

The unbearable lightness of SDG3

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Agenda 2030 – Sustainable Development Goals



17 Indivisible and Universal Goals

- To end poverty "once and *for all*";
- to combat inequalities;
- to ensure lasting protection of the planet and its resources;
- to create the conditions for "shared prosperity" and
- "sustainable, inclusive and sustained" growth

SDG 3 – Universal Health Coverage

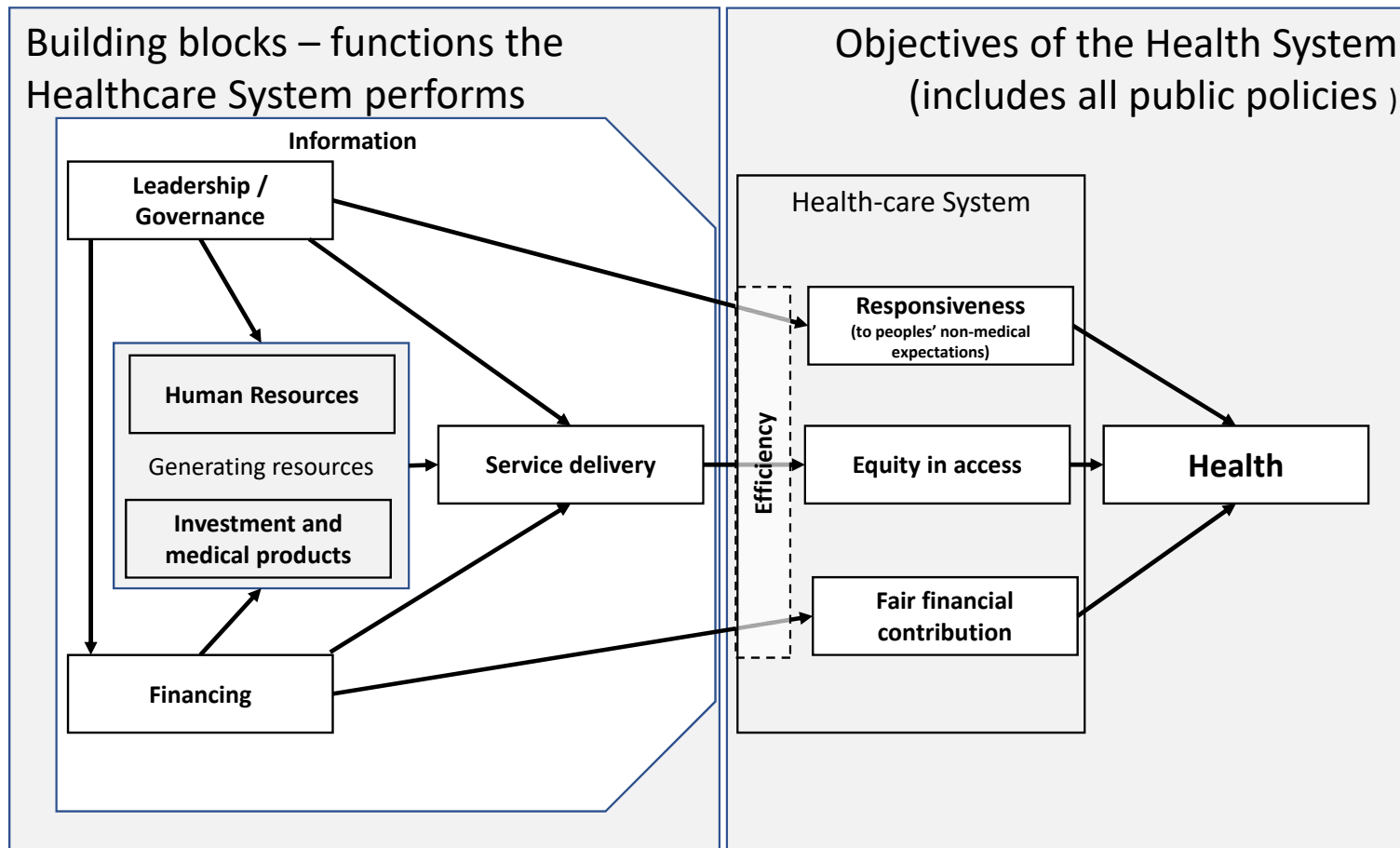
“the centrepiece ...

This is the one target that, if achieved – or let’s say when achieved – will contribute to all the others”

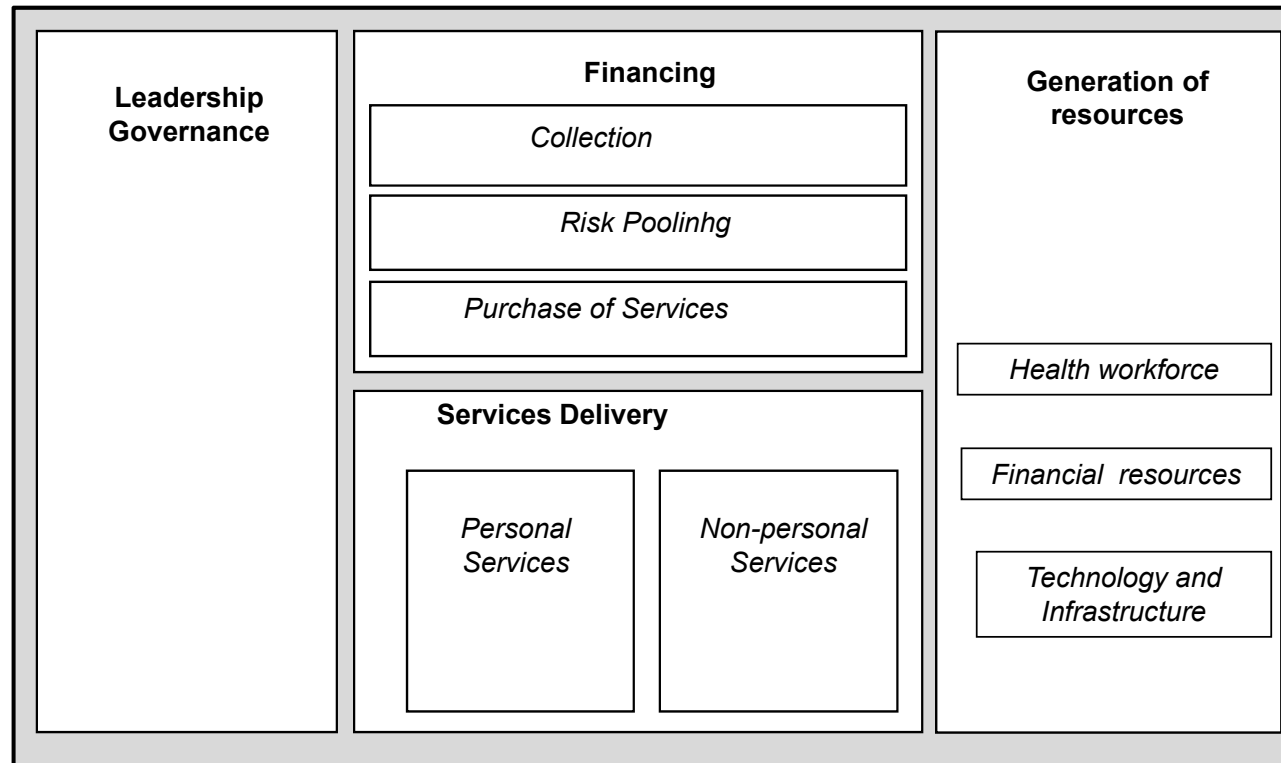
(WHO DG, Dr. Ghebreyesus, 2018)

Health systems' building blocks and goals.

(Missoni et al. 2019, modified)



The Health care systems functions

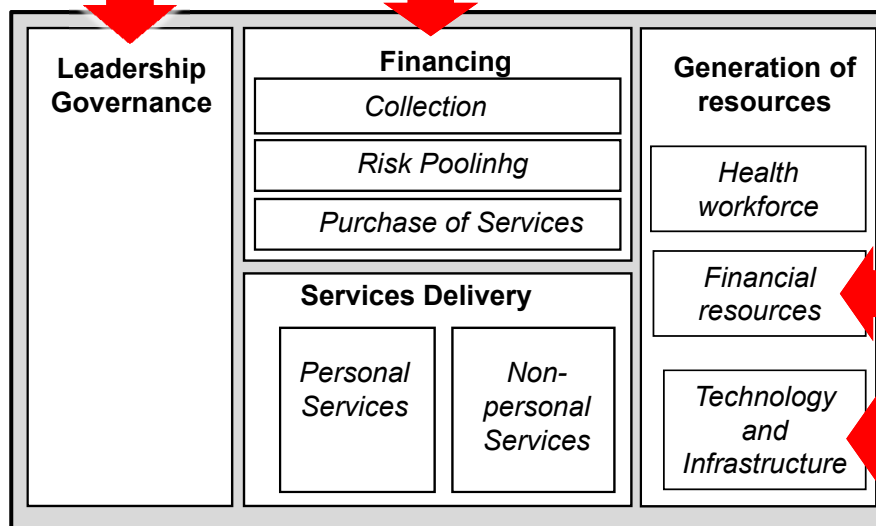


Determinants of Health systems' sustainability

- Global market forces
- Free trade agreements
- International financial Institutions
- Supranational Institutions

Fragmented systems
Privatization
Out-of-Pocket payments

- External Debt
- SAPs
- Austerity policies
- Weak and inequitable fiscal and social protection systems



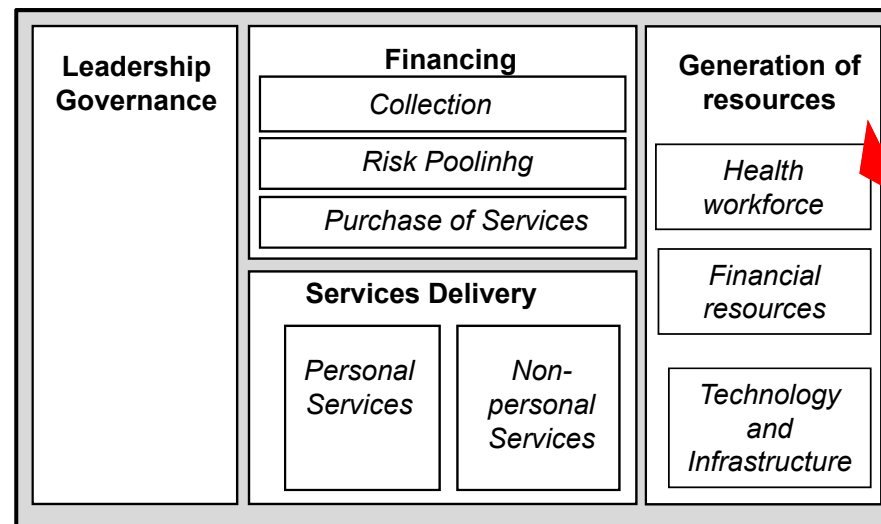
Research and Development respond to market not to population's needs

- aid fragmented, unequally distributed, inefficient and ineffective

Global DAH actors influence multiple functions of the system

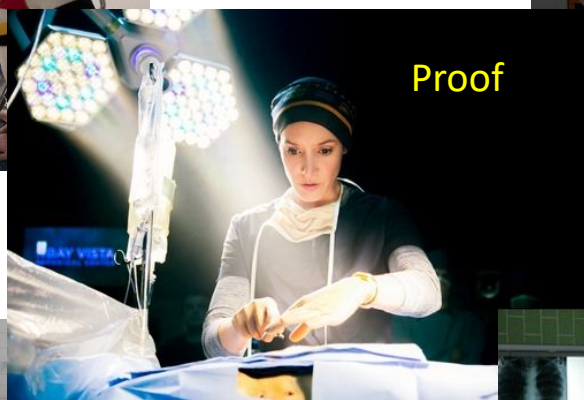
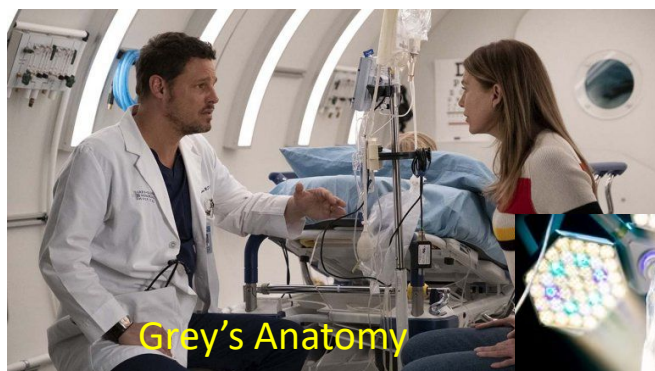
Determinants of Health systems' sustainability

- Focus on Human Resources -



- Standardized, Non-contextualized education and training
- Brain drain

The heroes in the collective global imaginary



The global standard

Top-down training – the horizontal patient



The wrong investment in Human resources

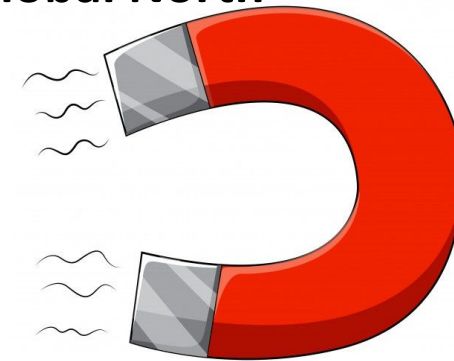
Global South



Competencies (knowledge, experience, motivations) inappropriate for local contexts



Global North

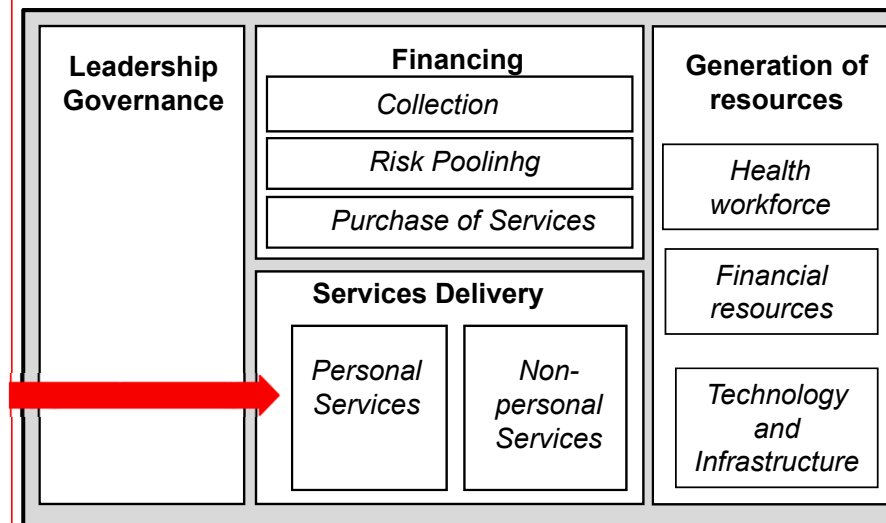


Global determinants of Health systems' sustainability

- Focus on Demand and Offer -

Causes of increased or modified demand

- NCDs and multimorbidity
 - Increase in population; ageing; urbanization;
 - Transformation of the ecosystem
 - Changes in the food-system
- Double burden of disease
- Internet
- Marketing, health consumerism, disease mongering, etc.
- Excessive /inappropriate prescribing (e.g. AMR)
- Iatrogenic (overdiagnosis, overtreatment, collateral effects...)



Global determinants of Health systems' sustainability

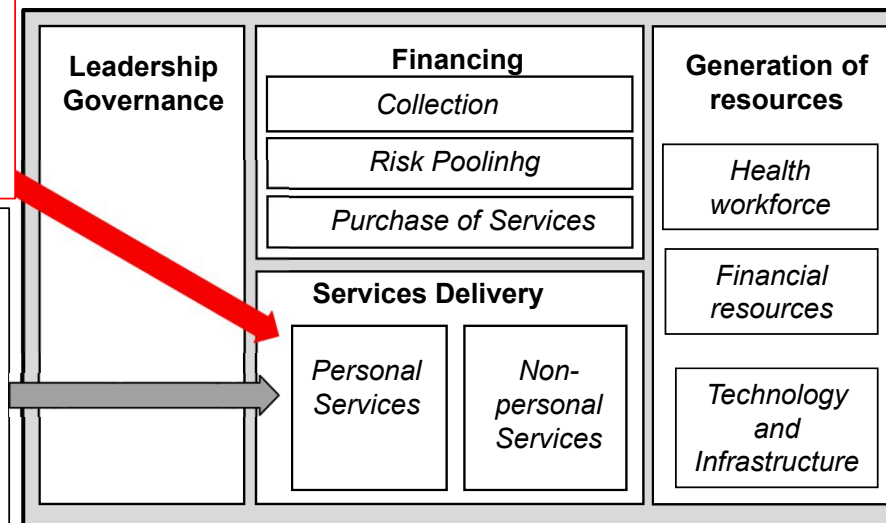
- Focus on Demand and Offer -

Inequitable Offer

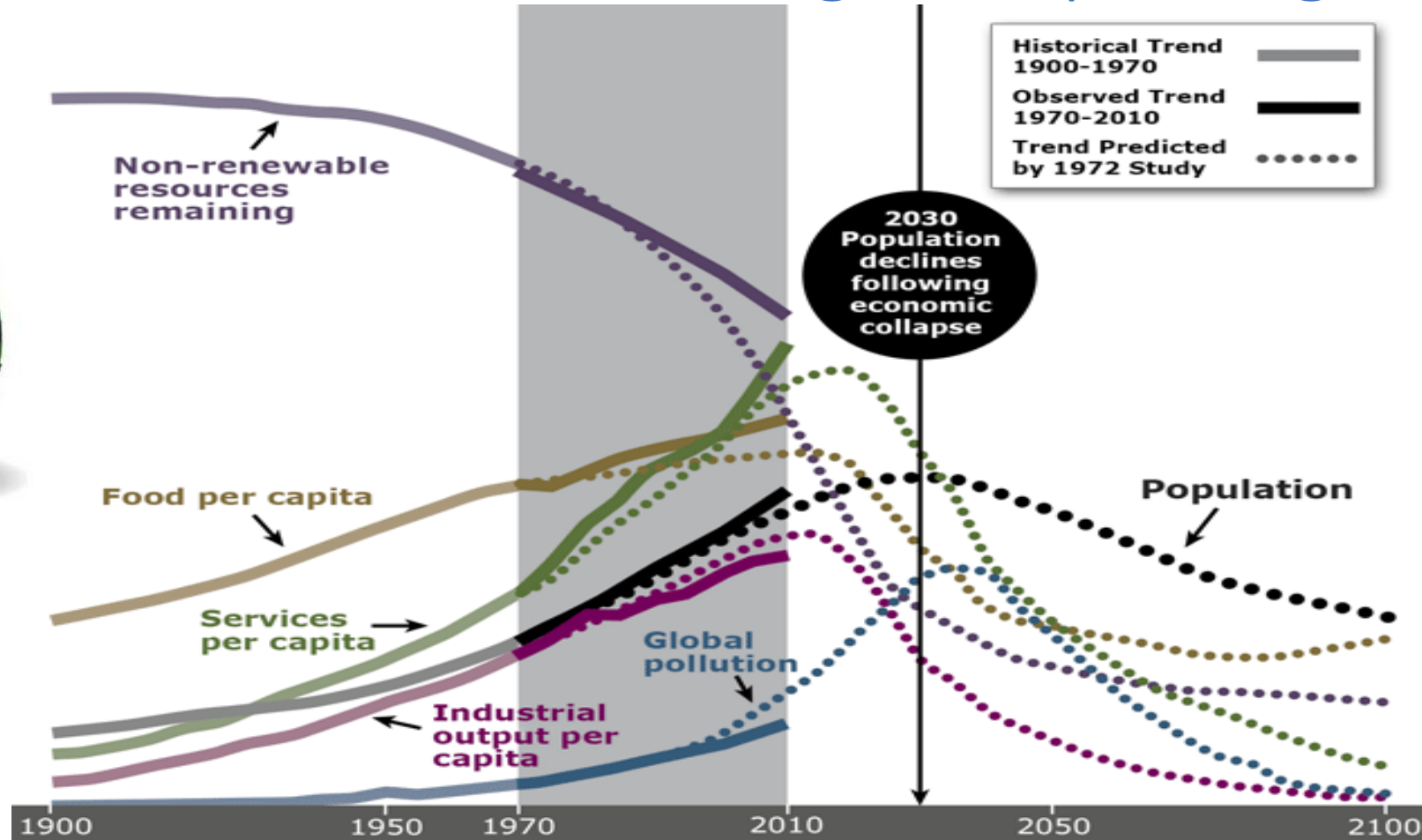
- Selective approaches
- Technological innovation (market oriented)
- Medical Tourism

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Revert the trend – change the paradigm



SDG 8 - "Sustainable, inclusive and sustained" growth

Inside the planetary boundaries that define a safe operating space for humanity, **'sustained' growth**, with unmodified production and consumption patterns, is **not compatible with sustainability**.

Tackle the causes of the causes

Global societal structures and processes that perpetrate the hegemonic, **unfair, environmentally and socially unsustainable** market civilization model of capitalist development, based on economic growth and competitiveness, without caring for social, environmental and human costs, **are incompatible with equity in health** or in any single domain of human life.

Equity and the sustainability of “health for all”, “leaving nobody behind”, without leaving behind the current hegemonic economic growth paradigm, is **a rhetoric goal of unbearable lightness**.

The needed “utopia” – The way forward

A drastic paradigm shift is needed toward a more

- inclusive,
 - cooperative,
 - equitable,
 - ethical and
 - ecological
- human society which may allow truly sustainable development, and with it “health for all at all ages”.

