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COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals: The Pandemic, Politics, and the Road Ahead

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SUSTAINABILITY RESEARCH *and* PRACTICE SEMINAR

March 10, 2021

Professor Gopal Sankaran
Public Health

*COVID-19 and Sustainable Development Goals:
The Pandemic, Politics, and the Road Ahead*

THIS PRESENTATION IS DEDICATED
TO THE MILLIONS OF PEOPLE
WORLDWIDE AFFECTED BY COVID-19
AND THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES

KEY THEMES

1. U. N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) (2015-2030)
2. The COVID-19 pandemic and its impact on SDGs
3. Our collective future (2021 to 2030)...the path ahead

THE U. N. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

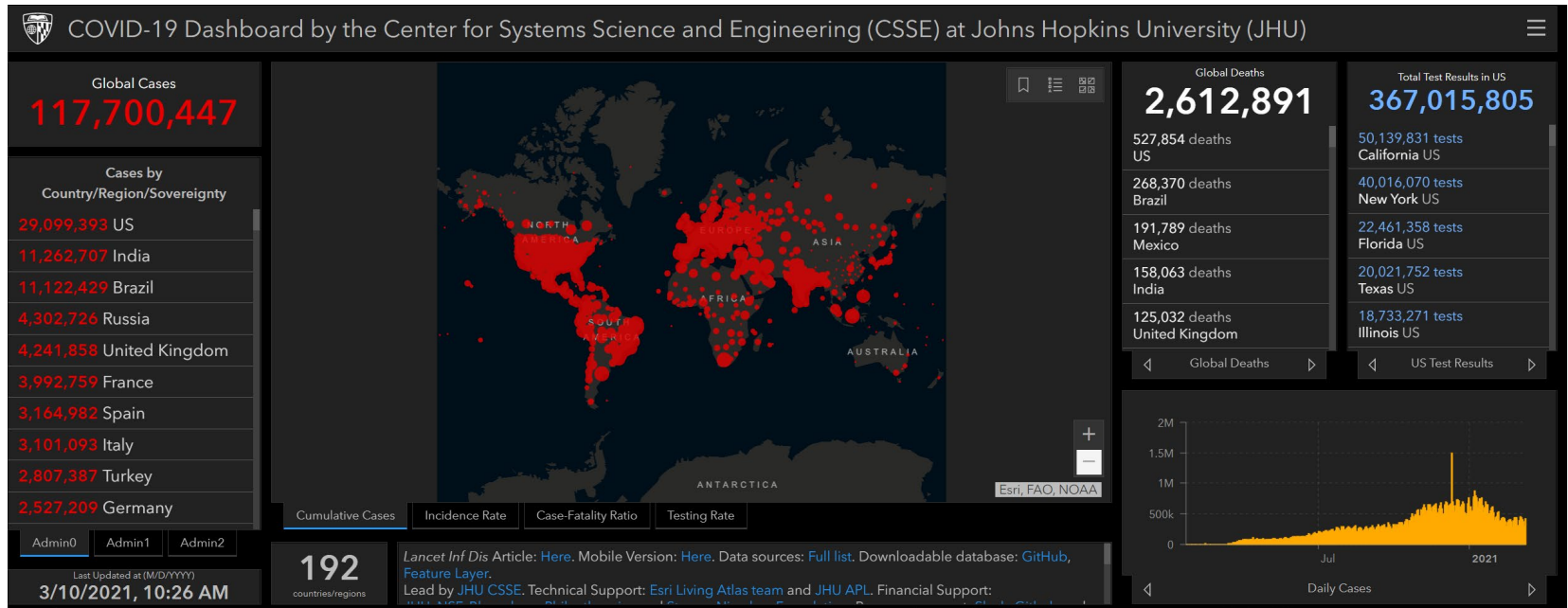


U. N. MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS (MDGS) AND SDGS – KEY DIFFERENCES

- **U. N. Millennium Development Goals (MDGs):**
2000-2015 (8 Goals)
- **Key Differences in SDGs (2015-2030) (17 Goals)**
 - Absolute goals
 - More comprehensive in scope
 - Inclusive process for goal setting
 - Universality (applicable to all nations)
 - Different model for funding
 - Emphasis on data

THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC AND ITS IMPACT ON SDGS

Global COVID-19 DATA (March 10, 2021)



Johns Hopkins University of Medicine
Coronavirus Resource Center
<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/map.html>

RAPID INCREASE IN COVID-19 CASES

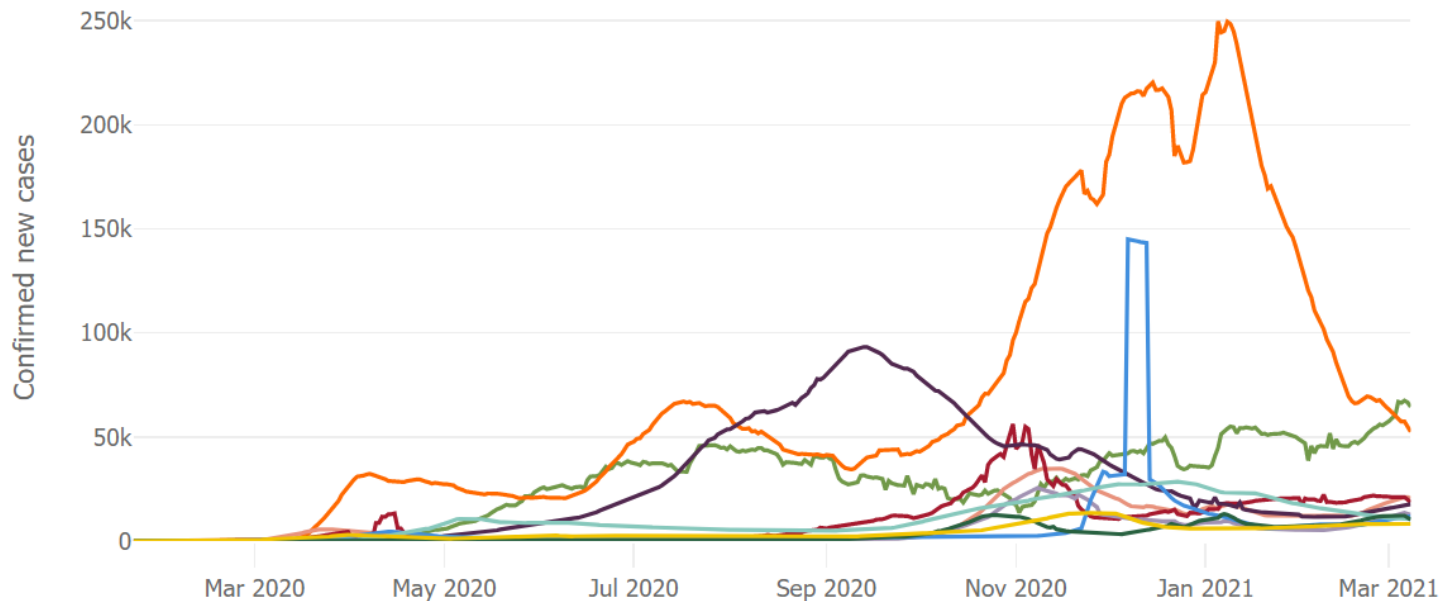
Four interconnected contributory factors:

1. **High R naught:** A high reproduction number (that is, the number of other people infected by one infected person) of 2-2.6, with some estimates to up to 3.9
2. **Asymptomatic and mild cases:** The large number of asymptomatic or mild symptom cases
3. **Long Incubation Period:** The relatively long IP, whereby most symptomatic infected individuals experience symptoms by the 11th or 12th day
4. **Survival of the virus in environment:** The capacity of the coronavirus (SARS-CoV-2) responsible for COVID-19 to last on surfaces for up to three days, in the case of plastic and steel.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/flattening-the-covid-19-peak-containment-and-mitigation-policies-e96a4226/>

DAILY CONFIRMED NEW CASES (7-DAY MOVING AVERAGE)

Outbreak evolution for the current most affected countries



Click any country below to hide/show from the graph:

- | | | | | |
|--------|---------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Brazil | United States | Italy | France | India |
| Poland | Turkey | Russia | Czechia | Iran |

DIFFERENT TRENDS IN DIFFERENT PLACES¹¹

There are several factors that affect different trends:

- **Timing:** how long the virus has been circulating
- **Preexisting health conditions:** the health of underlying populations; areas with more people in high-risk categories will have higher incidence of disease
- **Response:** the actions countries or regions take to slow the spread of the disease; areas that take a more aggressive approach from the beginning with social distancing and testing will have fewer cases than countries that take a more laid-back approach

<https://coronavirus.jhu.edu/covid-19-basics/understanding-covid-19/module-4-epidemiology-understanding-the-spread-of-covid-19#/lessons/nKZ5tdYlzKNZUC8t7EW9opyeBfxLldPK>

RESPONSE TO COVID-19: KEY PILLARS

1. Surveillance and detection;
 2. Clinical management of cases;
 3. Prevention of the spread in the community; and
 4. Maintaining essential services.
- Actions across the four pillars **complement and closely interact and support one another**. For example, containment measures based on identification of cases and contact tracing heavily depend on excellent surveillance and detection infrastructures.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/flattening-the-covid-19-peak-containment-and-mitigation-policies-e96a4226/>

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS TO TACKLE COVID-19

Essential functions in the acute phase of a pandemic

Surveillance and detection	Clinical management	Prevention of the spread in the community	Maintaining essential services
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laboratory capacity • Outbreak investigation • Monitoring of the epidemic • Risk and severity assessment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Patient management • Health service continuity • Infection prevention and control in healthcare settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medical countermeasures such as vaccination and prophylaxis • Non-medical countermeasures to contain and mitigate the infection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essential services continuity • Recovery

Source: Prepared by OECD based on World Health Organization (2005[15]) "WHO checklist for influenza pandemic preparedness planning", https://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/influenza/WHO_CDS_CSR_GIP_2005_4/en/.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/flattening-the-covid-19-peak-containment-and-mitigation-policies-e96a4226/>

CONTAINMENT AND MITIGATION STRATEGIES FOR COVID-19

1. Containment strategies

Aim: To minimize the risk of transmission from infected to non-infected individuals in order to stop the outbreak.

Actions: 1. Early detection of cases; 2. Contact tracing; 3. Confinement of affected persons.

2. Mitigation strategies

Aim: To slow the disease, and to reduce the peak in health care demand.

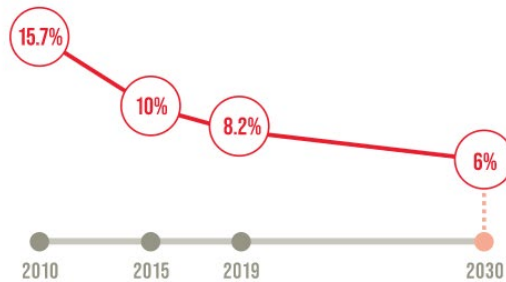
Actions: 1. Social distancing; 2. Full or partial society 'lock-down'; 3. personal hygiene; 4. Environmental hygiene.

<https://www.oecd.org/coronavirus/policy-responses/flattening-the-covid-19-peak-containment-and-mitigation-policies-e96a4226/>

BEFORE COVID-19



THE WORLD
**WAS OFF TRACK TO
END POVERTY BY 2030**



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

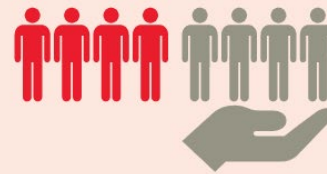


**COVID-19 CAUSES
THE FIRST INCREASE**
IN GLOBAL POVERTY IN DECADES

**+71 MILLION PEOPLE ARE PUSHED
INTO EXTREME POVERTY IN 2020**



**YOUNG WORKERS ARE
TWICE AS LIKELY TO BE
LIVING IN EXTREME POVERTY
AS ADULT WORKERS (2019)**

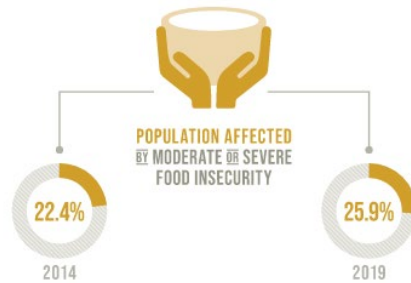


**4 BILLION PEOPLE
DID NOT BENEFIT
FROM ANY FORM OF
SOCIAL PROTECTION IN 2016**



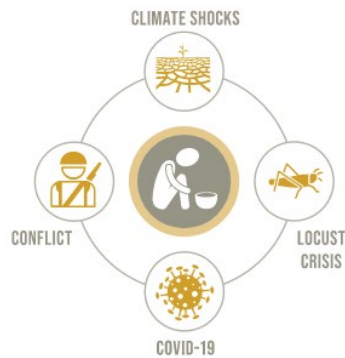
BEFORE COVID-19

FOOD INSECURITY WAS ALREADY ON THE RISE

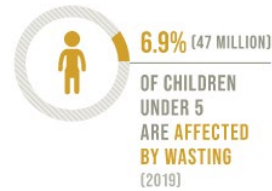
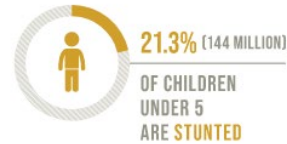


COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

THE PANDEMIC IS AN ADDITIONAL THREAT TO FOOD SYSTEMS



STUNTING AND WASTING AMONG CHILDREN ARE LIKELY TO WORSEN



SMALL-SCALE FOOD PRODUCERS ARE HIT HARD BY THE CRISIS



COMPRISING 40%-85% OF ALL FOOD PRODUCERS IN DEVELOPING REGIONS

3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING



BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS IN MANY HEALTH AREAS CONTINUED, BUT NEEDS ACCELERATION



THE PANDEMIC HAS

INTERRUPTED CHILDHOOD IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMMES IN AROUND 70 COUNTRIES



COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

HEALTHCARE DISRUPTIONS COULD REVERSE DECADES OF IMPROVEMENTS



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF ADDITIONAL UNDER-5 DEATHS MAY BE EXPECTED IN 2020

ILLNESS AND DEATHS FROM COMMUNICABLE DISEASES WILL SPIKE



SERVICE CANCELLATIONS WILL LEAD TO 100% INCREASE IN MALARIA DEATHS IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

LESS THAN HALF OF THE GLOBAL POPULATION



IS COVERED BY ESSENTIAL HEALTH SERVICES

[2017]



4 QUALITY EDUCATION



BEFORE COVID-19

PROGRESS TOWARDS
**INCLUSIVE AND EQUITABLE QUALITY
EDUCATION WAS TOO SLOW**



**OVER 200 MILLION CHILDREN WILL
STILL BE OUT OF SCHOOL IN 2030**

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS



SCHOOL CLOSURES KEPT
90% OF ALL STUDENTS OUT OF SCHOOL
REVERSING YEARS OF PROGRESS ON EDUCATION

**INEQUALITIES IN EDUCATION ARE
EXACERBATED BY COVID-19**

IN LOW-INCOME COUNTRIES,
CHILDREN'S SCHOOL COMPLETION RATE IS



79% IN RICHEST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS



34% IN POOREST
20% OF HOUSEHOLDS

REMOTE LEARNING REMAINS
OUT OF REACH FOR
AT LEAST
500 MILLION STUDENTS



ONLY 65% OF PRIMARY SCHOOLS
HAVE BASIC HANDWASHING FACILITIES
CRITICAL FOR COVID-19 PREVENTION

5 GENDER EQUALITY



BEFORE COVID-19

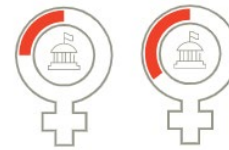
**DESPITE IMPROVEMENTS,
FULL GENDER EQUALITY
REMAINS UNREACHED**



FEWER GIRLS ARE FORCED INTO EARLY MARRIAGE
...
MORE WOMEN ARE IN LEADERSHIP ROLES

**WOMEN
MUST BE REPRESENTED FAIRLY
IN PANDEMIC-RELATED LEADERSHIP ROLES**

WOMEN REPRESENT



25%
IN NATIONAL
PARLIAMENTS
(2020)

36%
IN LOCAL
GOVERNMENT
(2020)

COVID-19 IMPLICATIONS

**LOCKDOWNS ARE INCREASING THE RISK OF
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS**



CASES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
HAVE INCREASED BY 30%
IN SOME COUNTRIES

**WOMEN ARE ON THE FRONT LINES
OF FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS**



**WOMEN ACCOUNT FOR 70%
OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORKERS**



**WOMEN BEAR ADDITIONAL HOUSEHOLD BURDENS
DURING THE PANDEMIC**

↓ ↓ ↓
WOMEN ALREADY SPEND ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MANY HOURS
IN UNPAID DOMESTIC AND CARE WORK AS MEN

OUR COLLECTIVE FUTURE... THE PATH AHEAD

FUTURE OF COVID-19 PANDEMIC?

- Emergence of new strains (United Kingdom, South Africa, Brazil) and their spread
- Vaccine coverage (the journey from “Vaccines” to “Vaccination”)
- COVID-19 fatigue with its consequences
- Regions within nations with mini-epidemics
- Disease becoming endemic over the years
- Availability of effective treatments and cures

A FEW ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Cost of COVID-19 pandemic
- Economy of nations
- Vaccine coverage
- Global collaboration
- Equitable distribution of resources
- Leveraging technology
- Political will (urgency, continuity)
- Public-Private partnerships
- Health in All Policies (HIAP)
- Healthy Systems strengthening (including public health)
- Future preparedness

COST OF RECENT DISEASE OUTBREAKS

SARS: \$40 billion (2003) •

H5N1: \$40 billion (2006) •

H1N1: \$45 billion (2009) •

Ebola: \$50 billion (2013) •

COVID-19: \$18 trillion

McKinsey & Company has estimated that preparations to prevent and fight future pandemics would cost **\$70 to \$120 billion to set up over two years** and **\$20 to \$40 billion to maintain thereafter.**

https://preventepidemics.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/RTSL_Protecting-Health-Care-Workers.pdf

Real GDP Growth

%, year-on-year

Country	2020	2021	2022
Argentina	-12.9	3.7	4.6
Australia	-3.8	3.2	3.1
Brazil	-6.0	2.6	2.2
Canada	-5.4	3.5	2.0
China	1.8	8.0	4.9
France	-9.1	6.0	3.3
Germany	-5.5	2.8	3.3
India	-9.9	7.9	4.8
Indonesia	-2.4	4.0	5.1
Italy	-9.1	4.3	3.2
Japan	-5.3	2.3	1.5
Korea	-1.1	2.8	3.4
Mexico	-9.2	3.6	3.4
Russia	-4.3	2.8	2.2
Saudi Arabia	-5.1	3.2	3.6
South Africa	-8.1	3.1	2.5
Turkey	-1.3	2.9	3.2
United Kingdom	-11.2	4.2	4.1
United States	-3.7	3.2	3.5
World	-4.2	4.2	3.7
Euro area	-7.5	3.6	3.3
G20	-3.8	4.7	3.7

4.3

Forecasts are highlighted by the light grey background

Source: OECD (2020), "OECD Economic Outlook, December 2020", OECD Economic Outlook: Statistics and Projections (database). • Created with Datawrapper

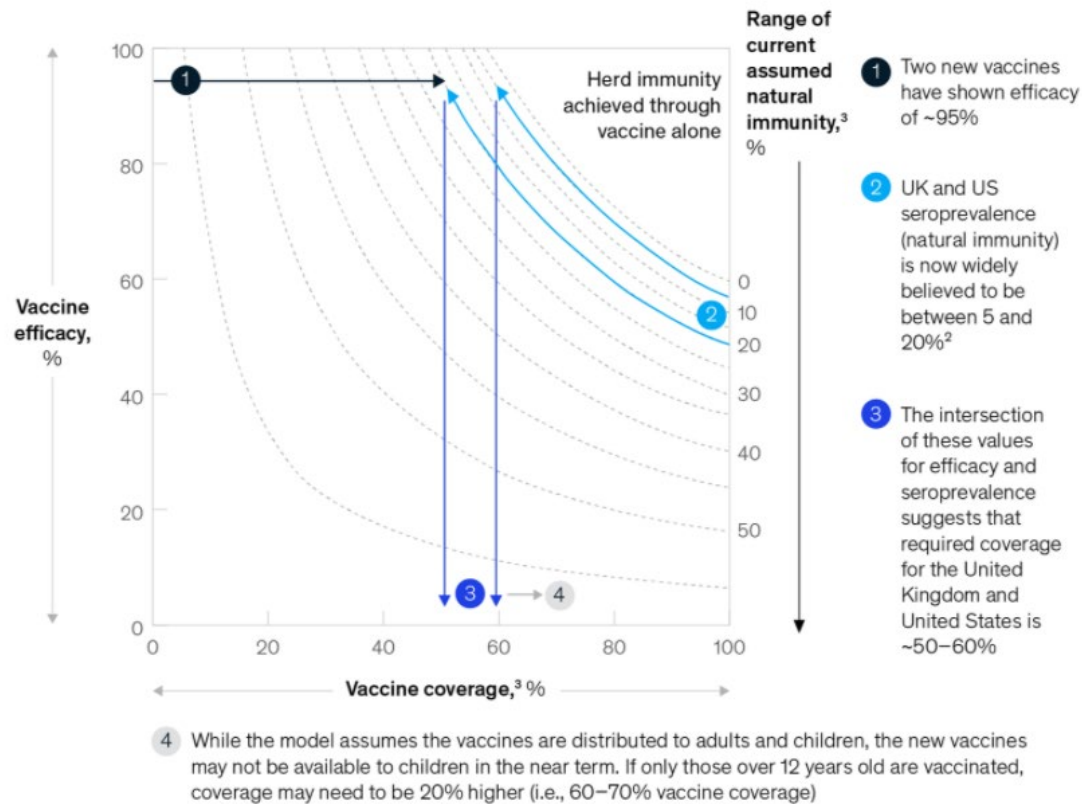
Prior vaccine coverage estimates assumed that without intervention, each COVID-19 infection could lead to ~2.4 more infections.

UK and US COVID-19-immunity scenario¹

< Back

01-03

Next >



More Than 319 Million Shots Given: Covid-19 Tracker

In the U.S., 93.7 million doses have been administered; rollout goes global

Updated: March 10, 2021, 7:52 AM EST

Younger people see more value in international cooperation to reduce number of coronavirus cases

% who say if their country had cooperated more with other countries, the number of coronavirus cases would have been lower in their country, by age

**Youngest-
oldest**

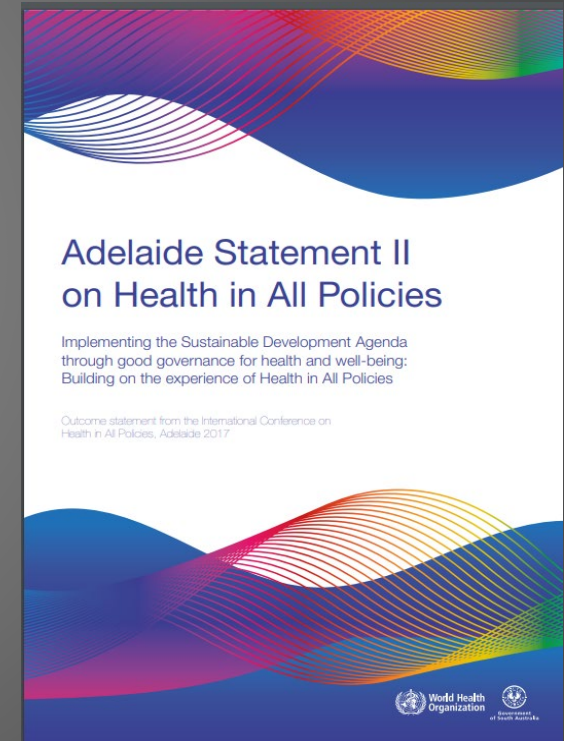
Devlin & Connaughton, 2020

<https://www.pewresearch.org/global/2020/08/27/most-approve-of-national-response-to-covid-19-in-14-advanced-economies/>

HEALTH IN ALL POLICIES (HIAP)

- Action on the Sustainable Development Goals means acting on the determinants of health and well-being.
- These determinants are frequently shaped by political decisions and public policies - policies which can support health and well-being or can fail to take account of their impacts on health and equity.
- **Health in All Policies (HiAP) offers us new ways to confront major 21st century challenges to health and well-being, including safety and security.**

World Health Organization. (2019). Adelaide Statement II (2017) on Health in All Policies. Adelaide: World Health Organization, Government of South Australia.
<https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/331585/WHO-CED-PHE-SDH-19.1-eng.pdf?ua=1>



KEY TAKEAWAYS

- COVID-19 has halted and reversed progress in several SDGs
- Economic impact and public health are not at crossroads.
- Health systems, including public health, in most nations need strengthening
- Pandemic preparedness needs concerted resources and actions both nationally and globally
- Public-private partnerships are critical to future progress towards SDGs
- Economic resources and political will to reach SDGs require urgent attention and action

ONLY TIME WILL TELL...
WHETHER HUMANITY
KEEPS UP ITS PROMISES
TO FUTURE GENERATIONS

THANK YOU!