

Synthesis of the responses to the Consultation on the Theme for the International Day for Eradication of Poverty 2022/2023

INTRODUCTION

(2022/03/17)

- Some statistics :

Following the Consultation on the choice of the Theme for the years 2022-2023, the Forum of Overcoming Poverty received **157 responses**, either from individuals or groups/ associations, which corresponds to **81 contributions**. Behind these 157 contributions are hidden even more than 200 people...these responses represent the contributions of **40 countries**.

The proposed themes as a reminder, are:

- Theme 1: **Inclusive recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, quality education, well-being and dignity for all.**
- Theme 2: **What we give each other to achieve dignity for all within the boundaries of our planet**

In terms of Theme selection,
Theme #1 garnered 64 votes and Theme 2 garnered 88 votes.

- Words used are important:

« We were unanimous in feeling that the wordings of the themes were much too long and complex to get people interested in them. » ATD London

Limits (boundaries)

« What does the limit of our planet mean and for whom? The poorest are always relegated to flood plains and the like. While billionaires go into space. They are destroying future generations. This question of the planet's limits must not be turned against the poor. » Bernard M. and Jean T., France

THEME 1

Inclusive recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, quality education, well-being and dignity for all.

Findings

- **A topical theme adapted to the context which touches everyone's daily life and highlights the fragility of public policies and the limits of societies**

"I vote for this positive approach to a dire situation." Florence E., Haiti

"Even if the health situation improves by October, society will still suffer the consequences of this crisis." Darlène C., Luxemburg

"This theme shows us that faced with the fragility of the policies put in place, it is necessary to build policies that appeal to the intelligence of all and more particularly of the poorest" Blaise N., Cameroon

"The crisis has only accentuated the fault lines and discrepancies between the rich and the poor, between a minority and a majority, even within wealthy societies. It was both a litmus paper of social injustices, but again and above all it accentuated, by the way in which it was managed, these injustices. However, the end of the crisis will define the model of society that we will have tomorrow. However, treating things as before will only make the situation worse." Ionut, Romania

- **Damages to the lives of the very poor: Worsening inequalities and the persistence of poverty**

"The global pandemic of COVID-19 has affected and even bereaved the whole society, it has had a negative impact on people's lives, of which the poorest have been much more affected and this at all levels. There is also the problem of lack of information on the issue of Covid, especially in remote areas." Crispin N., DRC

"People around the world are now facing even greater challenges than before the pandemic and even more complex issues. The spectre of war threatens the world again and smaller conflicts are still raging in many countries. New, very conservative trends are taking hold everywhere, we are already talking about a post-neoliberal model that threatens current and future life in all its forms, and inequality is the rule in third and fourth world countries like Guatemala. We are the most unequal country in Latin America and we are among the six most unequal countries in the world. There is no welfare state, which aims at a greater redistribution of wealth in order to improve the socio-economic and health conditions of the general population (guaranteeing the rights of all to a dignified life, including access to health, education, justice, food security, stable housing, water and resources, among others)." Carolina E., Guatemala

- **Strengthening of discrimination and inequalities. Education is endangered. Human dignity took a hit.**

“Here children, women, girl-mothers, and families in general are victims of all forms of violence. These violence entails for those who are victims of it serious physical, economic, social, cultural and psychological consequences, hindering their full and equal participation in life in society. The COVID-19 pandemic with lockdown measures, mobility restrictions, isolation, poverty, misery, increased illiteracy, stress and economic uncertainty has caused an alarming spike in domestic violence and exposes children, women, girls to becoming single mothers, and to other forms of violence, for example (child marriage) or moral and sexual harassment. » Astrid M. and Jean M., DRC

“COVID has only exacerbated existing inequalities around the world. These inequalities are at the heart of the World Day for Overcoming Poverty. This theme highlights the issue of access to healthcare and access to quality education.” (Collectif France)

“Unfortunately, some people, are excluded from enjoying livelihoods as a result of discriminatory practices. For example, in many professional environments, there are positions of responsibility where you cannot access if you do not belong to a certain ethnicity/tribe. This practice keeps many people in poverty from generation to generation and creates frustration. » Justin B. DRC

Propositions

- **Opportunity to rebuild a fairer world**

“Because the Covid 19 pandemic has transformed the world, and we have to take advantage of this situation so that the return to "normality" is to build a fairer world, in peace, without extreme poverty, with equal opportunities for all human beings, with respect for the fauna, flora and cosmos. Let the defence of human rights be the banner of the new era, as well as the respect and defence of the environment.” Max A., Guatemala

- **Dare to talk about it**

“We can't have lived through this pandemic for the past few years, and not take the time to come back to it all together. It's a reflection that takes time, so 2 years is therefore the minimum, if we act as if nothing had happened, we will repeat the same mistakes and it will always be the same ones who will pay: The poorest! As a united movement, we must unite our voices and ensure that theirs is heard.” Marie-Line B., Canada

- **Learning to live with the virus and developing an appropriate health policy**

“Theme 1 would be very ideal so that people should discuss on how we can contribute and leave this virus and poverty which has brought about.” Edwin, Malawi

“It is possible, if we work on it seriously, to raise awareness and empower communities to integrate COVID-19 barrier measures among societal or social values and to live with the COVID-19 pandemic without much difficulty as it is the case of HIV/AIDS.” Stanislas, Burundi

- Learn from each other how to overcome

“What should we do to help each other and help the people around us, whether it's in terms of saving the environment or post-Corona management? We need to reconnect with families; undertake outreach; inviting them for example not to throw the trash from their balconies. The Youth can help raise awareness.” Maya, Lebanon

“The advent of the Covid-19 pandemic has allowed us to see life differently, to become aware of the importance of being united. During this difficult period, we have also learned to save. It was the only way to survive with our children, even if we had little to do. We have developed a certain education. We have become aware of human value. It is on this path that we must continue.” Louis M., DRC

- Quality education to improve living conditions

“I would choose theme 1 because it talks about education, an issue that is so important in Bolivia today, and it also talks about dignity as people. I think that other diseases are going to appear, so we have to prepare ourselves for this disease. How? By educating ourselves, improving our living conditions.” Demetrio, Bolivia

“Lifelong learning should be intensified in poorer households, i.e. raising awareness on prevention and protection against Covid. And provide support to vulnerable people to ensure their well-being and dignity.” Crispin, DRC

- Promoting dignity as a compass and basic axiom

“Human dignity is the most precious thing to preserve above all other considerations. It must be the ultimate priority of humanity and nations.” Philippe S., Burkina

“Dignity is not just a concept, but a way of living and connecting with others.” Carolina E., Guatemala

“This theme joins our concerns and our actions, and constitutes, in my opinion, a guarantee for the future. Indeed, I believe that we must be able to ensure this "living in dignity" for every human person, and that ensuring subsistence and education is laying the foundations.” Ionut, Romania

- Sustainable livelihoods essential to protect against uncertainty

“The poorest people need sustainable livelihoods, those that protect them from uncertainties and crises such as those created by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. It is these means, both financial and non-financial, that will enable them to provide a quality education for their children and to aspire to the well-being to which all people are entitled in order to live in dignity.” Justin B, DRC

“The impact of Covid on the livelihoods of people with lived experience of poverty has been ongoing and significant. APLE Collective’s campaigning around the digital divide fits into the Physical Assets of the Sustainable Livelihoods. This option is more specific and focusses more around APLE Collective’s work.” Katy, UK

- Coming together to restore balance and leaving no one behind

“The current world is characterized by selfishness and to end this situation we will have to unite. Society needs to find a balance, and people living in poverty need to feel like full members of this society. Hence the need for all layers of people, all ideas to be brought together; in order to build a world where each person, each people have its place.” Grâce, DRC

“The Covid-19 pandemic has upset the social balance and set back development projects in all societies. It is today that we must be more united, strong and determined to work for the socio-economic well-being of all, thinking primarily of the most fragile among us. I prefer this theme because it is also a question of the hour which concerns all the strata of our societies, rich or poor, from the south or from the north, ... During the next commemoration, it will be necessary that each (authority, citizen, doctor, entrepreneur, ...), at the level where he/she is, can question his responsibility in relation to the period after the Covid-19 pandemic, and especially in relation to the world that we dream of bequeathing to our children.” Saleh, DRC

THEME 2

What we give each other to achieve dignity for all within the boundaries of our planet

Findings

- **More positive, universal and mobilizing theme, which gives more hope.**

“The theme is more buoyant, more positive in the sense that it takes us into the future. It is also more universal as a theme.” Catherine L., Canada

“Theme 2 invites us to participate actively in the achievement of dignity for all the inhabitants of the planet.” Elvira C., Columbia

“This theme clearly shows the course of action to follow so that everyone contributes to the eradication of extreme poverty. It touches and invites all layers of society to responsible action.” Crispin A., DRC

“That is 'The Key theme of Key UN events in 2022. This is keeping connected with the world over”. Sister Edel, Kenya

- **It links the two dimensions of poverty and environment well**

“The belief that the planet is infinite still exists, it is an idea worth fighting. The poor have something to say about what is not infinite, what is rare, what costs a lot of effort.” Collectif France

“It combines well the two dimensions of poverty and environment. The link between dignity and the preservation of the planet, the construction of a more sober world where everyone can live in dignity. This theme allows for convergence with themes supported by other associations.” Collectif France

“Poverty and the planet are actually linked! So we cannot talk about misery without talking about the planet. The destruction of the environment, ecosystem and biodiversity makes families living in poverty suffer more than anyone else. Celebrating October 17 means making big decisions to eradicate poverty in all its forms. In this sense, we can currently say that climate change is also one of the forms of misery, since floods force low-income families to leave their homes and live under the stars with their children.” Christian R, DRC

- Dignity at the heart of Human Rights, it puts us back in the foundations of our commitment

“We have to fight for dignity together because my dignity is nothing if my neighbor has none.”
Bertine, Burkina

“Everyone has the right to a dignified existence, regardless of where they were born, what community they live in, or what country they live in. Also, Human dignity is at the heart of human rights. People's dignity was no longer something they earned due of their social class, color, or other benefit. It is something that every human being is born with. All persons are entitled to respect simply for being human. Human rights are inextricably linked to dignity.” Mati, Bangladesh

“This theme is a call for the protection and sanctification of human dignity as an inalienable and fundamental value for human well-being. This theme therefore intervenes as a questioning on the dehumanizing nature of public policies designed on the margins of the social realities experienced by people who in the face of poverty. It is questioning of the forms of individual, collective and institutional commitment to promote, protect and guarantee a dignified life for all without distinction of sex, age, country, religious or political beliefs. (...) Because we are all protectors of nature, we are all concerned with ensuring a decent life for all.” Martinien M., Cameroon

“The recognition of the inherent dignity of all members of the human family and of their equal and inalienable rights constitutes the foundation of freedom, justice and peace in the world as stated in the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. They are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of brotherhood.” Manal, Algeria

- The poorest already practice solidarity on a daily basis but this is not seen from the outside.

“The poorest have always given each other. We are in solidarity with each other, but this is not visible from the outside. It is our struggle for dignity.” Bernard M. et Jean T., France

Propositions

- Solidarity and responsibility.

“In our experience from this critical period, we have noticed that the most potent things keeping us together are “Dignity” and “Solidarity.” Humans with dignity, rights and nice planet.” Mati Bangladesh

“Solidarity is the greatest of all the riches of the world. It strengthens love of neighbor and preserves human dignity. This theme also emphasizes our responsibility to nature. Our well-being depends enormously on our behavior towards nature.” Hassimi S., Burkina Faso

“I love this emphasis it places on the need to build good human and planetary relationships. I consider this a fundamental prerequisite for a poverty-free future. The point about our responsibility to one another as humans is also quite important.” Gideon A., Nigeria

- Take into account all members of society in promoting sustainable well-being in society

“It is a call for collective mobilization against poverty. These collective actions must involve all actors (people with experience of poverty, organizations of populations in precarious neighborhoods, community leaders, local elected officials, civil society organizations) to promote social cohesion, dialogue, an enriching sharing of experience and collaboration for the dynamics of social well-being in society. This consideration of all actors in the construction of sustainable development promotes a feeling of responsibility and dignity as an actor able to change his environment with his ideas and actions. Therefore it is important to leave no one on the side in the fight against poverty because we all have a role to play in guaranteeing a good life for our future generations.” Martinien M., Cameroon

“Theme 2 invites us to participate actively (...) by allowing the daily action of each one of us to strengthen this communion = community initiated by Joseph Wresinski.” Elvira C., Colombia

- Youth / Family / Community Outreach

“If the issue of the environment is going to continue to be marginalized as it is today, I think humanity will have to face more disasters; of illnesses... If young people are not sufficiently sensitized at this level, the future cannot be promising. When I see breweries and pharmaceutical factories dumping their waste into waterways and contaminating drinking and irrigation water causing cancers of all kinds, I wonder what the future of the planet will be! In my opinion, all initiatives that can protect the environment should be encouraged. (...) This is part of building human dignity.” Sayyed, Lebanon

“Awareness that leads to adopting behavior that respects the limits of our planet makes us responsible beings capable of change and commitment. By assuming our responsibilities, we build our human dignity.” Georgia, Lebanon

- Restore Empowerment

“The challenges facing our planet today are many and interrelated, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate and environmental degradation. Recognizing that it is essential for people to have the opportunity to influence their lives and their future, to participate in decision-making processes and to voice their concerns, in order to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.” Manal, Algeria

- A New Social Contract

“The human being always needs the other to live and this solidarity must be done in dignity and in right. This is how we will end exclusion. Planet EARTH is our only common home, we had better take care of it. Its resources must be managed rationally and equitably for a viable and livable earth.” Daniel, DRC

“The community is the munus contributed by everyone. The munus is the contribution. The deprived is the one who is prevented from contributing. Reciprocity in time, I give today and others receive, you give tomorrow and I receive, that builds community, that builds sustainable relationships. It's different from the contract: we each execute our share and we don't owe each other anything. When everything is a contract, a market, there are no more relationships, no more community, each individual is an elementary particle. It is the total victory of the market, the myth of autonomy -- I don't need anyone, the negation of interdependence, the end of the State.” Bruno T., France

“We want to better understand the relationship between society, institutions and people living in poverty, in order to learn from them and help ensure that poverty is no longer repeated from generation to generation. "What makes it possible for people experiencing poverty to be recognized and supported as full-fledged actors in their daily struggle and particularly in their interactions with institutions?"” ATD Switzerland

“What we give to each other involves all of us, as a society and as individuals. It also recognizes what we are already doing or have been doing.” Fundacion Oasis, Colombia

- Challenge an inefficient and dehumanizing system through responsible actions

“Covid is related to the destruction of our planet, global warming is going to force people to leave their lands due to the rising sea level. If we manage to have more solidarity economy and in a circular way, we will have for everyone in a rational way.” Sylvie D., Peru

“I would like a fundamental reflection to begin so that our demands become more meaningful: talking about social justice, capitalism, globalization, inequalities, questioning our economic system, which inevitably creates poverty. Without questioning it, our struggles are doomed to failure.” TACAE, Canada

“Covid 19 is not the only tragedy we face as humanity, as the climatic, social and economic consequences will continue to generate disasters with different names and effects.” Fundacion Oasis, Colombia

“The first theme is very broad and seems to expect changes in the big, collective systems like education or healthcare. Even although that's what is necessary, it can give a helpless feeling that it's too big to change all, but to give dignity to people around you is something we can all imagine and do our best.” Annelies, Netherlands

“Fighting poverty means fighting disease. Even if you have a house to sleep in, it's like sleeping outside because all night you think about tomorrow and look for solutions to your problems. Our dignity is compassion. The compassion we have for each other will be an example for our children and it will inspire them to love and protect the environment. Fighting for dignity means living in a healthy place: therefore cleaning our home, our neighborhood or being clean ourselves. In doing so, we also contribute to the protection of our planet.” ATD Burkina