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## Covid-19 and Extreme Poverty: UNDP

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### Why in News

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A new study from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has found that an **additional 207 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030** due to the severe long-term impact of the coronavirus pandemic, bringing the total number of the world's extremely poor to more than a billion.

- The study is part of a long-standing partnership between the **UNDP** and the **Pardee Center for International Futures** at the University of Denver (USA).
- The study assesses the impact of **different Covid19 recovery scenarios** on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), evaluating the multidimensional effects of the pandemic over the next decade.

### Key Points

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- **Findings:**
  - Under a '**Covid Baseline**' scenario (based on current mortality rates and the most recent growth projections by the International Monetary Fund - IMF), **44 million people could be pushed into extreme poverty by 2030** as a result of the pandemic.

The World Bank defines "extreme poverty" as **living on less than 1.90 USD per person per day**.
  - Under a '**High Damage**' scenario, where the recovery is protracted, **Covid 19** is likely to push an additional **207 million people** into extreme poverty by 2030.
    - It could increase the **female poverty headcount by an additional 102 million**.
    - The 'High Damage' scenario anticipates that 80% of the Covid-19 induced economic crisis would persist in 10 years' time due to **loss in productivity, preventing a full recovery to the growth trajectory** seen before the pandemic.

- **Suggestions:**

- A focused set of **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) investments over the next decade** in social protection/welfare programmes, governance, digitalisation, and a green economy could not only **prevent the rise of extreme poverty** but actually exceed the development trajectory the world was on before the pandemic.

This ambitious, SDGs Push scenario would lift an additional **146 million people out of extreme poverty, narrow the gender poverty gap, and reduce the female poverty headcount** by 74 million.

- The concerted SDG interventions combine **behavioural changes through both governments and citizens**, which are as follows:
  - Improvement in **effectiveness and efficiency** in governance.
  - Changes in **consumption patterns** of food, energy and water.
  - Global **collaboration** for climate action.
  - Additional **investments** in Covid-19 recovery.
  - Need for improved **broadband access and technology** innovation.

**Source:IE**