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INSTITUT DE HAUTES
ÉTUDES INTERNATIONALES
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THE GENEVA CHALLENGE 2022

The International Contest for Graduate Students to Advance Development Goals

“The Challenges of Poverty Reduction”

Last year, 290 teams composed of 1,176 graduate students from 115 countries took part in Geneva Challenge 2021. Building on this success, the Geneva Graduate Institute continues to encourage interdisciplinary problem-solving among graduate students from around the world. Thanks to the vision and support of Ambassador Jenö Staehelin, a long-standing partner and friend of the Geneva Graduate Institute, we are now proud to launch

the ninth edition of The Geneva Challenge – Advancing Development Goals Contest, which in 2022 addresses “The Challenges of Poverty Reduction”.

Today, more than 700 million people around the world still live in extreme poverty. Goal no. 1 of the Sustainable Development Agenda aims at ending poverty in all its forms everywhere. Under the earlier Millennium Development Goals, the poverty rate in the developing world plummeted between 1990 and 2015 from 47% to 14%. Yet, recent estimates from the World Bank show a reversal in today’s COVID-19 world, and the weakened numbers are expected to continue. Ninety-seven million people fell into extreme poverty in 2020. New research suggests that by 2030, two-thirds of the extreme poor in the world will be living in countries with economies so fragile that rapid and intensified action will be needed if global poverty goals are to be met. In other countries, meanwhile, the poor face widening income inequality, as well as hunger and malnutrition; limited access to education, health and other services; and social exclusion. In light of all this, the Advancing Development Goals Contest calls upon graduate students from around the world to develop innovative interdisciplinary solutions that address the global challenges of poverty reduction.

Successful strategies today require being interdisciplinary and analysing the ways in which individuals, governments, civil society, international organisations and private sector organisations can and should respond. In this Geneva Challenge, we are seeking innovative and crosscutting proposals. The competition could not be more timely.

As an aid to participants, details of some of the specific pressing issues being experienced worldwide are highlighted below.

Poverty

- Most often, poverty is simply defined as a lack of income, more specifically in terms of the international poverty line (IPL). The IPL defines that a person who lives on less

than \$1.90 per day is considered to be a person living in extreme poverty.¹ Additionally, other measures of absolute poverty include two higher poverty lines, namely \$3.20 and \$5.50 per day.² More than 700 million people around the world still live in extreme poverty as defined by the IPL.³ Globally, 97 million people entered into extreme poverty as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴ In 2020, global hunger increased due to the COVID-19 pandemic with up to 811 million people being undernourished, out of which 418 million people live in Asia and 282 million in Africa.⁵ About 930 million people globally are at risk of falling into poverty due expensive health spending.⁶ Only 20% of rural inhabitants have access to improved water. A lack of safe water and sanitation has grave impacts on health, with diarrhoea being the second leading cause of death in children under 5.⁷ A child born in one of the poorest countries in the world has a 10% chance of dying within the first 5 years of their life while in rich countries the survival rate is as high as 99.8%.⁸

- However, with a world that gets increasingly richer, the usefulness of the IPL has been questioned.⁹ A person living in poverty suffers from multiple disadvantages at the same time, including poor health and malnutrition, a lack of clean water or electricity, poor quality of work, a lack of access to education, and more.¹⁰ There are several recent attempts to measure the multidimensionality of poverty worldwide. For example, the Multidimensional Poverty Measure (MPM) is one tool used by the World Bank that assesses poverty beyond monetary deprivations by including the dimensions of education and basic infrastructure into the IPL.¹¹ Over one third of those experiencing multidimensional poverty, according to this measure, are not captured by the normal tool of IPL.¹² A second tool to measure multidimensional poverty is the Global Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI). The MPI measures acute multidimensional poverty by measuring each person's deprivations across 10 indicators in three equally

¹ World Bank, "Measuring Poverty," last modified April 16, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/measuringpoverty#1>.

² Marta Schoch, Dean Mitchell Jolliffe and Christoph Lakner, "A quarter of the world lives in societal poverty," World Bank, published December 2, 2020, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/quarter-world-lives-societal-poverty>

³ UN, "Goal 1: End poverty in all its forms everywhere," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>.

⁴ ⁴ Daniel Gerszon Mahler et al., "Updated estimates of the impact of COVID-19 on global poverty: Turning the corner on the pandemic in 2021?" World Bank, published June 24, 2021, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/updated-estimates-impact-covid-19-global-poverty-turning-corner-pandemic-2021>.

⁵ WHO, "UN report: Pandemic year marked by spike in world hunger," <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-07-2021-un-report-pandemic-year-marked-by-spike-in-world-hunger>.

⁶ WHO, "Primary health care," published April 1, 2021, "<https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/primary-health-care>.

⁷ World Bank, "Millions Around the World Held Back by Poor Sanitation and Lack of Access to Clean Water," August 28, 2017, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2017/08/28/millions-around-the-world-held-back-by-poor-sanitation-and-lack-of-access-to-clean-water>.

⁸ ⁸ Max Roser, "The link between child mortality and average income reveals staggering inequalities," World Economic Forum, August 11, 2021, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2021/08/child-mortality-income-inequality/>.

⁹ Espen Beer Prydz and Dean Jolliffe, "Societal Poverty: A global measure of relative poverty," World Bank, published September 11, 2019, <https://datatopics.worldbank.org/world-development-indicators/stories/societal-poverty-a-global-measure-of-relative-poverty.html>.

¹⁰ OPHI, "Multidimensional Poverty," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://ophi.org.uk/research/multidimensional-poverty/>.

¹¹ World Bank, "Multidimensional Poverty Measure," last modified March 30, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/multidimensional-poverty-measure>.

¹² World Bank, "Multidimensional Poverty Measure," last modified March 30, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/brief/multidimensional-poverty-measure>.

weighted dimension: health, education and standard of living.¹³ People are considered multidimensional poor if they are deprived in one-third or more of the 10 indicators. In 2021, across 109 countries 1.3 billion people (21.7%) lived in acute multidimensional poverty.¹⁴ Out of these, 644 million are children under the age of 18 and 105 million are age 60 or older. Nearly 84% of people in multidimensional poverty live in Sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia. Important to note is that 67% live in middle-income countries, which points to the fact that poverty is no longer just a problem of the developing world and the poorest countries.¹⁵

Social exclusion

- Poverty is strongly correlated with social exclusion. “Social exclusion describes a state in which individuals are unable to participate fully in economic, social, political and cultural life, as well as the process leading to and sustaining such a state.”¹⁶ People who are discriminated against often end up excluded from socio-economic and political participation. They are more likely to be poor and be denied access to income, assets, and services.¹⁷ Factors that are strongly correlated with poverty and social exclusion are gender, caste, ethnicity and religion.¹⁸ Social exclusion leads to lower lifetime earnings, poor education and employment outcomes, factors that are all associated with poverty.¹⁹ An estimated 891 million people in the world experience discrimination on the basis of their ethnic, linguistic or religious identities alone.²⁰ In 2020, 24.2% of children in the EU were at risk of poverty or social exclusion.²¹ The COVID-19 pandemic has had an intensified negative impact on the most marginalised, including persons with disabilities, women, unemployed youth, sexual and gender minorities, the elderly, indigenous peoples, and ethnic and racial minorities.²²
- It is more difficult for people who suffer from social exclusion to be lifted out of poverty since poverty reduction policies often fail to reach socially excluded groups.²³ They are often denied the opportunities available to others to increase their income and escape from poverty by their own efforts.²⁴ The reduction of inequalities can contribute to poverty reduction, especially for socially excluded groups.²⁵ Improving the ability of

¹³ UNDP and OPHI, “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender,” 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹⁴ UNDP and OPHI, “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender,” 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹⁵ UNDP and OPHI, “Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender,” 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹⁶ UN, “Chapter 1: Identifying social inclusion and exclusion,” 2016, <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/rwss/2016/chapter1.pdf>.

¹⁷ OHCHR DFID, “Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion,” September 2005, <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/docs/socialexclusion.pdf>.

¹⁸ Rebecca Holmes, “How to tackle social exclusion in the labour market,” World Economic Forum, February 2, 2015, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/02/how-to-tackle-social-exclusion-in-the-labour-market/>.

¹⁹ World Bank, “Social Inclusion,” accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/social-inclusion#1>.

²⁰ OHCHR DFID, “Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion,” September 2005, <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/docs/socialexclusion.pdf>.

²¹ https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php?title=Children_at_risk_of_poverty_or_social_exclusion.

²² World Bank, “Social Inclusion,” accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/social-inclusion#1>.

²³ OHCHR DFID, “Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion,” September 2005, <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/docs/socialexclusion.pdf>.

²⁴ OHCHR DFID, “Reducing poverty by tackling social exclusion,” September 2005, <https://www2.ohchr.org/english/issues/development/docs/socialexclusion.pdf>.

²⁵ UN General Assembly, “Extreme poverty and human rights – The persistence of poverty: how real equality can break the vicious cycles,” published July 19, 2021, <https://undocs.org/A/76/177>.

people to take part in society means enhancing their ability and opportunity to be a full member of society, enter employment more easily and participate in political processes, thereby helping to improve the general living standards and reducing poverty.²⁶

Vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other economic, social and environmental shocks and disasters

- Climate change and poverty are linked.²⁷ Environmental and climate-related events and risks disproportionately affect developing countries, people living in poverty and other vulnerable groups within countries.²⁸ People living in poverty are more frequently exposed to climate hazards, they tend to lose relatively more when affected, and have fewer resources to enable them to cope and recover.²⁹ Climate change has increased the frequency and intensity of climate-related extreme events like hot extremes, marine heatwaves, droughts, cyclones and floods.³⁰ Climate change will exacerbate health shocks that already push 100 million people into poverty every year.³¹ Environmental risks account for 25% of the disease burden in children under 5 years old.³² Between 2030 and 2050, climate change is predicted to cause 250,000 additional deaths per year from malnutrition, malaria, diarrhoea and heat stress, all illnesses that are likely to be exacerbated by raising global temperatures.³³ The effects of climate change can generate a vicious cycle of increasing poverty and vulnerability, thereby worsening inequality between and within countries.³⁴ An estimate of 100 million people could fall back into extreme poverty by 2030 due to climate change and over 200 million people are estimated to be displaced due to more frequent and severe climatic disasters.³⁵ Economic, social and environmental shocks provoke immediate humanitarian needs for food, shelter and medical care but also severely set back poverty eradication in the long term by increasing all aspects of fragility and critically preventing access to safe, nutritious food and water, education and economic opportunities.³⁶

²⁶ World Bank, "Social Inclusion in Africa," October 16, 2017, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/region/afr/brief/social-inclusion-in-africa>.

²⁷ IPCC, "Sustainable Development, Poverty Eradication and Reducing Inequalities," 2018, https://www.ipcc.ch/site/assets/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/SR15_Chapter5_Low_Res.pdf.

²⁸ UN, "World Social Report 2020 Chapter 3 : Climate Change : Exacerbating poverty and inequality," 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report-2020-Chapter-3.pdf>.

²⁹ UN, "World Social Report 2020 Chapter 3 : Climate Change : Exacerbating poverty and inequality," 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report-2020-Chapter-3.pdf>.

³⁰ IPCC, "Climate Change 2021 – The Physical Science Basis (Summary for Policymakers)," 2021, https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/downloads/report/IPCC_AR6_WGI_SPM_final.pdf.

³¹ UN General Assembly, "Climate Change and Poverty," July 17, 2019, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/39>.

³² WHO, "Children's environmental health," accessed December 15, 2021, https://www.who.int/health-topics/children-environmental-health#tab=tab_2.

³³ WHO, "Climate Change," accessed December 15, 2021, https://www.who.int/health-topics/climate-change#tab=tab_1

³⁴ UN, "World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a rapidly changing world," 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf>.

³⁵ Kishan Khoday and Walid Ali, "Climate Change and the Rise of Poverty," UNDP, published December 19, 2018, <https://www.undp.org/blog/climate-change-and-rise-poverty>.

³⁶ UN, "Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty - United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027)," 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-System-wide-Plan-of-Action-for-the-Third-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty.27-June-2019.pdf>.

- People in poverty tend to live in areas more susceptible to climate change and in housing that is less resistant. They lose relatively more when affected by climate variability and weather shocks, and have fewer resources to mitigate the effects.³⁷ Climate change threatens to undo the last 50 years of progress in development, global health and poverty reduction.³⁸ Hence, urgent action is needed to protect those living in poverty and those in danger of entering extreme poverty in the future from the impacts of climate change and other shocks. Thus, global action must reduce their vulnerability to climate-related extreme events and other shocks and disasters.³⁹ Hence, steps must be taken to reduce vulnerability, enhance adaptive capacities and combine action on poverty reduction with action on climate change.⁴⁰

Fragile and conflict situations

- Fragility, conflict and violence (FCV) present a critical challenge to extreme poverty reduction efforts in both low- and middle-income countries.⁴¹ Armed conflict weakens poverty reduction in the long term.⁴² Countries that have escaped fragile and conflict-affected situations (FCS) in the past decade have cut their poverty rates by more than half.⁴³ Today, about half the world's poor live in FCS.⁴⁴ By 2030, up to 60% of the world's extreme poor are projected to live in FCV settings.⁴⁵ The number of people living in proximity to conflict has almost doubled since 2007. A person living in an economy facing chronic fragility and conflict is 10 times more likely to be poor than a person living in a country that has not experienced any fragility or conflict for 20 years.⁴⁶ In 2020, the 37 economies formally classified by the World Bank as affected by FCV are home to 10% of the world's population but more than 40% of the global poor.⁴⁷ People living in FCS are more likely to suffer not only from poverty but from multiple deprivations.⁴⁸ Conflict affects long-term workforce productivity through the reduced access to education, increased mortality and worsened mental health.⁴⁹

³⁷ UN General Assembly, "Climate Change and Poverty," published July 17, 2019, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/39>.

³⁸ UN General Assembly, "Climate Change and Poverty," published July 17, 2019, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/41/39>.

³⁹ UN Economic and Social Council, "Beyond gross domestic product: multidimensional poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals," published May 8, 2017, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/69.

⁴⁰ "Poverty and Climate Change," OECD, 2002, <https://www.oecd.org/env/cc/2502872.pdf>.

⁴¹ World Bank, "Fragility, Conflict & Violence," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview#1>.

⁴² World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

⁴³ Natalia Cieslik, "Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty," World Bank, published February 27, 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/fragility-conflict-on-the-front-lines-fight-against-poverty>.

⁴⁴ Daniel Gerszon Mahler, Tara Vishwanath and Alexander Irwin, "What could stop the world from ending poverty? Think fragility and conflict," World Bank, published February 27, 2020, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/opendata/what-could-stop-world-ending-poverty-think-fragility-and-conflict>.

⁴⁵ World Bank, "Fragility, Conflict & Violence" last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/fragilityconflictviolence/overview#1>.

⁴⁶ Natalia Cieslik, "Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty," World Bank, published February 27, 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/fragility-conflict-on-the-front-lines-fight-against-poverty>.

⁴⁷ World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

⁴⁸ Natalia Cieslik, "Fragility and Conflict: On the Front Lines of the Fight against Poverty," World Bank, published February 27, 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/poverty/publication/fragility-conflict-on-the-front-lines-fight-against-poverty>.

⁴⁹ World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

- Additionally, crisis situations often lead to internally displaced persons and refugees who are facing extreme poverty. There are 82.4 million people around the world that are forcibly displaced people.⁵⁰ Four out of five displaced persons live in developing countries.⁵¹ Around 76% of refugees are displaced for more than five years.⁵² While emergency humanitarian aid can help those recently displaced in the short term, multidimensional factors of poverty must be taken into consideration in the medium to long term. Hence, action must focus on securing their access to livelihood opportunities, finance, adequate housing, education and basic social needs and on strengthening and supporting host communities by generating economic opportunities to prevent people from entering poverty due to displacement.⁵³

Tech poverty

- Technological innovation is happening at an increasing speed and is mostly concentrated in developed countries.⁵⁴ There are significant inequalities among and within countries in terms of access to these innovations.⁵⁵ One of the main hindrances to a positive impact of technologies on poverty reduction is the lack of universal access to these technologies. Barriers based on a combination of a lack of availability, affordability, awareness, accessibility and ability for effective use persist in many countries.⁵⁶
- Digitalisation can help people to work and learn better. Internet availability and the use of sophisticated digital technologies lead to more and better jobs, especially for lower-income and lower-skilled people, and could therefore help to reduce poverty.⁵⁷ Labour force participation and wage employment increase significantly in areas with internet availability, three years after its provision.⁵⁸ However, the gains from the anticipated growth and development through digitalisation are predicted to be unequally distributed, with those on the margins of the labour market, like people in poverty, women or people with disabilities, benefitting the least.⁵⁹ Only 28% of the rural

⁵⁰ World Bank, "Forced Displacement," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

⁵¹ World Bank, "Forced Displacement," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

⁵² World Bank, "Forced Displacement," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

⁵³ UN, "Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty – United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-System-wide-Plan-of-Action-for-the-Third-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty-27-June-2019.pdf>.

⁵⁴ UNCTAD, "Technology and Innovation Report 2021," 2021, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tir2020_en.pdf.

⁵⁵ UNCTAD, "Technology and Innovation Report 2021," 2021, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tir2020_en.pdf.

⁵⁶ UNCTAD, "Technology and Innovation Report 2021," 2021, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tir2020_en.pdf.

⁵⁷ World Bank, "Narrowing the Digital Divide Can Foster Inclusion and Increase Jobs," published September 24, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/24/narrowing-the-digital-divide-can-foster-inclusion-and-increase-jobs>.

⁵⁸ World Bank, "Narrowing the Digital Divide Can Foster Inclusion and Increase Jobs," published September 24, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/24/narrowing-the-digital-divide-can-foster-inclusion-and-increase-jobs>.

⁵⁹ UN, "Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty – United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," 2018,

households in developing countries had access to the internet in 2019 (65% in urban areas) compared with 81% in developed countries (87% in urban areas).⁶⁰ Access to the internet is marked by a gender gap, especially in poorer countries. In developing countries 40% of women and 49% of men used the internet in 2019, compared to 86% and 88% in developed countries.⁶¹ Additionally, many technologies rely on steady, high-speed fixed internet connections. However, almost half of the world's population, 3.7 billion people, remain offline and therefore lack the infrastructure to meaningfully use technological tools. The lack of digital skills is also higher among people living in poverty, people living in developing countries in general and marginalised groups.⁶² While 70% of Africa's regional population have availability of mobile internet, less than 25% are using it.⁶³

- The Fourth Industrial Revolution is associated with a loss of low-skill jobs due to automation and an increase in high-skill jobs, especially in computer-based work. Almost half of the work activities globally have the potential to be automated.⁶⁴ Artificial intelligence (AI) could also make an important contribution to poverty reduction in areas that include manufacturing, energy, financial services, education as well as the provision of public services. For example, AI has been used to increase information and data on poverty by using satellite data and AI analyses.⁶⁵ Additionally, AI can be used in the health sector to reach more rural and remote areas with healthcare, in education to support virtual learning, and in public services.⁶⁶ Moreover, AI-based technology has also been employed to prevent and predict natural disasters. The expansion of this tech sector will also critically rely on the development of safeguards, such as legislative and regulatory frameworks.⁶⁷

Employment, informal work and youth unemployment

- Access to good quality employment is often regarded as an important antipoverty strategy that can lead to improvements in individuals' standards of living and wellbeing. Yet, underemployment, unemployment, informal work, poor-quality employment, vulnerable employment and working poverty remain major issues that dampen efforts

https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-System-wide-Plan-of-Action-for-the-Third-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty_27-June-2019.pdf.

⁶⁰ Hyea Won Lee, "Addressing the digital divide and inequality: A road to equitable COVID-19 vaccine delivery," World Bank, published June 2, 2021, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/addressing-digital-divide-and-inequality-road-equitable-covid-19-vaccine>.

⁶¹ Hyea Won Lee, "Addressing the digital divide and inequality: A road to equitable COVID-19 vaccine delivery," World Bank, published June 2, 2021, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/addressing-digital-divide-and-inequality-road-equitable-covid-19-vaccine>.

⁶² UNCTAD, "Technology and Innovation Report 2021," 2021, https://unctad.org/system/files/official-document/tir2020_en.pdf.

⁶³ World Bank, "Narrowing the Digital Divide Can Foster Inclusion and Increase Jobs," published September 24, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/feature/2021/09/24/narrowing-the-digital-divide-can-foster-inclusion-and-increase-jobs>.

⁶⁴ Jieun Choi, "The Future of Jobs and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Business as Usual for Unusual Businesses," World Bank, July 17, 2017, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/psd/future-jobs-and-fourth-industrial-revolution-business-usual-unusual-business>.

⁶⁵ May Wong, "Stanford researchers harness satellite imagery and AI to help fight poverty in Africa," *Stanford News*, May 22, 2020, <https://news.stanford.edu/2020/05/22/using-satellites-ai-help-fight-poverty-africa/>.

⁶⁶ UN, "The impact of Digital Technologies," accessed December 22, 2021, <https://www.un.org/en/un75/impact-digital-technologies>.

⁶⁷ William Sonneborn and Lana Graf, "How AI can help developing countries rebuild after the pandemic," World Bank, published September 16, 2020, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/digital-development/how-ai-can-help-developing-countries-rebuild-after-pandemic>.

to achieve poverty eradication.⁶⁸ In 2022, global unemployment is expected to reach 205 million people, which is an increase since 2019 (187 million unemployed) and is mainly due to the COVID-19 pandemic and related job losses resulting from the economic downturns.⁶⁹ In this regard, the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will be most strongly felt in the informal economy, where a vast majority of the working poor are employed.⁷⁰ Productive employment and decent work are the basic route out of poverty for individuals, communities and societies.⁷¹

- Young workers are twice as likely to be living in poverty as adults, a trend which is projected to be exacerbated by the impacts of the pandemic.⁷² Twice as many young women lost their jobs as did young men due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁷³ Almost 40.8% of the global youth labour force is either unemployed or part of the working poor.⁷⁴ Additionally, an elevated unemployment rate, increased susceptibility to working poverty and a lack of good quality job opportunities are key factors in shaping young people's decision to migrate permanently.⁷⁵ Youth unemployment is extremely high in urban areas, with 23%.⁷⁶ Additionally, youth unemployment perpetuates the intergenerational cycle of poverty.⁷⁷ Hence, increasing youth employment can significantly impact the eradication of poverty in the future by breaking the cycle of poverty that traps generations of families in extreme poverty. Moreover, the longer a person is unemployed, the lower are the potential wages and the chances of finding a new job.⁷⁸ Similarly, the social capital of a person declines the longer they are out of work, further decreasing the chances of finding new employment.⁷⁹

⁶⁸ UN, "Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty – United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-System-wide-Plan-of-Action-for-the-Third-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty-27-June-2019.pdf>.

⁶⁹ ILO, "Slow jobs recovery and increased inequality risk long-term COVID-19 scarring," June 2, 2021, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_794834/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷⁰ UN Stats, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-01/>.

⁷¹ UN, "Accelerating Global Actions for a World Without Poverty – United Nations System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-System-wide-Plan-of-Action-for-the-Third-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty-27-June-2019.pdf>.

⁷² UN Stats, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-01/>.

⁷³ ILO, "An uneven and gender-unequal COVID-19 recovery: Update on gender and employment trends 2021," published October 16, 2021, https://www.ilo.org/employment/Whatwedo/Publications/WCMS_824865/lang--en/index.htm.

⁷⁴ ILO, "24. Youth Employment," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>.

⁷⁵ UN, "Global Youth Unemployment is on the Rise Again," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/youthenvoy/2016/08/global-youth-unemployment-rise/>.

⁷⁶ Jorge Avalos et al., "A Path to Jobs for the Urban Poor," World Bank, 2021, <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/bitstream/handle/10986/36594/In-Practice-A-Path-to-Jobs-for-the-Urban-Poor.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y>.

⁷⁷ ILO, "24. Youth Employment," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.ilo.org/global/topics/dw4sd/themes/youth-employment/lang--en/index.htm>.

⁷⁸ Austin Nichols, Josh Mitchel and Stephan Lindner, "Consequences of Long-Term Unemployment," Urban Institute, 2013, <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/23921/412887-Consequences-of-Long-Term-Unemployment.PDF>.

⁷⁹ Austin Nichols, Josh Mitchel and Stephan Lindner, "Consequences of Long-Term Unemployment," Urban Institute, 2013, <https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/23921/412887-Consequences-of-Long-Term-Unemployment.PDF>.

Educational and learning poverty

- The limited access to quality education and the lack of basic skills are closely related to poverty. One of the main barriers to education is poverty, with children from the poorest households being five times more likely to be out of primary school.⁸⁰ In spite of progress in schooling enrolments, still 11% of primary-school-aged children and 20% of lower-secondary-aged children are out of school.⁸¹ By April 2020, about 1.6 billion children and youth were out of school and 369 million children who rely on school meals did not receive them as a result of the pandemic-related school closures implemented around the world.⁸² A lack of schooling and education has long-lasting effects on people who face greater barriers to earning potential and employment later in life and therefore lack the ability to build a better future for themselves and their communities.⁸³ Additionally, even those children who are able to regularly attend school often do not acquire basic skills. In low-income countries, 80% of children at age 10 are unable to read and understand a simple text, and this is regarded as learning poverty.⁸⁴ In low- and middle-income countries the rate of learning poverty is at 53%. Out of 720 million primary-school-aged children, 382 million are learning poor, a number which could increase by 72 million due to the COVID-19 pandemic.⁸⁵ Children who are not able to read by the age of 10 or at the end of primary school usually fail to master reading later on.⁸⁶ An inability to read also decreases children's abilities to learn other subjects like math, science and humanities. In 2016, 750 million adults, out of which two thirds were women, were illiterate, thereby hampering their possibilities of finding employment.⁸⁷ Without foundational learning and skills, students often fail to thrive in school and in the workplace as they do not acquire the human capital and skills needed to be productive.⁸⁸ The learning crisis contributes to human capital deficits and undermines poverty reduction.⁸⁹ Current projections forecast that by 2030, 43% of children will be learning-poor.⁹⁰
- Low levels of education hamper economic growth and slow down poverty reduction. Quality education can enable upward socioeconomic mobility and is key to move out of poverty.⁹¹ Education provides skills that boost employment opportunities and incomes while helping to protect people from socio-economic vulnerabilities. A more

⁸⁰ Unicef, "Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/education>.

⁸¹ Unicef, "Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/education>.

⁸² UN, "Goal 4: Quality Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>.

⁸³ Unicef, "Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.unicef.org/education>.

⁸⁴ World Bank, "What is Learning Poverty?" published April 28, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/what-is-learning-poverty>.

⁸⁵ Joao Pedro Azevedo, "Learning poverty in the time of COVID-19: A crisis within a crisis," World Bank, published December 1, 2020, <http://hdl.handle.net/10986/34850>.

⁸⁶ World Bank, "What is Learning Poverty?" published April 28, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/what-is-learning-poverty>.

⁸⁷ UN, "Goal 4: Quality Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>.

⁸⁸ World Bank, "What is Learning Poverty?" published April 28, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/what-is-learning-poverty>.

⁸⁹ World Bank, "What is Learning Poverty?" published April 28, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/what-is-learning-poverty>.

⁹⁰ World Bank, "What is Learning Poverty?" published April 28, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/education/brief/what-is-learning-poverty>.

⁹¹ UN, "Goal 4 : Quality Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>.

equitable expansion of quality education is likely to reduce inequality, lifting the poorest from the bottom of the ladder.⁹² Universal primary and secondary attainment would help lift more than 420 million out of poverty, which would decrease the global poverty rate by more than 50%.⁹³ These effects would be especially prevalent in Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia, the two regions which show the highest poverty rates and high rates of out-of-school children.⁹⁴ Additionally, ensuring that every child learns to read by the age of 10 can help build human capital and increases children's ability to learn and participate effectively in the workforce and in society. The development of skills can contribute to structural transformation and economic growth by enhancing employability and labour productivity. Hence, additional attention should be paid to postsecondary education and vocational training that can provide individuals with the necessary skills to enter employment.⁹⁵ Skills development can reduce unemployment and underemployment, increase productivity and improve standards of living, thereby helping eradicate poverty and inequalities.⁹⁶

Gender inequalities

- By 2021, the total number of women and girls living in extreme poverty is estimated to be 435 million.⁹⁷ In 2019, 33.5% of employed women in the least developed countries were living in poverty as opposed to 28.3% of men.⁹⁸ The COVID-19 crisis has had a disproportionate impact on the livelihoods of women, thereby exacerbating longstanding disparities and inequalities further.⁹⁹ By 2030, an estimated 121 women per 100 men will be living in extreme poverty.¹⁰⁰ Similarly, girls are more likely than boys to be overrepresented among the poor.¹⁰¹ Poverty is one of the most important factors determining whether a girl has access to education.¹⁰² Care responsibilities for children or dependents overlap with economically productive years, making women specifically vulnerable to poverty due to their multiple engagements.¹⁰³ This has been further exacerbated by COVID-19, when many women had to take on additional care

⁹² Unesco, "World poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed secondary education," accessed December 15, 2021, https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/default/files/UISgemPovertyEducation_eng.pdf.

⁹³ Unesco, "World poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed secondary education," accessed December 15, 2021, https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/default/files/UISgemPovertyEducation_eng.pdf.

⁹⁴ Unesco, "World poverty could be cut in half if all adults completed secondary education," accessed December 15, 2021, https://en.unesco.org/gem-report/sites/default/files/UISgemPovertyEducation_eng.pdf.

⁹⁵ World Bank, "Skills Development," last modified July 21, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/skillsdevelopment#1>.

⁹⁶ World Bank, "Skills Development," last modified July 21, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/skillsdevelopment#1>.

⁹⁷ UN Women, "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals – The Gender Snapshot 2021," 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Progress-on-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-The-gender-snapshot-2021-en.pdf>.

⁹⁸ UN Stats, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-01/>.

⁹⁹ UN Stats, "End poverty in all its forms everywhere," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2021/goal-01/>.

¹⁰⁰ Paula Tavares and Natália Mazoni Silva Martins, "We can't end poverty without tackling gender inequality," World Bank, published October 16, 2020, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/we-cant-end-poverty-without-tackling-gender-inequality>.

¹⁰¹ World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

¹⁰² UN, "Goal 4: Quality Education," accessed December 15, 2021, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/education/>.

¹⁰³ UN Women and World Bank, "Gender Differences in Poverty and household composition through the life cycle," 2018, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/SDG-report-Spotlight-01-Gender-differences-in-poverty-and-household-composition-en.pdf>.

responsibilities due to lockdowns, home schooling and sickness.¹⁰⁴ Women are less mobile and therefore often unable to migrate for better employment opportunities.¹⁰⁵ Additionally, prevailing methods of measuring poverty obscure gender difference because they assume that resources are shared equally within households and thereby neglect the impact of existing social norms within families.¹⁰⁶ Hence, statistics on women and girls living in poverty might not adequately represent the reality.

- Women's employment and earnings reduce economic inequality and can help reduce poverty, especially in middle- and low-income countries.¹⁰⁷ It is estimated that the implementation of a comprehensive strategy, which would include improved access to education and family planning, equality in labour market remuneration, and the extension of social transfers, could lift over 150 million women and girls out of from poverty by 2030.¹⁰⁸

Vulnerable populations

- Women, children, people with disabilities, marginalised ethnic groups, indigenous people, the elderly, the displaced, and people living in remote areas are all particularly vulnerable to poverty. Half of global multidimensional poor people are children and nearly two-thirds live in households in which no girl or women has completed a minimum of six years of schooling.¹⁰⁹ The significant share of children and youth among the global poor is most prominent in Sub-Saharan Africa.¹¹⁰ The proportion of persons with disabilities living under the national or international poverty line is higher, and in some countries double, than that of persons without disabilities. Disabled people are more likely to live in poverty than persons without disabilities due to barriers in society such as discrimination, limited access to education and employment and lack of inclusion in livelihood and other social programmes.¹¹¹ Belonging to a specific ethnic group can be a significant determinant for poverty. In each of the nine poorest ethnic groups in the world, more than 90% of the population is multidimensionally poor.¹¹² Hence, belonging to an excluded ethnic minority group often leads to extreme poverty. Nearly 128 million people belong to ethnic groups in which 70% or more of the population is multidimensionally poor. Similarly, indigenous people are among the

¹⁰⁴ ILO, "Slow jobs recovery and increased inequality risk long-term COVID-19 scarring," June 2, 2021, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_794834/lang-en/index.htm.

¹⁰⁵ Rebecca Holmes, "How to tackle social exclusion in the labour market," World Economic Forum, February 2, 2015, <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/02/how-to-tackle-social-exclusion-in-the-labour-market/>.

¹⁰⁶ UN General Assembly, "The parlous state of poverty eradication," published November 19, 2020, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/40>.

¹⁰⁷ UN Women, "Gender Equality and Poverty are intrinsically linked," published December 2018, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2018/Discussion-paper-Gender-equality-and-poverty-are-intrinsically-linked-en.pdf>.

¹⁰⁸ UN Women, "Progress on the Sustainable Development Goals – The Gender Snapshot 2021," 2021, <https://www.unwomen.org/sites/default/files/Headquarters/Attachments/Sections/Library/Publications/2021/Progress-on-the-Sustainable-Development-Goals-The-gender-snapshot-2021-en.pdf>.

¹⁰⁹ UNDP and OPHI, "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender," 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹¹⁰ World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

¹¹¹ UN, "Ending poverty and hunger for all persons with disabilities," 2018, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/disabilities/wp-content/uploads/sites/15/2019/11/poverty-hunger-disability-brief2019.pdf>.

¹¹² UNDP and OPHI, "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender," 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

poorest in all Latin American countries.¹¹³ Globally, 18.2% of indigenous people live in extreme poverty, 20% work in the informal sector and they earn around 18% less on average than the wider workforce.¹¹⁴ Indigenous people are nearly three times as likely to be living in extreme poverty as non-indigenous people.¹¹⁵ In the OECD, 13.5% of individuals aged over 65 live in relative income poverty.¹¹⁶ The poverty level for persons over 75 years old is even higher, with 14.7% among OECD countries.¹¹⁷ The risk of increasing old-age poverty rates is high since in the coming decades the population aged 60 and over is forecasts to double in size, reaching nearly 2.1 billion elderly people.¹¹⁸ In high-income economies, increasing percentages of elderly people are among the poor.¹¹⁹ Globally, there are 82.4 million forcibly displaced people including refugees, internally displaced persons and asylum seekers who have fled their homes to escape violence, conflict and persecution.¹²⁰ Four out of five refugees and internally displaced people live in developing countries.¹²¹ Both displaced persons and host communities, especially in developing countries, face hardship and poverty with refugee camps often being situated in poor areas.¹²² Eighty percent of people in poverty live in rural areas, which often comes with inadequate access to public services, infrastructure and social protection.¹²³ Additionally, living in remote areas often coincides with other forms of vulnerability, such as being part of an ethnic minority group or an indigenous people.¹²⁴

- Vulnerable groups are also more strongly impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects.¹²⁵ Additionally, the actual size of the vulnerable populations may be larger than what is estimated in official statistics given that they are often underrepresented in surveys on poverty.¹²⁶ These underrepresented groups who are disproportionately affected by poverty include indigenous people, homeless people, pastoralists, migrant workers, refugees and displaced persons, people affected by armed conflict and those living in informal settlements. A multidimensional approach to poverty can support

¹¹³ UNDP and OPHI, "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender," 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹¹⁴ UN, "'Spectre of poverty' hangs over tribes and indigenous groups: UN labour agency," published February 3, 2020, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2020/02/1056612>.

¹¹⁵ ILO, "Urgent action needed to tackle poverty and inequalities facing indigenous peoples," published February 3, 2020, https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/newsroom/news/WCMS_735575/lang-en/index.htm.

¹¹⁶ OECD, "Old-age income poverty," 2019, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/fb958d50-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/fb958d50-en>.

¹¹⁷ OECD, "Old-age income poverty," 2019, <https://www.oecd-ilibrary.org/sites/fb958d50-en/index.html?itemId=/content/component/fb958d50-en>.

¹¹⁸ UN, "Income Poverty in Old Age: An Emerging Development Priority," 2015, <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/ageing/documents/PovertyIssuePaperAgeing.pdf>.

¹¹⁹ World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

¹²⁰ World Bank, "Forced Displacements," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

¹²¹ World Bank, "Forced Displacements," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

¹²² World Bank, "Forced Displacements," last modified October 15, 2021, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/topic/forced-displacement#1>.

¹²³ UN, "Reducing poverty and inequality in rural areas: key to inclusive development," published May 20, 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/05/reducing-poverty/>.

¹²⁴ UN, "Reducing poverty and inequality in rural areas: key to inclusive development," published May 20, 2021, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/2021/05/reducing-poverty/>.

¹²⁵ Paula Tavares and Natália Mazoni Silva Martins, "We can't end poverty without tackling gender inequality," World Bank, published October 16, 2020, <https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/we-cant-end-poverty-without-tackling-gender-inequality>.

¹²⁶ UN General Assembly, "The parlous state of poverty eradication," published November 19, 2020, <https://undocs.org/A/HRC/44/40>.

efforts to better identify those facing deprivations, including those who are vulnerable or belong to marginalised groups.¹²⁷

Urban poverty

- In a world with high and growing levels of urbanisation, the future of inequality and poverty depends on what happens in cities.¹²⁸ Globally, today more people live in urban than in rural areas, and by 2050, 6.7 billion people are expected to live in cities.¹²⁹ This trend is expected to continue in the future with global population growth estimated to take place almost exclusively in urban areas.¹³⁰ One key factor related to the process of urbanisation is migration. About 209 million people who are multidimensionally poor live in urban areas.¹³¹ People currently entering poverty often live in urban settings and work in informal services, manufacturing and construction.¹³² Around 50% of the urban workforce is engaged in the informal sector, which is associated with limited social protection coverage.
- Globally, around 1.6 billion people do not have access to adequate housing.¹³³ In 2018, 24% of the urban population lived in slums.¹³⁴ The urban poor often live in inadequate housing conditions, such as informal settlements, where they lack access to basic services, work and education opportunities.¹³⁵ Access to healthy housing, safe neighbourhoods, as well as adequate educational and recreational amenities is crucial to fight urban poverty.

In the search for solutions, poverty reduction requires the involvement of many groups. The strategic goals include both the closing of inequalities in human development, on the one hand, and the growth of national productivity and socio-economic development, on the other. Our call for innovative and crosscutting proposals that consider the many potential actors is critical.

¹²⁷ UN Economic and Social Council, "Beyond gross domestic product: multidimensional poverty and the Sustainable Development Goals," published May 8, 2017, https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/69

¹²⁸ UN, "World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a rapidly changing world," 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf>.

¹²⁹ UN, "Urbanization: expanding opportunities, but deeper divides," published February 21, 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/en/news/social/urbanization-expanding-opportunities-but-deeper-divides.html>.

¹³⁰ UN, "World Social Report 2020: Inequality in a rapidly changing world," 2020, <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2020/02/World-Social-Report2020-FullReport.pdf>.

¹³¹ UNDP and OPHI, "Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2021: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender," 2021, http://hdr.undp.org/sites/default/files/2021_mpi_report_en.pdf.

¹³² World Bank, "Poverty and Shared Prosperity 2020," 2020, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/publication/poverty-and-shared-prosperity>.

¹³³ UN Habitat, "Progress in accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," published June 2019, "<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-Habitat-June-2019-%E2%80%933rd-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty-2018-2027.pdf>.

¹³⁴ UN, "World Social Report 2021: Reconsidering Rural Development," 2021, https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2021/05/World-Social-Report-2021_web_FINAL.pdf.

¹³⁵ UN Habitat, "Progress in accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018–2027)," published June 2019, "<https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/wp-content/uploads/sites/22/2019/07/UN-Habitat-June-2019-%E2%80%933rd-UN-Decade-for-the-Eradication-of-Poverty-2018-2027.pdf>.

There is a pivotal need for an interdisciplinary approach in confronting this pressing global challenge. Solutions should come from a broad scope of participation in various fields and areas including (but not limited to) anthropology, business administration, development studies, economics, engineering, geography, history, international affairs, international development, international relations, law, management, political science, public policy, psychology and behavioural science, social policy, sociology, medical and health studies.

We hope that graduate students from around the globe will embrace these challenges as opportunities, and will devise innovative solutions to tackle the pressing issues of poverty reduction and advance the development goals.