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Innovation & Inequity

Last year, we feared the worst when it came to the Global Goals. But even amid the devastation of the COVID-19 pandemic, we've seen that hope can grow from seeds planted years earlier. Here's what we've learned.



2021 Report**The Data****The Mission****The Work****Co-Chairs, Bill & Melinda Gates
Foundation**

A year ago, we sat down to write an unusual Goalkeepers Report. After years of steady progress on the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic was devastating families, health systems, and economies. We feared it was triggering an unprecedented reversal of progress across nearly every measure of health and prosperity that we track each year in this report.

Indeed, it has been an unprecedented year: Millions of people around the world have died from COVID-19. Millions more have felt the shocks of a global economy in crisis. And still the pandemic rages, with ever more contagious and severe variants spreading around the globe.

And today, we can also report that people in every part of the world have been stepping up to protect the development progress we've made over decades—when it comes to the SDGs, at least, the impact of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic could have been far worse.

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we can change our behavior, as individuals and as societies, when circumstances require it.

we can expand upon the best of what we've seen these past 18 months, we can finally put the pandemic behind us and once again accelerate progress in addressing fundamental issues like health, hunger, and climate change.



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Melinda French Gates Women's Economic Power

Economic fallout from COVID is affecting women globally. Melinda French Gates shares the mic with Goalkeepers to inspire a call to invest in women's power.

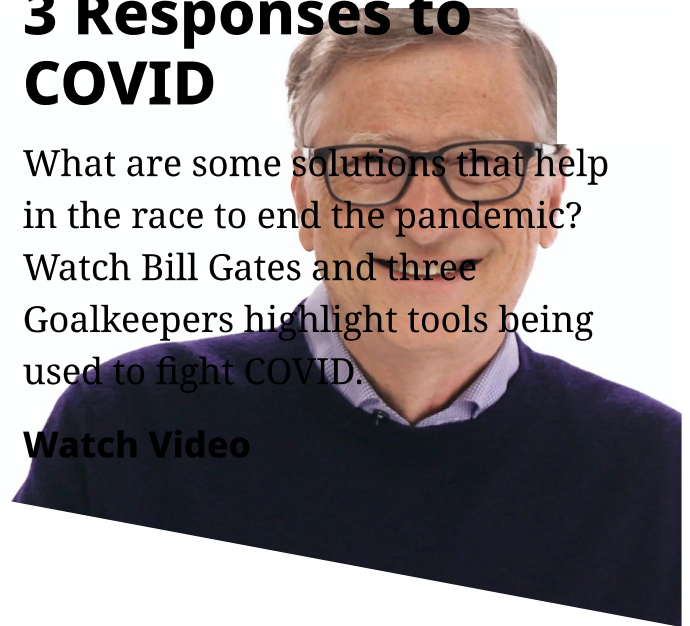
The Data Tells a Surprising Story

Over the past year, it has been impossible to ignore stark disparities not only in who has gotten sick and who has died—but also in who had to go to work, who could work from home, and who lost

Bill Gates 3 Responses to COVID

What are some solutions that help in the race to end the pandemic? Watch Bill Gates and three Goalkeepers highlight tools being used to fight COVID.

Watch Video



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poverty as a result of COVID-19. Although men are 70% more likely to die from COVID-19, women continue to be disproportionately affected by the economic and social impacts of the pandemic: This year, women's employment globally is expected to remain 13 million jobs below the 2019 level—while men's employment is largely expected to recover to pre-pandemic rates.



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Although variants threaten to undermine the progress we've made, some economies are beginning to recover, bringing with them business reopenings and job creation. But recovery is uneven between—and even within—countries. By next year, for example, 90% of advanced economies are expected to regain

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Growing Gaps in Education

We're seeing a similar story when it comes to education. Before the pandemic, nine out of 10 children in

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example, learning loss among Black and Latino third grade students was, on average, double that of white and Asian American students. And

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