

Niagara University:
International Organization Students

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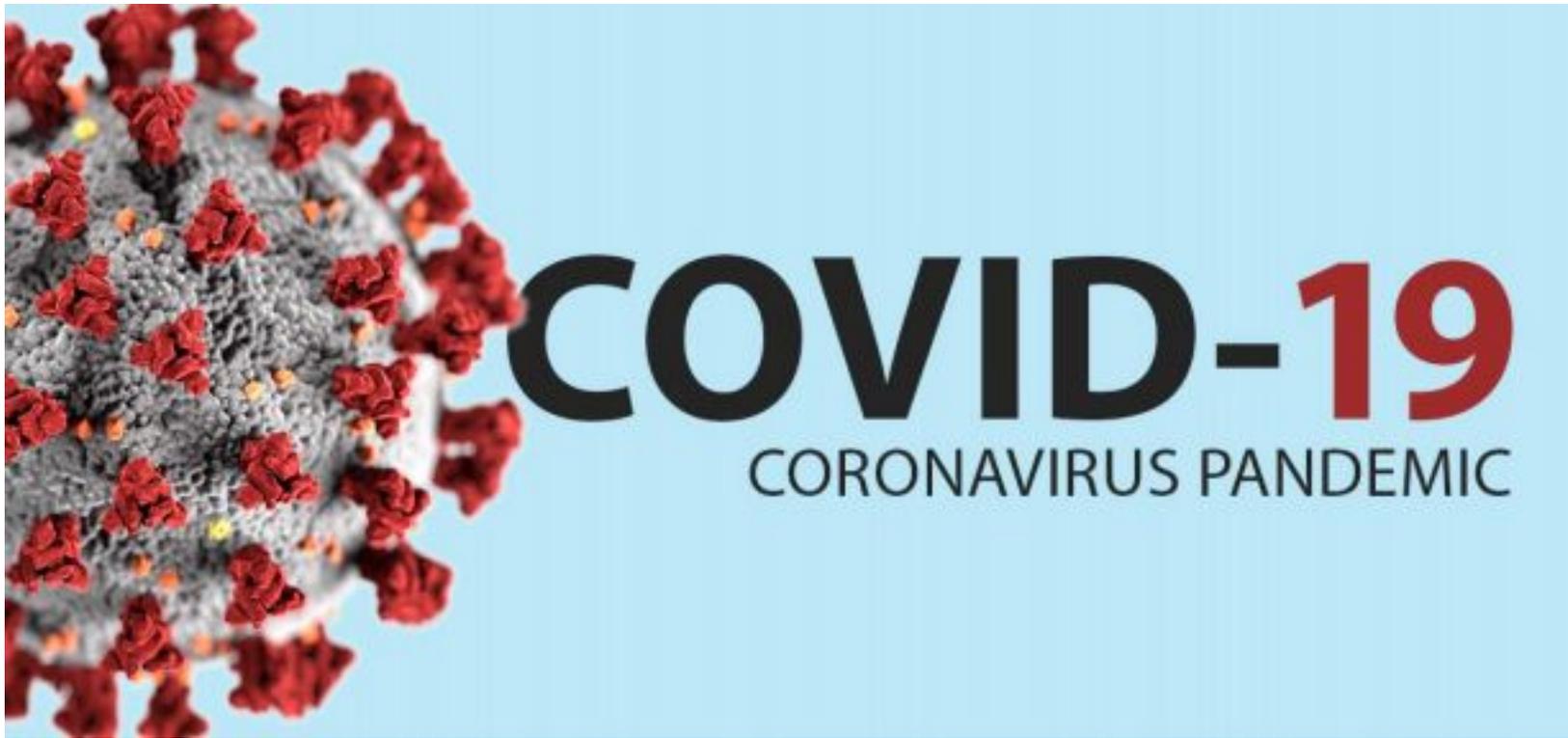
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Introduction

Research Questions



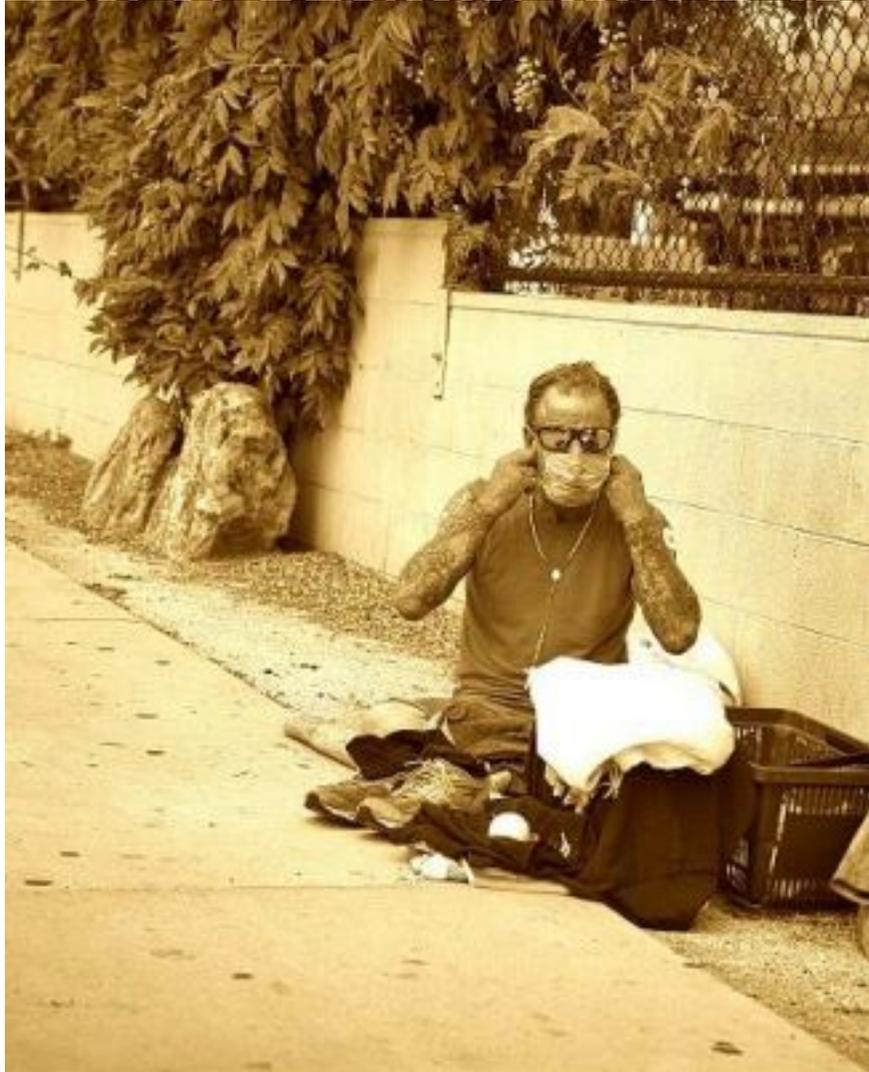
Focus of the Research

homelessness.

- The pandemic undermines the UN's ability to implement its agenda.
- COVID 19 will not be an isolated incident.
 - Recognition by the global community to be prepared for future incidents.
- Within any individual country, the pandemic has the potential to exacerbate the existing conditions and "flaws" that lead to homelessness.
- Homelessness has the potential to become a global catastrophe.
- SDGs are intended to build capacity and resilience, and to mitigate against conditions that would lead to



Base Competing Arguments

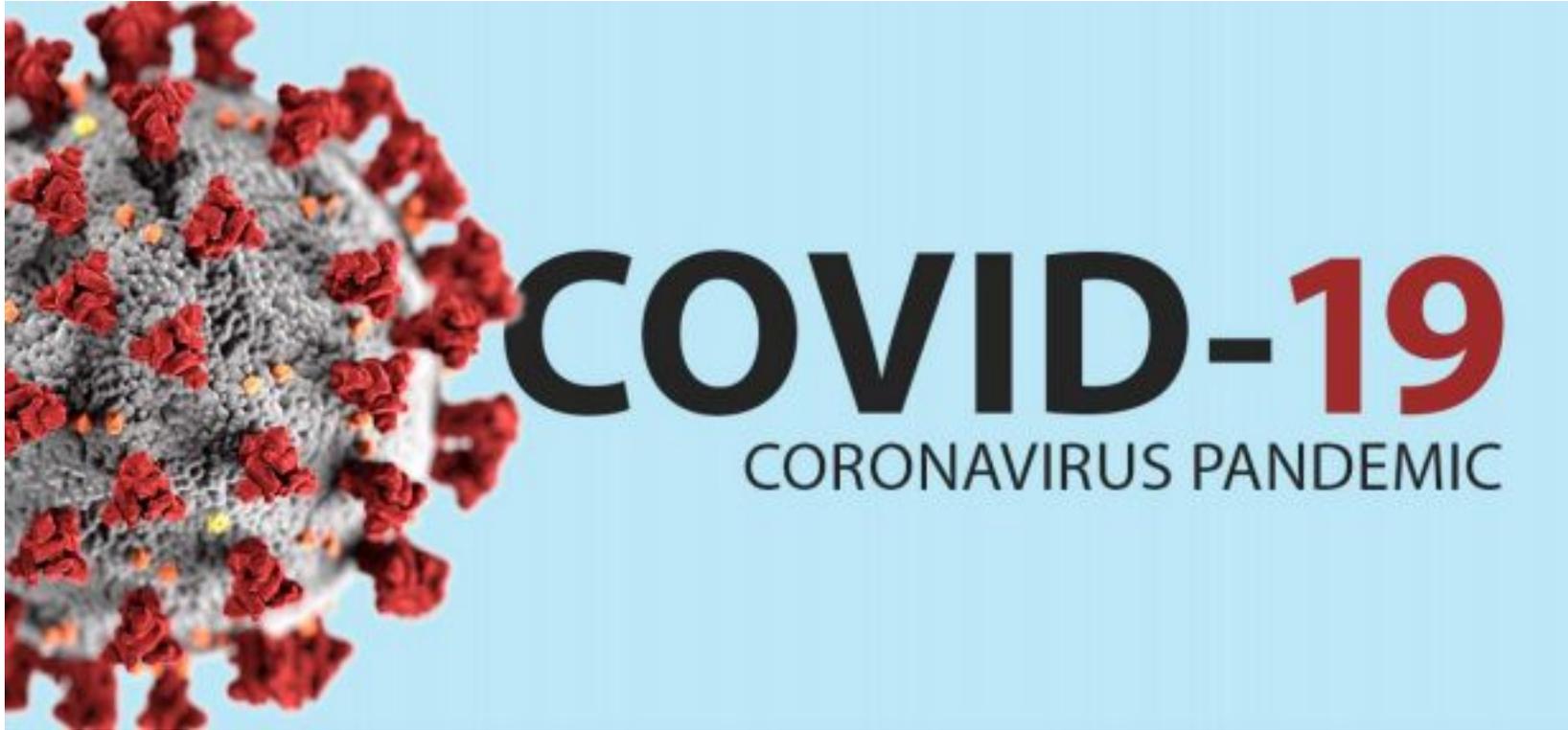


COVID-19 will increase homelessness and exacerbate systematic failures both within and across states.

COVID-19 will allow us to learn from this experience to better prepare and respond for future pandemics.

COVID-19 won't have a meaningful impact on homelessness because the populations that are

homeless or at risk of becoming homeless are not going to be displaced to a greater extent than they already are.



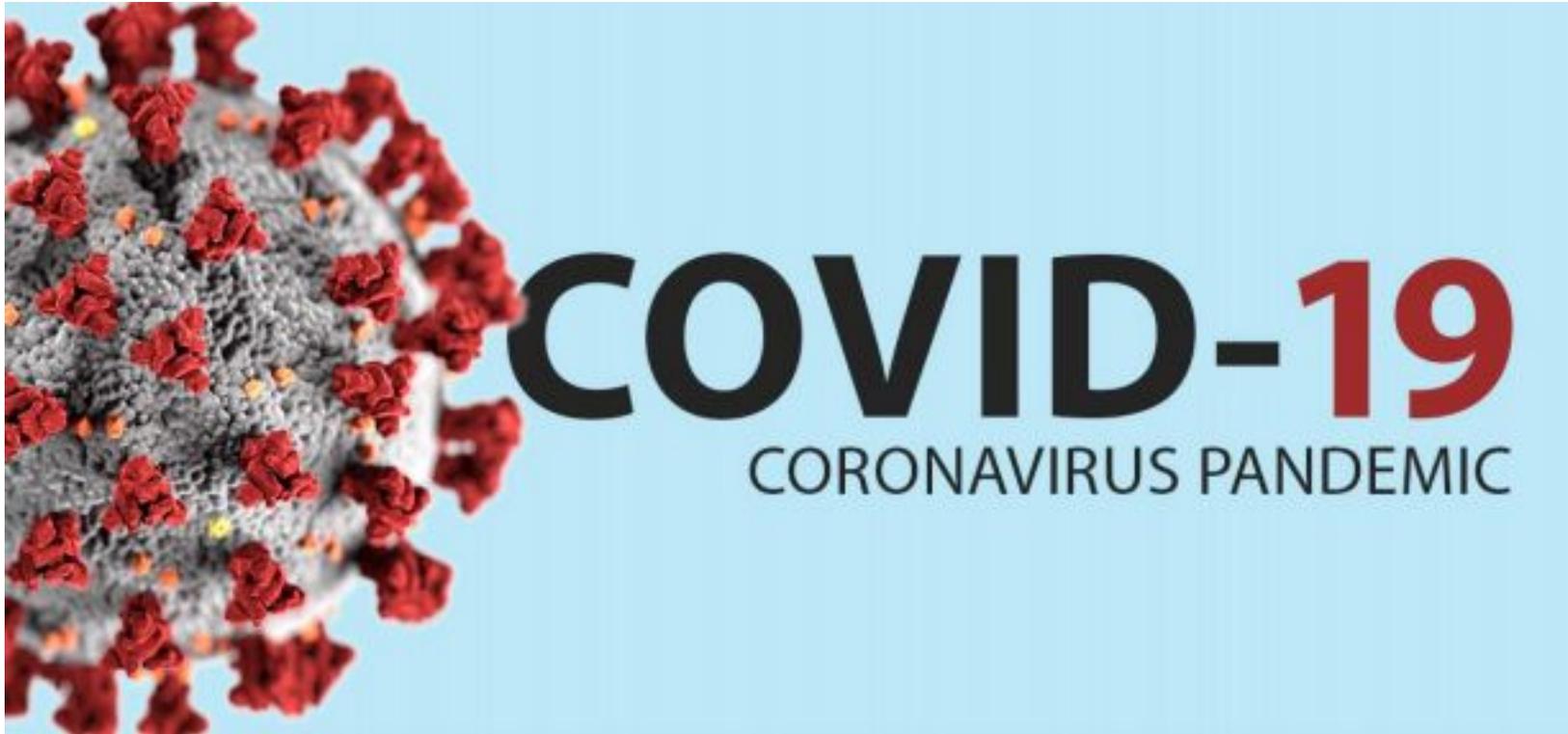
Homelessness and the SDGs Pre

COVID



Homelessness and the SDGs

- Homelessness focuses on the following UN SDGs:
 - SDG 1- No Poverty (1.4.1, 1.5.1,)
 - SDG 8- Good Jobs & Economic Growth (8.5.2)
 - SDG 10- Reduced Inequalities (10.2.1, 10.3.1, 10.4.1)
 - SDG 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities (11.1.1)



Preconditions for Homelessness

Pre-COVID

Preconditions for Homelessness



Natural Disasters

A serious disruption of the



functioning of a community or a society at any scale due to naturally occurring



events.

Gender Inequality



The lack of equal rights, responsibilities, and

opportunities of men and women, boys and girls (UN Women).

Migration

A large population of people who are moving or have moved across an international border or within a State away from

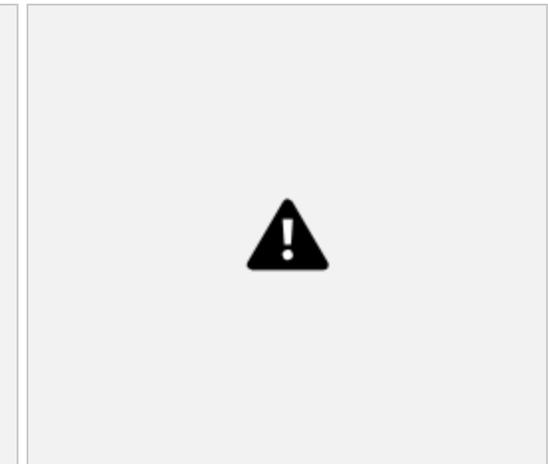
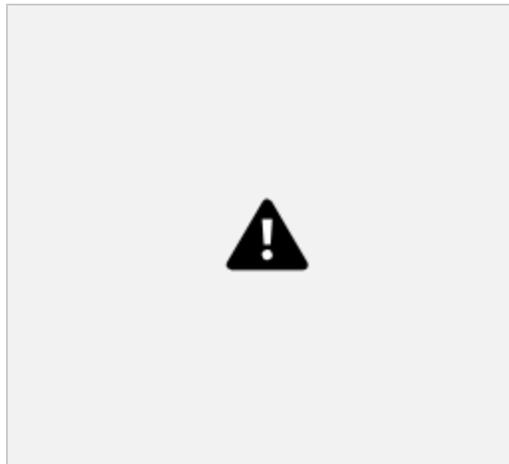
his/her habitual place of residence (UN IOM).

Affordable Housing

Yearly housing costs

exceed 30% of a nation's median household income.

Preconditions for Homelessness



Population Density

Number of people per square kilometer.*

Overall Poverty

Living below the international poverty line of 1.90 USD per day.

Economic Shocks

Events that impact the

economy which originate from the outside. They are unexpected and unpredictable (NASDAQ).

Government Intervention

A. The government does not

have adequate policies to mitigate homelessness.

B. The government does not provide appropriate measures in the wake of COVID (PPE, housing, stimulus, etc.).

Regional Breakdowns

- North America
 - Canada, United States, Mexico
- Central America & the Caribbean
 - All nations in Central America from Guatemala to Panama, and the Caribbean including the U.S. territories within the Caribbean Islands
- South America
 - All South American Nations from Columbia to Argentina
- Western Europe
 - The Nordic nations and all nations West of including: Germany, Austria, and Italy
- Eastern Europe
 - All nations East of and including Poland, Czech, Slovakia, Hungary and Croatia. Excluding Turkey and including Russia
- Northern & Sub-Saharan Africa
 - All nations north of not including Tanzania and Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Southern Africa

- All nations south of including Tanzania and Democratic Republic of the Congo
- Middle East
 - The African nations of Libya, Egypt and Sudan; Turkey; Persian Gulf states; Iran, and Afghanistan
- South and East Asia
 - All Asian nations excluding those in the Middle East, Russia, and the Pacific Island nations (Pacific islands does not include Japan and Hong Kong)
 - Pacific Islands
 - Melanesia, Micronesia, and Polynesia
- Australia
 - Australia and New Zealand

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Analysis of Pre-COVID Chart

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How Has COVID Affected Homelessness?

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Changing Trends Post-COVID

- Eastern Europe became one of the most vulnerable regions as a result of the pandemic
- Regions that decreased in their weighted vulnerability are South Africa

America and South

1. South & East Asia, South America, Sub Saharan Africa
2. Eastern Europe, South Africa, the Middle East

Most Vulnerable Regions

Pre-COVID Post-COVID

1. Eastern Europe, South & East Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa
2. South America, the Middle East
3. The Pacific Islands, Australia,

globally by every

Pre-COVID Post-COVID

Migration Economic Shocks

Government Intervention High Population Density

Economic Shocks

Migration, Overall Poverty, Affordable Housing

Overall Poverty

High Population Density Gender Inequality

Most Prevalent Preconditions

3. Western Europe, the Pacific Islands Western Europe
4. Central America & the Caribbean 4. Central America & the Caribbean, South Africa 5.
6. North America 5. North America

• Economic shocks have been felt

region

- High population density became an important pre-condition for homelessness during COVID: 1. Due to the difficulty of social distancing and lack of

PPE

2. In densely populated areas (including refugee camps, cities, slums, etc.) the overall effects of the pandemic are exacerbated

Current Regional Information (Americas)

- North America
 - Unemployment is the driving factor of homelessness
 - The virus has accentuated homelessness in North America mainly by causing governments to force businesses to shut down, run on lower capacity/staff, and/or lay off workers.
- Central America & the Caribbean
 - Natural disasters have a major impact on homelessness in Central America and the Caribbean. Natural disasters are often unpredictable and very expensive as it often causes major damages to housing. The lack of housing has caused COVID-19 to run rampant in Central America and the Caribbean as individuals are left without a home due to them not being able to afford one or it being destroyed due to a natural disaster.
- South America
 - The key to attacking the homelessness issue in South America is to raise awareness of the hardships endured by the homeless/poor population through social platforms. Governing bodies of large countries such as Brazil should then feel obligated to reallocate its resources to create legitimate working solutions to the issue, especially during a global pandemic.
 - The remaining South American countries should follow suit with the action of building COVID-19 shelters for the homeless as seen in Sao Paulo, Brazil and learn to continue such projects after the pandemic.

Current Regional Information (Europe & Africa)

- Western Europe
 - COVID-19 has disrupted the already recovering European economy from 2008. The economic shocks caused by COVID has drastically increased the unemployment rate in numerous European countries.
- Eastern Europe
 - Overall, the biggest impact the coronavirus had on homelessness in Eastern Europe is the migration issue. People were moving through many Eastern European countries to other countries where they had a situation set up to deal with migrants. However, the coronavirus led to the closure of many borders, and therefore, people became homeless in the country.
- Sub-Saharan Africa
 - Sub Saharan Africa is one of the most impoverished and vulnerable regions in the world, its susceptibility to the issues in all identified categories has only worked to worsen homelessness crisis during the pandemic. What Was identified as the biggest problem was the lack of economic power, they are heavily reliant on outside investment.
- South Africa
 - The pandemic increased the homelessness rate in the South African region, even though migration was essentially halted. • One of the long-term trends that will affect homelessness in South Africa after the pandemic is migration. The government officials and

several countries have used the pandemic to push their agendas in preventing immigration, claiming it would spike the amount of cases. This inevitably will have drastic changes on the makeup of a nation for years to come. Another trend is how governments created tent cities for the homeless, attempting to give them shelter and nutrition during the pandemic, at the same time getting them off the streets to avoid contact with other citizens.

Current Regional Information (Asia & Australia)

- Middle East
 - Homelessness in the Middle East will not be resolved fully until all preconditions are reformed. Strategies such as refugee camps and a chance for migration give those in the Middle East an opportunity for peace and stability, however this does not allow families and individuals to reside to their previous way of life. The detriments of COVID-19 has made homelessness a larger issue and will continue if not addressed.
 - Solutions for homelessness are linked to refugee status and relocation
- South & East Asia
 - The emergence of COVID-19 has added to the realized and historical risks that prevail in the Asia-Pacific region with frequently occurring natural hazards
 - In order to effectively combat homelessness in Asia, countries will have to invest more in the measures appropriate to their own circumstances in addition to working more closely together to unlock the potential of regional cooperation.
- Pacific Islands
 - Pre-COVID, the Pacific Island region was making strides towards reducing overall poverty, and subsequently, homelessness. In the wake of the pandemic, the Pacific Islands have seen an exacerbation of gender inequalities that contribute to women's

homelessness and an enormous increase in poverty levels that can be expected to increase homelessness in the region.

- Australia

- Homelessness before COVID was largely concentrated in epicenters around major cities, especially with high migrant populations settling in urban areas. Post-COVID homelessness in this region will disproportionately affect women and those who were previously displaced as a result of natural disasters and migration.

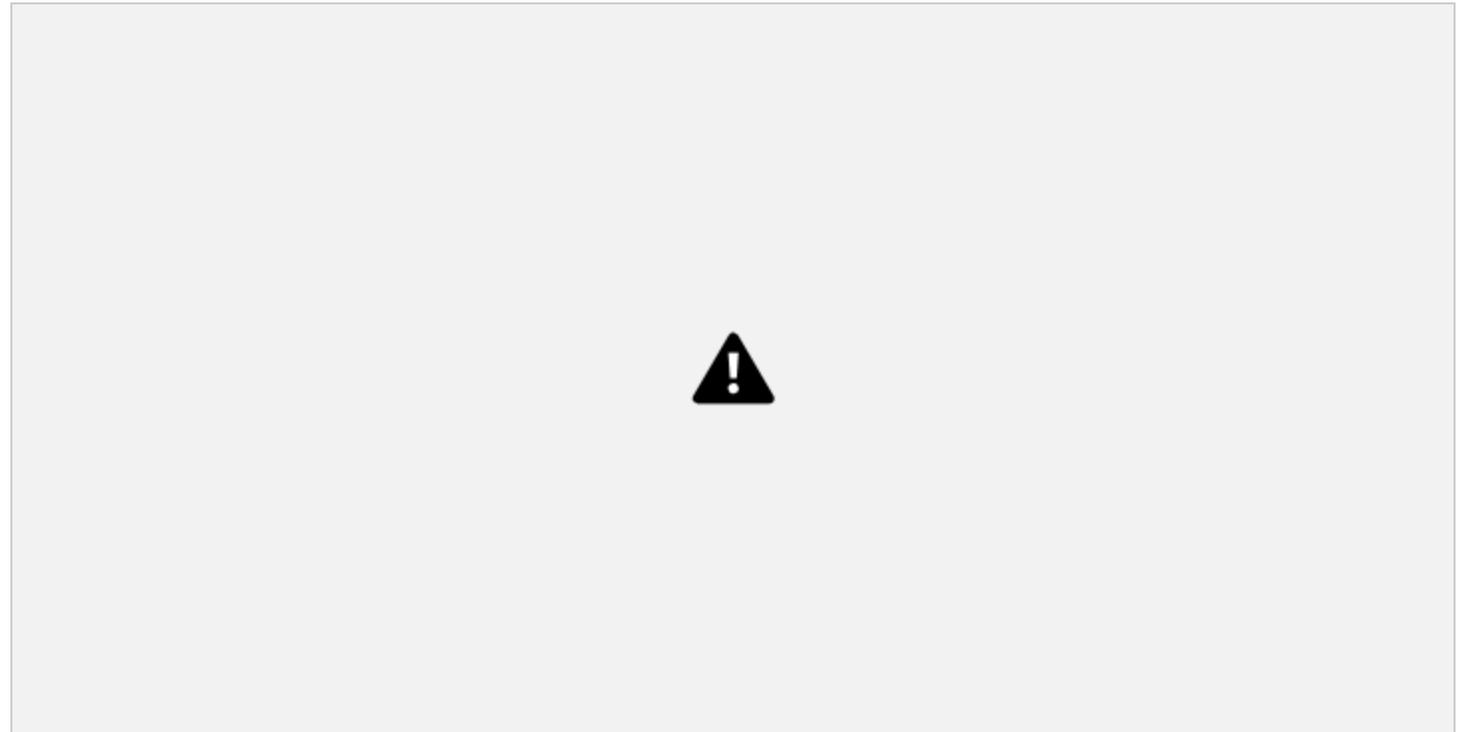


How Has COVID Changed the SDGs?

COVID & the SDGs

The introduction of COVID-19 will call upon the SDGs to include:

- SDG 3
- Recognize that fighting a pandemic requires adequate health care for all
- SDG 8
- Recognize the need for single-export nations to diversify their economy to better withstand economic downturns
- SDG 10
- Recognize that minority groups will be



disproportionally affected

- SDG 11
- Recognize the need for cities to have available multi-functional housing for people who have

been displaced due to disasters

- Future infrastructure projects should be built with consideration for potential health crises

- SDGs 9 & 11



Short-Term & Long-Term Impacts of COVID on Homelessness and the SDGs

Short-Term Impacts

- Expect winter to exacerbate the shortcomings of existing social protection programs
 - Recognize the need for more temporary housing accommodations to keep social distance (hotels, dorms)
 - Recognize the need to change the layout of homeless shelters to accommodate social distancing measures
- Expect an increase in COVID cases in refugee camps, and slums due to the density of people and lack of PPE & social distancing
- Recognize that homelessness will disproportionately affect already vulnerable minority groups
 - (Women, people of color, LGBTQ+ youth, survivors of family/domestic violence, young adults aging out of foster care, and people getting out of jail/long-term care facilities)
- Evictions
 - Once eviction ban is up, thousands of people will become homeless, which has the potential to spread coronavirus due to the lack of sanitation and protection services around the world.



Long-Term Impacts



- Special attention to North Africa, the Middle East, and essential crossings into Europe.
- Expect increased EU border restrictions post COVID
- A general pattern of nations restricting migration and immigration globally
- States are using COVID to push political agendas • Evictions will lead to a cycle of poverty
- Many people will not recover or will take a long time to recover from eviction due to the difficulty of keeping, or finding, a job while homeless. It is often necessary to have a permanent address in order to have a job, and if a person has no permanent address, they will have difficulty finding employment and therefore getting enough money to once again have a permanent address.
- Nations who rely on tourism will be disproportionately affected
- 197.5 million jobs could be at risk if coronavirus related

travel restrictions and quarantines remain in place according to the World Travel & Tourism Council.

- International tourism could fall 60%-80% in 2020

Conclusions

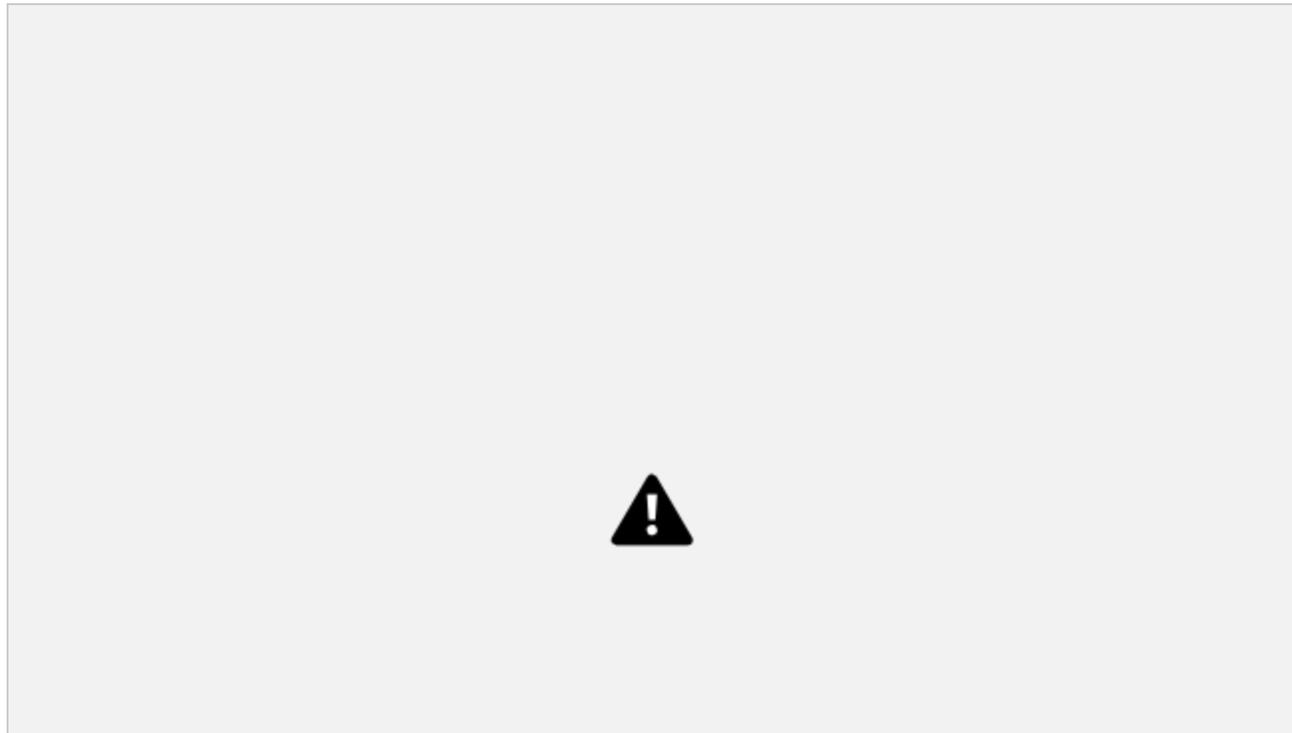
from this experience to
better prepare and respond
for future pandemics.

- COVID-19 will increase homelessness and exacerbate systematic failures both within and across states.
- If we analyze impacts and develop effective mitigation strategies based on systematic research, COVID 19 will allow us to learn



Successful Strategies for Limiting Homelessness

- Governments have been repurposing unused buildings
 - Governments in the South African region constructed these in sports stadiums or blocked off areas to help those who were living on the streets.
- Finland is the first country to adopt a national housing first initiative
 - Homes are given without condition and do not require people to solve their



issues before

receiving housing

- Housing is viewed as a human right and political consensus has been built in acknowledging that solving homelessness requires the cooperation of all
- The cost of housing a homeless person saves on average 15,000 Euros per person
- Offer humanitarian aid and promote political dialogue
 - Especially important in developing countries where existing institutions are weak

Recommendations For the UN

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