



Wilton Park



Report

## **Healthy societies and healthy populations**

Wednesday 30 June 2021 | WP1948V5

In partnership with:



**Government Offices of Sweden**



**Alliance**  
for Health Policy  
and Systems Research



## Report

# Healthy societies and healthy populations

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In [February 2020](#), Wilton Park and partners held a dialogue to explore the social, economic and environmental determinants of healthy societies, the promotion of cross-sectoral approaches for better health and the prioritization of health in other sectoral policies and settings.

Immediately after this, the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted and exacerbated existing inequalities within and between countries and regions, while also drawing attention to the interconnectedness between health, climate, environment, biodiversity and the necessity of 'one health' and 'whole of society' responses. The world now finds itself at a crossroads. As we respond to the pandemic there is a risk the global community will narrow its focus to pandemic preparedness, with only a transitory period of a broader view of health and well-being. How we choose to respond from global to local levels, and from elites to remote communities, will result in very different futures for us all. There is a unique opportunity right now to transform our approach to healthy societies and healthy populations, including how we progress towards achieving the SDGs and the World Health Organization's 'triple billion goals', specifically a further billion people enjoying better health and well-being.

In partnership with the Government of Sweden and the Alliance for Health Policy and Systems Research (WHO), Wilton Park held a follow-up series to the first meeting to explore how we can deliver healthy societies and healthy populations. The first of these dialogues was held in [April 2021](#), followed by several regional discussions with African, Latin American and Caribbean, Asia-Pacific and European and North American participants, exploring how to develop collective visions and narratives around healthy societies. The aim was to create space for voices from different regions, disciplines, and levels, promoting a circulation of ideas and the exchange of knowledge.

A further meeting took place on 30 June 2021, building on prior discussions to explore the actions needed to achieve healthy futures through multi-sectoral approaches to sustainable health and well-being. This is the report from that meeting.

## Introduction

This dialogue on 'Healthy societies and healthy populations' focused on the actions needed to ensure healthy societies are at the centre of efforts to build more equitable greener economies. How we conceptualise healthy societies shapes the approaches we take to achieve them. In this dialogue, multi-sectoral stakeholders across academia, government and civil society considered how collective action and policy priorities helps achieve a world where all people live in a healthy environment with equitable standards of living and livelihoods.

## Summary points

1. To date, much discussion has focused on what needs to change to build healthier societies. It is now time to focus on how to take action to stimulate these changes.
2. A review of 35 previous frameworks relating to healthy societies spanning at least four decades showed that while discourses may differ, there are many shared concepts around planetary and indigenous health; social, commercial and ecological determinants of health; intersectional action for health; and health promotion and population health.
3. Learning from frameworks outside health and public health is also important, as well as learning from other movements and legal and constitutional frameworks which have accelerated or held us back in relation to the right to health.
4. An 'actionable' framework is crucial; we must be clear about what actions are needed and combine this with a process of shared ownership and joint accountability.
5. A critical and multifaceted perspective is needed, so that we do not overlook pervasive but invisible aspects. Recognising and accounting for the importance of local context and cultural specificity is also critical.
6. We need to go beyond frameworks and explore how to activate this agenda, which is about creating demand where people understand and articulate what they need to fix the problems that lead to unhealthy societies, backed up and supported by social mobilisation.
7. Common areas of action include: capitalizing on the window of opportunity that COVID-19 presents; focusing on the local, starting with people and communities; and clarifying what the role of the global community is within the agenda; building an inclusive narrative around healthy societies; creating demand from the bottom up; advocating and communicating to improve health literacy so that people can articulate and define healthy societies for themselves; removing silos and creating multi-sector and multi-stakeholder platforms for dialogue and action, including visionary leaders; promoting evidence-informed transformative policy and a supportive regulatory environment.

## Reflections from the series so far

8. The discussions across the dialogues held to date have led to a wide range of ideas and views on what is needed to create healthier societies and populations. Through these discussions several themes emerged:
  - Developing new paradigms and narratives for healthy societies for healthy populations
  - Multi-sectoral and inter-sectoral collaboration
  - Engaging with the climate and healthy planet agenda
  - Focusing on equity, rights and gender
  - Engaging youth and social movements

- Engaging the private sector
- Strengthening governance and accountability
- Research and data gathering

9. Much of the discussion across the series has centred around what needs to change. We now need greater focus on how we can make those changes happen. The goal of this meeting was concentrated on how different actors can take action and what this group can do collectively to initiate some of this work.

### Frameworks and advancing the agenda

10. A scoping review and analysis of 35 frameworks that relate to healthy societies created over at least four decades around the world, has helped to see the breadth of issues explored and the conceptualization of healthy societies to date. The analysis included consideration of the content and emphasis of the frameworks and the context of who frames the frameworks and what agendas inform them. Mainly the frameworks were developed through global north and west lenses, but some contained broader perspectives, such as from indigenous groups.

11. While there are distinct discourses among the frameworks, there are also shared concepts including planetary and indigenous health; social, commercial and ecological determinants of health; intersectional action for health; and health promotion and population health.

12. Frameworks are important and useful as they help us discern the structures and systems of determinants in order to orientate thinking and action. However, they can also obscure, depending on what concepts and language they apply, and which communities are engaged in their production and re-production, which is influenced by power and participation. How do we integrate and give voice to those who are not usually heard within frameworks, especially those with very different world views and beliefs?

13. A key question for participants was how do frameworks help us to move from theory to action to impact? An actionable framework is crucial, and we need to be clear about the actions needed for what purpose. To do this, it is also important to analyse what has shaped the discourse, what has been cast aside, as well as what has gained traction and why. How can we debate these existing frameworks and test the assumptions we make, and identify how we build action that has positive impact?

14. Frameworks are useful mainly to the extent that they orient action. Action depends very much on context and agency and therefore ideology, politics, institutions, resources, culture are central. It might be useful to study framework processes that led to change. More emphasis on ideology, politics and political economy is necessary.

15. Participants offered suggestions of how to keep frameworks for healthy society relevant. Frameworks need to bring in a process of shared ownership and joint accountability so they are coherent of policy and actions, to avoid actors working at cross-purposes.

16. We need to bring a more critical perspective and have a transformative policy approach. The most well-intentioned implementation of policies and laws do not tackle some fundamental obstacles which can be so pervasive as to be invisible. For example, capitalism tends to remain invisible, or the accepted norm. How do we refocus our attention on what we are currently not seeing, or ignoring?

“We are often comfortable discussing ever more nuanced frameworks in global health. Can new frameworks be a conduit to action?”

“It is a big burden on all of us to create ‘systems for health’ not ‘health systems’.”

“We cannot underscore how important it is to have human rights, standards, principles and proprieties embedded in what we do.”

“Maybe what we need now is not another framework but a better coalition to break vertical silos.”

17. Can we learn from frameworks outside of public health that can capture and engage the public more widely? The social determinants of health discourse lacks a formal critique of capitalism. This is the dominant political and economic system we operate under and by which society is organized, and in its present form is arguably the root cause of the challenges we are facing today. Today, this type of critique is gaining more traction globally to explain why our societies are generating social and ecological harms.
18. Human rights frameworks can also help advance this work. How can we apply lessons from other movements legal and constitutional frameworks which have accelerated or held us back in relation to the right to health. For example, the HIV-response was built also outside the health sector, which begs the question what can be learnt from such examples?
19. Ensuring the cultural specificity and local contexts of frameworks is crucial, so that all states, no matter what size and cultures can engage, including for example, small island states.
20. It is not just a theoretical or academic framework that is needed to guide action healthy societies. What is needed is a well-defined ‘demand’ that people can understand and which enables them to articulate what they require to fix these glaring problems. To create change this needs to be supported by social mobilisation. This will require local, bottom-up approaches; the global community can and should support such efforts.

### **Areas of action to advance the healthy societies agenda**

21. Under the umbrella of four themes (leadership; multisectoral action; political economy; and research), participants discussed in small groups what is needed to move the healthy societies agenda forward. The groups explored: drivers, entry points and platforms for action, and how we leverage these; barriers to action, knowledge gaps and research priorities; and priority actions for this group and how best to advance these over the next five months ahead of the final series dialogue.

We have provided narrative summary of the group discussion, and the detailed points made are provided in the Annex.

### **Theme 1: Supporting and enabling healthy society leaders**

#### **Discussion points**

22. This theme focused on the importance of engaging and supporting individuals, organisations and constituencies to build and grow movements for healthy societies, including how to support existing networks and communities of practice.
23. Participants emphasised the importance of motivating and enabling leaders and finding entry points which are relevant to different groups. Models that emphasise the interconnectedness of health and other sectors, such as the determinates of health model, provides a framework to aid this approach. Leaders need to be engaged and enabled at all levels, and across different constituencies. Building and supporting the necessary platforms that overcome the siloed ways of working will be key to success.
24. A compelling narrative is needed for the health societies agenda. This must expand beyond the bio-medicalised vision of health to resonate with a wide range of groups and actors who can adopted it and use it to drive action.

25. Of critical importance is a theory of change for the healthy societies' agenda. A deep understanding of and appreciation for the dynamics and values linked to politics, culture, and traditions and their important to driving change is needed. An understanding of the networks and alliances needed to deliver change is also key. Understanding the gap between policy and practise, articulating what is needed to gain political buy-in and expanding beyond the health sector will be essential for success.

#### **Key actions**

26. **Develop a compelling narrative and vision.** Develop a compelling narrative that speaks to as wide an audience as possible and that can spur action. In developing the narrative engage broadly with different communities and groups recognising the importance of local context—including values and knowledge— and to understand what healthy society means to different people.
27. **Engage the frontline workforce.** Engage the healthcare and frontline workforce as powerful advocates for the healthy societies' agenda.
28. **Develop the political case.** COVID-19 has placed public health at the top of the political agenda. There is a small window of opportunity to make healthy societies a political imperative and to institute lasting change. To do this will require a compelling political case for investment and action on healthy societies, this should highlight the positive impacts of pursuing healthy societies and the co-benefits with other agenda, including climate.

### **Theme 2: Promoting multi-sectoral action across healthy society mission areas**

#### **Key emerging themes**

29. This theme focused on the imperative of multi-sectoral action to achieve healthy societies, especially the co-benefits of addressing health and climate and the importance of food systems and urban planning as mission areas for achieving this.
30. Healthy societies has major overlaps with other agendas, from climate and environment to food systems, urban planning, housing, and education. To link all these areas together, conversations need to move beyond services and infrastructure to focus on people's lives and how they live within and engage with the world around them. Engaging and communicating with those working on other agendas and highlighting the linkages and mutual benefits can help to bring closer collaboration. This requires active advocacy to shape the political sphere and drive action. There are linkages across networks, such as Mayors, that can help to share of knowledge and ideas about how real multi-sectoral action works in practise.
31. Engaging at a local level to understand what people need for their wellbeing is crucial; tools such as strategic health impact assessments can help to guide action based on community needs. Area based approaches which allow different constituencies to bring their own perspectives to a common agenda can be a powerful model for change.
32. For multi-sectoral action to be successful, it must overcome bureaucracy and traditional siloed ways of working. Overcoming the status quo is a challenging process, but one that can be addressed through leveraging the experiences of others who have successfully implemented such approaches. Engaging with people, especially youths, and allowing them to define what healthy societies means, will automatically frame the solutions as being multi-sectoral. Appropriate governance and accountability mechanisms will be needed to support such approaches.

“We want health as an outcome or impact but perhaps we need to ride the wave of whatever will get us there and democratise language about it.”

### Key actions

33. **Explore the network of networks.** To succeed the healthy societies agenda needs to be embedded within and co-owned by those outside the health sector. Mapping the networks that exist in different areas, from climate and the environment to food systems and urban planning will help to identify where the healthy societies agenda needs to be taken up and who is best placed to do this. Consideration should also be given to the benefits of establishing a network of networks that can promote sharing of information and coordinate collective action.
34. **Compile stories of success.** The case for multisectoral action can be built on past examples and lead by those who have instituted multisectoral responses. Learning from both successful and failed attempts to work across sectors and what needs to change to enable more impactful multisectoral collaboration will be a key part of this process.

## Theme 3: Achieving a more holistic political economy analysis of, and action on healthy societies

### Key emerging themes

35. This theme focused on the impact of prevailing ideologies and the imbalances in the relationship between state, markets, society and natural system, which will be at the core of addressing the structural determinants of healthy societies.
36. For too long the health sector has ignored the importance of political economy. The imbalance in the relationships between state, market, society, and natural systems, present major barriers to addressing inequities. The role of the state has been eroded and governments do not have the resources or capacity to govern effectively, while a small number of counties now shape the multilateral system. This has created a crisis of trust. The prevailing political economic ideology (i.e. neo-liberalism) is often ignored within discussions on health, yet this has major implications for how healthy societies can be achieved and needs to be considered much more deeply.
37. The COVID-19 pandemic provides a window of opportunity to broaden the discussion of what we need to do to achieve healthy people and planet. As noted above, a narrative is needed to highlight the imperative for change and the importance of this current moment. There are many discussions happening in different places and amongst different groups, bringing these together to share knowledge and ideas will be a powerful way to shape and drive this agenda. Coalitions at national or sub-national level are most effective and can be complemented by regional and global initiatives.

### Key actions

38. **Link to other political economy discussions.** These discussions are happening in many different spaces. We need to map out where, and with whom, and convene around common space and goals.
39. **Articulate the opportunity for change.** Outline the opportunity for change and the entry point that the pandemic offers, articulate the political narrative for such a change and how this can be taken up.

## Theme 4: Advancing the healthy societies research agenda

### Key emerging themes

40. This theme explored the role of research in the healthy societies agenda, from how knowledge is created, disseminated, and used to inform policy, to how data and frameworks can incentivise and guide actions across different spheres.

“If the objective and the outcome is to improve equity, we need to raise the issue of redistribution of resources, power and voices. We need to raise the voice of the voiceless and a bottom-up approach is the best way forward.”

“The voices are there but they need to be connected and include a critical mass which includes government, civil society and the private sector.”

“Introduce a political science and political economy approach in our work so we can be systematic, including political mapping of actors who are for and against change.”

41. Research can be a powerful tool for action. Some research is viewed as being too ideological or academic. Knowledge production is most valuable when there is a clear link between the research objectives and policy priorities. Collaboration, and in some cases co-production, between researchers and policy makers can help to ensure such alignment. Greater focus on and investment in implementation research is also needed, including to understand the policy-practise gap.
42. Networks of researchers provide an entry point for collaboration, including across geographies and sectors. Looking for linkages between different research agendas can help to advance understanding. Keeping a critical eye on who is shaping the research agenda, who is producing knowledge and for whom, and how such knowledge is being disseminated and used is critical.

#### **Key actions**

43. **Expand the network of healthy societies researchers.** Ensuring that healthy societies research is addressing the most pressing needs of communities will require expanding the healthy societies research community, including engaging communities and people outside of health sector and formal structures. Developing a common language and research agenda could be a powerful way to drive this forward.
44. **Explore creating a coalition of the willing.** Pulling together the resources and engaging with those in the field to bring added value to the way knowledge is produced, disseminated, and used. Such a coalition must reflect the diversity of perspectives and geographies within this agenda.

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Wilton Park | August 2021

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# Annex: World Café groups discussions

## Theme 1: How to support and enable healthy society leaders

This theme focused on the importance of engaging and supporting individuals, organisations and constituencies to build and grow movements for healthy societies, including how to support existing networks and communities of practice.

### Drivers, entry points and platforms for action

- Motivate and enable leaders
  - Identify the entry points relevant to different stakeholders/actors; in the determinants of health model, everything is connected
  - Engaged corporate leaders and identify their drivers
  - Support and enable visionary leadership which can be picked up by communities
- Engage widely across different actors and constituencies
  - Engage more meaningfully with the invisible frontline health care heroes; the 'care economy'
  - Create platforms for dialogue for different groups to engage as a means of addressing the siloed and fragmented society, this should include corporate leaders
- Develop and communicate the healthy societies narrative
  - Develop simple messages that capture the themes and essence of the vision/goal and can be adopted and taken forward by broad groups
  - Consider carefully how to communicate, not just around frameworks, but how we can initiate and sustain change

### Barriers to action, knowledge gaps and research proprieties

- Theory of change
  - What alliances need to be formed to move this agenda forward?
  - How can commonalities across regions be leveraged while acknowledging regional specificity?
  - How can demand for health be created?
  - How can the dynamics and different values linked to politics, culture, and traditions and their importance as drivers of change be acknowledged and accounted for?
- Healthy societies narrative and vision
  - COVID-19 has bio-medicalised the issue of health and healthy societies, how can the narrative be re-centred around inequality and social justice?
- Build health literacy
  - How can health workers be provided with the capacity and resources lead this agenda?
- Understanding the disconnect between policy and practice
  - What is the disconnect between policy, implementation, and reality that makes some laws ineffective?
  - What needs to change to make policy approaches more effective?

- How can political buy in for this agenda be secured?
- How can demand for regulatory change which supports healthy societies be created?
- How politicians be made to realise how action or inaction on this agenda makes them look?
- Extend beyond the health sector
  - How can groups be made aware of the opportunities and benefits of pursuing healthy societies and enabled to take ownership of the agenda?

**Priority actions and how best to advance these over the next five months**

- Narrative and vision
  - Create demand for healthy societies and a platform for shared understanding of what it means to live in a healthy society.
  - Great opportunity for communities to drive the discussion so that it is not a unidirectional approach, driven by a small number of people with a platform.
  - Have dialogue with leaders on the goals for healthy societies.
- Acknowledge the importance of local context
  - Regional specificity is critical; focus on local.
  - Consider people tribunals for political leaders to hear community perspectives; the COVID-19 highlights the importance yet weakness of many public systems
- Engage the healthcare / frontline workforce
  - Support healthcare workers as a movement/platform: how can they be given a voice?
  - Engage frontline workers in cities
- Look for connections with other movements
  - Explore the connection with climate and wellbeing and pick up political energy.
  - Leverage the momentum in the climate movement: city planners can be as important as the health sector. How do we engage them in the discussion?
- Develop the political case
  - Highlight the positive impact of pursuing healthy societies and timelines in context of elections.
  - What can be delivered with co-benefits (e.g. climate) and what are the timelines to deliver?
  - Access to information and accountability is important: public health can contribute to this
  - Measure health impact
- Leverage past examples
  - How can we learn from and build upon known examples where there has been success: smoking, traffic accidents etc

## **Theme 2: How do we promote multi-sectoral action across healthy society mission areas?**

### **Drivers, entry points and platforms for action**

- Engage priority sectors
  - Prioritise sectors where there is major overlap in our objectives and actions such as climate and environment, food systems, urban planning, and cities
  - Engage urban and transport planning to embed health considerations within their work
  - Communicate and advocate to help convince other sectors of their role in contributing to change.
- Focus on people
  - Start a conversation about people and their lives not just about infrastructure and systems
  - Engage leaders, mayors, and community health leaders to understand what health and healthy societies means to them.
  - Identify early inter-generational and equitable benefits of taking action on healthy societies
  - Pursue area based approaches which allow different constituencies to bring their own perspectives to a common agenda.
  - Engage at the local level and gain a visualisation of what people need for wellbeing
  - Utilise strategic health impact assessments and other tools to translate demand and needs into action
- Engage in the political sphere
  - Active advocacy and influencing the political sphere is needed
  - Focus on leadership and governance ensuring that leaders have health as a goal with indicators and targets
- Pursue bold ideas
  - Consider what the new generation of initiatives to promote healthy societies
  - Work with all types of production systems, from formal to informal to make better use of resources for health

### **Barriers to action, knowledge gaps and research proprieties**

- A narrative for all
  - 'Health' is often seen as 'health care', how can the healthy societies narrative to broaden perspectives and use language that resonates across group?
  - How can those at the local level be given the space and platform to share views and ideas?
- The political and economic
  - How can vested economic interests (i.e. unhealthy food, alcohol, fossil-fuel and tobacco industries) be addressed?

- What are the implications of shareholder capitalism (i.e. where shareholders interests dominate over others)?
- Multi-sectoral committees alone will not work: action must be embarrassing added in processes.
- Overcome bureaucracy and the status quo
  - vertical levels and slow state action stops progress.
  - How can the status quo be challenged; what is the role of health impact analysis and other tool to make the field more proactive (rather than reactive)?
  - How can barriers to multi-sectoral action at national and urban levels (such as siloed ways of working) be overcome? What lessons can be learnt from effective multi-sectoral action at the local level?

#### **Priority actions and how best to advance these over the next five months**

- Draw on past example of success and failures
  - Dialogue with the network of mayors / city leaders who are delivering multisectoral change, what can be learnt from their successes and set backs?
- Engage communities
  - Start with communities to understand the overall objective
  - Allow people, youth, and communities to vision and define healthy societies; they will automatically be multi-sectoral.
- Network of networks
  - Work to embed healthy societies in other initiatives
  - Identify networks and movements in related areas and look for entry points where the healthy societies agenda can sit
  - Unite diverse groups around common goals and visions that have mutual co-benefit at their centre

### **Theme 3: How to achieve a more holistic, political economy analysis of, and action on healthy societies?**

#### **Drivers, entry points and platforms for action**

- COVID-19 presents a window of opportunity
  - The pandemic provides a window of opportunity to broaden the discussion of what is needed to deliver health people and planet
  - COVID-19 can be a driver and pivot point for the discussions about health, economy, climate
- Drive the discussion bottom up
  - The healthy societies narrative needs to provide the rationale for why this is an agenda that people should care about.
  - Other people are having these discussions in a different space; these diverse views and opinions all need to be bought together and given consideration
  - Coalitions at national or sub-national levels are the most effective
  - The movement needs to speak to the public and politicians; there is huge untapped among youth engagement and movements.

- Work with other sectors and fields
  - Align with other fields that have common goals and provide a narrative that politicians can campaign on
  - Cities have scope for action and creativity

### **Barriers to action, knowledge gaps and research proprieties**

- Prevailing ideology
  - How can we overcome the prevailing political economic ideology and the barriers they present?
  - How can university and training providers generate more socialised and politicised leaders; Where do we create the leaders and activities of the future?
  - After ignoring political economy for too long, how can we embed this within the healthy societies agenda?
- Structural barriers
  - How can we tackle the structural barriers that have hampered the COVID-19 response?
  - From vaccines to countermeasures, the COVID-19 response has been deeply uneven, exacerbating existing inequities; what fundamental changes are needed in the global health architecture to prevent this from happening again?
  - What does the eroding of the social contract and the dominance of a few countries within the multilateral system mean for achieving healthier, fairer societies?
- State, Market, Society and Natural Systems
  - Governments lack the resources to govern effectively
  - Neo-liberalism and related ideologies have dismantled public sector functions, eroding the capacity of the state
  - How do we better understand the alignment between those that have money and those that have power and what will be required to redress the imbalance
  - How can the healthy societies narrative spans different political ideologies?

### **Priority actions and how best to advance these over the next five months**

- Mapping the different actors and their roles
  - Mapping of who needs to come in from different sectors (social science, civil society, activists)
  - Embed a political economy stream in the healthy societies research agenda and outline the opportunities for change
  - Link with other initiatives happening right now (e.g. the future we want).
  - Clarify what the global community can do in a different space (e.g. resources/capacity building), by listening to groups at the national and subnational levels
  - Explore the opportunities for bringing more political economy into university education (public health, medical students).
- Build the coalition

- Explore how to mobilise broad-based coalitions and social movements for healthy and sustainable societies at the grassroots level but also organise transnationally?
- Narrative
  - Articulate a narrative that addresses the fundamental question around the redistribution of resources and power to enable governments to govern.

#### **Theme 4: How to advance the healthy societies research agenda?**

This theme explored the role of research in the healthy societies agenda, from how knowledge is created, disseminated and used to inform policy, to how data and frameworks can incentivise and guide actions across different spheres.

##### **Drivers, entry points and platforms for action**

- Research as a driver of action
  - Research can be a positive force for action; research should be guided by policy priorities and community needs, and is often most valued when done through a process of co-creation
  - Key to co-produce research outputs and understand the target audiences, including politicians
  - Looking at what already exists can be a way of moving the agenda forward, interconnecting research between area
  - The struggle is on progress and implementation rather than research
- Networks and collaboration
  - Networks of researchers, ethics committees and steering committees can be useful entry points for cross-collaboration.
  - Research conferences re important platform for bringing researchers and research networks together.

##### **Barriers to action, knowledge gaps and research proprieties**

- Translation of research to action
  - How can policy makers be convinced about the need for change, and how can timelines for change be reduced?
  - What are the different entry points to translate research into policy within different political context?
  - How are research findings best communicated? Journalists don't like to publish complexity.
  - How we talk to each other, use vocabulary and definition of terms.
- Shaping the research agenda
  - Sometimes research comes across as ideological.
  - Who is the research for? Who uses the outcome and how?
  - How can the research agenda be driven towards what is most useful to society (rewarding research vs useful research)?
  - How can implementation/operational science be given more prominence in the research agenda?
  - How can the difficulty in attracting funders to pressing research issues be overcome?

##### **Priority actions and how best to advance these over the next five months**

- Broaden the community of researchers and the diversity of research outputs
  - Talk to people we wouldn't have talked to - hidden gatekeepers - outside of health and formal structures.
  - Where are the geographers and urban studies? Can we come out of our silos and create a common language?
  - Remove the silos; the discourse has moved on but the action hasn't.
  - Engage the International Panel of Social Progress
  - Diversify the global health research mix
- Coalition of the willing
  - Need to involve communities more, engage youth.
  - Pulling together the resources and engaging with those in the field.
  - Increase research from lower income countries; take a policy maker in a lower income country (not necessarily health focused) and find out what is useful to them and link to communities.
  - Need to keep complexity and tell truth to power.

#### **Additional comments**

- For some, it is difficult to explain what healthy societies means.
- Avoid top-down approaches.
- Who is missing from our studies?
- Do we consider indicators to be frameworks?
- COVID-19 has highlighted the need for rapid answers and simplification.
- What do you think matters for your health? Answers may vary across the globe.
- COVID-19 has highlighted how policies are negotiated on social media.
- Reframe innovation and innovating around government.