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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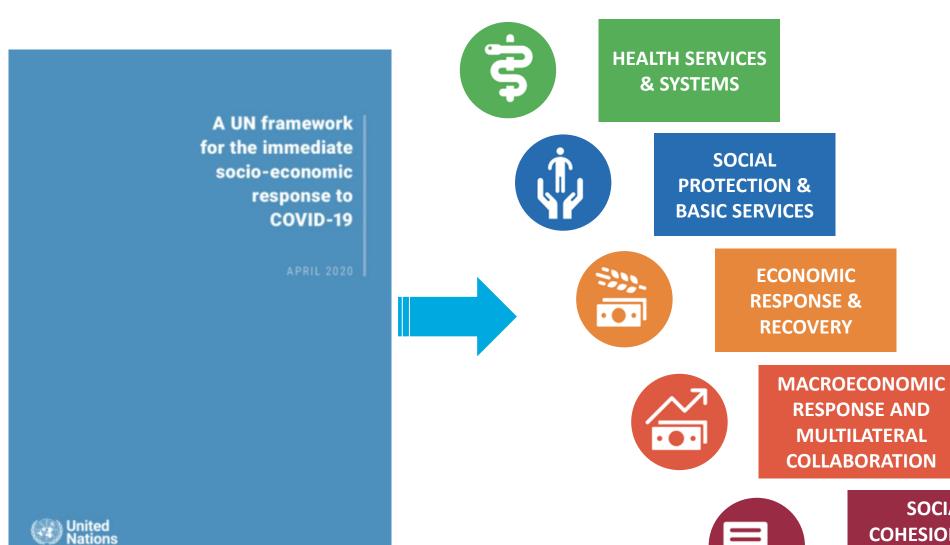
International Science Conference Monday January 25, 2021





COVID-19 has had far-reaching impacts 71 million people will be pushed into extreme poverty No poverty in 2020 Peace, justice ace, justice and strong **İ**Y**İ**İ institutions Zero 60% of countries have hunger prison overcrowding, increasing the risk of spreading COVID-19 **Good health** and well-being COVID-19 Reduced 10 inequalities School closures kept 90% of students Decent work and economic 8 out of schools Quality growth education Cases of Gender domestic violence equality have increased by 30% in some countries

UN Framework for COVID-19 Socio-Economic Response



SOCIAL
COHESION AND
COMMUNITY
RESILIENCE

UN Research Roadmap Mandate



15 June 2020

Dear Professor Hoffman,

It has been a pleasure learning about your work through the United Nations Office of Partnerships on the important task we have ahead in building back better from the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic.

To inform recovery efforts, the United Nations recently published a United Nations Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19. This document sets out the framework for the United Nations urgent socio-economic support to countries and societies in the face of COVID-19, putting in practice the Secretary-General's Shared Responsibility, Global Solidarity report on the same subject. It is one of three critical components of the United Nations efforts to save lives, protect livelihoods and recover better, alongside the health response, led by the World Health Organization (WHO), and the humanitarian response, as detailed in the United Nations-led COVID-19 Global Humanitarian Response Plan.

We believe the world's efforts would be further strengthened at this time with the development, publication and widespread dissemination of a United Nations Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery. We would like you to lead this participatory process for its successful implementation. We believe having a research road map for the socio-economic recovery to COVID-19 will ensure that we can learn during, and from, this extraordinary pandemic event and that we can apply these learnings during and following the pandemic to recover better for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

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. Unless we specifically plan for research at the outset, we risk leaving learning to luck and happenstance. It is also crucial to link urgent research initiatives to a unifying global framework to avoid duplicating activities.

Professor Steven J. Hoffman Scientific Director Canadian Institute for Health Research - Institute of Population & Public Health Global Strategy Lab York University Toronto h road map can help align research sidentified in the United Nations esponse to COVID-19, namely: ring social protection and basic ized enterprises, and informal ponse and multilateral n and community resilience. rong environmental sustainability or for a greener, more inclusive, attention to at-risk populations e marginalization.

Nations Office for Partnerships ould be presented to the lead of the seventy-fifth session of

hap, I request that you engage the ially as they are among the most f the world that we will rebuild

Government of Canada in blication of this research road

ctions taken today by people like f COVID-19 will be fundamental e transition to a new social ing, mitigating, withstanding and We have a historic opportunity to choices and fiscal policies that e, greater investment in public gap on inequalities.

Yours sincerely.

Amina J. Mohammed

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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



Written submissions

Participants in virtual consultations

8Key informant interviews

Research Roadmap

5
Scoping reviews



28
Written submissions

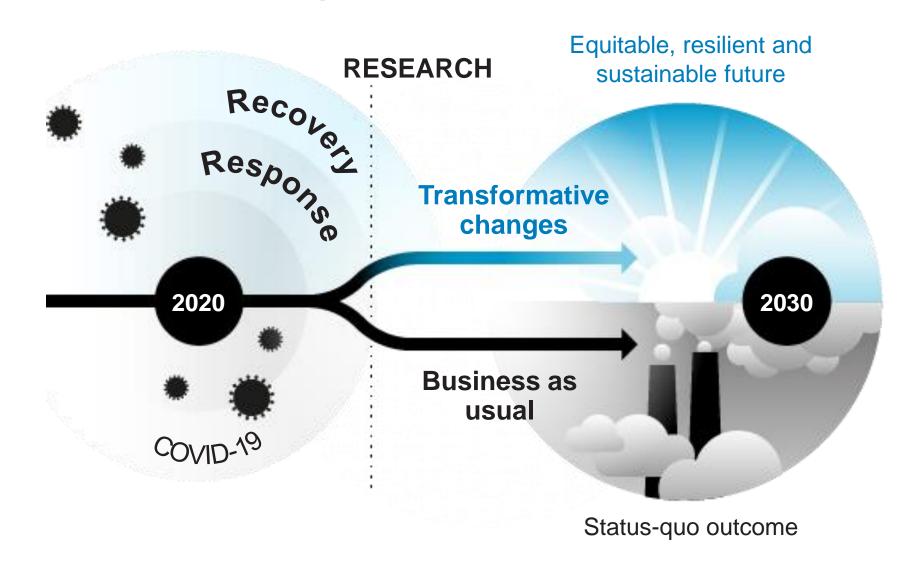
10,198
Initial search results

320 Studies reviewed

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



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 servicesResearch Priorities 1-5



- How should health systems be designed so they are responsive, adaptable and accessible when needed?
- How can health systems eliminate discrimination in their service delivery and become drivers of equity in society?
- How can all parts of government be mobilized to promote health, prevent disease and prepare for future health emergencies?
- How can global governance be reformed to support more coordinated and collective responses against those health threats that transcend national boundaries?
- How can health systems engage communities, build trust and support collective responses to emerging health threats?

Social Protection and Basic ServicesResearch 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 socioeconomic marginalization and inequities?
- 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 ProgramsResearch Priorities 11-15



- How can economic recovery policies protect workers, ensure their well-being, and promote a resilient workforce?
- How can strategies to support sectors and enterprises most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic better prepare them for future shocks?
- How can a global economy with constant movement of people, goods and capital work for everyone and protect the planet?
- How can policy solutions promote the well-being of informal workers and ensure their long-term economic equity?
- How have recent economic changes disproportionately impacted women and how can recovery strategies be inclusive and gender-transformative?

Macroeconomic Policies and Multilateral CollaborationResearch Priorities 16-20



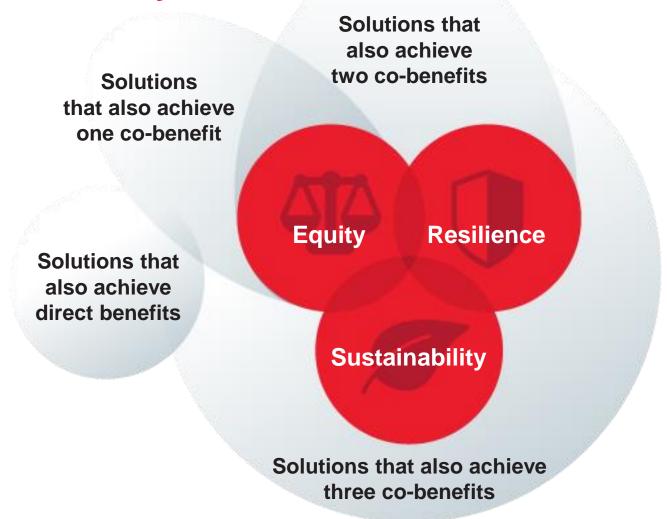
- How can macroeconomic policy promote a more inclusive and sustainable recovery from COVID-19?
- 4.2 How can inequities in development opportunities be eliminated?
- How can increased public expenditure during COVID-19 be financed while ensuring an inclusive and sustainable recovery in all countries?
- 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 ResilienceResearch Priorities 21-25

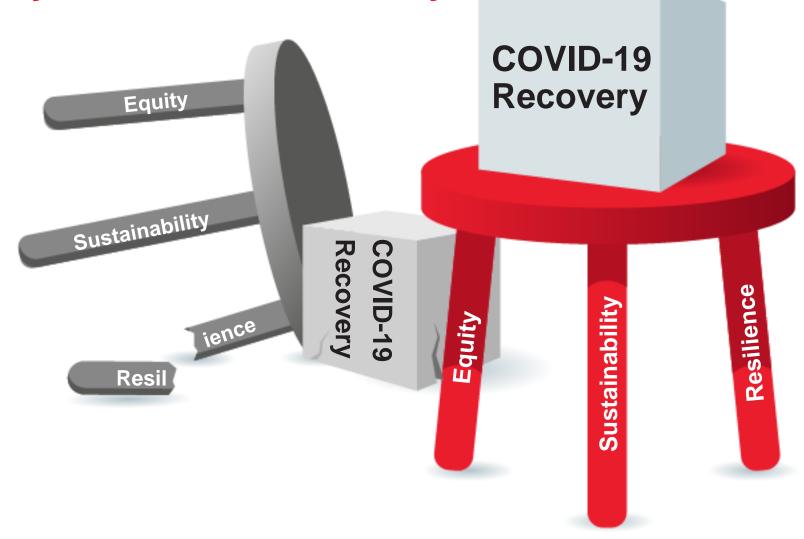


- How can communities be optimally engaged in decision-making during emergencies to strengthen social cohesion?
- How can governments most effectively communicate with local communities to build trust, forge consensus and promote cooperation to achieve shared goals?
- How can recovery efforts from emergencies help eliminate pre-existing social inequities in order to enhance the resilience of communities?
- How can community spaces enhance social resilience and cohesion?
- 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



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

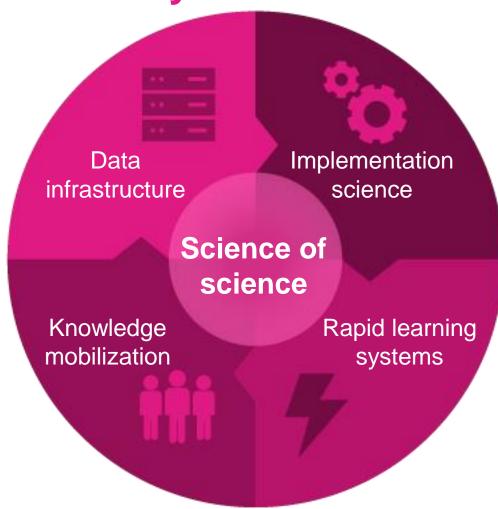


Responses also need to be cultivated within research systems, processes and practices



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.

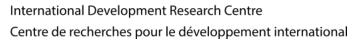
Support from our partners

















Public Health Agency of Canada Agence de la santé publique du Canada



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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