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Global Partnership Under a New Normal: Challenges and Response to COVID-19



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Definitions

Sustainability Development Goal (SDG) 17 Partnership is a voluntary and collaborative effort between various parties, both public and non-public, in which all participants agree to work together to achieve a common purpose or undertake a specific task, as mutually agreed, to share risks and responsibilities, resources and benefits (UN 2016a). Here, voluntary commitments to advance implementation of the SDGs have been an integral part of partnership effort. In specific, the 2017 UN Ocean Conference described Voluntary Commitments as initiatives voluntarily undertaken by Governments, the United Nations system, other intergovernmental organizations, international and regional financial institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society organizations, academic and research

institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, philanthropic organizations, and other actors – *individually or in partnership* – that aim to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 17. This multi-stakeholder partnership is also recognized as important collaborative vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to support the achievement of the SDGs in all countries, particularly developing countries (UN 2015). Partnership effort is particularly crucial in the COVID-19 pandemic situation.

Coronavirus disease 2019 or known as COVID-19 is an illness caused by a novel coronavirus which was first identified amid an outbreak of respiratory illness cases in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China. It was initially reported to the World Health Organization (WHO) on 31 December 2019. According to the World Health Organization, coronaviruses are a large family of viruses which may cause respiratory infections ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases such as Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) and Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) (WHO 2020a, April 17). WHO declared the COVID-19 outbreak a global health emergency on 30 January 2020 and as a global pandemic on 11 March 2020. As of 15 August 2020, the number of COVID-19 positive cases reached 21,026,758 with 755,786 death reported worldwide (WHO 2020d, August 15).

Introduction

The United Nations' (UN) policy brief "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (UN 2015) adopted 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that are intended to "stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet" (p. 3). These SDGs are increasingly being referred to in policy circles simply as "The Global Goals." While being intergovernmental commitments, the SDGs have rapidly gained traction and salience among a broad range of actors beyond the 193 UN member states who unanimously endorsed them, such as public policy bodies, NGOs, and many businesses and professional organizations. The UN SDGs are a set of consolidated targets that form a comprehensive framework for holistic global development by 2030. It brings together five pillars: People (Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5), Planet (Goals 6, 7, 11, 13, 14, 15), Prosperity (Goals 8, 9, 10, 12), Peace (Goal 16), and Partnership (Goal 17).

At a broader level, the SDGs themselves are an example of policies cascading from earlier policy initiatives, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs were originally developed by the Organization for Economic Co-operation & Development (OECD) in 1996 as part of their strategy paper for the twenty-first century. They were then taken forward by the UN. After an "iterated distillation, extracted from a wide array of global processes, with many actions involved over several years" (McArthur 2014, p. 6), the MDGs were agreed by Heads of State at the Millennium Summit in 2000. They were the "world's first explicit development partnership framework between developed and developing countries" (ibid., 2014, p. 20). The eight MDGs sought to: eradicate extreme poverty and hunger; achieve universal primary education; promote gender equality and empower women; reduce child mortality; improve maternal health; combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; and encourage global partnerships for development (UN 2013).

On 8 May 2019, the UN special report on Progress Towards the Sustainable Development

Goals stated that the disaggregated data across all countries and all targets and indicators remains a challenge after 4 years of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2019, p. 3). Despite this, some positive progress and favorable trends are evident. This includes extreme poverty, child mortality, and new chronic hepatitis B virus (HBV) rates that continue to fall. The report illustrates the hard work that many Governments and their partners have been undertaking since 2015.

Particularly for SDG17 on partnership, progress on some means of implementation targets is moving rapidly yet significant challenges remain. Increased access to the internet among the Least Developed Countries has been successfully achieved as a step towards a more inclusive global information society. On the other hand, for capacity building, total Official Development Assistant (ODA) is declining; private investment flows are not well aligned with sustainable development, they continue to be a significant digital divide and there are ongoing trade tensions. Enhanced international cooperation is needed to ensure that sufficient means of implementation exist to provide countries the opportunity to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (UN 2019, p. 22).

The shift in development pathways to generate the transformation required to meet the Sustainable Development goal by 2030 is not yet advancing at the speed or scale required (ibid., p. 21). Further, as the whole world is bracing COVID-19 pandemic, reflecting on the SDGs becomes all the more important. This is mainly because the 17 SDGs are integrated and they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic, and environmental sustainability. Hence, the pandemic will not only create a global economic crisis (SDG8) or affect good health and well-being (SDG3) but also will impact the timeline and progress of achieving these global goals wholly.

This entry explores ways to strengthen the means of implementation of SDG17 during post-COVID-19 pandemic time. It is structured as follows. The section on Translating Global Goals into Local Realities gives an overview of the

SDGs, outlines the goals, and explains the UN initiatives to achieve them. In the subsequent section, the focus shifts to Strengthening Partnership on Global Health. It explains partnership for global health and its significance to mitigate global health issues. The following section, Global Partnership for COVID-19 Response extends this discussion to analyze challenges and the UN response to COVID-19 in order to achieve global goals by 2030. Finally, some closing observations are made.

Translating Global Goals into Local Realities

The SDGs are voluntary. Their success depends largely on the active participation and commitment of a multitude of actors. In order to translate the abstract political language at the UN into meaningful action on the ground and to make true sustainable development a reality, stakeholders and actors must have a level of comprehensive understanding of its aims and must be willing to take actions. Here, involvement of civil society is important as it provides a chance to empower citizens in the setting of national priorities and simultaneously implementing and realizing the SDGs.

Further, local governments' actions are critical in turning Agenda 2030 from a global vision into a local reality. Hence, the five drivers of transformation change that must be taken in translating the goals are: (i) sensitization and engagement of local actors, (ii) accountability mechanisms, (iii) participatory planning and service delivery, (iv) local economic development, and (v) partnership. Although some successful stories were evident in translating SDGs into local realities, the global landscape for SDGs implementation has generally deteriorated since 2015 (UN 2019, p. 4). This is because conflicts and instability in many parts of the world have undermined the realization of the SDGs and even reversed the progress that it has already made. Direct economic losses from disasters borne by vulnerable developing countries were overlooked too. In this time of COVID-19 pandemic, actions for SDGs by stakeholders are

even more relevant to examine because the crisis is likely to have a profound and negative effect on sustainable development efforts (Watts & Kettunen 2020). A prolonged global economic slowdown will adversely impact the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This entry argues that COVID-19 will impact the SDGs progression globally. Hence, it considers if the SDGs, particularly SDG17, translate into local realities in the time of COVID-19.

Understanding a New Normal

The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way we live. This new virus and disease were unknown before the outbreak began in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. COVID-19 is now a pandemic threatening many countries globally (WHO 2020a, April 17). The World Health Organization (WHO) on 30 January 2020, declared Covid-19 as a public health emergency of international concern. Just in 6 weeks, the situation had become a pandemic due to the fast spread of the cases (UN 2020a, p. 3). As this disease is a new strain of coronavirus, WHO reported that currently there is no medication available and suggested to treat the symptoms based on the patient's clinical condition. People need to learn and adapt to live with COVID-19 by their own lifestyle. But a new normal is not altogether bad. It sets to strengthen the preparedness of health emergencies and enhances the surveillance of the cases (Chavez et al. 2020).

According to the UN report on socioeconomic impact of COVID-19, many countries do not have the resources to prepare themselves for the crisis. The pandemic has plunged the world economy into a recession with consequences of unemployment and deprivation (UN DSDG 2018a). It also risks reversing decades of progress in the fight against poverty and inequality within and between countries. In the education sector, 166 countries have implemented countrywide school and university closures. The response to the virus is also having a differentiated impact on segments of the population such as women, children, older people, persons with disabilities, persons in prisons, and the homeless (UN 2020a, p. 4). In short, this pandemic situation is likely to have a negative

effect on sustainable development efforts. Hence, a global response to the pandemic must include commitments to enhance mechanisms that bind countries in achieving SDGs goals.

Supporting the SDGs Through Partnership

In this pandemic trying time, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) can only be realized with a strong commitment to global partnership and cooperation. Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development,” recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies, and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries (UN 2016, p. 2). Goal 17 aims to encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships. This requires inclusive partnership – at the global, regional, national, and local levels – built upon principles and values, and upon a shared vision and goal.

Successful realization of SDG 17 is vital for attaining the other SDGs, all of which depend on securing means of implementation and forging durable partnerships for sustainable development. It is one of the most comprehensive goals as the means of implementation encompass finance (Targets 17.1–17.5); information and communication technology (Targets 17.6–17.8); capacity-building (Target 17.9), trade (Targets 17.10–17.12) including systematic issues such as policy and institutional coherence (Targets 17.13–17.15); data, monitoring, and accountability (Targets 17.18–17.19); and multi-stakeholder partnerships (Targets 17.16–17.17). SDG 17 contains a broad range of 19 targets and 25 indicators.

Due to COVID-19, strong international partnership is needed now more than ever. This is because the global economy is projected to drop by 3% in 2020 and most developing countries do not have sufficient domestic resources and fiscal space to fund adequate COVID-19 response and recovery measures. Hence, establishing

partnership in the pandemic time must ensure that countries have the means to recover from COVID-19, economic loss, and achieve the SDGs (UN 2020). This is particularly important for Target 17.16 and Target 17.17 whereby multi-stakeholder partnerships are recognized as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technology, and financial resources and to enhance the global partnership and support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly the developing countries. It also calls for the encouragement and promotion of effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships that are needed in responding to COVID-19 pandemic.

The effectiveness of multi-stakeholder partnerships, while dependent on many factors, will increasingly be tied to their ability to manage and share knowledge and expertise about the issues, processes, and solutions that they are promoting. It helps managing complexity; filling governance gaps where governments are unable or unwilling to act; addressing deficits in regulation, participation, and implementation; and regularizing interactions, including placing previously informal interactions on a more formal, perhaps legal, footing (Visseren-Hamakers et al. 2012).

However, partnerships can also be a discursive struggle that reflect power imbalances among actors grappling with different values and principles. Some partnerships may promote sustainable practices, others may not. Popularity of partnerships as a form of governance originates from the disengagement from sustainable development of public authorities who have “franchised” environmental governance to other actors. For example, stakeholders have different levels of power; hence governments must establish the rules governing partnership to ensure that the interests of weaker stakeholders are also taken into account (Saldinger 2014). In this sense, partnerships that include local communities are essential for achieving the SDGs especially during the pandemic time.

In a bigger context, the SDGs online platform in 2016 reported that many partnership efforts to achieve the global goals are facing challenges in implementation. The most common being limited financial resources (32 partnerships), changing participants and beneficiaries' mindsets (18 partnerships), and problems related to human resources, for example, finding the right employees and experiencing a high turnover of participants or partners (UN 2016, p. 4). Further, a review of the progress of SDG17 in 2019 caused a great concern as the partnership progress and implementation has generally deteriorated as stated below.

- Bilateral development partners' respect for country policies declined from 64% in 2016 to 57% in 2018. Some 76% of new development projects and programs aligned their objectives to those defined in the country strategies and/or plans in 2018. However, only around half of result indicators – 52% – for these interventions were drawn from country-owned result frameworks and only 44% of result indicators were monitored using data and statistics from government monitoring systems.
- In 2018, 51 of 114 countries reported overall progress toward strengthening multi-stakeholder partnerships and the means of implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Improvements were reported with regard to the quality and use of public financial management and reporting systems for development cooperation activities and flows channeled through the public sector. There was a need to increase the space for civil society's contribution to sustainable development and for a more inclusive and relevant dialogue between the public and private sectors (UN 2019, p. 23).

The above findings are important to be taken into account when establishing effective partnership in responding to COVID-19. In order to tackle these challenges, the UN proposes advocacy on human-centered, innovative and coordinated stimulus package; dismantling trade

barriers; boosting the economies of developing countries; strengthening international public finance provision; and waiving of sanction to ensure access to food, essential supplies, and access to COVID-19 tests and medical support (UN 2020, pp. 13–15). Partnership efforts should also be monitored and supported accordingly.

Partnership Platforms for Sustainable Development

A number of efforts have been put in place by the UN in order to support the achievement of the SDGs. The partnerships for SDGs online platform (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships>), for example, was developed in 2015 to function as a tool to inform all stakeholders on initiatives carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships in support of the SDGs and linking progress of those initiatives to various follow-up mechanisms of the 2030 Agenda, in particular to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (UN 2016).

The online platform has found its users and interest steadily increasing since its relaunch and as of 2016 a total of 7,349 individual accounts have been created and 2,110 efforts have been published supporting the implementation of all 17 SDGs, many of which are cross cutting across several goals (UN 2016, p. 3). The SDGs online platform also facilitates access to 12 other registries and initiatives that promote sustainable development such as Action Networks. These networks include Sustainable Energy for All (SEforALL), Higher Education Sustainability Initiative, Small Island Developing States Partnership Framework, Every Women Every Child, Sustainable Development Goal Fund (SDG-F), and United Nations Global Impact (UN DSGD 2018a).

Second, partnership data for SDGs (PD4SDGs) launched in 2016 is an initiative that seeks to bring together a range of stakeholders in an open and transparent manner by streamlining information of the work being carried out by multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary initiatives in their support to the SDGs. PD4SDGs has been developed by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN-DESA) and

the UN Global Compact, with support from the UN Office for Partnership in response to United Nations Member States stressing the need to develop ways to improve transparency, accountability, and the sharing experiences of multi-stakeholder partnerships and on the review and monitoring of these partnerships. It aims to bring greater transparency, coherence, impact, and comparability of the work carried out. Meanwhile, Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) is the principal body for coordination, policy review, policy dialogue, and recommendations on economic, social, and environmental issues, as well as for implementation of the internationally agreed development goals (UN 2018b). These supports by the UN aim to monitor the progress of partnership efforts made by its members. The success of the partnership efforts however depend on how the partnership is formulated to achieving SDGs goals and responding to COVID-19 pandemic as a global health crisis.

Strengthening Partnership on Global Health

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected the global health with turbulences that has left the formulation of a solution uncertain. The new normal of life changes call for more aggressive action and proper understanding of partnership and networking in facing this global health crisis indicating that a new way of partnership and networking is needed in combating the pandemic (UN 2020).

The initial ideas of global partnership stemmed from the notion that the world citizen should share global resources in various ways in dealing with the fast decreasing resources worldwide. The global partnership for development, specifically on global health, can be summarized as a partnership between what developing countries need to do to reduce poverty and achieve a range of social development goals, and how richer countries could help to make it happen (UN DESA 2016). For example, in recent development on partnership efforts in addressing COVID-19, 75 countries have submitted expressions of interest to protect their populations and those of other

nations through joining the COVAX Facility, a mechanism designed to guarantee rapid, fair, and equitable access to the pandemic vaccines worldwide. The countries would finance the vaccines and partner with up to 90 lower-income countries that could be supported through voluntary donations to Gavi's COVAX Advance Market Commitment (AMC). Together, this group of up to 165 countries represent more than 60% of the world's population with more than half other the world's G20 economies (WHO 2020c, July 15).

Partnership: Perspectives from Global Health

The SDGs of the 2030 Agenda and their 169 targets are interdependent and interlinked. The successful implementation of the SDGs will rely upon disentangling complex interactions between the goals and their targets (UN 2017). As such, partnership for global health is worth discussed within the interaction of Goal 3 and Goal 17 of the SDGs. Health has a central position in the agenda through SDG 3 and is closely linked to other targets in other goals related to urban health, equal access to treatments and non-communicable diseases including Covid-19. The SDGs represent a unique opportunity to promote public health through an integrated approach to public policies across different sectors (World Bank 2018). For example, better partnership among North–South countries (Target 17.18) would have a great impact on mitigation of Covid-19 (Target 3.1). Thus, the achievement of the health goals will need policy coherence to reinforce synergies between certain SDGs.

Global health partnerships, such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria and the GAVI, The Vaccine Alliance, were established to streamline efforts in the health sector and respond to the challenges posed by the new aid environment. Their goal is to achieve health improvement that no organization could achieve alone (UN DSDG 2018c). As pandemic of Covid-19 is set to become part of our new normal, a global response to the pandemic must include commitments to enhance mechanisms that bind countries in achieving SDGs goals. The success of SDGs is dependent on the ability of states to financially support the policy

transformation, which means relevant financial support should also be taken into consideration in establishing partnership (Frandsen 2020).

Further, a collective solution among the world leaders are important to fighting the pandemic. In the case of COVID-19, the world needs innovation and ingenuity to overcome the pandemic, in which the government will provide goods and services that are better, faster and cheaper to low-resources area that is the developing countries. For instance, in April 2020, the Chinese and Australian researchers managed to make the COVID-19 genome freely available, which will speed the vaccine hunting. This news should be recognized by world leaders for better partnership (Dryhurst et al. 2020).

Global Partnership for Covid-19 Response

Covid-19 Global Partner: Toward Integrated Challenges

This entry argues that the COVID-19 invasion will likely change the timeline and process involved in reaching SDGs' targets. COVID-19 is described as a "wake-up call for collaboration" as countries should coordinate with their policies for the fight against the pandemic. The virus is overwhelming public health system even in many developed countries (Brukner and Mollerus 2020), which recorded caseload of patients and deaths, for example, the United States of America.

In order to make all the SDGs goals a reality will require the participation of everyone, including governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, and people around the world. The fight against COVID-19 is no exception. The major impact of the pandemic on the SDGs' structure is because of its differential effects on communities, especially the vulnerable groups such as women, migrants, refugees, stateless people, and the indigenous tribes. It challenges the SDGs' social-inclusivity sermon of "leaving no one behind" as preached in its Sustainable Development Goals Report of 2016 (UN DESA 2020). The pandemic will also affect the SDGs process of achieving the targets because the 17 Sustainable

Development Goals (SDGs) of the 2030 Agenda, and their 169 targets, are interdependent and interlinked. This perhaps suggests a need to redesign the timeline and methods for these targets to be achieved.

While dealing with challenges of new normal lives it is time to revisit the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) blueprint that targets global development. Especially for SDG 17, global partnership and networking fundamental shift in thinking are urgently required and become a moral and social obligation of world citizen. More collective thought is needed rather than individualistic way of thinking as well as explicitly acknowledging the interconnectedness between foreign cultural practices, a thriving society, and healthy environment NGOs, foundations, and others for their achievement. The aftermath of Covid-19 will spark greater challenges in humanity and sustainable living (WHO 2020b).

In March 2020, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) projected how the COVID-19 pandemic can affect the SDGs. It is also found that the COVID-19 impact will give bigger ramifications on the global mechanism of sustainable development as almost all SDGs will be affected cutting across issues of the economy, society, and the environment. Figure 1 below illustrates some of the expected first- and second-order effects of the pandemic on SDGs implementation (UN DESA 2020).

Sustainable Solutions to Cope with the Impacts of Covid-19

On 31 March 2020, the UN released a report, "Shared responsibility, global solidarity: Responding to the socio-impacts of COVID-19" to call on everyone to act together to address the pandemic impact and lessen the blow to people. The report describes the speed and scale of the outbreak, the severity of cases, and the societal and economic disruption of COVID-19 (UN 2020).

In the report, Fig. 1 was shown to explain how the pandemic has direct impacts on each SDG and interlinked effects among SDGs which may slow



Global Partnership Under a New Normal: Challenges and Response to COVID-19, Fig. 1 Covid-19 affecting all SDGs

down the progression to achieve the goals. For instance, SDG10 Reduced Inequalities is possibly

the most affected SDG due to its close reliance on other SDGs such as SDG4 (Quality Education),

SDG5 (Gender Equality), SDG8 (Decent Work and Economic Growth), and SDG11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities). Covid-19 lockdown causes closure of schools (SDG4), suspension of economic activities (SDG8), especially among women (SDG5), and increase risk health to lower income population (SDG11). All these give second-order effects to SDG10 (UN 2020, pp. 12 and 13). At this time of COVID-19, the UN stresses that only international coordination and cooperation can prevent a worst-case scenario.

The UN call to pandemic action emphasizes partnership for progress because a successful response and recovery requires international cooperation and partnership at all levels. Here, global partnership based on solidarity will be the cornerstone for progress. In particular, global partnership actions for the SDGs are more relevant in terms of aiding accountability and knowledge dissemination. The UN lists four principles as a guide to combat the pandemic: (i) Keeping all people, households, and businesses afloat, (ii) Extraordinary times require extraordinary measures, (iii) Specific measures are needed at different levels, and (iv) A whole-of-society approach (UN DESA 2020 p. 13). This includes implementation of economic policies that meet peoples most immediate basic needs, health and food; protect social cohesion; and maintain political and economic stability. A coordinated regional approach and an integrated approach are needed to enable collective examination of impacts and social measures as well.

Based on these principles the UN suggests the following three approaches in coping with the pandemic impacts:

- (i) Global measures to match the magnitude of the crisis

This is a call for global economic stimulus package to inject massive resources into economies. To be effective, the package needs to focus on direct and targeted transfer of resources to the most vulnerable households. Also, taking measures to boost the economies of developing countries by strengthening international public finance provision and waive sanctions imposed on

countries to ensure access to food, essential supplies, and COVID-19 medical support. This must be the goal of all coordinated fiscal and monetary actions

- (ii) Regional mobilization

The free flow of goods and services within and across all regions is essential. It is also important to engage with private financial sectors to support business and address structural challenges and strengthen normative frameworks to deal with trans-boundary risks.

- (iii) National solidarity

Fiscal stimulus at a large scale is required with targeted measures aimed at aiding individuals hit hardest by COVID-19. Simultaneously, it helps to protect human rights. Efforts to ensure inclusion are needed across the preparedness, response, and recovery process. Direct support to enterprises, particularly to SMEs, is urgent by helping maintain the flow of service. This goes hand in hand with social justice and decent work. Similarly, it is crucial to venture into learning solutions that use multimedia approaches to ensure learning continuity. Also, most importantly preserving and boosting social cohesion through free access to educational and cultural resources to overcome social isolation (UN 2020, p.15).

Partnerships to Accelerate the Global Responses to COVID-19

In call for partnership action to COVID-19 response, the UN addresses three important components for acceleration. Local and national authorities must first be the frontline of the pandemic. Effective dialogue and coordination between local and national authorities are critical in implementing effective measures especially on preparedness and response during pre-outbreak and outbreak with exit strategies and recovery plans. Although the vast majority of national and local governments are currently focusing on pre-outbreak and outbreak planning, the most

successful preparedness and response plans will have exit strategies and recovery plans.

COVID-19 is a public health crisis and the second component addressed by the UN is the need of evidence-based innovation to illuminate the part out of this crisis. Governments and leading research actors should collaborate with the WHO-sponsored solidarity trials, and share data and information in the public interest. The global research community in government, academia, and private sectors has an important role across the social and natural sciences in policy formulation. Major national and international research funders and philanthropic organizations are also encouraged to support the networking of these organizations to generate a reliable global research based at the international level.

Finally, it is of utmost importance to have civil society and community-based organizations to be involved in assisting the vulnerable groups. In many countries, these organizations are the point of reference for individuals and families about COVID-19 as they serve as the main communication conduits about health mandates. They play a vital role at the local level by bringing economic and livelihood opportunities and adapting responses to the community context (UN 2020, p. 20).

Concluding Summary

While readjusting to new normal orders after this pandemic, it is of utmost importance for nations to strive toward the SDGs with a renewed vigor, capitalizing on the fact that this huge challenge in the present times is an immense learning opportunity for the entire human race in the future. Although the pandemic may delay the timeline for the global goals, the SDGs must stand the test of time to see how global partnership in the future can make Agenda 2030 successful.

The discussion assembled in this entry provides reason for cautious optimism on SDG17. With the world citizens now experiencing the most unpredictable life-threat of pandemic COVID-19, it is crucial to create purposive global partnership (SDG17) at all societal sectors and

levels. These drastic life changes call for more aggressive action and proper understanding of partnership and networking to pursue sustainable living. It is worthwhile to take it as an opportunity to strengthen partnership in more meaningful ways so that no countries and citizen, regardless of locality, geopolitical status quo, could be left behind.

New normal of living affect both intranation and internation activities and is shared globally. One great achievement of global partnership during this pandemic is the mutual understanding and agreement worldwide on closing international boarder in an attempt to cut the chain of COVID-19 (EurekaAlert 2020). However, more challenges are alarming and called for more serious dialogue and political acts to allow global partnership being created at all levels. For this venue to be explicitly function, existing data concerning the effect of new normal lives from all societal sectors need to be shared globally to keep the world citizens informed. This will allow all parties locally and internationally to have open access on diverse resources that could help them work together and achieve more solution on certain issues (García-Herrero and Ribakova 2020). For example, in the struggle to find and invent the vaccine for COVID-19, a global partnership integrated with proper understanding on world health system could create greater transformation in various ways. Thus, it will deliver more impact; greater sustainability could be achieved and thereby the value of life could be increased. In fact, all types and form of partnership and networking targeting to achieve sustainability agenda in facing the present situation and the aftermath of COVID-19 would no longer stand on targeting tangible outcomes alone, it should go beyond the intangible and trigger higher assertive levels of survival.

Cross-References

- ▶ [Global Partnership](#)
- ▶ [Inclusive Partnership: A Key to Achieving Sustainable Development](#)

► **Inter-governmental Partnership and Global Governance**

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