



Environmental Change Institute



Investing in Sustainable and Resilient Infrastructure

“Principles for Recovery”

1. Decisions on infrastructure spending for post-COVID-19 recovery should begin with strategic planning that is aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Paris Agreement, and considers systemic linkages between sectors and across space and time.
2. To avoid future crises, infrastructure should ensure resilience through integrated, systems-level planning and built-in flexibility and redundancy.
3. To rapidly revive employment, infrastructure investments should support all levels of enterprise (including the informal sector), involving collaboration with subnational institutions.
4. Economic considerations should be balanced with investments in social infrastructure to promote health, wellbeing and gender equality - bringing wider benefits to communities.
5. Prioritizing natural infrastructure will help reduce emissions, deliver essential services (such as water and sanitation), protect people and assets from hazards and support renewed increases in economic activity.
6. Infrastructure investments, including those in digital infrastructure, should facilitate new sustainable lifestyles, patterns of mobility and modes of operation in both urban and rural areas post COVID-19.
7. New infrastructure assets and development sites may not be necessary where existing infrastructure can be rehabilitated and retrofitted, or where using previously developed land can fulfil the same needs.
8. Any physical construction should not compromise ecosystems and biodiversity, erode human rights, or destabilize politically fragile contexts.
9. In the context of supply chain disruption risks, infrastructure systems should use sustainable technologies and local, green materials to enhance resource efficiency, create local jobs and provide culturally appropriate solutions.
10. In striving for a quick economic turnaround, infrastructure decisions should not bypass consultation and transparency processes, undermine environmental safeguards, or generate unsustainable debt.



World Food Programme