

Distinguished Vice President of ECOSOC,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

[Slide 1- Cover Page]

It is my pleasure to present to you some selected key findings on progress towards SDGs 3, 10 and 16 from *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021*. This report was prepared by UN DESA with inputs from over 50 international and regional organizations, based on data from national statistical systems.

[Slide 2 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages]

Many health indicators were moving in the right direction before COVID-19 emerged. Maternal and child health had improved, immunization coverage had increased and communicable diseases had been reduced. The pandemic, however, has halted or reversed progress in health and poses major threats beyond the disease itself. As of the first quarter of 2021, about 90 per cent of countries are still reporting one or more disruptions to essential health services, and available data from a few countries show that the pandemic has shortened life expectancy.

[Slide 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages]

Health and care workers are on the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic response. This has further constrained the delivery of essential health services, especially for countries with a limited health workforce. According to data from 2013–2019, the density of nursing and midwives in Northern America is over 150 per 10,000 people, compared to 10 in sub-Saharan Africa.

As of today, total reported deaths from COVID-19 about 4 million globally. However understanding the true magnitude and impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been hindered by a lack of data. Globally, only 62% of countries had a death registration system that was at least 75% complete in 2015–2019; the share in countries in sub-Saharan Africa was less than 20%.

To address data challenges, WHO and UN-DESA have convened a Technical Advisory Group to obtain accurate estimates of deaths attributable to COVID-19 and to improve national capacity.

[Slide 4 – Reduce inequalities]

COVID-19 is likely to reverse progress made in reducing income inequality since the financial crisis. It is estimated the average Gini index for emerging economy and developing countries would be increased by 6%.

By mid-2020, the number of people who had fled their countries and become refugees due to war, conflict, persecution, human rights violations and events seriously disturbing public order had grown to 24.5 million, the highest absolute number on record. For every 100,000 persons, 311 are refugees outside their country of origin, more than double from 2010.

[Slide 5 – Peaceful and inclusive societies]

The world is still a long way from achieving the goal of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Between 2015 and 2020, 176,085 civilian deaths were recorded in 12 of the world's deadliest armed conflicts. At the end of 2020, about 1 per cent of the global population, which is 82.4 million people, had been forcibly displaced as a result of persecution, conflict or generalized violence.

The pandemic is disproportionately affecting the most vulnerable worldwide, with children at high risk. Globally, one in three trafficking victims detected in 2018 was a child. At the start of 2020, the number of children engaged in child labour totalled 160 million. The impacts of COVID-19 threaten to push an additional 8.9 million children into child labour by the end of 2022, as families send children out to work in response to job and income losses. Urgently expanding income support and social protection coverage could help offset this rise.

[Slide 6]

For more information, please visit our website for the full report.

Thank you very much.