



International Day for the Eradication of Poverty webinar

Making Jobs Work for People and the Planet

Tuesday, 17 October 2023, 8:30-9:45 EST – virtual event

1. Background

Across the globe, the pandemic halted decades of poverty reduction progress, leading to the first rise in the number of people living in extreme poverty in a generation and the largest surge in between-country inequality in three decades. If current trends continue, only one-third of countries will have halved their national poverty levels by 2030¹. Currently, over 1 billion people are living in multidimensional poverty in nearly 110 countries, and over 18% live in acute multidimensional poverty².

The catalytic role of jobs in driving inclusive economic growth cannot be overstated.

They are indispensable in empowering individuals and families towards self-reliance and prosperity, while simultaneously bridging the socio-economic rifts that perpetuate inequalities and the disparities that fracture social cohesion. Yet, jobs remain elusive to nearly half a billion people globally³, among which about 40% are estimated to be actively seeking employment⁴. Whereas the incidence of informal employment has been on a slow decline, it remains at 2 billion workers. Informal employment has played a critical role in contributing to employment recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. However, informal work combined with lack or inadequate social protection exacerbates vulnerability.

Quality jobs matter. They provide households with a fair labour income, security in the workplace and social protection. Today, over 214 million workers live in extreme poverty⁵, translating to approximately 6.4% of the employed people. Across the world, the number of working poor has increased. If this trend persists, it will be impossible to eradicate poverty (SDG1) in all its forms⁶.

Gender dimensions are of critical relevance. Globally, the labour force participation rate for women is around 50% compared to 80% for men⁷. Women often engage in jobs characterized by substandard employment conditions, disproportionately engage in informal employment, and often earn less than their male counterparts.

¹ [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition](#). New York: United Nations

² <https://hdr.undp.org/content/2023-global-multidimensional-poverty-index-mpi#/indicies/MPI>

³ [World Employment and Social Outlook: Trends 2023](#). Geneva: International Labour Office, 2023.

⁴ [The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023: Special Edition](#). New York: United Nations, 2023.

⁵ earning less than US\$1.90 per day per person in purchasing power parity [PPP] terms

⁶ https://www.ilo.org/global/research/global-reports/weso/WCMS_865332/lang--en/index.htm

⁷ <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/sdgoalatlas/archive/2020/goal-5-gender-equality/>

The global landscape of jobs is in the middle of profound change driven by both how individuals engage in employment and how economies operate. These include automation and technological developments, demographic transition, the green transition, and an ever-increasing frequency of economic, health (exemplified by the COVID-19 pandemic), geo-political and climate-induced shocks.

If appropriately addressed by governments and the broader development community, the cumulative effects of the transitions can generate opportunities for all segments of society. Left unaddressed, they will disproportionately impact the most vulnerable, widen socio-economic gaps, exacerbate gender disparities, intensify intergenerational inequalities, and deepen poverty.

In celebrating the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, policymakers and relevant stakeholders must rethink how poverty in all its forms can be eradicated. Quality jobs are critical in reducing inequalities and poverty, and empowering people. Therefore, clear policies and partnerships, including public-private initiatives, are essential in: 1) creating and promoting jobs that provide decent earnings, 2) ensuring safe working conditions, 3) providing social protection, and 4) safeguarding workers' rights.⁸

2. Objectives

The 2023 International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated annually on 17 October, provides a reminder that eradicating poverty is possible. This event brings together leading development practitioners, civil society, the private sector, and academia to engage in an interactive dialogue on ways to advance the empowerment of people out of poverty through quality and sustainable jobs. In the context of compounding crisis and multiple transitions, the panel will discuss how countries can be supported to ensure these transitions are just and no one is left behind.

3. Structure of the discussion

The panel will reflect on the following questions, *inter alia*:

- In the context of the compounding crises and multiple transitions, how can governments be supported to ensure that these transitions, including the green and energy transitions, are just and that no one is left behind?
- What are the current labour market challenges for countries in the Global South?
- How can systemic barriers that limit people from accessing quality and sustainable work be addressed?
- What is hampering the private sector to generate more and better jobs?
- How can we ensure that job opportunities are resilient and adaptable, allowing for sustained progress in poverty eradication?
- What partnerships are required to ensure jobs can indeed reduce poverty?

⁸ https://international-partnerships.ec.europa.eu/policies/sustainable-growth-and-jobs/employment-and-decent-work_en

4. Agenda

Time	Description
8:30 - 8:35	Opening Remarks (5 min) Ms. Michelle Muschett , UN Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, UNDP
8:35-8:40	Video on 2023 IDEP
8:40 - 9:40	Moderated Discussion by Michelle Muschett <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Ms. Sabina Alkire, Professor of Poverty and Human Development, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI)• Ms. Saadia Zahidi, Managing Director, WEF (TBC)• Ms. Sofía Sprechmann Sineiro, Secretary General of CARE International (TBC)• Mr. Jonathan Reichental, former Chief Digital Officer Palo Alto, and CEO, Human Future• Mr. Khulekani Mathe, Deputy CEO Business Unit South Africa
9:40 - 9:45	Closing Remarks (2 min) by Michelle Muschett , UN Assistant Administrator and Regional Director for Asia and Pacific, UNDP