

▶ **SDG 8 – Where do we stand?**

Status and deviations

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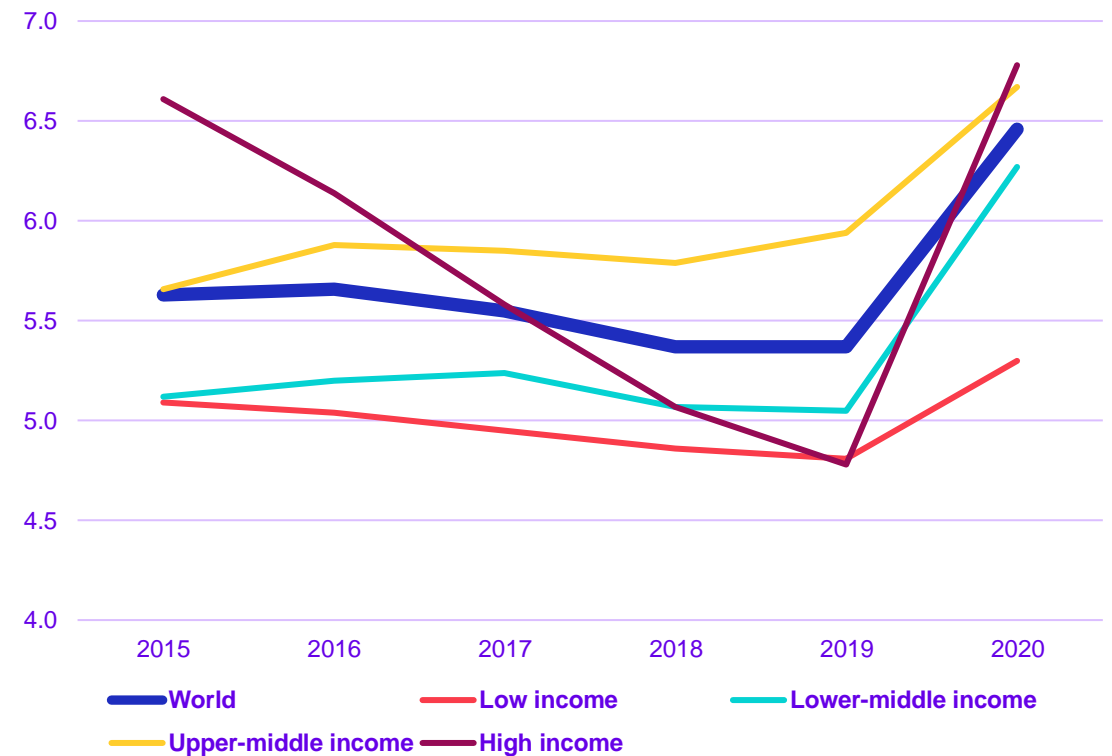
Introduction

SDG 8: ”Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all”.

Some progress made. However the severe economic and employment impacts of COVID-19 pandemic have seriously disrupted gains achieved.

Unemployment had been increasing in upper middle-income countries even prior to COVID-19

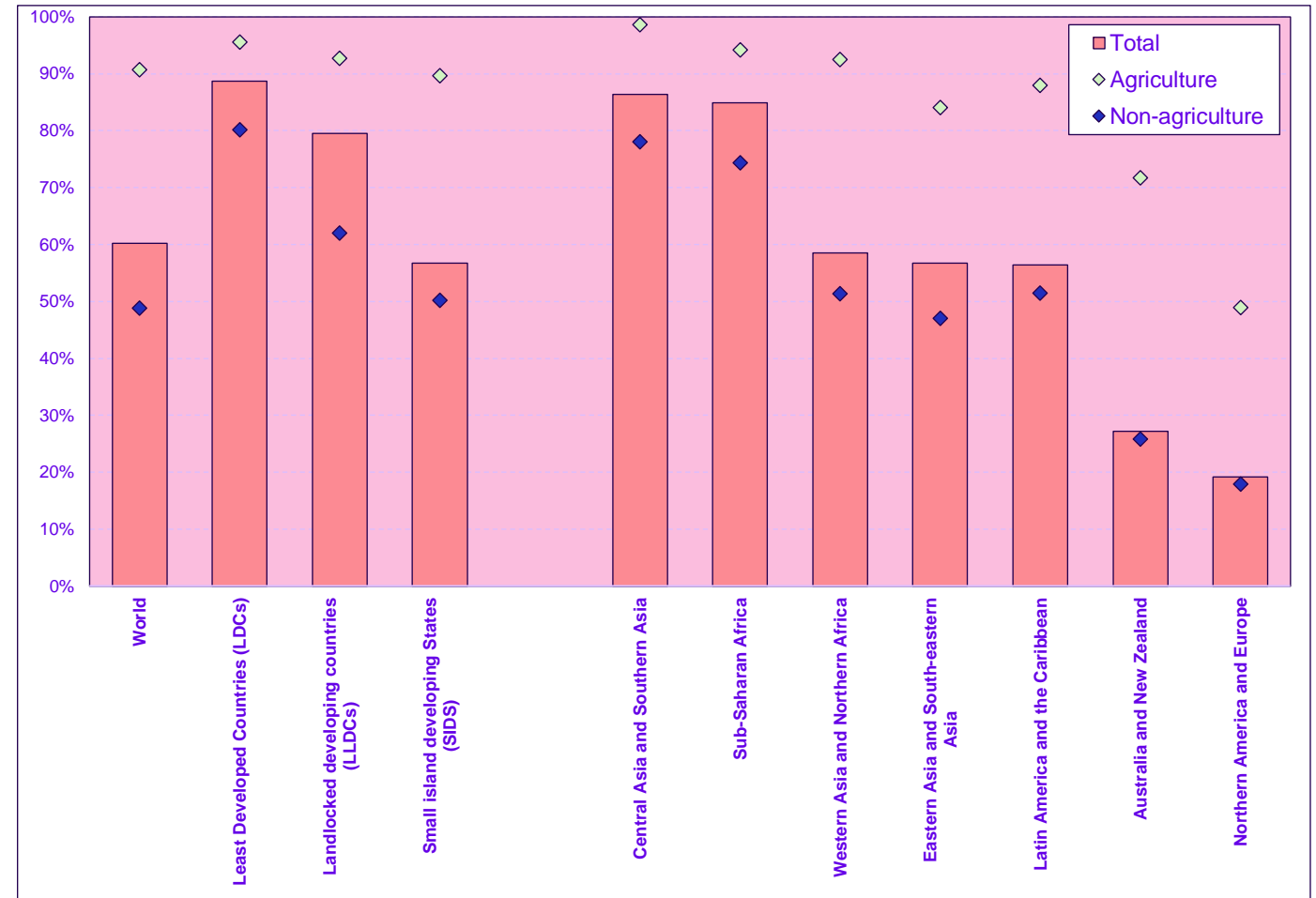
- ▶ Globally unemployment rates had been falling between 2015 and 2019.
- ▶ Reduction in unemployment rates in high income countries.
- ▶ In upper middle-income countries, unemployment rates had been on the rise even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ▶ Global unemployment increased by 33 million in 2020, with the unemployment rate increasing by 1.1 percentage points to 6.5 per cent.
- ▶ Female unemployment rates are slightly higher than for men – in 2019, 5.5% vs. 5.3 %.



Informal employment remains a concern

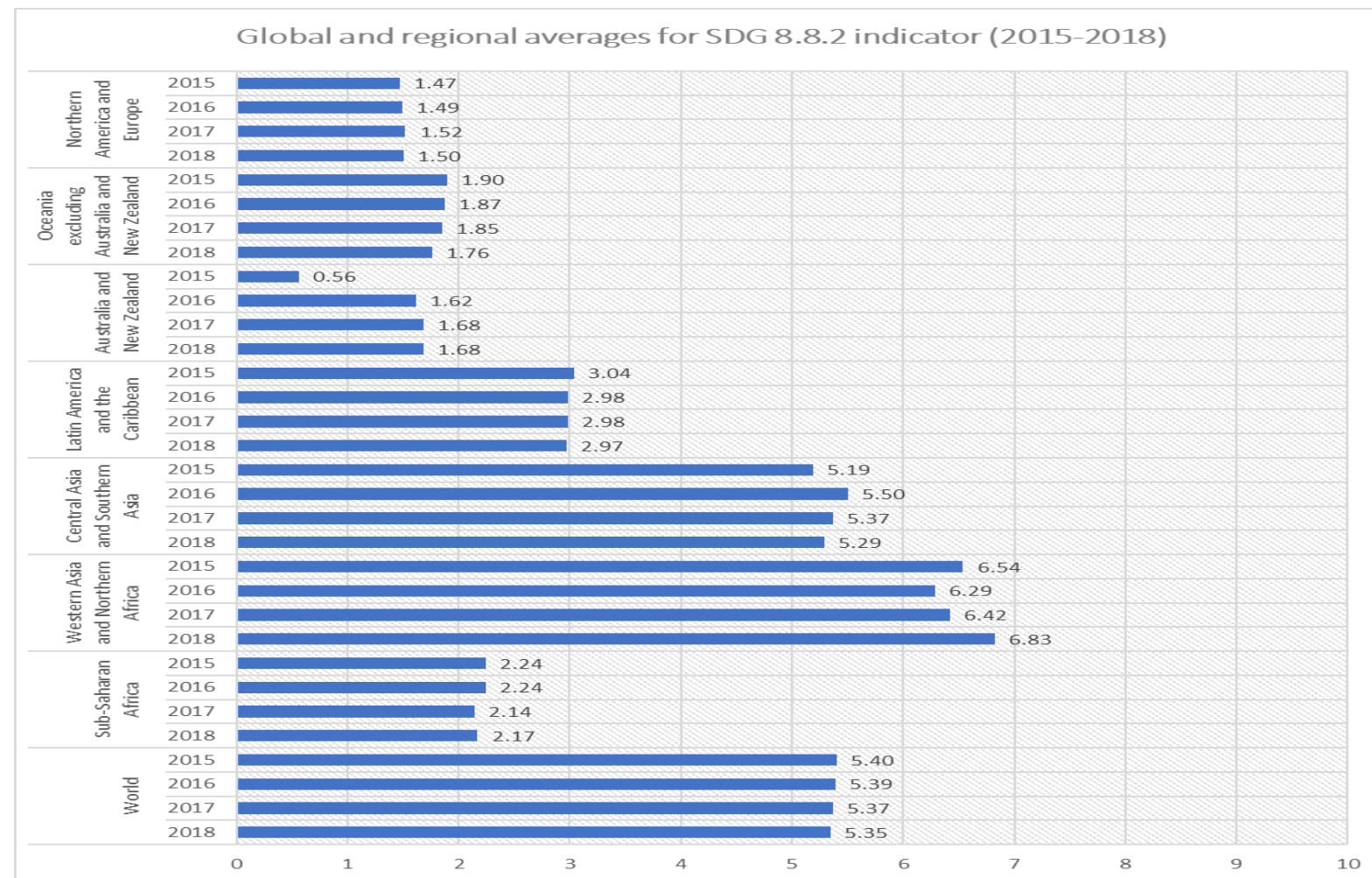
- ▶ Prior to the pandemic, the informal employment share was 60.2 per cent of global employment. Regional variations. 89 percent for LDCs.
- ▶ About 2 billion people worked in the informal economy.
- ▶ Particularly worrisome in least developed countries, where the share of informal employment in total employment was 88.7 per cent (2019).
- ▶ Severely affected by current crisis.

Advancing social justice, promoting decent work



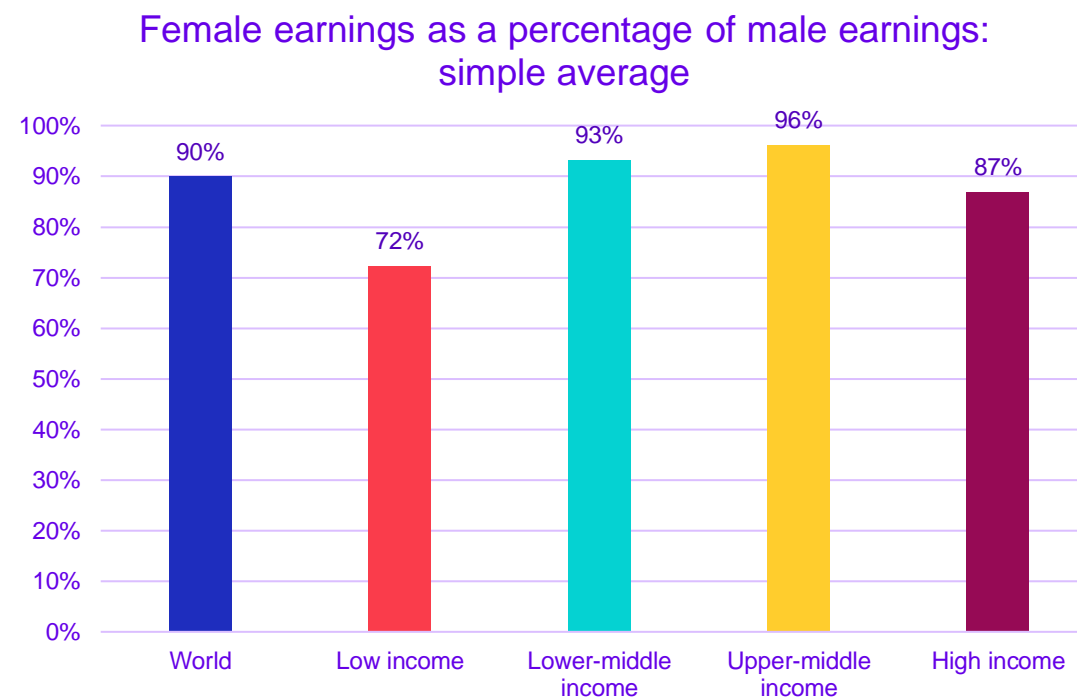
SDG 8.8.2: Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining)

- ▶ **Slight progress** under **SDG indicator 8.8.2** at the global level.
- ▶ Several countries carrying out important changes in legislation.
- ▶ Violations of workers' and employers' right to organize and bargain collectively remained significant in 2018.



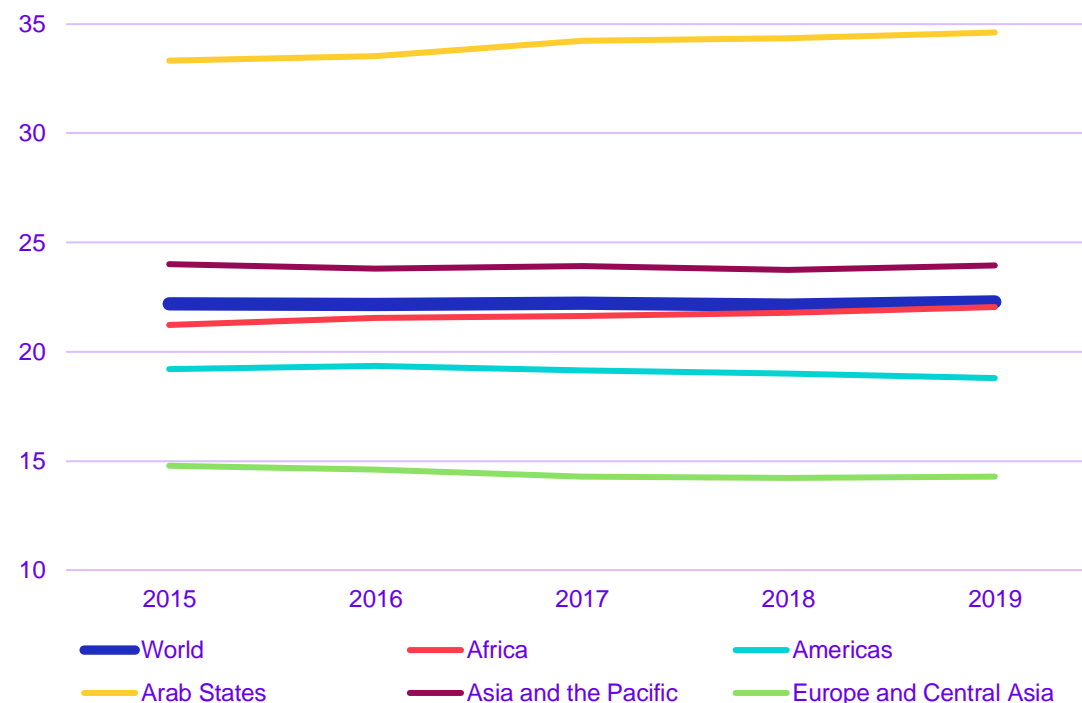
Some progress on gender equality prior to the pandemic

- ▶ Women are under-represented in managerial positions (SDG 5.5.2) . By 2019, even though women accounted for nearly 39 per cent of the global labour force, they occupied only 28.2 per cent of managerial positions.
- ▶ Female workers still earn significantly less than male workers throughout the world (SDG 8.5.1); above-all in low income countries.
- ▶ *Women have been hard hit by the crisis and were more likely than men to become inactive, further increasing gender gaps in labour force participation rates.*



Youth- NEET rates had been increasing in some regions, even prior to the COVID-19 pandemic (SDG 8.6.1)

- ▶ Globally, the share of young NEET had remained stable between 2015 and 2019.
- ▶ This reflected falls in Europe and the Americas, on the one hand;
- ▶ And an increase in Africa and most markedly Arab States on the other.
- ▶ Young females are more than twice as likely as men to be NEET - in 2019 were 31.1% for young women and 14% for young men. In lower middle-income countries almost $\frac{3}{4}$ of NEETs are female.
- ▶ NEET rate likely to rise due to Covid 19.

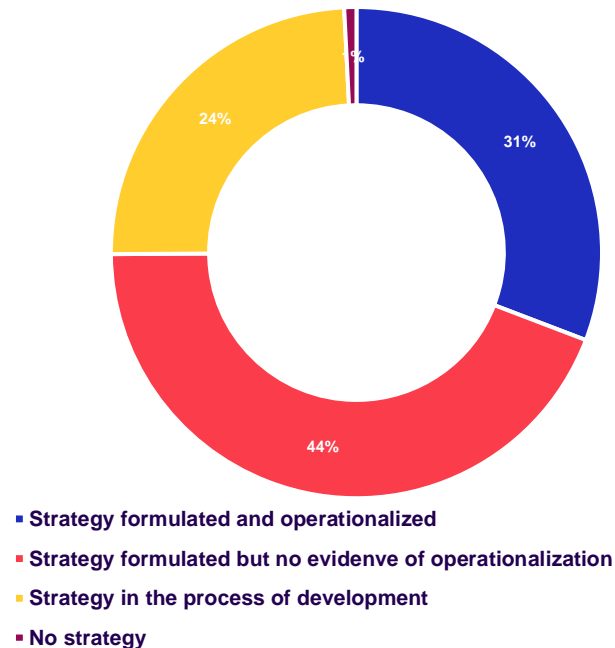


8.b.1: “*Existence of a developed and operationalized national strategy for youth employment, as a distinct strategy or as part of a national employment strategy*”.

Data on indicator 8.b.1 continues to show the commitment of countries for youth employment (90 of 107 responses).

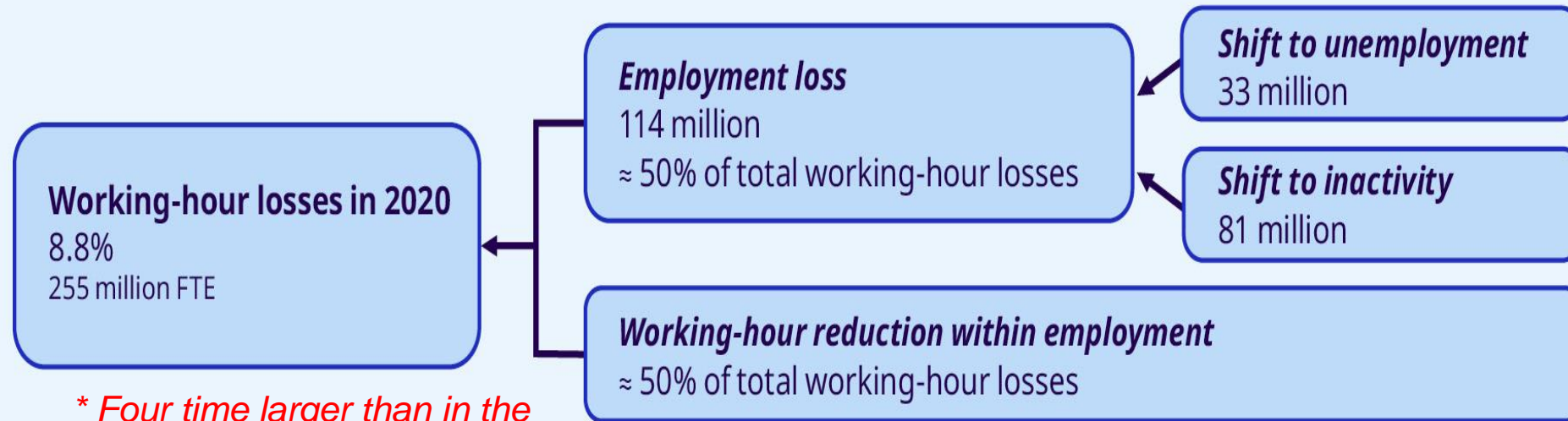
- ▶ A third (33) have formulated and operationalized a national strategy for youth employment.
- ▶ 41.1% of them (44) have such strategies but no conclusive evidence on implementation.
- ▶ A quarter (27) are in the process of formulating a strategy.

Countries by value of SDG Indicator 8.b.1 in 2020 (%)



- ***A jobs and skills policy mismatch!***
- ***Most countries have skills policies , very little on jobs for youth.***

Covid 19 impact - Unprecedented and devastating



** Four time larger than in the Great Recession (2008)*

Note: Employment loss and changes to unemployment and inactivity are relative to 2019. The shift to inactivity represents the decline in the labour force. Employment losses are transformed into working hours using the actual amount of hours worked, while the FTE estimates use 48-hour working weeks.

- Global labour income is estimated to have declined by 8.3 per cent in 2020 relative to 2019.

► *The COVID-19 crisis has dealt a serious blow to achieving SDG 8*

- Severe job loss leading to growth in unemployment and inactivity, and loss of labour income.
- The impact has been more severe for women, youth, and vulnerable groups.
- Labour market inequality has increased.
- The regional picture is quite varied: advanced countries are 'recovering', but developing countries – including many upper middle-income countries, still in crisis.
- Impact on SDG 8 likely to affect other SDG indicators, especially SDG 1 (poverty), 2 (hunger) 5 (gender), 10 (inequality).

Thank you.

Significant progress has been made in reducing working poverty

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, the share of the world's workers living below the poverty line had decreased significantly from 26.2 per cent in 2000 to 6.6 per cent in 2019 – showing encouraging progress towards the achievement of SDG Goal 1 to end poverty in all its forms everywhere.

