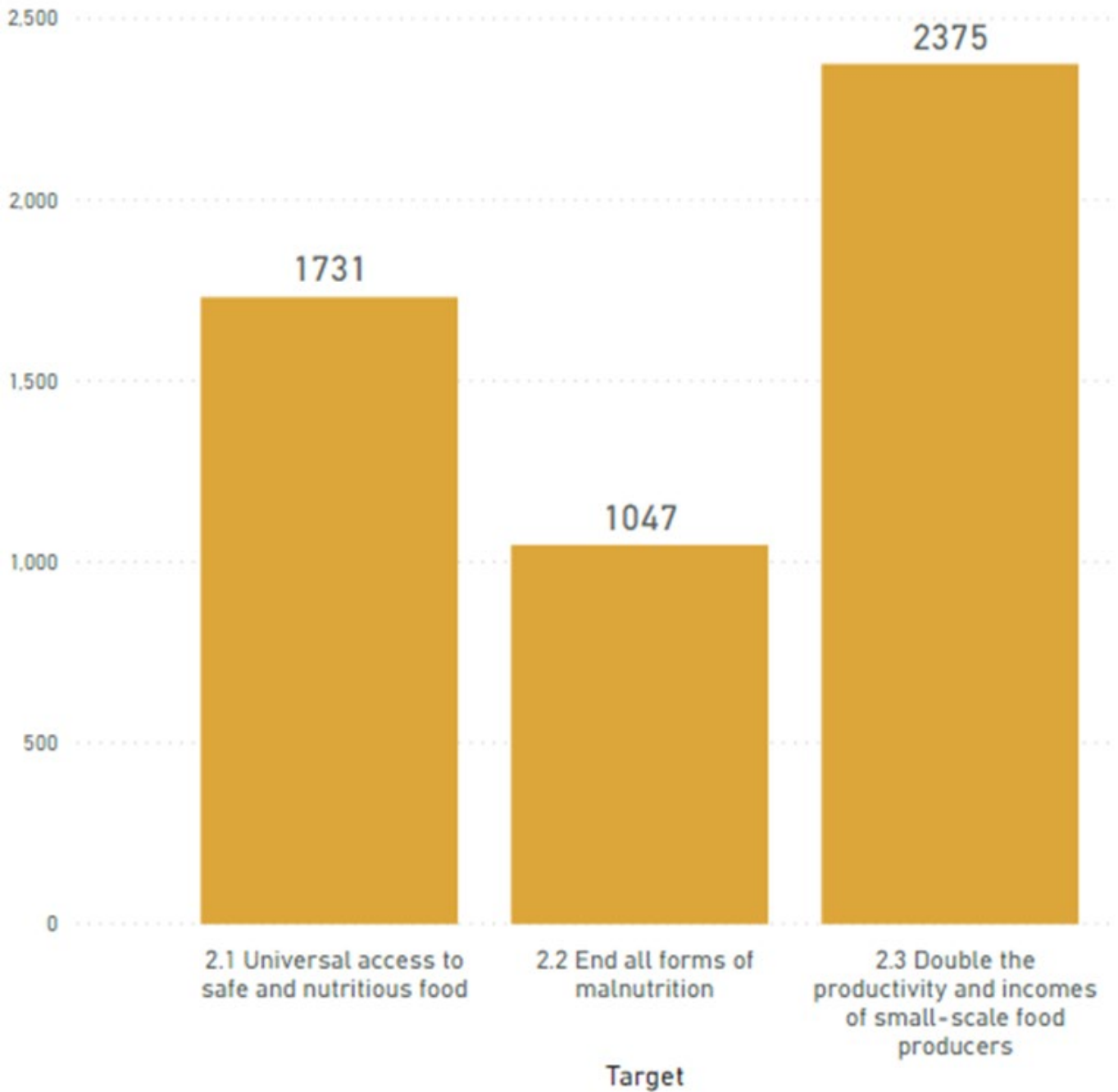


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Right to adequate food, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\), General Comment, No. 12 \(E/C.12/1999/5\), 1999](#)
- [The Impact of COVID-19 on Food Security and Nutrition, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [Global Report on Food Crises, Global Network against Food Crises and Food Security Information Network \(FSIN\), Report, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19: Potential impact on the world's poorest people. A WFP analysis of the economic and food security implications of the pandemic, World Food Programme \(WFP\), Report, 2020](#)
- [Food availability threats due to extreme weather and the COVID-19 crisis, Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\), Guidance, 2020](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 2 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 2 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 2



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 2 by country](#)



3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 3 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. END EPIDEMICS AND NEGLECTED DISEASES (TARGET 3.3)

Ending the COVID-19 pandemic as well as preventing, treating and controlling other epidemics and diseases is essential to the enjoyment of a range of human rights.

The right to prevention, treatment and control of diseases is an integral part of the more general right to health. In this context, inequality plays a significant role in the extent to which different sectors of the population are vulnerable to, or benefit from, measures to combat and control epidemics of communicable diseases. For example, in the current crisis the elderly and persons with disabilities in care settings have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19, including due to the lack of adequate safeguards put in place in these particular settings. Ethnic minorities have also been disproportionately affected due, for example, to their overrepresentation in occupations which put them at risk, to poverty, to residential overcrowding and to other factors.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

All countries must take measures to contain COVID-19 while maintaining attention to other epidemics and diseases. Measures must focus on mitigating negative impacts on the human rights of all, with particular attention to the most vulnerable groups. Non-discriminatory access to testing, treatment and vaccines as well as accurate health information are essential.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 6.1: Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the

enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art 12.2: The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for: (...)

12.2.c: The prevention, treatment and control of epidemic, endemic, occupational and other diseases



2. ACHIEVE UNIVERSAL HEALTH COVERAGE AND ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE MEDICINES AND VACCINES (TARGET 3.8, 3.B)

Inequality of access to healthcare due to prohibitive costs, location of healthcare facilities, discrimination against certain sectors of the population and other factors, has meant that vulnerable sectors of the population have been worse affected by the pandemic than others.

COVID-19 has significantly increased risks and vulnerabilities of those without health insurance/access to healthcare services. At least half of the world population still does not have full coverage of essential health services and about 100 million people are being pushed into extreme poverty because of health costs.

Health systems are being overwhelmed by the COVID-19 outbreak. When health systems collapse, deaths from the outbreak itself can quickly be exceeded by deaths from preventable or treatable conditions, no longer managed by a failing health system. There is a risk that the pandemic response inadvertently affects other epidemics, such as HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is crucial to maintain essential, lifesaving health services even while addressing the pandemic. A full response to the COVID-19 crisis requires wide access to an extensive array of medical products and other technologies, ranging from protective equipment to contact tracing software, medicines and diagnostics, as well as vaccines and treatments.

COVID-19 vaccines must be treated as global public goods, affordable to all and accessible without discrimination. The distribution should be done through transparent protocols that respect human rights. Vaccine nationalism and hoarding must be avoided. The focus must be on ensuring equitable access to vaccines for all with attention to the most vulnerable.

Long-term recovery must aim at strengthening health systems with a focus on primary healthcare, universal health coverage and preparedness for future waves of COVID-19 and other pandemics.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 21.2:

Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 25.1: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art.

12.2: The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:

12.2.d: The creation of conditions which would assure to all medical service and medical attention in the event of sickness.

3. STRENGTHEN CAPACITY FOR EARLY WARNING, RISK REDUCTION AND MANAGEMENT, AND INCREASE HEALTH FINANCING (TARGETS 3.D, 3.C)

The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed gaps in early warning and preparedness systems across the world, including in high-income countries.

The vastly increased demand for healthcare has prompted an acute need for increased health financing, as well as training and protection for millions of doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers around the world. Health workers, the majority of whom are women (70%), are exposed to high risks on the frontline of dealing with the pandemic and often lack basic protection. Many countries were already far below the WHO recommended ratio of nurses and doctors per 1000 people before the surge in healthcare demand caused by the pandemic.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is essential that all countries learn from the pandemic response and strengthen capacities at all levels to foresee, prevent and manage future pandemics and other global risks. Countries must use this watershed moment to invest in health emergency preparedness and critical public services including primary health care and universal health coverage. International finance institutions must provide fiscal and policy space for governments to realize the right to health, as an essential part of recovery and economic sustainability.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 6.1: Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), art. 11: States Parties shall take, in accordance with their obligations under international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, all necessary measures to ensure the protection and safety of persons with disabilities in situations of risk, including situations of armed conflict, humanitarian emergencies and the occurrence of natural disasters.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 27.1: Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 15.1.b: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone: To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications;

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 2.1: Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.

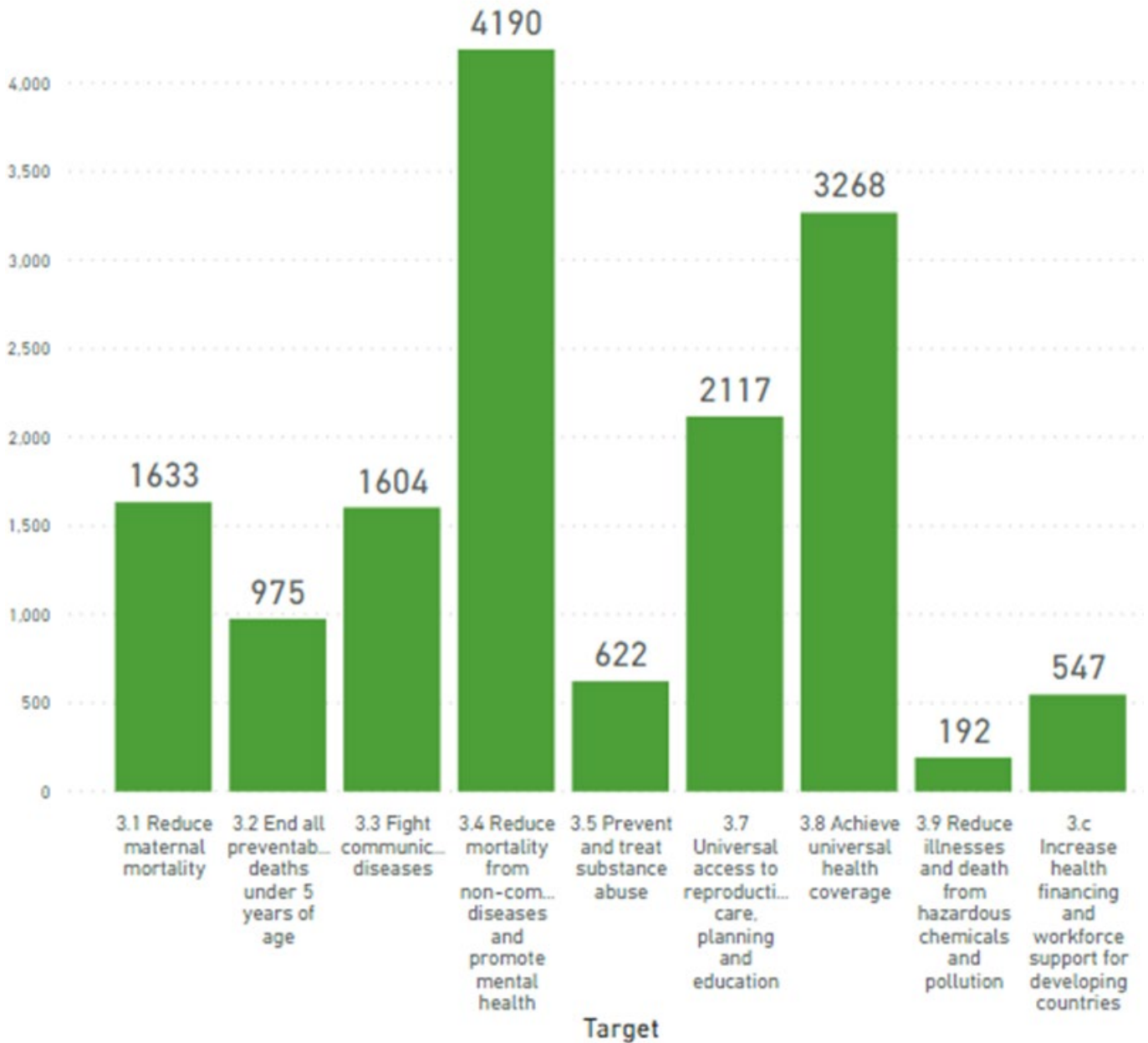


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Universal affordable vaccination against coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\), international cooperation and intellectual property, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), Statement \(E/C.12/2021/1\), 2021](#)
- [Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for All Migrants, UN Committee on Migrant Workers, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Joint Guidance Note, 2021](#)
- [Access to COVID-19 vaccines, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), COVID-19 Guidance, 2020](#)
- [Universal and equitable access to vaccines for the coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\), Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), Statement \(E/C.12/2020/2\), 2020](#)
- [Right to life, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(ICCPR\), General Comment, No. 36 \(C/GC/36\), 2019](#)
- [Right to the Highest Attainable Standard of Health, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\), General Comment, No. 14 \(E/C.12/2000/4\), 2000](#)
- [COVID-19 and Universal Health Coverage, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and minority rights: overview and promising practices, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Right to life-saving interventions with COVID-19, UN Special Procedures, News, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and the rights of people with disabilities, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Guidance on the Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\) pandemic, World Health Organization \(WHO\)](#)
- [Consultative Science Platform, International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis \(IIASA\) and the International Science Council \(ISC\)](#)
- [Global Preparedness Monitoring Board Annual report, World Health Organization \(WHO\) and The World Bank, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Data Futures Platform, United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\), website](#)
- [COVID-19 and the Need for Action on Mental Health, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 Strategic Preparedness and Response, World Health Organization, Plan, 2021](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 3 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 3 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 3



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 3 by country](#)



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 4 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ENSURE FREE, EQUITABLE AND QUALITY EDUCATION (INCLUDING VOCATIONAL TRAINING) FOR ALL (MULTIPLE TARGETS UNDER SDG 4)

The pandemic has undermined and reversed gains in the realization of the right to education on a global scale – and especially in countries where remote learning has not been possible. **More than 90%** of the total number of school children in the world have been directly affected by school closures.

The pandemic is exacerbating pre-existing education disparities by reducing the opportunities for many of the most vulnerable children, youth and adults to continue their learning – including those living in poor or rural areas, girls, refugees, persons with disabilities and forcibly displaced persons.

School closures put adolescent girls at increased risk of different forms of abuse including early and forced marriages and sexual abuse. Past failure to build strong and resilient education systems has opened the door for a dramatic impact on the most vulnerable and marginalized, to which no temporary measure, (high- or low-tech) adopted in haste could have fully responded. Austerity measures and budget cuts to public education systems in many countries have weakened their capacity to cope with the education crisis. There is a risk that economic crises and indebtedness will lead to further decisions to reduce education budgets with negative impacts on education quality and access.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Countries should seek equitable solutions and universal access to education to prevent a learning crisis from becoming a generational catastrophe. This calls for greater focus on equity and inclusion; addressing learning losses and preventing dropouts, particularly of marginalized groups who are falling further behind; supporting the teaching profession; strengthening capacities for risk management, at all levels; strong leadership and coordination; and consultation and communication mechanisms.

Education financing must be protected, and international financial institutions must allow countries the fiscal space to make the necessary investment in public services, including education.

The UN Special Rapporteur on education has pointed to the need to unpack, in each local context, the dynamics at play that have led to increased discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to education during the crisis. It should include an analysis of rising inequalities due to the measures adopted to face the pandemic; an investigation into the sustainability of economic and financial models behind education systems, including the consequences of poor funding of public educational institutions; a scrutiny of the role of private actors in education; an evaluation of the adequacy of social protection provided for education workers, including in the private sector; and scrutiny of



the lack of cooperation between state administrations, educational institutions, teachers, learners, parents and communities.

The UN Special Rapporteur on Education has pointed out that the deployment of online distance learning (together with radio and television), should only be seen as a temporary solution aimed at addressing a crisis. The digitalization of education should never replace onsite schooling with teachers, and the massive arrival of private actors through digital technology should be considered a danger for education systems and the right to education for all in the long term.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 26.1:

Everyone has the right to education. Education shall be free, at least in the elementary and fundamental stages. Elementary education shall be compulsory. Technical and professional education shall be made generally available and higher education shall be equally accessible to all on the basis of merit.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 13.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to education. [...]

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 13.2.a:

Primary education shall be compulsory and available free to all;

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 13.2.b:

Secondary education in its different forms, including technical and vocational secondary education, shall be made generally available and accessible to all by every appropriate means, and in particular by the progressive introduction of free education.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 13.2.d:

Fundamental education shall be encouraged or intensified as far as possible for those persons who have not received or completed the whole period of their primary education.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CPRD), art. 24.1:

States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to education. With a view to realizing this right without discrimination and on the basis of equal opportunity, States Parties shall ensure an inclusive education system at all levels and life long learning directed to:

24.2 In realizing this right, States Parties shall ensure that:

24.2.a Persons with disabilities are not excluded from the general education system on the basis of disability, and that children with disabilities are not excluded from free and compulsory primary education, or from secondary education, on the basis of disability.

2. ENSURE HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION (TARGET 4.7) AS THE FOUNDATION TO SUPPORT SOCIETIES TO BUILD BACK BETTER

The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted the realization of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights alike, and many societies have seen increased stigmatization of certain population groups. The knowledge and skills to claim one's rights and to respect and uphold the rights of others are fundamental to human rights realization. Human rights education is key in this regard, and with its inherent human rights impacts, the pandemic has reinforced the need to prioritize this.

Human rights education is also key to ensuring that institutions and state actors are equipped with the tools and knowledge to protect, respect and promote human rights in the exercise of their professions and can uphold a universal culture of justice, non-violence and equality in recovering from COVID-19.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Human rights education should be embedded in national education policies and school curricula to support future generations to participate in the development of a universal culture of human rights. As schools are key to socialising younger generations, it is equally important to create learning environments characterized by respect and human dignity, where teachers provide students with opportunities for self-expression and participation in decision-making.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the "Key Human Rights Guidance" for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 26.2:

Education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. It shall promote understanding, tolerance and friendship among all nations, racial or religious groups, and shall further the activities of the United Nations for the maintenance of peace.

Declaration on the Rights of Human Rights Defenders, art. 14.1:

The State has the responsibility to take legislative, judicial, administrative or other appropriate measures to promote the understanding by all persons under

its jurisdiction of their civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), art. 29.1:

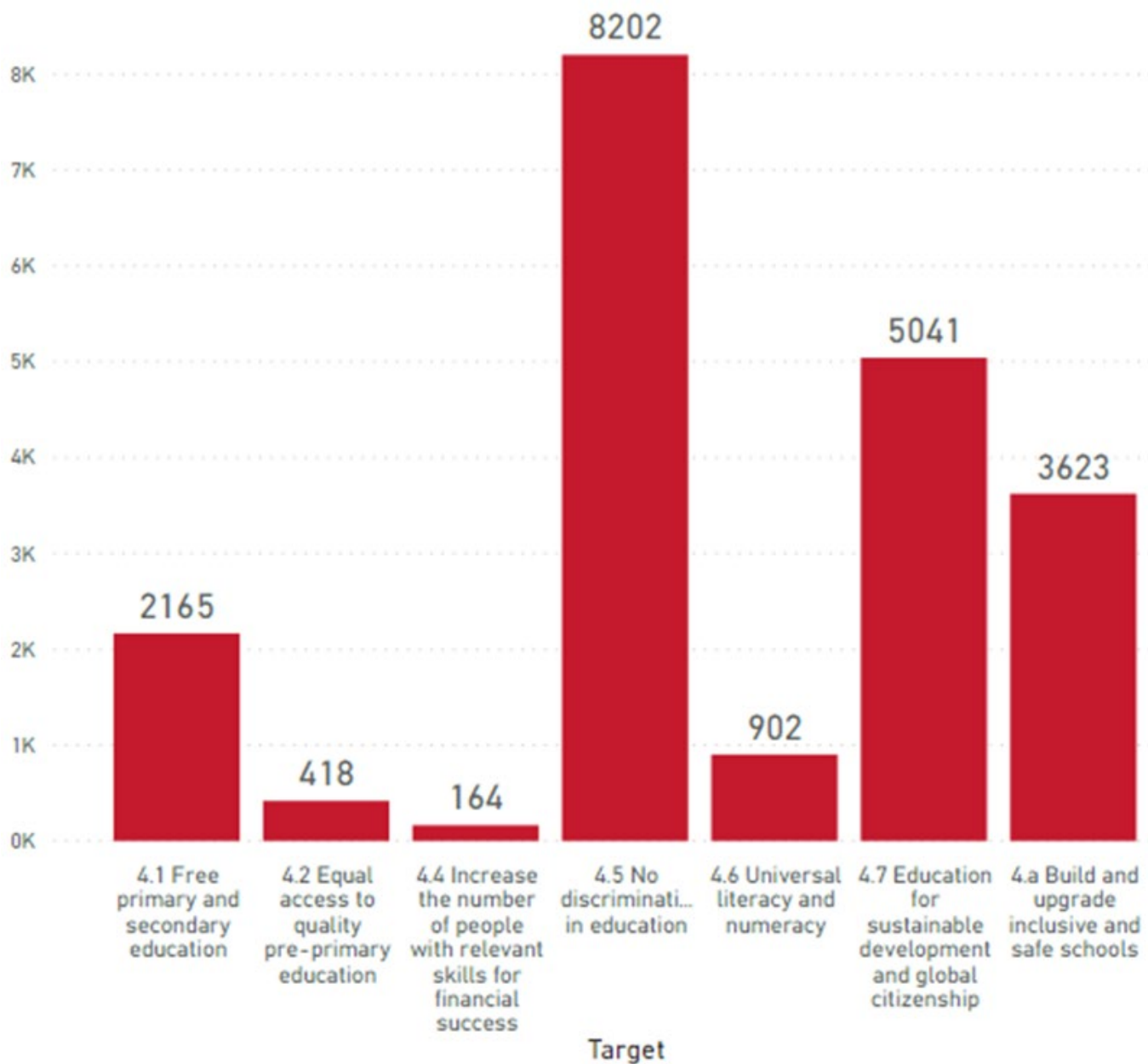
States Parties agree that the education of the child shall be directed to:
29.1.b The development of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and for the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations
29.1.d The preparation of the child for responsible life in a free society, in the spirit of understanding, peace, tolerance, equality of sexes, and friendship among all peoples, ethnic, national and religious groups and persons of indigenous origin;



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the right to education, Human Rights Council, Special Procedures Report, A/HRC/44/39, 2020](#)
- [Children's rights in relation to the digital environment, Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\), General comment No. 25 \(CRC/C/GC/25\), 2021](#)
- [Education during COVID-19 and beyond, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [Addressing the gender dimensions of COVID-related school closures, UNESCO, Issue Note, 2020](#)
- [UNESCO Educational response to COVID-19. From disruption to recovery, United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization \(UNESCO\), website](#)
- [Right to education, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment No. 13 \(E/C.12/1999/10\), 1999](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 4 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 4 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 4



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 4 by country](#)

5 GENDER EQUALITY



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 5 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATION AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS (TARGETS 5.1, 5.2)

Discrimination against women and girls is at the root of gender-based violence. The COVID-19 crisis has deepened gender inequalities as the burden of caring for children at home and for sick or older family members has fallen disproportionately on women, with gender stereotypes still deeply embedded in many societies. This is exacerbated for single working mothers who face intersecting systems of discrimination and disenfranchisement.

COVID-19 related quarantine and isolation policies, coupled with financial stress on families, individuals and communities have resulted in an increase in domestic and gender-based violence. Many women are forced to stay at home with their abusers while services that support survivors are being disrupted or made inaccessible. School closures put adolescent girls at increased risk of different forms of abuse including early and forced marriages, adolescent pregnancy and sexual abuse.

The negative impacts of the pandemic on women are further amplified in contexts of fragility, conflict, and emergencies where social cohesion is already undermined and institutional capacity and services are limited.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is important for national response and recovery plans to prioritize support for women and girls by implementing measures that have proven to be effective. These include but are not limited to: Integrating prevention efforts and services to respond to violence against women in COVID-19 response plans; designating domestic violence shelters as essential services and increasing resources to them, and to civil society groups on the frontline of response; expanding the capacity of shelters for victims of violence by repurposing other spaces, such as empty hotels or education institutions, to accommodate quarantine needs, and integrating considerations of accessibility for all; designating safe spaces for women where they can report abuse without alerting perpetrators, for example in grocery stores or pharmacies; moving services online; stepping up advocacy and awareness campaigns, including targeting men at home.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 3: Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 7: No one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. In particular, no one shall be subjected without his free consent to medical or scientific experimentation.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 2: “States Parties condemn discrimination against women in all its forms, agree to pursue by all appropriate means and without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women and, to this end, undertake:

2.a. To embody the principle of the equality of men and women in their national constitutions or other appropriate legislation if not yet incorporated therein and to ensure, through law and other appropriate means, the practical realization of this principle;

2.b. To adopt appropriate legislative and other measures, including sanctions where appropriate, prohibiting all discrimination against women;

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 3: States Parties shall take in all fields, in particular in the political, social, economic and cultural fields, all appropriate measures, including legislation, to ensure the full development and advancement of women, for the purpose of guaranteeing them the exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms on a basis of equality with men.

Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), art. 19.1: States Parties shall take all appropriate legislative, administrative, social and educational measures to protect the child from all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation, including sexual abuse, while in the care of parent(s), legal guardian(s) or any other person who has the care of the child.

2. ENSURE WOMEN'S FULL AND EFFECTIVE PARTICIPATION, EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR LEADERSHIP, AND ENHANCE USE OF ENABLING TECHNOLOGY TO PROMOTE EMPOWERMENT OF WOMEN (TARGETS 5.5, 5.B)

The pandemic has disproportionately affected women and their full and effective participation in society in multiple ways. For example, female job loss rates far exceed male job loss rates globally; unpaid care work has exponentially increased; and violence against women has increased. Altogether, this has led to a major setback for gender equality globally.

The COVID-19 pandemic has made the world rapidly more digital as learning, work, and public services including critical health information moved online in many parts of the world. This has also deepened the digital divide, further leaving behind those without digital access. The digital divide disproportionately affects women as large gender gaps persist in most of the world regarding internet access and use (17% global internet user gender gap). This, among many other factors, prevents women from effectively exercising their rights to participation and to freedom of expression.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is crucial that all national response and recovery plans place the inclusion, representation, rights, social and economic outcomes, equality and protection of women and girls at the centre. Women's equal representation in all response and recovery planning and decision-making must be ensured. Targeted measures must be developed to address the socio-economic impacts and to achieve greater gender equality.

Investments must be made in closing the digital gender divide and ensuring equal access to information and communication technology. Education of women and girls must empower them to participate and lead.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the "Key Human Rights Guidance" for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 27.1: Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 7.b: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against

women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (b) To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 7.c: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right: (c) To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.



3. RECOGNIZE UNPAID CARE AND DOMESTIC WORK THROUGH THE PROVISION OF PUBLIC SERVICES, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES (TARGET 5.4)

Women have faced an exponential increase in the amount of unpaid care work as a result of the pandemic. As women take on greater care demands at home, their jobs are disproportionately affected by cuts and lay-offs. The COVID-19 global recession will likely result in a prolonged dip in women's incomes and labour force participation, with compounded impacts for women already living in poverty.

The situation is worse in developing economies where the vast majority of women's employment (70%) is in the informal economy with limited protection against dismissal and limited access to social protection and paid sick leave.

In the formal economy, care jobs, including teachers and nurses, are underpaid in relation to other sectors. At home, women perform the bulk of care work, which is unpaid and invisible. Both are foundational to daily life and the economy but are premised on and entrench gendered norms and inequalities.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

It is important to apply an intentional gender lens to the design of fiscal stimulus packages and social assistance programmes to achieve greater equality, opportunities, and social protection. Measures can include for example establishing or scaling up cash transfer programmes which reach both women and men, expanded leave policies, unemployment benefits, pensions or child grants.

Sustainable recovery will have to involve transformative change to address the care economy, paid and unpaid, to ensure gender equality and pay equity.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the "Key Human Rights Guidance" for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 7:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 9:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to social security, including social insurance.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art.

14.1: States Parties shall take into account the particular problems faced by rural women and the significant roles which rural women play in the economic survival of their families, including

their work in the non-monetized sectors of the economy, and shall take all appropriate measures to ensure the application of the provisions of the present Convention to women in rural areas.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) (C156) Workers with Family Responsibilities

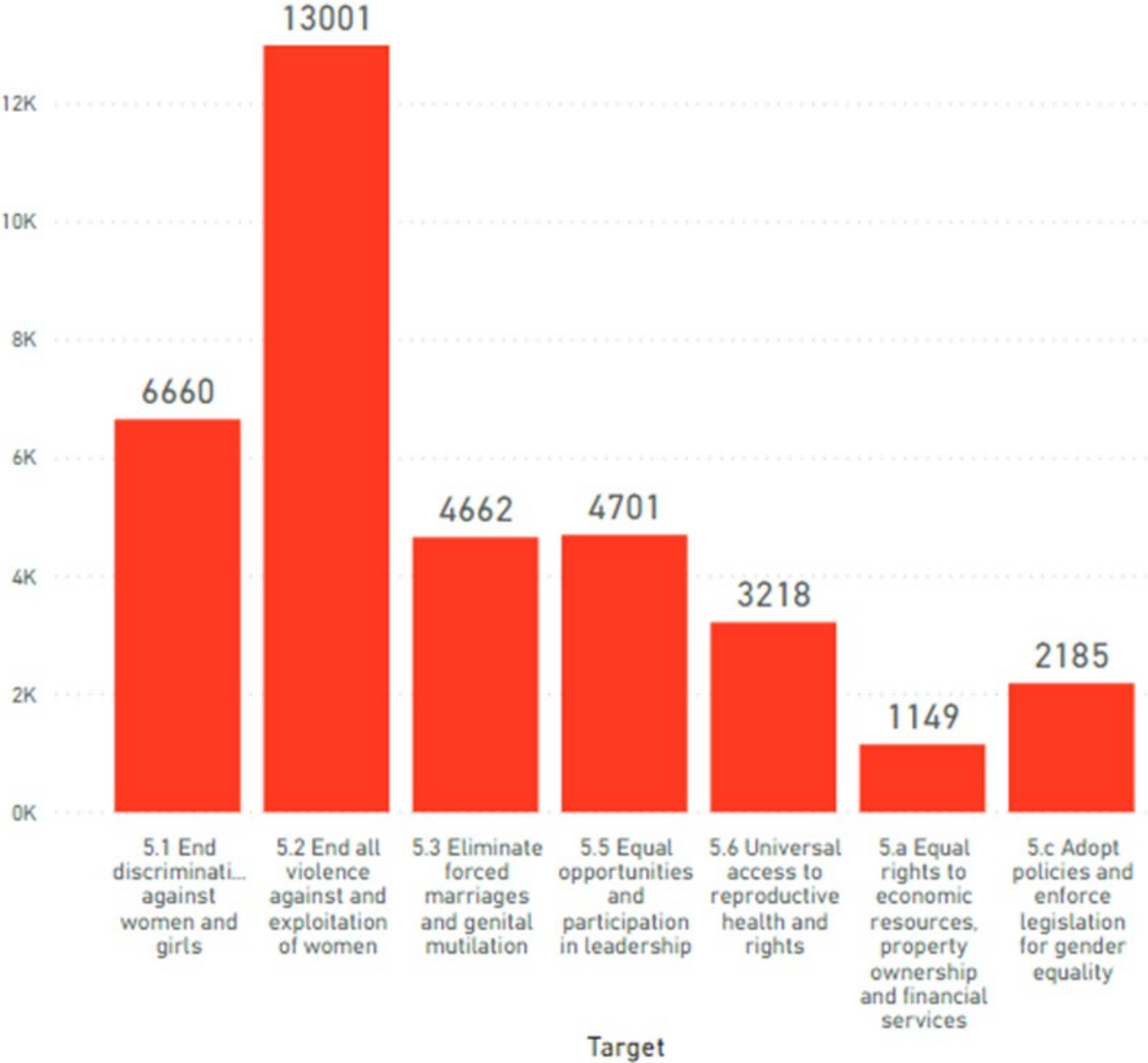
Convention, art. 3: With a view to creating effective equality of opportunity and treatment for men and women workers, each Member shall make it an aim of national policy to enable persons with family responsibilities who are engaged or wish to engage in employment to exercise their right to do so without being subject to discrimination and, to the extent possible, without conflict between their employment and family responsibilities.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [COVID-19 and women's human rights, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Guidance, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and the human rights of LGBT people, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Guidance, 2020](#)
- [ASPIRE Guidelines on COVID-19 response and recovery free from violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity / Special Procedures, 2020](#)
- [The impact and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficked and exploited persons, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children / Special Procedures, COVID-19 Position paper, 2020](#)
- [CEDAW and COVID-19, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\), Guidance Note, 2020](#)
- [Call for joint action in the times of COVID-19, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women \(CEDAW\), Statement, 2020](#)
- [The economic impacts of COVID-19 and gender inequality recommendations for policymakers, United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\), Briefing Note, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19: A Gender Lens. Protecting Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, and Promoting Gender Equality, United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\), Technical Brief, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and Ending Violence Against Women and Girls, UN Women, Brief, 2020](#)
- [Equality of rights between men and women, General Comment, No. 28 Art. 3 \(CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.10\), Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(CCPR\), 2000](#)
- [Equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 16 \(E/C.12/2005/4\), 2005](#)
- [The Impact of COVID-19 on Women, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [Right of the child to freedom from all forms of violence, Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\), General Comment, No. 13 \(CRC/C/GC/13\), 2011](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 5 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 5 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Observations by ILO supervisory bodies on the ILO instruments \(by convention and by country\), International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), search page](#)
- [Resources and cases on gender discrimination, Danish Institute for Human Rights, website](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 5



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 5 by country](#)

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 6 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ACCESS TO CLEAN WATER AND ADEQUATE AND EQUITABLE SANITATION AND HYGIENE INCLUDING THROUGH INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND CAPACITY-BUILDING SUPPORT (TARGETS 6.1, 6.2, 6.A)

Health risks, including the risk of contracting COVID-19, are exacerbated by lack of access to adequate sanitation and clean water. **4.2 billion people do not have safely managed sanitation services**, and **3 billion** lack basic handwashing facilities, and are prevented from adopting basic COVID-19 prevention and safety measures such as handwashing. COVID-19 has highlighted the critical role of adequate investment in basic water and sanitation services including through effective international cooperation and capacity-building support.

Inequality is a key consideration for the achievement of access to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all. Communities and groups subject to structural discrimination and disadvantage often lack basic amenities such as access to water and sanitation facilities, soap and sanitiser.

Women-headed households face increased health risks caused by poor access to clean water and sanitation as they are more likely to have inadequate housing. Children with disabilities and those living in humanitarian settings are often particularly deprived.

Access to clean water and sanitation has been recognized as a human right essential for the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living, the highest attainable standard of health, and the right to life and human dignity.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the critical importance to disease prevention and containment of investing in and expanding access to adequate sanitation, hygiene and clean water.

The minimum, core human rights to water and sanitation must be guaranteed at all times and under all circumstances. This urgent need, magnified by the public health crisis, must be answered with guarantees and safeguards to fulfil the human rights to water and sanitation through policy and legal changes.

Governments should implement or reinstate the policy of prohibiting water cuts as well as cuts to other basic supplies and guarantee a minimum essential amount of water and essential basic supplies to those who face difficulties to pay for those services and supplies.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 11.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), art. 14.2.h: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right: To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), art. 28.2.a: States Parties recognize the right of persons with disabilities to social protection and to the enjoyment of that right without discrimination on the basis of disability, and shall take appropriate steps to safeguard and promote the realization of this right, including measures: To ensure equal access by persons with disabilities to clean water services, and to ensure access to appropriate and affordable services, devices and other assistance for disability-related needs

Besides the right to clean water and sanitation (recognized in UN Resolution 64/292, The Convention of the Rights of the Child (CRC), art. 24.2.c: States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (c) To combat disease and malnutrition, including within the framework of primary health care, through, inter alia, the application of readily available technology and through the provision of adequate nutritious foods and clean drinking-water, taking into consideration the dangers and risks of environmental pollution;

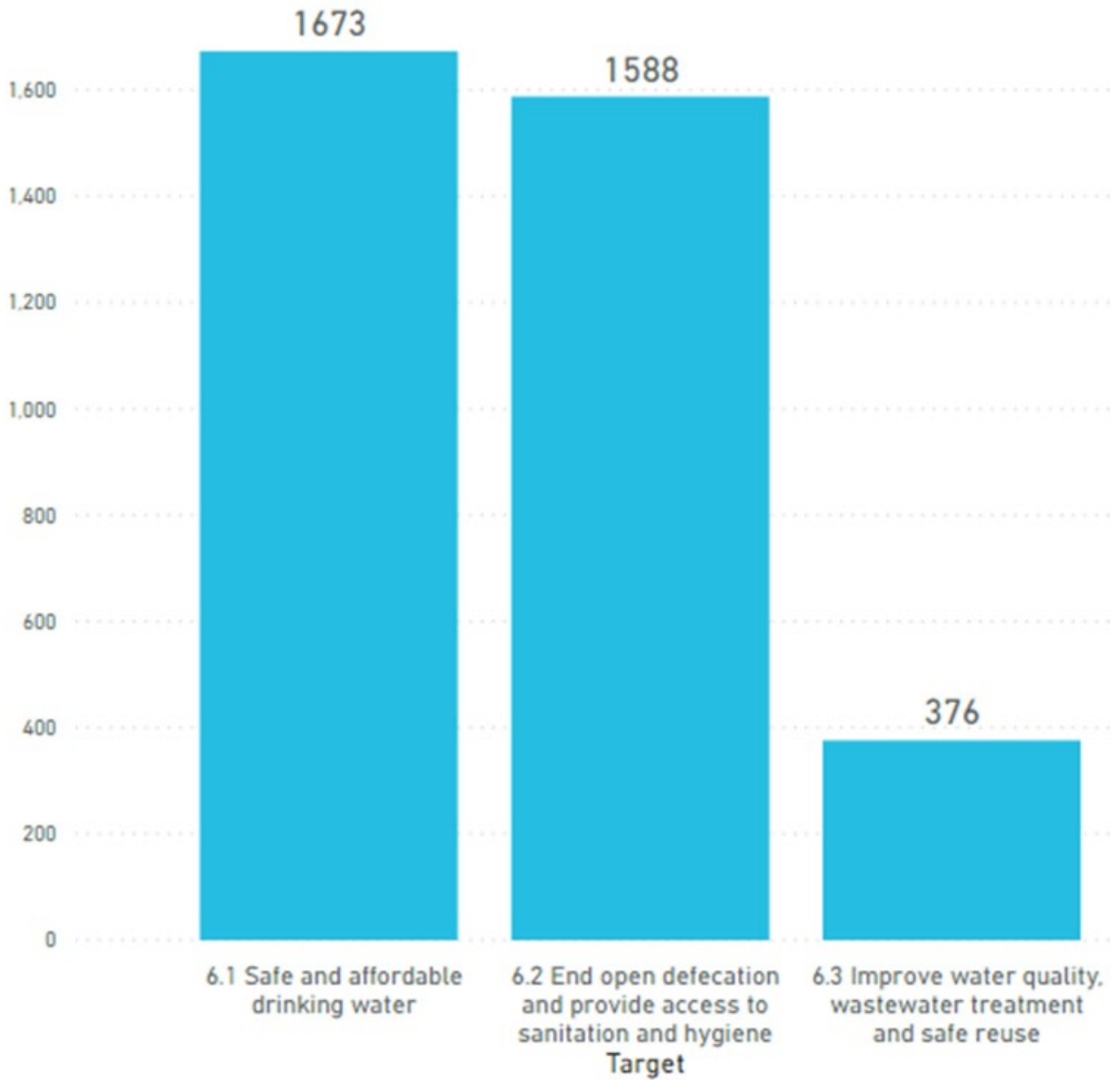


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Human rights and the privatization of water, Special Procedures Report, \(A/75/208\), 2020](#)
- [Water, sanitation, hygiene, and waste management for the COVID-19 virus, World Health Organization \(WHO\) and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund \(UNICEF\), Interim guidance, 2020](#)
- [World Toilet Day 2020, Special Procedures, Joint Statement, 2020](#)
- [Global Hand Hygiene Campaign, World Health Organization \(WHO\), website](#)
- [Key messages on human rights, the environment and COVID-19, human rights at the heart of the response, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\) and United Nations Environment Programme, 2020](#)
- [UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, Special Procedures, Report, 2018](#)
- [Right to water, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 15 \(E/C.12/2002/11\), 2002](#)
- [Resources and cases on water and sanitation, Danish Institute for Human Rights, website](#)
- [UN Water Coronavirus global health emergency, website](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 6 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 6 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 6



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 6 by country](#)



7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 7 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ENSURE ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE, RELIABLE, SUSTAINABLE AND MODERN ENERGY FOR ALL (ALL SGD 7 TARGETS)

The COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the need for reliable energy access, whether for treating patients, storing vaccines, or supplying communities with clean water. **1 billion people are currently relying on health facilities without electricity.** Clean cooking solutions are equally essential to reduce high levels of household air pollution, which increase the risks from COVID-19 respiratory illnesses, especially among women and children. Access to energy is also needed to support adequate access to information through the internet and mobile phones, and at schools.

The world production and consumption of energy is still the largest source of global greenhouse gas emissions contributing to runaway climate change. Current levels of ambition related to renewable energy and energy efficiency do not match the efforts needed to meet the mitigation targets set out in the Paris Agreement.

While the COVID-19 response and recovery plans and large-scale economic stimulus packages constitute a unique opportunity to rapidly accelerate the urgent and necessary transition towards decarbonised, climate resilient energy systems and universal energy access, it is also possible that COVID-19 could derail this transition.

The **Energy Policy Tracker** shows that G20 nations have committed more COVID-19 recovery funds to fossil fuels than to clean energy. Hence, the world is on its way to missing the opportunity to use the massive amount of funds made available to support economies to speed up the needed green transition and achieving SDG 7.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Sustainable recovery must accelerate a shift towards decarbonised energy systems and universal energy access. Governments should invest in sustainable energy solutions to expand energy access, create jobs, improve health, make economies more competitive and resilient, and advance the SDGs.

Sustainable recovery that advances progress towards SDG 7 requires a mix of stronger political will, comprehensive enabling frameworks, long-term energy planning and increased public and private financing including through pandemic stimulus and recovery packages. It also requires removing inefficient fossil fuel subsidies while protecting vulnerable populations.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art 25.1: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family [..]

a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), art.

14.2.: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on

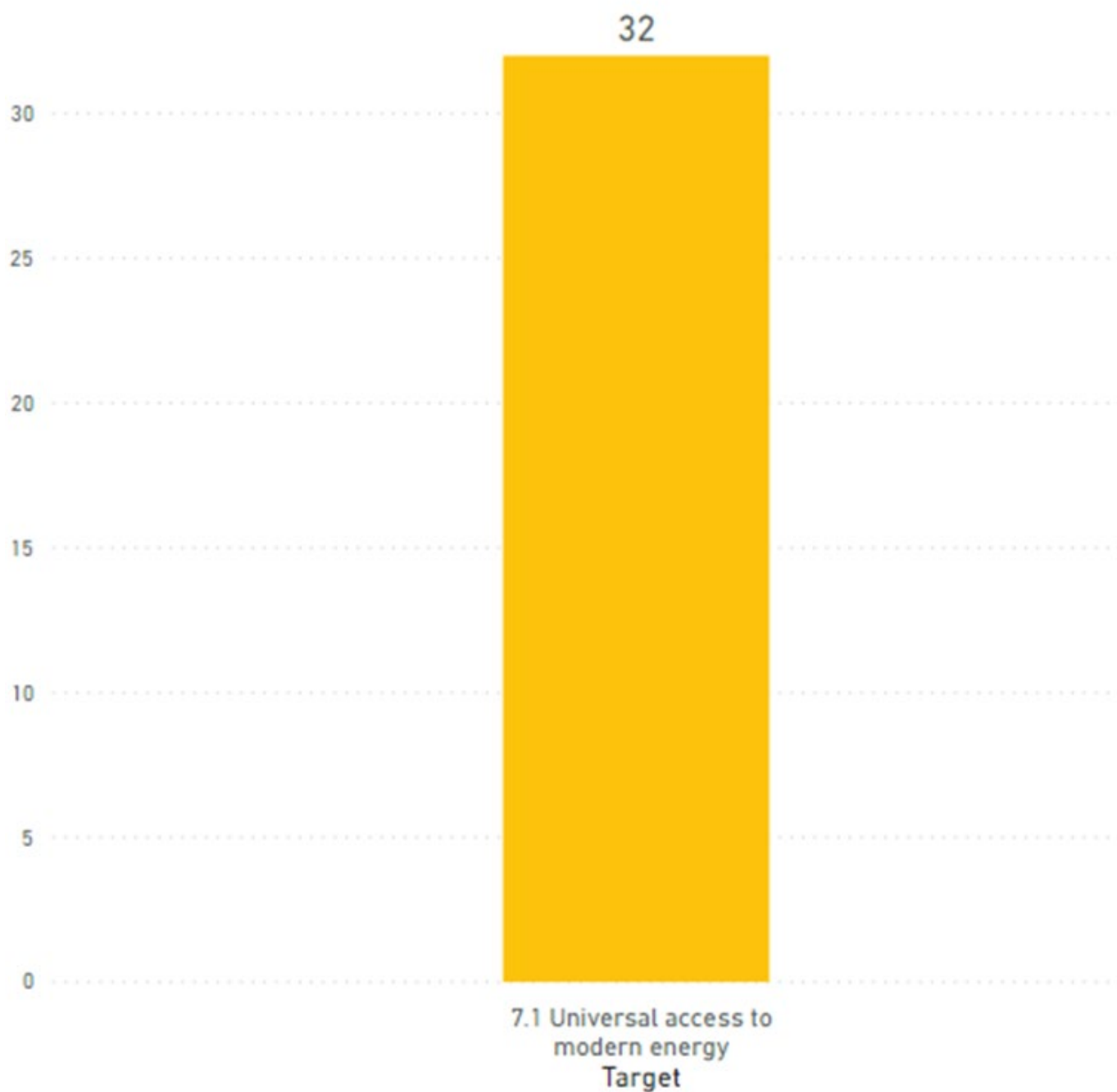
14.2.h To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications”.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Accelerating achievement of SDG7 in the time of COVID-19, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [The “just transition” in the economic recovery: eradicating poverty within planetary boundaries, UN Special Procedures, Report, 2020](#)
- [SDG 7 at the Heart of COVID-19 Response and Recovery, International Renewable Energy Agency \(IRENA\), Statement, 2020](#)
- [The role of energy in COVID-19 response, Sustainable energy for all, website](#)
- [COVID-19 Intensifies the Urgency to Expand Sustainable Energy Solutions Worldwide, World Bank, Press Release launching the Energy Progress Report, 2020](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 7 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 7 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 7



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 7 by country](#)

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 8 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ACHIEVE DECENT WORK FOR ALL, EQUAL PAY FOR WORK OF EQUAL VALUE, REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT, AND SUPPORT ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND INNOVATION (TARGETS 8.3, 8.5, 8.6)

The pandemic has resulted in a global economic recession with historic levels of contraction of per capita income, unemployment and deprivation. The jobs and livelihoods crisis further deepens inequalities in the labour market and disproportionately affects already vulnerable groups without adequate social protections.

Particularly affected have been small and medium-sized enterprises, farm workers, precarious workers in the “gig economy” or the informal sector, refugees and migrant workers. Many of these also represent groups who face discrimination and who have no or limited access to social protection, economic security, sick leave, medical treatment, or to help to cope with lockdown. New business models, such as the platform and gig economy with non-standard employment relationships, also tend to reduce benefits and protection for workers.

Women are more likely than men to be in the most vulnerable segments of the informal economy as domestic workers, home-based workers in the lower tiers of global supply chains, or as contributing family workers. As a result they have few protections against dismissal, and little access to social protection including paid sick leave.

Because of pre-existing gender-based inequalities, women will likely experience more difficulty finding new jobs or entrepreneurship opportunities for their economic recovery.

Women also bear a disproportionate burden in the care economy. Prior to COVID-19, women did, on average, three times more unpaid care work than men, and this responsibility has increased significantly since the pandemic, given school and childcare closures and increased care needs of relatives.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Integrated policy responses aimed at mitigating job and income losses are required. Immediate response measures should include providing income and food support to individuals and their families to compensate the loss of, or reduction in, economic activity, and to preserve employment.

Longer-term measures should include: ensuring access to healthcare and financial protection for all; expanding social protection for workers in the informal economy and facilitating the formalization of informal enterprises to support the creation of decent jobs and contribute to poverty reduction; investing in jobs and livelihoods including creating jobs in emerging, more resilient and sustainable economic sectors; and, looking ahead, preparing the workforce with needed skills. Pay equity is essential to build back more equal.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 6.2: “The steps to be taken by a State Party to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include technical and vocational guidance and training programmes, policies and techniques to achieve steady economic, social and cultural development and full and productive employment under conditions safeguarding fundamental political and economic freedoms to the individual”.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), art. 13.b: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in other areas of economic and social life in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, the same rights, in particular: [...] (b) The right to bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 23.1: “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 23.2: “Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work”

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 23.3: “Everyone who works has the right to just and favourable remuneration ensuring for himself and his family an existence worthy of human dignity, and supplemented, if necessary, by other means of social protection”.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 7: “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize

the right of everyone to the enjoyment of just and favourable conditions of work which ensure, in particular:

7.a Remuneration which provides all workers, as a minimum, with:

7.a.i Fair wages and equal remuneration for work of equal value without distinction of any kind, in particular women being guaranteed conditions of work not inferior to those enjoyed by men, with equal pay for equal work.

7.a.ii A decent living for themselves and their families in accordance with the provisions of the present Covenant;”

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C100 Equal Remuneration Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying countries to ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention defines discrimination as any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C187 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention: This ILO Convention requires ratifying states to promote continuous improvement of occupational safety and health to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths, by the development of a national policy, national system and national programme.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention:

The convention provides for the adoption of a coherent national occupational safety and health policy, as well as action to be taken by governments and within enterprises to promote occupational safety and health and to improve working conditions. This policy shall be developed by taking into consideration national conditions and practice. The Protocol calls for the establishment and the periodic review of requirements and procedures for the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, and for the publication of related annual statistics.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C87 Freedom of Association and protection of the Right to Organise Convention:

This fundamental ILO Convention protects workers' freedom of association and right to organise.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention:

This fundamental ILO Convention concerns workers' right to organise and to collective bargaining.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C29 Forced Labour Convention:

This fundamental Convention requires ratifying states to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms within the shortest possible period.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention:

This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying states to take effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labour.

2. PROTECT LABOUR RIGHTS AND ENSURE A SAFE AND SECURE WORK ENVIRONMENT (TARGET 8.8)

Health and safety at work is a fundamental consideration for all workers in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Many healthcare workers, the majority of whom are women, have been infected as a result of inadequacies in, or shortages of personal protective equipment. Further, numerous categories of low-paid workers such as delivery workers, supermarket staff, refuse collection workers, manual labourers and agricultural workers have been exposed to heightened risks of being infected.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Immediate response measures should include: reducing the exposure of workers and their families to the virus and the risks of contagion and ensuring that those infected have access to healthcare. In the short term, income and employment protection should be accompanied by strengthening occupational safety and health measures and facilitating a safe return to service occupations. Governments and businesses must introduce the necessary protocols, including providing protective equipment, testing and medical care. Work arrangements should be adapted where possible (e.g. teleworking).



Sustainable response and recovery requires preventing discrimination and exclusion, providing health access for all and expanding access to paid leave.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art. 23.1: “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art. 23.4: “Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 87:

Art. 11: “Each Member of the International Labour Organisation for which this Convention is in force undertakes to take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that workers and employers may exercise freely the right to organise”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 98

art. 1. “Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO)

C100 Equal Remuneration Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying countries to ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation)

Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention defines discrimination as any distinction,

exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C187 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention:

This ILO Convention requires ratifying states to promote continuous improvement of occupational safety and health to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths, by the development of a national policy, national system and national programme.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention:

The convention provides for the adoption of a coherent national occupational safety and health policy, as well as action to be taken by governments and within enterprises to promote occupational safety and health and to improve working conditions. This policy shall be developed by taking into consideration national conditions and practice. The Protocol calls for the establishment and the periodic review of requirements and procedures for the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, and for the publication of related annual statistics.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C87 Freedom of Association and protection of the Right to Organise Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention protects workers' freedom of association and right to organise.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C98 Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention concerns workers' right to organise and to collective bargaining.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C29 Forced Labour Convention: This fundamental Convention requires ratifying states to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms within the shortest possible period.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C105 Abolition of Forced Labour Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying states to take effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labour.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C138 Minimum Age Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention sets the general minimum age for admission to employment or work.

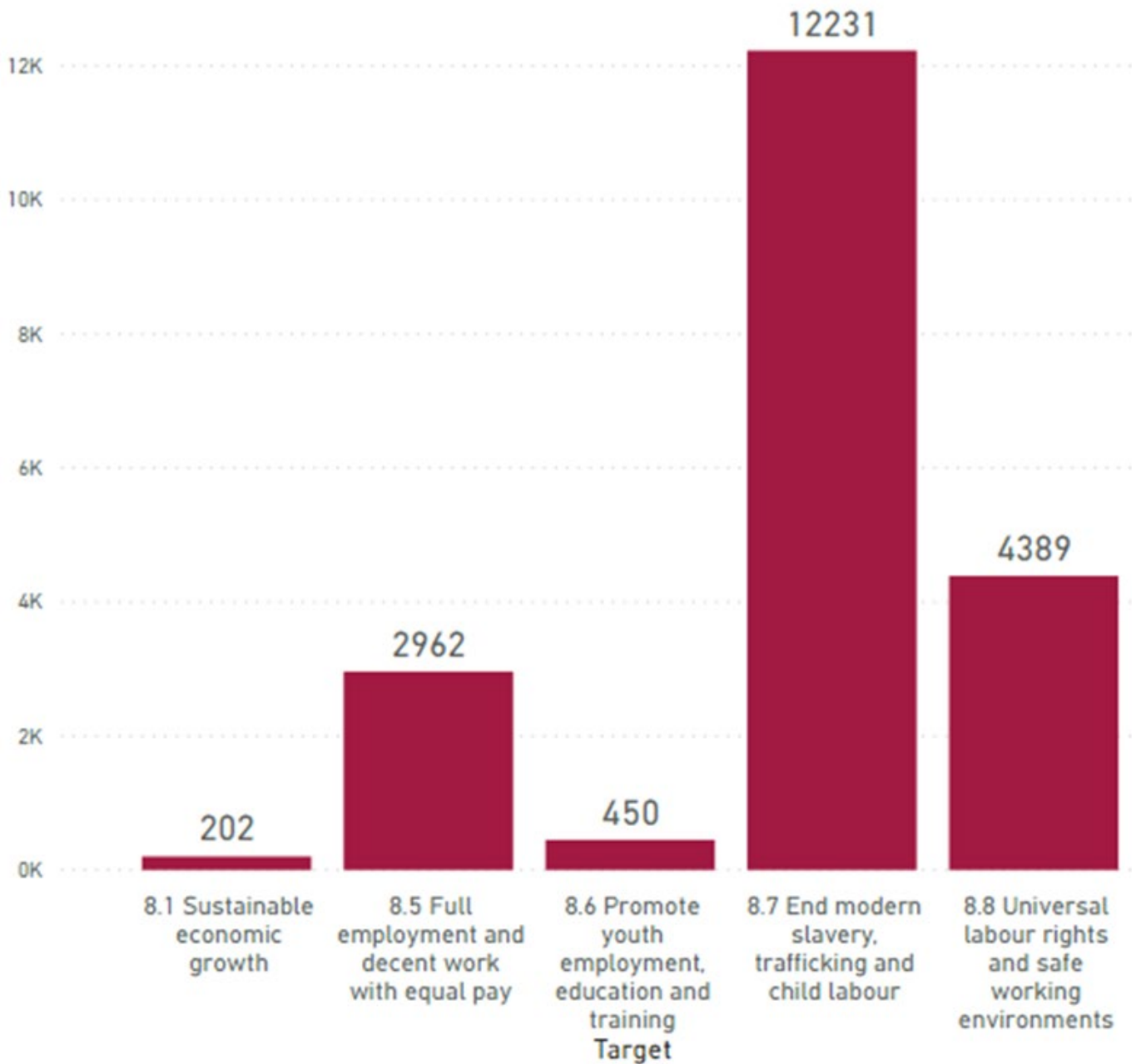
International Labour Organisation (ILO) C182 Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires states to eliminate the worst forms of child labour; to provide direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Right to just and favourable conditions of work, International Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 23 \(E/C.12/GC/23\), 2016](#)
- [Right to work, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 18 \(E/C.12/GC/18\), 2005](#)
- [Updated estimates and analysis on COVID-19 and the world of work, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), Report, 2021](#)
- [Country work policy responses to COVID-19 \(by country\), International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), search page](#)
- [COVID-19 crisis and the informal economy, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), Brief, 2020](#)
- [Application of the Employment Policy Convention, Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations \(CEACR\) and International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Observation, No. 122, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and the human rights of migrants guidance, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families, Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families \(CMW\), General Comment, No. 2 \(CMW/C/GC/2\), 2013](#)
- [Joint Guidance Note on the Impacts of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the Human Rights of Migrants, UN Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and UN Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants / Special Procedures, 2020](#)
- [Business and Human Rights in times of COVID-19, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Human Rights Due Diligence and COVID-19: Rapid Self-Assessment for Business, United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\), Guidance, 2021](#)
- [Fundamental conventions concerning rights at work, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Survey, 2012](#)
- [Observations by ILO supervisory bodies on the ILO instruments \(by convention and by country\) – search page](#)
- [Salient Human Rights Issues on Business and Human Rights, Danish Institute for Human Rights, website](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 8 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 8 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 8



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 8 by country](#)

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 9 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE AND RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE, PROMOTE INCLUSIVE INDUSTRIALIZATION (TARGETS 9.1., 9.2)

The pandemic has revealed the urgent need for resilient infrastructure, which is essential for societies to withstand the impacts of not only pandemics but also climate and natural disasters.

Innovation and technological progress are key to finding lasting solutions to both economic and environmental challenges, such as increased resource and energy efficiency.

Inclusive and sustainable industrialization, together with investment in innovation and infrastructure, can also unleash dynamic and competitive economic forces that generate employment and income, and contribute to human rights realization by, for example, improving living standards and access to services.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

The pandemic poses an opportunity to “build forward better” by investing in critical and resilient infrastructure. Countries should strive to adopt triple-dividend measures that reduce ecological footprint, create jobs for people with lower levels of qualifications and expand access to goods and services, including basic infrastructure for all (for example upgrading and energy-optimising buildings such as schools and hospitals).

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 25.1: “Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family [...]”

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing [...]

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), art. 14.2: “States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right: 14.2.h: “To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications”.



2. INCREASE ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (TARGET 9.C)

The pandemic has accelerated the digitalization of many businesses and services, including teleworking, as well as access to healthcare, education and essential goods and services. This has further left behind those without digital access. While significant progress has been made over the last decade and almost the entire world population now lives in an area covered by a mobile network, close to half of the world population is still without access to the internet.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Efforts must be accelerated to bridge the digital divide with particular attention to closing the gender gap in order to enable the billions of people still without access to the internet to benefit from online access to services including public information and education.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

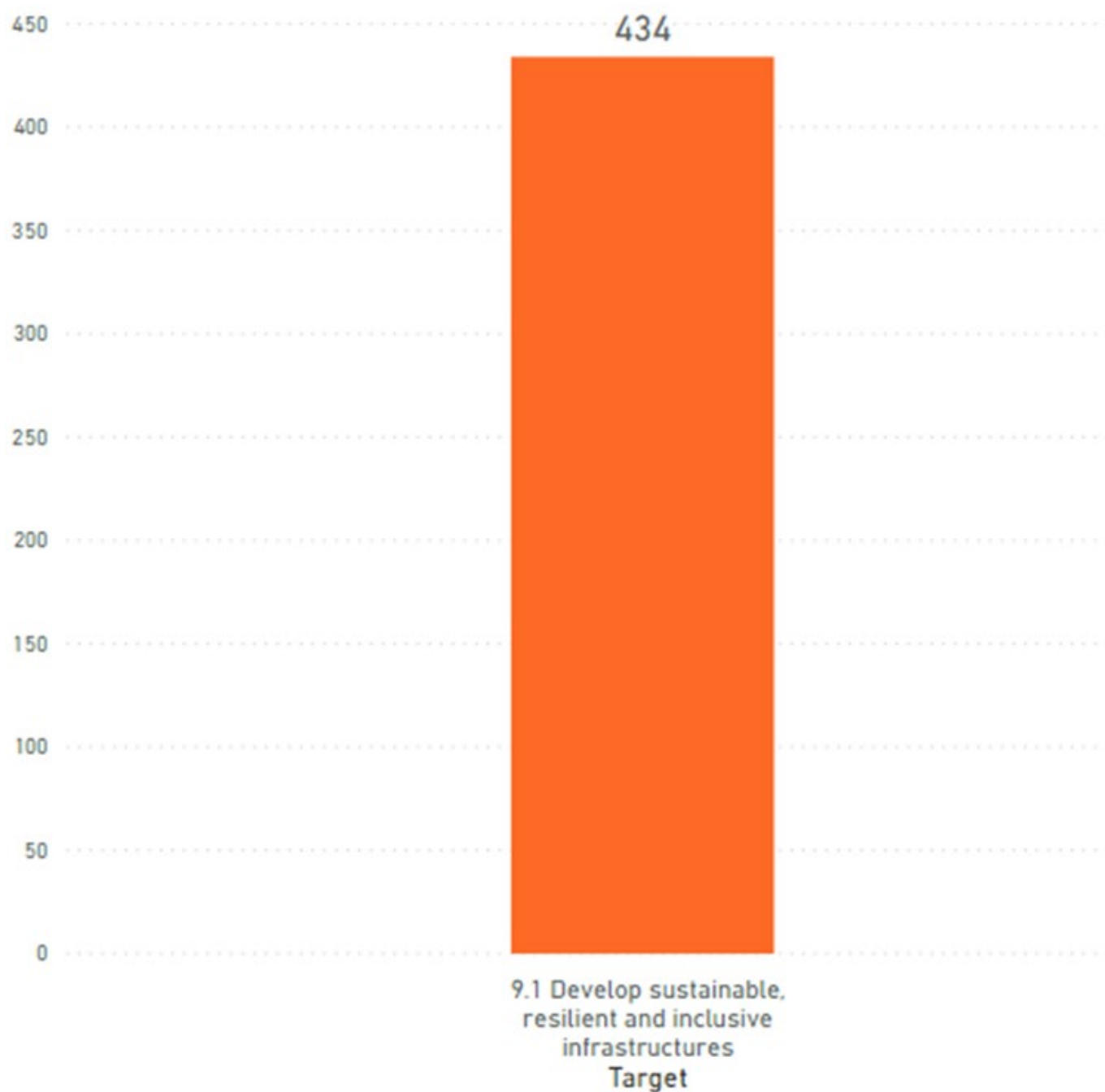
Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art 27.1: Everyone has the right freely to participate in the cultural life of the community, to enjoy the arts and to share in scientific advancement and its benefits.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

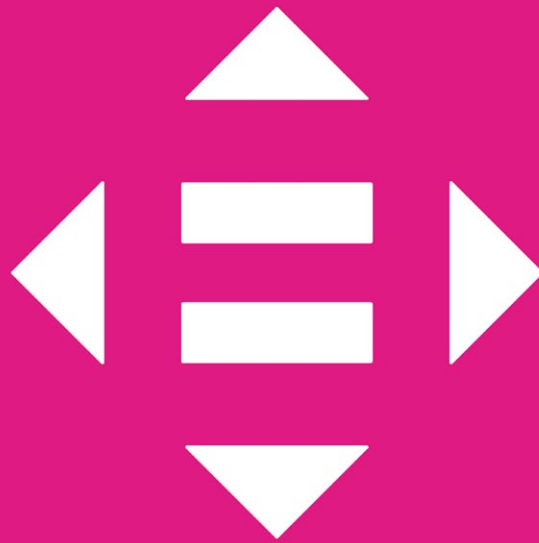
- [The “just transition” in the economic recovery: eradicating poverty within planetary boundaries, UN Special Procedures, Report, 2020](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 9 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 9 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 9



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 9 by country](#)

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 10 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. EMPOWER AND PROMOTE INCLUSION OF ALL, ELIMINATE DISCRIMINATORY LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES, AND ADOPT FISCAL, WAGE AND SOCIAL PROTECTION POLICIES TO ACHIEVE EQUALITY (10.2, 10.3, 10.4)

The virus may be indiscriminate, but its effects are not. Some population groups are disproportionately affected by the pandemic. Often, these populations tend to be the marginalized and excluded; those who depend heavily on the informal economy for earnings; occupy areas prone to shocks; have inadequate access to social services; lack social protection; have low levels of political influence and lack voice and representation; have low incomes and limited opportunities to cope or adapt; and have limited or no access to technology. Such inequalities are often due to discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnicity, religion, migrant status or other forms of discrimination. Moreover, these patterns of discrimination and vulnerability intersect.

The pandemic has exacerbated existing inequalities and further exposed people who are poor and in vulnerable situations to new risks. COVID-19 also puts at risk the limited progress that has been made on gender equality and women's rights over the past decades. The gender gap is widening.

The COVID-19 pandemic has required governments around the world to develop and adopt large-scale fiscal stimulus packages in record short time. Poorly designed fiscal and social protection policies can deepen existing and create new inequalities within countries. Fiscal stimulus has been unevenly distributed worldwide when compared to the scale of labour market disruptions.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Actions to reduce inequality within countries are fundamental and wide-ranging and include: putting human rights at the centre of economic policy and planning; applying macro-economic measures that are proven to reduce inequality; expanding systems for the universal provision of quality public services from birth to old age without discrimination; identifying and empowering vulnerable groups to participate in public dialogue and policymaking; and holding duty-bearers to account for sustainable development and human rights commitments and obligations.

Antitrust and other policies to address imbalances in market powers and the declining income share for workers are important.

Redistribution of wealth through progressive taxation is key to ensuring that the recovery is paid for by those who can best afford it. New principles for international taxation to ensure fair play, to avoid a race to the bottom and to deter tax evasion are important.

International solidarity and cooperation coupled with effective, people-centred, multilateral mechanisms are essential to effectively address inequalities between countries.



Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art 21.2.: Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 22: Everyone, as a member of society, has the right to social security and is entitled to realization, through national effort and international co-operation and in accordance with the organization and resources of each State, of the economic, social and cultural rights indispensable for his dignity and the free development of his personality.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 23.2: Everyone, without any discrimination, has the right to equal pay for equal work.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art 25.1: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Others: Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

(CEDAW), Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC,) International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CRMW), United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) encompass more specific rights and guidance on measures to ensure equal access and opportunity for specific disadvantaged groups.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C100 Equal Remuneration Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying countries to ensure the application to all workers of the principle of equal remuneration for men and women for work of equal value.

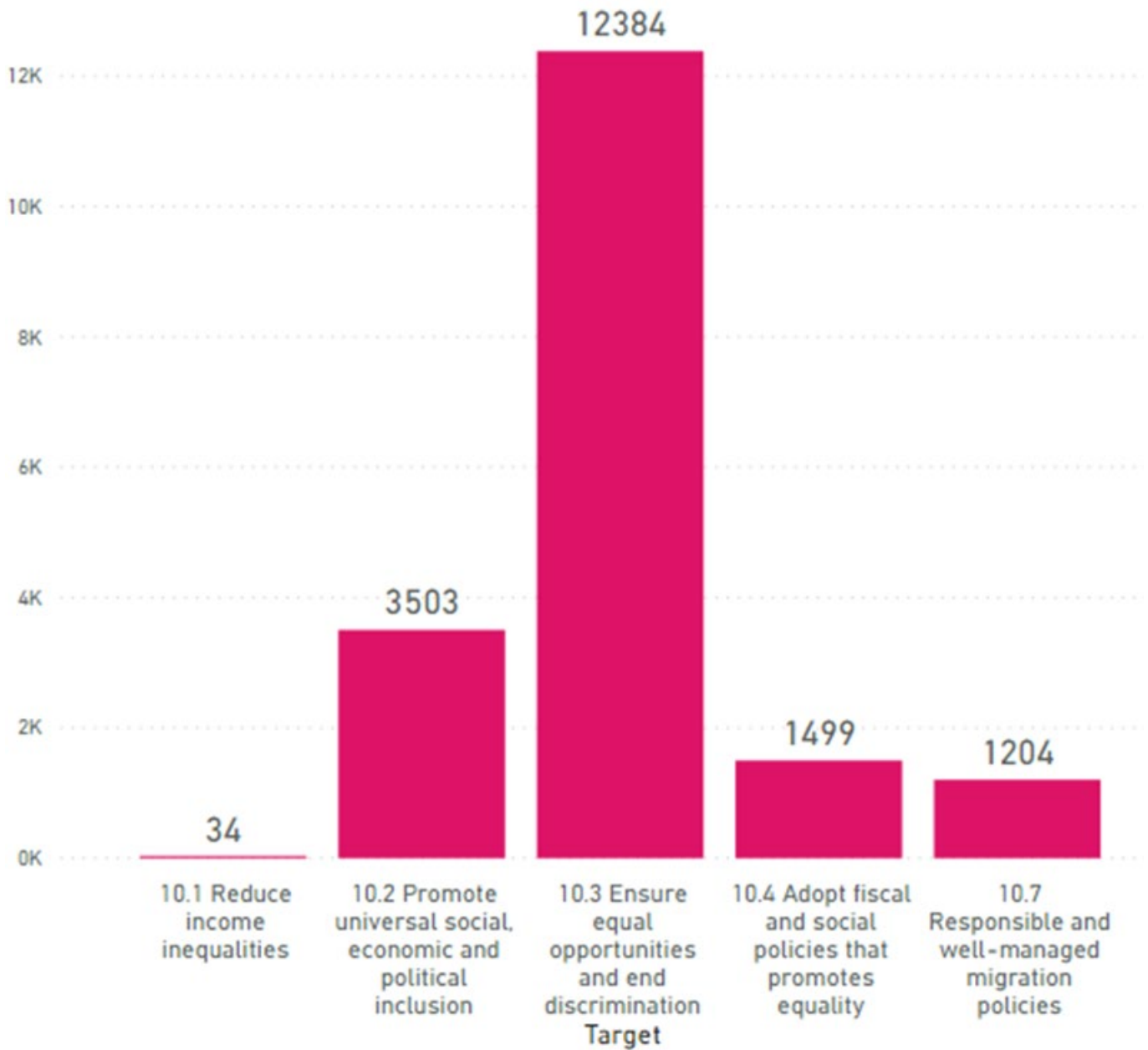
International Labour Organisation (ILO) C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention defines discrimination as any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.

KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Right to life-saving interventions with COVID-19, UN Special Procedures, News, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 challenge for indigenous peoples, Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples \(EMRIP\), Statement, 2020](#)
- [Racial discrimination in the context of the COVID-19 crisis, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Racial equity and racial equality in state action on COVID-19, United Nations Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent, Statement, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and indigenous peoples's rights, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Warning on the grave physical, emotional and psychological effect of the COVID-19 pandemic on children and call on States to protect the rights of children, Committee on the Rights of the Child \(CRC\), Statement, 2020](#)
- [Equality and non-discrimination on persons with disabilities, Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\), General Comment, No. 6, \(CRPD/C/GC/6\), 2018](#)
- [The equality of rights between men and women, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(CCPR\), General Comment, No. 28, Art. 3 \(HRI/GEN/1/Rev.9 \(Vol. I\)\), 2000](#)
- [Equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all economic, social and cultural rights, International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(ICESCR\), General comment, No. 16, Art. 3 \(E/C.12/2005/4\), 2005](#)
- [COVID-19 and minority rights: overview and promising practices, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Equitable Access to COVID-19 Vaccines for All Migrants, UN Committee on Migrant Workers, UN Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Migrants / Special Procedures, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Joint Guidance Note, 2021](#)
- [COVID-19 Population Vulnerability Dashboard, United Nations Population Fund \(UNFPA\), website](#)
- [List of General Recommendations, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\), website](#)
- [List of General Recommendations, Committee on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women \(CEDAW\), website](#)
- [Discrimination in Employment and Occupation\), Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations \(CEACR\) and International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Observation, No. 111, 1958](#)
- [Fundamental conventions concerning rights at work, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Survey, 2012](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 10 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Inequality and the UN Human Rights Mechanisms, Open Global Rights, 2019](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 10 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 10



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 10 by country](#)



BLACK LIVES MATTER

I MATTER

DEFUND POLICE INVEST IN COMMUNITY

JUSTICE FOR GEORGE FLOYD

SVTS

SHAME FREE MESSAGE

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 11 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ENSURE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE, SAFE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING AND BASIC SERVICES (11.1)

The pandemic has exposed deep inequalities in how people live in cities, and how cities serve their residents. The impact of COVID-19 will be most devastating in poor and densely populated urban areas, especially for the one billion people living in informal settlements and slums worldwide, as well as in refugee camps where overcrowding also makes it difficult to follow recommended measures such as social distancing and self-isolation. These areas are typically already underserved by social services and information. Testing, handwashing, self-isolation and quarantine are particularly difficult due to lack of space, water, resources and services.

Cities are hard hit by sharp declines in productivity, jobs and revenues with impacts far beyond city boundaries. Evictions and homelessness have increased significantly during the COVID crisis as a result of the jobs and livelihoods crisis.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

The response should tackle the inequalities and long-term development deficits that have been exposed and have made marginalized groups particularly vulnerable.

Concretely, sustainable recovery that contributes to SDG 11 involves: significant investment in affordable housing and slum upgrading to ensure everyone has access to shelter that facilitates physical and mental health; ensuring uninterrupted and non-discriminatory access to essential public services including health services for all. Local businesses and workers should be supported, to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic.

The capacities of local governments to lead sustainable development should be strengthened. Marginalized communities should be engaged as partners in response efforts and in developing and implementing tailored strategies for local economic development.

Essential to improving life in cities across the world is the recognition that adequate housing and public green space for all are important for the health of planet and people. The pandemic should be used as an opportunity to rethink and future-proof cities by implementing strategies, developed through inclusive processes, to make cities resilient, inclusive, gender-equal and green. This also involves investing in sectors with potential for high ecological and digital transformation and job creation as well as developing and implementing resilience plans to improve preparedness for disasters.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art. 25.1: Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art. 21.2: Everyone has the right of equal access to public service in his country.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), art.

14.2: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in rural areas in order to ensure, on a basis of equality of men and women, that they participate in and benefit from rural development and, in particular, shall ensure to such women the right:

14.2.h: To enjoy adequate living conditions, particularly in relation to housing, sanitation, electricity and water supply, transport and communications.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities (CRPD), art. 9.1: To enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life, States Parties shall take appropriate measures to

ensure to persons with disabilities access, on an equal basis with others, to the physical environment, to transportation, to information and communications, including information and communications technologies and systems, and to other facilities and services open or provided to the public, both in urban and in rural areas. These measures, which shall include the identification and elimination of obstacles and barriers to accessibility, shall apply to, inter alia: **9.1.a:** Buildings, roads, transportation and other indoor and outdoor facilities, including schools, housing, medical facilities and workplaces.

International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CRMW), art.

43.1: Migrant workers shall enjoy equality of treatment with nationals of the State of employment in relation to:

43.1.d: Access to housing, including social housing schemes, and protection against exploitation in respect of rents.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) , art. 21.1:

Indigenous peoples have the right, without discrimination, to the improvement of their economic and social conditions, including, inter alia, in the areas of education, employment, vocational training and retraining, housing, sanitation, health and social security.

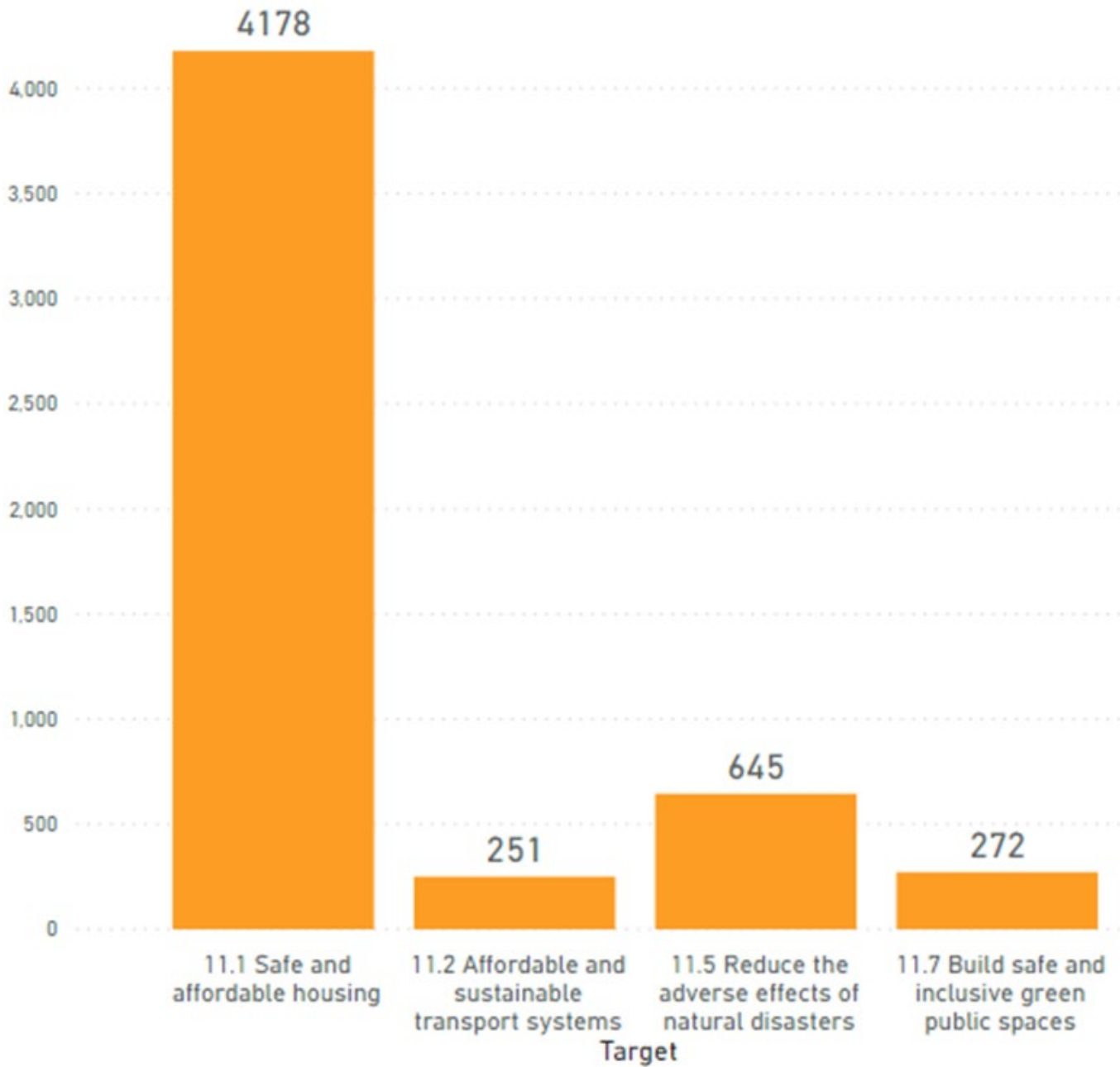


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Protecting residents of informal settlements, UN Special Procedures / Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Guidance Note, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and Public Space, UN-Habitat, Guidance, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 in an urban world, United Nations, Policy Brief, 2020](#)
- [Prohibition of evictions, Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing Special Procedures, Guidance Note, 2020](#)
- [Forced evictions, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 7 \(E/1998/22, annex IV\), 1997](#)
- [Key messages on human rights, the environment and COVID-19, human rights at the heart of the response, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\) and United Nations Environment Programme, 2020](#)
- [Right to adequate housing, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights \(CESCR\), General Comment, No. 7 \(E/1992/23\), 1996](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 11 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 11 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



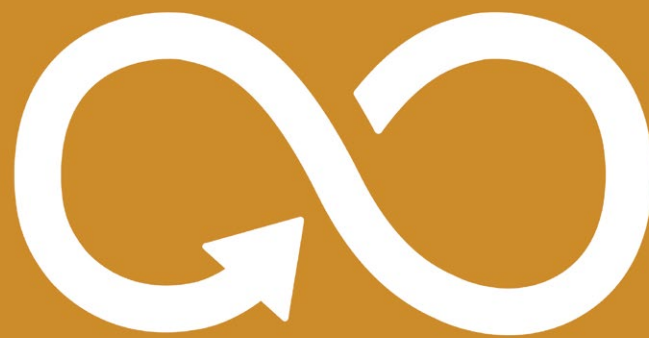
N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 11



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 11 by country](#)



12 RESPONSIBLE
CONSUMPTION
AND PRODUCTION



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 12 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ENSURE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION PATTERNS (TARGETS 12.2, 12.C AMONG OTHERS)

The COVID-19 pandemic occurs amidst a wider planetary crisis and ecological disaster caused by the degradation of natural resources and associated biodiversity loss, which are also increasing pandemic risks. Shifting to sustainable consumption and production and decoupling economic growth from environmental degradation would address the key drivers of ecosystem disruption, biodiversity loss, resource depletion, and climate change. Sustainable consumption and production can also contribute substantially to poverty alleviation and improve worker and public health.

Applying resource efficiency and circularity to the design, sourcing, production and use of products also helps build resilience against future systemic shocks.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

In designing recovery plans and responses to the pandemic, governments and investors should avoid providing stimulus based on business-as-usual. These plans and packages should be designed to sustain the natural resource base and ecosystems that underpin the global economy, while ensuring the protection of vulnerable populations; safe, nutritious food at affordable prices; the creation of green jobs; and a just transition for all.

A transformative COVID-19 recovery must trigger investment, policy and behavioural changes that reduce the likelihood of future shocks and increase society's resilience when they do occur. This also includes phasing out fossil fuel subsidies (SDG target 12.c).

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1.2: All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 26.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 29.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.

2. PROMOTE RESPONSIBLE BUSINESS CONDUCT AND SUSTAINABLE PROCUREMENT PRACTICES (12.6, 12.7)

Responsible business conduct can play a key role in sustainable recovery. However, **studies** have shown that, despite progress, a gap remains between current business practice and what business should be doing to realise the SDGs and respect human rights. **The World Benchmarking Alliance has studied 229 companies** in the extractives, ICT manufacturing, apparel, autos, and agriculture sectors and found that in spite of some positive examples, most companies failed to demonstrate that their response to the pandemic was adequate to limit negative impacts on stakeholders, especially in their supply chains, and to ensure that their rights were respected.

Public procurement can drive sustainable transformation and contribute to fulfilling human rights of workers in supply chains and end users of goods and services. During the pandemic, the purchase of goods and services like personal protective equipment, medicines, ventilators and tracking apps is key to realising patients' right to health and life. The pandemic has also posed specific challenges to sustainable procurement. Procuring under emergency measures to meet massive and urgent needs has meant that normal protections have been suspended. This is often combined with fast and flexible delivery dates which workers are under pressure to meet, causing risks of labour rights abuses of workers producing goods and services. Protecting the right to life and health of populations with limited health budgets, while prices of medical supplies are driven up is another challenge.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Sustainable business conduct is not only the “right thing to do” for people and planet but is increasingly also a good business case, as the market for sustainable products is growing while there are gains to be made from embedding circularity in production.

It is important that businesses comply with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and conduct human rights due diligence, even in times of crisis.

Public procurement practices must be sustainable i.e. prioritize procurement from suppliers who respect the three dimensions of sustainable public procurement: economic, environmental and social (**i.e. human rights**).

Good practices include implementing transparency tools to enable the public to scrutinize public procurement decisions and suppliers (for example through digital platforms with information on suppliers and their supply chains); incorporating human rights standards in tender documents and contracts; issuing guidelines for emergency purchases; including small and medium enterprises and vulnerable groups as suppliers; contracting businesses to expand public infrastructure to ensure access to goods and services.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 23.1: “Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, to just and favourable conditions of work and to protection against unemployment”.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), Art. 23.4: “Everyone has the right to form and to join trade unions for the protection of his interests”.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), Art. 12.1: “The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

Art. 12.2 The steps to be taken by the States Parties to the present Covenant to achieve the full realization of this right shall include those necessary for:

Art. 12.2.b The improvement of all aspects of environmental and industrial hygiene”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 105, Art. 2: “Each Member of the International Labour Organisation which ratifies this Convention undertakes to take effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labour as specified in article 1 of this Convention”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 87: Art. 11: “Each Member of the International Labour Organisation for which this Convention is in force undertakes to take all necessary and appropriate measures to ensure that workers and employers may exercise freely the right to organise”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) 98 Art. 1. “Workers shall enjoy adequate protection against acts of anti-union discrimination in respect of their employment”.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C111 Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention defines discrimination as any distinction, exclusion or preference made on the basis of race, colour, sex, religion, political opinion, national extraction or social origin, which has the effect of nullifying or impairing equality of opportunity or treatment in employment or occupation.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C187 Promotional Framework for Occupational Safety and Health Convention: This ILO Convention requires ratifying states to promote continuous improvement of occupational safety and health to prevent occupational injuries, diseases and deaths, by the development of a national policy, national system and national programme.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C155 Occupational Safety and Health Convention: The convention provides for the adoption of a coherent national occupational safety and health policy, as well as action to be taken by governments and within enterprises to promote occupational safety and health and to improve working conditions. This policy shall be developed by taking into consideration national conditions and practice. The Protocol calls for the establishment and the periodic review of requirements and procedures for the recording and notification of occupational accidents and diseases, and for the publication of related annual statistics.



International Labour Organisation (ILO) C29

Forced Labour Convention: This fundamental Convention requires ratifying states to suppress the use of forced or compulsory labour in all its forms within the shortest possible period.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C105

Abolition of Forced Labour Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires ratifying states to take effective measures to secure the immediate and complete abolition of forced or compulsory labour.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C138

Minimum Age Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention sets the general minimum age for admission to employment or work.

International Labour Organisation (ILO) C182

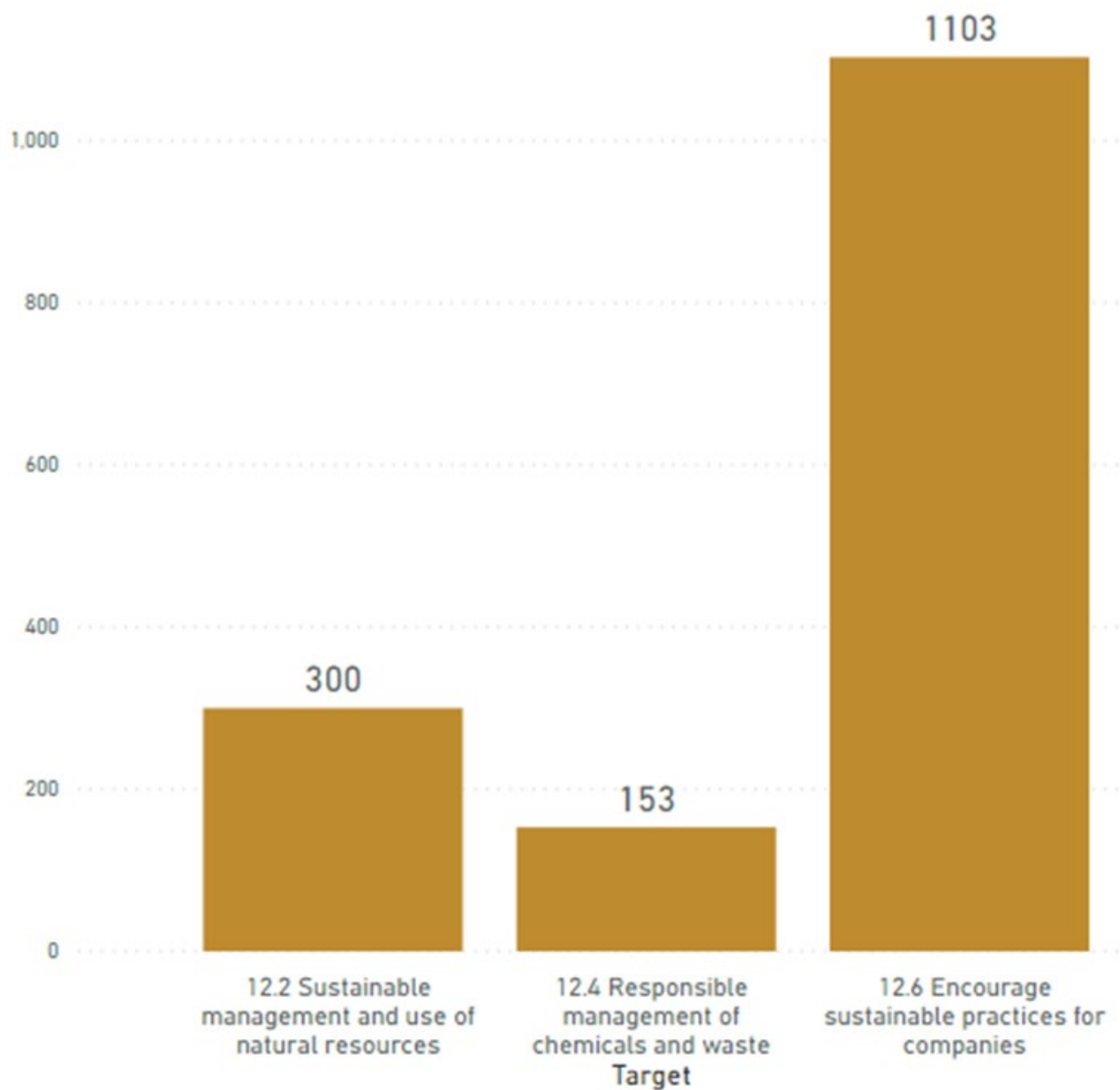
Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention: This fundamental ILO Convention requires states to eliminate the worst forms of child labour; to provide direct assistance for the removal of children from the worst forms of child labour and for their rehabilitation and social integration.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Business and Human Rights in times of COVID-19, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Topics in focus, 2020](#)
- [Human Rights Due Diligence and COVID-19: Rapid Self-Assessment for Business, United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\), Guidance, 2021](#)
- [Driving Change Through Public Procurement, a Toolkit on Human Rights for Procurement Policy Makers and Practitioners, Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2020](#)
- [Fundamental conventions concerning rights at work, International Labour Organisation \(ILO\), General Survey, 2012](#)
- [Salient Human Rights Issues on Business and Human Rights, Danish Institute for Human Rights, website](#)
- [Building resilient value chains post COVID-19 \(SDG 12\), One Planet network, Awareness Raising, 2020](#)
- [World Economic Situation and Prospects 2021, United Nations, Report, 2021](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 12 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 12 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 12



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 12 by country](#)

13 CLIMATE ACTION



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 13 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. TAKE URGENT ACTION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE (MULTIPLE TARGETS UNDER SDG 13).

The COVID-19 pandemic occurs amidst a wider planetary crisis caused by human-induced climate change. Although greenhouse gas emissions briefly dipped in 2020 due to travel bans and economic slowdowns resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, this improvement is only temporary. Climate change is not on pause. As the global economy begins to recover from the pandemic, emissions are expected to return to higher levels. Drastic reductions are needed to avoid the worst consequences of runaway climate change.

The economic stimulus packages have so far not contributed sufficiently to accelerating the necessary transition required to meet the SDGs and the targets under the Paris Agreement on climate change. G20 nations have committed more COVID-19 recovery funds to fossil fuels than to clean energy as tracked by the Energy Tracker Project.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

The recovery from COVID 19 must accelerate the transformation to green and sustainable economies rather than halt or reverse it based on short-term, narrow economic considerations.

To address the climate emergency, pandemic recovery plans need to trigger long-term, systemic shifts that will change the trajectory of CO2 levels in the atmosphere.

The UN Secretary-General has proposed six climate-positive actions for governments to take when building back their economies and societies:

1. Green transition: investments must accelerate the decarbonization of all aspects of our economy.
2. Green jobs and sustainable and inclusive growth.
3. Green economy: making societies and people more resilient through a transition that is fair to all and leaves no one behind.
4. Invest in sustainable solutions: fossil fuel subsidies must end, and polluters must pay for their pollution.
5. Confront all climate risks.
6. Cooperation – no country can succeed alone.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 3: “Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person”.

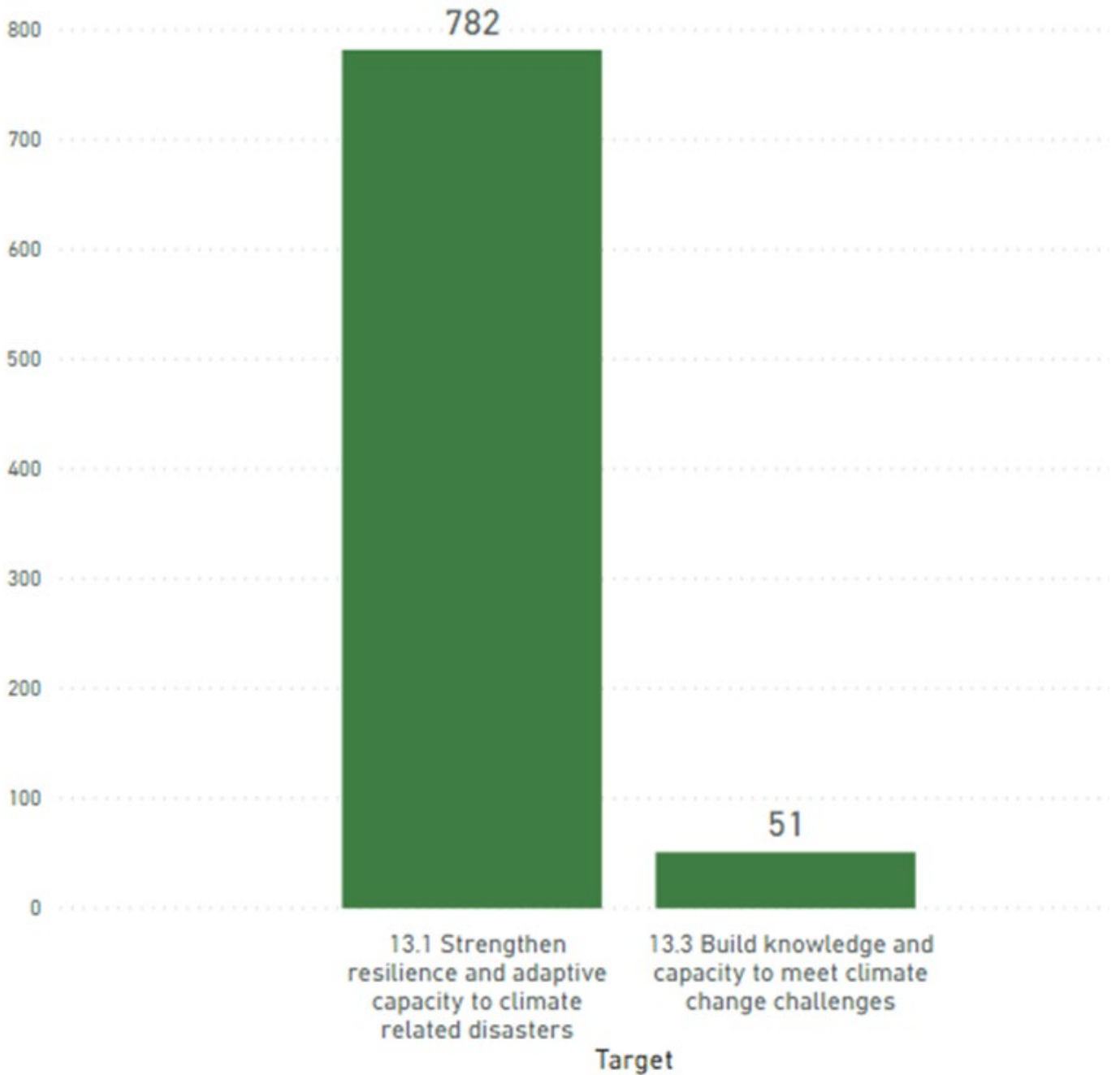
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 6.1: “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life”.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

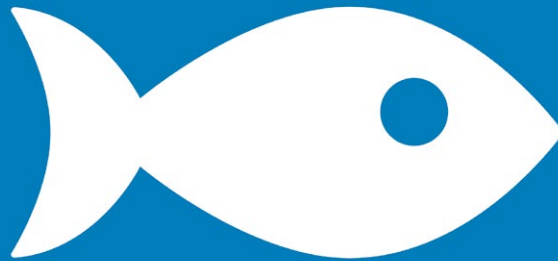
- [Key messages on human rights, the environment and COVID-19, human rights at the heart of the response, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\) and United Nations Environment Programme, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 materials from UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme, website](#)
- [UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, Special Procedures, Report, 2018](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 13 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 13 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 13



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 13 by country](#)

14 LIFE
BELOW WATER



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 14 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. SUSTAINABLY MANAGE AND PROTECT MARINE AND COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS, RESTORE FISH STOCKS AND PRIORITIZE ACCESS FOR SMALL-SCALE FISHERS (TARGETS 14.2, 14.4, 14.B)

The health of the ocean is tied to the health of all people and the planet. Marine environments urgently need breathing space in order to start to recover from decades of unsustainable use.

The protection measures taken by governments to contain the spread of the disease, while necessary, have impacted the entire seafood supply chain. Fishing activities have decreased in both artisanal and industrial sectors with implications, especially for the millions of people directly dependent on fishing for their livelihoods.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Ocean conservation and action should not come to a halt while tackling the COVID-19 pandemic. The pandemic offers an opportunity to start building a sustainable ocean economy to the benefit of all people, and with particular attention to protecting the rights of small-scale fishers whose livelihoods directly depend on ocean resources.

Concrete response and recovery measures that can help small-scale fishers include:

- Better access to loans and credit to allow small-scale fishers and processors (men and women) to invest in safe equipment and increase the local supply of fresh fish.
- Introduce or strengthen national and regional policy and regulation on the role and contribution of fisheries and aquaculture to food security.
- Support the development of safe local markets with decent work conditions.
- Include fishing communities in social protection programmes with a special focus on women.
- Blue economy development must follow a human rights-based approach.
- Seafood companies must identify and address human rights violations throughout their value chains.
- States must strengthen MCS fisheries standards to eradicate slavery and other gross human rights violations in fisheries and protect access rights of small-scale fishers by controlling illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 26.2: Indigenous peoples have the right to own, use, develop and control the lands, territories and resources that they possess by reason of traditional ownership or other traditional occupation or use, as well as those which they have otherwise acquired.

Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP), art. 5.1: “Peasants and other people working in rural areas have the right to have access to and to use in a sustainable manner the natural resources present in their communities that are required to enjoy adequate living conditions, in accordance with article 28

of the present Declaration. They also have the right to participate in the management of these resources”.

Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP), art. 20.1: States shall take appropriate measures, in accordance with their relevant international obligations, to prevent the depletion and ensure the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity in order to promote and protect the full enjoyment of the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Declaration on the Rights of Peasants (UNDROP), art. 13.5: “States, taking into account the specific characteristics of peasant agriculture and small-scale fisheries, shall monitor compliance with labour legislation by allocating, where required, appropriate resources to ensuring the effective operation of labour inspectorates in rural areas”.

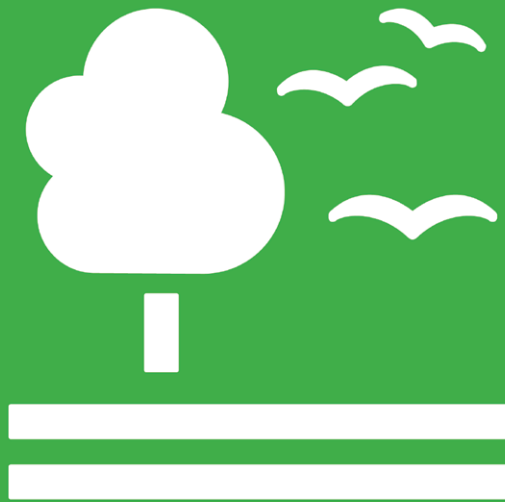


KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Enhancing accountability for small-scale fishers, Danish Institute for Human Rights, Report, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 materials from UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme, website](#)
- [UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, Special Procedures, Report, 2018](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 14 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 14 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)



15 LIFE ON LAND



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 15 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. ENSURE THE CONSERVATION, RESTORATION AND SUSTAINABLE USE OF ECOSYSTEMS, THEIR SERVICES AND THE BIODIVERSITY WITHIN THEM (TARGETS 15.1, 15.2, 15.4, 15.5, 15.9)

The transmission pathway of diseases such as COVID-19, from animals to humans, highlights the extent to which humans are placing pressures on the natural world with damaging consequences for all. The degradation of natural habitats and loss of biodiversity combined with illegal trade in species, and wet markets are creating pathways for future pathogen transmissions and thus zoonoses, making future pandemics increasingly likely.

The United Nations Environment Programme finds that 75% of all emerging infectious diseases in humans are zoonotic and that these zoonotic diseases are closely interlinked with the health of ecosystems.

The degradation of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests, wetlands, mountains and drylands, has impacts on all of humanity and an acute impact on the billions of people who directly depend on these resources for their livelihoods.

Some places have seen accelerated mining and resource extraction to fund response and recovery. This has been shown to increase pressure on indigenous land as well as on land and environmental defenders.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Recovery must involve transformational change to reverse the degradation of the earth's ecosystems and the biodiversity within them. This requires a shift to long-term political commitments to secure human, animal and environment health. It involves building a different economy and is closely interlinked with SDG 12 on sustainable consumption and production and SDG 13 on climate action.

Sustainable recovery must build on long-term commitments to increase resilience to future crises by ensuring healthy environments that support healthy people. Ecosystem and biodiversity values must be integrated into recovery planning and policies. Concretely, this means green fiscal stimulus packages and financing to boost the creation of green and decent jobs; investment in public wealth and social and ecological infrastructure; circularity to advance sustainable consumption and production; responsible finance for climate stability and ecosystems integrity; and socially inclusive outcomes.

Immediate response measures will include dealing with the spike in hazardous waste from personal protective equipment, pharmaceuticals, detergents and disinfectants, etc. through sustainable waste management.

Medium-term response measures should include better mapping of risks from unregulated wildlife trade, habitat fragmentation and biodiversity loss as well as ramping up the monitoring of zoonoses,



and early response to avoid emergency events becoming full-scale epidemics or pandemics. Halting illegal trafficking and trading of wildlife is important. Investments in animal health systems pay off as they avert losses incurred due to responses to zoonoses.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 1.2: All peoples may, for their own ends, freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources without prejudice to any obligations arising out of international economic co-operation, based upon the principle of mutual benefit, and international law. In no case may a people be deprived of its own means of subsistence.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), 12.1: The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 26.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the lands, territories and resources which they have traditionally owned, occupied or otherwise used or acquired.

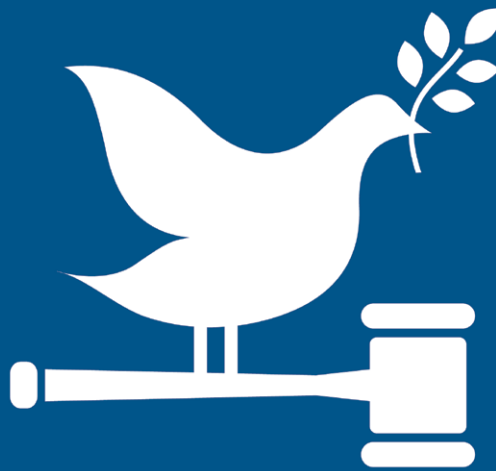
United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP), art. 29.1: Indigenous peoples have the right to the conservation and protection of the environment and the productive capacity of their lands or territories and resources. States shall establish and implement assistance programmes for indigenous peoples for such conservation and protection, without discrimination.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Preventing the next pandemic – Zoonotic diseases and how to break the chain of transmission, UNEP, 2020](#)
- [Human rights, the environment and COVID-19, human rights at the heart of the response, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\) and United Nations Environment Programme, Key Messages, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 materials from UNEP, United Nations Environment Programme, website](#)
- [Working With the Environment to Protect People, UNEP’s COVID-19 Response, United Nations Environment Programme, 2020](#)
- [Decade on Ecosystem Restoration \(2021-2030\), UN Environment Programme and Food and Agriculture Organization \(FAO\), website](#)
- [UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and the Environment, Special Procedures, Report, 2018](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 15 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 15 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 16 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS, AND ENSURE RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE PARTICIPATORY AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING (16.6, 16.7)

The COVID-19 pandemic is challenging public institutions at all levels. Governments and justice actors face daunting responsibilities as they design, implement, and enforce new and ever-evolving measures to curb the spread of infection.

Lockdowns have constrained delivery of public services, including water, electricity, education, healthcare, etc. resulting in weakening of the social contract between governments and citizens and triggering popular protests.

The increased centralization of power in the executive branch and the weakening of the legislature & judiciary increases corruption risks and erodes public trust in governance institutions.

Effective, accountable and transparent institutions are critical to ensuring that adequate safeguards are put in place to protect lives and secure at-risk communities while upholding fundamental freedoms and protecting human rights. Accountability is essential for (re-)building the social contract between governments and citizens, and transparency is key to ensuring trust in pandemic measures.

The COVID-19 pandemic has led to disruptions in democratic processes including elections, and sparked conflict, political polarization, and constitutional crisis.

The pandemic has negatively impacted groups already excluded from decision-making processes such as refugees and migrants.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Rather than delaying or interfering with democratic processes including elections, countries must take measures to ensure safe access to voting venues following WHO advice.

Transparency and accountability around the design and implementation of economic stimulus packages, as well as the public health reasoning/basis for imposed restrictions is key to maintaining or building trust in institutions.

States should create avenues for participation and feedback and reach out to those most at risk and those most likely to be excluded, including women, older persons and persons with disabilities, and ensure that they are engaged and able to participate in policymaking on an equal basis.

States and other stakeholders should ensure that existing channels of civil society participation at local, national and international level, are maintained – and possibly expanded – when shifting to remote meetings and videoconferencing in the COVID-19 context. They should

explore channels for remote participation through secure, cost-effective and accessible online platforms, which can facilitate more systematic outreach to grassroots and civil society organizations.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 21.1: Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 25.a, 25.b, 25.c: Every citizen shall have the right and the opportunity, without any of the distinctions mentioned in article 2 and without unreasonable restrictions:

- (a)** To take part in the conduct of public affairs, directly or through freely chosen representatives;
- (b)** To vote and to be elected at genuine periodic elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret ballot, guaranteeing the free expression of the will of the electors;

(c) To have access, on general terms of equality, to public service in his country.

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), art. 7.b, 7.c: States Parties shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and, in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- (b)** To participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of government;
- (c)** To participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

2. PROMOTE RULE OF LAW AND EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE, INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS (16.3, 16.10)

Pandemic-related emergency orders, laws, regulations and directives are being enacted in haste across the world. In some instances, these measures have weakened the rule of law and led to human rights abuses by security forces and other actors.

Access to justice is threatened by the pandemic in various ways. The need for justice services has increased due, for example, to the increasing number of cases related to social protection payments, evictions, gender-based violence, police violence, disproportionate emergency measures etc. Delays in justice system procedures and closure of courts have impacted access to justice and extended pre-trial detentions. Restrictions on visits to prisons have, in some cases, limited access to legal counsel. Online court sessions pose a challenge to the most marginalized and poorest people without access to the appropriate technologies.

COVID-19 emergency measures have led to an unprecedented wave of restrictions on civic space and fundamental freedoms.

International human rights law recognizes that in the context of officially proclaimed public emergencies – including public health emergencies, which threaten the lives of many citizens– restrictions on some rights can be justified. Those limitations need to comply with international standards, including with regard to proportionality, and must be of a temporary nature.

Some states have gone beyond justifiable restrictions, with negative consequences for civic space and human rights, while also creating additional barriers for already excluded groups. COVID-19 has boosted a trend in many countries of increased government restrictions that target civil society actors and limit their freedoms of mobility, assembly, association and expression.

Throughout 2020, 155 internet shutdowns in 29 countries worldwide were recorded by [Access Now](#), including the longest internet shutdowns on record. These internet shutdowns have become more sophisticated, lasting longer, affecting more people, and targeting vulnerable groups. The internet is an essential element in human rights enjoyment, in particular, the right to freedom of expression and the right to access information.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Emergency measures must be legal, proportionate, necessary and non-discriminatory and respond proportionately to immediate threats while protecting human rights and the rule of law. Emergency powers should be used within the parameters provided by international human rights law, particularly the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which acknowledges that states may need additional powers to address exceptional situations. Such powers should be time-bound and only exercised on a temporary basis with the aim of restoring a state of normalcy as soon as possible.

Any surveillance must be proportionate, lawful and necessary: surveillance measures should be the least intrusive means available to meet public health needs, and as such include clear sunset clauses. Individual surveillance, contact tracing and individual movement tracking should be tightly regulated, with data being used only as strictly necessary to address the public health emergency. Expanded monitoring efforts related to COVID-19 should not fall under the domain of national security and intelligence entities.

States should establish oversight bodies and empower national human rights institutions to monitor response and recovery measures to ensure they are consistent with human rights obligations.

Law enforcement operations, including when carried out during extraordinary measures or a state of emergency, should comply with relevant international norms and standards. States should take measures to prevent human rights violations and abuses associated with the state of emergency being perpetrated by state and non-state actors.

Any allegations of human rights violations, including abuse of power, arbitrary detention, and sexual and gender-based violence by law enforcement and military personnel, must be effectively and promptly investigated and perpetrators brought to justice. This is particularly important in light of the extensive powers granted to law enforcement and military personnel in many countries during the COVID-19 pandemic.

States should pay specific attention to the public health implications of overcrowding in places of detention and to the particular risks to detainees created by the COVID-19 emergency, in assessing appropriateness of detaining individuals.

Sustainable recovery requires countering disproportionate and unjust restrictions on space for civil society, and establishing a new social contract, based on human rights obligations, that rebuilds trust in democratic institutions by eliminating discrimination, promoting meaningful rights-holder participation in policy formulation, planning, implementation and monitoring, and enhancing accountability and protecting fundamental freedoms.

Sufficient information about emergency legislation and measures should be communicated swiftly and in an accessible manner in all official and including all other languages spoken in the country, so the public at large is aware of the new, legal rules and can conduct themselves accordingly.

Measures to regulate misinformation on COVID-19 should be crafted with care, as they may lead to censorship of unpopular or minority opinions.

Attention must be paid to ensuring the safety of journalists and whistle-blowers who raise legitimate concerns about COVID-19 responses.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 19: Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 19.2: Everyone shall have the right to freedom of expression; this right shall include freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas of all kinds, regardless of frontiers, either orally, in writing or in print, in the form of art, or through any other media of his choice.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 21: The right of peaceful assembly shall be recognized. No restrictions may be placed on the exercise of this right other than those imposed in conformity with the law and which are necessary in a democratic society in the interests of national security or public safety, public order (*ordre public*), the protection of public health or morals or the protection of the rights and freedoms of others.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 22.1: Everyone shall have the right to freedom of association with others, including the right to form and join trade unions for the protection of his interests.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 6: Everyone has the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 16: Everyone shall have the right to recognition everywhere as a person before the law.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 7: All are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. All are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of this Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 8: Everyone has the right to an effective remedy by the competent national tribunals for acts violating the fundamental rights granted him by the constitution or by law.

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), art. 2.3.a: Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes: (a) To ensure that any person whose rights or freedoms as herein recognized are violated shall have an effective remedy, notwithstanding that the violation has been committed by persons acting in an official capacity.

Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), art. 10: Everyone is entitled in full equality to a fair and public hearing by an independent and impartial tribunal, in the determination of his rights and obligations and of any criminal charge against him.

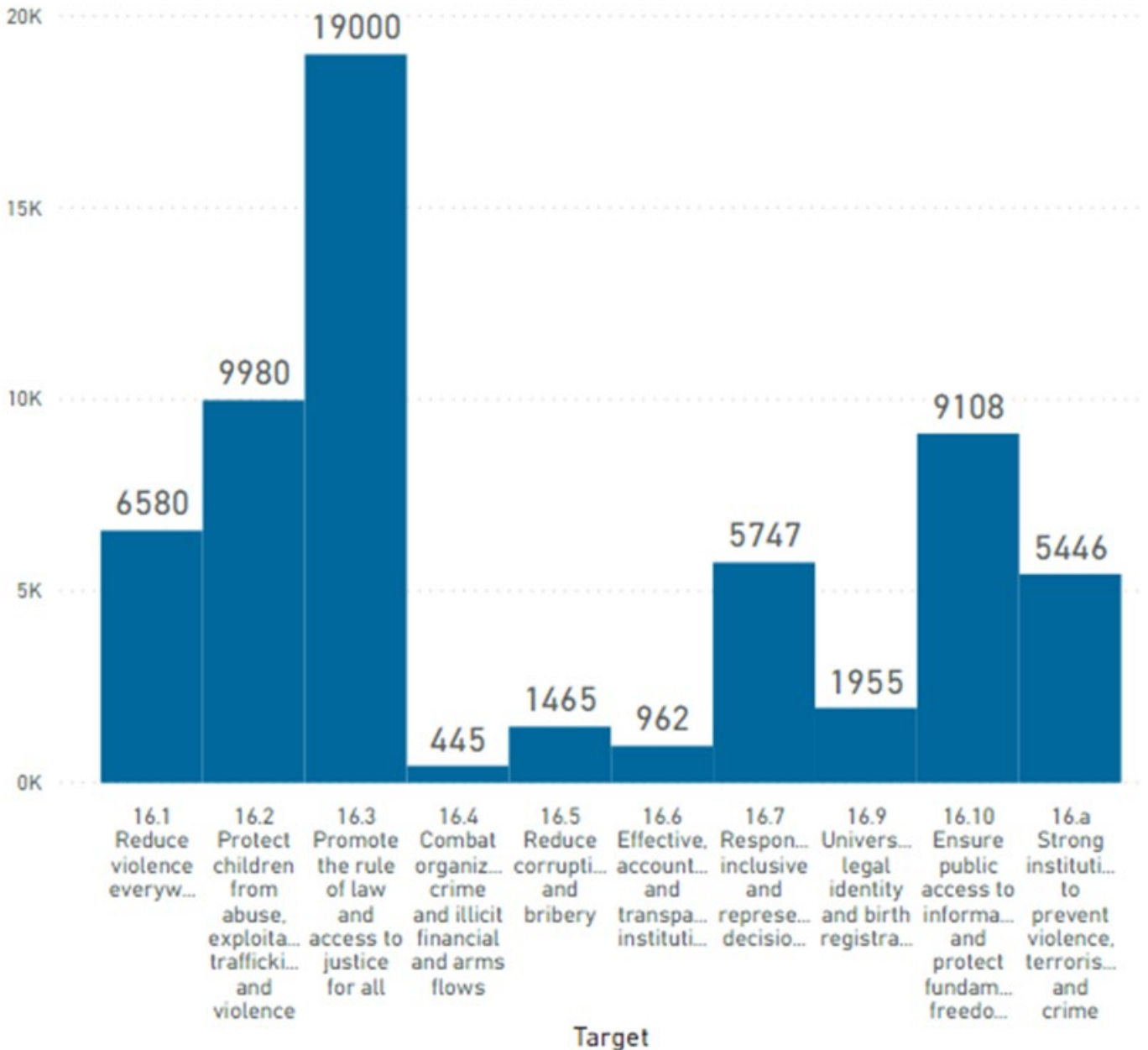
International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), 14.3.b: (b) To have adequate time and facilities for the preparation of his defense and to communicate with counsel of his own choosing.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Emergency measures and COVID-19, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Guidance, 2020](#)
- [Civic space and COVID-19, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), Guidance, 2020](#)
- [Preventing and combating racial profiling by law enforcement officials, Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\), General recommendation, No. 36 \(CERD/C/GC/36\), 2020](#)
- [Challenges for the justice system during the coronavirus emergency, Special Rapporteur on independence of judges and lawyers / Special Procedures, News, 2020](#)
- [Right of peaceful assembly, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights \(CCPR\), General Comment, No. 37 \(C/GC/37\), 2020](#)
- [The impact and consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic on trafficked and exploited persons, Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children / Special Procedures, COVID-19 Position paper, 2020](#)
- [Disease pandemics and the freedom of opinion and expression, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression / Special Procedures, 2020](#)
- [Inter-Agency Standing Committee Interim Guidance on COVID-19: Focus on persons deprived from their liberty, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\) and World Health Organization \(WHO\), 2020](#)
- [National Human Rights Institutions and COVID-19, The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights \(OHCHR\), letter and related guidance, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and youth, United Nations Inter-Agency Network on youth development, Statement, 2020](#)
- [COVID-19 and Enforced Disappearances, Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, Guidelines, 2020](#)
- [Rule of Law and COVID-19, Policy Brief, International Development Law Organization, 2020](#)
- [Violence against Children, Agenda for Action, Inter-Agency Working Group, Guidance, 2020](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 16 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 16 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 16



Explore all [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 16 by country](#)

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



KEY ASPECTS OF SDG 17 RELATED TO COVID-19

1. STRENGTHEN DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION; INCREASE OFFICIAL DEVELOPMENT ASSISTANCE; ENSURE DEBT SUSTAINABILITY; ENHANCE INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION ON SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION (17.1, 17.2, 17.4, 17.6)

COVID-19 recovery that is fair, green and inclusive and involves investment in health, social protection, sustainable infrastructure and crisis preparedness, while directing the economic recovery along a significantly more sustainable and carbon-neutral trajectory and closing the digital divide will require significant resource mobilization.

Domestic resource mobilisation includes the raising of taxes through progressive tax regimes to ensure that states are able to comply with their obligation to raise the maximum available resources for the realization of human rights, including the right to health and the related access to healthcare and social security, which provide crucial services and safety nets in this context.

COVID-19 recovery, especially in low-income countries will require significant resource mobilization including from official development assistance. Yet, aid levels are decreasing, and donor countries have not lived up to their pledge to ramp up development finance.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has demonstrated the importance of strengthening coordination between countries. Sustainable recovery will require better multilateral and regional collaboration on many issues including data, technology innovation and transfer, closing the digital divide, sustainable finance, debt management, and crisis preparedness.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

Progressive taxation is key to financing sustainable recovery. The tax burden needs to shift from low-income households and labour to wealthy individuals and corporations, ensuring that they pay a fair contribution to the provision of public services.

Donor countries must live up to their pledge to ramp up development finance.

Debt restructuring and relief is important for enhancing equality within and between countries and for allowing countries with limited resources to focus on combating the pandemic. International finance institutions must provide fiscal and policy space for governments to realise economic and social rights, as an essential part of recovery and economic sustainability.

Increased international cooperation on science, technology and innovation is not only a moral imperative, for example regarding COVID vaccine development – it is in everyone's interest.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.



EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

(UDHR), art. 28: Everyone is entitled to a social and international order in which the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration can be fully realized.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 2.1:

Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realization of the rights recognized in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 11.1:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize

the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 15.1.b:

The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone: (b) To enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), art. 15.3:

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to respect the freedom indispensable for scientific research and creative activity.

2. ENHANCE GENERATION OF DISAGGREGATED DATA (17.18)

Timely and reliable disaggregated data is critical for the ability to understand who is impacted by the pandemic and how, as well as to measure whether the COVID recovery is reaching and benefitting those left furthest behind in the line for the 2030 Agenda and human rights commitments.

SUSTAINABLE RESPONSE AND RECOVERY ACTIONS

National statistical offices should leverage all sources of data at their disposal and mobilize partners and experts from all sectors of society to implement solutions for the production of timely and disaggregated statistics.

Countries should invest in strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices and other data providers.

Countries with high statistical capacity should offer statistical capacity development support to countries with low capacity.

Countries should adopt a human rights-based approach to data collection. This involves ensuring participation in the data collection

process, especially by the marginalized; data disaggregation to guard against discrimination; self-identification that does not reinforce further discrimination against vulnerable groups; transparency regarding the data collection process; privacy for respondents and maintaining confidentiality of their personal data; and accountability in data collection and use.

Visit the documents and resources listed in the “Key Human Rights Guidance” for more information.

EXAMPLES OF RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND STANDARDS

International Covenant on Civil and Political

Rights Art 2.1: Each State Party to the present Covenant undertakes to respect and to ensure to all individuals within its territory and subject to its jurisdiction the rights recognized in the present Covenant, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights Art 2.2:

The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to guarantee that the rights enunciated in the present Covenant will be exercised without discrimination of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status.

Convention on the Rights of Persons with

Disabilities Art. 4.1: States Parties undertake to ensure and promote the full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all persons with disabilities without discrimination of any kind on the basis of disability. To this end, States Parties undertake:

31.1 States Parties undertake to collect appropriate information, including statistical and research data, to enable them to formulate and implement policies to give effect to the present Convention. The process of collecting and maintaining this information shall:

31.1.a Comply with legally established safeguards, including legislation on data protection, to ensure confidentiality and respect for the privacy of persons with disabilities.

31.1.b Comply with internationally accepted norms to protect human rights and fundamental freedoms and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics.

31.2 The information collected in accordance with this article shall be disaggregated, as appropriate, and used to help assess the implementation of States Parties' obligations under the present Convention and to identify and address the barriers faced by persons with disabilities in exercising their rights.

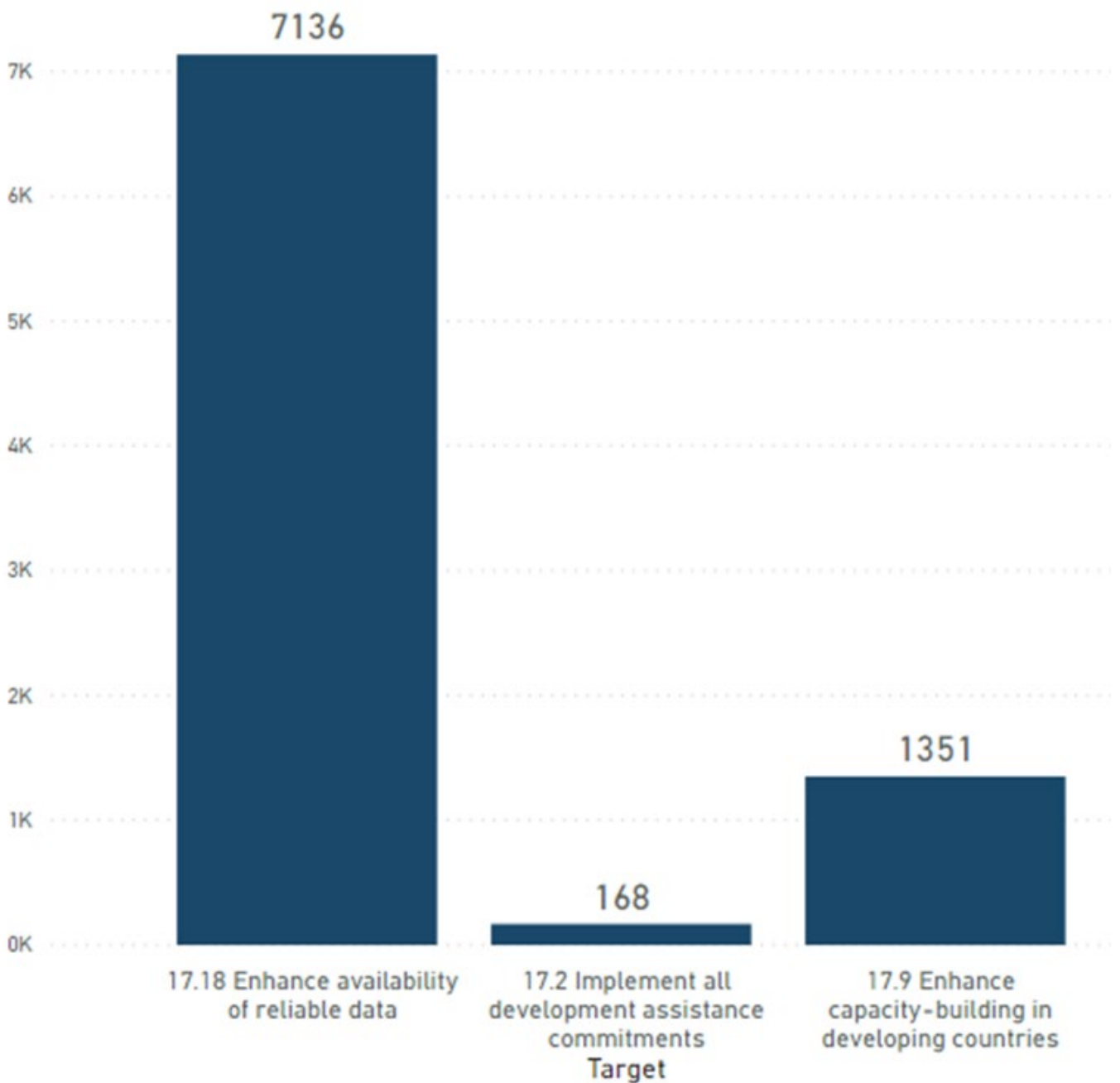
31.3 States Parties shall assume responsibility for the dissemination of these statistics and ensure their accessibility to persons with disabilities and others.



KEY HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDANCE

- [Global solidarity to fight COVID-19, General Assembly, Resolution, A/RES/74/270, 2020](#)
- [Comprehensive and coordinated response to COVID-19, General Assembly, Resolution, A/RES/74/306, 2020](#)
- [Humanitarian concerns and negative impact of unilateral sanctions and their exemptions during the COVID-19 pandemic, Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights / Special Procedures, Guidelines, 2020](#)
- [Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery, United Nations, 2020](#)
- [UN COVID-19 Data Hub, United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs \(UN DESA\) Statistics, website](#)
- [Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2020, Inter-Agency Task Force on Financing for Sustainable Development, Report, 2020](#)
- [Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 17 by country, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)
- [Human rights law and standards linked to SDG 17 by target, Danish Institute for Human Rights, search page](#)

N. of Human Rights Recommendations linked to SDG 17



[Explore all Recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms linked to SDG 17 by country](#)

**THE DANISH
INSTITUTE FOR
HUMAN RIGHTS**