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The United Nations Research Roadmap for COVID-19

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United Nations: Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery Leveraging the Power of Science for a More Equitable, Resilient and Sustainable Future

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This UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery provides a framework for leveraging the power of science in support of a better socio-economic recovery and a more equitable, resilient and sustainable future. Designed to complement the UN's Framework for the Immediate Socio-Economic Response to COVID-19 (April 2020), this Roadmap was rapidly developed in ten weeks through a global participatory process that drew upon insights from researchers, research funders, government policymakers, civil society leaders and UN officials from around the world.

Widespread engagement revealed a great many knowledge needs for informing a successful recovery. These knowledge needs are diverse, but they all illustrate a reality re-emphasized by the COVID-19 pandemic: that all people, systems and generations are intrinsically interdependent and that all societies face shared risks and responsibilities. Interdependence among people emphasizes the need for equity; interdependence among systems points to the need for resilience; and interdependence across generations highlights the need for sustainability.

This UN Research Roadmap for the COVID-19 Recovery aims to:

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

Three sub-priorities within each pillar were additionally flagged for particular attention:

- **a quick-win** where focused research is expected to generate immediate impacts;
- **a best-buy** where research investments are expected to yield outsized impacts;

- and a **game-changer** where research is expected to inform more transformative changes that will create immense positive impacts over time.

Equity

QUICK-WIN 2. What are the best approaches to integrating actively anti-discriminatory policies into emergency recovery responses?

BEST-BUY 3. Which health system mechanisms can be leveraged to promote access to sexual and reproductive health services, gender equity and women's empowerment in society?

GAME-CHANGER 4. How can international trade and finance be improved to ensure that all countries are included in the global economy in a fair and sustainable manner?

Resilience

QUICK-WIN 5. How can safe access to high-quality education in schools be ensured during emergencies?

BEST-BUY 6. How can international financial institutions most effectively contribute to financial stability during global emergencies and prevent sovereign debt crises?

GAME-CHANGER 7. What are the best strategies for ensuring safe workplaces and decent work, in particular for those workers who face greater risks?

Sustainability

QUICK-WIN 8. How can stimulus programs promote decent work and support the transition to greener and more sustainable economies?

BEST-BUY 9. What mechanisms can enable different parts of government to work together on critical "One Health" challenges that cross human, animal and environmental health, such as antimicrobial resistance, extreme weather, food insecurity, habitat destruction and water degradation?

GAME-CHANGER 10. How can approaches for preventing environmental degradation and preserving natural resources be better integrated into multilateral collaborations across economic areas?

This Roadmap demonstrates what is possible through international collaboration and the UN. By working together, we will recover better and create strong, healthy, prosperous communities in our interdependent world.

<https://www.un.org/en/pdfs/UNCOVID19ResearchRoadmap.pdf>