



**AFIDEP**

African Institute for  
Development Policy

# **Open Science Conference: Learning from the pandemic to accelerate action on climate change**

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# Key lessons from COVID-19 for Climate Change

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01

The most precious currency is **staying healthy, longer**

02

Partnerships are important for quicker, robust solutions

03

Global challenges require global solutions – replicable research, ethical partnerships & open access

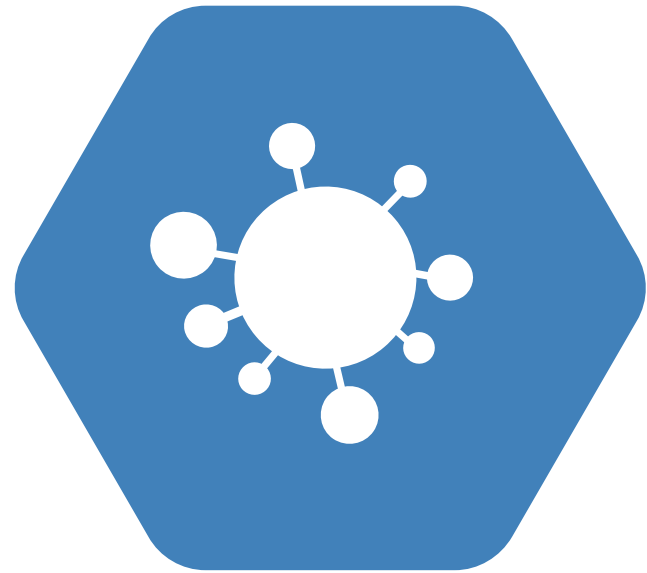
04

We must work at communicating science



# Health and life matter most

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- COVID-19 has taught us that our health and lives matter most
  - Countries willing to spend to maintain health
  - Individuals, households **willing to change behaviour** to stay healthy



- Our destinies are inter-twinned.
  - COVAX – global commitment to ensure that majority are vaccinated  
*“You should care because your health depends on mine”*



- Global commitment to climate change  
*“I should care because we have only one earth”.*
  - WHO estimate 250,000 additional deaths due to climate change effects between 2030 and 2050, mostly in LMIC
  - By 2100, life expectancy expected to reduce by between 0.24 years to 1 year in Europe



- Global funds to help LMIC on behaviour change, communication, and action (reversing loss of forests & biodiversity; reduce water and soil pollution)

# Importance of partnerships: Lessons from COVID

Scientific collaborations for cures, vaccines, and estimating impacts

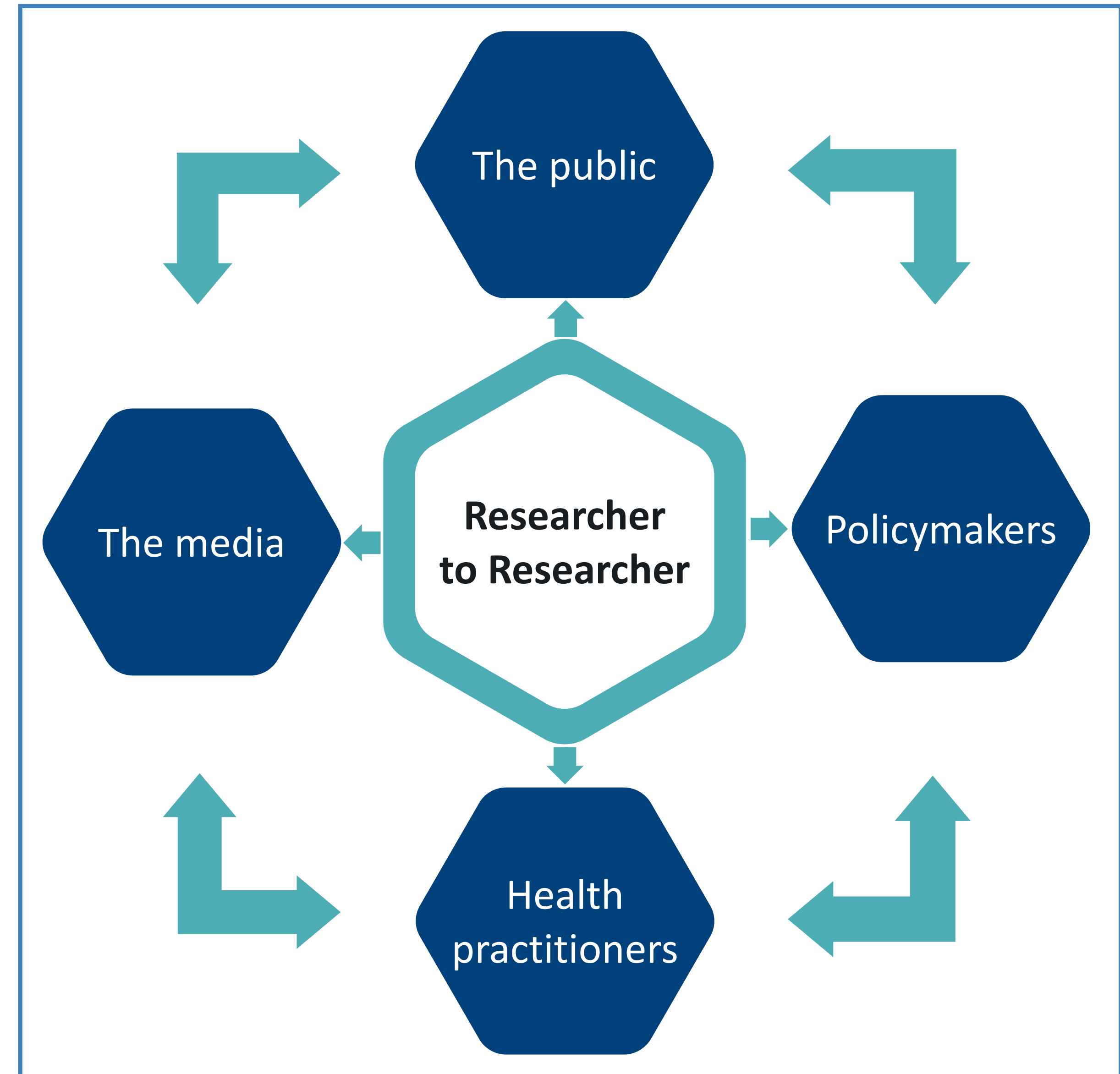
Open access publications

Science editors - translating knowledge & myth busting – **more work needed**

Real-time science informing policies and health practice



Mass information education and communication- still weak



# Global challenges require global solutions

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- COVID-19 and Climate Change are global (mega) challenges
  - They require global solutions
  - Research must be **translatable** and **generalisable**
- Legitimate research should involve and engage researchers from low-and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- Research should be openly accessible to those it concerns – it is unethical otherwise.
- Article Processing Charges should be within reach of researchers from LMIC

- Open science – must invest in
- **Knowledge translation** - complex scientific findings require translation
- **Packaging** for a range of audience – different products for different audiences
- Social media awash with mis-information. More mis-information than facts
- **Climate change messages** (e.g. variability/fluctuations, +1.5 degrees, carbon neutrality) need to be translated & packaged for a range of audiences.

# Communicating Science...

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## A shared destiny:

Climate change and COVID-19 are mega challenges whose solutions require us to bring our ideas together and pool our resources.