MIC Evaluation –

*Updated May 2021*

Action: Tailoring and building on new and existing corporate solutions to support integration and advancement of the Sustainable Development Goals for reduction of poverty and inequalities, leveraging expertise across the United Nations system and capitalizing on innovations from the network of country Accelerator Labs.

Progress towards the SDGs will be shaped by interactions between many global systems, COVID-19, and the special efforts that national societies and the global community are making to address the pandemic and (re)set themselves on accelerated sustainable development pathways. [This initiative uses a set of scenarios](https://sdgintegration.undp.org/sites/default/files/Foundational_research_report.pdf) to understand possible alternative development paths: the path we seemed to be on prior to COVID-19 (the ‘No-COVID’ scenario), the impacts of COVID-19 on that path as we now understand them (our COVID baseline scenario), the possibility that COVID-19’s impact will prove worse than now anticipated (the ‘High Damage’ scenario).. The final scenario, an SDG Push, illustrates how a concerted effort can accelerate global progress even when accounting for the pandemic. The SDG Push scenario models a massive global effort toward and investment in pushing forward the SDG agenda, including poverty alleviation. It provides a vision of a world in which concerted action is taken not only to mitigate the damage of the COVID pandemic but to push development trajectories beyond their No COVID pathway and make transformative progress. In the SDG Push scenario, the world recovers from the pandemic-induced poverty spike to return to the No COVID path by 2025.

UNDP’s [2020 Human Development Report](http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-report) focuses on Human Development and the Anthropocene. The report notes that no country in the world has yet achieved very high human development without putting immense strain on the planet. It includes a new experimental index on human progress that considers countries’ carbon dioxide emissions and material footprint.

UNDP developed [a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI)](https://www.undp.org/publications/towards-multidimensional-vulnerability-index) to account for both long-term structural vulnerabilities as well as the recent weaknesses uncovered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Using 11 indicators for 128 countries (including 34 SIDS), the MVI demonstrates that all but five SIDS are far more vulnerable than their income level would suggest. Using the MVI, non-LDC SIDS could save close to 1.5% of their GDP per annum in interest payments. It contributes to the debate on vulnerability measurement by contrasting a narrow focus on economic or environmental vulnerability with a multi-dimensional approach to assessing countries’ structural vulnerabilities to a variety of shocks.

UNDP’s [2009 HDR Overcoming Barriers: Human Mobility and Development](http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/reports/269/hdr_2009_en_complete.pdf) made the case that human mobility not only contributes to improving the lives of migrants and their families, but is a driver of development in countries of origin and destination. It also proposed a package of reforms to enhance the development gains of human mobility. A decade later, [UNDP made a review](file:///C:\Users\margaret.chi\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\TF6GZHD3\Human%20Mobility,%20Shared%20Opportunities:%20A%20Review%20of%20the%202009%20Human%20Development%20Report%20and%20the%20Way%20Ahead%20|%20United%20Nations%20Development%20Programme%20(undp.org)) to recommend actions for policymakers to enhance the benefits and reduce the costs of human mobility to help achieve the SDGs.

Due to COVID-19, women in poverty and high vulnerability will be affected, not only by the increase of the care burden and the loss of income for those in informal jobs, but also by the material conditions and infrastructure of their households, neighborhoods and communities. UNDP published a policy note on [The Economic Impacts of COVID-19 and Gender Equality (May 2020)](https://www.undp.org/publications/economic-impacts-covid-19-and-gender-equality) to guarantee the implementation of gender-responsive policy measures to the COVID-19 emergency, ensuring that no one is left behind.

UNDP, in collaboration with UNESCAP and ADB, published a report – [Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Leaving No Country Behind](https://www.undp.org/publications/responding-covid-19-pandemic-leaving-no-country-behind) – which highlights that in addition to the risk of leaving behind vulnerable groups within countries, vulnerable countries, too, face the risk of being left behind. This is especially the case for countries with insufficient resources and capacity to tackle the impact of the pandemic on their own. It also highlights how digitalization and regional cooperation can be used to manage and mitigate growing divergences between countries and create the foundation for inclusive and sustainable growth that better closed the development gaps between countries.

Beyond thought leadership that has influenced programming response on the ground across MICs, UNDP has also directly made investments to support governments to mitigate the socio-economic impacts of the pandemic and to lessen the negative effects on the SDGs. Below is a snapshot of programmes in place.

UNDP’s larger inclusive and multi-sectoral response to COVID-19 seeks to foster ecosystem linkages to enable youth-led MSMEs tap into available resources and capacities. UNDP in **Kenya** with funding from the Government of Japan, partnered with the [Youth Enterprise Development Fund (YEDF)](http://www.youthfund.go.ke/) in a campaign to enhance access to financial services coupled with financial education that seeks to enable 1,000 unemployed young people move towards economic independence. In **Eswatini**, the [Entrepreneurship Lab](https://www.sz.undp.org/content/eswatini/en/home/blog/entrepreneurship-policy-lab---bringing-together-eswatinis-entrep.html) undertook solutions mapping and exploration within the sector to contribute to building resilience to shocks. Through these exercises, the Lab identified [several digital solutions](https://www.sz.undp.org/content/eswatini/en/home/blog/digital-solutions-for-business-continuity-of-eswatinis-informal-.html) to allow for business continuity. An example is our online shopping platform – [Imakhete Online](https://www.sz.undp.org/content/eswatini/en/home/blog/_imakethe-online--a-business-digitisation-experiment-for-eswatin.html) for the informal sector which has 92% women participation.

The [Pacific Financial Inclusion Programme](file:///C:\Users\margaret.chi\AppData\Local\Microsoft\Windows\INetCache\Content.Outlook\TF6GZHD3\o%09https:\www.pacific.undp.org\content\pacific\en\home\projects\pfip.html) – implemented by UNDP and UNCDF – is Pacific-wide and has helped over 1.78 million low-income Pacific islanders gain access to financial services and financial education. The project funds innovation with financial services and delivery channels, supporting policy and regulatory initiatives, and empowering consumers.

UNDP Philippines launched the [Pintig Lab](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/is-there-a-_covid-19-dividend-.html), a multi-stakeholder network of data scientists, epidemiologists, economists, and other field experts that synthesize data from the public and private sector into policy recommendations that can inform the government's response and recovery strategy against COVID-19. To promote an informed policymaking, the UNDP Country Office in Bosnia and Herzegovina created a web-based open data dashboard named [“Economic Pulse of Bosnia and Herzegovina”](https://puls.zamisli2030.ba/en/homepage/). UNDP Accelerator Lab in Ecuador co-created [Colaboratorio Ciudadano](https://colaboratoriociudadano.org/) (“Citizen Collaboratory”), a web platform that matches people in need with others who can help through donating or swapping goods, volunteering, and crowdfunding. Rolled out in partnership with [Fundación San Francisco Global](https://www.sanfranciscoglobal.org/), the [initiative](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/blog/2020/crowdsourcing-meets-the-needs-of-vulnerable-families.html) functions as an effective mapping of vulnerable communities in Ecuador. UNDP Accelerator Lab in Uganda has partnered with Jumia – a leading e-commerce company – to link informal market vendors with their customers online. UNDP is working with financial institutions to develop innovative opportunities for informal market vendors to access financial services which would otherwise be inaccessible to them.

In Paraguay, UNDP is working with the Government to contribute to the reduction of rural poverty and improvement of the quality of life of families in the agriculture sector by promoting sustainable production of food and other agricultural items, which allows them to increase their income and improve their living conditions. UNDP is working with the Botswana Investment and Trade Centre (BITC) to promote a more market-led approach and support exporter and buyer clusters to broaden the export base of smaller producers, which on their own would not be able to meet the requirements of the export markets. The project harness lead firms to work with export villages to directly connect small producers to foreign customers.

In Brazil, [UNDP is working with SEBRAE, Instituto Humanize, and Santander Bank](http://www.iniciativaincluir.org.br), to develop strategies and methods to deal with the challenges and gaps in terms of inclusive and social businesses in Brazil from research to facilitating market access. Publications in partnership with SEBRAE:  [Knowledge management in the impact business ecosystem in Brazil](http://www.br.undp.org/content/brazil/pt/home/library/prosperidade/plataforma-filantropia-ods1.html) ; [Acceleration of Impact Business](http://www.br.undp.org/content/brazil/pt/home/library/prosperidade/Aceleracaonegocios.html); and  [Portrait of Small Inclusive and Impact Business in Brazil](http://www.br.undp.org/content/brazil/pt/home/library/prosperidade/Pequenosnegociosinclusivos.html).  In support of the COVID-19 socio-economic response and complementing work in the Government of Malaysia’s Perkhidmatan e-Dagang Setempat (PeDAS) transformation programme, designed to empower rural micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) with digital and entrepreneurial skills necessary to achieve wider market access through e-commerce platforms and to accelerate adoption of digital solutions among MSMEs, UNDP and UNCDF are piloting e-commerce ecosystem for rural producers and artisans in Pagalungan and Moyog, Sabah.