



The G7 Research Group presents the

2021 G7 Cornwall Summit Interim Compliance Report

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“We have meanwhile set up a process and there are also independent institutions monitoring which objectives of our G7 meetings we actually achieve. When it comes to these goals we have a compliance rate of about 80%, according to the University of Toronto. Germany, with its 87%, comes off pretty well. That means that next year too, under the Japanese G7 presidency, we are going to check where we stand in comparison to what we have discussed with each other now. So a lot of what we have resolved to do here together is something that we are going to have to work very hard at over the next few months. But I think that it has become apparent that we, as the G7, want to assume responsibility far beyond the prosperity in our own countries. That’s why today’s outreach meetings, that is the meetings with our guests, were also of great importance.”

Chancellor Angela Merkel, Schloss Elmau, 8 June 2015

G7 summits are a moment for people to judge whether aspirational intent is met by concrete commitments. The G7 Research Group provides a report card on the implementation of G7 and G20 commitments. It is a good moment for the public to interact with leaders and say, you took a leadership position on these issues — a year later, or three years later, what have you accomplished?

Achim Steiner, Administrator, United Nations Development Programme,
in G7 Canada: The 2018 Charlevoix Summit

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4. Health: Indirect Impacts of COVID-19

“We agree to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19, ensuring that countries are able to effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.”

G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration

Assessment

	No Compliance	Partial Compliance	Full Compliance
Canada			+1
France		0	
Germany			+1
Italy			+1
Japan		0	
United Kingdom			+1
United States			+1
European Union			+1
Average		+0.75 (88%)	

Background

The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic as a global health crisis and the need for a coordinated global response was first introduced at the 2020 US Virtual Summit.⁴¹⁵ At the Summit, G7 leaders emphasized their commitment to coordinating on necessary public health measures, supporting the economy and global trade, and cooperating in sharing knowledge and data for further research and technology. The leaders affirmed full backing of the World Health Organisation (WHO) and the global alliance Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness and Innovation (CEPI) to manufacture and equitably distribute treatments and vaccines for COVID-19. The Summit set the stage for a strong recovery and began the process of restoring economic confidence through monetary and fiscal actions in support of the workers, companies, and sectors impacted. The leaders called upon the G20 to follow suit in these endeavors.

On 19 February 2021, at the G7 leaders’ virtual meeting hosted by the United Kingdom, the G7 leaders met to coordinate efforts “to beat COVID-19 and build back better.”⁴¹⁶ The G7 leaders discussed working with the WHO to accelerate COVID-19 vaccine development and deployment and improve information sharing in the wake of new COVID-19 variants. They also reaffirmed support for COVAX, co-led by CEPI, Gavi, and WHO, in its efforts to ensure equitable vaccine access across the world. The G7 leaders recognized the unprecedented economic support which had been allocated in response to COVID-19, totalling USD6 trillion, and remained committed to further action to ensure a “strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive recovery.” They also made clear ambitions to promote economic resiliency for the future through climate action, clean energy job transitions, and advocating for a fairer, more digital, and mutually beneficial global economy.

On 13 June 2021, at the Cornwall Summit, the G7 leaders agreed to intensify international efforts to boost the international supply of COVID-19 tools to end the pandemic and minimize the rise of new variants.⁴¹⁷

⁴¹⁵ G7 Leaders' Statement, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 21 May 2020. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2020usa/covid-200316.html>

⁴¹⁶ Joint Statement of G7 Leaders, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 20 February 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210219-leaders.html>

⁴¹⁷ Carbis Bay G7 Summit Communiqué: Our Shared Agenda for Global Action to Build Back Better, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 25 September 2020. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-communication.html>

G7 leaders reaffirmed their commitment to distribute safe vaccines to as many people as possible across the world, acknowledging the two billion vaccine doses already provided and pledging another billion over the next year. They also called to advance recovery plans beyond the USD12 trillion to date by creating jobs, investing in infrastructure, and encouraging innovation in a manner that “no place or person, irrespective of age, ethnicity or gender is left behind.” The leaders also recognized the continued work of the G7 Panel on Economic Resilience in addressing the inequalities, market imbalances, and distortions exacerbated by COVID-19, particularly in the context of other key risks like climate change. To this end, G7 leaders also discussed the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on women and girls and reaffirmed their commitment to future plans and policies under the following three priorities: educating girls, empowering women and ending violence against women and girls. The statement from the summit also described the impacts of COVID-19 on the poorest countries who are also most burdened by conflict, climate change, socio-economic shocks, and a lack of resources. To ensure no country is left behind, the leaders reaffirmed their commitment to achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and considered future policy recommendations from the Financing for Development in the Era of COVID-19 and Beyond Initiative.

Commitment Features

At the 2021 Cornwall Summit, G7 leaders committed to “support a robust global recovery from COVID-19, ensuring that countries are able to effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.”⁴¹⁸ The G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration makes note of the “disproportionate impact on women and girls and on vulnerable and marginalised populations,” and calls for international collaboration between “multilateral institutions, governments and the private sector” to achieve its commitment to remedying indirect impacts in all three spheres (physical health, mental health and wider socio-economic consequences).

“Support” is understood to mean “the action, or act of providing aid, assistance, or backing up an initiative, or entity.”⁴¹⁹

“Robust” is understood to describe strong, decisive, inclusive action.⁴²⁰

“Recovery” is understood to describe “the act [or] process ... of recovering” from a crisis, in this instance, the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²¹

“Indirect impacts” is understood to describe results or effects “happening not as the main... result” of the COVID-19 pandemic, but “in addition” to it.⁴²² As part of this commitment, G7 members must take actions mitigating negative indirect impacts in three spheres: physical health, mental health, and wider socio-economic consequences.

“Physical health” is understood to describe “a state of physical ... well-being, and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.”⁴²³ The commitment seeks to address the COVID-19 pandemic’s impact on physical

⁴¹⁸ G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-carbis-bay-health-declaration.html>

⁴¹⁹ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 26 September 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁴²⁰ Compliance Coding Manual for International Institutional Commitments, G7 and G20 Research Groups (Toronto) 12 November 2020. Access Date: 25 February 2021. http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/compliance/Compliance_Coding_Manual_2020.pdf

⁴²¹ Recovery, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriamwebster.com/dictionary/recovery>

⁴²² Indirect, Oxford Advanced American Dictionary (Oxford). Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.oxfordlearnersdictionaries.com/definition/american_english/indirect

⁴²³ Constitution, World Health Organization (New York) 15 September 2005. Access Date: 26 September 2021. https://www.who.int/governance/eb/who_constitution_en.pdf

health beyond the diagnosis and initial treatment of COVID-19.⁴²⁴ The long-term effects of COVID-19, and effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on equitable provision of quality health-care beyond the treatment of COVID-19 are examined as part of this commitment.

“Mental health” is understood to describe “a state of well-being in which an individual realizes [their] own abilities, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and is able to make a contribution to [their] community.”⁴²⁵ The commitment seeks to address the mental health crisis driven by the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual experiences with isolation and loneliness, grief and trauma, economic uncertainty and precarity, inaccessibility of mental health supports, and fears for one’s physical and mental wellbeing and that of their loved ones are significant psychosocial factors of the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²⁶

“Socio-economic consequences” is understood to describe a broad “combination of social and economic factors” influenced by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁴²⁷ This commitment seeks to address the exacerbation of global poverty, inequality, and societal divisions by the COVID-19 pandemic, with particular attention to how these factors disproportionately impact already marginalized groups.⁴²⁸

“Pandemic” is understood to refer to the COVID-19 crisis.

This commitment has a depth component examining the strength of actions taken by each G7 member. A G7 member must take strong action in multiple spheres to achieve full compliance.

Strong domestic actions may include, but are not limited to policy action; domestic legislation designed to safeguard citizens from the socio-economic consequences of COVID-19 or to expand the provision of physical and mental health care; increased funding toward physical and mental health care (particularly with respect to disabled and immunocompromised people, and those from marginalized groups); establishment of a committee, task force, or other institutional mechanism to examine the indirect impacts of COVID-19; funding of research into the indirect impacts of COVID-19; or increased funding and benefits for unemployed or underemployed people. Weak actions on the domestic level include verbal reaffirmation of the commitment or attending meetings that discuss the long-term impacts of COVID-19.

Strong international actions include the provision of international financial support (either directly or through international institutions), or participating in, voting, joining, or financing organizations addressing the indirect physical, mental, and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Weak actions at the international level include information sharing and development of international legislation.

To achieve full compliance, the G7 member must take strong actions in at least two spheres and less than strong action in one sphere to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: physical health, mental health, and wider socio-economic consequences. Taking strong action in each of the three spheres will also fulfill compliance.

For a score of partial compliance, the G7 member must take strong action in at least one sphere to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic: physical health, mental health, and/or wider socio-

⁴²⁴ G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021.

<http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-carbis-bay-health-declaration.html>

⁴²⁵ Mental Health: strengthening our response, World Health Organization (Geneva) 30 March 2018. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/mental-health-strengthening-our-response>

⁴²⁶ Mental health and COVID-19, World Health Organization Regional Office for Europe (Copenhagen) n.d. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.euro.who.int/en/health-topics/health-emergencies/coronavirus-covid-19/publications-and-technical-guidance/mental-health-and-covid-19>

⁴²⁷ Socioeconomic, Merriam-Webster (Springfield) 18 February 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <https://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/socioeconomic>

⁴²⁸ G7 Carbis Bay Health Declaration, G7 Information Centre (Toronto) 13 June 2021. Access Date: 26 September 2021. <http://www.g7.utoronto.ca/summit/2021cornwall/210613-carbis-bay-health-declaration.html>

economic consequences. Even if a G7 member takes less than strong action in two spheres in addition to taking strong action in one of the aforementioned spheres, they will still only receive partial compliance.

For a score of non-compliance, the G7 member has completed fewer than the aforementioned criteria.

Scoring Guidelines

-1	The G7 member has NOT taken strong steps to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in ANY of the following three spheres: physical health, mental health, OR wider socio-economic consequences, OR the G7 member has taken weak steps in only ONE of the three spheres.
0	The G7 member has taken strong steps to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in at least ONE of the following three spheres: physical health, mental health, OR wider socio-economic consequences, OR the G7 member has taken strong steps in ONE sphere and weak steps in the other TWO spheres.
+1	The G7 member has taken strong steps to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in ALL of the following three spheres: physical health, mental health, AND wider socio-economic consequences, OR the G7 member has taken strong steps in at least TWO spheres and weak steps in ONE other sphere.

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Canada: +1

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 14 June 2021, Member of Parliament for Charlottetown Sean Casey reported Canada invested CAD4.1 million to support infrastructure maintenance to health facilities on the frontline of the COVID-19 pandemic in Prince Edward Island.⁴²⁹ This infrastructure investment supports health facilities and the post-pandemic physical health of individuals in Prince Edward Island.

On 14 June 2021, Minister Catherine McKenna announced Canada invested CAD4 million toward the construction of a new youth clubhouse in Ontario through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure plan.⁴³⁰ A new youth clubhouse in Ontario will support the mental health of youth and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 15 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to work with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to enhance their engagement under the Canada-EU Digital Dialogue and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to “help strengthen a post-pandemic recovery of businesses.”⁴³¹ Prime Minister Trudeau with President Michel and President von der Leyen advanced the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Agreement to facilitate the flow of trade between Canada and the European Union, benefitting socio-economic recovery.

⁴²⁹ Canada and Prince Edward Island invest in Charlottetown healthcare and recreation facilities, Infrastructure Canada (Charlottetown) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-prince-edward-island-invest-in-charlottetown-healthcare-and-recreation-facilities.html>

⁴³⁰ Canada and Ontario invest \$5 million in new clubhouse for BGC Ottawa, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-ontario-invest-5-million-in-new-clubhouse-for-bgc-ottawa.html>

⁴³¹ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

Prime Minister Trudeau also launched a new bilateral Dialogue on Health to enhance cooperation on priority health commitments, including mental health, between Canada and the European Union.⁴³²

On 15 June 2021, Minister of Infrastructure and Communities Catherine McKenna reported Canada contributed CAD22.2 million through the COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream of the Investing in Canada plan to fund municipal infrastructure in response to the impacts of COVID-19 in Ontario.⁴³³ Municipal infrastructure investments will protect the health and well-being of residents and support post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 15 June 2021, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance Chrystia Freeland met with the Minister of Families Children and Social Development, Ahmed Hussen, to affirm mutual priorities which include reducing the cost of living and increasing access to affordable housing.⁴³⁴ Reducing the cost of living and increasing access to affordable housing will benefit the mental health of individuals and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 16 June 2021, Minister of Indigenous Services Marc Miller declared Canada renewed the Indigenous Community Business Fund and allocated CAD117 million to provide “non-repayable financial contributions to Indigenous microbusinesses and community- or collectively owned businesses.”⁴³⁵ This initiative will support post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 17 June 2021, Minister McKenna declared Canada will invest in projects to “improve people’s quality of life now and following the pandemic.”⁴³⁶ Minister McKenna highlighted Canada will allocate CAD10,000 toward the Niagara-on-the-Lake Museum, CAD28,000 toward the launch a mobile library branch, CAD13,000 toward adaptation of community spaces to allow social-distancing, CAD24,000 to “promote the participation and inclusion of seniors and persons with disabilities in outdoor nature activities” and CAD11,000 to fund virtual concerts from the Gallery of Players of Niagara. These investments will benefit the mental health of individuals and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 21 June 2021, Minister of International Trade, Export Promotion, Small Business and Economic Development Mary Ng declared Canada will invest CAD33 million toward Shop Local to promote local shopping across Canada.⁴³⁷ Minister Ng emphasised how the promotion of local shopping will support local businesses and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada. Minister Ng emphasised CAD9 million of this investment will be allocated for Ontario.

⁴³² Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

⁴³³ Canada and Ontario invest more than \$22.2 million in municipal infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in eastern Ontario, Infrastructure Canada (Kingston) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-ontario-invest-more-than-222-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-eastern-ontario.html>

⁴³⁴ Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Families, Children and Social Development host roundtable on housing affordability, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/06/15/deputy-prime-minister-and-minister-families-children-and-social>

⁴³⁵ Government of Canada renews the Indigenous Community Business Fund through Budget 2021, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa) 16 June 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-renews-the-indigenous-community-business-fund-through-budget-2021.html>

⁴³⁶ Infrastructure Canada and Community Foundations of Canada announce funding in support of Niagara Region communities, Infrastructure Canada (Ontario) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/infrastructure-canada-and-community-foundations-of-canada-announce-funding-in-support-of-niagara-region-communities.html>

⁴³⁷ Minister Ng announces Shop Local investment benefiting Canada’s small businesses, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Markham) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/minister-ng-announces-shop-local-investment-benefiting-canadas-small-businesses.html>

On 21 June 2021, Member of Parliament for Kings Kody Blois announced Canada invested CAD1.1 million in the construction of a new facility for the Flower Cart Group, who provide vocational service to adults with intellectual disabilities.⁴³⁸ A new facility for the Flower Cart Group will help them to implement projects to support individuals with disabilities. Increasing access to support for individuals with disabilities benefits the mental and physical health of individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 23 June 2021, Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Minister Mélanie Joly declared Canada will invest CAD500 million over two years through the new Canada Community Revitalization Fund to finance projects that promote post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.⁴³⁹

On 23 June 2021, Minister Joly announced Canada invested CAD593,880 to support the Centre d'innovation en microélectronique du Québec and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.⁴⁴⁰ The Centre d'innovation en microélectronique du Québec will use funds to mentor “businesses through their applied research and innovation projects in microelectronics.”

On 23 June 2021, Minister Ng reaffirmed Canada’s commitment to collaborating with partners to achieve global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁴⁴¹ Minister Ng highlighted increased collaboration between Canada and Infrastructure Asia will enhance global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 23 June 2021, Minister and Special Representative for the Prairies Jim Carr announced Canada invested CAD44.3 million to support 23 green and recreation infrastructure projects across the province.⁴⁴² The institution of 23 green and recreation infrastructure projects across the province will support the physical and mental health of individuals and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 24 June 2021, Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Economic Development and Official Languages Larry Bagnell reaffirmed Canada’s support for local business and reported Canada will allocate CAD1.65 million to increase local shopping in Yukon, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories and CAD7.2 million to Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.⁴⁴³ Additionally, Minister Carr highlighted how the promotion of local shopping will benefit the post-pandemic reopening of business and socio-economic recovery for Canada.

⁴³⁸ Canada and Nova Scotia invest in the construction of a new facility for The Flower Cart Group, Infrastructure Canada (Kings) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-nova-scotia-invest-in-the-construction-of-a-new-facility-for-the-flower-cart-group.html>

⁴³⁹ Government of Canada launches \$500 million Canada Community Revitalization Fund to drive post-COVID-19 recovery, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/government-of-canada-launches-500-millioncanada-in-community-revitalization-fund-to-drive-post-covid-19-recovery.html>

⁴⁴⁰ Mélanie Joly announces \$593,880 in Government of Canada support for the Centre d'innovation en microélectronique du Québec, Canada Economic Development for Quebec Regions (Sainte-Thérèse) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/economic-development-quebec-regions/news/2021/08/melanie-joly-announces-593880-in-government-of-canada-support-for-the-centre-dinnovation-en-microelectronique-du-quebec.html>

⁴⁴¹ Minister Ng discusses opportunities in Southeast Asia for Canada’s infrastructure sector, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/06/minister-ng-discusses-opportunities-in-southeast-asia-for-canadas-infrastructure-sector.html>

⁴⁴² Canada and Saskatchewan announce 23 green and recreation infrastructure projects across the province, Infrastructure Canada (Regina) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-saskatchewan-announce-23-green-and-recreation-infrastructure-projects-across-the-province.html>

⁴⁴³ Minister Carr and PS Duguid announce Shop Local investment benefiting small businesses across the Prairies, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Winnipeg) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/minister-carr-and-ps-duguid-announce-shop-local-investment-benefiting-small-businesses-across-the-prairies.html>

On 24 June 2021, Minister of Digital Government Joyce Murray announced Canada will contribute CAD5.5 million from the initial CAD33 million investment toward Shop Local to help British Columbia to promote local shopping.⁴⁴⁴ Minister Murray emphasised how the promotion of local shopping will benefit businesses and Canada's post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 25 June 2021, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Bernadette Jordan affirmed Canada's commitment to support local businesses and declared Canada will allocate CAD2.7 million towards Newfoundland and Labrador, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia and New Brunswick to assist local businesses.⁴⁴⁵ Minister Jordan highlighted how this investment will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 28 June 2021, Minister of Canadian Heritage Steven Guilbeault declared Canada will allocate CAD300 million over two years to the Recovery Fund for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport Sectors.⁴⁴⁶ Minister Guilbeault highlighted Canada will allocate CAD200 million over two years toward the Reopening Fund. Minister Guilbeault indicated Canada will also invest CAD200 million over two years towards the Major Festivals and Events Support Initiative. These initiatives will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 29 June 2021, Minister of Diversity and Inclusion and Youth Bardish Chagger announced investment of CAD40.9 million toward municipal infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in Southwestern, Midwestern and Central Ontario.⁴⁴⁷ This initiative will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada.

On 29 June 2021, Minister of Agriculture and Agri-Food Marie-Claude Bibeau announced Canada contributed CAD150,000 to support new research at the Ontario Crops Research Centre.⁴⁴⁸ New research will support Canada's agricultural sector and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 29 June 2021, Minister of Health Patty Hajdu and Minister Miller announced Canada will allocate CAD126.7 million over three years to increase access to health services and "culturally relevant mental health and wellness" programs.⁴⁴⁹ Increasing access to health services and "culturally relevant mental health and wellness" programs will support the mental and physical health of Indigenous communities.

⁴⁴⁴ Minister Murray announces Shop Local investment benefiting small businesses in British Columbia, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Vancouver) 24 June 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/minister-murray-announces-shop-local-investment-benefiting-small-businesses-in-british-columbia.html>

⁴⁴⁵ Minister Bernadette Jordan announces Shop Local investment in Atlantic Canada, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Lunenburg) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/06/minister-bernadette-jordan-announces-shop-local-investment-in-atlantic-canada.html>

⁴⁴⁶ Continued Support for Arts, Culture, Heritage and Sport Sector Organizations, Canadian Heritage (Montréal) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2021/06/continued-support-for-arts-culture-heritage-and-sport-sector-organizations.html>

⁴⁴⁷ Canada and Ontario invest more than \$51.2 million in municipal infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in Southwestern, Midwestern and Central Ontario, Infrastructure Canada (Region of Waterloo) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/06/canada-and-ontario-invest-more-than-512-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-southwestern-midwestern-and-ce.html>

⁴⁴⁸ Funding to Support Research and Innovation in Ontario's Vegetable Farming Sector, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (King) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/06/funding-to-support-research-and-innovation-in-ontarios-vegetable-farming-sector.html>

⁴⁴⁹ Minister of Health and Minister of Indigenous Services Announce Funding & Federal Response to support efforts to address racism in health systems, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2021/06/minister-of-health-and-minister-of-indigenous-services-announce-funding--federal-response-to-support-efforts-to-address-racism-in-health-systems.html>

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau reported the allocation of CAD180 million to advance gender equality internationally.⁴⁵⁰ Priorities of this initiative include creating a post-pandemic global socio-economic recovery “that creates jobs and opportunity for women and girls.” Prime Minister Trudeau contributed an additional CAD100 million to support women and girls in low and middle income “participate in the economy, in education, and in public life.” Canada will also join the Global Alliance for Care to assist women participate in international post-pandemic socio-economic recovery. Canada will allocate CAD10 million towards UNFPA-UNICEF Global Programme initiatives to strengthen rights of women and girls internationally and support their mental and physical health, and CAD18.45 million to projects that “address inequality and discrimination faced by LGBTQ2 communities.”

On 30 June 2021, Minister Freeland declared the federal passage of Bill C-30.⁴⁵¹ Bill C-30 extends the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy program, and Lockdown Support program until September 25, 2021. Bill C-30 expands eligibility requirements for the Canada Recovery Benefit program and the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit program. Bill C-30 will institute a new Canada Recovery Hiring Program and increase Old Age Security (OAS) by 10 per cent for seniors aged 75 and older. Bill C-30 will strengthen the Canada Workers Benefit program and deepen the benefits distributed through Employment Insurance sickness program and instituted a new federal minimum hourly wage of CAD15. To address immediate health care system pressures indirectly caused by COVID-19, Bill C-30 allocates an additional CAD4 billion to Canadian provinces and territories. Through these initiatives, Bill C-30 supports benefits post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 2 July 2021, Minister Freeland met with the United States Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, to discuss mutual priorities which include “post-pandemic recovery, including support for workers and businesses, and ensuring the recovery is inclusive and equitable,”⁴⁵² These priorities will benefit mental health for individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada and the United States.

On 3 July 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Marc Garneau met with the new Government of Israel to reaffirm mutual priorities, including post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁴⁵³ Minister Garneau announced Canada has allocated an additional CAD3 million every year to advance mutual priorities through the Canada-Israel Agreement on Bilateral Cooperation in Industrial Research and Development.

On 7 July 2021, Minister McKenna reported Canada invested CAD144.3 toward 209 infrastructure projects to modernise health, social services and long-term care facilities in Quebec.⁴⁵⁴ Financial support for health, social services and long-term care infrastructure will support the mental and physical health of individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

⁴⁵⁰ Prime Minister announces measures to advance gender equality worldwide, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/prime-minister-announces-measures-advance-gender-equality-worldwide>

⁴⁵¹ Budget focused on jobs and growth receives Royal Assent, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/30/budget-focused-jobs-and-growth-receives-royal-assent>

⁴⁵² Deputy Prime Minister Freeland meets virtually with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/07/02/deputy-prime-minister-freeland-meets-virtually-us-treasury-secretary-janet>

⁴⁵³ Minister Garneau concludes official visit with the Government of Israel, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 4 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/07/minister-garneau-concludes-official-visit-with-the-government-of-israel.html>

⁴⁵⁴ Canada and Quebec are investing in 209 infrastructure projects to modernize health, social services and long-term care facilities, Infrastructure Canada (Quebec City) 7 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/07/canada-and-quebec-are-investing-in-209-infrastructure-projects-to-modernize-health-social-services-and-long-term-care-facilities.html>

On 9 July 2021, Minister Bibeau declared Canada will allocate an additional CAD10 million towards the Local Food Infrastructure Fund.⁴⁵⁵ The Local Food Infrastructure Fund will address pandemic-related food security pressures which will benefit Canada's post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 9 July 2021, Minister Bibeau and Quebec's Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing Andrée Laforest confirmed Canada invested CAD13.7 million to modernise health, social services and post-secondary education establishments in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean.⁴⁵⁶ Modernising health, social services and post-secondary education establishments benefits mental and physical health of individuals and supports post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 9 July 2021, Minister of Middle Class Prosperity Mona Fortier announced investment of CAD3.1 million to support municipal infrastructure in Ottawa to respond to the impacts of COVID-19.⁴⁵⁷ Additional municipal infrastructure investment will support the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 12 July 2021, Minister Joly announced Canada's allocation of CAD500 million to invest in a new Tourism Relief Fund.⁴⁵⁸ The new Tourism Relief Fund will contribute toward post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada. Out of the CAD500 million contribution, at least CAD50 million will fund Indigenous tourism projects.

On 12 July 2021, Minister Bibeau declared Canada will allocate CAD2.5 million to support non-profit projects that "facilitate access to safe and nutritious food for at-risk populations and strengthen the local food system" in Montreal.⁴⁵⁹ This contribution will support mental health for individuals and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada.

On 13 July 2021, Minister Joly announced Canada will allocate CAD700 million to initiate the Jobs and Growth Fund.⁴⁶⁰ The Jobs and Growth Fund will create jobs and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 15 July 2021, Minister of Innovation, Science and Industry François-Philippe Champagne confirmed Canada will invest CAD39.6 million to support 236 researchers complete projects about the post-pandemic

⁴⁵⁵ Minister Bibeau re-opens the Local Food Infrastructure Fund with over double the funding this year for projects to improve food security in communities across Canada, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/minister-bibeau-re-opens-the-local-food-infrastructure-fund-with-over-double-the-funding-this-year-for-projects-to-improve-food-security-in-communi.html>

⁴⁵⁶ \$19 million to modernize health, social services and post-secondary education establishments in Saguenay–Lac-Saint-Jean, Infrastructure Canada (Lac-Saint-Jean) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/07/19-million-to-modernize-health-social-services-and-post-secondary-education-establishments-in-saguenaylac-saint-jean.html>

⁴⁵⁷ Canada and Ontario invest more than \$3.8 million in municipal infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 in the City of Ottawa, Infrastructure Canada (Ottawa) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/07/canada-and-ontario-invest-more-than-38-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19-in-the-city-of-ottawa.html>

⁴⁵⁸ Federal government launches Tourism Relief Fund to help tourism businesses and organizations recover and grow, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ontario) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/federal-government-launches-tourism-relief-fund-to-help-tourism-businesses-and-organizations-recover-and-grow.html>

⁴⁵⁹ Minister Bibeau announces over \$2.5 million to help improve food security in Montreal, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Montreal) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/07/minister-bibeau-announces-over-25-million-to-help-improve-food-security-in-montreal.html>

⁴⁶⁰ Government of Canada launches Jobs and Growth Fund to create jobs and foster economic activity in Canada's communities, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ontario) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-launches-jobs-and-growth-fund-to-create-jobs-and-foster-economic-activity-in-canadas-communities.html>

opioid crisis and health of individuals in Africa among other topics.⁴⁶¹ These projects will support the mental and physical health of individuals in Canada and abroad.

On 22 July 2021, Minister Freeland declared Canada allocated CAD48.5 million from the Tourism Relief Fund to provide direct support to tourism businesses and organisations in Atlantic Canada.⁴⁶² This initiative will support post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 26 July 2021, Minister Hajdu announced Canada and Nunavut signed the Canada-Nunavut Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19.⁴⁶³ Through the Canada-Nunavut Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19, the federal government allocates CAD3.1 million to support virtual health services in Nunavut. Additional virtual services will support the physical health of individuals in Nunavut.

On 29 July 2021, Minister for Women and Gender Equality and Rural Economic Development Maryam Monsef declared Canada will invest CAD100 million to implement 237 projects through the Feminist Response and Recovery Fund.⁴⁶⁴ Minister Monsef highlighted how this initiative will help promote an “inclusive recovery from the social and economic impacts of the pandemic.”

On 30 July 2021, Minister Freeland announced an extension of the eligibility requirements for key employment benefit programs including: the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy program, the Canada Emergency Rent Subsidy and Lockdown Support program, the Canada Recovery Benefit program, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit program, and the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit program.⁴⁶⁵ Extending eligibility for these programs benefits mental health of individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada.

On 2 August 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden to reaffirm mutual priorities, including the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery, with particular attention towards women.⁴⁶⁶ Investments in physical and human infrastructure will help achieve their mutual goal of post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 6 August 2021, Minister Hajdu declared Canada, Newfoundland and Labrador signed the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to

⁴⁶¹ Government of Canada invests in the next generation of world-class scientists, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 15 July 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-in-the-next-generation-of-world-class-scientists.html>

⁴⁶² Deputy Prime Minister Highlights Tourism Relief Fund Support for Atlantic Canada, Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (Charlottetown) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/atlantic-canada-opportunities/news/2021/07/deputy-prime-minister-highlights-tourism-relief-fund-support-for-atlantic-canada.html>

⁴⁶³ Government of Canada Invests over \$3.1 Million to Expand Virtual Health Care Services in Nunavut, Health Canada (Ottawa) 26 July 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-invests-over-31-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-nunavut.html>

⁴⁶⁴ Government of Canada announces recipients of \$100-million Feminist Response and Recovery Fund, Women and Gender Equality Canada (Ottawa) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/women-gender-equality/news/2021/07/government-of-canada-announces-recipients-of-100-million-feminist-response-and-recovery-fund.html>

⁴⁶⁵ Government extends COVID-19 benefits and business supports to support stronger economic recovery, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 30 July 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/07/30/government-extends-covid-19-benefits-and-business-supports-support>

⁴⁶⁶ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 3 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/08/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

COVID-19.⁴⁶⁷ Through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19, Canada allocates CAD4.5 million to support Newfoundland and Labrador institute virtual health services. Additional virtual services will support the physical health of individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador.

On 6 August 2021, Minister Hajdu announced Canada and Newfoundland and Labrador have signed the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement.⁴⁶⁸ Through the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement Canada will allocate CAD15 million to “increase infection prevention and control in long term care facilities and seniors’ residences.” This agreement will benefit the mental and physical health of individuals in Newfoundland and Labrador.

On 9 August 2021, Leader of the Government in the House of Commons Pablo Rodriguez announced Canada will contribute CAD7.2 million from the initial CAD33 million investment toward Shop Local to assist Quebec promote local shopping.⁴⁶⁹ Minister Rodriguez highlighted how the promotion of local shopping will benefit the post-pandemic reopening of business and socio-economic recovery for Canada.

On 11 August 2021, Minister of International Development Karina Gould declared Canada will contribute CAD18.9 million over the next five years to fund seven new post-pandemic recovery projects in the Philippines.⁴⁷⁰ Increasing funding for post-pandemic recovery projects benefits post-pandemic socio-economic recovery internationally.

On 12 August 2021, Minister Hajdu announced Canada and the Northwest Territories signed the Canada-Northwest Territories Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement.⁴⁷¹ Through the Canada-Northwest Territories Home and Community Care and Mental Health and Addictions Services Funding Agreement Canada allocates CAD3.1 million to support Safe Long-term Care. Additional funding for Safe Long-term Care will benefit the physical and mental health of individuals in the Northwest Territories.

⁴⁶⁷ Government of Canada invests over \$4.5 million to expand virtual health care services in Newfoundland and Labrador, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-over-45-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

⁴⁶⁸ Government of Canada Invests \$15 million to Support Canadians Living in Long-Term Care in Newfoundland and Labrador, Health Canada (Ottawa) 6 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-15-million-to-support-canadians-living-in-long-term-care-in-newfoundland-and-labrador.html>

⁴⁶⁹ Minister Rodriguez announces Shop Local investment in Quebec, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Montréal) 9 August 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/08/minister-rodriguez-announces-shop-local-investment-in-quebec.html>

⁴⁷⁰ Canada announces support for multiple development projects in Philippines, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 1 August 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/08/canada-announces-support-for-multiple-development-projects-in-philippines.html>

⁴⁷¹ Government of Canada Invests more than \$3.1 million to Support Canadians Living and Working in Long-Term Care in the Northwest Territories, Health Canada (Ottawa) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-more-than-31-million-to-support-canadians-living-and-working-in-long-term-care-in-the-northwest-territories.html>

On 12 August 2021, Minister Bibeau declared Canada will contribute CAD430,000 to support the mental health for farming and rural communities.⁴⁷² Supporting the mental health for farming and rural communities benefits Canada's post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in addition to the mental health of individuals.

On 13 August 2021, Minister Gould reported Canada has allocated CAD155 million to support the distribution of emergency food provisions to countries in need through organisations including: the World Food Programme, UNICEF, the United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs' Country-Based Pooled Funds and the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Canadian Foodgrains Bank.⁴⁷³ Increased funding to provide emergency food provisions will support the mental and physical health of individuals internationally.

On 13 August 2021, Minister Hajdu announced Canada and Manitoba signed the Canada-Manitoba Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19.⁴⁷⁴ Through the Canada-Manitoba Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19, Canada allocates CAD7 million to support Manitoba institute virtual health services. Additional virtual services will support the physical health of individuals in Manitoba.

On 13 August 2021, Minister Monsef announced Canada invested CAD1.2 million to implement municipal infrastructure projects in six communities across Ontario which respond to the impacts of COVID-19.⁴⁷⁵ This investment in infrastructure benefits the safety of individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 13 August 2021, Minister of Northern Affairs Dan Vandal confirmed Canada will allocate CAD1.4 million over the next four years towards Manitoba Building Trades to fund a project to increase employment in Manitoba through the Union Training and Innovation Program.⁴⁷⁶ Increasing employment in Manitoba will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 14 August 2021, Minister Miller, Minister Vandal and Minister of Crown-Indigenous Relations Carolyn Bennett met to announce that Canada will allocate CAD4.3 billion over four years to "support immediate demands, as prioritised by Indigenous partners."⁴⁷⁷ This initiative will benefit the mental and physical health of Indigenous individuals and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

⁴⁷² Governments Supporting Mental Health for Farming and Rural Communities, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Blyth) 12 August 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/08/governments-supporting-mental-health-for-farming-and-rural-communities.html>

⁴⁷³ Canada announces emergency support to respond to global food crises, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/08/canada-announces-emergency-support-to-respond-to-global-food-crises.html>

⁴⁷⁴ Government of Canada invests over \$7 million to expand virtual health care services in Manitoba, Health Canada (Ottawa) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-over-7-million-to-expand-virtual-health-care-services-in-manitoba.html>

⁴⁷⁵ Canada and Ontario invest more than \$1.6 million in municipal infrastructure to respond to the impacts of COVID-19, Infrastructure Canada (Peterborough) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/office-infrastructure/news/2021/08/canada-and-ontario-invest-more-than-16-million-in-municipal-infrastructure-to-respond-to-the-impacts-of-covid-19.html>

⁴⁷⁶ Government of Canada invests in training to help workers in Manitoba become certified in the skilled trades, Employment and Social Development Canada (Winnipeg) 13 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-invests-in-training-to-help-workers-in-manitoba-become-certified-in-the-skilled-trades.html>

⁴⁷⁷ Government of Canada highlights funding for Indigenous communities to support critical infrastructure, Indigenous Services Canada (Ottawa) 14 August 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/indigenous-services-canada/news/2021/08/government-of-canada-highlights-funding-for-indigenous-communities-to-support-critical-infrastructure.html>

On 17 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau affirmed Canada's commitment to support small businesses owners to address the negative impacts of COVID-19 on their businesses.⁴⁷⁸ This initiative will contribute to post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 30 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Prime Minister of the United Kingdom Boris Johnson.⁴⁷⁹ In this meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Johnson reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on mutual priorities of post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 30 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau highlighted Canada will contribute CAD3.7 billion from Canada's allocated International Monetary Fund Special Drawing Rights to help address post-pandemic socio-economic and health concerns for countries seeking support.⁴⁸⁰ From this CAD3.7 billion contribution, CAD982 million will be allocated towards the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust. Through these measures, Canada supports the global socio-economic recovery from COVID-19.

On 31 October 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Prime Minister of Spain, Pedro Sánchez, to discuss mutual priorities which include post-pandemic socio-economic recovery prioritising "the needs of vulnerable and low- and middle-income countries in Latin America and the Caribbean."⁴⁸¹ Leaders committed to advancing post-pandemic socio-economic recovery by enhancing cooperation through international forums.

On 18 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with the United States President Biden to affirm mutual priorities which include increasing employment rates and achieving post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁴⁸² Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden committed to strengthening the medical supply chain internationally.

On 23 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau verbally reaffirmed Canada's commitment to support a stronger domestic health care system by prioritising the medical procedures delayed due to COVID-19, "strengthening long-term care and improving access to mental health and addiction treatment."⁴⁸³ These initiatives will allow Canada to benefit from domestic post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 29 November 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok to discuss mutual priorities particularly on strengthening housing and mental health support in Nunavut.⁴⁸⁴ Strengthening housing and mental health support will benefit the mental and physical health of individuals in Nunavut.

⁴⁷⁸ Statement by the Prime Minister on Small Business Week, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 17 October 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/10/17/statement-prime-minister-small-business-week>

⁴⁷⁹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister of Canada (Rome) 30 October 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/10/30/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-prime-minister-boris-johnson-united>

⁴⁸⁰ Global Health and Economy: Prime Minister concludes productive first day of G20 Leaders' Summit in Italy, Prime Minister of Canada (Rome) 30 October 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/10/30/global-health-and-economy-prime-minister-concludes-productive-first>

⁴⁸¹ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with President of Argentina Alberto Fernández, Prime Minister of Canada (Rome) 31 October 2021. Access Date: 5 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/10/31/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-prime-minister-pedro-sanchez-spain>

⁴⁸² Prime Minister concludes productive North American Leaders' Summit, Prime Minister of Canada (Washington, D.C.) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/11/18/prime-minister-concludes-productive-north-american-leaders-summit>

⁴⁸³ Statement by the Prime Minister on the Speech from the Throne, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 23 November 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/statements/2021/11/23/statement-prime-minister-speech-throne>

⁴⁸⁴ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with Nunavut Premier P.J. Akeeagok, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 29 November 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/11/29/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-nunavut-premier-pj-akeeagok>

On 1 December 2021, Member of Parliament Sean Casey reported Canada will invest CAD50,000 toward the Prince Edward Island Arts Guild.⁴⁸⁵ The Prince Edward Island Arts Guild will use this investment to support workers in the local cultural sector in Prince Edward Island. This initiative will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 6 December 2021, Minister of International Development Harjit Sajjan declared Canada will allocate CAD75 million over the next three years to help address the global food crisis exacerbated as an indirect result of COVID-19.⁴⁸⁶ Increased funding to address food insecurity benefits the mental and physical health of individuals and international post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 7 December 2021, Minister Sajjan stated Canada will contribute CAD195 million toward projects that support emergency food service programs.⁴⁸⁷ Minister Sajjan highlighted Canada will also contribute CAD50 million toward the Global Financing Facility to “restore and sustain primary health care, including nutrition services, for the most vulnerable.” These initiatives will support mental and physical health for individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 9 December 2021, Minister of Health Jean-Yves Duclos announced Canada has allocated CAD13.7 million towards 89 new research projects on COVID-19.⁴⁸⁸ These new research projects will deepen insights on the direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 particularly for children, youth and families.

On 13 December 2021, Minister Ng reported the Government of Canada allocated CAD5 million towards the Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub to support the “long-term success of Black entrepreneurs and business owners” and address “systemic barriers, many of which have been greatly increased by the pandemic.”⁴⁸⁹ This investment will enhance the mental health of Black entrepreneurs and business owners and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 14 December 2021, Prime Minister Trudeau met with Nunavut Premier Akeegok to reaffirm mutual priorities which include the increased institution of affordable housing and additional support for elder care in Nunavut.⁴⁹⁰ Increased access to affordable housing and additional support for elder care will benefit the mental and physical health of individuals and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

⁴⁸⁵ Supporting Cultural Sector Workers in Prince Edward Island, Canadian Heritage (Charlottetown) 1 December 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/news/2021/12/supporting-cultural-sector-workers-in-prince-edward-island.html>

⁴⁸⁶ Canada renews support for Canadian Foodgrains Bank to help provide food to people affected by humanitarian crises, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/12/canada-renews-support-for-canadian-foodgrains-bank-to-help-provide-food-to-people-affected-by-humanitarian-crises.html>

⁴⁸⁷ Canada announces support for global nutrition efforts, Global Affairs Canada (Ottawa) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/global-affairs/news/2021/12/canada-announces-support-for-global-nutrition-efforts.html>

⁴⁸⁸ Health researchers across Canada launch projects to mitigate impacts of COVID-19 pandemic on children, youth and families, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2021/12/health-researchers-across-canada-launch-projects-to-mitigate-impacts-of-covid-19-pandemic-on-children-youth-and-families0.html>

⁴⁸⁹ Minister Ng announces partners to establish Black Entrepreneurship Knowledge Hub, Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (Ottawa) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/innovation-science-economic-development/news/2021/12/minister-ng-announces-partners-to-establish-black-entrepreneurship-knowledge-hub.html>

⁴⁹⁰ G7 Leaders Statement Partnership for Infrastructure and Investment, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 15 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/12/14/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-nunavut-premier-pj-akeegok>

On 14 December 2021, Minister Freeland announced Canada will allocate CAD60 million to support workers in the live performance sector.⁴⁹¹ She verbally reaffirmed Canada's commitment to continue implementing "targeted support programs" to benefit individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 16 December 2021, Minister Duclos announced Canada and Québec signed the Canada-Québec Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19.⁴⁹² Through the Canada-Québec Bilateral Agreement for Pan-Canadian Virtual Care Priorities in Response to COVID-19, Canada allocates CAD28 million to support Québec institute virtual health services. Additional virtual services will support the physical health of individuals in Québec.

On 17 December 2021, Minister Freeland commended the Royal Assent in Parliament of Bill C-2.⁴⁹³ Deputy Prime Minister Freeland highlighted Bill C-2 will support the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit program, the Local Lockdown Program, the Canada Recovery Caregiving Benefit program, the Canada Recovery Sickness Benefit program, the Tourism and Hospitality Recovery Program, the Hardest-Hit Business Recovery Program and the Canada Recovery Hiring Program. The contribution of additional funds for these programs will support the mental health of workers and their families while benefiting post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 17 December 2021, the Government of Canada announced the federal minimum wage will be raised to CAD15 per hour on 29 December 2021.⁴⁹⁴ A federal minimum wage will support workers and their families recover from the indirect impacts of COVID-19. A federal minimum wage will help reduce poverty and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 22 December 2021, Minister Bibeau announced Canada has allocated an additional CAD30 million to support the Emergency Food Security Fund.⁴⁹⁵ The Emergency Food Security Fund provides necessary resources to ensure food banks and local food organisations can fulfil the post-pandemic increased demand. These funds will benefit the mental and physical health of individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Canada.

On 30 December 2021, Minister of National Revenue Diane Lebouthillier announced Canada will expand eligibility of the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit program.⁴⁹⁶ The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit program provides workers who are prevented from working due to the extended COVID-19 lockdown with CAD300 per week. The Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit program will now apply to workers affected by

⁴⁹¹ Government of Canada releases Economic and Fiscal Update 2021, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 14 December 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/12/14/government-canada-releases-economic-and-fiscal-update-2021>

⁴⁹² Government of Canada invests more than \$28 million to support the funding of virtual health care services in Quebec, Health Canada (Burnaby) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/news/2021/12/government-of-canada-invests-more-than-28-million-to-support-the-funding-of-virtual-health-care-services-in-quebec.html>

⁴⁹³ Legislation to create jobs and implement targeted COVID-19 support receives Royal Assent, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://deputyprime.minister.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/12/17/legislation-create-jobs-and-implement-targeted-covid-19-support>

⁴⁹⁴ Federal minimum wage to rise to \$15 per hour on December 29, Employment and Social Development Canada (Gatineau) 17 December 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/employment-social-development/news/2021/12/federal-minimum-wage-to-rise-to-15-per-hour-on-december-29.html>

⁴⁹⁵ Minister Bibeau announces an extra \$30 million to help vulnerable people in Canada access food, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada (Ottawa) 22 December 2021. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/agriculture-agri-food/news/2021/12/minister-bibeau-announces-an-extra-30-million-to-help-vulnerable-people-in-canada-access-food.html>

⁴⁹⁶ The Government of Canada launches applications for the expanded Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit, Canada Revenue Agency (Ottawa) 30 December 2021. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency/news/2021/12/the-government-of-canada-launches-applications-for-the-expanded-canada-worker-lockdown-benefit.html>

increased capacity restrictions. Expanding eligibility for the Canada Worker Lockdown Benefit program will benefit the physical and mental health of workers and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada.

On 14 January 2022, Minister Duclos declared Canada is establishing a new Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies.⁴⁹⁷ To support the operation of the Centre Canada has committed CAD18.5 million every year. The Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies will produce research regarding direct and indirect impacts of COVID-19 to benefit the mental and physical health of individuals and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada.

Canada has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19, ensuring that countries are able to effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. Canada has taken strong action to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 by allocating funds and establishing programs to support mental and physical health for individuals in Canada and internationally. Canada has taken strong action to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 by enacting domestic legislation, implementing strategic infrastructure projects, increasing funding toward employment projects and programs to enhance socio-economic recovery.

Thus, Canada receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Natasha Vosky

France: 0

France has partially complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical health, mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 27 September 2021, Minister of the Economy Bruno Le Maire introduced the launch of a EUR3 billion transition fund.⁴⁹⁸ The stated purpose of the fund is to support medium and large companies (beyond the financial sector) affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by providing loans and quasi-equity instruments.

On 28 September 2021, President Emmanuel Macron announced psychological consultations will be reimbursed by Health Insurance “up to [EUR40] for the first session and [EUR20] for subsequent sessions, from the age of 3 by 2022.”⁴⁹⁹ Additionally, the initiative will create 800 new positions and distribute EUR80 million to centers for psychiatric care. This will help citizens access mental health resources.

On 5 October 2021, Minister for Solidarity and Health Olivier Véran and Minister for European and Foreign Affairs Jean-Yves Le Drian held the “Mind Our Rights, Now!” summit in Paris.⁵⁰⁰ The global summit

⁴⁹⁷ Government of Canada creates Centre for Research on Pandemic Preparedness and Health Emergencies, Canadian Institutes of Health Research (Ottawa) 14 January 2022. Access Date: 15 January 2022. <https://www.canada.ca/en/institutes-health-research/news/2022/01/government-of-canada-creates-centre-for-research-on-pandemic-preparedness-and-health-emergencies.html>

⁴⁹⁸ Companies in difficulty: launch of the 3 billion euro transition fund, Ministry of Economy, Finances and Recovery (Paris) 27 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/entreprises-difficultes-lancement-fonds-transition>

⁴⁹⁹ Consultations with psychologists will be reimbursed on medical prescription, Government of France (Paris) 29 September 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 14 December 2021. <https://www.gouvernement.fr/les-consultations-de-psychologues-seront-remboursees-sur-prescription-medicale>

⁵⁰⁰ World Mental Health Summit “Mind Our Rights, Now!”, Ministry of Solidarity and Health (Paris) 5 July 2021. Access Date: 19 March 2022. <https://solidarites-sante.gouv.fr/ministere/europe-et-international/sommet-mondial-sante-mentale/global-mental-health-summit-english-version/>

included international organisations, health professionals, academics, high-level policy makers and civil society actors all seeking to strengthen international mental health support.

On 8 November 2021, President Macron announced the investment of EUR400 million to support athletes and sporting industries negatively impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵⁰¹ The investment aims to support part and full-time staff, players, sports organizations, clubs/arenas and event organizers who were left effectively unemployed due to the cancelling of many events. This will help remedy the economic consequences of the pandemic and aid the sporting industry in its recovery.

On 18 November 2021, the Ministry of the Economy, Finance and Recovery introduced “rent and rental charges” aid for businesses.⁵⁰² This aid targets retail businesses and services affected by COVID-19 restrictions in early 2021, particularly those whose losses were not fully covered by the solidarity fund or by other financial assistance mechanisms.

France has partially complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. France has taken strong action to support those whose mental health has negatively been impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic and in remedying the negative socioeconomic consequences by supporting businesses and workers in impacted sectors. However, France has failed to take strong or partial action with respect to the indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on physical health.

Thus, France receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Ga Vin Park

Germany: +1

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical health, mental health and the broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 14 June 2021, Minister of Economic Cooperation and Development Gerd Müller met with Togo’s Foreign Minister Robert Dussey, Prime Minister Victoire Tomegah Dogbé and President Faure Gnassingbé to sign an agreement for a reform partnership between the two countries.⁵⁰³ Minister Müller stated that the partnership will boost sustainable industrial development, foster good governance and strengthen Togo’s health system to promote economic growth and help Togo emerge from the COVID-19 crisis.

On 17 June 2021, Minister of State at the Federal Foreign Office Niels Annen recognized the harsh socio-economic situation of the majority of Venezuelan refugees because of the ongoing political crisis and the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the job market.⁵⁰⁴ Upon the recognition of this humanitarian crisis, Germany pledged EUR35.4 million for humanitarian assistance and EUR23.6 million for development funding.

⁵⁰¹€400 million in aid, Ministry of Sports (Paris) 8 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.sports.gouv.fr/pratiques-sportives/covid19/400-millions-d-eur-d-aides/>

⁵⁰² Implementation of “rent and rental charges” assistance for businesses, Ministry of Economy, Finances and Recovery (Paris) 18 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.economie.gouv.fr/covid19-soutien-entreprises/aide-loyers-charges-locatives-entreprises#>

⁵⁰³ Minister Müller signs reform partnership agreement with Togo, Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 14 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/minister-mueller-signs-reform-partnership-agreement-with-togo-83646>

⁵⁰⁴ Venezuelan refugee crisis: Germany increases assistance to 70 million euro, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 17 June 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/venezuela-node/venezuela-donor-conference/2466742>

On 23 June 2021, the federal government adopted the draft for the 2022 federal budget and fiscal plan to 2025.⁵⁰⁵ The budget includes a “broad-based investment initiative” totalling EUR51.8 billion in “investment spending” to counter the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. The government also included EUR10 billion in “precautionary funding” to cover any unanticipated pandemic related costs and EUR7 billion for “business assistance programmes.”

On 12 July 2021, Minister Müller stated that Germany is in close contact with Namibian authorities to organize “fast assistance” in the fight against and recovery from the COVID-19 crisis.⁵⁰⁶ Germany is preparing to deliver “support goods” worth more than EUR11 million, including 50 ventilators, hospital beds, test kits, protective clothing, masks and vaccines.

On 4 August 2021, during an international donor’s conference organised by France and the United Nations, Minister of Foreign Affairs Heiko Maas pledged EUR40 million in support for Lebanon.⁵⁰⁷ EUR13 million from the total will go to humanitarian assistance programs, EUR7 million to stabilization, crisis prevention and peace building measures and EUR20 million to help Lebanon tackle the COVID-19 pandemic and recover from the consequences of the 2020 Beirut explosion.

On 27 August 2021, Chancellor Angela Merkel emphasized the importance of collaboration between international organizations to promote fair global economic recovery.⁵⁰⁸ Chancellor Merkel highlighted fair vaccine distribution, specific interest protections and debt moratoriums for developing and emerging countries in need as potential avenues for international collaboration.

On 25 October 2021, Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy Peter Altmaier announced that the government is providing up to EUR600 million to assist in the recovery of live in-person trade fairs.⁵⁰⁹ The government also allocated an amount of up to EUR20 million in subsidies to help and encourage small and medium-sized businesses to attend trade fairs.

On 15 November 2021, Chancellor Merkel stressed the importance of cooperation and networking in science, in politics and between science and politics, funding of the World Health Organization and the consolidation of trust to “successfully counter the horrors of pandemics.”⁵¹⁰

On 2 December 2021, the government extended the “temporary aid programme for companies” until March 2022.⁵¹¹ The “Temporary Aid Programme IV” will support self-employed individuals and business owners with EUR1,500 per month. The government will also provide an “additional equity injection” to businesses affected by lockdowns and closures, including the cancellation of Christmas markets.

⁵⁰⁵ Emerging from the crisis with sound fiscal policy and optimism, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Pressemitteilungen/2021/2021-06-23-government-draft-of-the-2022-federal-budget.html>

⁵⁰⁶ Minister Müller says: “We will not leave Namibia alone in the fight against COVID-19,” Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (Berlin) 12 July 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.bmz.de/en/news/press-releases/mueller-we-will-not-leave-namibia-alone-fight-against-covid-19-86518>

⁵⁰⁷ Germany pledges support for people in need in Lebanon, Federal Foreign Office (Berlin) 4 August 2021. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.auswaertiges-amt.de/en/aussenpolitik/laenderinformationen/libanon-node/support-lebanon/2473996>

⁵⁰⁸ Boosting a fair economic recovery, The Federal Government (Berlin) 27 August 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/news/economic-recovery-1954758>

⁵⁰⁹ Germany Offers Corona Insurance for Reopening Trade Fairs, Germany Trade & Invest (Berlin) 25 October 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://www.gtai.de/gtai-en/meta/press/germany-trade-fairs-corona-insurance-738774>

⁵¹⁰ “Pandemics know no national borders,” The Federal Government (Berlin) 15 November 2021. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://www.bundesregierung.de/breg-en/service/who-science-summit-1981812>

⁵¹¹ Comprehensive pandemic assistance programmes for companies and self-employed individuals, Federal Ministry of Finance (Berlin) 2 December 2021. Access Date: 11 January 2022. <https://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/EN/Standardartikel/Topics/Priority-Issues/Corona/comprehensive-pandemic-crisis-support.html>

On 10 January 2022, Finance Minister Christian Lindner stated that he wants the EU to implement the EUR750 billion debt-financed euro recovery fund “Next Generation EU” and stressed the new coalition government’s desire to play a “constructive role” in the debate on how to develop further the EU’s fiscal rules through the Stability and Growth Pact.⁵¹² The recovery fund and the development of the fiscal rules will help the EU focus on recovery from the pandemic and aim to promote growth and maintain debt sustainability.

Germany has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic in the spheres of physical health and wider socio-economic consequences through its consistent promotion of fair economic recovery, vaccine distribution and the extension of financial aid programmes.

Thus, Germany receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Arees Chooljian

Italy: +1

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical health, mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 15 June 2021, Minister for Youth Policies Fabiana Dadone met with Slovenia’s Minister of Science and Sports Education to discuss objectives of the future Slovenian Presidency of the Council of the European Union.⁵¹³ Minister Dadone emphasised how the COVID-19 pandemic aggravated inequalities for young people. Therefore, Minister Dadone recommended the future Slovenian Presidency should focus on the removal of administrative barriers faced by programs like Erasmus+ and the European Solidarity Corps to facilitate the mobility of young people and the movement of volunteers within the European Union.

On 15 June 2021, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation Marina Sereni met with Executive Director of the Global Fund Peter Sands to discuss mutual priorities.⁵¹⁴ Vice Minister Sereni affirmed mutual priorities include combating the indirect health impacts caused by COVID-19 “which has caused a setback in the fight against HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.” Vice Minister Sereni emphasised Italy’s commitment to continue cooperating at the multilateral level to enhance post-pandemic health and socio-economic recovery internationally.

On 18 June 2021, during the Spain-Italy Dialogue Forum Prime Minister Mario Draghi reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and the creation of jobs through instituting environmentally sustainable initiatives.⁵¹⁵ In line with Italy’s commitments, Prime Minister Draghi announced Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR75 billion from Next Generation EU to institute post-pandemic socio-economic goals. Draghi emphasised opportunities will be created for women,

⁵¹² 'We won't waste the crisis': Germany's new finance minister open to EU reforms, Reuters (Berlin) 10 January 2022. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.reuters.com/markets/europe/we-wont-waste-crisis-germanys-new-finance-minister-open-eu-reforms-2022-01-10/>

⁵¹³ Minister Fabiana Dadone meets Simona Kustec, Minister of Science and Sports Education of Slovenia, Minister for Youth Policies (Rome) 15 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.giovani.gov.it/it/comunicazione/notizie/il-ministro-fabiana-dadone-incontra-simona-kustec/>

⁵¹⁴ Cooperation; Sereni, support for Global Fund activities, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/cooperazione-sereni-sostegno-alle-attivita-del-global-fund-2/

⁵¹⁵ Prime Minister Draghi’s speech at the Spain-Italy Dialogue Forum, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 18 June 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/prime-minister-draghi-s-speech-spain-italy-dialogue-forum/17328>

youth and those who have lost their jobs during the pandemic which will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 21 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi acknowledged the COVID-19 pandemic served to intensify gender inequality.⁵¹⁶ To help promote gender equality and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery, Prime Minister Draghi announced Italy will aim to contribute EUR7 billion to these goals until 2026.

On 22 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi met with President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to announce the approval of Italy's National Recovery and Resilience Plan (NRRP) as a part of Next Generation EU.⁵¹⁷ Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate funds through Next Generation EU to implement measures and programs to support mental health, physical health and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery among other priorities, including EUR300 million Next Generation EU funds to train the youth for future careers in the audiovisual sector.

On 23 June 2021, Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio announced that Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR1.2 billion through Next Generation EU towards Italy's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support Small and Medium Enterprises and other initiatives which enhance global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁵¹⁸

On 25 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi affirmed Italy's support for the institution of Green Pass, the common COVID-19 certificate among European Union member states.⁵¹⁹ Prime Minister Draghi outlined that Green Pass will help drive post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy and throughout the European Union.

On 28 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi with the United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken reaffirmed Italy and the United States' corresponding priorities to achieve mutual post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁵²⁰ Prime Minister Draghi highlighted Italy and the United States will build on their cooperative relationship into the future to achieve the goal of mutual post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 29 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi and Minister of Labour and Social Policies Andrea Orlando announced a joint agreement to increase post-pandemic employment was signed by Italy and organisations respectively representing Italian trade unions, industry, cooperatives and Small and Medium Enterprises: Cgil, Cisl, Uil, Confindustria, Alleanza delle Cooperative and Confapi.⁵²¹ Prime Minister Draghi affirmed Italy's commitment to institute "social safety nets, as well as the launch of active policies and permanent training processes" to boost employment rates in Italy which will serve post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

⁵¹⁶ PM Draghi's speech at the Women Political Leaders Summit 2021, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 21 June 2021. Access Date: 2 December 2021. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/speech-prime-minister-draghi-speaks-women-political-leaders-summit-2021/17287>

⁵¹⁷ Press conference with PM Draghi and President von der Leyen on the approval of Italy's NRRP, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/press-conference-pm-draghi-and-president-von-der-leyen-approval-italy-s-nrrp/17409>

⁵¹⁸ Approval of the NRRP: 1.2 billion for subsidised financial measures within the Pact for Export framework, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stamp/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/approvazione-del-pnrr-1-2-miliardi-per-la-finanza-agevolata-nell-ambito-del-patto-per-l-export-2/

⁵¹⁹ European Council and Euro Summit, 24 and 25 June: PM Draghi's press conference, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Brussels) 25 June 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/european-council-and-euro-summit-24-and-25-june-pm-draghi-s-press-conference/17391>

⁵²⁰ PM Draghi meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/prime-minister-draghi-meets-us-secretary-state-blinken/17278>

⁵²¹ PM Draghi, Labour Minister Andrea Orlando and Italy's social partners sign an agreement on employment, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 29 June 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/pm-draghi-labour-minister-orlando-and-italy-s-social-partners-sign-agreement-employment>

On 30 June 2021, Minister for Parliamentary Relations Federico D’Inca announced Italy’s ‘Complementary Fund’ Decree which established a national plan for implementing complementary investments to Next Generation EU.⁵²² The National Plan for complementary investments to Next Generation EU will allow Italy to expand on their partnership with the European Commission and allocate an additional 30.6 billion euros from 2021 to 2026 for Italy’s domestic priorities including post-pandemic socio-economic recovery and supporting physical and mental health resources in Italy.

On 30 June 2021, Minister Franceschini announced the allocation of EUR50 million from the Fund for emergencies for businesses and cultural institutions “to support non-state museums damaged by the forced closures.”⁵²³ This investment benefits post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Italy.

On 30 June 2021, Prime Minister Draghi met with Secretary General of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Mathias Cormann to affirm mutual priorities of bilateral cooperation.⁵²⁴ Prime Minister Draghi and Secretary-General Cormann discussed the Italian G20 Presidency emphasising their commitment to collaborate on post-pandemic global socio-economic recovery.

On 1 July 2021, Prime Minister Draghi affirmed the goal of maintaining expansionary fiscal policy to enhance economic growth for Italy.⁵²⁵ Prime Minister Draghi highlighted enhanced economic growth will allow Italy to institute increased socio-economic benefits particularly for marginalised groups. Prime Minister Draghi announced Italy will decrease barriers of participation in the labour market for young people and women by enhancing “technical and vocational training institutes and strengthening their connections with the employment market.” Decreased barriers of participation in the labour market for young people and women will benefit Italy’s post-pandemic socio-economic recovery. Prime Minister Draghi acknowledged the need for Italy to institute more nursing schools and improve infrastructure supporting the elderly which will benefit Italy’s post-pandemic socio-economic growth.

On 2 July 2021, Minister of Culture Dario Franceschini announced Italy will allocate EUR20 million to help exhibition organisers recover from extended closures faced as a result of COVID-19.⁵²⁶ This initiative will support post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Italy.

On 9 July 2021, Governor of the Bank of Italy Ignazio Visco and Minister for Economy and Finance Daniele Franco verbally reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to “address the adverse consequences of COVID-19, especially on the most impacted, such as women, youth and informal and low-skilled workers” internationally.⁵²⁷ Governor Visco and Minister Franco emphasised Italy will continue to work with others to achieve global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

⁵²² ‘Complementary Fund’ Decree, Department for Relations with Parliament (Rome) 30 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.rapportiparlamento.gov.it/it/comunicazione/notizie/fondo-complementare/>

⁵²³ Covid, Franceschini: 50 million euros for non-state museums, Ministry of Culture (Rome) 30 June 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://www.beniculturali.it/comunicato/covid-franceschini-50-milioni-di-euro-destinati-ai-musei-non-statali>

⁵²⁴ PM Draghi meets with OECD Secretary-General Mathias Cormann, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 30 June 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/pm-draghi-meets-oecd-secretary-general-cormann/17401>

⁵²⁵ Prime Minister Draghi’s speech at Accademia dei Lincei, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 1 July 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/prime-minister-draghi-s-speech-accademia-dei-lincei/17425>

⁵²⁶ Covid, Mic: 20 million euros for exhibitions, Ministry of Culture (Rome) 2 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.beniculturali.it/comunicato/covid-mic-20-milioni-di-euro-destinati-alle-mostre>

⁵²⁷ Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors meeting in Venice, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 9 July 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/Third-G20-Finance-Ministers-and-Central-Bank-Governors-meeting-in-Venice-00001/>

On 22 July 2021, Minister D'Incà declared Italy's institution of the "Sostegni Bis" decree.⁵²⁸ Minister D'Incà outlined the Sostegni Bis decree benefits post-pandemic recovery for "businesses, work, young people, health and local services" in Italy. The Sostegni Bis decree provides funding for the health sector to recover from the strain COVID-19 caused on health resources. Italy will allocate EUR400 million to enhance the biomedical sector and provide tax credits up to EUR11 million for private businesses who invest in health related research. Emergency income provisions are also included to help individuals recover from the pandemic which will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

On 29 July 2021, Prime Minister Draghi announced that Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR7 billion to support Italy's travel and tourism industry through Next Generation EU.⁵²⁹ Prime Minister Draghi declared this investment in the domestic travel and tourism industry will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery by increasing employment rates in Italy.

On 29 July 2021, Vice Minister Sereni announced the allocation of EUR25 million over the next five years toward the Global Partnership for Education.⁵³⁰ Vice Minister Sereni highlighted Italy's investment in the Global Partnership for Education will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery internationally.

On 5 August 2021, Minister Franceschini declared Italy will allocate EUR5 million to help businesses and cultural institutions that suffered financial losses due to government mandated closures as a result of COVID-19.⁵³¹ This contribution will help businesses and cultural institutions recover from the losses they faced and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Italy.

On 6 August 2021, Minister Franceschini announced Italy has contributed EUR5 million through the entertainment, cinema and audiovisual emergency fund to support Italian businesses in the audiovisual and entertainment sectors recover from pandemic related impacts.⁵³² This investment enhances post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

On 17 August 2021, Minister Bianchi met with Minister Franco to sign a decree which allocated EUR350 million to support a safe transition back to school after COVID-19 mandated closures.⁵³³ This decree supports the mental health of students and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

On 1 October 2021, Minister Patuanelli announced Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR1.6 billion to help businesses from the agricultural, food and forestry sectors in Italy recover

⁵²⁸ 'Sostegni Bis' decess, Department for Relations with Parliament (Rome) 22 July 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.rapportiparlamento.gov.it/comunicazione/notizie/decreto-sostegni-bis/>

⁵²⁹ PM Draghi's speech at the G20 Culture Ministers' Meeting, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/pm-draghi-s-speech-g20-culture-ministers-meeting/17572>

⁵³⁰ Foreign Affairs Note – Global Education Summit; Sereni, Italy will contribute 25 million in the next 5 years to the Global Partnership for Education, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/07/global-education-summit-sereni-dall-italia-25-milioni-nei-prossimi-5-anni-alla-global-partnership-for-education-2/

⁵³¹ Covid, MiC: 5 million euros to support logistics and transport for art exhibitions, Ministry of Culture (Rome) 5 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://www.beniculturali.it/comunicato/covid-mic-5-milioni-di-euro-a-sostengo-della-logistica-e-dei-trasporti-per-le-mostre-darte>

⁵³² Covid, MiC: 5 million euros in communication to support the reopening of cinemas and theaters in safety, Ministry of Culture (Rome) 6 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 3 January 2022. <https://cultura.gov.it/comunicato/21116>

⁵³³ 350 million to schools for safe start-up: Minister Bianchi signed the distribution decree, Ministry of Education, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 17 August 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/in-arrivo-alle-scuole-350-milioni-per-l-avvio-in-sicurezza-il-ministro-bianchi-ha-firmato-il-decreto-di-ripartizione>

from COVID-19 related impacts.⁵³⁴ This initiative will contribute to post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Italy.

On 7 October 2021, Prime Minister Draghi chaired the first steering committee meeting for Italy's NRRP which he established to help Italy and the European Commission allocate Italy's Next Generation EU funds.⁵³⁵ Italy in partnership with the European Commission is allocating EUR17 billion as a part of Next Generation EU to assist post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy by strengthening domestic physical and digital infrastructure and enhancing skills of the youth and women. Of this EUR17 billion investment, Italy will allocate EUR3 billion to institute new nursing schools, EUR700 million for existing public infrastructure projects, EUR900 million to institute educational reforms, EUR800 million to implement new school infrastructure and EUR9 billion to develop research and enhance existing research partnerships. Prime Minister Draghi affirmed these Next Generation EU investments will strengthen Italy's innovation capacity and boost post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 7 October 2021, the Minister for Regional Affairs and Autonomies Mariastella Gelmini announced that Italy, in partnership with the European Commission, allocated funds through Next Generation EU to initiate the new Employability Guarantee Program in Italy.⁵³⁶ The Employability Guarantee Program will support individuals maintain employment and benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

On 26 October 2021, Minister of Health Roberto Speranza and Minister Daniele Franco declared Italy acknowledged the ongoing direct and indirect impacts of the pandemic at the G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting.⁵³⁷ Minister Franco and Minister Speranza verbally reaffirmed Italy's commitment to continue cooperating with other G20 members to achieve global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 29 October 2021, Prime Minister Draghi met with the Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres to discuss mutual priorities.⁵³⁸ Prime Minister Draghi reaffirmed mutual priorities including cooperation during Italy's G20 Presidency and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery "with special attention to the most vulnerable Countries."

On 11 November 2021, Minister Di Maio declared that Italy, in partnership with the European Commission, will allocate EUR800 million in subsidised funding and non-repayable grants through Next Generation EU to support Small and Medium Enterprises in Italy.⁵³⁹ Support for Small and Medium Enterprises will benefit post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

⁵³⁴ Irrigation infrastructures: the first list of projects eligible for PNRR funds approved. 1.6 billion euros of investments, Ministry of Agricultural, Food and Forestry Policies (Rome) 1 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 7 January 2022. <https://www.politicheagricole.it/flex/cm/pages/ServeBLOB.php/L/IT/IDPagina/17398>

⁵³⁵ First NRRP steering committee meeting: press release (Rome) 7 October 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/first-nrrp-steering-committee-meeting-press-release/18168>

⁵³⁶ Report dated 21/10/2021, Permanent Conference for relations between the State, the regions and the Autonomous Provinces of Trento and Bolzano (Rome) 21 October 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 9 January 2022. <https://www.statoregioni.it/it/conferenza-stato-regioni/sedute-2021/seduta-del-21102021/report/>

⁵³⁷ First G20 Joint Finance and Health Ministers' Meeting under the Italian Presidency, Ministry of Economy and Finance (Rome) 26 October 2021. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.mef.gov.it/en/inevidenza/First-G20-Joint-Finance-and-Health-Ministers-Meeting-under-the-Italian-Presidency-00001/>

⁵³⁸ G20, PM Draghi meets with UN Secretary-General Guterres, Presidency of the Council Ministers (Rome) 29 October 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/g20-pm-draghi-meets-un-secretary-general-guterres/18374>

⁵³⁹ PNRR: until 3 December, subsidised funding for export-oriented SMEs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 11 November 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/11/pnrr-fino-al-3-dicembre-finanziamenti-agevolati-per-pmi-orientate-allexport/

On 18 November 2021, Minister Colao established a platform called PA Digital 2026 which allows administrations to apply for digital Next Generation EU funds, report on projects and receive assistance.⁵⁴⁰ PA Digital 2026 will ensure Next Generation EU funds contributed by Italy in partnership with the European Commission are allocated according to established plans and requirements.

On 25 November 2021, Prime Minister Draghi met with the President of the Chadian Transitional Military Council, Mahamat Idriss Déby Itno.⁵⁴¹ Prime Minister Draghi highlighted priorities discussed in the meeting centred around post-pandemic “socio-economic development of Chad and of the entire region.”

On 30 November 2021, Minister Bianchi confirmed Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR5.2 billion through Next Generation EU to build new nursery schools and preschools, innovative schools, canteens, and gyms.⁵⁴² Investing in school infrastructure will support education for youth and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.

On 9 December 2021, Prime Minister Draghi declared that Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR235 billion from Next Generation EU funds in part to “reverse long-standing inequalities” created by the pandemic.⁵⁴³ Prime Minister Draghi reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to protect human rights for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Italy in partnership with the European Commission will build “better services for Italian citizens, from healthcare to schooling” through Next Generation EU funds. Prime Minister Draghi reaffirmed that Italy’s National Action Plan includes priorities of gender equality and socio-economic prosperity. Prime Minister Draghi reiterated Italy’s mission to combat all forms of discrimination.

On 10 December 2021, Minister Orlando declared Italy in partnership with the European Commission will support Italy’s adoption of the National New Skills Plan through Next Generation EU funds.⁵⁴⁴ The adoption of the National New Skills Plan will help youth gain experience and benefit Italy’s post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 13 December 2021, Prime Minister Draghi acknowledged COVID-19 intensified the difficulties faced by individuals with disabilities.⁵⁴⁵ Italy in partnership with the European Commission allocated EUR6 billion to enhance measures of accessibility in Italy. Prime Minister Draghi announced Italy will simplify the Italian disability assessment system to account for principles of the United Nations convention and Italy will establish a “national authority tasked specifically to protect and promote the rights of people with disabilities.”

⁵⁴⁰ Digital PA 2026 is born, the access point to resources for the digital transition of the PA, Ministry for Innovation, Technology and the Digital Transition (Rome) 18 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/nasce-pa-digitale-2026-il-punto-di-accesso-risorse-transizione-digitale-pa-pnrr/>

⁵⁴¹ PM Draghi’s call with President of the Chadian Transitional Military Council, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 25 October 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/pm-draghis-call-president-chadian-transitional-military-council/18654>

⁵⁴² PNRR, the first calls for the education sector presented: 5.2 billion for kindergartens, new schools, canteens, gyms, extraordinary maintenance, Ministry of Education, Ministry of University and Research (Rome) 30 November 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 6 January 2022. <https://www.miur.gov.it/web/guest/-/pnrr-presentati-i-primi-bandi-per-il-settore-istruzione-5-2-miliardi-per-asili-scuole-nuove-mense-palestre-manutenzione-straordinaria>

⁵⁴³ Summit for Democracy, Prime Minister Draghi’s video message, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/summit-democracy-prime-minister-draghi-s-video-message/18759>

⁵⁴⁴ National New Skills Plan: Orlando signed the adoption decree, Ministry of Labor and Social Policies (Rome) 10 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2022. <https://www.lavoro.gov.it/stampa-e-media/Comunicati/Pagine/Piano-Nazionale-Nuove-Competenze-Orlando-ha-firmato-il-Decreto-di-adozione.aspx>

⁵⁴⁵ Prime Minister Mario Draghi’s speech at the National Disability Conference, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 13 December 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/prime-minister-mario-draghi-s-speech-national-disability-conference/18799>

On 14 December 2021, Minister Colao announced that Italy, in partnership with the European Commission, are allocating funds toward the Digital Civil Service's implementation of 45 youth projects as a part of Next Generation EU.⁵⁴⁶ These funds will support 1,007 youth volunteers participating in the Digital Civil Service to gain skills favourable for digital transformation and their future careers which will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Italy.

On 23 December 2021, Minister D'Incà declared Italy's institution of the 'Recovery' Decree.⁵⁴⁷ Minister D'Incà highlighted Italy's 'Recovery' Decree establishing measures to guarantee Italy's rapid implementation of Next Generation EU funds in partnership with the European Commission. Italy's 'Recovery' Decree includes guarantees for Italy's tourism sector and applies economic measures to support businesses and encourage investment to assist Italy's post-pandemic socio-economic recovery. Italy's 'Recovery' Decree establishes the National Strategic Pole to bridge the gap in Italy's technological transition by preparing youth and adults with necessary digital skills to benefit employment rates and support Italy's post-pandemic socio-economic recovery. Italy's 'Recovery' Decree institutes Special Economic Zones to provide additional financial support to benefit businesses and enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery in Italy.⁵⁴⁸

On 30 December 2021, the Government of Italy declared its allocation of EUR500,000 to finance psychological assistance projects.⁵⁴⁹ Increased investment toward the implementation of psychological assistance projects supports the mental health of individuals in Italy.

Italy has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19, ensuring that countries are able to effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic. Italy has taken strong action to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 by increasing funding for targeted programs to support the physical and mental health of individuals. Additionally, Italy has taken strong action to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 by increasing investments toward economic, infrastructure and employment projects and programs to enhance broader socio-economic post-pandemic recovery.

Thus, Italy receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Natasha Vosky

Japan: 0

Japan has partially complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 17 August 2021, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida stated that the government will disburse an additional JPY300 billion to prefectures and municipal governments to assist businesses.⁵⁵⁰ This financial support will help diminish the negative economic consequences stemming from the pandemic on businesses.

⁵⁴⁶ The civil service goes digital: the call for more than 1000 young volunteers is online, Ministry of Innovation, Technology and the Digital Transition (Rome) 14 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 5 January 2022.

<https://innovazione.gov.it/notizie/articoli/servizio-civile-digitale-bando-per-oltre-1000-giovani-volontari/>

⁵⁴⁷ Recovery Decree, Department for Relations with Parliament (Rome) 23 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.rapportiparlamento.gov.it/it/comunicazione/notizie/decreto-recovery/>

⁵⁴⁸ Recovery Decree, Department for Relations with Parliament (Rome) 23 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 4 January 2022. <https://www.rapportiparlamento.gov.it/it/comunicazione/notizie/decreto-recovery/>

⁵⁴⁹ Notice published for the financing of psychological assistance projects, Department of Family Policy (Rome) 30 December 2021. Translation provided by Google Translate. Access Date: 16 January 2022. <https://famiglia.governo.it/it/politiche-e-attivita/comunicazione/notizie/pubblicato-avviso-per-il-finanziamento-di-progetti-di-assistenza-psicologica/>

On 14 October 2021, Prime Minister Kishida issued a statement announcing increased and prolonged funds for “push-mode” benefits, the Sustainability Subsidy program and Employment Adjustment Subsidies.⁵⁵¹ These programs would expand financial support to those experiencing economic hardships due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 8 November 2021, the Government of Japan created the New Form of Capitalism Realization Headquarters within the Cabinet as a council to discuss and implement regulations and subsidies to promote economic stability in a world coexisting with COVID-19.⁵⁵² This will help to diminish the economic consequences due to COVID.

On 6 December 2021, the Government of Japan released a statement of intent to raise salaries of frontline workers in the areas of medical nursing, nursing care, child care and preschool education in order to recognize valued labour through the pandemic. Starting in February 2022, the government intends to increase those salaries by three per cent.⁵⁵³

On 7 December 2021, Prime Minister Kishida acknowledged the effect of COVID-19 on food insecurity. Prime Minister Kishida also pledged to promote and fund JPY300 billion over three years to the global cause of improved nutrition.⁵⁵⁴

On 28 December 2021, the Ministry of Loneliness acknowledged the mental health challenges of a large population that is physically or socially isolated.⁵⁵⁵ The Ministry stated in tandem with several non-profit organizations that they will work toward an environment where it is easier to raise concerns via hotlines, education to destigmatize mental illness and a communicative outreach program for those in need.⁵⁵⁶

Japan has partially complied with acknowledging and remedying the indirect socio-economic and mental-health-related impacts of COVID-19 by providing financial benefits to citizens and sectors facing economic hardship due to the pandemic and by working with non-profit groups to increase access to mental health resources. However, Japan has failed to take any action on issues of physical health related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Thus, Japan receives a score of 0.

Analyst: Erica Matsui

United Kingdom: +1

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

⁵⁵⁰ Press Conference by the Prime Minister regarding the Novel Coronavirus, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 17 August 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/99_suga/statement/202108/_00009.html

⁵⁵¹ Press Conference by Prime Minister Kishida, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 14 October 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/100_kishida/statement/202110/_00012.html

⁵⁵² Outline of Emergency Proposal Toward the Launch of a "New Form of Capitalism" that Carves Out the Future, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 8 November 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/ongoingtopics/_00001.html

⁵⁵³ Policy Speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio to the 207th Session of the Diet, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 6 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00002.html

⁵⁵⁴ Opening speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00004.html

⁵⁵⁵ Opening speech by Prime Minister KISHIDA Fumio at the Tokyo Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit 2021, Japan Kantei (Tokyo) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://japan.kantei.go.jp/101_kishida/statement/202112/_00004.html

⁵⁵⁶ Priority plan for measures against loneliness, Cabinet Secretariat (Tokyo) 28 December 2021. Access Date: 14 January 2022. https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/juten_keikaku/pdf/jutenkeikaku_gaiyo.pdf

On 27 October 2021, the Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and Her Majesty's Treasury announced the Autumn Budget 2021 would offer the Welsh Government a GBP18 billion per year in addition to "UK-wide support" received to assist local communities and businesses.⁵⁵⁷ The additional funding will support post-pandemic recovery, specifically through targeted funding in Wales to support "road and infrastructure improvements, investment in local communities and funding for businesses."

On 30 October 2021, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau met with Prime Minister Boris Johnson.⁵⁵⁸ In this meeting, Prime Minister Trudeau and Prime Minister Johnson reaffirmed their commitment to cooperate on mutual priorities of post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 26 November 2021, the Department of Health and Social Care introduced a grant of GBP5 million to support suicide prevention services in response to increased demand during the pandemic, especially people with "pre-existing mental illness" and younger population seeking for help.⁵⁵⁹ The fund will be directed to voluntary, community and social enterprise organizations and allow them to expand ongoing programs and provide additional services.

On 16 December 2021, the Department for Education reintroduced the COVID-19 workforce fund to help colleges and institutions with staffing and financial challenges resulting from workforce absences.⁵⁶⁰ The fund's stated purpose is to cover the cost for bringing part-time employees and educators to manage absences and further support their wellbeing and workload.

On 29 December 2021, Minister for Care Gilian Keegan announced an additional GBP60 million in funding to support the adult social care sector.⁵⁶¹ This initiative includes more investment in personal protective equipment, testing and improved ventilation to protect workers, residents and their families.

On 7 January 2022, the Treasury delivered over GBP700 million in funding to local councils to support businesses most affected by the Omicron variant.⁵⁶² Businesses in the hospitality, leisure, and accommodation sectors that are highly affected by the pandemic are able to apply for grants up to GBP6,000. Additional financial support will help keep businesses open and secure jobs against further challenges due to the Omicron variant of COVID-19.

The United Kingdom has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global socio-economic, physical, and mental health recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. The United Kingdom has made efforts

⁵⁵⁷ Record GBP18 billion a year of Wales in Budget, Office of the Secretary of State for Wales and Her Majesty's Treasury (London) 27 October 2021. Access Date: 13 December 2021. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/record-18-billion-a-year-for-wales-in-budget#history>

⁵⁵⁸ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau meets with Prime Minister Boris Johnson of the United Kingdom, Prime Minister of Canada (Rome) 30 October 2021. Access Date: 4 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/10/30/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-meets-prime-minister-boris-johnson-united>

⁵⁵⁹ GBP5 million launched to support suicide prevention services, Department of Health and Social Care (London) 26 November 2021. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/5-million-launched-to-support-suicide-prevention-services>

⁵⁶⁰ COVID-19 workforce fund to support colleges and special post-16 institutions, Department for Education (London) 16 December 2021. Access Date: 10 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-workforce-fund-for-colleges/covid-19-workforce-fund-to-support-colleges-and-special-post-16-institutions>

⁵⁶¹ An extra GBP60 million for adult social care over January 2022, Department of Health and Social Care, HM Treasury, and Department for Leveling Up, Housing and Communities (London) 29 December 2021. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/an-extra-60-million-for-adult-social-care-over-january-2022>

⁵⁶² Business most impacted by Omicron variant to benefit from over GBP700 million as government delivers funding to local authorities, Department for Business, Energy & Industrial Strategy, HM Treasury, The Rt Hon Kwasi Kwarteng MP, and The Rt Hon Rishi Sunak MP (London) 7 January 2022. Access Date: 13 January 2022. <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/businesses-most-impacted-by-omicron-variant-to-benefit-from-over-700-million-as-government-delivers-funding-to-local-authorities>

to recognize the challenges of vulnerable populations and has offered financial support to local communities, businesses, and education, social and healthcare sectors.

Thus, the United Kingdom receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Ga Vin Park

United States: +1

United States has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 25 June 2021, the fifth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force was held by Dr. Marcella Nunez-Smith.⁵⁶³ This meeting addressed the impact of long-COVID and access to personal protective equipment, testing and therapeutics. The task force voted to create inclusive disability policies to recognize long-COVID as a health condition, create a national coordination of research standards, execute a national communication and education campaign to educate the public on long-COVID, maintain an adequate stockpile of PPE and create data transparency.

On 28 June 2021, Prime Minister of Italy Mario Draghi, in cooperation with the United States Secretary of State Antony Blinken, reaffirmed Italy and the United States' corresponding priorities to achieve mutual post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁵⁶⁴ Prime Minister Draghi highlighted Italy and the United States will build on their cooperative relationship into the future to achieve the goal of mutual post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 2 July 2021, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada Chrystia Freeland met with the United States Treasury Secretary, Janet Yellen, to discuss mutual priorities which include "post-pandemic recovery, including support for workers and businesses, and ensuring the recovery is inclusive and equitable."⁵⁶⁵ These priorities will benefit mental health for individuals and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery for Canada and the United States.

On 13 July 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services provided USD398 million to fund the Small Rural Hospital Improvement program.⁵⁶⁶ This provided funding to 1,540 small rural hospitals to do COVID-19 testing and prevention. The purpose of this action is to close the equity gap felt by Americas in rural communities where access to healthcare poses additional barriers and is under undue strain due to the pandemic.

On 22 July 2021, the Department of Health and Human Services announced an investment of more than USD1.6 billion from the American Rescue Plan to support COVID-19 testing and mitigation measures in

⁵⁶³ Readout of the Fifth COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/07/02/readout-fifth-covid-19-health-equity-task-force-meeting.html>

⁵⁶⁴ PM Draghi meets with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 28 June 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/prime-minister-draghi-meets-us-secretary-state-blinken/17278>

⁵⁶⁵ Deputy Prime Minister Freeland meets virtually with U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 July 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://deputypm.canada.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/07/02/deputy-prime-minister-freeland-meets-virtually-us-treasury-secretary-janet>

⁵⁶⁶ HHS Provides \$398 Million to Small Rural Hospitals for COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 13 July 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/07/13/hhs-provides-398-million-to-small-rural-hospitals-for-covid-testing.html>

high-risk congregate settings and vulnerable communities.⁵⁶⁷ Specifically increasing testing and mitigation resources for people with mental health and substance abuse disorders, people experiencing homelessness or residents of congregate settings, local prison populations and local domestic violence shelters and tribal shelters.

On 28 July 2021, the Department of Education provided nearly USD600 million to the American Rescue Plan Act's Homeless Children and Youth program.⁵⁶⁸ This will help students who are experiencing homelessness as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 29 July 2021, the Department of Education announced USD3.2 billion in additional emergency grants under the Higher Education Emergency Relief Fund to support students who attend over 1,8000 institutions of higher education and provide resources to help these institutions recover from the impacts of the pandemic.⁵⁶⁹

On 2 August 2021, Prime Minister of Canada Justin Trudeau met with President Joe Biden, to reaffirm mutual priorities, including the post-pandemic socio-economic recovery, with particular attention towards women.⁵⁷⁰ Investments in physical and human infrastructure will help achieve their mutual goal of post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.

On 16 August 2021, the Department of Education and Department of Labor launched an initiative to connect unemployed Americans with postsecondary education, particularly those who lost their job during the pandemic.⁵⁷¹ This initiative aims to help unemployed Americans seek educational opportunities or training that will lead to good jobs.

On 31 August 2021, Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves acknowledged how COVID-19 has impacted the tourism in Alaska and the economic impact of this.⁵⁷² To support Alaska, the Department of Commerce has met with airline industry executives to discuss challenges and concerns, lead coordination between the cruise industry and the CDC and held discussions with the Department of Homeland Security and working groups to revamp international travel.

⁵⁶⁷ Biden Administration to Invest More Than \$1.6 Billion to Support COVID-19 Testing and Mitigation in Vulnerable Communities, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 29 November 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/07/22/biden-administration-invest-more-than-1-billion-support-covid-19-testing-mitigation-vulnerable-communities.html>

⁵⁶⁸ Department of Education Releases \$600 Million in American Rescue Plan Funds to Support Students Experiencing Homelessness, Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 28 July 2021. Access Date: 13 December 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/department-education-releases-600-million-american-rescue-plan%E2%80%Affunds-support-students-experiencing-homelessness>

⁵⁶⁹ U.S. Department of Education Announces \$3.2 Billion in Additional Higher Education Emergency Relief Funds to Support Students at Historic and Under-Resourced Institutions, Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 15 November 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/us-department-education-announces-32-billion-additional-higher-education-emergency-relief-funds-support-students-historic-and-under-resourced-institutions>

⁵⁷⁰ Prime Minister Justin Trudeau speaks with the President of the United States of America Joe Biden, Prime Minister of Canada (Ottawa) 2 August 2021. Access Date: 3 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/readouts/2021/08/02/prime-minister-justin-trudeau-speaks-president-united-states-america-joe>

⁵⁷¹ Education, Labor Departments Renew Efforts to Help Unemployed Americans Pursue Postsecondary Education, Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 16 August 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-labor-departments-renew-efforts-help-unemployed-americans-pursue-postsecondary-education>

⁵⁷² Remarks by U.S. Deputy Secretary of Commerce Don Graves at the Travel and Tourism Roundtable with U.S. Senator Don Sullivan in Ketchikan, Alaska, Department of Commerce (Washington) 31 August 2021. Access Date: 27 November 2021. <https://www.commerce.gov/news/speeches/2021/08/remarks-us-deputy-secretary-commerce-don-graves-travel-and-tourism-roundtable>

On 30 September 2021, COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Chair Dr. Nunez-Smith held the seventh public meeting of the task force.⁵⁷³ This meeting was held to vote on recommendations on ways to mitigate health inequities caused or exacerbated by COVID-19. The Task Force suggested five actions for the Biden-Harris Administration: invest in community-led interventions, create a data ecosystem that promotes equity-driven decisions, increase accountability for health equity outcomes, invest in a representative health care workforce and increase equitable access to quality health and coordinate the implementation of the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force's recommendations from a permanent health equity infrastructure in the White House.

On 13 October 2021, the Department of Education's Office for Civil Rights and the Department of Justice issued a joint fact sheet to support students with mental health disabilities during COVID-19.⁵⁷⁴ The Office for Civil Rights also released a letter to educators emphasizing schools' obligation to students with mental disabilities.

On 4 November 2021, the Economic Development Administration awarded USD1 million America Rescue Plan grants to 30 states and territories.⁵⁷⁵ This grant aims to bolster economic recovery from the pandemic and help local economies be resilient to future economic shocks.

On 18 November 2021, Prime Justin Trudeau met with President Biden to affirm mutual priorities which include increasing employment rates and achieving post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁵⁷⁶ Prime Minister Trudeau and President Biden committed to strengthening the medical supply chain internationally.

On 7 December 2021, Surgeon General Dr. Vivek Murthy issued a Surgeon General's Advisory underscoring the urgency of addressing the youth mental health crisis.⁵⁷⁷ This advisory highlights the unprecedented impacts of COVID-19 on youth mental health and outlines paths to addressing the youth mental health crisis at various levels of governance.

On 21 December 2021, Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo announced the Economic Development Administration will award American Rescue Plan statewide planning grants to five territories.⁵⁷⁸ The initiative aims to support communities in accelerating their economic recovery from COVID-19.

⁵⁷³ Readout of the Seventh COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force Meeting, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 12 October 2021. Access Date: 4 January 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/10/12/readout-seventh-covid-19-health-equity-task-force-meeting.html>

⁵⁷⁴ Education, Justice Departments Issue Fact Sheet on Supporting Students at Risk of Self Harm During COVID-19 Era, Department of Education (Washington D.C.) 13 October 2021. Access Date: 20 November 2021. <https://www.ed.gov/news/press-releases/education-justice-departments-issue-fact-sheet-supporting-students-risk-self-harm-during-covid-19-era>

⁵⁷⁵ U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo Announces \$30 Million in Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Statewide Economic Development Planning, Economic Development Administrations (Washington D.C.) 4 November 2021. Access Date: 28 November 2021. <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2021/11/04/statewide-economic-development-planning.htm>

⁵⁷⁶ Prime Minister concludes productive North American Leaders' Summit, Prime Minister of Canada (Washington, D.C.) 18 November 2021. Access Date: 6 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/11/18/prime-minister-concludes-productive-north-american-leaders-summit>

⁵⁷⁷ U.S. Surgeon General Issues Advisory on Youth Mental Health Crisis Further Exposed by COVID-19 Pandemic, Department of Health and Human Services (Washington D.C.) 7 December 2021. Access Date: 30 November 2021. <https://www.hhs.gov/about/news/2021/12/07/us-surgeon-general-issues-advisory-on-youth-mental-health-crisis-further-exposed-by-covid-19-pandemic.html>

⁵⁷⁸ U.S. Secretary of Commerce Gina Raimondo Announces \$5 Million in Economic Development Administration American Rescue Plan Funding to Support Territory-wide Economic Development Planning, Economic Development Administrations (Washington D.C.) 21 December 2021. Access Date: 15 December 2021. <https://eda.gov/news/press-releases/2021/12/21/territory-wide-economic-development-planning.htm>

The United States has taken strong domestic and international action to address the indirect impacts of COVID-19 through providing local and international funding to strengthen physical and mental healthcare systems and support marginalized peoples disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thus, the United States receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amelia Marlowe

European Union: +1

The European Union has fully complied with its commitment to support a robust global recovery from COVID-19 and effectively address the indirect impacts on physical and mental health and broader socio-economic consequences of the pandemic.

On 15 June 2021, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau committed to work with President of the European Council Charles Michel and President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen to enhance their engagement under the Canada-EU Digital Dialogue and the Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence to “help strengthen a post-pandemic recovery of businesses.”⁵⁷⁹ Prime Minister Trudeau with President Michel and President von der Leyen advanced the Authorized Economic Operator Mutual Recognition Agreement to facilitate the flow of trade between Canada and the European Union, benefitting socio-economic recovery. Prime Minister Trudeau also launched a new bilateral Dialogue on Health to enhance cooperation on priority health commitments, including mental health, between Canada and the European Union.

On 22 June 2021, Italy’s Prime Minister Mario Draghi met with President von der Leyen to announce the approval of Italy’s National Recovery and Resilience Plan as a part of Next Generation EU.⁵⁸⁰ Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate funds through Next Generation EU to implement measures and programs to support mental health, physical health and post-pandemic socio-economic recovery among other priorities, including EUR300 million Next Generation EU funds to train the youth for future careers in the audiovisual sector.

On 23 June 2021, Italy’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Luigi Di Maio announced that Italy, in partnership with the European Commission, will allocate EUR1.2 billion through Next Generation EU towards Italy’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs to support Small and Medium Enterprises and other initiatives which enhance global post-pandemic socio-economic recovery.⁵⁸¹

On 14 July 2021, Members of the European Parliament voted to condemn the increase in intimate partner violence amid the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on women and children since the pandemic.⁵⁸² They called on their member states to provide victims with safety and economic independence, develop “mandatory-targeted training for professionals dealing with cases of gender-based violence, child abuse and domestic violence” and to consider the interest of the child when making custody arrangements.

⁵⁷⁹ Prime Minister concludes productive Canada-European Union Summit, Prime Minister of Canada (Brussels) 15 June 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://pm.gc.ca/en/news/news-releases/2021/06/15/prime-minister-concludes-productive-canada-european-union-summit>

⁵⁸⁰ Press conference with PM Draghi and President von der Leyen on the approval of Italy’s NRRP, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 22 June 2021. Access Date: 8 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/press-conference-pm-draghi-and-president-von-der-leyen-approval-italy-s-nrrp/17409>

⁵⁸¹ Approval of the NRRP: 1.2 billion for subsidised financial measures within the Pact for Export framework, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Rome) 23 June 2021. Access Date: 6 January 2022. https://www.esteri.it/en/sala_stampa/archivionotizie/comunicati/2021/06/approvazione-del-pnrr-1-2-miliardi-per-la-finanza-agevolata-nell-ambito-del-patto-per-l-export-2/

⁵⁸² Custody rights: protecting women and children from violence is paramount, European Parliament (Brussels) 14 July 2021. Access Date: 15 November 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20210707IPR07914/custody-rights-protecting-women-and-children-from-violence-is-paramount>

On 22 July 2021, Commissioner for Health and Food Safety Stella Kyriakides reaffirmed the impact of the pandemic on mental health and the European Commission’s commitment to taking concrete steps in dealing with mental health.⁵⁸³

On 29 July 2021, the European Union and its Member States pledged EUR1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education at the Global Education Summit in London.⁵⁸⁴ This contribution will support children in 90 countries whose education has been negatively impacted by COVID-19.

On 29 July 2021, Prime Minister Draghi announced that Italy in partnership with the European Commission will allocate EUR7 billion to support Italy’s travel and tourism industry through Next Generation EU.⁵⁸⁵ Prime Minister Draghi declared this investment in the domestic travel and tourism industry will enhance post-pandemic socio-economic recovery by increasing employment rates in Italy.

On 11 October 2021, Members of the European Parliament Budget Committee demanded that the European Union budget for 2022 include investments to boost recovery from COVID-19 and “[lay] the foundations for a more resilient EU.”⁵⁸⁶

On 29 November 2021, representatives of the Council and the European Parliament agreed on the renewal of the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) mandate.⁵⁸⁷ The ECDC will be assigned to establish a European Union Health Task Force to help with local responses to disease outbreaks, provide European Union and the European Commission with expertise and develop digital epidemiological surveillance platforms.

On 9 December 2021, Prime Minister Draghi declared that Italy, in partnership with the European Commission, will allocate EUR235 billion from Next Generation EU funds in part to “reverse long-standing inequalities” created by the pandemic.⁵⁸⁸ Prime Minister Draghi reaffirmed Italy’s commitment to protect human rights for the most vulnerable and marginalised groups. Italy in partnership with the European Commission will build “better services for Italian citizens, from healthcare to schooling” through Next Generation EU funds. Prime Minister Draghi reaffirmed that Italy’s National Action Plan includes priorities of gender equality and socio-economic prosperity. Prime Minister Draghi reiterated Italy’s mission to combat all forms of discrimination.

⁵⁸³ Speech by Commissioner Kyriakides to the Ministerial forum on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on mental health and service delivery systems in the WHO European Region, European Commission (Brussels) 22 July 2021. Access Date: 20 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/commission/commissioners/2019-2024/kyriakides/announcements/speech-commissioner-kyriakides-ministerial-forum-impact-covid-19-pandemic-mental-health-and-service_en

⁵⁸⁴ Global Education Summit: Team Europe pledges leading contribution of €1.7 billion to the Global Partnership for Education, European Commission (Brussels) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 18 November 2021. https://ec.europa.eu/international-partnerships/news/global-education-summit-team-europe-pledges-leading-contribution-eu17-billion-global_en

⁵⁸⁵ PM Draghi’s speech at the G20 Culture Ministers’ Meeting, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 29 July 2021. Access Date: 2 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/pm-draghi-s-speech-g20-culture-ministers-meeting/17572>

⁵⁸⁶ EU budget for 2022: support the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 October 2021. Access Date: 18 November 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211006IPR14316/eu-budget-for-2022-support-the-recovery-from-the-covid-19-crisis>

⁵⁸⁷ Stronger European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control: Council and European Parliament reach provisional agreement, Council of the European Union (Brussels) 29 November 2021. Access Date: 1 December 2021. <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/press/press-releases/2021/11/29/stronger-european-centre-for-disease-prevention-and-control-council-and-european-parliament-reach-provisional-agreement/>

⁵⁸⁸ Summit for Democracy, Prime Minister Draghi’s video message, Presidency of the Council of Ministers (Rome) 9 December 2021. Access Date: 1 January 2022. <https://www.governo.it/en/articolo/summit-democracy-prime-minister-draghi-s-video-message/18759>

On 14 December 2021, the European Parliament finalized the decision to hold the European Year of Youth in 2022.⁵⁸⁹ The initiative will include youth-focused activities that aim to bring a positive outlook for the European youth who were negatively impacted by COVID-19. The European Parliament plans to prioritize youth issues in policymaking during the European Year of Youth.

The European Union has taken strong local and international action to address the indirect impacts of COVID-19 on mental and physical health and socioeconomically by providing monetary aid to partner countries as well as through the creation of the ECDC to improve response to outbreaks.

Thus, the European Union receives a score of +1.

Analyst: Amelia Marlowe

⁵⁸⁹ EU budget for 2022: support the recovery from the COVID-19 crisis, European Parliament (Brussels) 11 October 2021. Access Date: 18 November 2021. <https://www.europarl.europa.eu/news/en/press-room/20211006IPR14316/eu-budget-for-2022-support-the-recovery-from-the-covid-19-crisis>