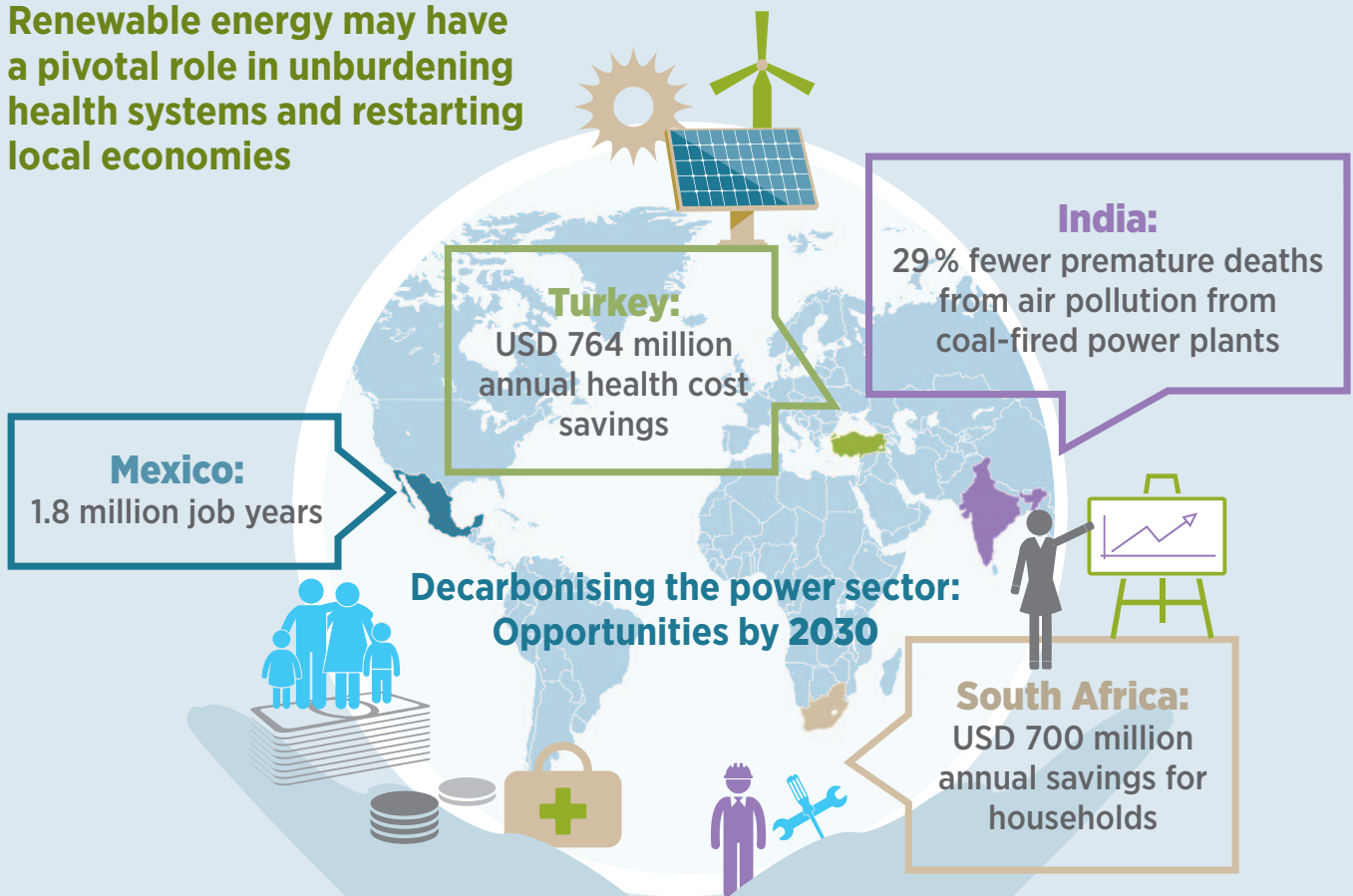


REVIVING NATIONAL ECONOMIES & HEALTH SYSTEMS FOLLOWING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Renewable energy may have a pivotal role in unburdening health systems and restarting local economies



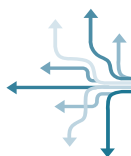
COBENEFITS Factsheet May 2020

At the time this paper is being published, many economies around the world have been severely affected by the spread and impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The broader consequences have been devastating for millions of families, workers, and businesses, as well as for local economies and national health systems. Substantial political efforts will be needed to rebuild national and local economies and job markets, as well as to increase the resilience of health systems.

The new energy world of **renewables can provide important stimuli** in recovering from the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, and can revive health systems and national economies — by **boosting employment, and unburdening national health systems through cutting health costs and reducing the incidence of respiratory diseases.**

Recovering from the economic shocks of the pandemic, and avoiding severe future shocks triggered through the climate crisis, do not represent conflicting interests but rather a mutually reinforcing coping strategy. **The Paris Climate Agreement and the 2030 Agenda offer important, internationally agreed frameworks for a green recovery:** To ensure economic recovery in the shorter term, and to build resilient economies and health systems in the long run.

This factsheet presents key findings from the 2019/2020 COBENEFITS Assessment Series. Although the national COBENEFITS assessments vary in their applied methodologies and are based on different national scenarios, similar trends can be drawn from the results: If policymakers around the world take the necessary decisions to **“build back better” with renewable energy** now, they can harness significant co-benefits for their countries.



1. Power systems with higher shares of renewable energy can significantly unburden public health systems



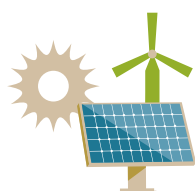
South Africa can **reduce health costs** related to air pollution from coal fired power plants from **USD 2.3 billion** today to around **USD 270–980 million by 2030**.



Switching from the present electricity scenario to a more ambitious renewable energy scenario in India will **reduce health costs** by **USD 1,98 billion by 2030**.



Annual **health cost savings** in Turkey can amount to **USD 764 million in 2028**.



2. By reducing air pollution, power systems with higher shares of renewable energy can reduce the number of premature deaths



As many as **2,080** premature deaths annually can be attributed to air pollution from power plants in South Africa.



In India, the power sector currently accounts for about **8%** of premature deaths related to air pollution. By moving from BAU to a more ambitious energy pathway, the number of premature deaths in **2030** resulting from air pollution from coal-fired power plants can be reduced from **33,200 to 23,600**; a reduction of **29%**.



Turkey can **reduce the number of premature deaths** resulting from air pollution from the power sector by more than **750 people annually (from 2,333 in the year 2028 to 1,564 in 2028)**.



3. Renewable energy-based power systems can significantly increase the productivity and foster economic prosperity



Around **27%** of health costs in South Africa are associated with restricted activity days. A greener energy system can **reduce the number of health incidents**, thereby boosting workforce productivity.



The number of **restricted activity days can be reduced by 18,100 days in 2028**, thus improving Turkey's economic output.



4. Renewables create more jobs than fossil fuels and can help to tackle unemployment



Choosing a more ambitious renewables pathway can create **1.2 million additional job** years by **2030** in South Africa.



In Mexico, a shift from the current energy transition law goals to a more ambitious scenario could create **55% more employment opportunities** to up to **1.8 million** job years by **2030**.



Achieving the goals traced in the NDC of India will **create around 1.6 million jobs by 2030**. However, an additional **43%** of employment opportunities (**2.3 million jobs**) could be created by choosing a more ambitious pathway **by 2030**.



By 2028, Turkey could **triplicate to up to 200,000 jobs in the energy sector** by choosing a greener pathway through renewables.



In Vietnam, a shift from the current policy to a more ambitious scenario could create **60% more employment opportunities** to up to **8 million jobs by 2030**.



5. Renewable energy and energy efficiency can help small businesses and households to save money to be prepared for financial crises



South African households and businesses can **save money** by investing in solar: annual savings for the residential sector alone sum up to around **USD 700 million**.



Energy efficiency and renewables can play an important role in generating savings for Mexico. Public hospitals and schools across the country could **save up to 115 million** and **105 million USD** every year respectively.

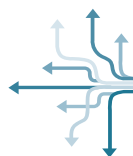


6. Renewable energy can help to increase resilience to future crises



Turkey can significantly reduce its demand for fossil fuel imports and increase energy security by scaling up renewables. A shift to a more ambitious renewables scenario could **save up to USD 2.1 billion by 2028**.

Exposure to air pollution and pre-existing conditions like asthma are suspected to increase the risk of a more severe course of infections like COVID-19. In Turkey, greening the power sector and thereby reducing air pollution levels can **reduce asthma among children younger than 14 years** by almost **1 million** cases in **2028**.



The COBENEFITS Assessment Report Series along with infographics can be accessed through: **www.cobenefits.info**



The COBENEFITS project supports national authorities and knowledge partners in countries worldwide to connect social and economic co-benefits of decarbonising the power sector to national development priorities and to mobilise these co-benefits for early and ambitious climate action. The project supports efforts to develop enhanced NDCs with the ambition to deliver on the Paris Agreement and the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (SDGs) and to enable a just transition.

COBENEFITS is part of the International Climate Initiative (IKI). The Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU) supports this initiative on the basis of a decision adopted by the German Bundestag.

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Contact:

Sebastian Helgenberger, COBENEFITS Project Director
IASS Potsdam, Germany
sebastian.helgenberger@iass-potsdam.de

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