



Wilton Park

Wilton Park & Development Initiatives virtual roundtable:

Responding to COVID-19: what are the main challenges for the Leave No One Behind agenda and how can the policy response be shaped to address these?

Tuesday 30 June 2020, at 1400 (London) / 1500 (Geneva) / 0900 (New York)

This Wilton Park roundtable, in partnership with Development Initiatives, will provide an opportunity for those working on the Leave No One Behind agenda to address the challenges posed by the COVID-19 crisis and consider how the policy response can be shaped to minimise the impact on those most vulnerable.

Context: The pledge to Leave No One Behind is central to Agenda 2030, a promise made by the 193 countries that adopted the General Assembly resolution in September 2015 that they would ensure that everyone is included on their journey towards the 17 Sustainable Development Goals.

The COVID-19 pandemic poses a huge risk to progress on the SDGs that are most relevant to the Leave No One Behind pledge, including SDG 1 on ending poverty and SDG 10 on reducing inequality. The World Bank's latest projections estimate that it could push [40-60 million people into extreme poverty](#), while others have painted a much more pessimistic picture - a recent paper for UNU-WIDER suggested that [global poverty could rise by half a billion people](#). Meanwhile the World Food Programme has warned that the [numbers facing acute food shortages could double this year](#).

As in other crises, the people who are the most vulnerable and have the least resilience are likely to be hit hardest by its impact, whether from the immediate health pandemic or the medium to long-term economic and social consequences. This includes those living below the poverty line or just above it, people with limited access to clean water and sanitation, healthcare facilities and good nutrition, and those who are specifically, disadvantaged by their geographic location, gender, age or disability. In many cases, individuals and communities face multiple deprivations that compound each other and contribute to their exclusion.

Speakers:

The COVID pandemic and vulnerabilities

David Nabarro, Special Envoy of WHO Director-General on COVID-19, Geneva

Framing the debate and insights from Development Initiatives

Harpinder Collacott, Executive Director, Development Initiatives, Bristol

The impacts of COVID-19 and policy responses

Martin Ravallion, Inaugural Edmond D. Villani Professor of Economics, Georgetown University

Reflections

Thomas Gass, Vice-Director and Head of the South Cooperation Department, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Bern

In partnership with:



Chair: Robin Hart

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Objective: The purpose of this Wilton Park roundtable is to bring together key stakeholders for a virtual roundtable discussion to consider the challenges the COVID-19 crisis poses to the people and places at risk of being left behind. This roundtable will provide a platform to share different approaches to this challenge, in order to frame and inform the policy response and protect those who are most vulnerable.

The meeting will consider:

- The people and places who are most vulnerable to the immediate health pandemic and to its longer-term economic and social consequences.
- The steps that decision-makers at international, national and local levels can take to minimise the impact of the crisis on these communities and individuals.

Format: Using Zoom platform; 90-minutes of interactive 'round-table' discussion in the Wilton Park style (see below) with up to 50 people representing different countries, organisations and expertise.

The formal session will be followed by an optional 30 minute networking opportunity, in smaller breakout groups, to replicate online the useful discussions typically enjoyed at the end of face-to-face events.

Development Initiatives analysis:

Development Initiatives has undertaken analysis on the [countries being left behind](#), and developed the [P20 approach](#) to focus attention on the imperative of reaching the poorest 20% of people globally and in each country. The P20 approach emphasises the importance of improving the availability, quality and use of data to measure progress on the leave no one behind commitment, and seeks to support decision-makers in identifying the policies and actions required to reach the most vulnerable populations.

The government of Benin has been working with Development Initiatives and local partners to apply the P20 approach at national level and key findings are shared in a report "[The P20 in Benin: from consultation to consensus](#)". The report highlights that addressing data gaps and supporting national statistics and data systems could support policy-makers in accelerating progress.

The dialogue will draw on this experience, alongside more recent analysis on the impact of Covid-19 on countries being left behind and stories from stakeholders working on the ground.

Wilton Park Discussion Protocol:

Our events are designed to be as interactive and frank as possible. [Wilton Park Discussion Protocol](#) applies to this discussion. All speakers and participants are encouraged to participate in their own personal capacity, rather than as representatives of their governments or organisations. Discussion in all Wilton Park sessions is 'off the record' and no individual speaker or participant should be quoted (nor their identity or institutional affiliation revealed) without that individual's express permission.