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de médecine générale
et santé publique • Lausanne



NGOs: ready to change perspectives ?

Prof hon Blaise Genton

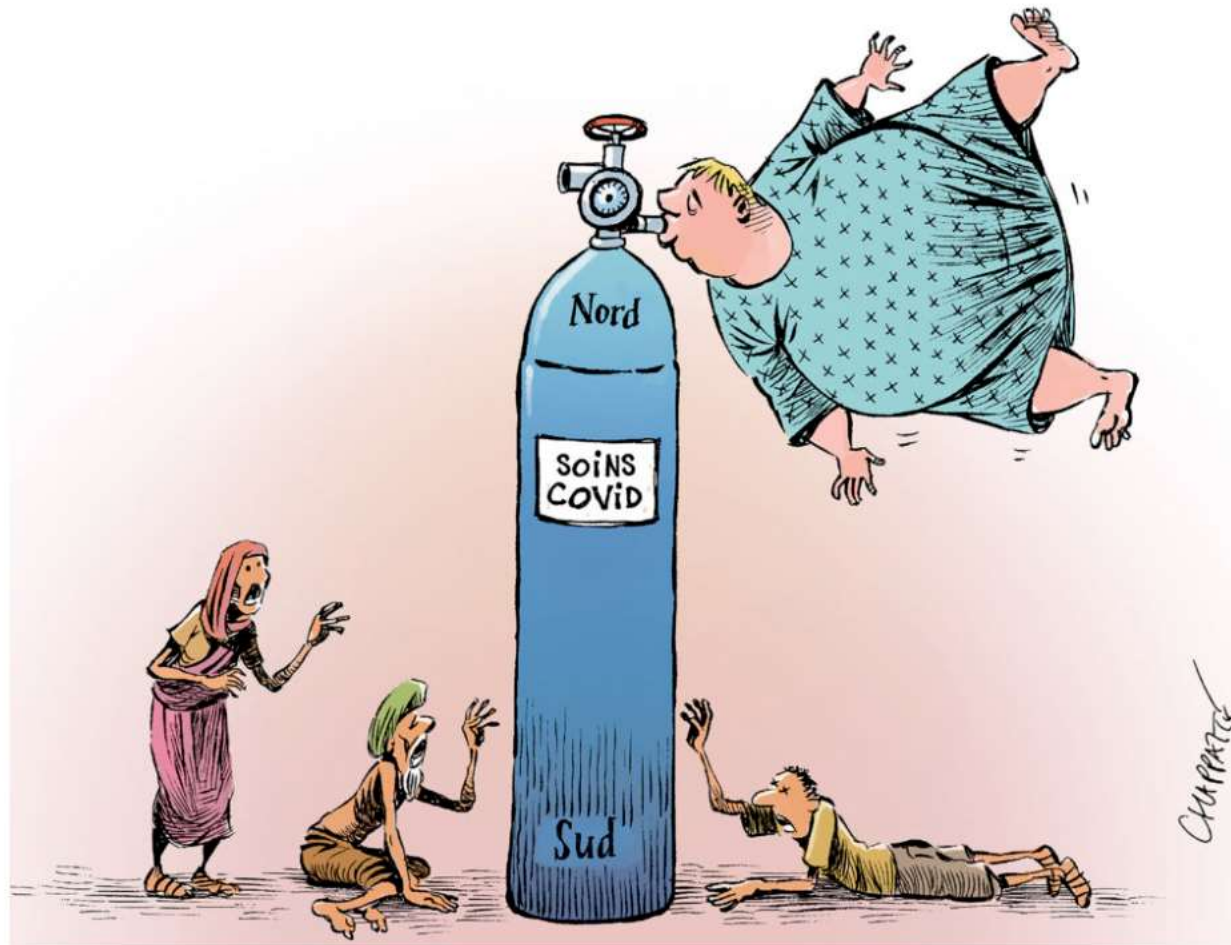


Content

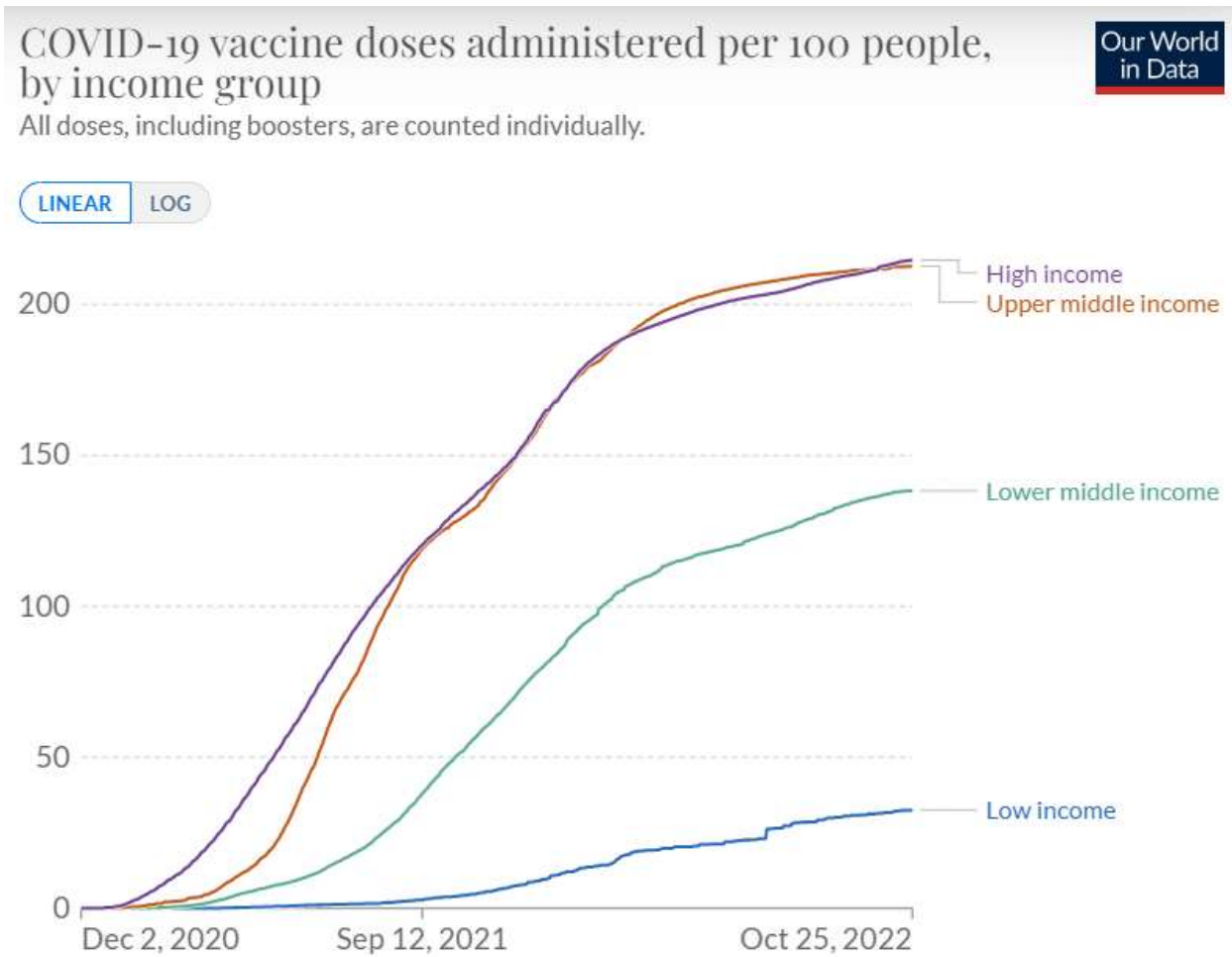
- Some lessons from the Covid pandemic
- Why to change NGOs perspective
- How to change NGOs perspective
- From theory to practice
- Questions / ethical dilemmas

The virus of inequalities

2 mai 2021



Vaccin COVID-19: a global public good?



Source: Official data collated by Our World in Data, World Bank OurWorldInData.org/covid-vaccinations • CC BY
Note: Country income groups are based on the World Bank classification.

Pfizer Revenue Boosted by Covid-19 Drugs

Pfizer's annual revenue since 2016



* official guidance given February 8, 2022

<https://www.statista.com/chart/25434/pfizer-annual-revenue/>

..anti vaxxers, I presume..?



<https://www.courrierinternational.com/article/deception-covax-enquete-sur-un-ehec/>

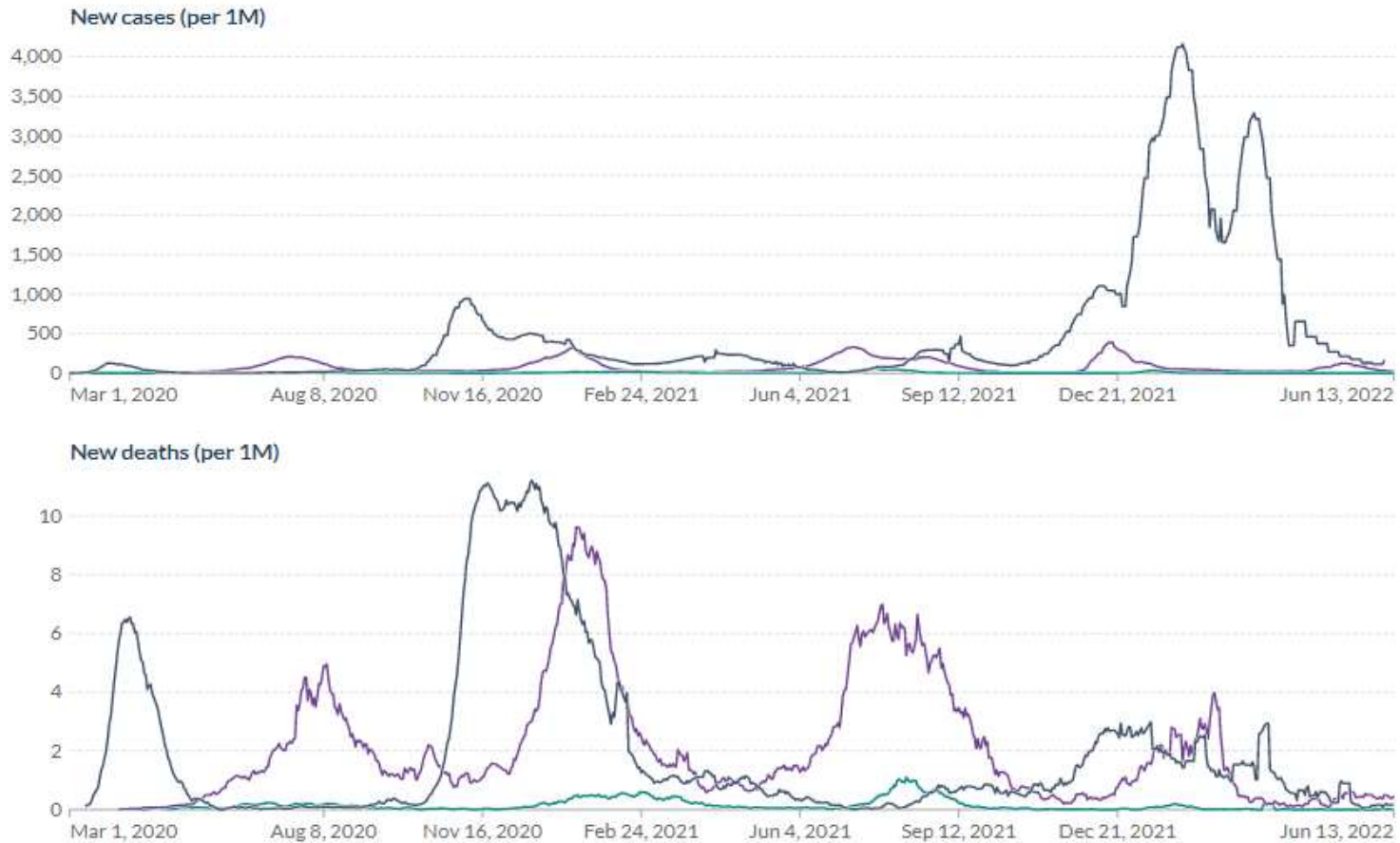
Daily new confirmed COVID-19 cases & deaths per million people

7-day rolling average. Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of cause of death means the cases and deaths counts may not be accurate.



LINEAR LOG Align axis scales

■ Switzerland ■ Senegal ■ South Africa



Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

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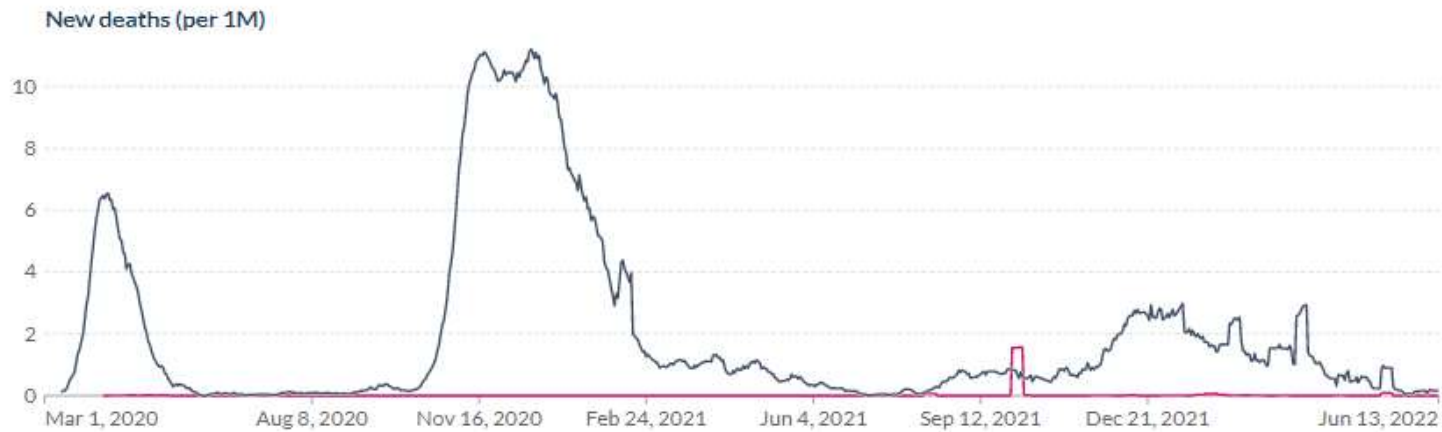
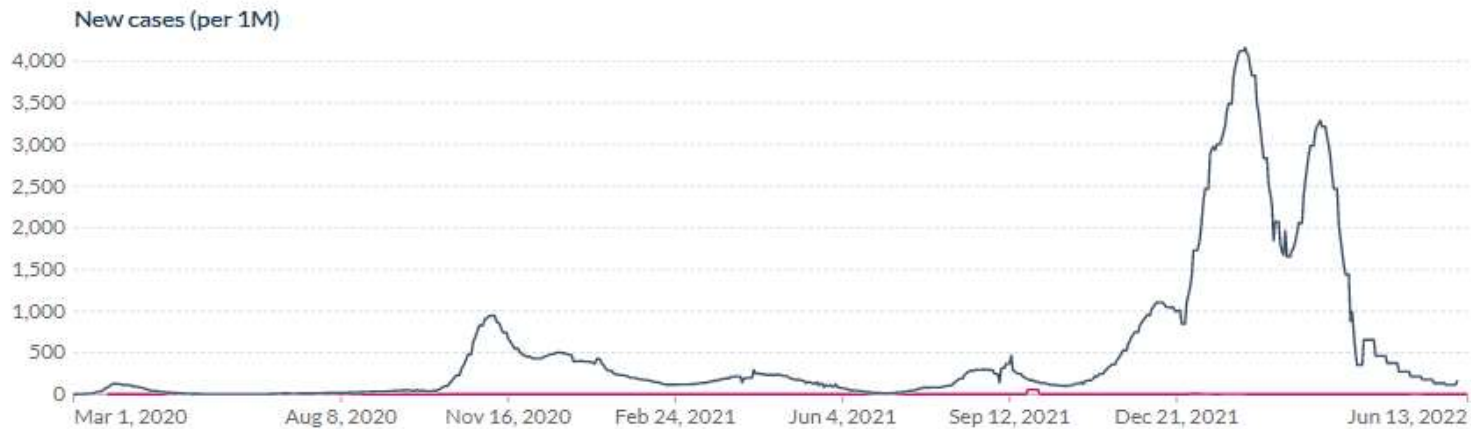
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LINEAR LOG Align axis scales

■ Switzerland ■ Tanzania

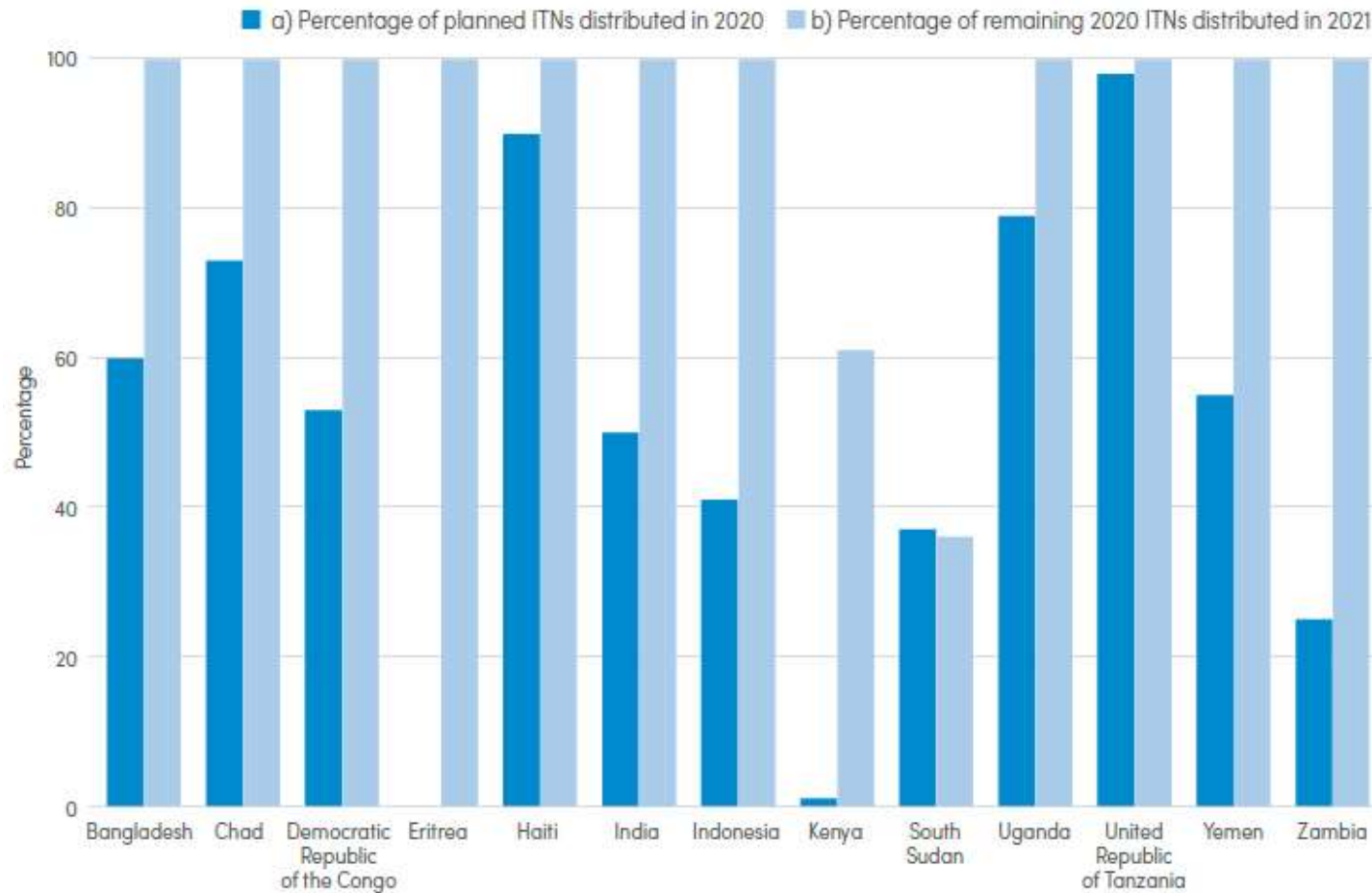


Source: Johns Hopkins University CSSE COVID-19 Data

CC BY



Mosquito-nets distribution



Crisis management in Africa: lessons learned

- One size does not fit all
- Listen to local actors

The 2022 report of the *Lancet* Countdown on health and climate change: health at the mercy of fossil fuels



Marina Romanello, Claudia Di Napoli, Paul Drummond, Carole Green, Harry Kennard, Pete Lampard, Daniel Scamman, Nigel Arnell, Sonja Ayeb-Karlsson, Lea Berrang Ford, Kristine Belesova, Kathryn Bowen, Wenjia Cai, Max Callaghan, Diarmid Campbell-Lendrum, Jonathan Chambers, Kim R van Daalen, Carole Dalin, Niheer Dasandi, Shouro Dasgupta, Michael Davies, Paula Dominguez-Salas, Robert Dubrow, Kristie L Ebi, Matthew Eckelman, Paul Ekins, Luis E Escobar, Lucien Georgeson, Hilary Graham, Samuel H Gunther, Ian Hamilton, Yun Hang, Risto Hänninen, Stella Hartinger, Kehan He, Jeremy J Hess, Shih-Che Hsu, Slava Jankin, Louis Jamart, Ollie Jay, Ilan Kelman, Gregor Kiesewetter, Patrick Kinney, Tord Kjellstrom, Dominic Kniveton, Jason K W Lee, Bruno Lemke, Yang Liu, Zhao Liu, Melissa Lott, Martin Lotto Batista, Rachel Lowe, Frances MacGuire, Maquins Odhiambo Sewe, Jaime Martinez-Urtaza, Mark Maslin, Lucy McAllister, Alice McGushin, Celia McMichael, Zhifu Mi, James Milner, Kelton Minor, Jan C Minx, Nahid Mohajeri, Maziar Moradi-Lakeh, Karyn Morrissey, Simon Munzert, Kris A Murray, Tara Neville, Maria Nilsson, Nick Obradovich, Megan B O'Hare, Tadj Oreszczyn, Matthias Otto, Fereidoon Owfi, Olivia Pearman, Mahnaz Rabbaniha, Elizabeth J Z Robinson, Joacim Rocklöv, Renee N Salas, Jan C Semenza, Jodi D Sherman, Liuhua Shi, Joy Shumake-Guillemot, Grant Silbert, Mikhail Sofiev, Marco Springmann, Jennifer Stowell, Meisam Tabatabaei, Jonathon Taylor, Joaquin Triñanes, Fabian Wagner, Paul Wilkinson, Matthew Winning, Marisol Yglesias-González, Shihui Zhang, Peng Gong, Hugh Montgomery*, Anthony Costello**

Why do NGOs need to change perspective?

- Because of the failure of our states (politics) to act effectively for **social** justice and climatic justice
 - Ignoring the increasing gap between rich and poor (inequities between countries and populations)
 - Maximizing individual interest and profit rather than public (health) need and benefit
 - Putting pressure on debt repayment rather than debt relief



Why do NGOs need to change perspective? (II)

- Because of the failure of our states (politics) to act effectively for social justice and **climatic justice**
 - Inaction on major environmental challenges in their home country
 - No real willingness to make decisions or establish regulations to mitigate climate change and biodiversity loss in their home country
 - No serious financial contribution for mitigation and adaptation in affected countries as promised

How can NGOs change perspective? (I)

- Circumvent government inaction
- Bottom-up initiatives need to be developed involving the civil society, citizens, communities, associations, etc.

How can NGOs change perspective? (I)

- Work on alternative societal models
- Promote autonomy rather than dependance
- Assess major environmental risks and
=> foster mitigation and adaptation actions rather than substitution
- Shift from disaster relief to development actions that have a positive impact on the environment and the climate
- Implement actions that comply to planetary limits and are sustainable

How can NGOs change perspective? (I)

- Give priority to prevention and health promotion
- Promote a more sober, more human and more equitable medicine
- Develop environmentally friendly medical practices and health infrastructures
- Engage the population and patients in strategic choices
- Communicate about situation and requested actions

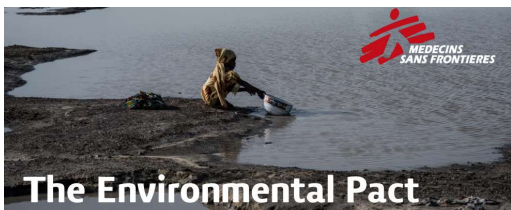


29.05.2021



Décembre 2020

Déclaration d'engagement des organisations humanitaires sur le climat



**THE CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT
CHARTER FOR HUMANITARIAN
ORGANIZATIONS**

From theory to practice

- Measure, report, and set targets to minimize carbon and waste footprint
- Reduce expatriate staff, promote long-term assignments
- Include local actors in all decision processes, experts, training, distributing responsibilities
- Use short circuits
- Use low-cost simple technologies
- Support local manufacture of health products (medication, vaccines, diagnostic tests)
- Encourage local suppliers to decarbonize their production
- Support adaptation mechanisms (culture in salty water)...

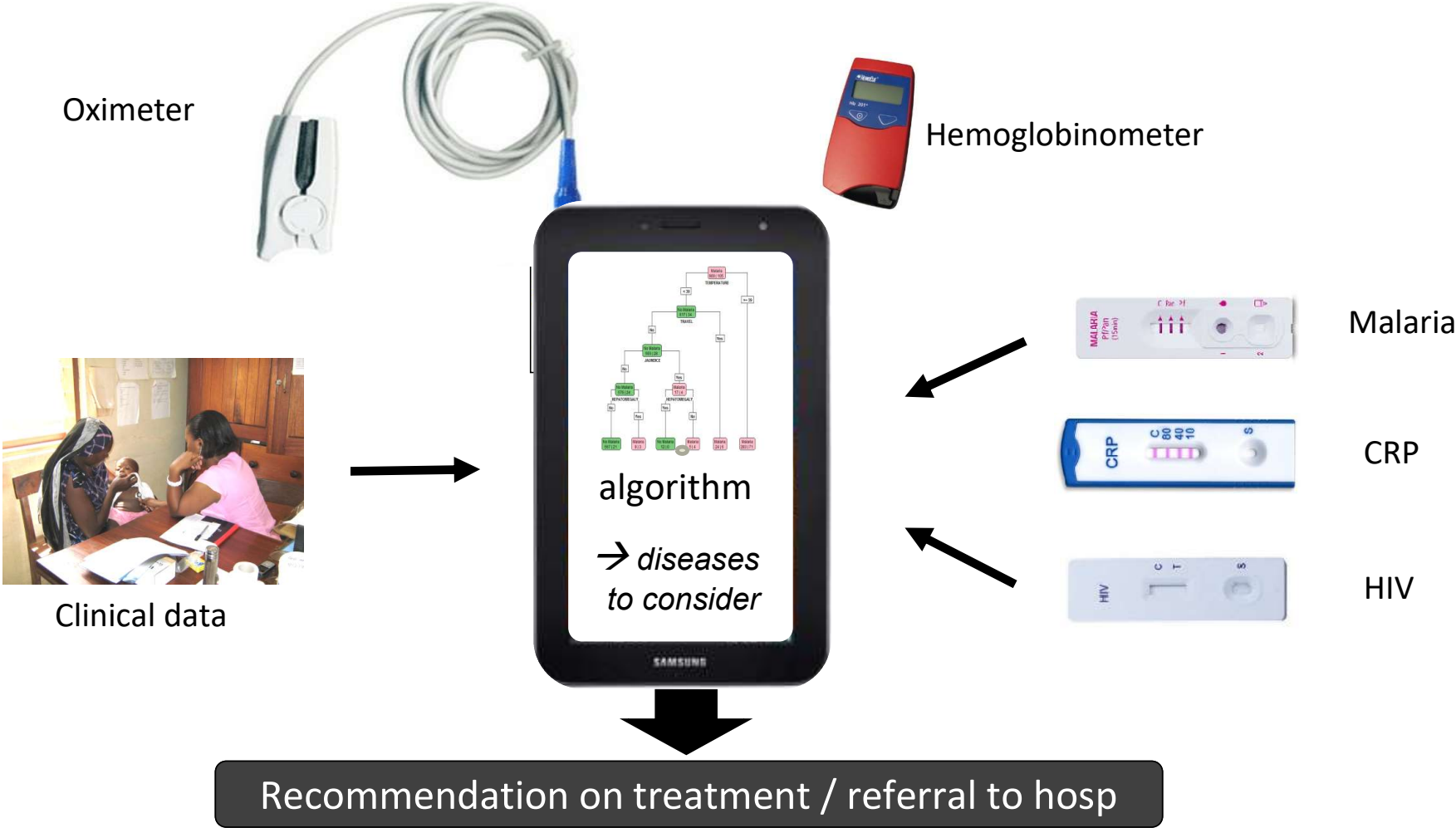
From theory to practice: ethical dilemmas

Respond to acute emergencies versus adaptation?

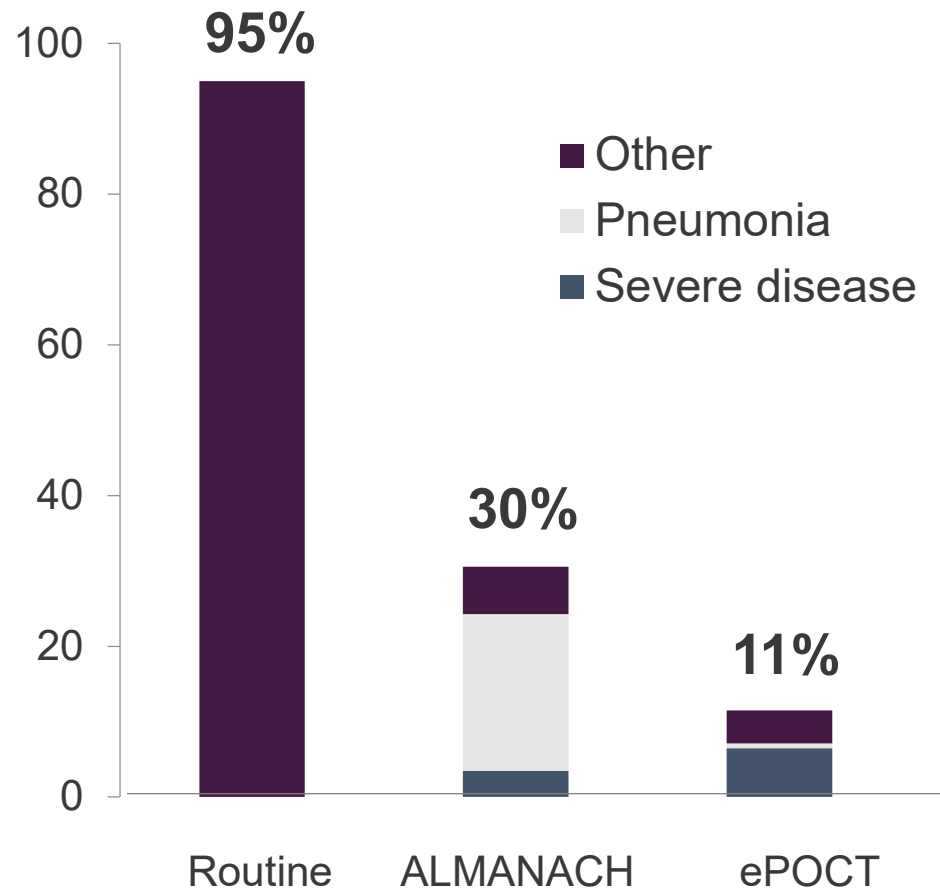
- Is it wise to provide food supply for years in areas that are (or will be) anyhow unlivable
- Is it wise to promote digital health in an era of limited energy and raw material?
- How to balance short-term benefits versus long-term deleterious human/environmental impact?

Example...

ePOCT: an algorithm connected to an oximeter, an hemoglobinometer and 3 rapid tests



Impact of e-POCT implementation on antibiotic prescription



*Potential impact of ePOCT
in children in Tanzania:*

28 million unnecessary
antibiotics saved per year

Ecology and sustainability of tablets implementation



We need a FAIRTABLET !



Raw material	% of world production	Stocks (years)	Recycling
Silver	21%	15-30	>50%
Copper	42%	40	>50%
Indium	>50%	10-15	<1%
Galium	40%	10-15	<1%
Germanium	15%	10-15	<1%
Lithium	20%	Large	<1%
Tantale	66%	150	<1%
Rare earths	20%	Large	<1%

Eric Vidalenc, "For a digital ecology" 2019

Who should benefit from digital health in priority?

