

## Counteracting the Global Syndemic building on community engagement

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#### The Lancet Commissions

### THE LANCET





Milken Institute School of Public Health THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

### The Global Syndemic of Obesity, Undernutrition, and Climate Change: *The Lancet* Commission report



Boyd A Swinburn, Vivica I Kraak, Steven Allender, Vincent J Atkins, Phillip I Baker, Jessica R Bogard, Hannah Brinsden, Alejandro Calvillo, Olivier De Schutter, Raji Devarajan, Majid Ezzati, Sharon Friel, Shifalika Goenka, Ross A Hammond, Gerard Hastings, Corinna Hawkes, Mario Herrero, Peter S Hovmand, Mark Howden, Lindsay M Jaacks, Ariadne B Kapetanaki, Matt Kasman, Harriet V Kuhnlein, Shiriki K Kumanyika, Bagher Larijani, Tim Lobstein, Michael W Long, Victor K R Matsudo, Susanna D H Mills, Gareth Morgan, Alexandra Morshed, Patricia M Nece, An Pan, David W Patterson, Gary Sacks, Meera Shekar, Geoff L Simmons, Warren Smit, Ali Tootee, Stefanie Vandevijvere, Wilma E Waterlander, Luke Wolfenden, William H Dietz

# *Obesity, undernutrition, and climate change form a syndemic since they*

- *cluster in time and place*
- *interact with each other*
- have common systems drivers
- *Syndemic drivers: food systems, transportation, urban design and land use.*



### Examples of "triple-duty actions"

Reduce red meat consumption

Transport mode shifts

Sustainable dietary guidelines

**Restrict commercial influences** 

Right to Wellbeing legislation

Framework Convention on Food Systems



ICA, Sweden december 2019



Shoprite, Uganda january 2020

## How can we introduce the GS concept in our health promoting efforts?

Step	What do we do?	Potentially affects the following determinants of health (Social Cognitive Theory)
1	Introduce the concept and how it is linked with the health issues at hand (nutrition, smoking, weight problems) Valuable in itself!	Self-efficacy Outcome expectations
2	If there is interest: confirm that it is possible to achieve change. Give positive examples. <i>Another important step towards change</i>	Above mentioned and: Observational learning Reciprocal determination
3	If there is interest and possibilities: suggest and offer to help with meeting where ideas are produced, if possible connect with other actors. <i>Opens for change on structural levels</i>	All of the above

Has the global society learned something that can help us to build back, build fairer?

### "No man is an island"

- The pandemic has exposed and widened health gaps
- Influental people, usually well protected, are now threathened by societal failure to protect all its members
- Tragedies may open new windows of opportunities
- for solidarity the insight that we all depend on eachother however it is not always as visible
- for broad efforts to give floor to underserved groups to participate and have real influence on societal development

"Never look down to test the ground before taking your next step; only he who keeps his eye fixed on the far horizon will find the right road"

Dag Hammarskjöld

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