

For individual SDGs:

SDG 8:

- **What is the current status of the Goal or target, in terms of actual measured progress and trends?**

Child labour:

Of the 152 million girls and boys between the ages of 5 and 17 who are in situations defined as 'child labour', 71% are found in farming, livestock, forestry, fishing or aquaculture. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can expect that these numbers will have increased. Progress or failure of reaching SDG 8.7 will be decided in the agriculture sector. We will not reach SDG target 8.7 unless child labour in the agricultural sector receives the attention it requires, which includes addressing the root causes of child labour such as household poverty.

- **What has changed since the last time this Goal was reviewed at the HLPF?**
 - *Any deviations in progress from what was expected (including due to COVID-19)?*

Decent rural employment:

The COVID-19 pandemic and the related disruption of agri-food systems has generated additional obstacles and challenges for the implementation of SDG 8, increasing the vulnerability of informal workers (self-employed and wage workers) and expected to increase rural youth unemployment and underemployment. Specific and targeted measures to support these vulnerable groups, through social protection and the generation of better and more green jobs, especially for youth, is essential to continue progress.

Youth:

Results from an ECOSOC Youth Forum Global Survey show that youth experienced the effect of the pandemic directly by the economic fallout (losing work, working hours cuts, etc.), as well as lack of access to social protection and increase in food related costs, housing, necessity bills and transport.

- *Additional obstacles or opportunities in implementation including through interlinkages with other Goals, and connections to related processes?*
- *New/promising openings for tracking progress, including from additional data sources?*
- **What are promising strategies to accelerate action (by UN and partners) and to mobilize other stakeholders to advance implementation?**

Youth:

Recommendations from youth representative at the ECOSOC Youth Forum highlight the role and importance of providing adequate capacity development regarding resilience in food systems, in particular in the aftermath of the pandemic in order to create an adequate and able young workforce, including an explicit focus on 15-17 years old and their school-to-work transition.

Similarly, it is important to ensure that really no-one is left behind, including out of reach youth like the ones in rural and vulnerable and marginalized communities with less access to internet (distance learning), technologies and opportunities and therefore less decent employment opportunities.

Data:

Data are essential to track the progress on SDG 8 and ensure a sound design and implementation as well as acceleration of policies and strategies supporting this Goal. There are however concrete data gaps around rural employment and decent work (e.g., on working conditions, the role of agricultural wage employment, etc.) that should be addressed to properly inform policies and strategies.

- **How would one monitor action for implementing these?**

Cross-cutting issues for SDGs 1, 2, 8 and 17

- **How can economic recoveries be shaped to ensure more inclusive and sustainable patterns of growth that generate decent jobs and support carbon-neutrality and a better balance with nature?**

Green jobs:

The COVID-19 pandemic has translated into an economic and environmental crisis, which stresses the need for a green recovery, addressing simultaneously both the economic and environmental impacts of the pandemic. Economic recoveries should seek and build on the creation of decent green jobs that are consistent with the environmental objectives of a green and carbon neutral recovery strategy and contribute to the economic recovery through the provision of sustainable livelihoods, including for the inclusion of the most vulnerable groups. The promotion of green jobs in a green recovery can also contribute to other SDGs (1, 2, 7, 13, 14, and 15).

Capacity building and strengthening of the skills of rural household and workers (especially youth and women) to support their adoption of green innovative technologies or uptake of green jobs is also essential to promote their inclusiveness in the framework of such a recovery strategy.