



## **Grass Roots Community-Based Research Findings: “Asks” to Strengthen Social Protection, Digital and Financial Inclusion, and Climate Finance in a Post-COVID-19 Era**

### **Background**

There is serious doubt regarding whether the Sustainable Development Goals are on track. “Extreme poverty has reached the lowest point since its tracking began. And yet, at the current pace, we are still not on track to end poverty by 2030. Similarly, many countries are taking actions to protect our environment, but the health of our earth is still deteriorating at an alarming rate,” warns the UN in two reports to be submitted to governments, business and civil society leaders from around the world.<sup>1</sup>

The global community is also reeling under the adverse effect of Covid 19 which has disproportionately impacted the lives and livelihoods of people especially of the poorest of the poor. It has seriously affected the global economy. “Covid-19 impact: According to IMF, the global economy is expected to shrink by over 3 per cent in 2020 – the steepest slowdown since the Great Depression of the 1930s.”<sup>2</sup>

The global economy was projected to shrink by 4.4% this year, before bouncing back to 5.2% growth in 2021. The International Monetary Fund said in October the world economy has started to recover but warned the return to pre-pandemic levels will be “long, uneven, and uncertain.”<sup>3</sup>

“The pandemic has exposed fundamental weaknesses in our global system. It has shown how the prevalence of poverty, weak health systems, lack of education, and a lack of global cooperation exacerbate the crisis.”<sup>4</sup>

### **Objectives:**

The Addis Ababa Action Agenda<sup>5</sup> provides a global framework for financing sustainable development by aligning all financing flows and policies with economic, social and environmental priorities. The Paris Agreement<sup>6</sup> provides the roadmap for climate actions that will reduce emissions and build climate resilience. Together they provide the most important global frameworks for achieving the Sustainable

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<sup>1</sup> (<https://sdgsforall.net/index.php/goal-10/1055-serious-doubts-about-sustainable-development-goals-being-achieved-by-2030>)

<sup>2</sup> <https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-how-has-covid-19-affected-the-global-economy-6410494/>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.cnbc.com/2020/10/13/imf-world-economic-outlook-2020-amid-coronavirus-crisis.html>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2020/04/coronavirus-pandemic-effect-sdg-un-progress/>

<sup>5</sup> [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

<sup>6</sup> [https://unfccc.int/files/essential\\_background/convention/application/pdf/english\\_paris\\_agreement.pdf](https://unfccc.int/files/essential_background/convention/application/pdf/english_paris_agreement.pdf)

Development Goals. However, the experiences of the COVID-19 pandemic tell us the frameworks have not translated effectively to those who need it the most. This side event presents a critical look at how adequate the Addis Ababa Action Agenda and the Paris Agreement have been to meet their avowed goals at the grassroots level and effective compliance by Member States. It also presents the impact on Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance looking through the principle of “Leaving No One Behind”.

Primary data that was gathered by field surveys conducted in 7 countries regarding Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance both before and during the pandemic forms the basis for policy “asks” to strengthen Social Protection, Financial Inclusion and Climate Finance.

It will provide an opportunity to engage in “Hearing People’s Voices” impacted by the lack of adequate funding for social protection, financial inclusion and climate financing and reeling under the economic, social and health crisis caused by the pandemic.

### **Logistics and speakers:**

Mode: Virtual Zoom meeting

Date: Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2021

Time: 7.30 am to 8.45 am

### **List of speakers TBC:**

1. Financing for Sustainable Development Office to share its perspective on status of delivering on commitments made under Addis Ababa Action Agenda and Paris Agreement.
2. Introduction to the Project & Presentation of Review Project Implementation & Survey Findings
3. Enumerator’s Experience from the field – 3 enumerators from 3 different countries / continents to share their experience during the survey.
4. Access to Social Protection, Financial Inclusion, Climate Finance Pre- Covid 19 – Voices from the ground - 3 respondents from 3 different countries / continents to share their access to Social Protection, Digital and Financial Inclusion, Climate Finance before and during Covid.
5. Response from Misesan Cara
6. Response from Salesian Missions Ireland.
7. Responses from member states
8. Recommendations

**Moderator:** Anita Thomas – Chair, NGO Committee on Financing for Development

### **Cosponsoring organizations:**

NGO Committee on Financing for Development, Salesian Missions Inc., Misesan Cara, Man Up Campaign, Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, STARTNOO, Virginia Gildersleeve International Fund (Women First International Fund), Sisters of Charity Federation, Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Maryknoll Sisters, United Religions Initiative, Salesians of Don Bosco, Ireland.

The NGO Committee on Financing for Development is a substantive committee of the Conference of NGOs in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations. To learn more about our work, visit us at [www.ngosonffd.org](http://www.ngosonffd.org)

Contact: Thomas Pallithanam – [thomaspallithanam@gmail.com](mailto:thomaspallithanam@gmail.com)