



# **Achieving sdg-10: reduce inequality within and among countries post Covid-19**

## **Public Policy response**

**MUSTAFA TALPUR**

**Mustafa.Talpur@Oxfam.org**

# Covid-19 & poverty

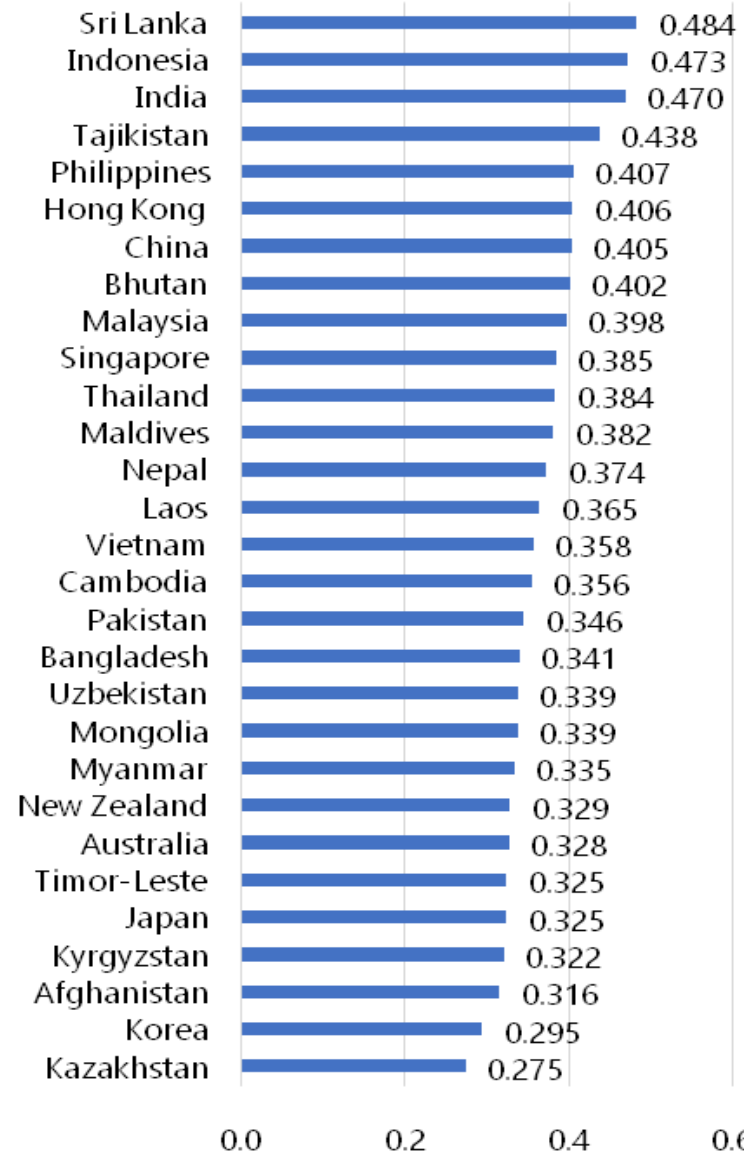
- 140 million people into poverty in Asia in 2020, and 8 million more in 2021[WB]
- 90, 150 and 170 million people into poverty based on the \$3.20 and \$5.50 poverty lines by 2021



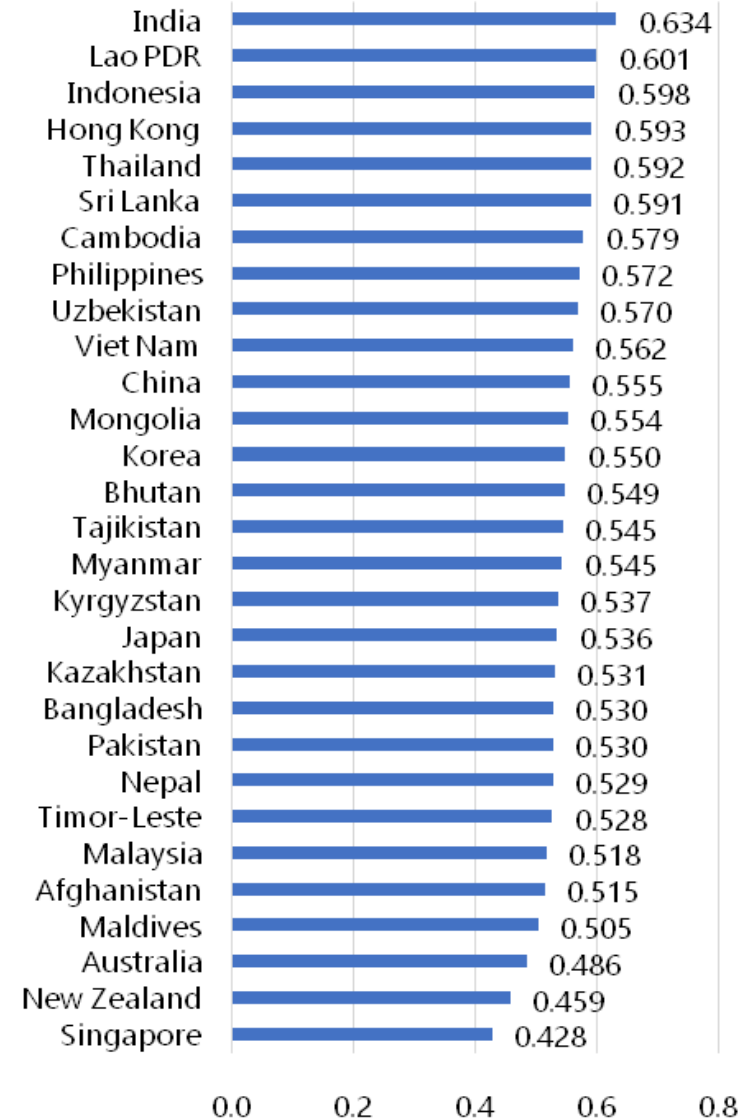
In 2019: 58 million workers in the extreme working poverty & 242 in moderate working poverty  
2020: 82 million in 2020; 307 million

# Covid-19 & inequality

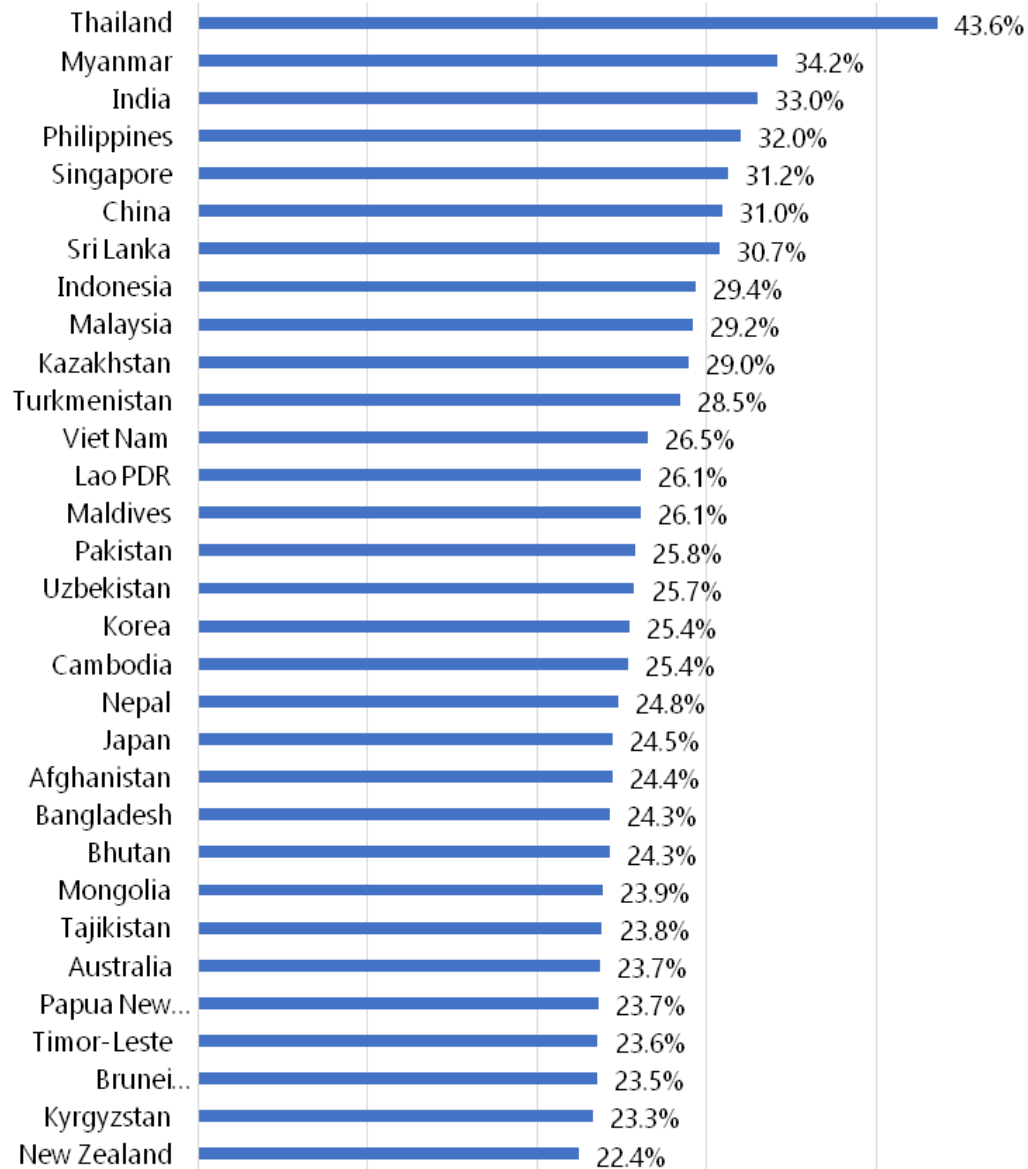
DISPOSABLE



MARKET



# Covid-19 & inequality: % of wealth held by richest 1% (2021)



*Asia  
Billionaires Club*

Luxury for the richest. Paid for by the poor.



#EvenItUp OXFAM



# Causes of rise in poverty & inequality: rising unemployment

Time	Change in hours worked relative to 2019 Q4 (adjusted by population aged 15–64)	Equivalent number of full-time jobs lost (48 hours/week)
2020 Q1	-6.0%	-107,100,00
2020 Q2	-17.1%	-302,600,000
2020 Q3	-5.5%	-97,100,000
2020 Q4	-3.0%	-54,000,000
2021 Q1	-2.8%	-50,400,000
2021 Q2	-4.3%	-76,300,000
2021 Q3	-4.2%	-75,700,000
2021 Q4	-3.2%	-58,000,000
2022 Q1	-4.3%	-77,300,000
2022 Q2	-4.6%	-82,500,000



Source: Talyana A. - Tanaka/stock.adobe.com

# Worsening gender Inequality

- In ASEAN 67% & in South Asia 80% of employed women in non-agriculture sectors are in informal employment
- Income of informal workers fell by 21.6 % in first month
- In 2nd quarter of 2020, the number of women in informal employment declined by 24%
- Increase in unpaid care **work-Before pandemic women spend 11 hours** per day on an average—was 4.1 times more than that for men



# Reduced household income



- Supply chain disruption
- Unemployment and decline in labour income by 6.6% in 2020
- Reduction in agriculture production
- Reverse migration



# Food inflation and security



Eradicating hunger is a challenge

July 2022 increased by 7–9% in India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Thailand, 20-22% in Kazakhstan, Laos and Mongolia, 29% in Pakistan and 91% in Sri Lanka, compared with the same month in 2021





# Rising government debt

Overall stock of debt increased

Debt servicing increased

Sri Lanka defaulted, and Pakistan narrowly escaped

Forcing government to reduce expenditure



# Long term structural challenges

Digital divide

loss of schooling



# Public policy response



shutterstock.com · 1868000497





# RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Vaccine and health
2. Scope and coverage of social protection
3. Creating equal opportunities Addressing gender inequality
4. Addressing climate change
5. Taking concrete policy measures in taxation to increase fiscal revenue
  - (i) Introducing taxes on capital gains, properties and inheritance, and making taxes more progressive,**
  - (ii) broadening the tax base by reducing exemptions, deductions and incentives,**
  - (iii) levying 'solidarity taxes' on the rich and 'windfall taxes' on companies,**
  - (iv) strengthening tax collection and administration for all taxes**