FROM RECOVERY TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

A HOLISTIC APPROACH TO POLICY COHERENCE IN THE CONTEXT OF THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

KEY BUILDING BLOCKS

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Introduction

- The COVID-19 pandemic is harming health, social and economic well-being worldwide

- The coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic is an unprecedented multidimensional global crisis that demands coherent policy responses.

- Responding to this global crisis and building resilience against future outbreaks requires significantly changing the scale and the way our economies and societies consume and produce.

- It also requires transformative and integrated economic, social and environmental policies to address the underlying causes of vulnerability, including: inequalities; injustice and discrimination; weak governance and institutions; inadequate public services and infrastructure, depletion of natural resources and the degradation of biodiversity and climate

COVID-19 in Sudan

- **Transmission of COVID-19 has been evolving quickly in Sudan and the second wave is hitting vigorously**

- Sudan ranks as one of the top four African countries at highest risk of COVID-19. The weakness of the health system and the population density in cities contribute to the overall ranking

- Sudan has limited capacity to control the transmission and contain COVID-19

- Without immediate interventions, the consequences could be catastrophic
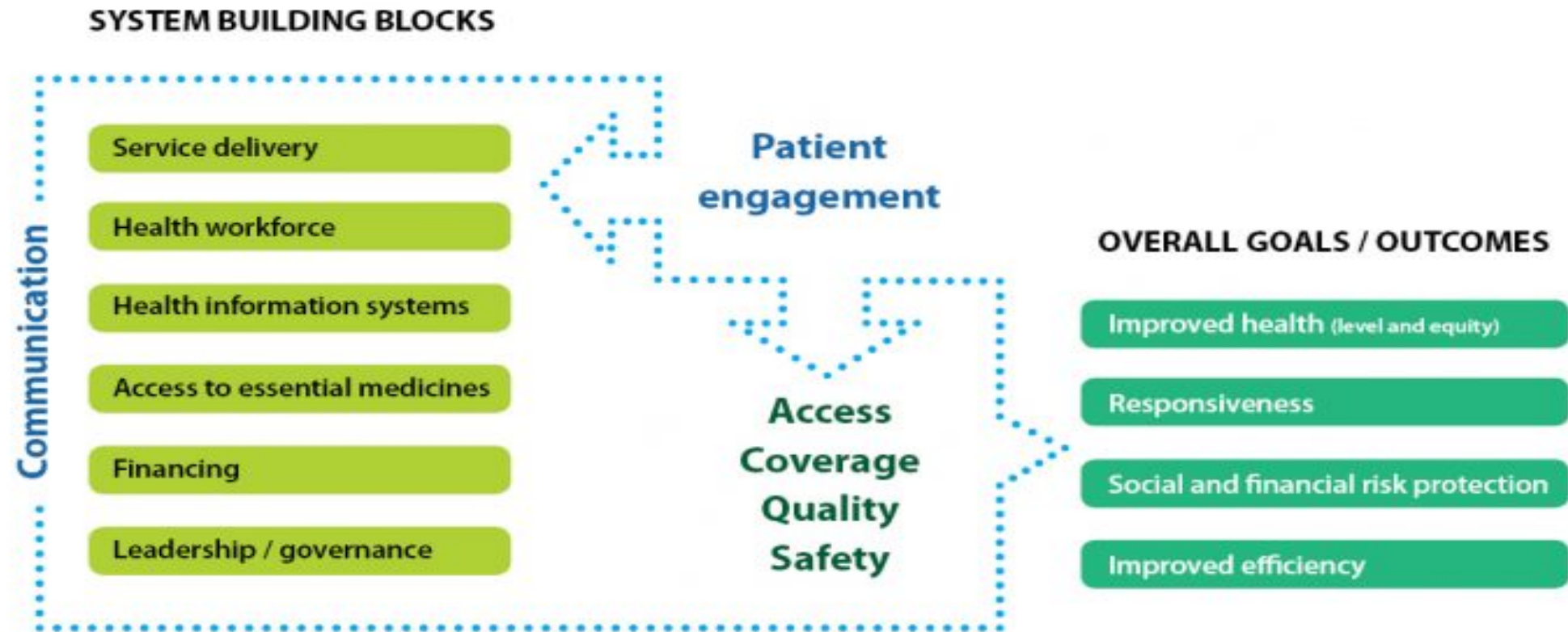
Health System Definitions

- **Health System**

is the organization of people, institutions, and resources that deliver health care services to meet the health needs of target population

- **Core Components**
  - Health service delivery
  - Health workforce
  - Health information systems
  - Access to essential medicines
  - Health systems financing
  - Leadership and governance
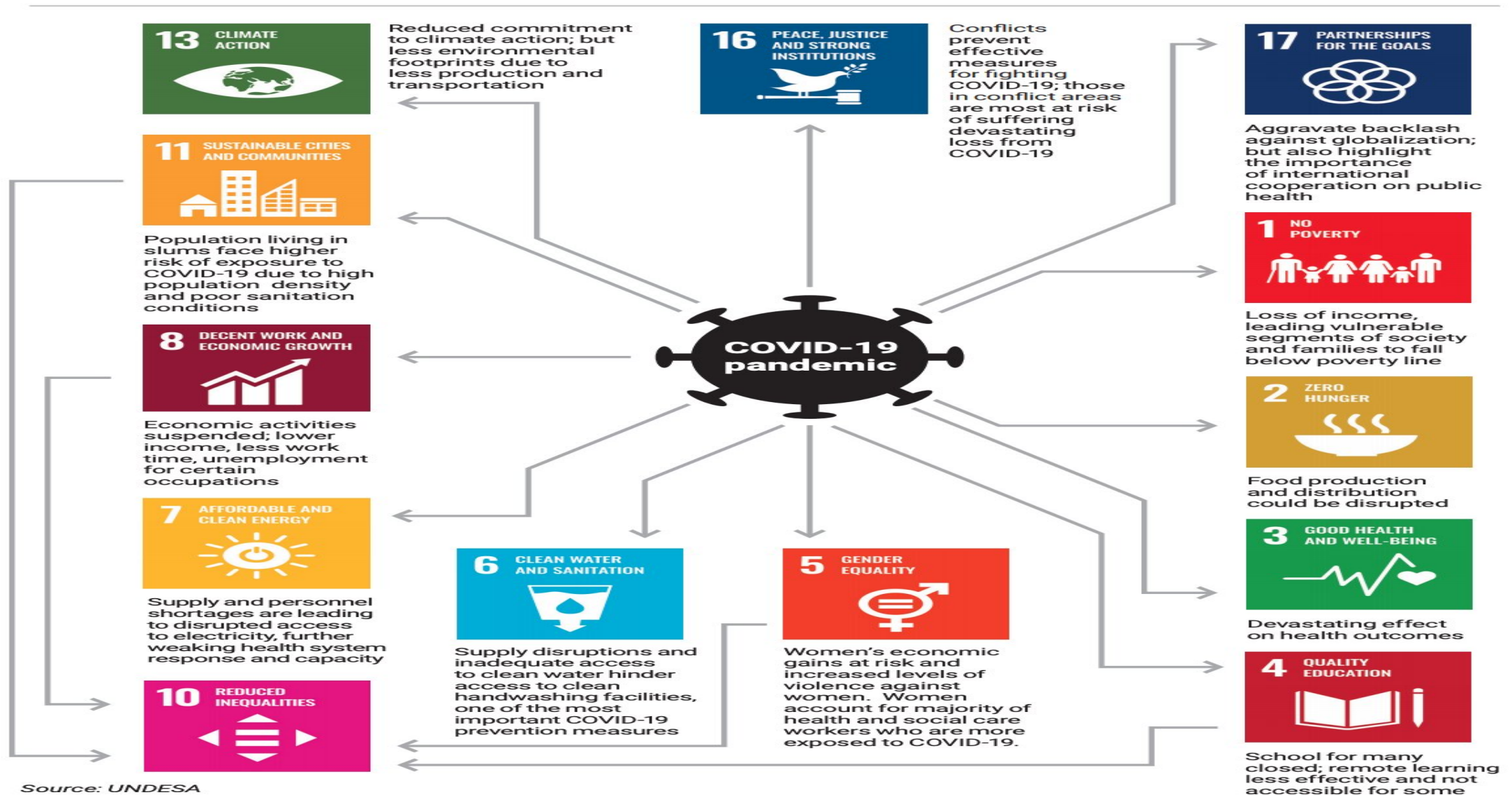
Health System Building Blocks

SDGs and Health System Resilience

- Health system resilience is the capacity of health actors, institutions, and populations to prepare for and effectively respond to crises; maintain core functions when a crisis hits; and, informed by lessons learnt during the crisis, reorganize if conditions require it

- Resilience of health system addresses the absorptive capacity, the adaptive capacity and the transformative capacity

- The SDGs could provide a roadmap for building resilience against future shocks

- SDGs aim to transform systems that undermine well-being and perpetuate vulnerabilities

Public Policies, SDGs and COVID-19 Crises

- The post-crisis recovery responses present an opportunity to more closely align public policies with SDGs.

- There are four main reasons for this:

  - The scale of the COVID-19 shock entails historic levels of public expenditures with more flexible fiscal frameworks
  - The general public is today more aware of the strong impact of our lifestyle on health
  - Societies showed their ability to act in alignment with public health measures, and adapt and change their habits, for instance through social isolation
  - The crisis showed that no individual country is immune to global risks nor can fight them alone

COVID-19 Affecting All SDGs

Source: UNDESA

Conclusions

- **COVID-19 puts the Sustainable Development Goals center stage**

  - The COVID-19 pandemic exemplifies the importance of considering the broad social, political and economic implications of healthcare

  - Health must be seen in the broadest of contexts, with due attention to social structures and infrastructure, working and living conditions and with strategies to counteract climate change, loss of biodiversity and human destruction of wild habitat

  - The SDGs are not up for revision but are more urgent and relevant than ever

Thanks