

Call for information - Special Rapporteur on the right to development COVID recovery plans and policies from a right to development perspective - questionnaire

A. National perspective

1. How are rights holders – individuals and communities – placed at the center of processes of COVID recovery plans elaboration, from the planning to the evaluation stages?

It is observed that the measures taken during the pandemic period in Turkey exclude many different social groups (in terms of ethnicity, gender, age and/or socio economic circumstances) and individuals within the scope of COVID recovery plans. When the reports which were produced by the civil society in Turkey are examined, it is observed that the Covid measures are insufficient in many fields of social work.

For example, the findings in the studies in which the Development Workshop conducted “the effects of pandemic conditions on vulnerable groups” reveals the fact that even children who were able to attend school before the pandemic could not be included in distance education due to the needs that emerged with the pandemic and distance education in Turkey, which progresses with a technology-dependent process. It is seen that children in vulnerable groups both encounter infrastructure problems (electricity, internet, etc.) in their living environments and do not have basic distance education tools such as television, laptop and smartphone. (Reference Nr. 1)

2. What measures ensure that COVID recovery plans are based on rights holders’ development priorities?

When the CSOs field reports during the pandemic were reviewed, it is indicated that the COVID recovery plans in Turkey were not prepared based on the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

Example: Turkey is one of the OECD countries with the highest child poverty rate at 25% (after South Africa and Costa Rica). Due to the increase in job losses and material deprivation of families in Turkey, an increase in the already high rate of child poverty can be expected. During the pandemic, interviews with CSOs working in the field revealed that families who suffered from job losses could not pay their rents and bills regularly, and that they had difficulty even reaching their basic needs, even food. The fieldwork carried out by the Deep Poverty Network in Istanbul shows that we are faced with a scenario not only limited to layoffs, but also loss of livelihood jobs. For children, there are many difficulties that determine the well-being of children, such as the

increase in the family's financial deprivation, malnutrition, increased anxiety about the future, and psychological traumas. (Reference Nr. 2)

The data confirm that housework and caring responsibilities place a huge burden on women. Unfortunately, the workload of women has not decreased even in this period when men and children in the household spend more time at home. It is obvious that those who fall outside the labor market during the pandemic are mostly women. (Reference Nr. 3)

3. What measures provide rights holders access to reliable, timely and easy to comprehend information on all aspects of COVID recovery plans?

The COVID recovery plans have not been at a scale to cover all segments of society. It is possible to see that the pandemic has more negative effects, especially when the research data of the fragile group of the society are examined.

Example: The results of the field research reveal that, in general, Romanies have experienced additional problems in terms of employment, access to social assistance, education, housing, health and gender inequalities throughout the pandemic, and the impossibilities and injustices experienced in these issues have deepened and become widespread with the effect of the pandemic. . The results indicate that a significant part of the measures taken are not sufficiently benefited by the Romanies, most of whom work in unregistered jobs. It has been stated that there are also problems in accessing the aid provided to the poverty stricken. (Reference Nr. 4)

4. What measures ensure that civil society participates throughout processes of COVID recovery plans elaboration?

Civil society has deep knowledge and field experience regarding the social and human rights impact of the pandemic. There have been hundreds of reports, fact sheets and policy recommendations that were produced and published by the civil society since 2020. Unfortunately, this production of civil society has not been adequately reflected in the social policies and COVID recovery decisions of the public administration bodies.

5. Are States committing to COVID recovery policies and plans in line with the 2030 Agenda, including through:

Turkey's COVID recovery policies and plans do not provide a framework in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals' 2030 Agenda.

- a. A specific strategy about the sectors in which the State would invest to ensure the most affected sectors of the society receive priority investment, in line with their developmental priorities;
- b. A conscious policy commitment to social and economic inclusiveness, through social protection programmes and/or investment in public services like housing, education, social protection and health care; and
- c. An open policy space where policies and programmes can be evaluated and revised as needed?

6. In evaluating COVID recovery measures, are States conducting human rights impact assessments?

When the field researches of civil society organizations in Turkey during the Pandemic, particularly working in the field of LGBTI, Women, and Children rights, education, fighting against poverty, public health were reviewed it is obvious that the COVID recovery measures were prepared by the State without conducting human rights impact assessment. *(Please see some of the reports in the references as an example.)*

7. What measures guarantee that rights holders are meaningfully involved in sharing the benefits of COVID recovery plans? How are stakeholders, including the private sector, ensuring that the benefits of COVID recovery plans and projects are equitably distributed to all segments of the population to reduce inequalities and reach the most vulnerable?

The initiatives and measures of the public administration in this regard are insufficient. Some municipalities are working on the fight against poverty, access to hygiene and cleaning materials and food during the pandemic. However, these local efforts do not provide integrity and continuity.

Example: According to the research of the Deep Poverty Network, 66.9% of the interviewees stated that they could not work during the pandemic period by working in their daily jobs, 16.1% were dismissed, 10.1% were taken on unpaid leave, 5.9% of the participants says no change. It seems that none of the people we interviewed had the opportunity to work from home/remotely. This information reveals that calls for "staying at home" are not sufficiently inclusive and realistic. (Reference Nr. 5)

8. Are States guaranteeing social protection floors, even in times of crisis?

There is no provable data on this subject.

B. International perspective

- 1. In the context of Official Development Assistance, in what way are States/development agencies promoting coherence across the internationally agreed 2015 policy frameworks, such as by supporting States in developing/financing integrated COVID recovery plans? In what ways are states/development agencies fostering a culture of transparency and accountability?**

There is no provable data on this subject.

- 2. In what ways are states increasing their international cooperation to facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of COVID recovery plans?**

The Republic of Türkiye Ministry of Health General Directorate of EU and Foreign Affairs has been carrying out projects to increase their international cooperation to facilitate the development, implementation and evaluation of COVID recovery plans. However, these efforts are thought to be insufficient, as reflected in civil society reports.

- 3. How are states/development agencies cooperating to mobilize additional resources at international level – including knowledge sharing, technical cooperation, capacity-building and technology transfers – in order to provide the means and facilities to foster comprehensive COVID recovery?**

There is not enough data on this subject.

You are kindly requested to send your submissions to ohchr-srdevelopment@un.org by 1 March 2022 in English, French, Spanish or Russian.

References:

- 1- [Being a Student During the Pandemic Period](#), Development Workshop, March 2021
- 2-5 [Deep Poverty and Access to Rights During the Pandemic Research](#), Deep Poverty Network, November 2020
- 3- [Gender Inequality in the Covid -19 Pandemic](#), Policy Recommendations, Istanbul Policy Center, March 2021
- 4- [Socio-economic Impact of Covid-19 on Roman Communities in Turkey](#), Zero Discrimination Association, December 2021
- 6- [Research Report on LGBTI+'s Access to Social Services During the Pandemic](#), Social Policy, Gender Identity and Sexual Orientation Studies Association, 2020
- 7- [Informal Employment in the Conditions of the Covid-19 Pandemic](#), TESEV - March 2020
- 8- [Impact of Covid-19 on Children and Child-Oriented Social Policies](#), TESEV - March 2020, June 2020