



**International
Science Council**

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Covid-19 Global Outcomes Scenarios Project

4th Annual Meeting of European Members of the ISC

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COVID-19 Outcomes Scenarios Project

The ISC, WHO, UNDRR has launched a COVID-19 project to outline a range of scenarios over the next 3-5 years that aim to assist our understanding of the options for achieving an optimistic and fair end to the pandemic.

Why?

This unprecedented pandemic has surprised the global community

Covid-19 pandemic has been met by unequal responses in different countries & has led to unequal health & economic impacts

Despite rapid scientific progress on the development of Covid-19 vaccines, treatments, diagnostics & in understanding the most impactful public health measures, there is still uncertainty about how the pandemic will evolve

What emerges next will depend on multiple factors, including the evolution of SARS-CoV-2, government responses, the level of global cooperation, ongoing progress in vaccine development, and citizen behaviour

Most key actors are focused on short-term pandemic outcomes, but decisions made today will have an impact on long-term global health, economic and inequality outcomes

Must prepare for future challenges & opportunities

[Article in
The Lancet](#)

Project Goals

1

To assist and inform policy & public understanding of plausible mid- and long-term Covid-19 outcome scenarios

2

To understand the impact of these scenarios.

3

To identify evidence-based decision pathways that would encourage positive outcomes and minimize negative outcomes

Understand which **vectors of uncertainty** and which **decisions** made by individual actors today can have broader consequences for the global evolution of the pandemic in the next few years

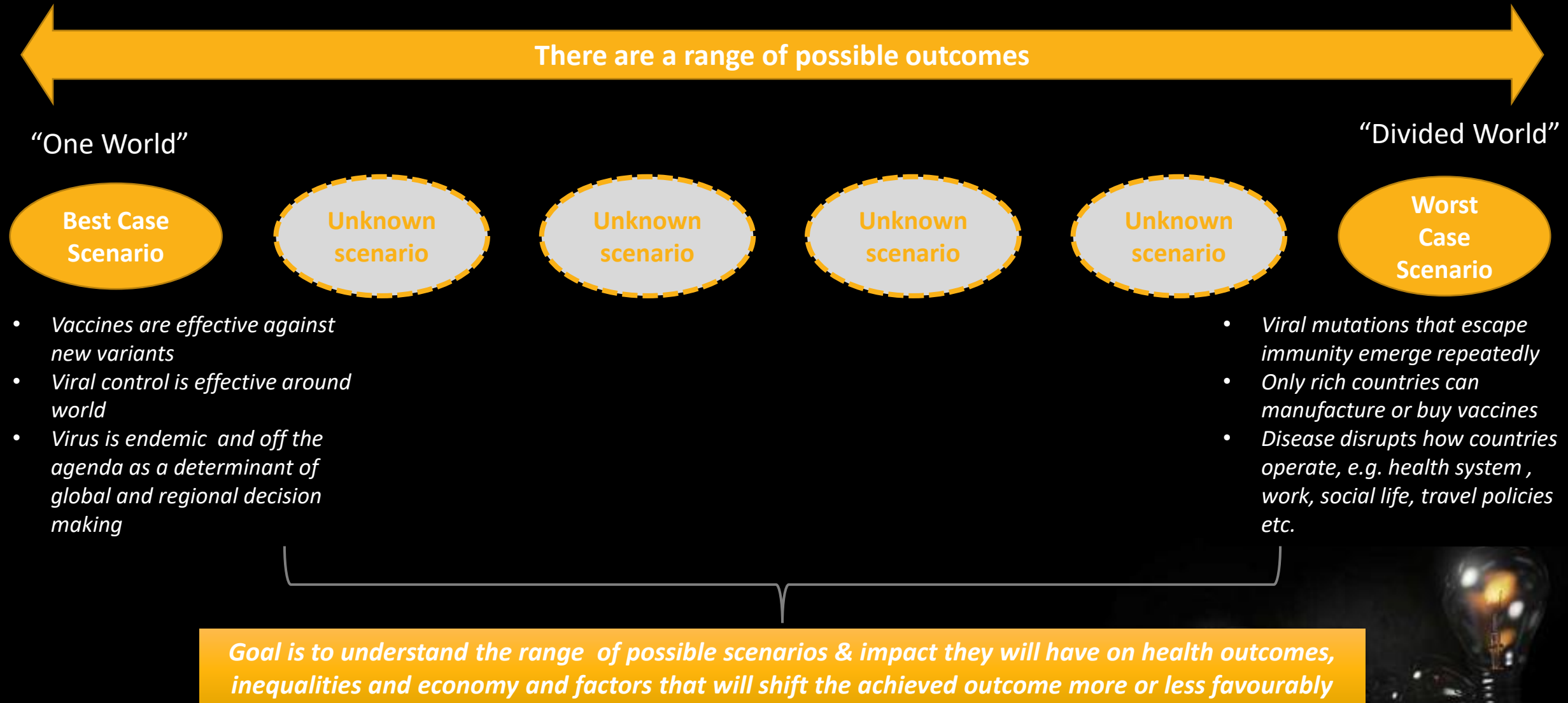
Understand how the nature of global and diplomatic cooperation may impact health outcomes, inequalities and the economy over the next 3-5 years

Understand what strategies and policies will lead to the best attainable outcomes

Understand how Covid-19-related policy decisions of policy actors might impact **long term consequences**, e.g. global health outcomes, inequalities and the economy in 3-5 years



Mapping Covid-19 outcome scenarios in next 3-5 years



Example (incomplete) list of vectors of uncertainty

Stakeholders



Priority Vectors of Uncertainty?

Global/regional vaccine diplomacy

Economic stimulus packages

Viral evolution

Vaccine/Dx/PPE mnf and supply strategy

Education strategy

Election outcomes

Multilateral decision-making/international law

Social cohesion

Other, e.g. other emergencies, media, misinformation, demography, farming practices etc.

Outcomes

Pandemic escalation

Accelerated geopolitical tensions

De-globalisation/global cooperation

Variance in vaccine diplomacy

Decline/growth in economy/debt crisis

Worsening population health

Increase in health inequalities



Project Team

Tech. Advisors

GHGP Team <i>Scenarios/ Policy dev.</i>
Chris Bradley <i>Scenario development</i>
Anne Bardsley <i>Scenario development</i>
GESDA contact <i>Scenario development</i>

Project Executive Team

Heidi Hackmann <i>Project Oversight</i>		
Mathieu Denis <i>Project Oversight</i>		
Alison Meston <i>Comms+</i>	David Kaplan <i>Economics/ interviews</i>	Ines Hassan <i>Project Lead</i>
Miia Ylöstalo-Joubert <i>Admin support</i>	Megha Sud <i>Interviews TBD</i>	Researcher
	Researcher	Researcher

Oversight Panel

Peter Gluckman (NZ) <i>Science advisory/ diplomacy</i>	Salim Abdool Karim (SA) <i>ID Epi/Public health</i>	Peter Piot (UK, Belgium) <i>Microbiology/ Public health</i>	Christiane Woopen (Germany) <i>Medical ethicist</i>
Geoffrey Boulton (UK) <i>Geoscience</i>	Craig Calhoun (USA) <i>Sociology</i>	David Spiegelhalter (UK) <i>Statistics</i>	Claudio Struchiner (Brazil) <i>Mathematical modelling/ ID pop.</i>
David Skegg (NZ) <i>Epi/public health</i>	Aminata Sall Diallo (Senegal) <i>Physiology</i>	Lucia Reisch (Denmark) <i>Economics</i>	Soumya Swaminathan (WHO)*
Chor Pharn Lee <i>Government strategy</i>	George Gao (China) <i>Virology/ immunology/ Public health</i>	Ismail Serageldin (Egypt) <i>Int. development /economics</i>	Mami Mitzutori (UNDRR)*
Ian Goldin <i>Economics</i>	Eric Goosby (USA) <i>Public health</i>	Elizabeth Jelin (Argentina)) <i>Sociology</i>	Anjana Singh (Nepal) <i>Microbiology/ Public health</i>

Working Group

ISC

*Observers

Target Audience

Influential actors:

- ISC Members
 - Civil society through ISC Members?
- Global actors (OECD, WEF, BMGF)
- Other scientific groups

Decision makers:

- Governments
- Global agencies (WHO, UNDRR, World Bank, IMF, GAVI)



Proposed Process

Developing Covid-19 endgame scenarios for the next 3-5 years

Phase 1a: Scenario Scoping

Goals:

- Identify the factors and stakeholders that/who will have an impact on Covid-19 outcomes on a national, regional and global level in next 3-5 yrs
- Outline current Covid-19 strategies employed by these stakeholders and indicators (warning signs) of future approach
 - *Classify world into a 3-4 groups based on Covid-19 approach*
- Get some insight into which factors are most critical
- Understand uncertainties/certainties per factor/stakeholder
- Outline range of outcome scenarios

Method:

- Horizon Scanning (secondary research)
- Expert Interviews (X 40-50)
- Systems Mapping
- Issues Paper

Output:

- Initial insight into what Covid-19 future might look like across the globe

Mar to Jun 2021

Phase 1b: Scenario Setting & Regional Insights

Goals:

- Understand regional dynamics/priorities
- Rank global/national actors and environmental factors based on potential impact on outcome scenarios
- Agree on key uncertainties/certainties per actor for key factors/actors
- Rank key vectors of uncertainty
- Develop scenarios based on combination of key factors

Method:

- Regional and global workshops (Consensus building/Delphi process)
- Driver mapping (secondary research and workshop)
- Axes of uncertainty (workshop)
- Scenario building

Output:

- A set of well-developed priority vectors of uncertainty and outcome scenarios

Jul to Sep 2021

Phase 2: Decision Pathways

Goals:

- Identify potential global/national strategy/policies for agreed scenarios to encourage positive global health outcomes, inequalities and the economy.
- *Understand cost/time/science know-how needed for each policy*
- *Pressure-test decision-pathways against set scenarios*

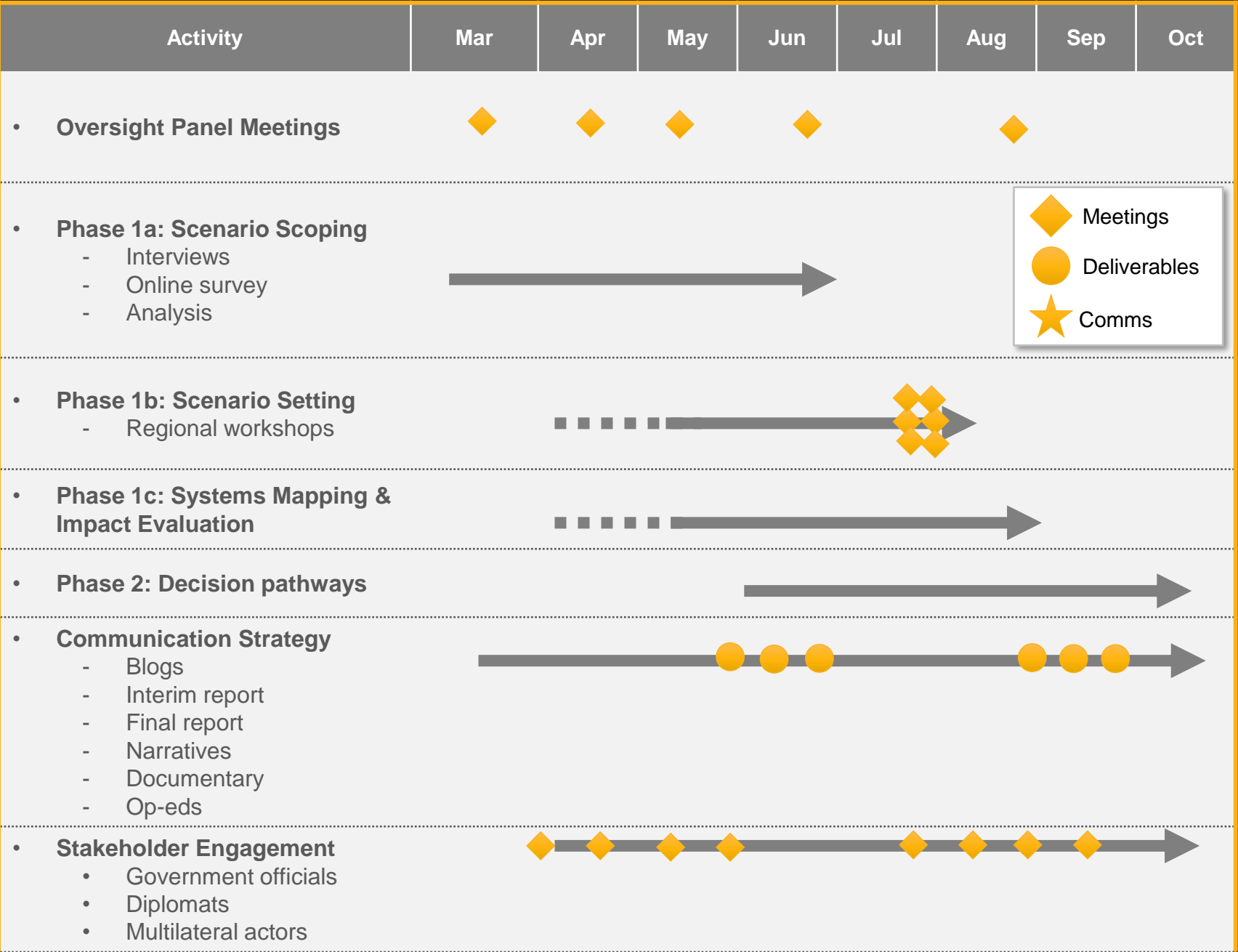
Method:

- Policy development (interviews and workshop)
- *Policy Stress Testing (workshop and simulations)*

Output:

- A set of high-level policy and system change recommendations

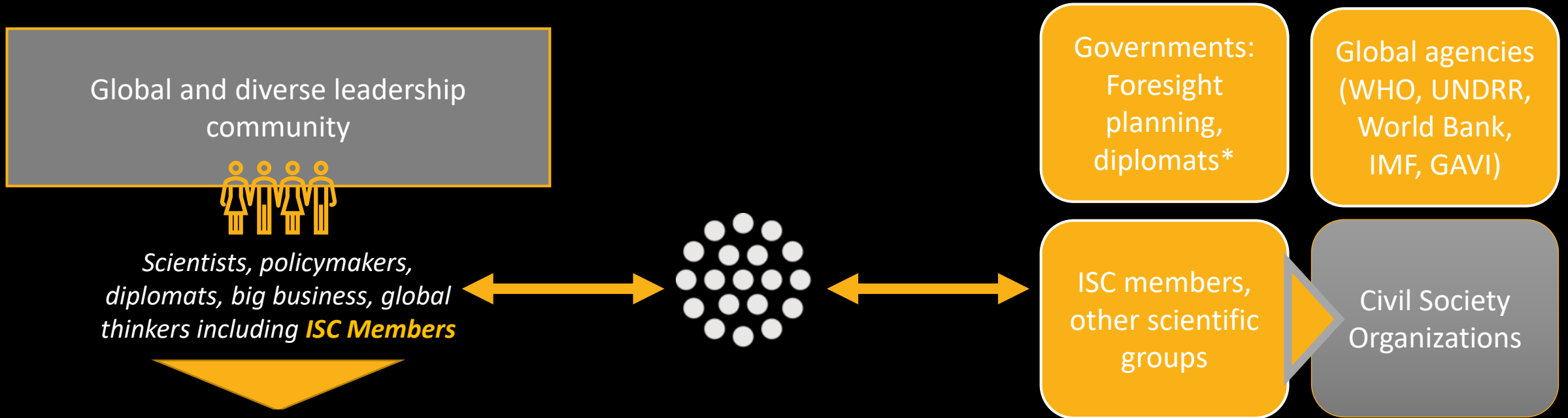
Mar- Sep 2021



Project Timelines



Engaging Key Stakeholders



ISC Members

- Provided introductions
- Contributed to interviews
- Contributed to survey

Collaborate:

- Share global lessons on future covid-19 planning
- Use insights in local decision-making today
- Advocate for an approach that will achieve not just good national outcomes, but global outcomes too

Government Advisors/Officials

- Convened a meeting of government advisors/officials working on national long-term covid-19 planning on 22nd April 2021
- Group are very keen to get involved in the Covid-19 Outcomes Scenario Project
- The group will meet regularly to share local and regional lessons and thoughts on long-term scenarios
- Group is limited to date. We are keen to invite equivalents in other countries. Introductions and participation are welcome

Recommendation:

Insights for planning must coincide with the election cycle.
Need to capture insights for min in 2 years



Government officials/advisors involved to date:

- **Chor Pharn Lee**, Principal Strategist, Centre for Strategic Futures, Singaporean Government
- **Daniel Kleinberg**, Scottish Government
- **Marianne Emler**, Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory Group
Louis Charles Viossat, Inspectorate general for social affairs, French Government
- **Hans Christian Hangman**, Senior Advisor & Head of Strategic Analysis, Swedish Foreign Ministry
- **Devi Sridhar**, University of Edinburgh, Scottish Government Covid-19 Advisory group

Emerging Scenarios* - in the next 3-5 years

*Based on 13 interviews only



Health

Fasted Clock cycle; prioritized today



Governance



Geostrategic

Medium clock cycle+



Economic

Medium clock cycle+



Social

Slowest clock cycle+; issues overlooked

Most Likely
Scenarios

- No long-term lessons learnt from this pandemic; new infectious diseases will spread
- Virus is endemic. Science will be able to contain the virus and its mutations despite periodic outbreaks. High levels of vaccination, but, there will be unevenness in how countries manage this and in vaccine access.
- Science denialism/vaccine hesitancy remains where it exists today
- There is no coordinated global response to health crises
- ...
- ...

- Covid-19 increasingly politicized
- Growing nationalism with increasing autocratic/ authoritarian governments
- Increased distrust in institutions/government resulting in decline in democratic activity and the creation of new parties

- Little global unity and growing nationalism will lead to division between countries (i.e. ...)

- Economic impact remains, leading to inflation
- Economic relief packages, enormous debt, challenges for tourism/hospitality will continue to burden for a long time.
- If no investments are made into long-term infrastructure or if there will be capital market gambling there will be a financial crisis. This

- Social (including isolation, mental health illness and education loss) and economic effects of pandemic still ongoing resulting in a disconnected society
 - Younger generation particular impacted
- Change in working environments (home offices) ...

- This is an old version.
- Multiple scenarios may exist in each box
- In the final output we will not use the terms best and worst case scenarios. Instead, a set of plausible scenarios will be outline.

Worst Case
Scenarios

- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...
- ...

Best Case
Scenarios

- ...
- Regional ...
- Health systems strengthened /horizontal approaches that don't silo disease areas implemented
- Open transparent science increases trust in public health measures

- Increased taxes for the wealthy
- Removal of grey area where corruption flourishes
- More resources available for public purposes.
- Movements increase to work for more responsive and effective govt.

- Global cooperation on vaccine distribution, other public good and technology to tackle key issues such as climate change and other diseases
- Public institutions invest in health and crises management

particular In technology areas: resulting in higher yields

strategies

support population health

Thank you!

