



Healthy People on a Healthy Planet

FIVE YEARS ON FROM THE SDGs IN THE ERA OF COVID-19

LIVE WEB CONFERENCE

September 24 - 25, 11:00 - 15:00 (GMT+1)

     

CONFERENCE KEY MESSAGES

**Day One - Five Years on from the SDGs:
Challenges and Successes
Morning Panel: September, 24**

KEY MESSAGES

1. Much has been achieved over the last five years in reaching the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). However, there is much more to do in the next 10 years to get close to meeting the goals.
2. COVID-19 has caused significant disruption to progress towards the SDGs.
3. All the SDGs are interconnected, and health (SDG3) impacts on them all. A transdisciplinary and approach is needed to meet the goals and enforce change.
4. Climate change is a key challenge that must be included in any strategy going forward. Like health, it intersects with many other sectors.
5. Nurses and midwives have a central role to play in public health interventions, and to make progress towards achieving the SDGs, such as reducing damage to the climate and lowering maternal mortality.

**Afternoon Panel: September, 24
Five Years on from the SDGs: A Way Forward**

KEY MESSAGES

1. Women are at higher risk for many of the issues highlighted by the SDGs.
2. A decolonialized, domestic, and inclusive approach is needed to achieve the SDGs.

3. Planetary health is public health.
4. In the context of eye health, there is a need to reach out to marginalised groups to improve health outcomes.
5. Do not be silent. Be part of the change, and part of the transformation.

Five Years on from the SDGs: The New Reality for Young Professionals
Evening Panel: September, 24

KEY MESSAGES

1. COVID offers the opportunity for a paradigm shift around how we deal with crises in health, and our response.
2. We all need to be climate activists in our future work!
3. The future of global health work has changed dramatically due to COVID-19. Young professionals will be working in a world increasingly dependent on virtual contact. This is likely to be for some time and will require adaptation.
4. It's important not to ignore the continuing relevance of research that isn't related to COVID-19. This is still required, and other critical global health problems persist.
5. After the first frantic period of COVID-19, we should prepare for resilience and the long haul. This includes addressing the mental health of health workers, and communities affected by COVID-19.

Day Two - COVID-19: Challenges and Successes
Morning Panel: September, 25

KEY MESSAGES

1. Community empowerment can be more effective than health education in improving health outcomes and changing behaviour.
 2. We should be optimistic. COVID will subside, but there are things we can [must] do to make this happen quicker.
 3. COVID-19 is just the latest pressure on a food system already under strain. To feed the world, it's not simply about producing more food, but looking at what we produce and how we produce it.
 4. In the context of HIV, COVID has amplified inequities that already exist, especially for women gender and marginalised groups. There is a need to prioritise their safety and human rights.
 5. Effective pandemic responses include the Speed of the response, taking a collective approach, and strong leadership from nurses.
-

Day Two - COVID-19: A Way Forward
Afternoon Panel: 'Health System Strengthening to Manage the Rise of Non-Communicable Diseases in the COVID-19 Context'

KEY MESSAGES

1. Alongside mental health, one of the biggest long-term effects of COVID will be on non-communicable diseases (NCD).
2. Risk of NCDs are exacerbated by the COVID-19 response, such as depending more on salty or processed food, or lack of activity.
3. The health of migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers has been severely affected by COVID-19, with racism and xenophobia often underpinning punitive measures that increase NCD risk.
4. Marginalised populations, such as those in poverty, sex workers, or people who use drugs face acute problems in accessing health care for NCDs, as well as experiencing other outcomes such as malnutrition. Aiming for universal health care should be a priority.
5. We should avoid the false dichotomy between short- and long-term responses to COVID-19. In contrast to emergency, short-term responses, considering the long-term public health challenges must be a priority. This should include sufficient funding for prevention, health system and public health strengthening, and seeking sustainability.
6. Empowering communities and strengthening community systems to provide psychological and social support, health and medical information, or food can be an effective way to reach the most marginalised people and improve health outcomes.
7. If we fail to prepare, we prepare to fail. We must learn from our mistakes around gaps in the COVID-19 response, especially for people affected by NCDs. We must not repeat them.