



# Humans as a Solution: Creating Positive Behavioral Change

Module 1: The Interconnected Pillars of Sustainability

Glocal Changemakers Program

*For Educational Purposes Only*

*© Dr. Mirei Takashima Claremon | All Rights Reserved.*







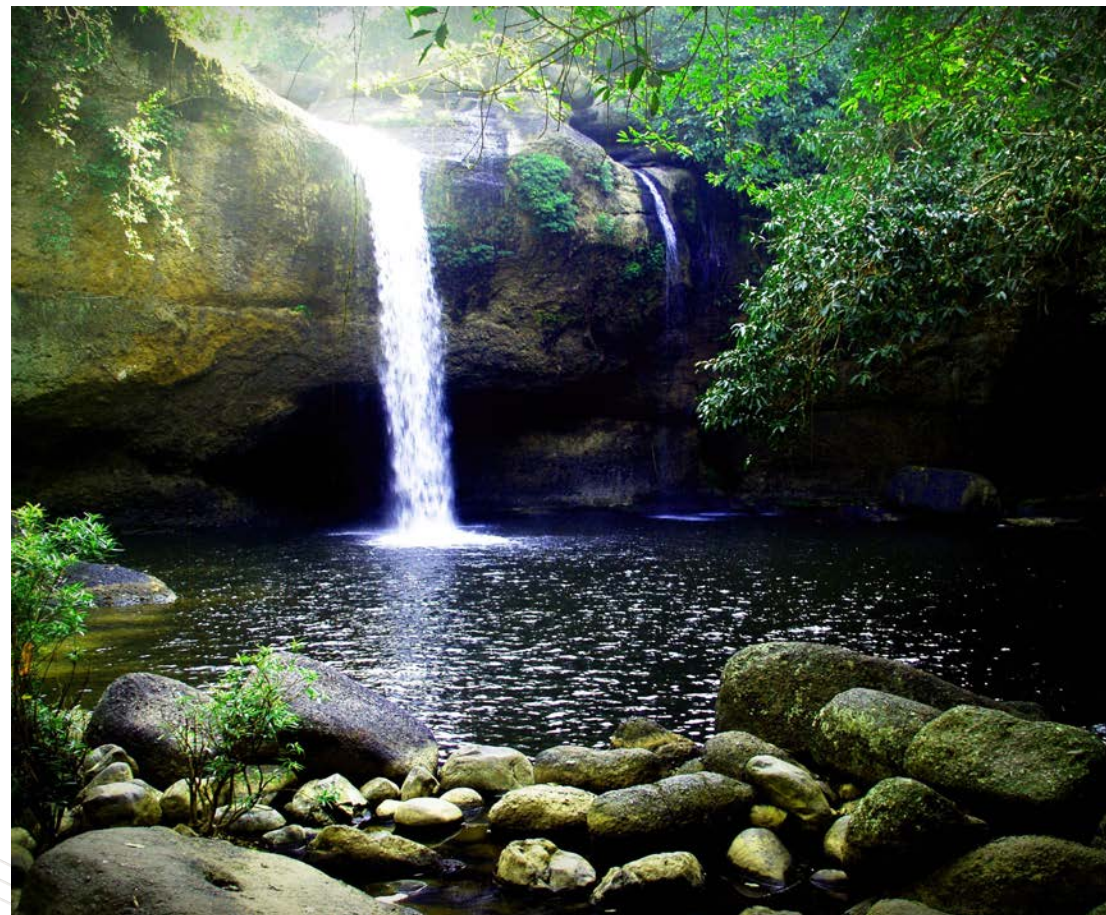
# Introductions



What is your name?

What do you hope to take away from this program?

What role do you think nature plays in your life?



# Glocal Changemakers Program – Overview



- Part 1. Behavioral Sustainability
  - Understanding the Interconnectedness of Sustainability
  - How to Think, and See the World and Sustainability Issues Differently
- Part 2. Be Entrepreneurial – by Junior Achievement SoCal
  - Creative Problem Solving
  - Design Thinking
  - Entrepreneurship
- Part 3. Business Plan and Proposal
  - Creating Positive Impact in Your Community





# Agenda – The Interconnected Pillars of Sustainability

1. Part 1 of the Program – An Overview
2. The Global Pandemic – A Case Study
3. The True Meaning of Sustainability
4. The Interconnectedness of Issues
5. Understanding Our Planet as an Ecosystem of Relationships





# What is Part 1 of this program about?

## CHANGE

- Changing your perspective and mindset
  - How to think and see the world differently
  - How to think about and approach challenges differently

## EMPOWER

- Empowering you through knowledge and awareness
  - How you can be a force for change
  - How you can make a meaningful impact on your community and the world

## What you will learn:

**Behavioral Sustainability:** A holistic, human-focused approach to sustainability

Why sustainability matters to all of us

The interconnectedness of issues

Why we need to understand human psychology and behavior to solve issues

How to effectively communicate with others and inspire change

That every individual can make a difference if we act together

# Everyone Can Be a Part of the Solution

Be	curious and open-minded
Ask	lots of questions
Be	humble and brave
Don't	expect perfection – from yourself or from others
Discover	your superpower
Know	that you are not alone in this – we can make change happen together





## **Breakout Session:**

What is sustainability?  
What comes to mind when you hear  
this term?

Discuss and write down your  
thoughts with your group

Time: 5 minutes





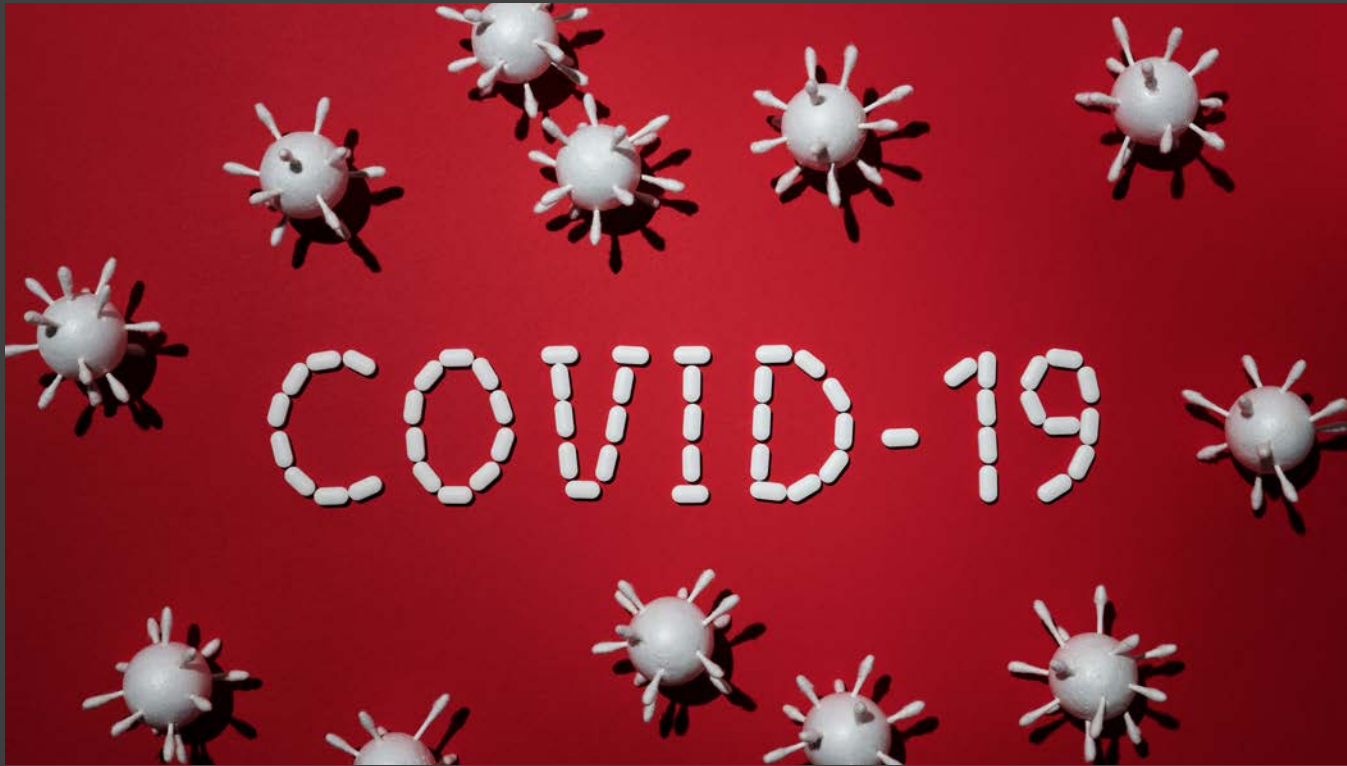


# Sustainability is not just about the environment

The three pillars of sustainability  
are interconnected:

**Sustainability**  
=  
**Environmental x Social x Economic**





## CASE STUDY: THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC

**Is the pandemic a product of an unsustainable world?**



# Video: How Humans are Making Pandemics More Likely





# Video: Factory Farms are Breeding Grounds for Pandemics





An aerial photograph showing a lush green forest on the left, a small sandy beach, and a waterfall cascading into the ocean. The water is a deep teal color, and the coral reefs are visible beneath the surface.

# The Causes of the Pandemic are Interconnected

Human activity (industrial activity, wars, international trade, travel, etc.) is increasing the likelihood of pandemics:

Encroachment on and destruction of wildlife habitats and ecosystems because of industrial activities, wars, etc.

Lax or nonexistent laws that allow governments and businesses to exploit nature and communities

The economic concept of negative externalities: that the various consequences of business activities are not the responsibility of businesses



Those who increase  
the likelihood of  
pandemics are not  
the ones who are  
most affected



# The Negative Effects of the Pandemic are Broad and Unequally Distributed

## Social

Freeze on social services

School shutdowns

Increased risk of homelessness, food insecurity, job loss, infection and sickness, etc. in marginalized communities

Mental health crisis

Erosion of trust

## Economic

Loss of income for both individuals and businesses

Supply chain disruptions

## Environmental

Increase in the use of disposable products (PPE, single use utensils and containers at restaurants, etc.)

Deprioritization of sustainability initiatives by businesses

Pause on environmental initiatives





# Video: How COVID-19 is highlighting racial disparities in Americans' health





# Marginalized communities are disproportionately affected

➤ They are more likely to:

- Be food insecure
- Live in polluted areas
- Have chronic health conditions
- Have no health insurance/ are less likely to seek care
- Live and work in crowded spaces
- Be essential workers
- Have to take public transportation
- Remain unvaccinated







To combat the pandemic, vaccines and masks are necessary but not sufficient.

People need to actually adopt certain behaviors.



# Why Trust and Community Engagement Matter

No links found between covid outcomes and:

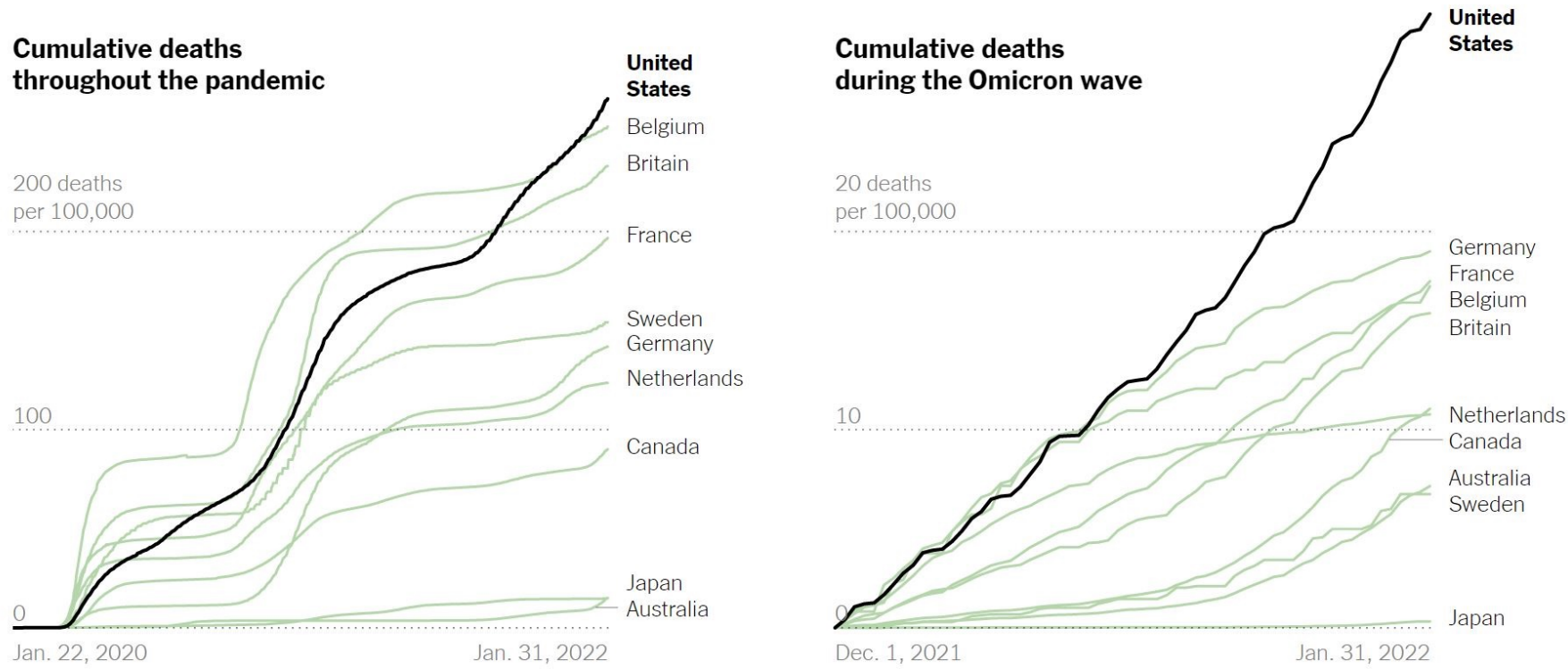
- Democracy
- Populism
- Government effectiveness
- Universal health care
- Pandemic preparedness metrics
- Economic inequality
- Trust in science

**Better outcomes were linked with high levels of trust in government and other citizens.**

**“Trust in government and strength of community engagement is critical to public health response.”**

# U.S. Covid Death Rate is Far Higher vs. Other Wealthy Countries

**Cumulative U.S. Covid-19 deaths per capita are highest among other large, high-income countries**  
 Several countries had higher per capita Covid-19 deaths earlier in the pandemic, but the U.S. death toll now exceeds that of peer nations.







# U.S. Covid Death Rate is Far Higher vs. Other Wealthy Countries

## - The Key Reasons Why

- Despite having one of the world's best supply of vaccines, the U.S. has failed to vaccinate as many people vs. other large, wealthy nations.
- And... the U.S. also faces other steep disadvantages compared to other wealthy, developed nations
  - Many Americans have health problems like obesity and diabetes that increase the risk of severe Covid
  - In recent decades, more Americans have expressed distrust — of the government, and of each other
    - Americans are less inclined to follow public health precautions like getting vaccinated or reducing contact during surges

# Defining Sustainability



*“Fulfilling the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations”*

*- UN Brundtland Report, 1987*







# Let's Unpack



Who is the  
present  
generation?

- What are their needs?
- Are these needs being met?

Who are the  
future  
generations?

- How do we ensure that their needs will be met?

*“Fulfilling the needs of the present generation without compromising the needs of future generations”*

# Sustainability: A Key Caveat

*“... a world in which poverty and inequity are endemic will always be prone to ecological and other crises,”*

*- Brundtland Report*





In the world we live in today...

Marginalized communities are disproportionately affected by sustainability issues:



# Our Planet is an Ecosystem of Relationships

As glaciers and polar ice sheets melt, rising sea levels threaten coastal areas.

Because our Earth is a complex system, global warming creates a multitude of effects that lead to more frequent and extreme weather events.

These effects ripple across ecosystems and impact all of us.



© Rosemary Mosco

birdandmoon.com





# We are a part of the ecosystem... and many other systems

- Many marginalized communities live in unhealthy, unsustainable conditions
- Many businesses' bottom line depends on being able to offload negative environmental and social consequences onto society
- We need a healthy ecosystem to live and for our society and economy to function
  - Everything—food, water, air, the materials we use to manufacture products—comes from nature

**The pandemic is an urgent reminder—that the way we live today is not sustainable**



# What are some of the biggest issues your community/ city face?

- What do you think needs to be solved?
- Are these issues social, economic, or environmental?



# Next Time...

