

United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2021, 17 October
Theme: “Building Forward Together: Ending Persistent Poverty,
Respecting all People and our Planet”

In a world characterized by an unprecedented level of economic development, technological means and financial resources, that millions of persons are living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage. Poverty is not solely an economic issue, but rather a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses a lack of both income and the basic capabilities to live in dignity.

Persons living in poverty experience many interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their rights and perpetuate their poverty, including:

- Dangerous work conditions
- Unsafe housing
- Lack of nutritious food
- Unequal access to justice
- Lack of political power
- Limited access to health care

The COVID-19 pandemic is likely to have pushed between 143 and 163 million people into poverty in 2021 and to have increased poverty by 8.1% in 2020 relative to 2019 (from 8.4% to 9.1%)

The number of people living under the international poverty lines for lower and upper middle-income countries is projected to have increased in the poverty rate of 2.3 percentage points.

Almost half of the projected new poor will be in South Asia, and more than a third in Sub-Saharan Africa.

In the Middle East and North Africa, extreme poverty rates nearly doubled between 2015 and 2018, from 3.8% to 7.2%; spurred by the conflicts in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Republic of Yemen.

Current projections indicate that shared prosperity will have dropped sharply in nearly all economies in 2021-2021, as the pandemic’s economic burden is felt across the entire income distribution.

COVID-19 has already been the worst reversal on the path towards the goal of global poverty reduction in last three decades.

Source: World Bank and un.org

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