



Building Back Better Lives: A Pandemic Recovery that Works for Well-Being

Virtual launch of new OECD report and high-level roundtable
25 November 2021
10:00-12:30 (Central European Time)

The COVID-19 crisis has highlighted the strong interdependencies between the social, economic, relational and environmental outcomes that underpin people's well-being. Emergency government supports in OECD countries played an important role in cushioning the immediate impacts of the pandemic on jobs and average incomes, and digital technology has been a key enabler for some types of work, learning and access to services. Nevertheless, many people have been struggling, financially, socially, and with their health. The pandemic has tested societal safety nets and deepened the consequences of pre-existing differences in access to economic opportunities, good housing and digital infrastructure, good health prospects and the ability to stay safe. While short-term policy efforts have targeted limiting the impacts of COVID-19 on livelihoods, no policy-making in the recovery can afford to ignore the climate and biodiversity crises that long predate the pandemic, and which will similarly touch on almost every aspect of people's lives.

Building back better lives means identifying a coherent package of policies that work together to recover well-being losses, broaden access to opportunity, and lay strong foundations for future well-being – first and foremost by investing in people and protecting the planet. As shown by the new OECD report, *COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic*, a well-being lens can provide a comprehensive assessment of the extent of the damage done by the pandemic, and what repairs are needed. It also highlights societal issues that were often problems before the pandemic, but which have become more acute as a result of it. Beyond measurement, the report describes how a well-being lens offers a framework for shaping the design and delivery of policies, to optimise impacts across the multifaceted challenges that governments face in more coherent and cost-effective ways. On the first anniversary of the new OECD Centre for Well-Being, Inclusion, Sustainability and Equal Opportunity (WISE), join us to hear highlights from the new report, and to discuss how to make COVID-19 recovery plans work for well-being.

To register to attend this virtual event via Zoom, please click [here](#).

Preliminary agenda

10:00 – 11:00

High-level roundtable: Making COVID-19 recovery plans work for well-being

Opening remarks

- OECD Secretary General, Mathias Cormann (pre-recorded message)

Roundtable discussion chaired by OECD Deputy Secretary General Ulrik Vestergaard Knudsen

- Katrín Jakobsdóttir, Prime Minister, Iceland
- Hanna Sarkkinen, Minister of Social Affairs and Health, Finland
- Didier Lenoir, Ambassador, Permanent Representative of the European Union to the OECD

11:00 – 11:15: Break

11:15 – 12:30

COVID-19 and Well-being: Key findings from the new OECD report, followed by a policy panel discussion

Session chaired by WISE Director, Romina Boarini

Presentation of the OECD report and discussion:

- Carrie Exton, Head of Well-Being Data Insights and Policy Practice, WISE
- Clare Moriarty, Chair of the Health Foundation's COVID-19 Impact Inquiry, and Chief Executive of Citizens Advice for England and Wales
- Shingo Nakazawa, Cabinet Office of the Government of Japan
- Catherine Ganzleben, Head of Group on Air Pollution, Environment and Health, European Environment Agency
- Hanni Rosenbaum, Executive Director, Business at OECD (BIAC)
- Liina Carr, Confederal Secretary, European Trade Union Confederation

About the report

COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic explores the immediate implications of the pandemic for people's lives and livelihoods in OECD countries. The report charts the course of well-being - from jobs and incomes through to social connections, health, work-life balance, safety and more - using data collected during the first 15 months of the pandemic. It also takes stock of what has happened to human, economic, social and natural capital that, beyond their effects on people's lives today, shape living conditions for years to come. It shows how COVID-19 has had far-reaching consequences for how we live, work and connect with one another, and how experiences of the pandemic varied widely, depending on whether and where people work, their gender, age, race and ethnicity, education and income levels. The report also examines the role that well-being evidence can play in supporting governments' pandemic recovery efforts. It shows how a well-being lens can prompt policy makers to *refocus* on the outcomes that matter the most to people, to *redesign* policy content from a more multidimensional perspective, to *realign* policy practice across government silos, and to *reconnect* people with the public institutions that serve them.

Available at 10:00 (CET) on 25 November:

OECD (2021), *COVID-19 and Well-being: Life in the Pandemic*, OECD Publishing, Paris

www.oecd.org/wise/covid-19-and-well-being-1e1ecb53-en.htm