

Group assignment

After the introductory virtual meeting on April 2nd, each group is requested to prepare a **10-minute presentation in English** (orally/in writing) for the course on May 7-8th, based on your chosen topic for in-depth study. The sub-questions for the assignment below are to be considered as guiding, but by the end of the presentation you should have;

- 1) explained the topic to the audience
- 2) convinced the audience of its importance
- 3) discussed possible solutions / mitigating strategies.

You are free to choose what you want to emphasize in your presentation, and include other elements of interest, but please keep in mind the global perspective. The literature list may provide you with some relevant material.

In previous courses, the assignment "Future public health threats and consequences" has been the topic that most people want to focus on. In that regard, this is the sole assignment for this course. However, there are many threats to "dive into" (some emerging, others persistent) and many aspects that could be covered. The assignments must meet the learning objectives pre-specified for this course. The learning objectives are now embedded in the assignment's sub-questions, and we challenge you to discuss any bidirectional consequences and synergies you identify.

Future health challenges and threats

The world is facing numerous health challenges, some of which have been with us for ages and some of which are relatively new. The challenges range from specific diseases via broader health issues such as lifestyle related health problems to more overarching themes including a changing political climate.

Several actors have made attempts to list the most important health challenges and threats of our time, with different outcomes. Below you will find some of the issues that will demand attention from the global health community over the time to come (random order):

- Major outbreaks causing widespread illness and death (epidemics and pandemics)
- Antimicrobial resistance including multidrug resistant tuberculosis
- Climate change and air pollution
- Noncommunicable diseases
- Vaccine hesitancy
- Inadequate access to health systems incl. in conflict settings and protracted crisis
- Mental health and lack of psychosocial support

We ask each group to pick **one topic** and analyze it with the following questions in mind (if you believe we have left out something very significant, please feel free to add to the list above, as long as you can explain the rationale behind):

- Explain the nature of the selected challenge/threat to the audience. What is the scope of the problem? Who is/will be affected? How many? Vulnerable groups? Humanitarian consequences?
- Will the selected challenge/threat impact any of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals? If so (the answer is probably yes), which and in what way?
- What is the actual or potential role of international collaboration in mitigating the consequences of the selected challenge/threat? Are there any current threats to this collaboration, or relevant opportunities?