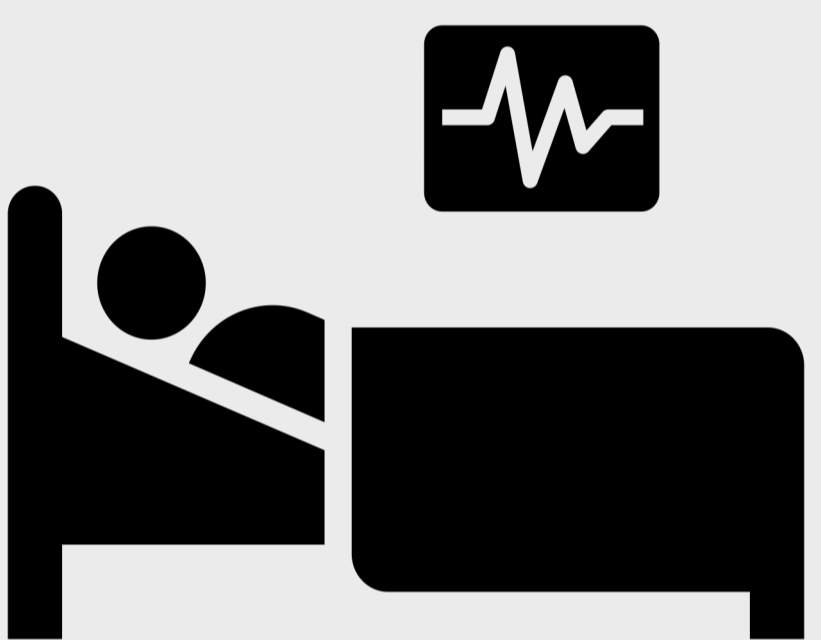
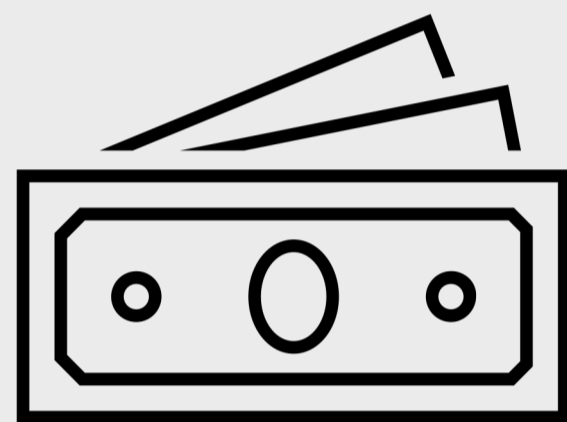


DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Introduction

SDG 3: Good Health and Wellbeing and SDG 5: Gender equality and women's empowerment are closely interlinked with our department's research agenda and are crucial priorities for the developing world, especially given the setbacks in both sectors due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The ID department is uniquely positioned to contribute to our understanding of the SDGs due to the interdisciplinary lens applied to international development, which critically analyses the shortcomings of the set goals and targets set while also uncovering what factors and conditions will accelerate achieving the SDGs.



SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being

As the world is recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is evident that health and wellbeing is and will continue to be a pressing issue. In addition to causing millions of deaths, COVID-19 disrupted vital health services and supply chains globally. The UN expects the health and economic impacts of COVID-19 to increase the financial burden of health services and lead to more catastrophic spending for the most vulnerable and poor [1]. For this reason, achieving universal health coverage, Target 3.8, will lead to improved health conditions and alleviate poverty.

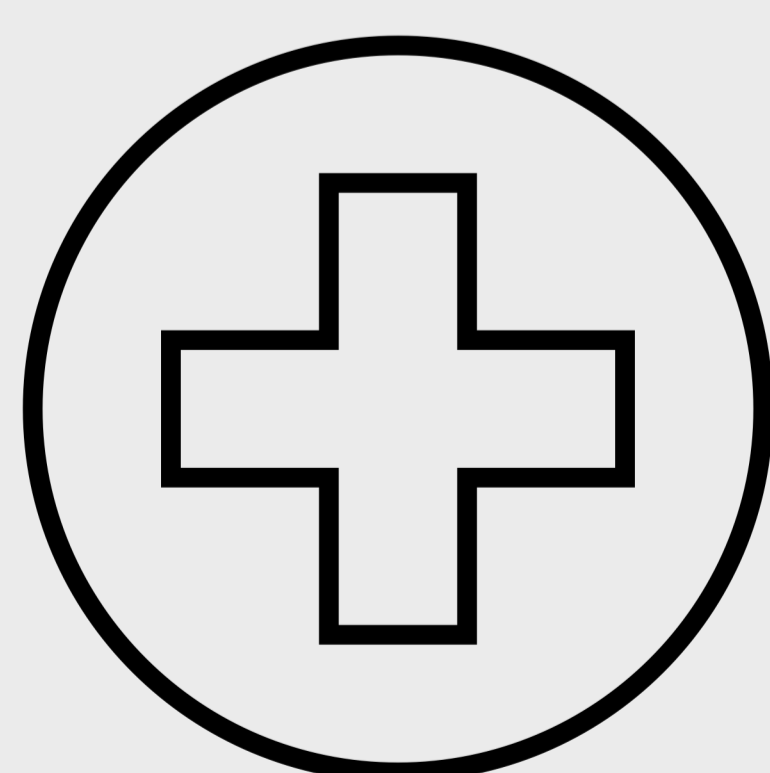
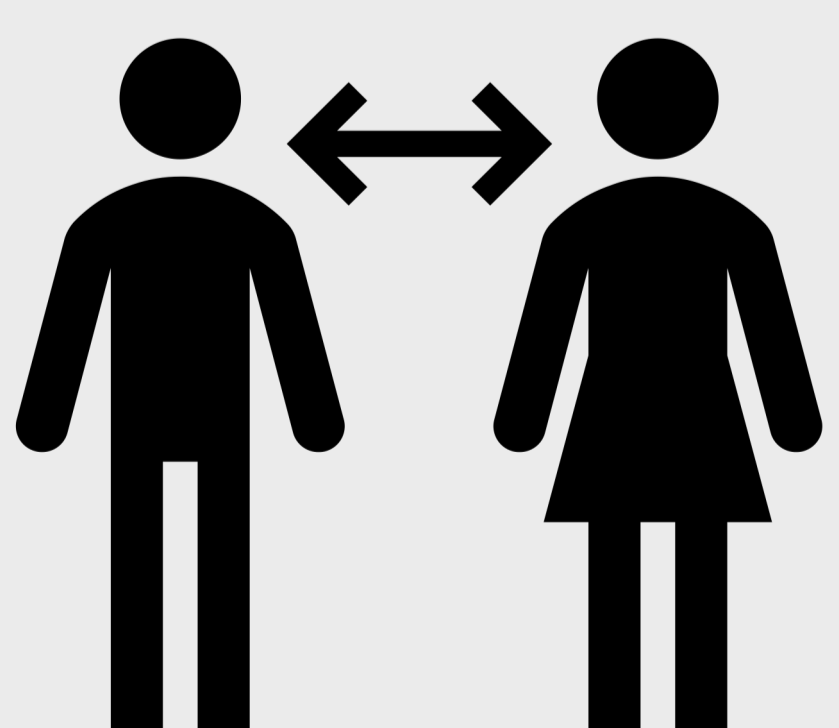
SDG 5: Gender equality and women's empowerment

The pandemic has disproportionately affected women in all aspects - increasing physical and sexual violence, child marriage, female genital mutilation, and decreasing unemployment. According to UN reports, child brides are estimated to exceed 10 million after the pandemic, in addition to the existing 100 million pre-pandemic [2]. Thus, achieving gender equality and empowering women to effectively participate in all aspects of economic, public, and political life is of utmost importance.



Conclusions

Achieving SDGs 3 and 5 calls for a holistic and inclusive approach, acknowledging that all aspects of development are interlinked. The COVID-19 virus has affected more than just our biological system - it has severely crippled the social, economic, and political aspects of our personal as well as professional life. Thus, adopting policies to strengthen healthcare needs and women's equal participation in society is central to achieving the aforementioned SDGs.



Citations

[1]World Health Organization. (2021, December 12). *More than half a billion people pushed or pushed further into extreme poverty due to health care costs*. World Health Organization. Retrieved May 7, 2023, from <https://www.who.int/news/item/12-12-2021-more-than-half-a-billion-people-pushed-or-pushed-further-into-extreme-poverty-due-to-health-care-costs>

[2]UNICEF. (2021, March 8). *10 million additional girls at risk of child marriage due to covid-19*. UNICEF. Retrieved May 10, 2023, from <https://www.unicef.org/eap/press-releases/10-million-additional-girls-risk-child-marriage-due-covid-19-unicef>