



# Executive Summary

The immediate human and economic cost of COVID-19 is severe. It threatens to scale back years of progress on reducing poverty and inequality and to further weaken social cohesion and global cooperation. Job losses, a widening digital divide, disrupted social interactions, and abrupt shifts in markets could lead to dire consequences and lost opportunities for large

interaction, e-commerce, online education and remote work. These shifts will transform society long after the pandemic and promise huge benefits the ability to telework and rapid vaccine development are two examples but they also risk exacerbating and creating inequalities. Respondents to the GRPS rated digital inequality as a critical short-term threat.

REUTERS/ISMAIL



# GRB File 2020 File

■ Econom



FIGURE III







