

About OneShared.World

OneShared.World is a broad and inclusive movement of people in over 100 countries on six continents working collaboratively across diverse cultures, communities, ethnicities, generations, and nations to ensure a better future for humankind and the sustainability of our common home. We are building a third pillar of the global power structure beyond sovereign states and the essential international institutions created by our governments: a global social movement and political force that represents the democratic expression of our common humanity.

Hundreds of people have donated countless volunteer hours to launch **OneShared.World** over the past six months. Our members include global citizens from all backgrounds, ages, and orientations, ranging from university presidents, former prime ministers and governors, to artists and students. We collectively drafted the Declaration of Interdependence, which we have translated into multiple languages.

Our strategy balances short-term efforts to alleviate stress on vulnerable populations during crises with establishing long-term global recognition of mutual responsibilities comprising interdependence. It is comprised of four core pillars:

1. **Public engagement and education** to help build a common vocabulary and community around the theme of interdependence;
2. **Broad partnerships with aligned organizations** to help galvanize a far-reaching and inclusive global interdependence movement;
3. **Focused issue campaigns** to translate lofty principles into action; and
4. **Integration** “Integration of an appreciation for the mutual responsibilities of interdependence into the missions, platforms, and agendas of organizations, political parties, governments, and international bodies around the world.

Learn more and sign the Pledge of Interdependence at [OneShared.World](https://www.oneshared.world) .

Building a Safer World for All

If our global experience of the COVID-19 pandemic has taught us anything, it's that in our interconnected world we are only as safe as the most vulnerable among us. If the virus grows and mutates anywhere, it poses an increased threat to people everywhere. A massive and concerted global effort to address the emergency needs of the world's most vulnerable population is therefore not an act of charity but a pragmatic imperative. The pandemic is a wake-up call, demanding that we think differently about and develop new strategies for addressing our greatest common challenges. The question for all of us is whether we can wake up in time to avert even worse crises in the future.

As billions of people around the world remain unnecessarily exposed to the SARS-CoV-2 virus and the devastating consequences of our collective failure to build a world where all humans are protected, it's time for a new approach to helping the world's most vulnerable populations. This effort cannot be carried out piecemeal, but systemically and through concerted global action for the common good.

Nation states are built to maximize their own citizens' interests, but states also must realize global responsibilities to ensure a safer world for all. This contradiction is sadly apparent when our toughest modern challenges stay unsolved, and in some cases unaddressed, decade after decade. Nations have adopted the UN's Strategic Development Goals (SDGs) in theory, but what has been missing – seen in sharp relief during this crisis – is true collaboration, that supersedes old thinking and puts adequate and sufficiently-funded strategies to work on an urgent basis to solve our world's greatest common problems.

For decades, people and organization around the world have advocated for the WASH (water, sanitation, and hygiene) agenda as a way to help vulnerable people. Others have advocated to strengthen public health systems and pandemic preparedness (PAP). Covid-19 has shown us that WASH and PAP are fully connected, seen in the grave consequences of disease and economic deprivation experienced by our earth's most vulnerable populations. WASH-PAP, therefore, must be an urgent and essential component of our global response to COVID-19.

Over a million people are dead from a pandemic that could and should have been avoidable. We know that our current system cannot manage the next pandemic or the next major natural disaster. A [Cambridge University study](#) estimates that the total economic cost of the COVID-19 pandemic will be \$82 trillion over five years. The question for all of us, and for our leaders, is what percentage of that massive cost could we have invested in building a safer world for all through smart and cost-effective investments in WASH-PAP. Because we are likely to face even worse pandemics in the future, we must start making those kinds of investments now.

We do not have a moment to waste changing our approach. Our lives depend on the global WASH/PAP challenge being addressed. Our leaders must take decisive collective action to protect all of us by protecting the most vulnerable among us.

G20 leaders have a unique, historic, and essential opportunity to champion a new approach to solving our greatest global challenges in the name of our common good in the middle of this worst pandemic in a century. We call on G20 leaders to kickstart this new approach ***by declaring in their November 22, 2020 G20 Riyadh Summit Communique that all our health and well-being reside within everyone else in our interdependent world and committing to ensuring safe drinking water, basic sanitation and hygiene, and essential protection from deadly pandemics for all by 2030.***

This goal is readily achievable and must be achieved. The following essential steps are broad indicators of how universal WASH/PAP can be realized by 2030.

Achieving Universal Access to WASH by 2030

Achieving universal access to water, sanitation, and hygiene by 2030 (SDGs 3 and 6) requires fundamental changes in on all levels, requiring us to work collaboratively and urgently to meet these targets. We cannot be safe from a disease that knows no boundaries if water and sanitation are not available to all, and we must:

- Promote the urgency of WASH needs. Access to sustainable WASH services is recognized by the United Nations as a fundamental human right. The urgent need for global access to WASH resources, especially for vulnerable populations, must be at the forefront of both private and public sector objectives.
- Prioritize funding to guarantee affordable access to WASH, in particular additional funding to support service providers and help for those who cannot afford to pay. Better use of existing national, private, and multilateral financing coupled with new funding sources are necessary to implement WASH goals by 2030.
- Take a systemic approach to supporting this right by activating individuals, communities, and district and national governments. Use corporate aid and international development bank loans in order to ensure that countries aiming to achieve universal access by 2030 do not fail due to lack of finances or capacity.
- Empower individuals and communities to hold stakeholders, including civil societies, governments, and corporations, accountable for meeting global WASH needs. Coordinated action is the most effective solution to ensure WASH needs are met and maintained, and all members of society must participate in the solution, which requires a mandate and reliable source of funding.

- Ensure that water and sanitation services are resilient and sustainable. Undisrupted global supply chains, including movement of goods and production capacity, for water, sanitation and hygiene commodities and services must be maintained at all costs. Water, sanitation and hygiene workers must also be granted sufficient protection to be able to provide such services without disruption.
- Eliminate inequalities and leave no person behind. WASH must be a priority for vulnerable populations, the elderly, people with disabilities, women and girls, and those living in precarious situations including refugee camps and the homeless. Vulnerable populations must be prioritized in order to prevent infectious diseases, including COVID-19, that can spread when WASH services are inadequate.
- Approach problem-solving in this sector with awareness of the feelings of shame, worry, and helplessness that may relate to this problem and intersect with other development issues, and empower vulnerable populations to identify common goals and participate in their solutions.

Achieving Universal Access to Pandemic Preparedness (PAP) by 2030

As we enter the age of synthetic biology, and ecosystem destruction disturbs the natural world ever more, it is easy to imagine even deadlier pathogens than COVID-19. Although the catastrophic failure in many parts of the world have exacerbated the COVID-19 pandemic, this crisis has also made the glaring insufficiencies of our current national and global systems abundantly clear. To ensure we never face this type of failure again, we must:

- Invest in a massively improved global public health system and a World Health Organization with the mandate and resources necessary to protect us, including robust national and global pathogenic surveillance networks and emergency response teams able to go anywhere on earth on a moment's notice.
- Establish a basic minimum standard of readiness and performance for every national health system in the world, and work tirelessly to ensure that all nations reach this level. This will require significant enhancement in funding, capacity, governance, transparency, and overall accountability at all levels.
- Press world leaders and multilateral institutions to develop a mechanism for sustainable financing of global health security, which mobilizes resources without constraints from development or political priorities.
- Build efficient public health information networks by engaging trusted local leaders, the private sector, national governments, and local governments to establish and maintain citizen preparedness. Empower and buttress trust and resiliency in medical supply chains – create both local and global sources, redundancy, accountability, and security.
- Increase testing and contact tracing between pandemic waves, fund global vaccine development, for example by increasing support to the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations or public-private models such as the Covid-19 Therapeutics Accelerator.

- To better surveil signals and threats, enable networks to integrate data streams and create responsible and secured trusts to enable public health data to be used for sense-making. Diversify expertise on WHO or parallel pandemic review boards.

Meeting these ambitious goals is not a dream. It is entirely achievable if we recognize that our lives depend on doing so. This systemic global problem requires a sustained, systemic, inclusive, and multi-pronged response on all levels. Our G20 leaders, representing the wealthiest and most powerful countries in the world, must step up to leadership roles, working closely with the United Nations, civil society groups, national governments, and many others can make this happen. Achieving global WASH-PAP by 2030 will make us all safer, not just from COVID-19 but many other epidemics. Failing will leave us all in grave and unnecessary danger.

Meeting these goals requires more than a declaration. Following the G20, we call for a virtual summit to kick off a global planning process, which would accelerate existing work and identify new routes for collaboration. A budget for this process should take into consideration the \$82 trillion cost of this pandemic and the fact that a future pandemic will hit a vulnerable, still-recovering, world economy.

This campaign for a better future will need the best ideas and committed minds of all governments, civil society organizations, and individuals. It will require a collective consciousness that truly accepts our global interdependence as well as careful planning, adequate funding, and sustained implementation by many actors working together. The pandemic has given us a new and different understanding of our vulnerabilities and has compelled us to grasp the urgency of these issues as they relate to our common humanity, and change is possible.

COVID-19 has shown us that our fates are inextricably tied to each other and the planet we share. By building a consciousness and politics reflecting the mutual responsibilities of our interdependence, we can build a better future for all.

