SOCIAL PROGRESS and COVID-19 CRISIS
The Social Progress Index shows that countries with higher social progress were more resilient to the wider social impacts of the Covid crisis.
THE PANDEMIC BROUGHT TRAUMA AND DEVASTATION TO COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE WORLD, BEYOND SICKNESS AND DEATH TOLL. IT IMPACTED MENTAL HEALTH, FOOD SECURITY, EDUCATION AND MORE. OUR DATA SHOW THAT THE COUNTRIES WITH HIGHER SOCIAL PROGRESS ARE ALSO THE ONES WHO HAVE BEEN MOST RESILIENT TO THE NON-HEALTH RELATED STRESSES CAUSED BY THE PANDEMIC.

HIGHER LEVELS OF SOCIAL PROGRESS ACROSS THE BOARD, NOT JUST INVESTMENT IN ANY ONE PARTICULAR AREA, MAY BE AN IMPORTANT FACTOR FOR WEATHERING THE MULTIDIMENSIONAL EFFECTS OF FUTURE SHOCKS.
Countries with lower Social Progress scores had a higher percentage of people who felt depressed during Covid-19.
Equally, the Social Progress Index spotlights inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic.
Countries with lower social progress scores had more people worried about having enough to eat.
The Social Progress Index has consistently shown that social systems and safety nets across the world are broken. Existing gaps, pressure points and inequalities have been exacerbated by the COVID-19 virus and must be addressed in the pandemic’s aftermath.
In 2021 as countries with high social progress faced stricter measures – it did not reduce their resiliency to the wider social impacts of the COVID crisis.
NOTABLY, IN 44 COUNTRIES MEASURED BY THE INDEX, ACCESS TO QUALITY HEALTHCARE HAS BECOME MORE UNEQUAL DURING THE LAST YEAR, WHILE IN THE MAJORITY OF OTHERS THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE OR NO IMPROVEMENT.
In 2020 we saw a trend of countries with mid-levels of social progress locking down harder and longer – exacerbating mental health and food insecurity issues.