

## CHALLENGE IDEATION WORKSHOP PRE-READ

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### Climate Change

How will the Climate crisis intersect with COVID-19 to aggravate existing problems, create new challenges and surface unique opportunities to develop solutions?

Here are some initial problems to consider:

- Climate change may make infectious disease and pandemics worse, or more frequent because changing climate means disease vectors like birds and mosquitos will move into new territory. E.g. we're going to start talking about dengue fever in the USA in our lifetime because the carrier insects are moving north.
- Climate change effects, like extreme weather events, flooding and wildfires will put additional stress on medical facilities as well as global supply chains for disaster relief supplies and funds for government aid.
- The unprecedented government interventions to delay the spread of COVID-19 showed that political leaders CAN push for transformative change when sufficiently motivated. Going back to normal puts us back on a path to unsustainable levels of GHG pollution. How can we develop new economic models to "build back better" to a carbon neutral economy before the status quo resumes?

What are some other problems that will be intensified or exposed by our current crisis - short term and long term?

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### Gender Inequality

As COVID-19 continues to affect lives and livelihoods around the world, we can already see that the pandemic and its economic fallout are having a regressive effect on gender equality.

Here are some initial problems to consider:

- **Job losses/unemployment:** The COVID-19 crisis places an undue financial and labor burden on women and girls:

- Women are [disproportionately affected by job losses](#).
- Even before the pandemic, [globally women and girls carried out on average three times the amount of unpaid care and domestic work of men and boys](#). These responsibilities will only increase with new health and hygiene requirements, such as hand-washing and taking care of sick family members.
- [COVID-19 school closures are requiring women to be teachers on top of their other responsibilities](#), forcing many to choose between raising their children or having a job.
- **Physical Health:** Women face a greater risk than men of contracting COVID-19, however they are more likely to survive.
  - 83% of frontline healthcare workers are women but they are often unable to access PPE. Current PPE is designed for a default male and is not ergonomically designed to fit a woman's face.
- **Safety:** COVID-19 has led to an [increase in domestic violence worldwide](#).

What are some other problems that will be intensified or created by the intersection of COVID-19 and Gender Inequality - short term and long term?

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### **Food and Water Security**

Across the world, policies to control or mitigate COVID19 outbreaks are already affecting global food supply chains, exposing flaws in the industrial food system and aggravating existing food/water scarcity issues.

- [Border restrictions and lockdowns are slowing harvests in some parts of the world, leaving millions of seasonal workers without livelihoods, while also constraining transport of food to markets](#). Meat processing plants and food markets are being forced to close in many locations due to serious COVID-19 outbreaks among workers. Farmers have been burying perishable produce or dumping milk as a result of supply chain disruption and falling consumer demand. As a result, many people in urban centres now struggle to access fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy, meat and fish.

- [Each percentage point drop in global GDP is expected to result in an additional 0.7 million stunted children.](#) These income effects combined with other supply shocks could lead to a rapid increase in the number of people acutely food or nutrition insecure in the coming three to four months. By 2021, 1 in 5 children in the world could be stunted, suffering from severe nutritional deficits.
- Industrialized animal agriculture operations have been the point of origin for several major viruses. Continued reliance on these systems could lead to a subsequent or simultaneous pandemic outbreak.

What are some other problems that will be intensified or exposed by our current crisis - short term and long term?