

Report

The Impact of COVID-19

on SDG progress: Before / After
spotlight on SDG 1, SDG 3, SDG 8

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Prepared by

CAS-ZJSO Team

Members

Yingchao Piao

Wentong He

Ying Zhang

Hang Yu

Prepared for

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01

Implementing adequate social protection measures in response to COVID-19 is critical to saving both lives and livelihoods. Ensuring that these measures reach as more poor populations as possible will be key to avoid further spread of negative impact on the normal development of the global economy and society.



02

The COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous labor market disruptions and profound hardship throughout the world. As a key indicator of economy, the downward trend unemployment rate in global and major economies post pandemic COVID-19 indicated that the recovery has taken hold.



03

The vaccination situation is not optimistic, and we should try to get more people to be vaccinated.



Introduction



COVID-19 has created a global health crisis where countless people are dying, human suffering is spreading, and people's lives are being upended

The total number of cumulative COVID-19 cases has reached over 263 million as of 3rd December 2021, with more than 213 countries and regions affected by the pandemic.

Over 5,232,562 people have already passed away due to COVID-19. It is not only just a health crisis but also a social and economic crisis, both of which are fundamental to sustainable development. (Pirouz et al., 2020)

This study was designed to determine the effects of COVID-19 on sustainable development goals (SDGs) and to discover which factors are needed to focus on by policy institutions/government to recover from the pandemic.

Findings

As the world struggles to cope with the crisis surrounding the COVID-19 pandemic, the crisis will have a negative effect on the sustainable development agenda and its implementation.

And according to the UN report, we know that this crisis is affecting all 17 SDGs (shown by Figure 1) . The survey analysis in this report outlines the impacts of COVID-19 on three goals of the SDGs: SDG 1 No poverty, SDG3 Good Health and well-being, SDG8 Decent work and economic growth

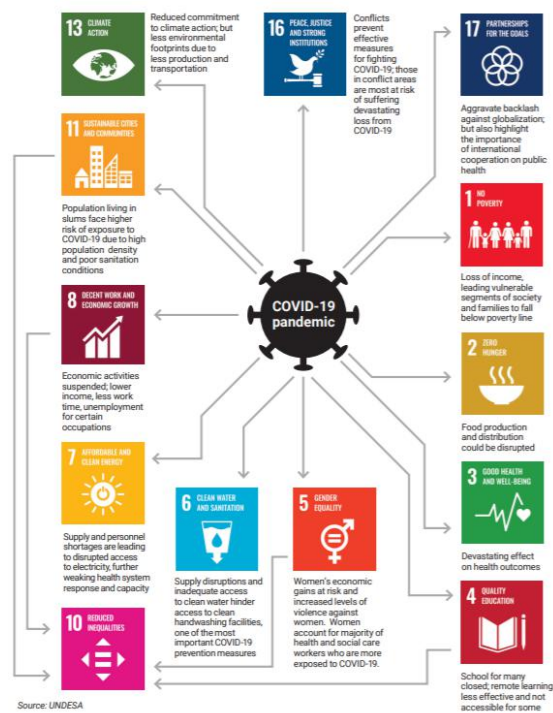
The findings will be presented in three sections according to the SDGs: Section I - SDG 1, Section II - SDG 3, Section III - SDG 8.

COVID 19 - SDGs

SHARED
RESPONSIBILITY,
GLOBAL
SOLIDARITY:

Responding to
the socio-economic
impacts of COVID-19

March 2020



Section I

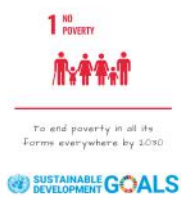
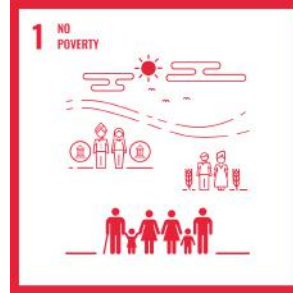
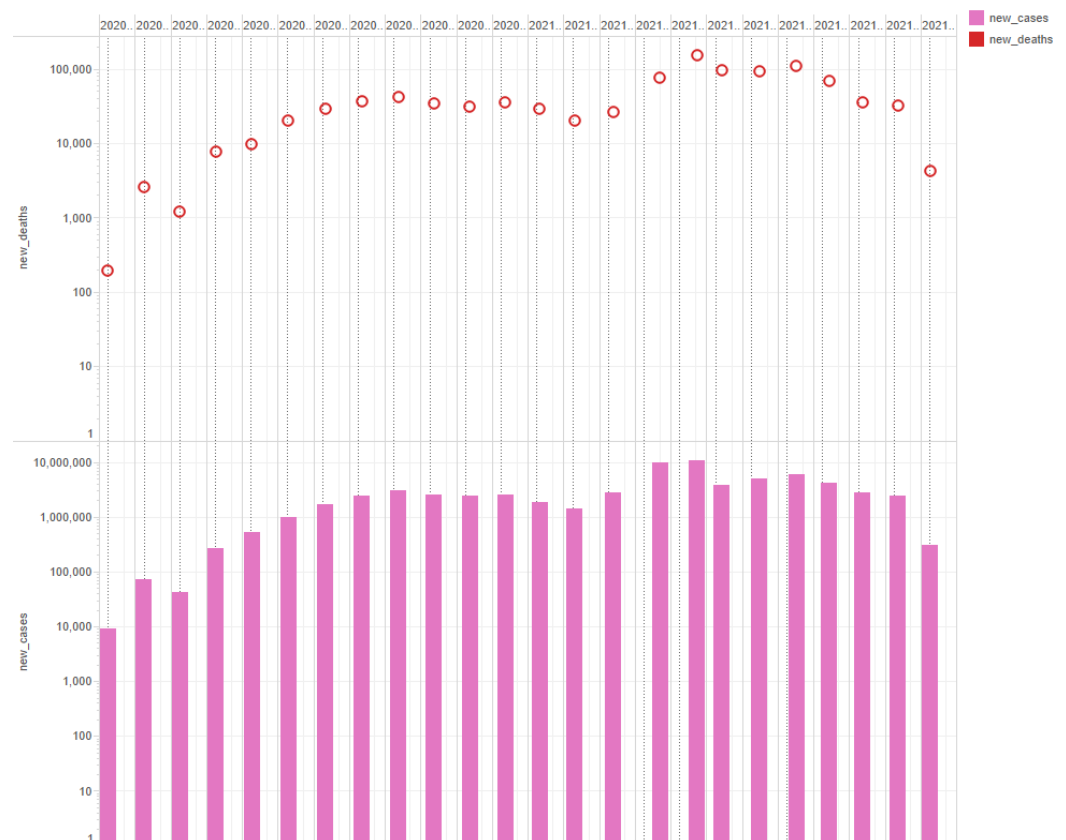


The findings that social protection coverage in Asia before and after COVID-19 are shown in Figure 2.

The outbreak of the COVID-19 has brought about a very negative impact on the normal development of the global economy and society, and also caused difficulties for the livelihood of the masses. Therefore, it is particularly necessary to play an important role as a social security system for protecting people's livelihood and maintaining social stability.

We take Asian countries as an example, before that, the investment growth of Asian countries in social security was relatively flat. After the COVID-19 outbreak, social security has been increasing for vulnerable groups and the poor, especially those who can't pay for the new crown treatment. The population covered by at least one social protection benefit from 42.39% to 43.98% from 2019 to 2020 in average.

Social protection coverage (%) by programme type



Section I



The findings that social protection system role in COVID-19 crisis are shown in Figure 3.



The new policies and their implementation in the special period not only effectively relieved many worries of relevant hospitals, patients, enterprises and workers, but also provided effective governance tools and means for epidemic prevention and reassurance.

With the continuous increase of social security, the number of new infections and new deaths in Asian countries and regions are also decreasing.

Social protection system has played an important role in fighting the COVID-19



To end poverty in all its forms everywhere by 2030

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Section I



The findings that social protection coverage for different income group are shown in Figure 4.

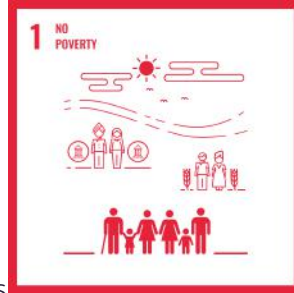
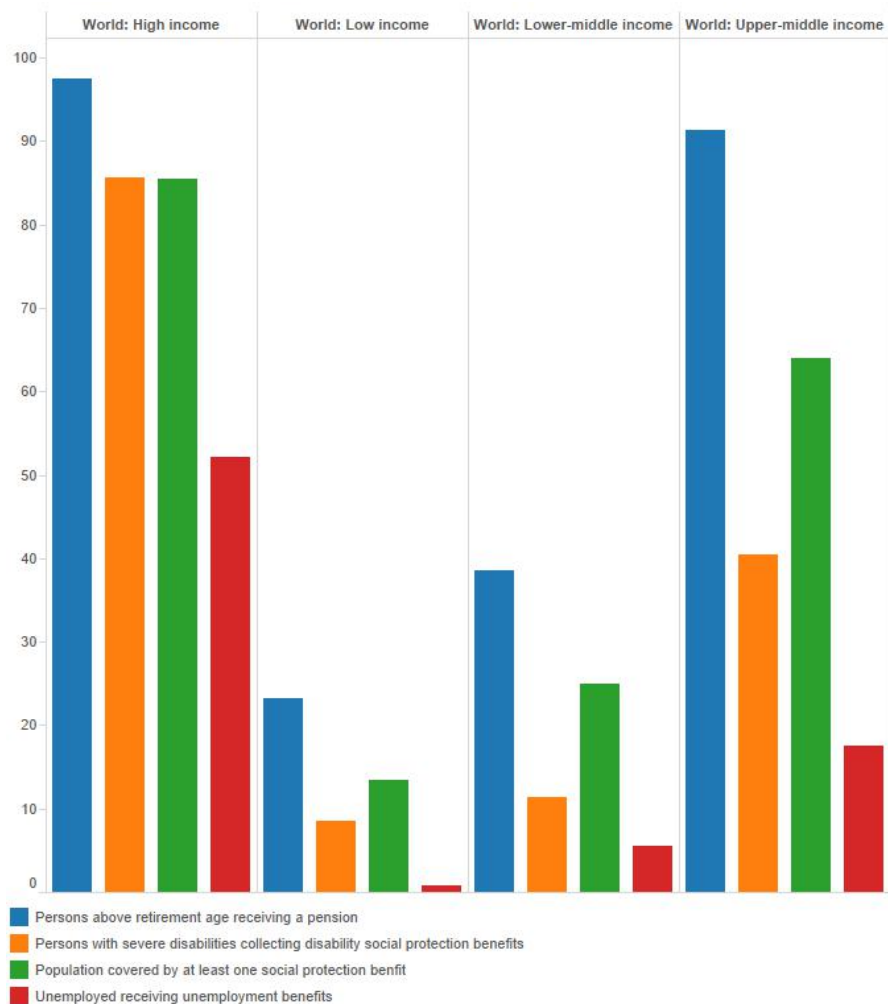
According to the global data, since the COVID-19 outbreak, high-income countries and regions have significant advantages over low-income countries and regions in terms of social security for the disabled and the unemployed.

The proportion of people enjoying at least one social security in high-income countries is 85.4%, while the proportion in low-income countries is only 13.4%.

Persons with severe disabilities collect disability social protection benefits in high-income countries is 85.6%, while the proportion in low-income countries is only 8.6%.

The unemployed receiving unemployment benefits in high-income countries is 52.2%, while the proportion in low-income countries is only 0.8%.

Social protection coverage by type of programme and country income levels

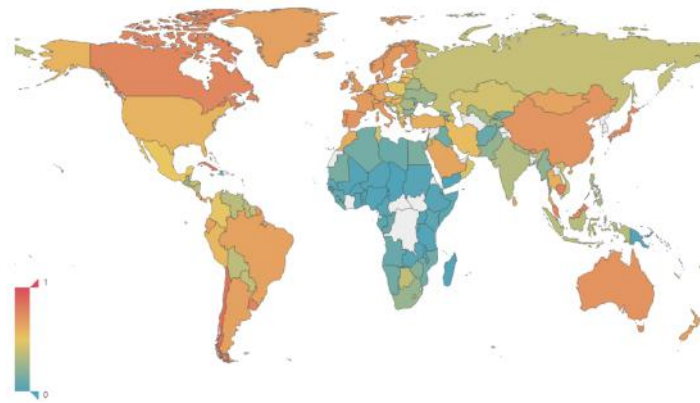


Section II



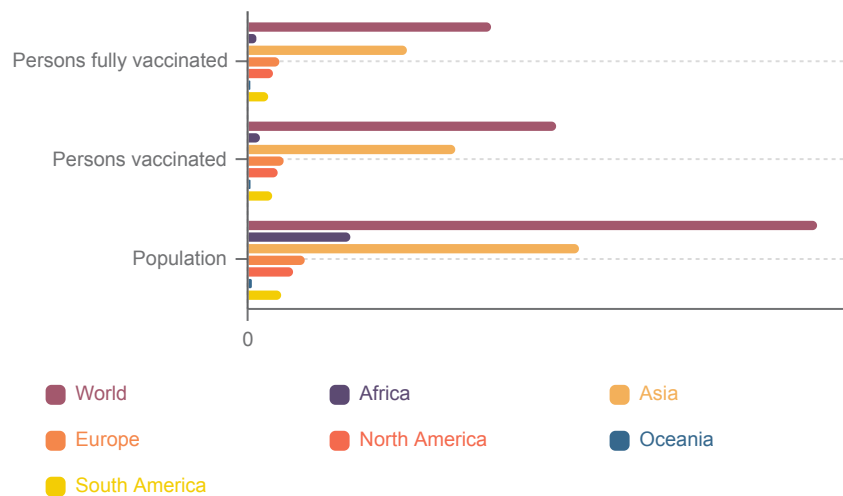
To overcome the COVID-19 pandemic world leaders, organizations, and banks, sparing no effort to promote vaccine research and try to give everyone a chance to be vaccinated. However, according to the data provided by OWID, the vaccination situation is not optimistic.

Fully vaccinated population map

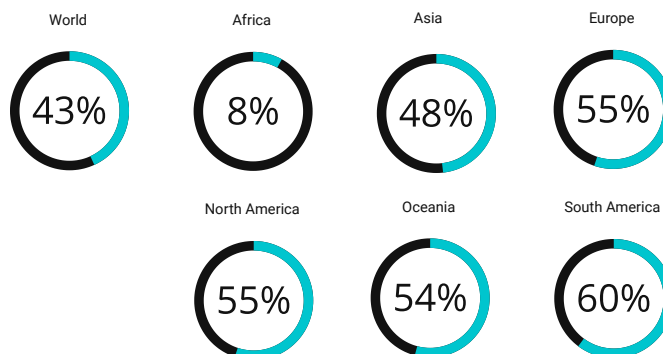


The vaccination rate in Africa is significantly lower than in other continents, which may requires us to pay more attention.

Only 4.10 billion people of 7.58 billion counted are vaccinated by at least one dose, and only 3.23 billion people of 7.58 billion counted are fully vaccinated. As we can see, only 42.65% of people were fully vaccinated in the data that has been counted, which means the actual situation might be further worse.



Fully vaccinated population percent

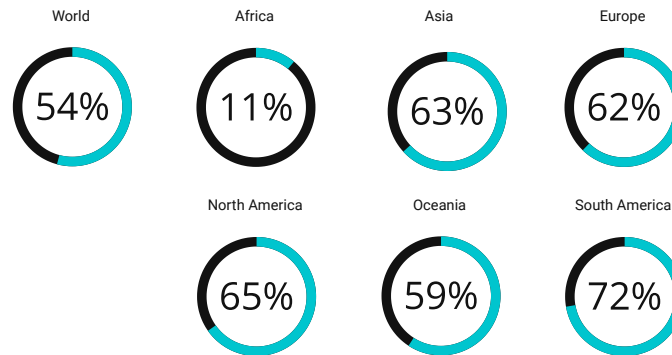


Section II



When studying what can affect the vaccination situation, we believe that it is necessary to consider not only the country's economic situation and the coverage of medical facilities, but also factors that will affect the people's willingness to get vaccinated.

Vaccinated population



Some evidences show that the severity of the epidemic will promote vaccination. Among 201 countries counted, Most countries reach the peak of new vaccinations after the peak of new deaths or new cases, which means most people get vaccinated after the COVID-19 epidemic is under control.

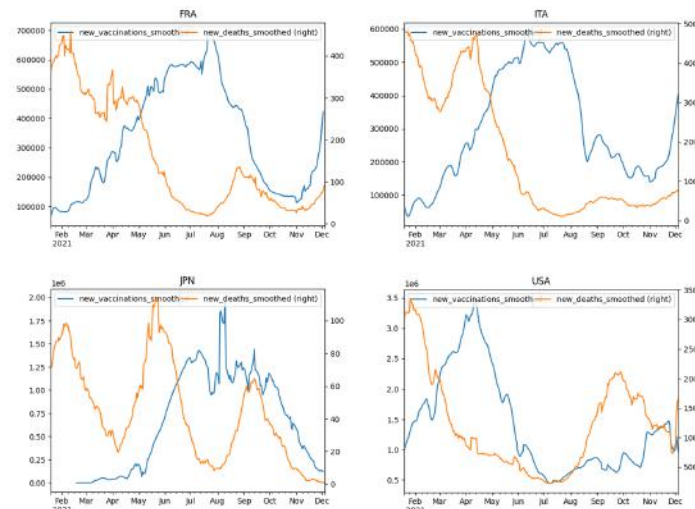
	countries	Sum of population	Percentage of population
After peak of new deaths	127	5386187621	70.9%
After peak of new cases	110	6485263402	85.4%
After one of peaks	135	7119533615	93.7%

This evidence may also lead to a conclusion that most countries can control the epidemic by other methods, rather than vaccination. Because of the lag in vaccines, it often takes more than two weeks for the vaccine to be effective.

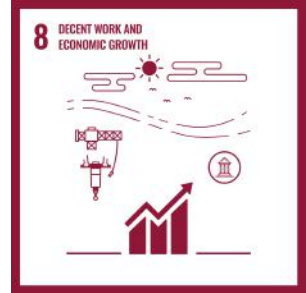
Persons get vaccinated after the peak of new cases are more than that after the peak of new deaths. This fact shows that the public pays more attention to cases rather than deaths. One reason is that there will be a long-time lag for people died from COVID-19. Another reason is that people's lives will be more inconvenient once infected.

The fact that most people get vaccinated after the peak of new cases or new deaths also means the vaccination will help in containing the spread of the virus.

Figure shows the cases in several countries, where the situation is much better after the peak of new vaccinations.



Section III



Most of the industries were shutdown to lower mobility. There have been negative economic implications due to restrictions and decreased travel business worldwide.

Most countries are currently trying to combat the virus spread by screening for COVID-19 in large numbers and maintaining strict quarantines, entry bans policies, as well as other limitations for citizens in or recent travelers to several countries in the most affected areas.

Unemployment rate yearly by global and regions

As a key performance indicator of economic health and a crucial metric for judging policy outcomes, unemployment rate typically calculated on a monthly, quarterly or annual basis.

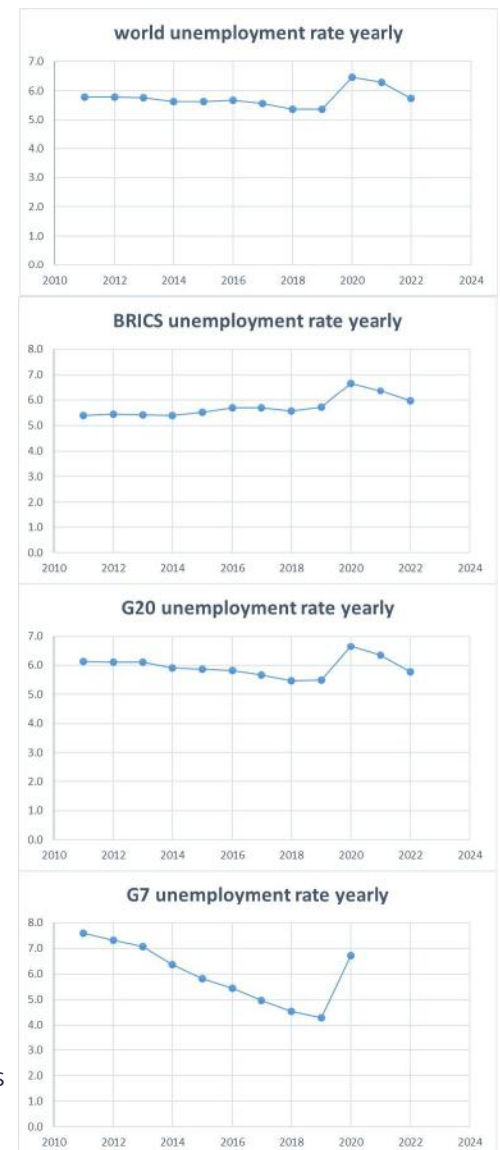
The ILO provides unemployment rate data covering most of countries and areas until 2021. After the 2030 agenda for sustainable development was adopted by world leaders in 2015, the global yearly unemployment rate constantly decrease to 5.4% in 2019.

The yearly unemployment rate in G20 and G7 countries decreased by 0.6% and 3.3% respectively from the peak in 2011 to 5.5% and 4.3% respectively in 2019. At the SDG Summit held in September 2019, SDG Member States renewed international commitment to fulfil the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

Yet, in only of brief period of time, the COVID-19 has disrupted efforts to achieve the 2030 agenda for sustainable development.

The COVID-19 pandemic has upended the global labor market, with massive job losses and spike in unemployment to its highest level.

The yearly global unemployment rate increased by 1.1% to 6.5% in 2020. The dramatic increase in BRICS, G20, G7 countries by 1.0%, 1.2% and 2.4% respectively to 6.4%, 6.7% and 6.7%.



Thanks to strong policy support, accelerated vaccine rollout and the application of digital solutions to maintain business and consumption, growth resumed forcefully in the world in 2021.

The unemployment rate dropping to 5.5% showed a continued recovery from 2020 to 2021 after the COVID-19 pandemic. The BRICS and G20 countries also have the same economic recovery trends.

The negative economic implications may increase inequality, discrimination and medium and long-term unemployment if not properly addressed by right policies.



Section III



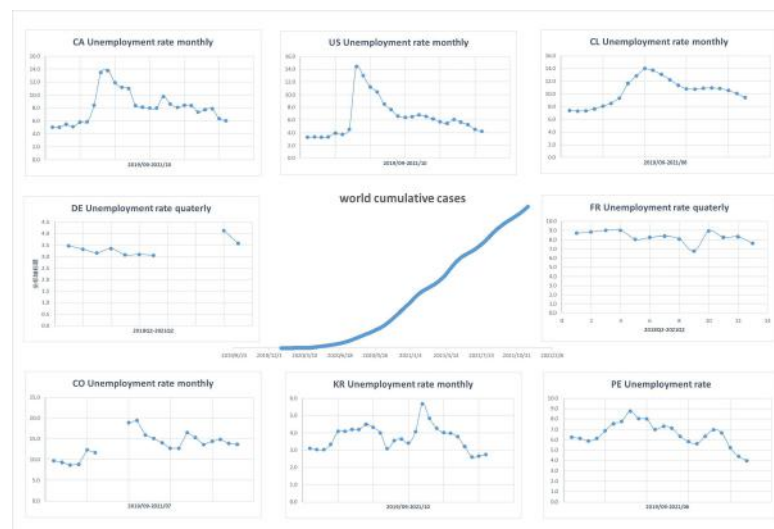
The ILO also provided monthly or quarterly unemployment rate of several countries, like Canada, Chile, Colombia, Korea, Peru, United States of America, Germany, France.

By watching the unemployment rate over time, the same variation trend of unemployment rate can be found. Above countries were all not immune from economic damage early in the pandemic with the drastic increase of unemployment rate.

Through active and effective policies, the countries like Canada, United States of America showed a continued recovery after COVID-19 pandemic, with unemployment rate decreasing more than a dozen months.



Unemployment rate trend by countries



The COVID-19 pandemic has created tremendous labor market disruptions and profound hardship throughout the world.

As a key indicator of economy, the downward trend unemployment rate in global and major economies post pandemic COVID-19 indicated that the recovery has taken hold.

The spread of COVID-19 continues to threaten the public health situation severely and greatly affect the global economy. So the recovery road of the global economy is uncertain, but we should make clear that the containment of the virus should be the utmost priority.



Recommendations

Based on the findings in this study, the following recommendations are made:

1

The fight against the COVID-19 is still ongoing, and we need to give more full play to the unique security function of the social security system.

2

The top priority is to effectively protect the lives of low-income and difficult groups, provide clear and reliable security expectations for the whole society, and help the economy and society restore normal order as soon as possible.

3

Although the unemployment rate has typically recovered post-COVID-19 pandemic, the government should continue increasing investment especially in bolstering labor market opportunities for those whose jobs and earnings potential are negatively affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

4

Make effective policies to encourage science and technology innovation to support economic recovery and sustainable development.

5

We should take actions delivering more vaccines for some low-income countries. In order to achieve higher vaccination rates, we should get people to pay more attention to the news.





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This report was based off of the
information found at



<https://hub.officialstatistics.org/dataset/>