UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery

Leveraging the Power of Science for a More Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future

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Scientific Director
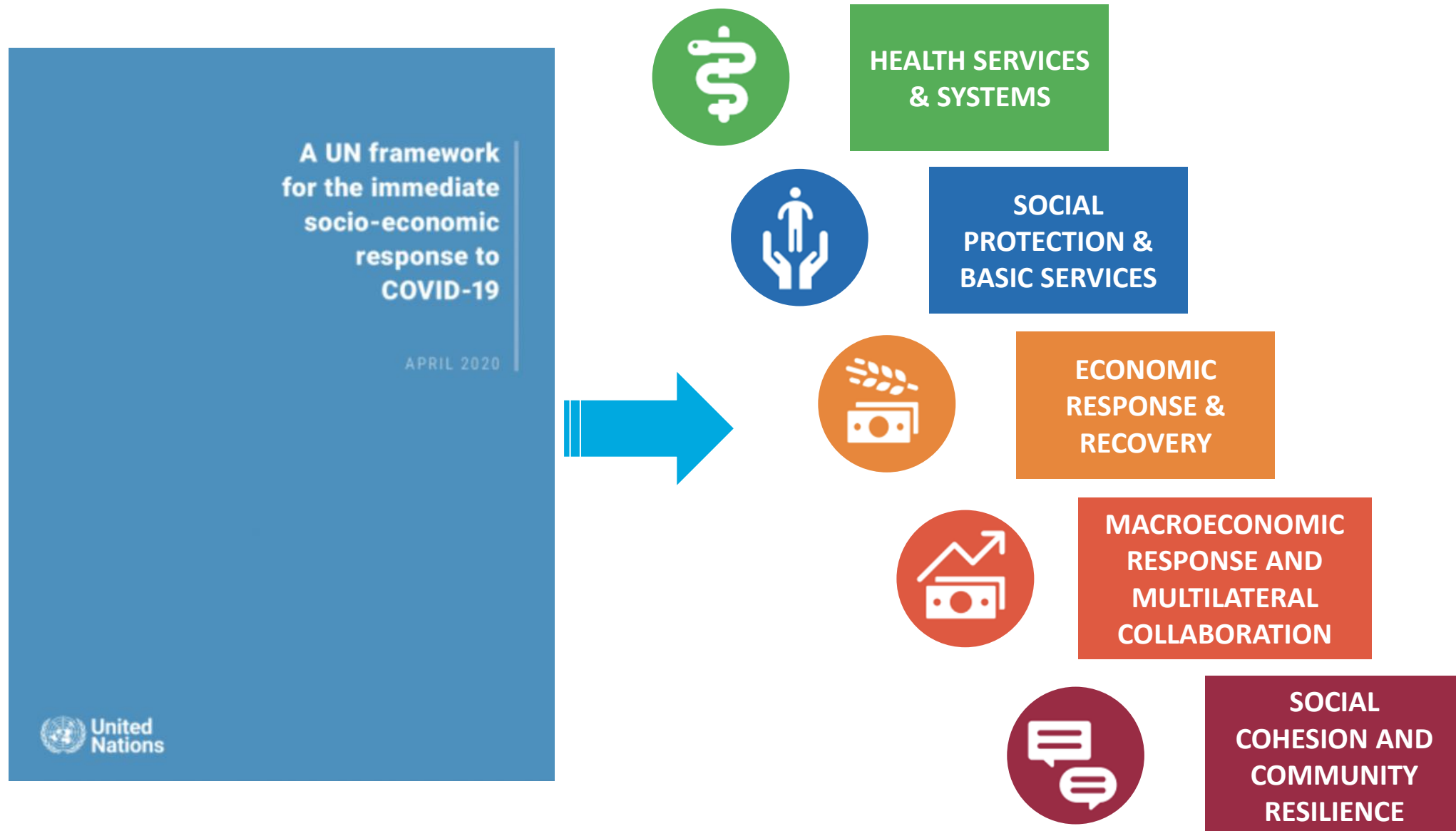CIHR Institute of Population & Public Health

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United Nations

COVID-19 has had far-reaching impacts

71 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty in 2020

1 No poverty

2 Zero hunger

3 Good health and well-being

School closures kept 90% of students out of schools

4 Quality education

5 Gender equality

Cases of domestic violence have increased by 30% in some countries

8 Decent work and economic growth

10 Reduced inequalities

16 Peace, justice and strong institutions

60% of countries have prison overcrowding, increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19
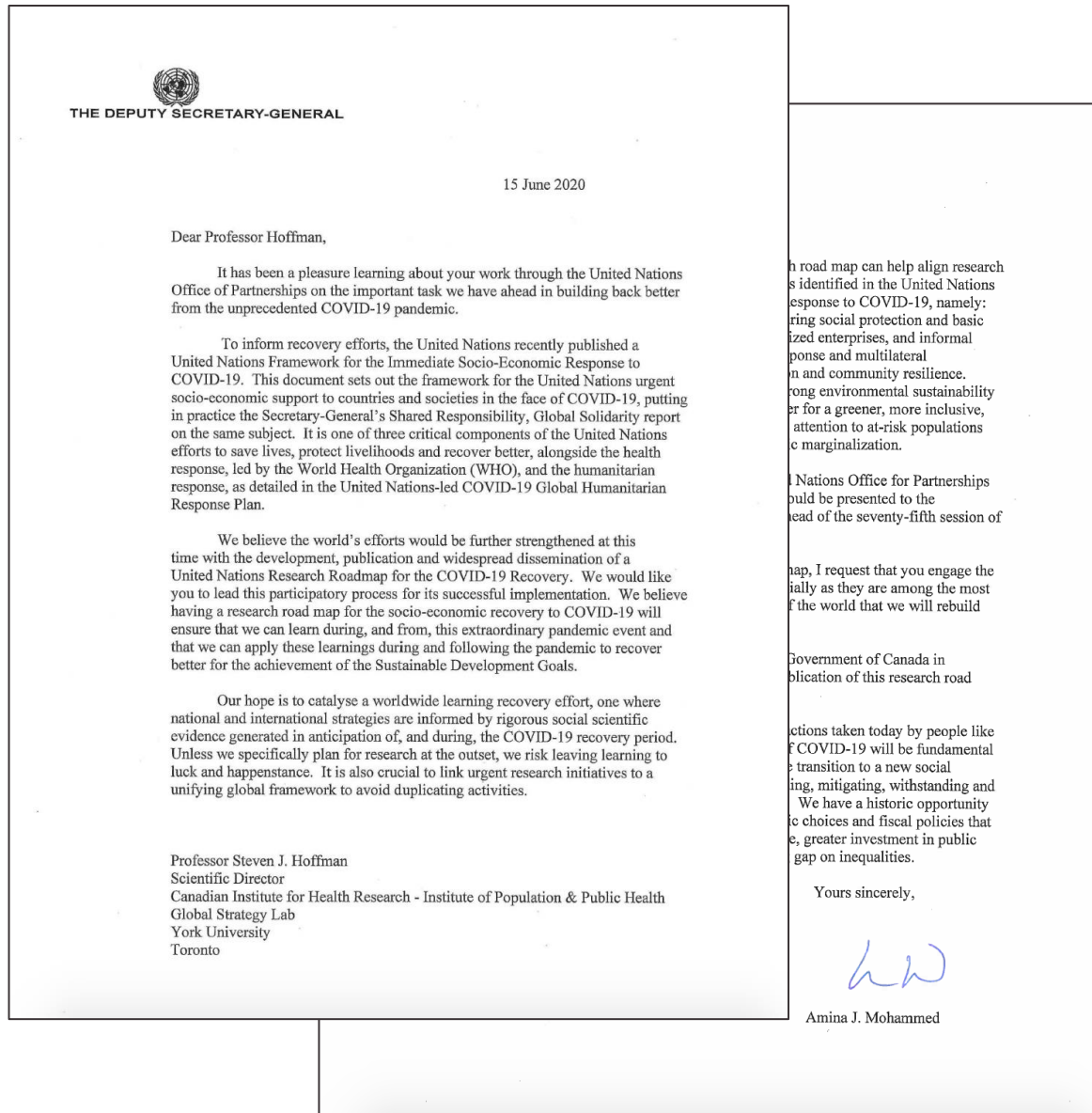
COVID-19

UN Framework for COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response

UN Research Roadmap Mandate

Our hope is to catalyse a worldwide learning recovery effort, one where national and international strategies are informed by rigorous social scientific evidence generated in anticipation of, and during, the COVID-19 recovery period.

Roadmap Objectives

Transform the UN socio-economic recovery framework into a "rapid learning initiative"

1. Ensure the COVID-19 recovery is informed by the best available research
2. Support learning from early response efforts to inform later recovery efforts
3. Bring renewed focus to the systemic issues highlighted by the COVID-19 pandemic and the marginalized populations most affected by the crisis
4. Enable international scientific collaboration through a unifying global framework

Developing a Research Roadmap

5
Steering groups

38
Research funding agencies

25
Countries and regions

20
Meetings

270
Experts

47
Written submissions

41
Participants in virtual consultations

8
Key informant interviews

5
Scoping reviews

28
Written submissions

10,198
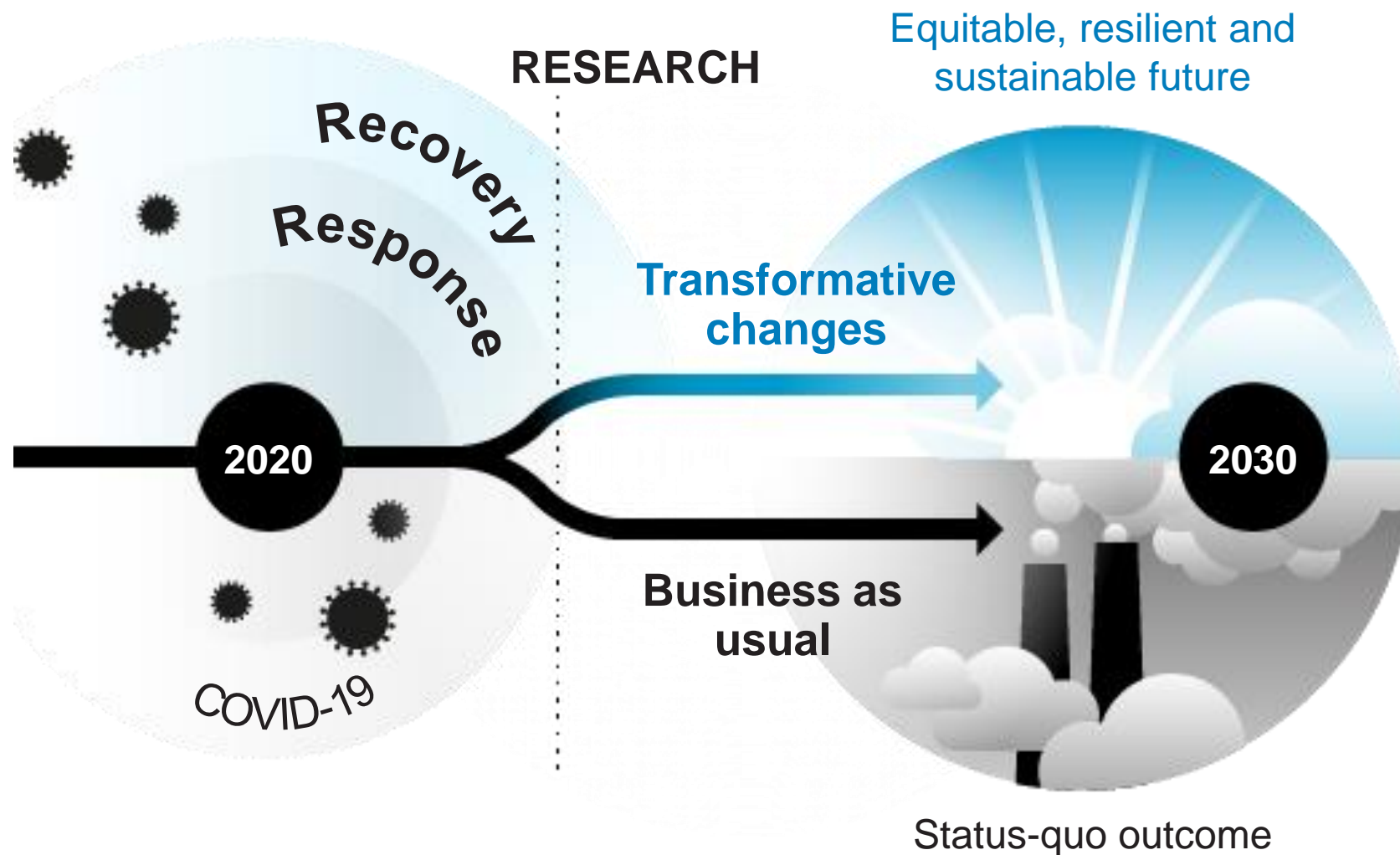Initial search results

320
Studies reviewed

Research Roadmap

10 weeks

The socio-economic recovery from COVID-19 provides an opportunity for the transformative changes needed to achieve the better and brighter future envisioned by the SDGs.

A choice between business as usual and transformative changes

Equitable, resilient and sustainable future

RESEARCH

Recovery

Response

Transformative changes

2020

COVID-19
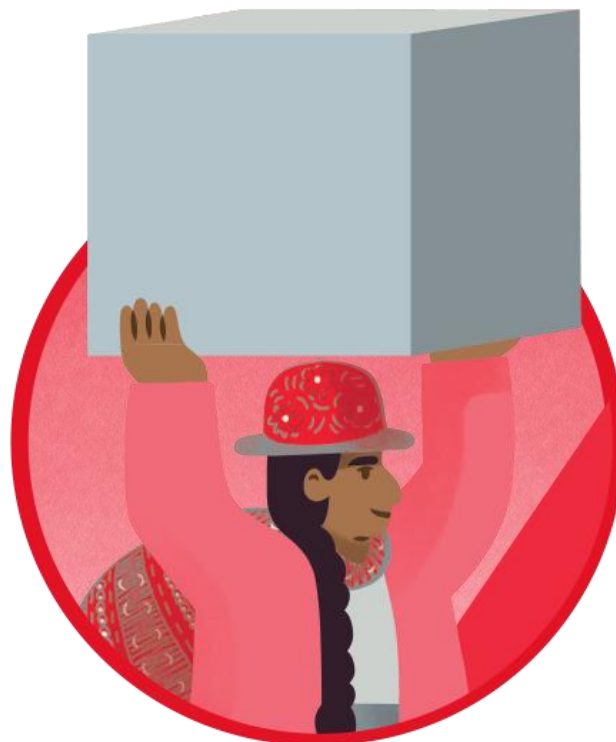
Business as usual

2030

Status-quo outcome

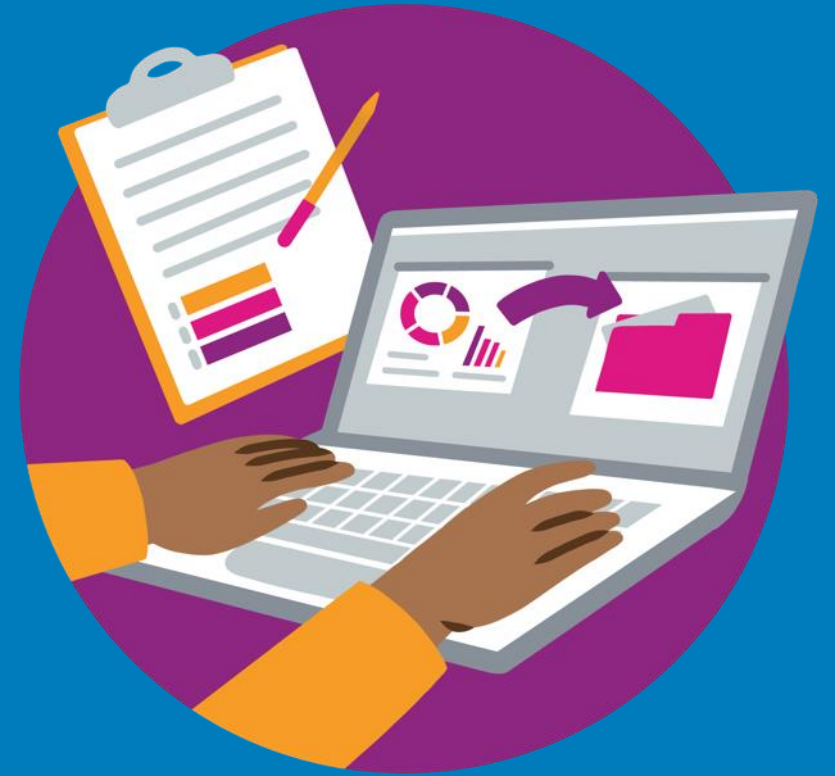# Final Roadmap

25 research priorities across five pillars

Framework for understanding the challenges and opportunities ahead

5 science strategies to address the full research ecosystem

25 research priorities that all serve to answer an overarching question...

How can COVID-19 socio-economic recovery efforts be purposefully designed to stimulate equity, resilience, sustainability and progress towards the SDGs?

Health systems and services
Research Priorities 1-5

1.1 How should health systems be designed so they are responsive, adaptable and accessible when needed?

1.2 How can health systems eliminate discrimination in their service delivery and become drivers of equity in society?

1.3 How can all parts of government be mobilized to promote health, prevent disease and prepare for future health emergencies?

1.4 How can global governance be reformed to support more coordinated and collective responses against those health threats that transcend national boundaries?

1.5 How can health systems engage communities, build trust and support collective responses to emerging health threats?

Social Protection and Basic Services
Research Priorities 6-10

2.1 How can necessary social protections be made available to all people when they need them?

2.2 How can social protections be implemented to tackle the underlying root causes of socio-economic marginalization and inequities?

2.3 How can environments be built, shaped and sustained in ways that allow all people to thrive?

2.4 How can an exclusionary digital divide be prevented in an increasingly virtual world?

2.5 How can social protections and basic services help to promote population mental health?

Economic Response and Recovery Programs
Research Priorities 11-15

3.1 How can economic recovery policies protect workers, ensure their well-being, and promote a resilient workforce?

3.2 How can strategies to support sectors and enterprises most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic better prepare them for future shocks?

3.3 How can a global economy with constant movement of people, goods and capital work for everyone and protect the planet?

3.4 How can policy solutions promote the well-being of informal workers and ensure their long-term economic equity?

3.5 How have recent economic changes disproportionately impacted women and how can recovery strategies be inclusive and gender-transformative?

Macroeconomic Policies and Multilateral Collaboration
Research Priorities 16-20

4.1 How can macroeconomic policy promote a more inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19?

4.2 How can inequities in development opportunities be eliminated?

4.3 How can increased public expenditure during COVID-19 be financed while ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery in all countries?

4.4 How have recent global shocks affected the functioning and legitimacy of international institutions?

4.5 How can multilateral collaboration and progress towards the SDGs be sustained in an increasingly polarized world?

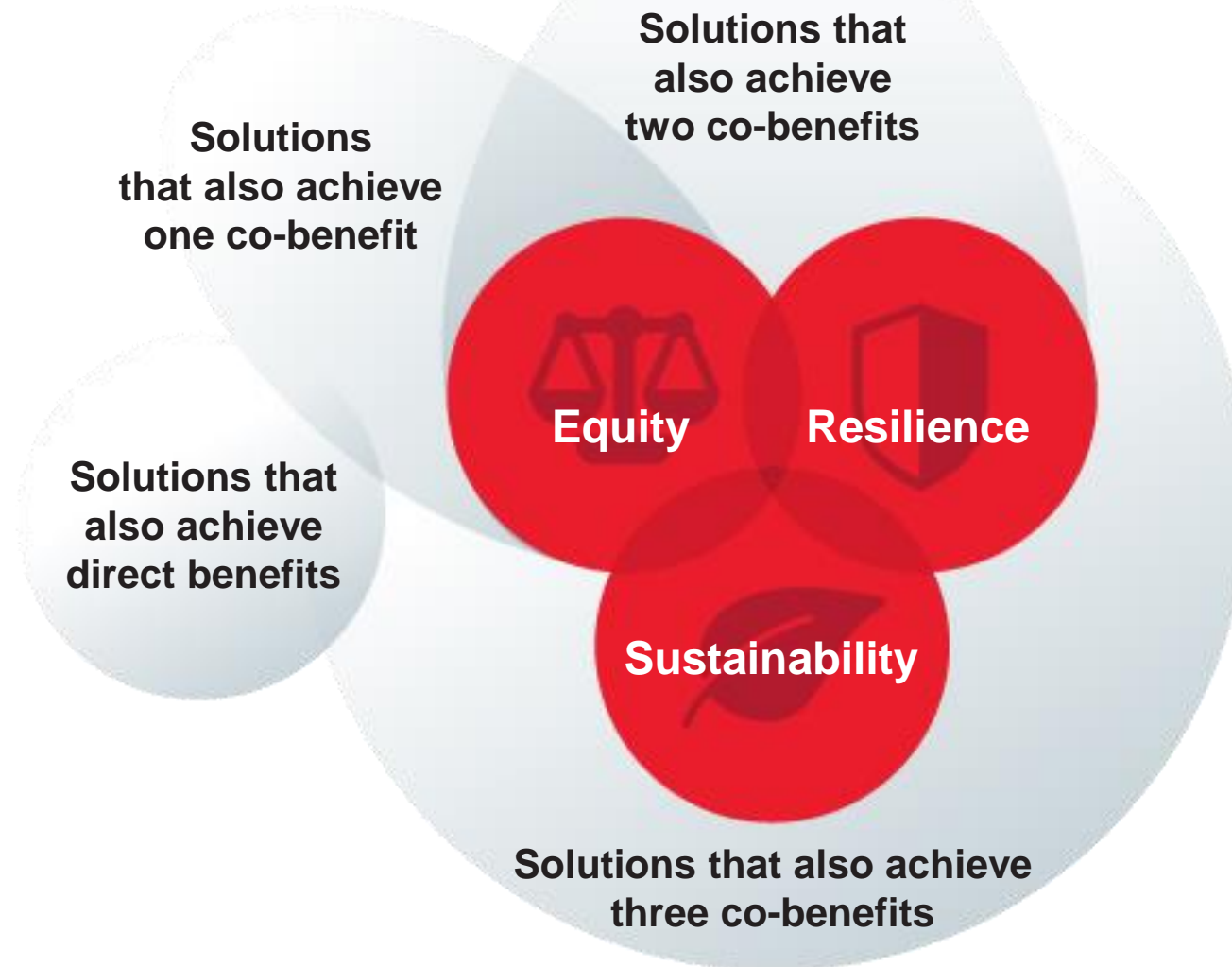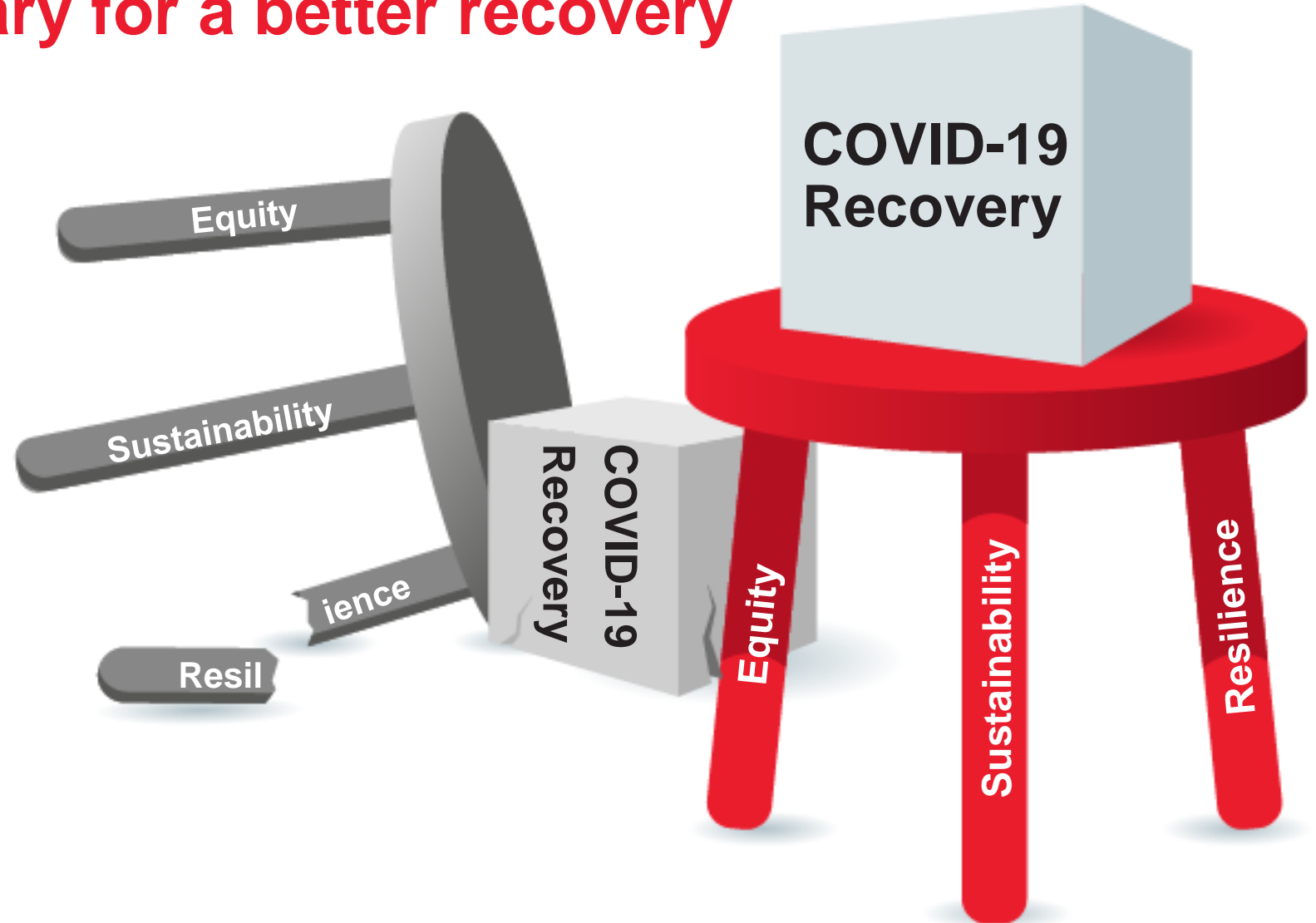# Social Cohesion and Community Resilience
Research Priorities 21-25

5.1 How can communities be optimally engaged in decision-making during emergencies to strengthen social cohesion?

5.2 How can governments most effectively communicate with local communities to build trust, forge consensus and promote cooperation to achieve shared goals?

5.3 How can recovery efforts from emergencies help eliminate pre-existing social inequities in order to enhance the resilience of communities?

5.4 How can community spaces enhance social resilience and cohesion?

5.5 How can digital technologies be harnessed to promote social cohesion while ensuring no one is excluded?

Aiming for a quadruple bottom line from COVID-19 recovery efforts

Solutions that also achieve one co-benefit

Solutions that also achieve two co-benefits

Solutions that also achieve direct benefits

Equity

Resilience

Sustainability

Solutions that also achieve three co-benefits

Equity, resilience and sustainability are each necessary for a better recovery

Responses also need to be cultivated within research systems, processes and practices

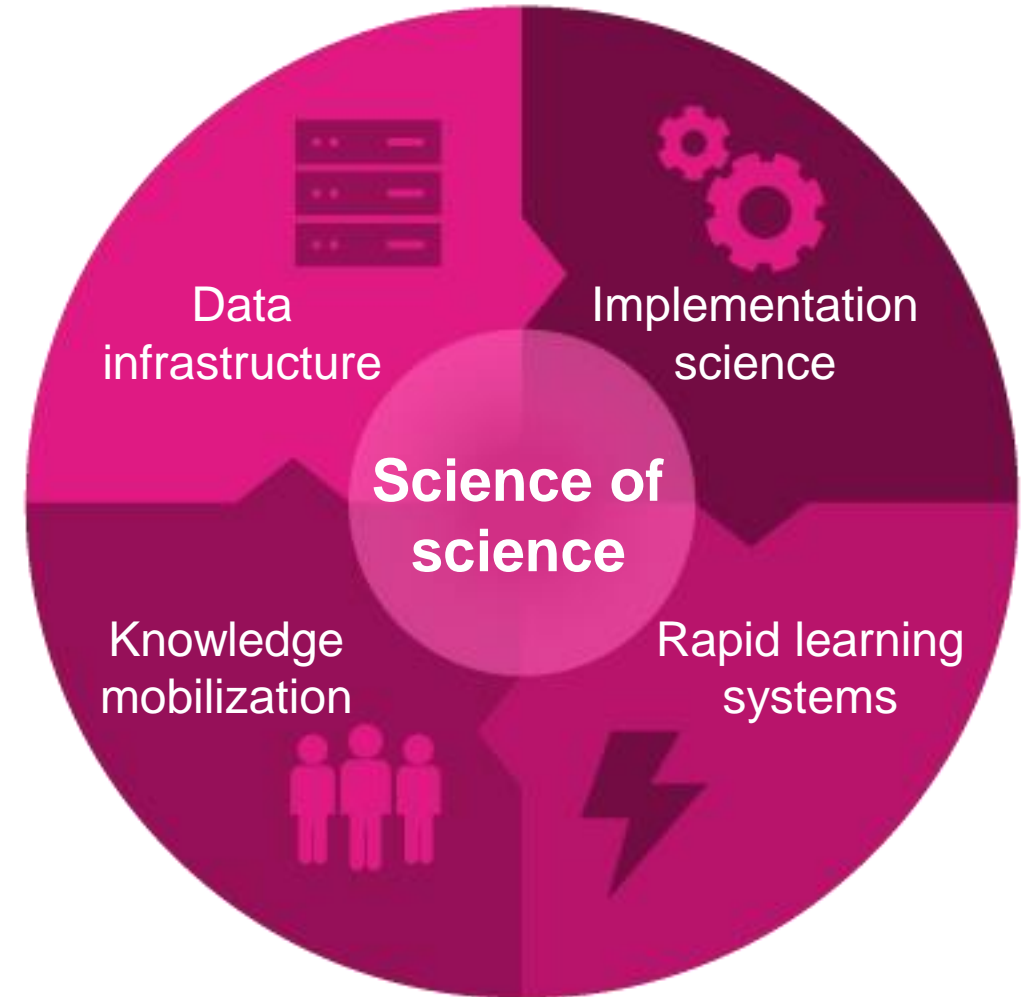# Five science strategies for a better recovery

1) Data infrastructure includes the organizations, policies, processes, systems and technologies involved in the collection, storage, management, oversight, distribution and use of data.

2) Implementation science is the study of methods and strategies to promote the uptake of effective interventions into practices, programs and policies.

3) Rapid learning systems use the best available evidence and data to inform decisions and learn from their experiences to enable continuous improvements and contribute to the global evidence base.

4) Knowledge mobilization are efforts designed to promote the use of research evidence to inform choices and generate positive impacts.

5) Science of science is focused on how research is funded, practiced and evaluated, and how research cultures and systems can be made more efficient, open, inclusive and impactful.
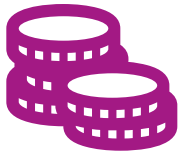
Actions needed

Researchers must tackle the complex research priorities identified and inform transformative solutions for the problems that the COVID-19 pandemic revealed and created.

Research funding agencies will need to work together to ensure sufficient and coordinated investment to address these research priorities.

Governments and civil society organizations need to ask for the research needed to inform recovery efforts, support it, and institutionalize the use of research in decision-making.

Next steps

- **Open dialogue with the UN Deputy Secretary-General** and heads of international research funding agencies on science for development in the context of COVID-19.

- **Disseminate the *Roadmap*** through briefings for researchers by UN agencies and the International Science Council.

- **Develop partnerships** between regional/country UN teams and national research funding agencies through regional launch events.

- **Explore new mechanisms for coordination** between UN agencies and international research funders to take the *Roadmap* forward.

- **Track progress on *Roadmap* implementation** such as through the GloPID-R/UKCRD funding tracker.

Support from our partners

In partnership with UN agencies, GloPID-R, the International Science Council, and 38 research funding agencies from around the world.

Thank you!

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