G20 BRASIL 2024

BUILDING A JUST WORLD
AND A SUSTAINABLE PLANET

Joint Finance and Health Ministerial Meeting (JFHMM)

SUMMARY

G20/World Health Organization/World Bank Global Report on the Framework for Health, Social, and Economic Vulnerabilities and Risks (FEVR) related to Pandemics

October 2024

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the stark scale of impacts on society and the strong interconnection between health risks and the macroeconomic consequences of policy measures required to deal with pandemic. Analysis to better understand how and why countries are vulnerable to the macroeconomic impacts of pandemics' risks was first conducted under the India G20 Presidency and developed into the Framework for Economic Vulnerabilities and Risks (FEVR). The FEVR linked across the three domains of health system resilience and response capacity, macroeconomic stability, and social and economic protection and provided an integrated diagnostic tool for voluntary use by countries. Under the 2024 Brazil Presidency, there has been a concerted effort to improve the assessment of global health, social and economic vulnerabilities and risks arising from pandemics to prioritize policy responses. The Global Report on the Framework for Health, Social, and Economic Vulnerabilities Related to Pandemics ('the Global Report') brings together this Framework and modelling to provide a baseline to systematically compare and assess a range of policy options alongside an assessment of global economic risks from pandemics and estimated financing needs.

INITIAL FINDINGS OF THIS REPORT

FEVR was finalised with 23 indicators, taking into account existing evidence, expert advice and data availability. This include three additional indicators related to the social determinants of health (SDH) that are recommended in a separate expert policy note, recognising the impact that the huge inequities in social conditions had on individual vulnerability and health outcomes from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Further economic analysis conducted for this report highlights that countries with a high reliance on tourism, trade, and natural resources are more vulnerable to economic shocks and disruptions caused by a pandemic. Short-term GDP losses are positively and significantly correlated with the severity of government containment measures, such as lockdowns and school closures. The introduction of more stringent regulations, intended to safeguard public health, resulted in larger financial losses. Drawing back on COVID-19 pandemic, higher-income countries experienced lower percentage of GDP losses from the pandemic, highlighting the protective effect of economic wealth against pandemic-induced economic downturns. Moreover, the GDP loss associated with the vaccination speed - the rate at which a country vaccinated 20% of its population - may be mediated by a country's overall income level, with wealthier nations generally being better equipped to obtain and distribute vaccines.

An initial simulation of an event similar to COVID-19 pandemic with different levels of preparedness and response, demonstrates the significant impact of prompt measures taken up front to detect and manage a disease outbreak. These include investment in surveillance and testing, which can dramatically reduce the spread and number of deaths, as well as reduce the need for further public health measures. Furthermore, additional investment in R&D and other measures up front to support rapid access to the right medical countermeasures will reduce the response time and by turn will have a very high cost-benefit ratio driven by reduced deaths and costs to the economy.

This initial modelling provides a basis for regular modelling and scenarios analysis of the impact of a range of pathogens can have on health, social and economic outcomes. It also provides a suggested menu of policy measures and recommendations to address specific vulnerabilities and mitigate the impacts. Given the collective risk posed by pandemics, it is essential to continue to assess the progress to reducing the estimated US$ 10.5 billion pandemic preparedness financing gap, and the measures to significantly increase funding available.

UPDATES FOLLOWING DISCUSSIONS AND COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

We thank G20 members for their comments and for providing further clarity on added indicators and proposed policy measures in addition to:

- A refined set of 23 indicators for the FEVR with the recommended data sources
- Clear next steps on the operationalization of FEVR and its county-specific application.

NEXT STEPS

Going forward, the G20 members may wish to consider using this final version of the FEVR as a diagnostic tool to identify vulnerabilities and risks to pandemics and support decision making. More specifically, key next steps could include:

The FEVR indicators can be used as a voluntary diagnostic tool by countries, regional organizations and other entities to support policy development and a high-level assessment of potential policy options.

The FEVR modelling can also be used to conduct stress tests at national, regional, and global levels to identify persistent gaps, inform planning, and guide evidence-based decision-making.

Further analysis and exploration of the trade-offs of specific policies will be important when considering prioritizing measures and investments to improve prevention and preparedness while considering context specific circumstances.

Further develop the indicators and potential policy measures which are focused on international collaboration and systems as well as social outcomes such as the scenario analysis of different mitigation strategies which considered the impact on education.

FRAMEWORK FOR HEALTH, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC VULNERABILITIES AND RISKS TO PANDEMICS

Indicators	
Health Emergency Preparedness and Response	
1.	Timeliness of event detection, notification, and response
2.	Laboratory testing capacity modalities
3.	Community engagement
4.	Hospital bed capacity per 100k
5.	Management of health emergency response
6.	Effective national diagnostic network
7.	Vaccination coverage rate for high-priority pathogens
8.	Multisectoral coordination mechanisms
9.	Universal Health Coverage service coverage index
10.	Health expenditure (% of GDP)
11.	Health expenditure per capita (current US$)
Economic and Fiscal	
12.	Exports of goods and services (% of GDP)
13.	International tourism receipts (% of GDP)
14.	Trade (% of GDP)
15.	General government gross debt (% of GDP)
16.	Debt servicing ratio (% of exports of goods, services and primary income)
Social Determinants	
17.	Access to water and sanitation – Population using safely managed sanitation services (%)
18.	Access to education – Net school enrolment rate (pre-primary, primary, secondary, tertiary) (%)
19.	Urban slum population - Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing (%)
20.	Access to social protection benefits - Proportion of population covered by at least one social protection benefit (%)
21.	Internet Access (Proportion of population covered by a mobile network, by technology)
22.	Food insecurity (Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population)
23.	Informal employment


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