



Trade unions engagement on the SDGs

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SDGs country reports 2020



COVID-19: WORKERS NEED RESPONSES FOR RECOVERY AND RESILIENCE

Bangladesh went into lockdown on 26 March. The Covid-19 pandemic showed that the government of Bangladesh must strengthen the country's resilience to future shocks by investing in an efficient Universal Social Protection system, including free access to healthcare and income protection provisions. Furthermore, the government of Bangladesh must shift resources from the National Development Plan to activate a Covid-19 Emergency Support Fund for all socially vulnerable people and workers, including those in the informal economy, as well as micro-industries.

To date, the government of Bangladesh's current response plan has consisted in an extensive preventive information and awareness campaign; the opening of nine testing centres across the country; the provision of financial incentives as wage support for workers in export-oriented industries; and the distribution of limited-scale free food packages for informal workers, socially vulnerable and low-income groups across the country, who lost their work because of the pandemic.

ARE TRADE UNIONS AT THE TABLE?

The government of Bangladesh has integrated the SDGs in its 7th Five-Year National Development Plan. The General Economics Division (GED) under the Ministry of Planning (MoP) is coordinating the implementation of Agenda 2030. In addition, an SDG Coordinator has been appointed in the office of the Prime Minister.

Some attempts at ensuring transparency are being made by the government of Bangladesh as access to information on the implementation of SDGs is open to all and some publications on SDG progress are available to citizens and civil society groups. However, trade unions state that the reporting mechanisms are not fully adequate and that not all information is made available.

While some consultations on SDG implementation are held, trade unions are only consulted on the implementation of SDG 8 and financing for the SDGs, and only to a limited extent. Trade unions and workers representatives have not been effectively involved by the government as a social partner in a dialogue on the implementation of SDGs at national level. While some trade unions' inputs have been taken up by the government, the progress of implementation leaves much to be desired.

Trade unions report that the government of Bangladesh has developed an SDG Financing Plan funded by internal resources, ODA from international donors and the private sector.



- Jatio Sramik League (JSL)
- Bangladesh Labour Federation (BLF)
- Bangladesh Jatiyatibadi Sramik Dal (BISD)
- Bangladesh Mukto Sramik Federation (BMSF)
- Bangladesh Sanjukt Sramik Federation (BSF)
- Bangladesh Free Trade Union Congress (BFTUC)
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SDGs country reports 2019



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SDGs Decade of Action

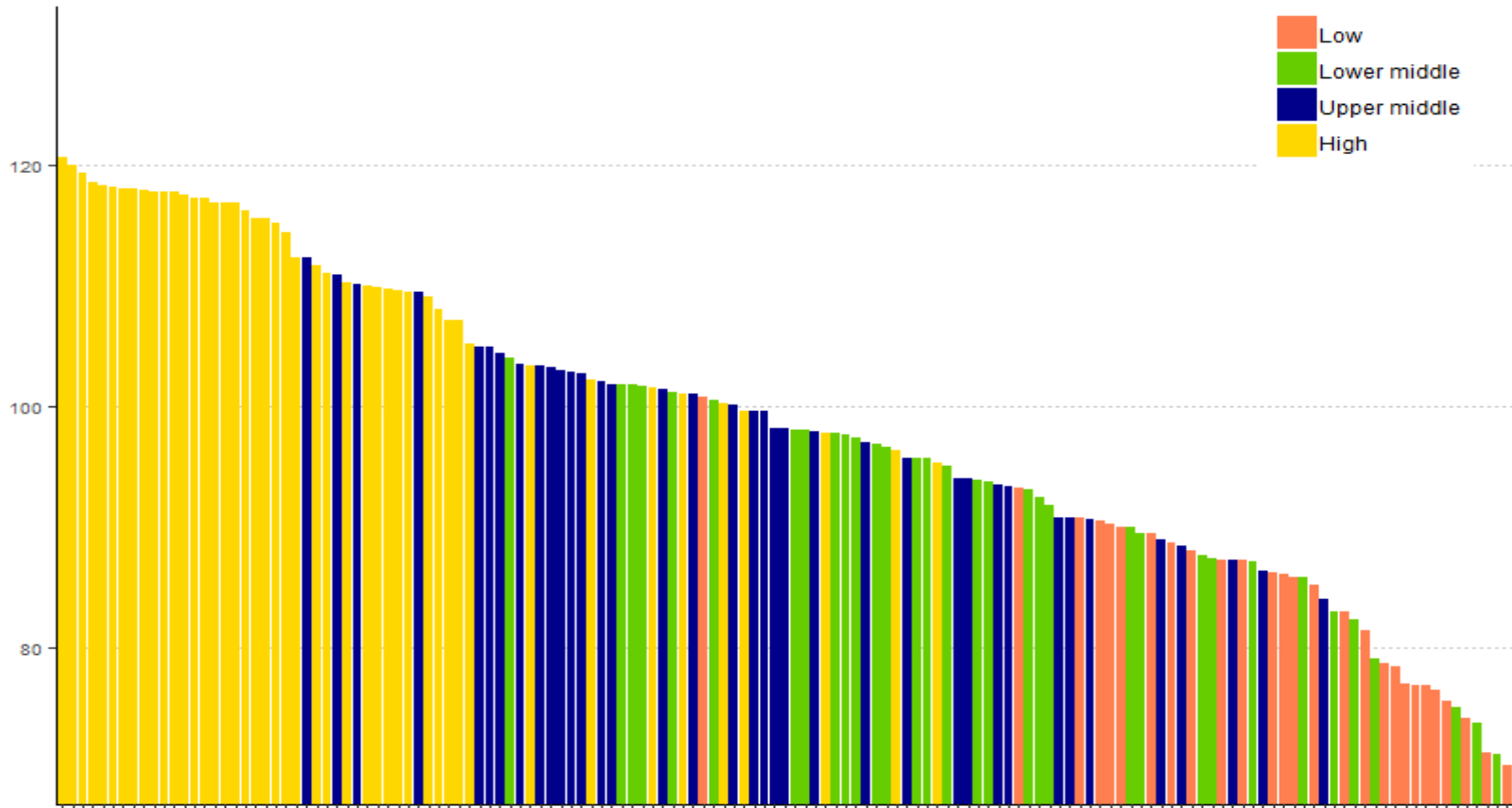
→ “ITUC SDG 8 Monitor”

Through its targets on workers protection, decent work, social protection, inclusive growth and environmental preservation **SDG 8 is multidimensional** by nature and has the power to drive the 2030 Agenda forward, playing a fundamental role in trade unions’ call for a **New Social Contract**



“SDG 8 Monitor”

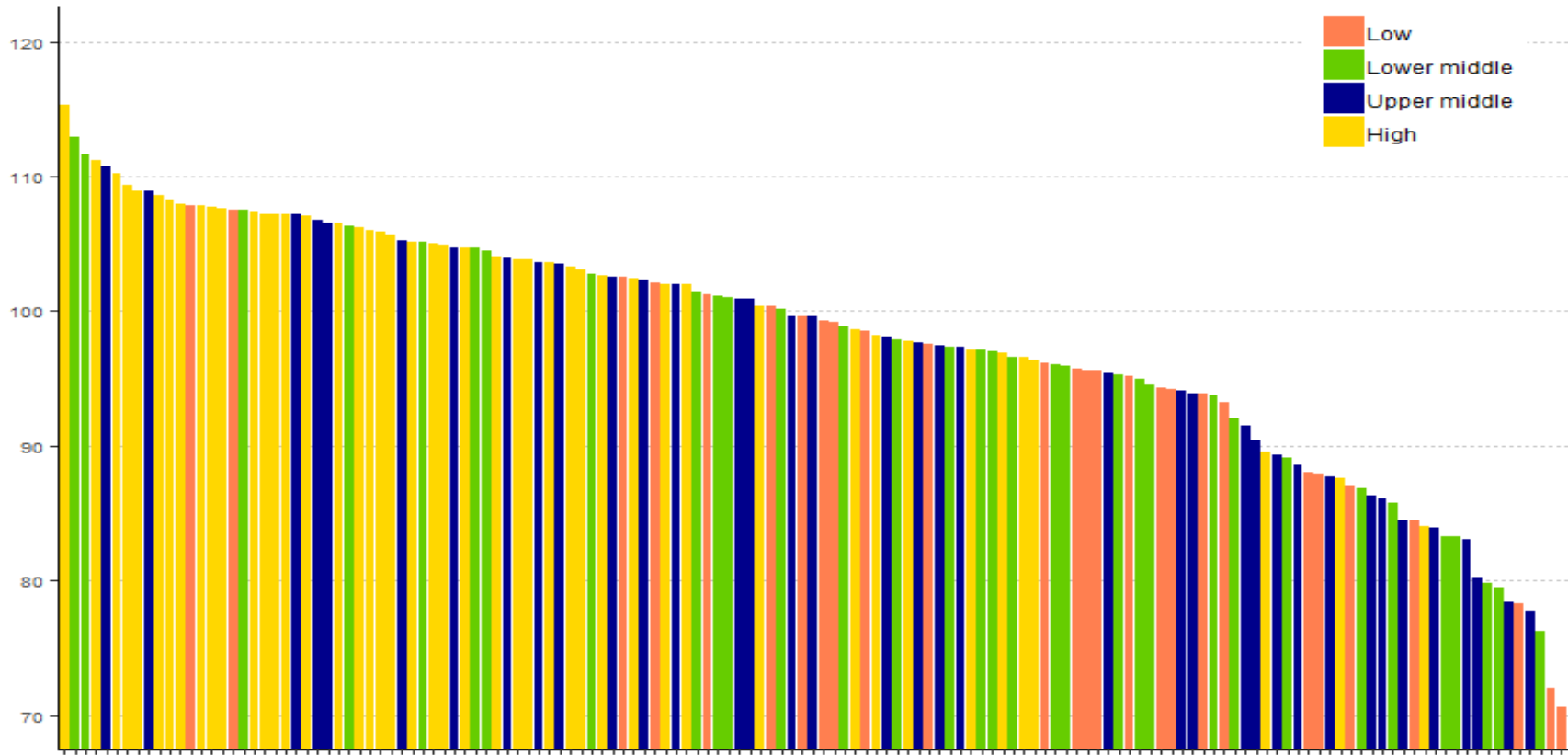
Economic well-Being by income groups



Growth alone does not grant wider well-being for all

“SDG 8 Monitor”

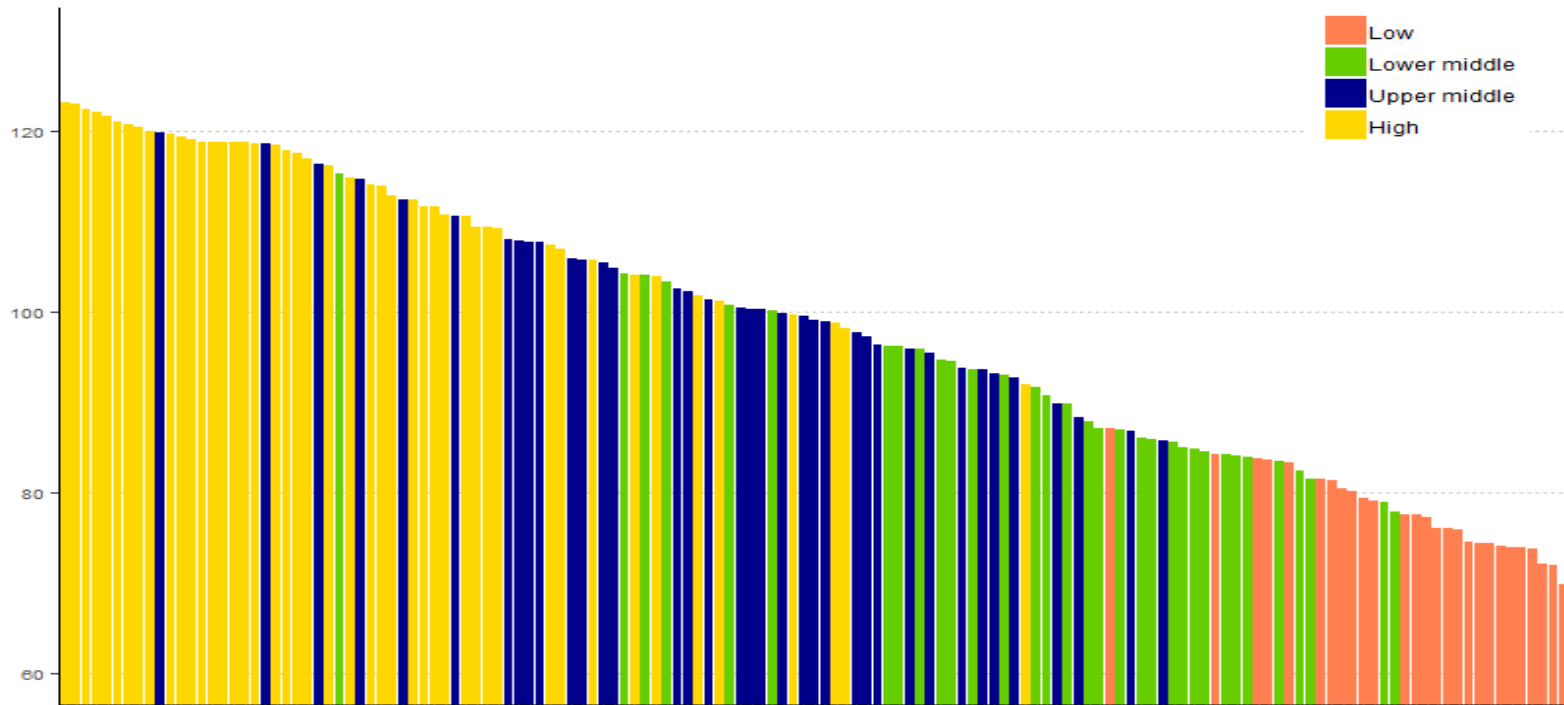
Employment quality by income groups



The correlation between GNI per capita and job quality is weak

“SDG 8 Monitor”

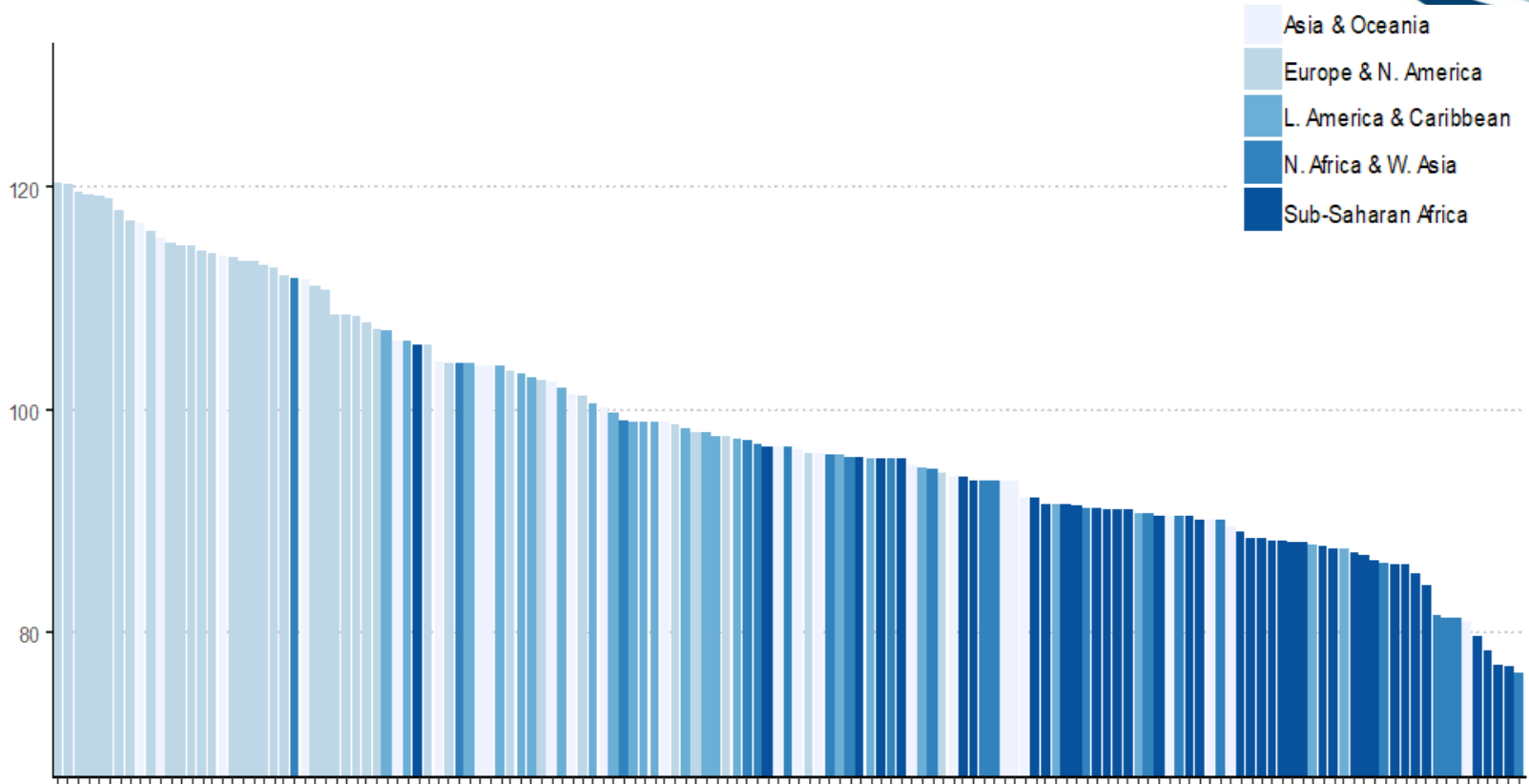
Labour vulnerability by income groups



The vulnerability of workers is seen in all regions of the world

“SDG 8 Monitor”

Results by UN Regions



The world was not on track to achieve SDG 8 and the 2030 Agenda before the pandemic...and even more so with the crisis

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#TIMEFOR8 for RECOVERY and RESILIENCE

The latest edition of the #timefor8 campaign mobilised trade unions from across the world to express their demand for a New Social Contract for recovery and resilience :

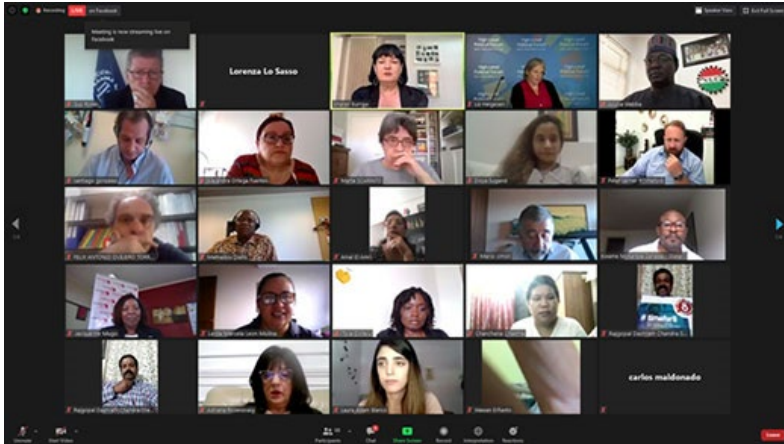
- health and safety at work
- universal social protection systems and floors (Global Fund for Social Protection)
- support SMEs and their workers
- promote business accountability and protection of labor rights
- ensure a just transition to a “zero carbon” economy for future generations
- labor protection that guarantees freedom of association and the right to collective bargaining

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HLPF – TUs Event

The ITUC organised the High-Level Event with the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations, the Director-General of the ILO and the social partners.....



.....“the importance of social dialogue and social partners in the control of the virus at the workplace and beyond, but also to avoid massive job losses in the short and medium term” → report of the UN Secretary General on the responses to the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19

Webinar Objective



- discuss the UN and ILO strategy for the Decade of Action on the SDGs in Africa
- promote a strategic dialogue between trade unions and the UN and the ILO
- follow-up: actions to strengthen the national dialogue between the UN / ILO and the national TUs organisations