

I 05. INVESTING IN CLIMATE-RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS FOR A HEALTHY, GREEN, INCLUSIVE RECOVERY

ACTION AREA	CLIMATE RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS
SOLUTION CLUSTER	INTEGRATED NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL POLICIES AND PLANS
THEMATIC AREA	INVESTING IN CLEAN ENERGY AND GREEN AND INCLUSIVE RECOVERY
SUBMITTED BY	

THE MAIN ACTION TO BE PROPOSED: WHAT IS IT?

A coalition will be formed to promote investments on climate-resilient pathways for a healthy, green and inclusive recovery, in line with the WHO Manifesto on a Healthy Recovery from COVID-19.

Priority actions highlighted by the WHO Manifesto include:

i) Nature Protection; ii) Investing in essential services, from water and sanitation to clean energy; iii) Ensuring healthy energy transition; iv) Promoting healthy diets from sustainable food systems.; v) building healthy, liveable cities; and vi) embedding environmental health benchmarks in *financial recovery packages* (e.g. including investing in low-carbon sectors).

The priority actions within "healthy diets, from sustainable food systems" are based on key resilience elements such as strengthening local production for local consumption aiming to strengthen food system and human resilience. Diseases caused by either lack of access to food, or consumption of unhealthy, high calorie diets, are now the single largest cause of global ill health. They also increase vulnerability to other risks - conditions such as obesity and diabetes are among the *largest risk factors* for illness and death from COVID-19. Agriculture, particularly clearing of land to rear livestock, contributes about *1/4 of global greenhouse gas emissions*, and land use change is the single biggest environmental driver of *new disease outbreaks*. There is a need for a rapid transition to healthy diets from sustainable food systems. If the world were able to meet WHO's dietary guidelines, this would save millions of lives, reduce disease risks, and bring major reductions in global greenhouse gas emissions.

WHO WOULD FUND IT?

The Covid19 recovery financial packages offer an opportunity to invest in climate-resilient development pathways that promote a healthy, green, inclusive recovery (WHO, 2020).

Funding from new coalition members and grant-based donors can be used to scale-up this solution.

Innovative funding : The WHO manifesto's priority actions on divesting from fossil fuels, *calls to stop using taxpayers money to fund pollution*. In this context, fossil fuel subsidies can be redirected towards implementing priority actions of a green recovery.

The economic damage from COVID-19 and the necessary control measures place huge pressure on Government finances. Financial reform will be unavoidable in recovering from COVID-19, and a good

place to start is with fossil fuel subsidies. Globally, about US\$400 billion every year of taxpayers money is spent directly subsidizing the fossil fuels that are driving climate change and causing air pollution. Private and social costs generated by health and other impacts from such pollution are generally not built into the price of fuels and energy. Including the damage to health and the environment that they cause, brings the real value of the subsidy to over US\$5 trillion per year- more than all governments around the world spend on healthcare – and about 2,000 times the budget of WHO. Placing a price on polluting fuels in line with the damage they cause would approximately halve outdoor air pollution deaths, cut greenhouse gas emissions by over a quarter, and raise about 4% of global GDP in revenue.

HOW WOULD IT BE DONE?

A coalition between the WHO, the International Federation of Medical Students' Associations (IFMSA), the Global Climate and Health Alliance (GCCCHA) to support climate resilient development pathways for a green, healthy recovery that includes food systems' resilience.

WHO WILL BE THE BENEFICIARIES?

People living in nations and regions with vulnerable food systems, particularly those in the Global South and Small Island Developing States. 2.5 billion people will be living in regions where climate change will reduce food production by at least 10% by 2050.

IN 2 LINES, DEFINING THE TITLE THAT WILL IDENTIFY THE SOLUTION

Climate-resilient pathways for a healthy, green, inclusive recovery.

WHICH ORGANIZATIONS/COUNTRIES/REGIONAL INSTITUTIONS/NETWORKS IS PROPOSING THE SOLUTION?

WHO, GCCCHA and IFMSA are the world's leading organisations working at the intersection of health and climate change. IFMSA alone represents 1.3 million medical students.

EXISTING ACTION THAT DESERVES TO BE SCALED UP (MASSIVELY), APPROACH OR NEW INNOVATION

Trillions of dollars has been committed by national and regional (e.g. EU) governments to economic recovery from COVID-19. Not enough of this has been directed to a healthy, sustainable, resilient recovery. Using the OECD as an example, only 17% of recovery spending is green, but this percentage can be increased because the majority of funds committed have not yet been spent.

MAIN OUTCOME EXPECTED IF SCALED UP OR IMPLEMENTED AS REQUESTED

The embedding of food system resilience into a global advocacy effort, increasing global priority for climate resilient development, and ultimately billions of dollars of funding directed towards resilience.

HOW THIS SOLUTION IS STRENGTHENING RESILIENCE IN FOOD SYSTEMS?

By leveraging significant funds from COVID-19 recovery packages, a suite of technological and policy solutions directed at food system resilience, including the promotion of social protection, school feeding programs can be scaled up and new solutions developed. By amplifying the momentum of the WHO

Manifesto, its other 'prescriptions', such as adapting and mitigating climate change, will reduce stresses to food systems and increase security.