

COVID-19 impacts on unemployment and well-being

*The imperative for working together on health and
labour/employment policies*

16 July 2021

It's time

**to build a fairer,
healthier world for
everyone, everywhere.**



Image credit: WHO/
Blink Media – Gilliane Soupe

Agenda, 16 July 2021



Moderated by Dr Gerry Eijkemans, PAHO/AMRO

01

- Welcome

02

- Setting the Scene
- Introduction of Panel and Moderation

PANEL

03

- **ILO projections and patterns of unemployment in the Latin America Regions and main labour policies of redress**

04

- **Labour markets and pathways for recovery that mitigate unemployment**

05

- **Unemployment and mental health - why both are important for recovery**

06

- Closing comments

- Dr Naoko Yamamoto, Assistant Director-General, UHC/Healthier Populations Division, WHO
- Dr Nicole Valentine, Equity & Health Unit, with *Dr Orielle Solar, Dr Gerry Eijkemans, Dr Alison Schafer, WHO and PAHO/AMRO*
- Dr Gerry Eijkemans, PAHO/AMRO
- Dr Gerhard Reinecke, Senior Specialist on Employment Policy, ILO Santiago, Chile
- Dr Marcela Meléndez, UNDP Chief Economist for Latin America and the Caribbean
- Mr David Finch, Assistant Director, Healthy Lives, The Health Foundation, UK
- Dr Alison Schafer, Dr Gerry Eijkemans

WELCOME



**Dr Naoko Yamamoto,
Assistant Director-General,
UHC/Healthier Populations
Division, WHO**

Setting the scene

Dr Orielle Solar, Dr Gerry Eijkemans, Dr Alison Schafer, Dr Nicole Valentine

- 2020 (ILO): unemployment rose by 1.1 % to 6.5% (+33 million)
- Job losses hit low-educated, informal sector, women:
 - 50 countries study showed: job losses ranked highest to lowest - low-skilled workers (-11%); medium-skilled workers (-7.5%); highly skilled workers (-2%)
- Highest job losses recorded in Latin America/Caribbean
- Persistent unemployment, work insecurity and unequal employment conditions → worse health outcomes, including mental health outcomes.
 - E.g. Canadian workers temporarily laid-off: marginalized workers (women, migrants): lower well-being, high distress.
- Community-based mental health and psychosocial support initiatives, including improving access to mental health services, can help ameliorate acute impacts of unemployment



Design of labour / employment policies that also include considerations for the health and well-being of workers, are entry-points for health-labour dialogue for 'build-back-fairer'

WHO Special Initiative for Action on the Social Determinants of Health for Advancing Equity - Pathfinder countries



unisanté
Centre universitaire de médecine générale
et santé publique - Lausanne

 **INSTITUTE of
HEALTH EQUITY**