



# **Global Health Governance and Health Equity in the context of Covid 19: a scoping review**

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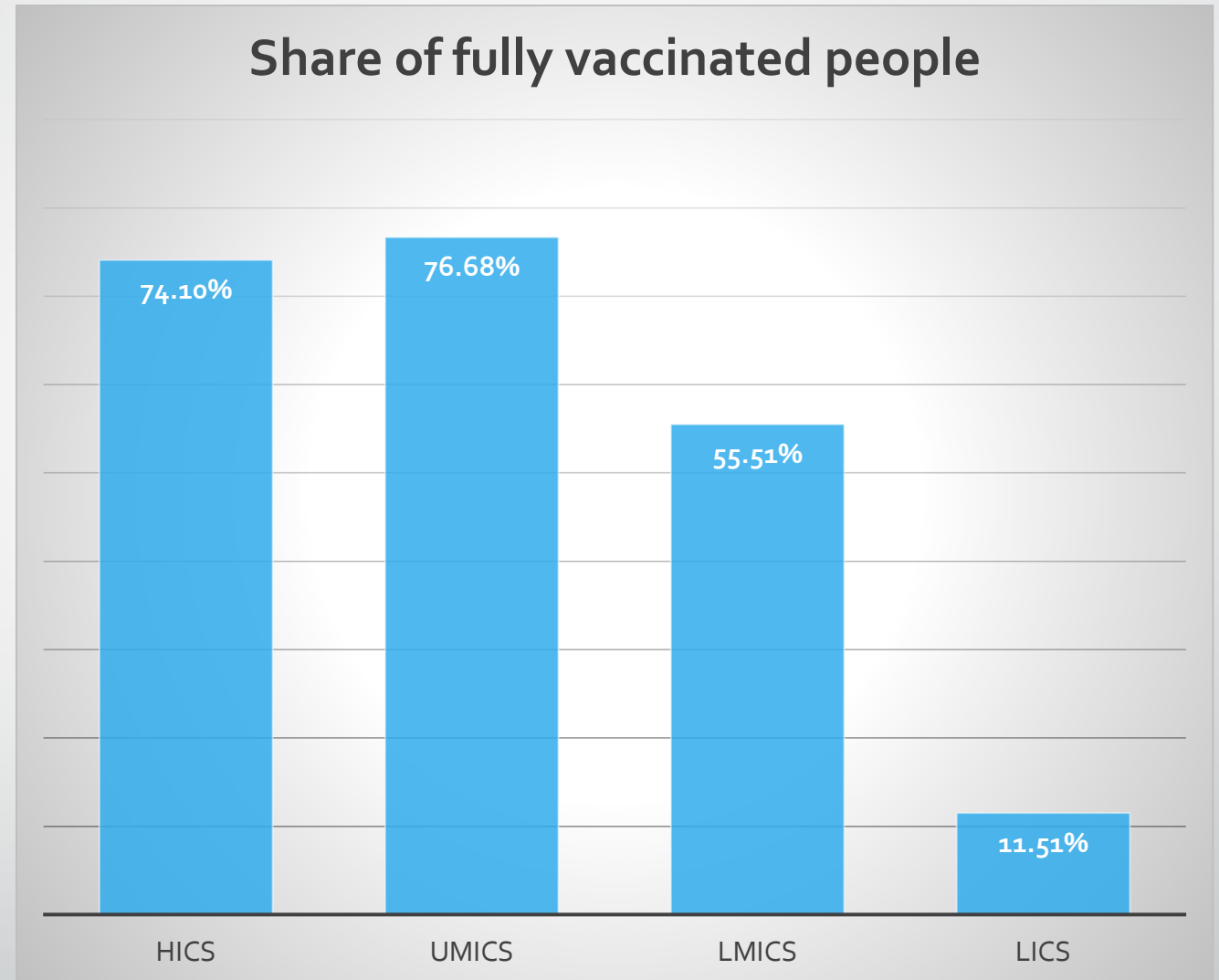
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# Background

- During the Covid-19 pandemic, health equity proves to be a major issue of concern
- Inequities were both at a national level ( gender, race, and income) and on international levels (vaccine distribution among countries)
- The importance of global health governance in ensuring equitable access to health resources and services was highlighted

Access to Covid-19 vaccine at the global level is proven to be inequitable.





# What is Governance

“a process of steering and of control”

“all the processes of interaction be they through the laws, norms, power or language of an organized society”

“Governance is the manner in which power is exercised in the management of a country's economic and social resources for development”

# Governance in Health

## At the Health sector level :

“developing and putting in place effective rules in the institutional arenas for policies, programs, and activities related to fulfilling public health functions so as to achieve health sector objectives”

## At the Global level :

“the use of formal and informal institutions, rules, and processes by states, intergovernmental organizations, and non-state actors to deal with challenges to health that require cross-border collective action to address effectively”

Nevertheless, the GHG structure does not make the governance process easy

- GHG is described to be “A complex adaptive system” where actors as well as their roles change all the time
- In the year 2018 it was estimated that there are 203 actor

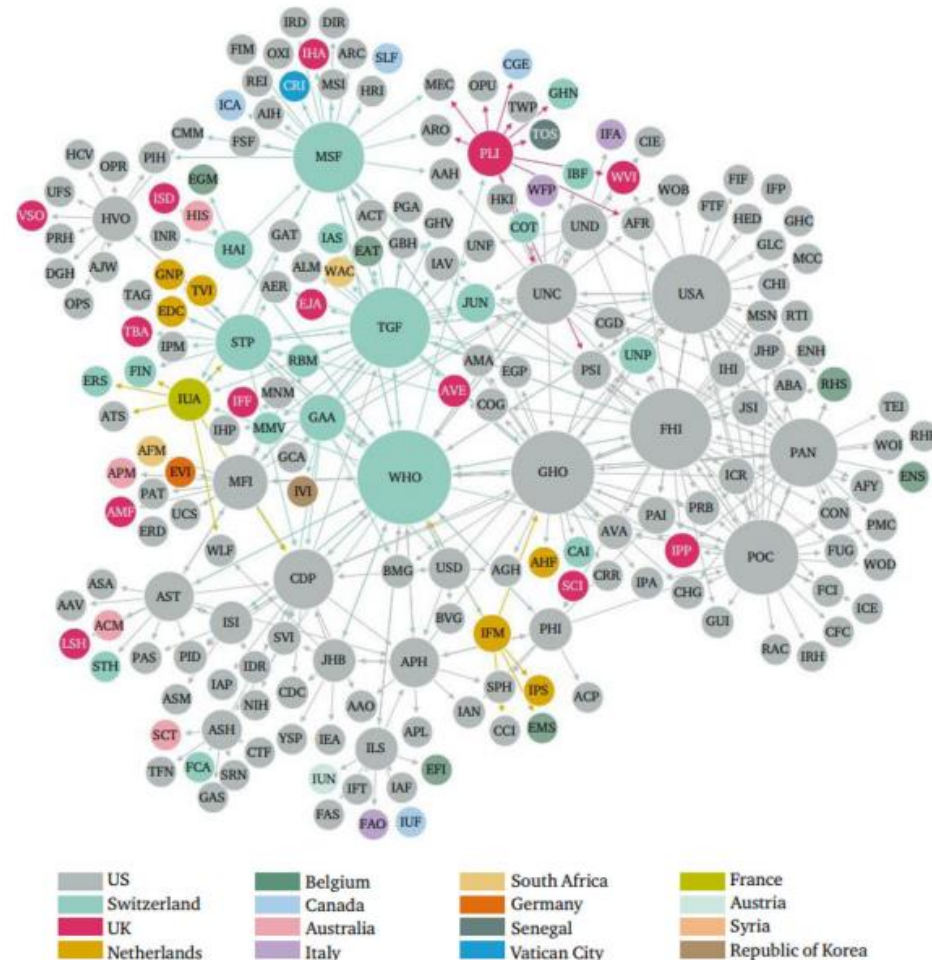
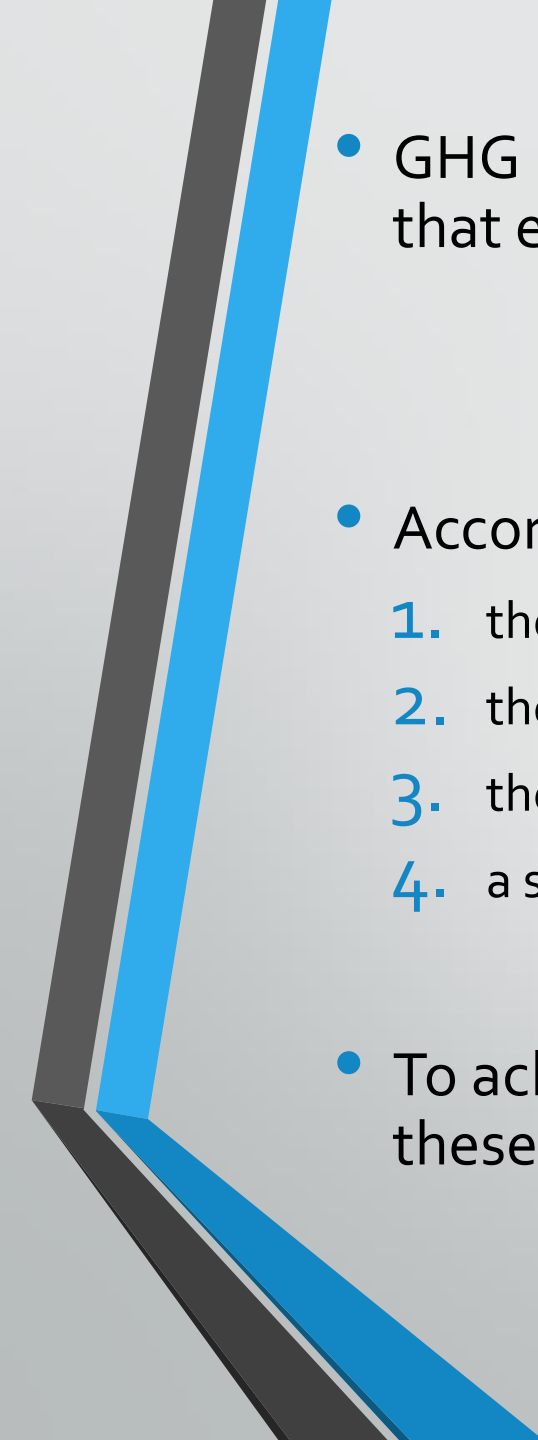


Fig. 3 Network mapping of global health actors by country location of international headquarters. Node size is ranked by degree, node colour is partitioned by headquarters location, and edges are coloured by source node.

# Health equity

“Health equity is defined as the absence of unfair and avoidable or remediable differences in health among population groups defined socially, economically, demographically or geographically”



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- GHG has both a moral and a functional role in achieving health equity so that every human being enjoys his right to health.
  - According to Frenk and Moon, GHG has four main functions:
    1. the production of global goods, guidelines, policies, research and technologies.
    2. the management of external threats.
    3. the facilitation of global solidarity.
    4. a stewardship function
  - To achieve global Health equity, it should be addressed through each of these functions



# What is a scoping review

- Is a type of systematic review
- Its main goal is:
  - to determine what range of evidence is available on a topic and to represent this evidence visually (i.e., mapping or charting).
  - No synthesis of the located evidence is undertaken
- Uses :
  - mapping literature
  - Identifying gaps
  - Clarify key concepts
- When is it used:
  - in disciplines with emerging evidence
  - Broad / not specific research question

# Objectives of the scoping review

- to map the body of literature on health equity in relation to GHG in the context of Covid-19
- to identify research gaps according to research themes, discipline and countries of origin

# Methodology

- is based upon:
  1. the guidelines for conducting systematic scoping review developed by the Joanna Briggs Institute
  2. the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analysis Extension for Scoping Review (PRISMA-ScR)
- Relevant studies identification:
  - Databases: PubMed, Scopus, Google Scholar, World cat and WHO-Global Index Medicus.
  - Key words used for the search were: Health equity, Health inequity, Covid 19, and Global Governance
  - The used research term is: "health inequity" OR "health equity" AND "Global Governance" AND "COVID 19".

- Eligibility of studies :
  1. written in English
  2. published starting with the Covid-19 in 2019 up till October 2021
  3. their main focus is on global governance aspects which affect health equity
  4. report on health equity issue in the Covid-19 context.
  
- Screening :
  1. Identified eligible studies were screened and reviewed by two reviewers.
  2. Screening was done through three stages:
    1. identified studies were screened for duplicates
    2. title and abstract screening to exclude ineligible studies
    3. full text article assessment of remaining studies in order to confirm their eligibility

- Analysis and Results reporting

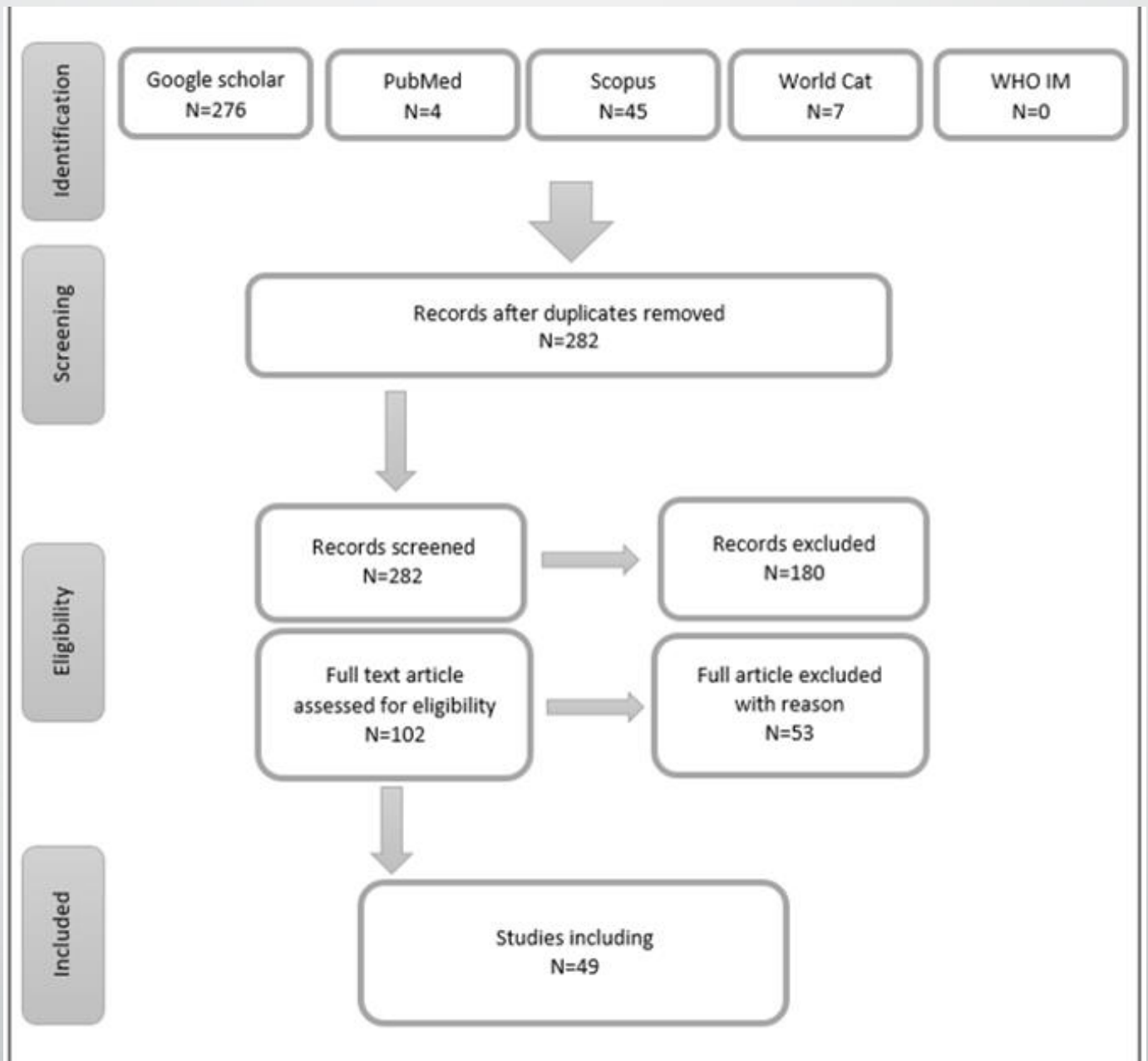
1. open descriptive coding to generate ideas on which to build on the main themes
2. focused thematic analysis to identify patterns and relationships.
3. frequency, commonality and significance analysis of previously identified categories

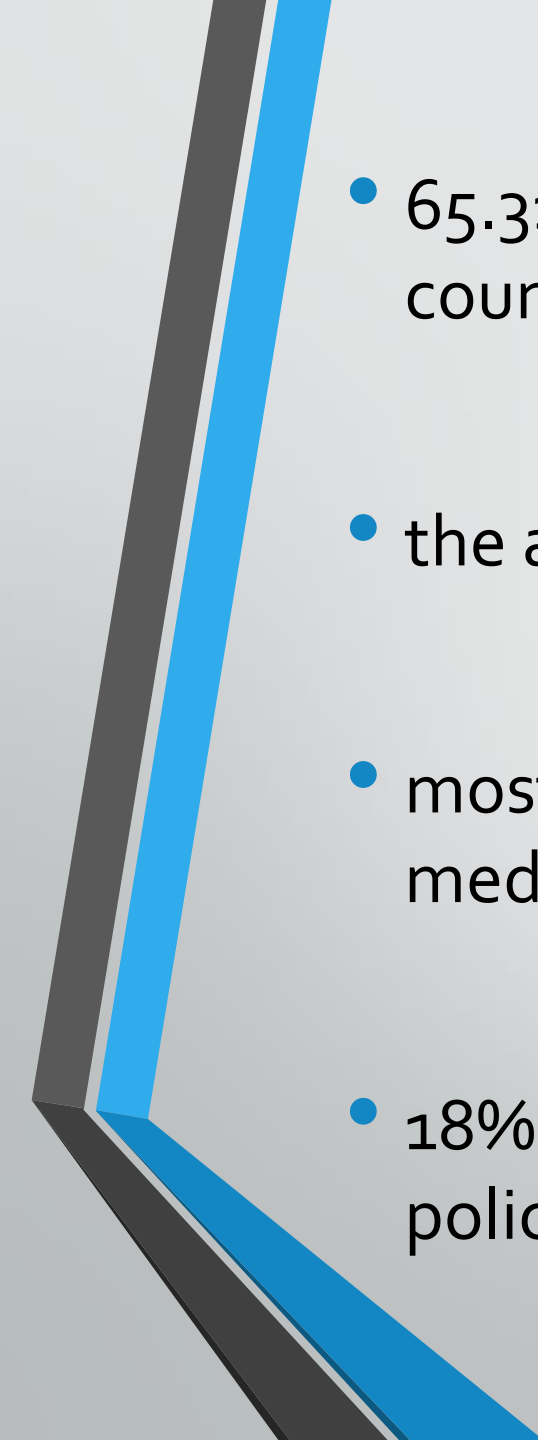
- Limitations

1. Timeframe: Since Covid-19 is an ongoing pandemic, the research on the topic is still ongoing which means that more studies will be produced but not included in this scoping review.
2. only English publications were included in the literature search, therefore there is a risk of a language bias.

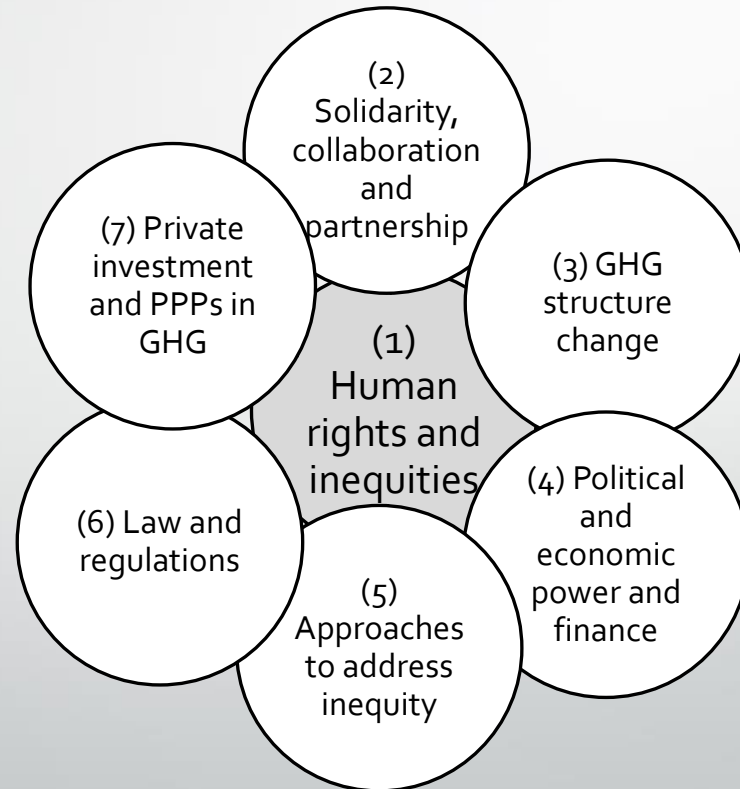
# Results

Research flow chart



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- 65.31% of studies was authored by scholars from a single country
  - the authors are mostly affiliated to developed countries
  - most of the studies are authored by scholars from the medical field 51% .
  - 18% are produced by social scientist , 12% from law and policy and only 8% multidisciplinary

As for research areas , they were found to cover seven main themes.





# 1. The human rights and inequities theme

- the fact that responses to COVID-19 were inequitable- was referred to the values underlying the responses. There proved to be an under-reliance on the human rights as a base in constructing these responses
- Not centralizing the COVID-19 responses around human rights could be related to the failure to operationalize human rights in institutions and mode of action of the numerous actors in GHG
- Gender mainstreaming in institutions working in the field of GHG especially in emergency response, is required so as to promote equity both at the decision making level as well as at the outcome level

## 2. The structure of GHG and the need for change

- authors indicated that the current GHG structure is no longer adequate for facing the present challenges associated with global health and their consequences
- Proposed changes included:
  - supporting centralized authority in GHG and binding state rules
  - voicing of those that are disproportionately affected
  - inclusive multilateralism and networking
  - Flexible collaborative governance

## 3. Political and economic power

- economic and political power role in GHG and equity
- power as an access determinant to the COVID-19 vaccine
- the importance of political will for achieving equity
- decisions are shaped by powerful nations, multilateral organizations
- power through knowledge monopoly

## 4. Solidarity, collaboration, and partnership

- The need for global solidarity to mitigate COVID-19 effects and consequences
- COVAX initiative as the main act of solidarity
- Solidarity could be done through the facilitation of capacity bridging between LMICs and HICs

## 5.law and regulations

- the role of law and regulations in GHG as a way to advance global justice and enhance equity
- Intellectual property rights
- International Health regulations

## 6. Approaches to address inequity

- A global multi-disciplinary human-centred approach aiming at coordinated research, technology development, and health trade facilitation
- A public health approach: public health could support social movements that concentrate on social determinants of health for radical changes.
- A system approach: recognizes the relation between human health, animal health, and the environment.
- A mutual collective accountability approach: having a shared global governance with a common goal and measurable indicators

## 7. private investment and PPPs in GHG

- prioritizing public interests over economic interests and financial gains.
- PPPs are less desirable in GHG as they might lead to inequities
- Finding financing instruments for GHG to ensure equity can reduce the effects of the private actors and improves equity.

# Conclusion

- The number of articles in each theme is an indication of what the research community is focused on. The highest number of papers were on the “human rights and inequities” theme
- There is a need for information sharing between countries as well as capacity building in developing countries.
- Research concerning GHG and equity is multidimensional, there is a need for multidisciplinary collaborative research





Thank you!