**UNDP featured products/reports on advancing equality and social inclusion
in middle-income countries (MICSs) (Q4 2020 to end-2021)**

**Advocate and roll out corporate flagship products and solutions such as the Human Development Index and Multidimensional Poverty Index, among others, to advance equality and social inclusion as central themes for development dialogue and agendas in middle-income countries.**

* **Assessing the potential impact of COVID-19 on women and girls in Arab States (December 2021).** The study evaluates the impacts of the pandemic on women and girls across the Arab region and provide recommendations to be implemented both in response to the crisis in the medium and long term. Subregional groups of countries in the study include oil-exporting countries, developing oil-importing middle-income countries, and fragile and crisis countries. [Link to publication](https://www.arabstates.undp.org/content/rbas/en/home/library/crisis-response0/assessing-the-potential-impact-of-covid-19-on-women-and-girls-in.html).
* **2021 Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) (October 2021).** Jointly produced by UNDP and the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), the 2021 global MPI provides updated global estimates on multidimensional poverty and new research on how multiple deprivations are experienced across different ethnic groups and between genders. It covers 109 developing countries: 26 low-income countries, 80 middle-income countries and 3 high-income countries. [Link to publication](http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/2021-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi).
* **Next Practices: Innovations in the COVID-19 Social Protection Responses and Beyond (October 2021).** This report, a joint product of UNDP and the International Policy Centre for Inclusive Growth (IPC-IG), provides an overview of social protection measures implemented in the global South in response to the COVID-19, using a shock-responsive framework. It highlights the factors that enabled ‘inclusive innovation,’ focusing on the levers of success and drawing lessons for the future — the ‘next practices'. In addition, the report draws attention to innovative solutions to reach out to traditionally excluded populations (LNOB groups), especially in times of crisis. [Link to publication](https://www.undp.org/publications/next-practices-innovations-covid-19-social-protection-responses-and-beyond).
* **National Human Development Report 2021: Egypt (September 2021).** The Report provides an in-depth analysis of the state of human development in Egypt, providing an analytical review of the policies adopted and implemented during the period 2011-2020. Building on those findings and on the Government Action Programme, it puts forward a set of policies for the future that would further boost the process of human development that Egypt has initiated. [Link to publication](http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/national-human-development-report-2021-egypt).
* **Mitigating Poverty: Global Estimates of the Impact of Income Support during the Pandemic (July 2021)**. This report provides insights on how the pandemic has impacted poor and vulnerable households in developing countries and the key role of policy choices in preventing poverty increases. Despite social protection efforts, the paper asserts that many of these programs were out of reach for many low- and lower-middle-income countries. Yet, some countries managed to effectively thwart the rise in poverty, indicating that there is room for action even under significant constraints. [Link to publication](https://www.undp.org/publications/mitigating-poverty-global-estimates-impact-income-support-during-pandemic#modal-publication-download).
* **Regional Human Development Report 2021: Latin America and the Caribbean Region (June 2021).** Despite hard-won progress towards becoming a middle-income region, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is a region of great contrasts, where wealth and prosperity coexist with vulnerability and extreme poverty. This Regional Human Development Report argues that the LAC region is caught in a trap of high inequality and low growth, interacting in a vicious circle that limits the ability to advance on all fronts of human development. [Link to publication](https://www.latinamerica.undp.org/content/rblac/en/home/library/human_development/regional-human-development-report-2021.html).
* **A Roadmap for Countries Measuring Multidimensional Poverty (June 2021)**. Jointly produced by UNDP, UNICEF, and World Bank, this document presents possible avenues and a roadmap for approaching the process of designing and adopting a national measure of multidimensional poverty. It presents several country examples, including from middle-income countries, to highlight the different possible outcomes of the decision-making process required to build a successful national multidimensional poverty measure. [Link to publication](https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/529491623166773607/pdf/A-Roadmap-for-Countries-Measuring-Multidimensional-Poverty.pdf).
* **Leaving No One Behind: Impact of COVID-19 on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (April 2021).** This report presents estimates on the impact of COVID-19 on the SDGs in low- and middle-income countries using futures modeling in three potential recovery scenarios, capturing the multidimensional effects of the pandemic over the next decade. While COVID-19 could widen the gap between rich and poor countries, nations on the lower end of human development can exceed pre-COVID development trajectories by combining right policy choices with investments in governance, social protection, green economy, and digitalization (an ‘SDG Push’). [Link to publication](https://www.undp.org/publications/leaving-no-one-behind-impact-covid-19-sustainable-development-goals-sdgs).
* **Developing countries in times of COVID: Comparing inequality impacts and policy responses (April 2021).** Published in partnership with UNDP, this World Inequality Lab Brief explores the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on socio-economic inequality within and across developing countries and the policy responses needed to mitigate them. It discusses how some low and lower-middle-income countries have managed to navigate the crisis and outlines key lessons learned for mitigating future shocks and addressing structural inequality in developing economies. [Link to publication](https://wid.world/document/developing-countries-in-times-of-covid-comparing-inequality-impacts-and-policy-responses-world-inequality-lab-issue-brief-2021-01/).
* **Sovereign Debt Vulnerabilities in Developing Economies (April 2021).** Thepaper analyzes sovereign debt vulnerabilities in low- and middle-income economies. From a sample of 120 countries, it identifies 72 as “vulnerable,” 19 of which are “severely vulnerable.” The paper concludes that, although most vulnerable countries are not on the verge of a default, debt vulnerabilities for these countries will likely not return to pre-pandemic levels until 2024-2025. [Link to publication](https://www.undp.org/publications/sovereign-debt-vulnerabilities-developing-economies)
* **Towards a Multidimensional Vulnerability Index (February 2021).** Most Small Island Developing States (SIDS) are still not eligible for concessional financing because they are classified as middle- or high-income countries. But they are more vulnerable than income data alone might suggest. This paper constructs a multidimensional vulnerability index (MVI) to account for both long-term structural vulnerabilities as well as the recent weaknesses uncovered by the 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. [Link to publication](https://www.undp.org/publications/towards-multidimensional-vulnerability-index).
* **The socioeconomic implications of the COVID pandemic: Ideas for policy action (December 2020).** This report consolidates a series of technical papers launched by the UNDP Regional Bureau for Latin America to promote a collective reflection on COVID-19 health and socioeconomic impacts and response. The first volume reflects on aspects of the problem common to all countries. The second is a compilation of country- specific analyses that examine the impacts of the pandemic on economies in the region. UNDP offers both volumes as an input to the current public policy debate under the conviction that solutions based on evidence, experience and reasoned political intuition will be essential to moderate the shock and build back better. [Link to publication.](https://ideasforaction.latinamerica.undp.org/content/ideasforaction/en/home.html)
* Regional Human Development report, “[Trapped: Low Productivity and High Inequality in Latin America and the Caribbean](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.latinamerica.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Frblac%2Fen%2Fhome%2Flibrary%2Fregional-human-development-report-2021.html&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C980d84d1f5ed4846427708d9d9ec2f4d%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637780430687065765%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=77HicjmzUseAYqmW%2FxISft1CRIXbQ%2BP4hD7JIxUAfuE%3D&reserved=0)”, launched in July 2021. The report sheds light into the reinforcing cycle of low growth and exclusion in the region, and makes the case for universal, inclusive, growth friendly and fiscally sustainable social protection systems.
* [An Uneven Recovery: Taking the pulse of the Latin American and the Caribbean region following the pandemic](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.latinamerica.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Frblac%2Fen%2Fhome%2Flibrary%2Fcrisis_prevention_and_recovery%2Fan-uneven-recovery--taking-the-pulse-of-the-latin-america-and-ca.html&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C980d84d1f5ed4846427708d9d9ec2f4d%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637780430687070729%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=vCKKt2aXYPexCPLMjfcbXfZyAsYSpj7BXoW%2BMOPkUA0%3D&reserved=0), launched in November 2021, presenting the emerging results of a collaboration of UNDP and the World Bank conducting high-Frequency Phone Surveys (HFPS) in Latin America and the Caribbean. Results include the uneven impact of the pandemic in the areas of labor markets, income and food security, education, gender, health, and access to digital and banking services.
* [The Socio-Economic Implication of the Covid pandemic](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fideasforaction.latinamerica.undp.org%2Fcontent%2Fideasforaction%2Fen%2Fhome.html&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C980d84d1f5ed4846427708d9d9ec2f4d%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637780430687075719%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=KwmIcjsjVtukNC4y9nkacYdK1UeYnZn98zPKr23zopY%3D&reserved=0): Ideas for Policy Action, a compilation of policy documents to promote a collective reflection that offers guidance for the response to the COVID-19 health crisis and its economic and social effects on our societies.
* **The Great Upheaval: Resetting Development Policy and Institutions for the Decade of Action in Asia and the Pacific** will be published by Cambridge University Press in January 2022.
* Specifically on inequality and inclusion, we have three chapters/policy briefs of relevance to MICs as follows:

“Equality of Development as a Measure of Development” by John Roemer and Avidit Acharya

“COVID-19 and Human Insecurity” by A.K. Shiva Kumar

“Making COVID-19 Vaccine Universally Accessible” by Partha Mukhopadhyay

* **6th ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium on SDGs: Reducing Inequality in the Decade of Action to Achieve the SDGs and Recovery from COVID-19 Pandemic (December 2021).** ASEAN countries reaffirmed their commitment to reducing inequalities resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic and pledged to progress on implementing the SDGs, at the 6th ASEAN-China-UNDP Symposium, a virtual event hosted by the Philippines on 7 December 2021. The participants exchanged experiences and discussed strategies in reducing inequalities, especially bridging the digital, gender, educational as well as the urban and rural divides in line with the ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework (ACRF). The event highlighted long-standing cooperation with the ASEAN and the Government of China’s mission to ASEAN on emerging development agendas and trends in the region and UNDP’s intellectual contribution through the background paper on inequality to stimulate the dialogue. [Link to event](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fpt-br.facebook.com%2FACSDSDMahidol%2Fphotos%2Fa.112497203509310%2F614613569964335%2F%3Ftype%3D3%26__xts__%255b0%255d%3D68.ARD51mWdFxPhx6zK3yVKiQN1YFzrWXf4q37EAddTygYK3F-QDMVww310etI46IXuBj1-HO5mScrZ_o-KlXm36BC6yCxOL302C0YfTv9wYhKK3EplY7ez2qKuiqMD1bb0joBIJ6GSYFzEG3Yi_mNqJYBmnpq_8YdE6-v9zgVlVIEYhYFys6PinUEr2wDq1BETBk9zFUNfuGTobmDM16wr8BWca1zZdT0_UAM6qaPAP40cJZPfM0SLzzXSVgxdAMxylm8psRcKkd4N2eFcFytA_8SWNxt_RsEatm-nRDMmBL64eWwY4ls&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7Cdb7afcb794424a2ef6f308d9da755b14%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781019832487813%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=%2F%2FMtonIVSSLZjBZttyhjH5OiVwZh%2Fi9%2BJlJtOaYkqP8%3D&reserved=0).
* **Ministerial Forum on the Future of Social Protection in the Arab Region (November 2021).** UNDP continued to work closely with partners to advance inclusive and shock-responsive social protection in the region, including with ILO and UNICEF under the UN Regional Issue-Based Coalition on Social Protection. On 30 November, the Coalition organized a high-level Ministerial Forum, which brought together high-level representatives from 20 countries in the region, representatives of employers and workers organizations, civil society, and experts to discuss the future of social protection in the region, with a focus on four critical areas: Coverage, Shock-responsiveness, Financing, and Governance. Dr. Khalida Bouzar, ASG and Director of the UNDP Regional Bureau for the Arab States, moderated the session on Financing, with the participation of Ministers and the World Bank. The session underscored expanding the social protection financing base, including through progressive tax and contribution-based mechanisms, rationalize public spending, and leveraging alternative means of financing. For more details, see the Ministerial Forum Declaration and the commitments made by participants to advance social protection reforms post-COVID-19. [Link to the Declaration](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fsocialprotection.org%2Fdiscover%2Fpublications%2Fministerial-forum-declaration-future-social-protection-arab-region-building-1&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7Cdb7afcb794424a2ef6f308d9da755b14%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781019832492790%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=4QhqUTJdd4Jp91BStjUc1QHFQo8Rx%2BuUJqLTxS9daIM%3D&reserved=0).
* **The State of Human Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (November 2021)**
Following the launch of the Regional Human Development Report 2021 for Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) in June this year, the EU-LAC Foundation and UNDP organized a virtual event to evaluate the state of human development in the LAC region. The session reviewed the key issues identified in the report, including the region's weak economic performance, widening social disparities, the prevalence of violence in all its forms, and fragmented social protection programs. Luis Felipe López-Calva, UNDP Regional Director for Latin America and the Caribbean, delivered the keynote lecture, highlighting the systemic nature of development challenges in the region and the crucial role of inclusive, universal, growth-friendly, and fiscally sustainable social protection systems to achieve transformative change. [Link to video](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DrwJ5biupfkQ&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7Cdb7afcb794424a2ef6f308d9da755b14%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781019832497769%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=zjhBvHbdnquLIEh2t02H8MpkoKY8EjrRM4EU0U6PW5o%3D&reserved=0).
* **Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery (24 February 2021)**The CoP on Poverty and Inequality hosted a global webinar to discuss the report on “Debt Relief for a Green and Inclusive Recovery” – a joint initiative of the Boston University Global Policy Center, the Heinrich Böll Stiftung, and the Centre for Sustainable Finance. The session discussed an ambitious proposal for comprehensive debt relief that includes the private sector and middle-income countries towards a green and inclusive recovery from COVID-19. [Link to video](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D8fKRGV-r_9M%26t%3D3s&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7Cdb7afcb794424a2ef6f308d9da755b14%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781019832502753%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=A9cldQD8gBbsRhWqoWGBPe4Rpcc9uUQtCWe1WD7CKU4%3D&reserved=0).
* HDR 2020 [http://hdr.undp.org/en/2020-report](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2F2020-report&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275555198%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=v2uSOgimerE%2B020D5uhF894%2FLgpV4N4K2AYkf95nnVs%3D&reserved=0)
* HDI ranking (HDR 2020) [http://hdr.undp.org/en/data](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2Fdata&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275565157%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Aj5%2FtiddkEZVk9ely2q6nBtjMSd4KRRezP8wvTOxibo%3D&reserved=0)
* Interactive dashboard: HD and the Anthropocene: [http://hdr.undp.org/en/dashboard-human-development-anthropocene](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2Fdashboard-human-development-anthropocene&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275570131%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=ZE5aZmWhX%2BWYgRfB3gX2ceP1cfaziTPb%2BKiP4ZNyZv0%3D&reserved=0)
* Planetary-adjusted HDI (PHDI): [http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/planetary-pressures%E2%80%93adjusted-human-development-index-phdi](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2Fcontent%2Fplanetary-pressures%25E2%2580%2593adjusted-human-development-index-phdi&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275575112%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=J7u03Esm2oCY5lwTLDFoOAP0YZ9DYJeS50EG5GCeyDY%3D&reserved=0)
* MPI 2021: [http://hdr.undp.org/en/2021-MPI](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2F2021-MPI&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275580086%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=GFG7988ZViujYkrgW7aQuKbo%2FD%2FoYpy4ZnM86wjM25c%3D&reserved=0) & [http://hdr.undp.org/en/content/2021-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2Fcontent%2F2021-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275585068%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=nHa762Tk6sHo2zljtIaVRjn1nGUlXi9pAnUSjFe9knk%3D&reserved=0)
* Human Security Special Report (prepared during 2021, to be released 8 Feb 2022): [http://hdr.undp.org/en/new-gen-human-security](https://eur03.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=http%3A%2F%2Fhdr.undp.org%2Fen%2Fnew-gen-human-security&data=04%7C01%7Cmansour.ndiaye%40undp.org%7C9a5eef6ef4ad4901b54408d9da91dc51%7Cb3e5db5e2944483799f57488ace54319%7C0%7C0%7C637781142275585068%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000&sdata=Zw7mAd%2FKRCWca8TLfjUnKBpUlj%2F0kwNhLGTo%2BqvzFmQ%3D&reserved=0)