

STRENGTHENING INCLUSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, AND RESPONSIVE SOCIETIES TO TACKLE COVID-19



[The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies](#) will, as part of the global COVID-19 response, leverage multi-stakeholder partnerships to strengthen SDG 16 monitoring and accountability frameworks, at global, national, and local levels. To ensure ‘whole of government’ and ‘whole of society’ approaches to SDG 16+ during this crisis, [the Global Alliance recommends that member states:](#)

Implement a human rights-based approach to data collection and disaggregation to ensure that no one is left behind as a result of the pandemic. COVID-19 is deepening inequalities and disproportionately impacting the human rights of marginalized groups. Countries need to invest in SDG 16 data sources (surveys, census, administrative data) to understand disparities more accurately across population groups, including those affected by COVID-19. It is necessary to audit the availability and quality of disaggregated data to identify particularly exposed and at-risk groups, identified in the UN socio-economic response framework. Countries should consider how targeted or modified data collection tools could be expanded to account for those left furthest behind. Meaningful participation of marginalized groups in all stages of the data life cycle should be seen as the norm rather than the exception as countries build up the evidence base for policies and programs to address the human rights impacts of the pandemic.

Strengthen institutions that are accountable, inclusive, and transparent in their COVID-19 response. Governance and accountability mechanisms and related indicators are critical to measuring the inclusiveness, accountability, and responsiveness of national and local-level institutions to the most vulnerable among us. COVID-19 responses require that safeguards be put in place to ensure that measures being taken are in line with national frameworks and international human rights standards. Measuring public trust in institutions is equally essential. Supporting effective local-level responses and constructive engagement with citizens (including online) is vital to strengthen trust in public institutions and to counteract the harmful effects of disinformation or misinformation on COVID-19. Investing in the Voluntary National Review is another important means of promoting effective monitoring and reporting on SDG 16+ at the national and local levels. It provides a channel for inclusive public policy dialogue, improved access to quality information and freedom of expression, and civil society engagement in decision-making. Monitoring and reporting will help identify the opportunities that are created by the crisis to advance certain areas within SDG 16, such as the call for global ceasefires on conflict related deaths as well as highlight issues that are backsliding such as gender based violence. VNRs are an important process which will underpin the recovery.

Invest sufficiently in National Statistics Offices (NSOs) and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) to enhance the quality of COVID-19 statistics. Collaboration across sectors at all levels of government, including all national statistical systems, is imperative for effective national and local COVID-19 response efforts. The ministries responsible for national planning alongside ministries of health, education and employment need to work closely with NSOs and NHRIs to collect SDG 16 and SDG 3-specific COVID-19 data in line with quality assurance frameworks. Countries should strengthen and leverage the institutional independence and complementary monitoring roles of these national and sub-national institutions to optimize data collection and usability in line with quality assurance frameworks and human rights principles.



Strengthen multi-stakeholder partnerships between data actors to monitor national responses to COVID-19. Strong partnerships between data actors (NSOs, regional and local governments, CSOs, youth organizations, academia, the private sector, and international organizations) are needed for effective and accountable monitoring of national COVID-19 responses and to ensure geographically disaggregated data integration. Multi-stakeholder partnerships are also key to strengthen national capacities for data collection and analysis of the linkages between SDG 16 and SDG 3 to further inform COVID-19 response efforts. These linkages should feature as part of the socio-economic, health and humanitarian response and recovery efforts with a focus on tracking the different impacts of the pandemic especially on the enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms.



The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a coordinating platform for UN Member States, private sector, civil society and UN Agencies to promote and strengthen evidence-based reporting, monitoring and measurement of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG 16). It consists of the following members:

- **Member States:** Cabo Verde, Italy Mexico, Norway, Sierra Leone (Co-Chair), Tunisia, Qatar & United Kingdom (Co-Chair)
- **Civil Society:** Pathfinders, WFUNA, TAP Network
- **Private Sector:** Deloitte, Lexis Nexus, White & Case
- **UN Agencies:** UNDP, UNODC, UNESCO, OHCHR, UNHCR, UNWomen and the UN Global Compact

