



AFTER TWO YEARS of pandemic, we have *NOT LEARNT THE LESSON*

SUMMARY

Despite having some previous background about it, the COVID-19 pandemic is still showing important revelations. Besides, it also showed things that we had already forgotten like prevention and combat to inequality and social gaps. Nowadays, we have lessons pending to be learned, among them we should learn that activities aimed to help the community should be a product of collaborative and transversal matters.



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Devastation and severe impacts caused by the COVID-19 pandemic knocked out several economic systems, and after that, several inequality gaps became considerably bigger, and the health of all the people was also at risk. After two years, we expect that people learnt valuable lessons to be ready in case of another pandemic to avoid being caught by similar issues.

When the World Health Organization (WHO) declared COVID-19 as a pandemic, nobody was ready for that. Due to the sanitary emergency we had to suffer from different effects, either related to health or mental matters. Moreover, education and human relationships in the society had to be reinvented, and on top of all that, we observed collateral effects in economics, problems in chain supplies, and the current hyperinflation.

All the context was uncertain



Among the main problems we faced during the pandemic, we can mention that domestic violence increased, excessive polarization on the measures implemented to prevent infections caused by the virus (like the use of masks, and implementation of vaccination processes). Once the vaccine was ready to be distributed, that process was influenced by different inequality gaps around the world. For that reason, in developed countries the process of distribution was effective and efficient.

The history is made of cycles, it is time to learn and react

Although money and equity on resources should be a ray of light for the terrible effects caused by this kind of phenomenon, the true facts have been revealed through the report: "COVID-19: Make it the Last pandemic", conducted by The Independent Panel for Pandemic Preparedness and Response; where they showed that we were not ready for the current issues that we are still facing.

For many years, experts on public health matters, but particularly on infectious diseases; mentioned that we were unready to

face a pandemic despite having some similar experiences before, like the flu in 1918, and outbreak of diseases like Ebola or Zika over the last few years. Nowadays we are an easy target for other pandemics just the way we were for COVID-19, if we do not eradicate it completely. According to the analysis "Global Health Security Index", developed by The Nuclear Threat Initiative and the Johns Hopkins University Institute, the big revelation is that most countries on the planet are not ready for facing another sanitary emergency.

We are about to start the third year in pandemic, and we still have many lessons to learn.

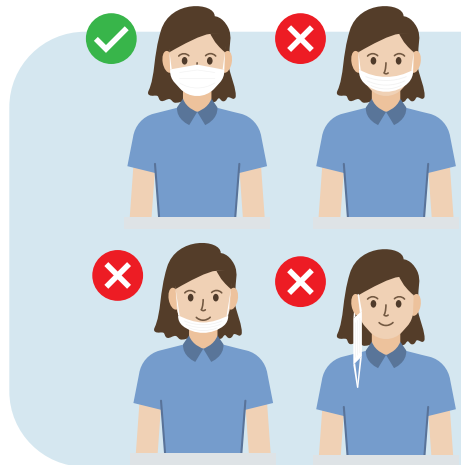
The future is among us

When the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) were created, the actions were planned to take place in a future time; however, the pandemic and the effects it caused showed that the actions have to take place in the present and if possible, through transversal actions.

Sustainable development is just the sum of wills through different perspectives. Currently, topics like security, environment, or

healthcare cannot be analyzed individually since in our current life everything is deeply interconnected.

The general lesson that we all have to learn is that problems in current life and the solution for the unfortunate inequality gaps that we face day after day, must be a result of coordinated and transversal actions. It is fundamental to have a quick response and act fairly.



WE ARE UNABLE TO LEARN

After every wave and variant during the COVID-19 pandemic, and despite the technological progress we have made to control the effects of the sanitary emergency, we are unable to learn the lessons. A clear example of that was observed after the outbreak of Omicron. Despite the fact that we had previously faced the variants delta and the original variant, the world community did not pay attention to lessons we had previously learnt.

Equality promotes health

The effects of the pandemic put in uncomfortable positions to all the people who already were going through unfavorable situations. Inequality gaps were not exposed only, but they also became bigger. One of the main examples we can list is inequality on connection to the internet, in a moment when having access to cyberspace meant the difference between performing remote activities or staying far away and isolated from regular activities like the ones performed by educational institutions.

It is indispensable that vaccination processes become the first move to sustain-

able development through having general access to vaccines in order to safely and gradually return to the activities in the way we had planned. Nevertheless, statistics in the "Global Dashboard for Vaccine Equity", presented by the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the WHO, and the University of Oxford; showed that only in countries with high incomes, the vaccination process was a general activity, and they reported a number of 68.6% vaccinated people. Meanwhile in countries with low incomes, the number barely reaches 13.3%.

Hope may be found in collaborative work

While the unfortunate results caused by the pandemic cannot be completely measured yet, different international organizations are convinced, and they agree that the agenda should include collaborative and transversal activities to encourage people to combat deprivation and inequality gaps detected before the pandemic, which unfortunately have increased as a consequence of the current situation.

By implementing actions aimed at the continuous improvement of life and welfare in Mexico, Congregación Mariana Trinitaria (CMT) is convinced of the position to take in

order to face inequality gaps around the world. Programs being implemented and subsidies focused on the fields encourage productivity in that important sector, as well as sustainability. It also encourages the development of improvements on internet access and technology, as well as different issues related to food. After 25 years of collaborative work, making important contributions to the present and developing projects for the future, CMT is ready to keep on helping people who need assistance through the development of diverse public policies, programs, and subsidies that people might need.

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