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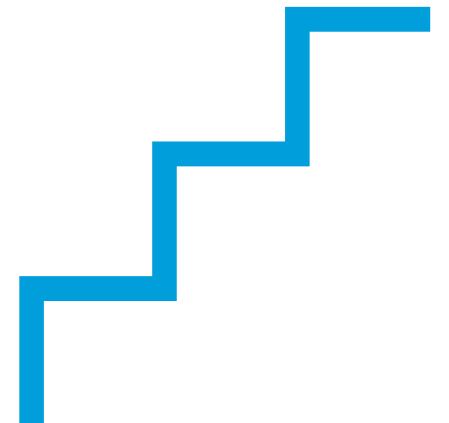
**SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

# **Session 2: Assessing and including the impacts of COVID-19 in VNRs**

Ms. Heather Page, UNSD

Workshop on Preparing Evidence-based Voluntary National Reviews for 2021 HLPF

18-19 January 2021



## Data insight for understanding COVID-19 impacts and ensuring a sustainable and resilient recovery

- The pandemic has abruptly disrupted implementation towards many of the SDGs and, in some cases, turned back decades of progress.
- During the COVID-19 crisis, timely, quality, open and disaggregated data are vital for understanding, managing and mitigating the human, social and economic impacts of the pandemic.
- They can effectively guide decision-making at each step of the pandemic response, from designing short-term response interventions to long-term accelerated actions to put countries back on track to achieve the SDGs

***Leadership and support are needed to ensure statistical organizations have the tools and resources to facilitate timely and smart decision-making.***

***-- António Guterres, Secretary-General, United Nations***

*(The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2020)*

## Reporting Guidelines for 2021 VNRs

### New and emerging challenges

Develop a section to describe how the country is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

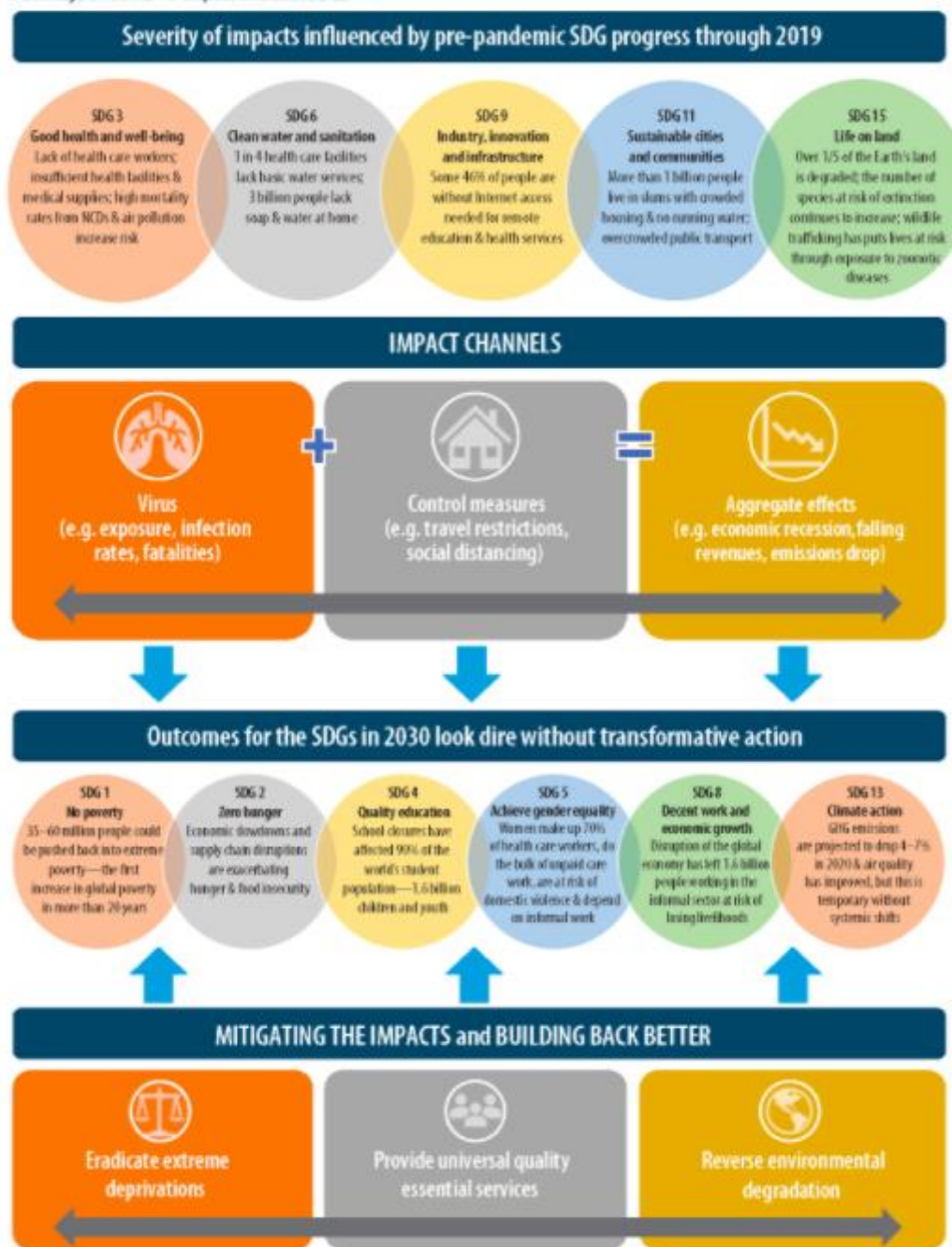
- **Plans for building back better**, ensuring that recovery measures advance the SDGs and strengthen resilience in the social, economic and environmental dimensions;
- **Description of other challenges:** such as drought, hurricanes, famine, migration, violent conflict, the effects of climate change, or the extinction of species as a result of biodiversity loss;
- Beyond assessing negative effects, the section should also be **analytical and forward looking:**
  - addressing any underlying structural frictions;
  - defining future actions needed if faced with another pandemic or similar calamity; and
  - focusing on leaving no one behind.

# COVID-19 has impacted almost all SDGs



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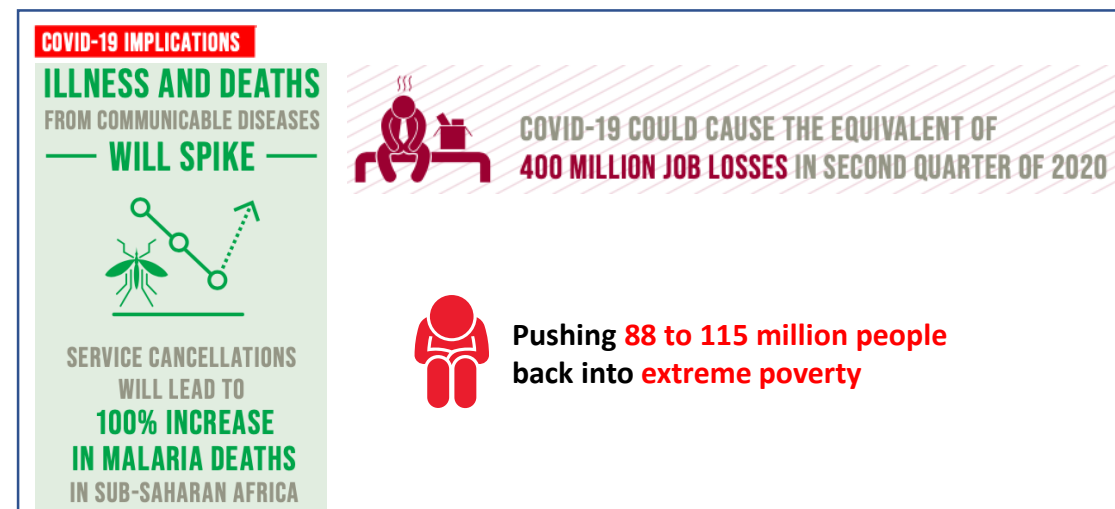
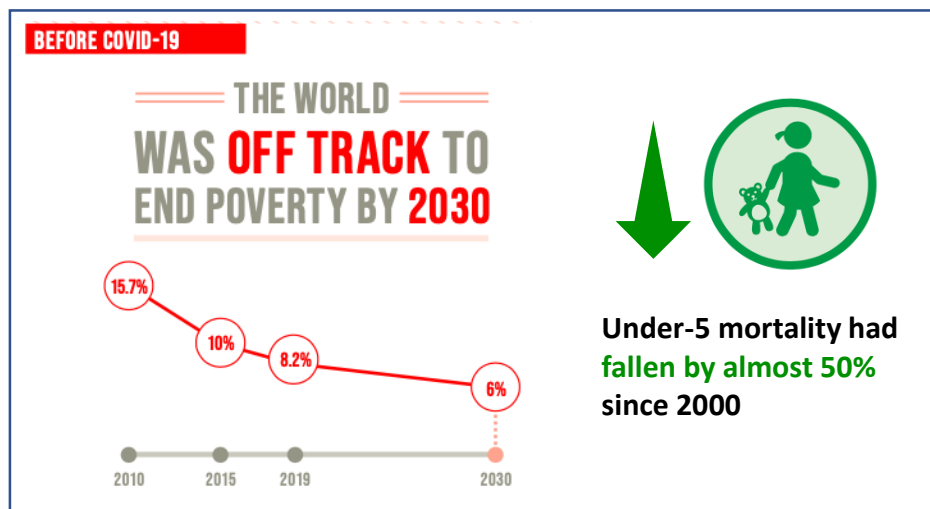
Figure 1  
Pathways of COVID-19 impact on select SDGs\*



\* This figure is indicative. All SDGs are impacted by COVID-19.

## How to Report COVID-19 Impacts in the 2021 VNR

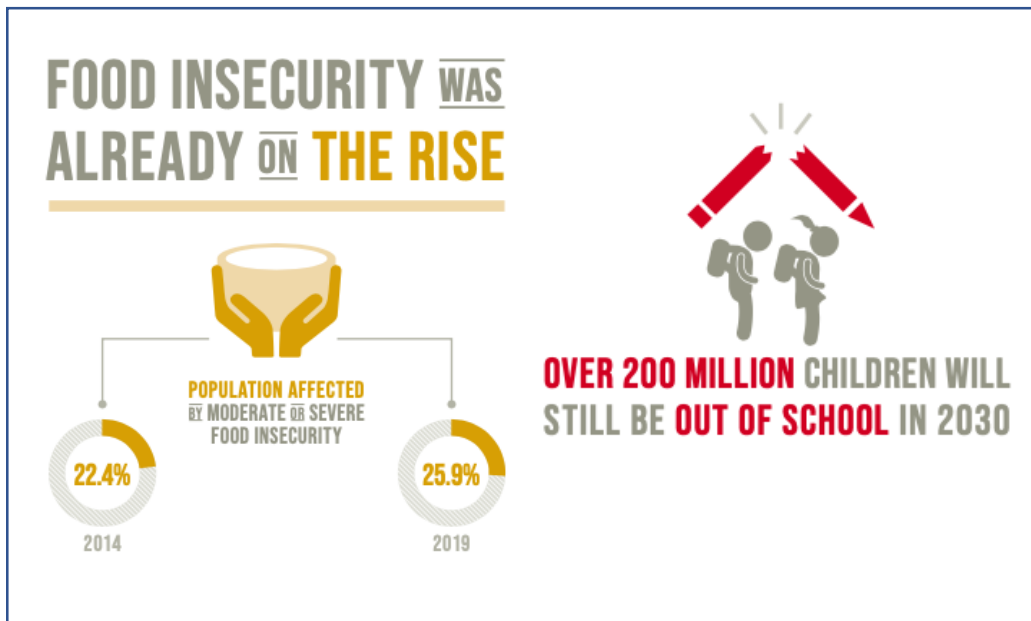
- Based on **the national indicator framework**, reporting should focus on:
  - ✓ Progress made or status in the first five years **before COVID-19**
  - ✓ **COVID-19 Impacts** on progress



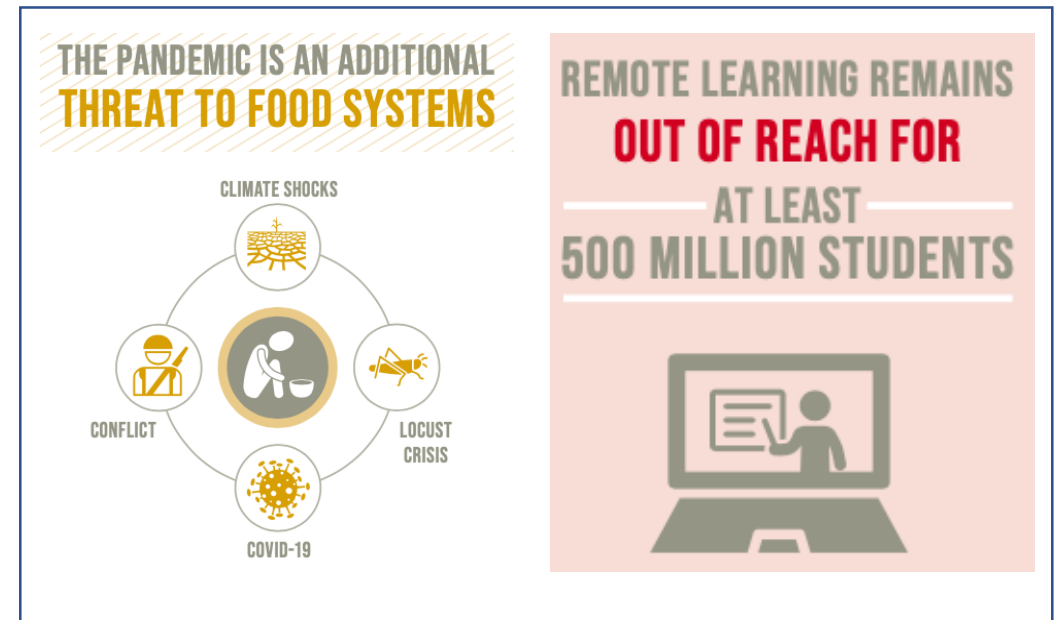
- Highlight Goals highly impacted by the pandemic: society (G1, G2, G3, G4, G5), economy (G8 and G9) and environment (G12, G13)
- ➔ **Response and recovery efforts, based on sound data and science and guided by the SDGs**

## Examples of COVID-19 impacts on SDG progress

- ✓ Progress made or status in the first five years **before COVID-19**



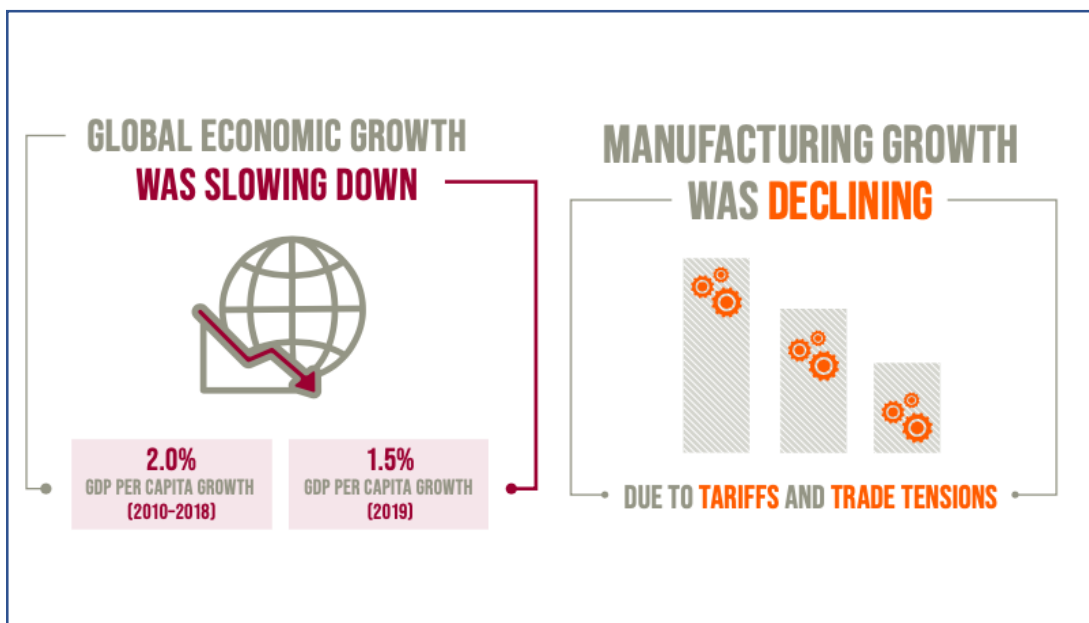
- ✓ **COVID-19 Impacts** on progress



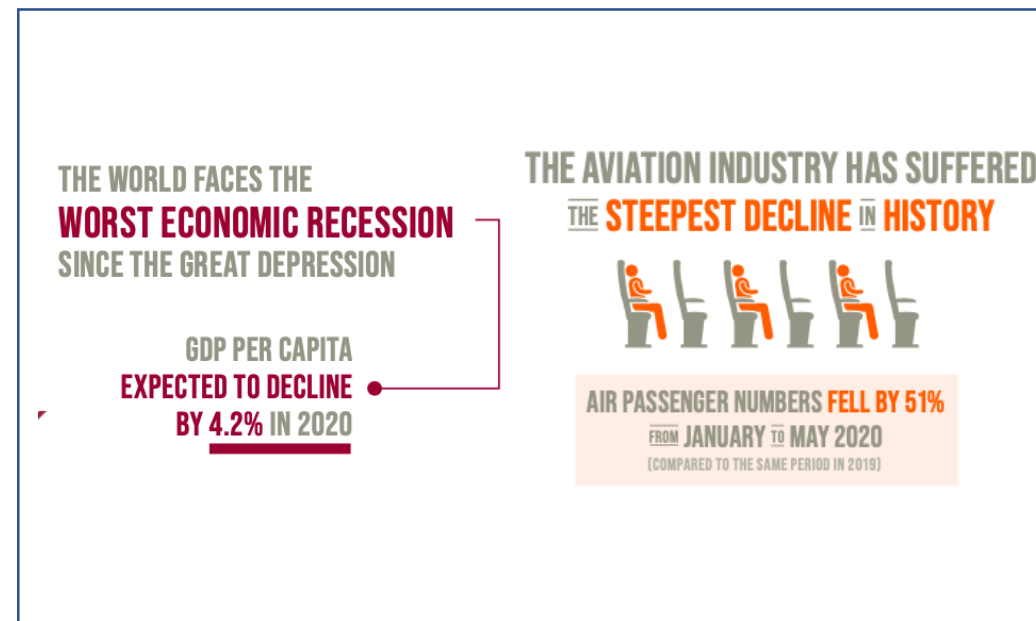
Infographics source: [The Sustainable Development Report 2020](#)

## Examples of COVID-19 impacts on SDG progress

- ✓ Progress made or status in the first five years **before COVID-19**



- ✓ **COVID-19 Impacts** on progress



Infographics source: [The Sustainable Development Report 2020](#)



## Reporting of COVID-19 Impacts in the 2021 VNR: LNOB

- While the virus has impacted everyone, it is the poorest and most vulnerable who are affected disproportionately by the pandemic
- 2021 VNR should report the impacts on the most vulnerable



DURING THE PANDEMIC  
**1.6 BILLION WORKERS**  
 IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY  
 RISK LOSING THEIR LIVELIHOODS

### COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE WELL-BEING OF MILLIONS OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH WILL BE AFFECTED BY THE CRISIS



AN ESTIMATED  
**379 MILLION CHILDREN**  
 MISSED SCHOOL MEALS  
 BECAUSE OF  
 SCHOOL CLOSURES  
 DURING THE PANDEMIC



THE GLOBAL GAINS IN  
 REDUCING CHILD LABOUR  
 ARE LIKELY  
**TO BE REVERSED**  
 FOR THE FIRST TIME  
 IN 20 YEARS

### THE MOST VULNERABLE GROUPS ARE BEING HIT HARDEST BY THE PANDEMIC



OLDER PERSONS



PERSONS WITH  
 DISABILITIES



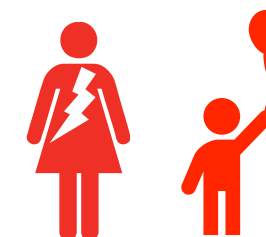
CHILDREN



WOMEN



MIGRANTS AND  
 REFUGEES



Many countries have seen a SURGE in reports of **domestic violence against women and children**

## Inclusion of COVID-19 impacts in 2020 VNRs

- **Nearly all countries** reported on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Pandemic disrupted preparations for 2020 VNR processes in almost all reporting countries.
- Most affected areas:
  - **VNR-related preparatory processes** and planned activities (leading to cancellations, postponements, delays and modifications)
  - consultations and workshops
  - **final review and validation** of the VNR review
- Information and data collection also affected → replaced by **phone interviews**.
- Pandemic has required flexibility and highlighted the importance of **technology and digital solutions**.
- *Positive outcome for some:* **broadened stakeholder engagement** (due to digital shift).
- *Negative outcomes for others:* **limited stakeholder engagement or statistical activities**, potentially affecting the evidence base of some VNRs.

Source: Partners for Review: [2020 Voluntary National Reviews – a snapshot of trends in SDG reporting](#)

## Example of rapid mobile survey

### Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Surveys in South Africa

The National Income Dynamics Study – Coronavirus Rapid Mobile Survey ([NIDS-CRAM](#)) aims to inform policy using rapid reliable research on the socioeconomic effects in South Africa of the global Coronavirus pandemic. NIDS-CRAM is a nationally-representative mobile phone survey. In the survey, 7000 South Africans are phoned monthly and asked a range of questions on their household welfare, income and employment, and their knowledge and behaviour related to COVID-19. Survey results and data are openly available for use and independent review. NIDS-CRAM shows the possibilities of adapting to cost-effective and fully-online close to real-time methods of data collection while maintaining data quality and reliability.

## Inclusion of COVID-19 impacts on SDG progress in 2020 VNRs

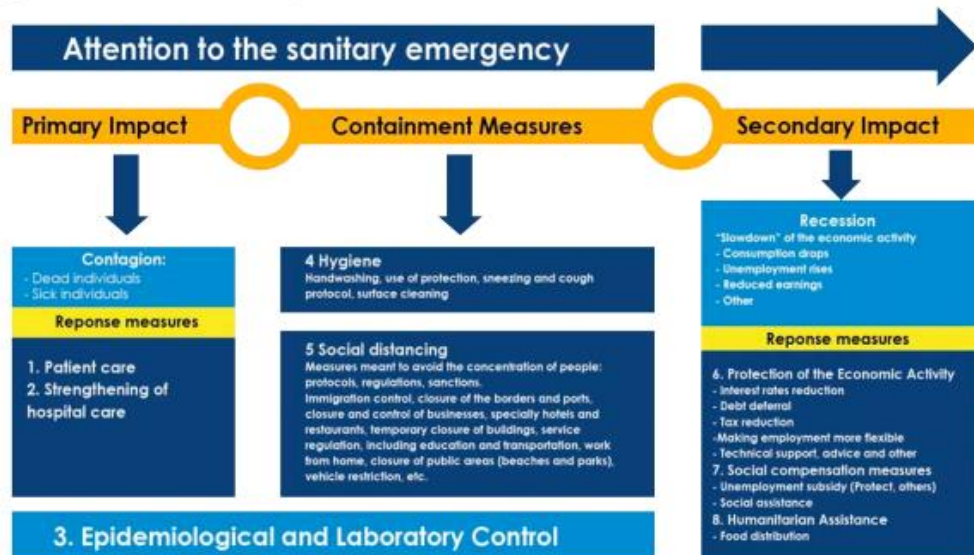
- Many countries provided details on the potential impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs, noting:
  - Pandemic set back SDG progress and is **undermining ongoing implementation efforts**
  - **Pandemic adding new challenges** to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda
  - Adverse impacts on specific dimensions of sustainable development or sectors—economic, environmental, on business and small and medium enterprises (SME), social dimension and vulnerable groups
  - **Relevance of the principle of LNOB**, impact on poverty and effect on children
- Some countries highlighted opportunities and valuable lessons from COVID-19:
  - **Opportunities for digital transformation**: e-governance expansion, virtual platforms, upgrading information and communication technology;
  - Improving national preparedness for disease outbreaks;
  - Scale up localisation efforts
  - **Calls for global solidarity** in the wake of the pandemic

Source: Partners for Review: [2020 Voluntary National Reviews – a snapshot of trends in SDG reporting](#)

# Inclusion of COVID-19 impacts on SDG progress in 2020 VNRs

## Costa Rica

Figure 24, COVID – 19 impact and care actions

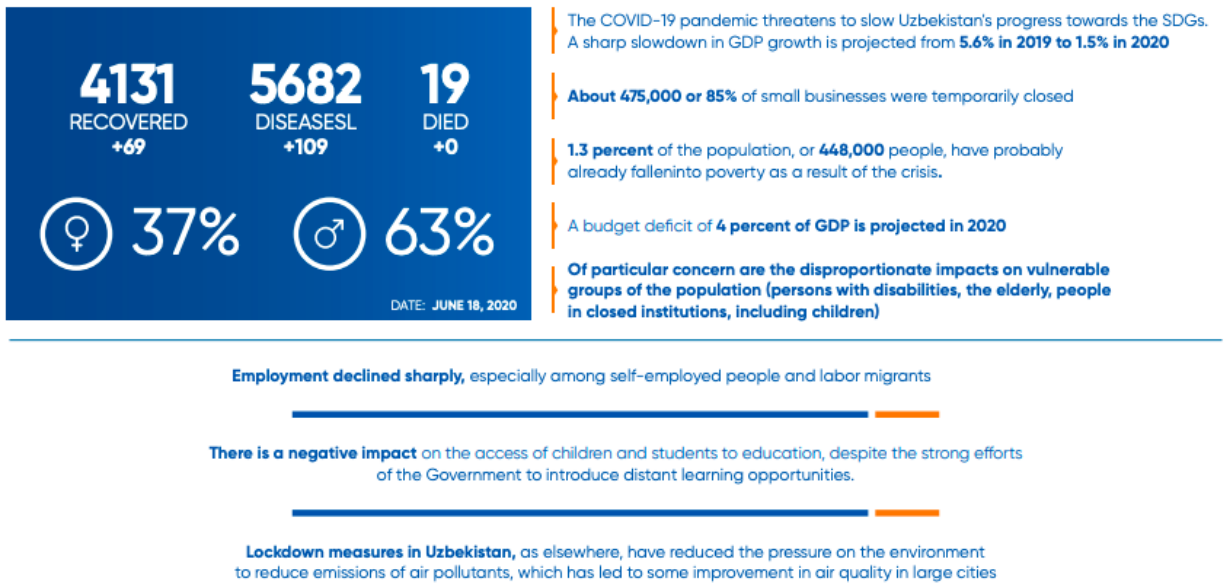


Source: The National Emergency Commission, the suitability of public investment in health and social security systems.

Nevertheless, it is estimated that the consequences of COVID-19 in the three dimensions of sustainable development will be significant and may imply the indicators on the 2030 Agenda moving backward. This estimate is still uncertain.

## Uzbekistan

### Impact of COVID-19 on progress in Sustainable Development Goals in the Republic of Uzbekistan



## How countries are strengthening national statistical capacity for evidence-based VNRs

- **National statistical system** is central to the national SDG monitoring process for the VNR
- Creating ownership for data collection and reporting by designating **the national statistical office as coordinator** of the national statistical system
- **Using technology** to improve data collection, analysis and accessibility
- Mobilization and assistance from **partnerships and other stakeholders**
- Identification of non-traditional data sources to fill in data gaps, considering **data innovations** and the use of new data sources and techniques, such as nowcasting and forecasting.



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**Thank you.**