"AGENDA 2030 ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCES USE: CHALLENGES FOR COUNTRIES IN THE AMERICAS"

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CONTENTS

Latin America and social crisis

Substance Abuse /Social Determinants

Drug Policies: Global and Regional approaches

Access and Quality on treatment

COVID-19 and Substance Abuse

LATIN AMERICA LATINA AND THE CARIBBEAN

One of the regions with higher social and health inequity in the world

- Low income and consume
- Precarious housing and employment
- Deficit access to quality health services
- Less access to education
- Deficit access to water and sanitation
- Marginalization and social discrimination

THE RIGHT TO HEALTH

"Health is not only a fundamental right, but also a condition that allows the full enjoyment of other rights"

Health in the Américas

PAHO, 2017

DRUG AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES

Tackling the global drug problem requires a drug policy that is accompanied by broader programmes of sustainable development, security and human rights

UNODC WDR, 2020

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Meets current needs, without compromising the ability to meet future needs

Health and sustainable development are each a cause and consequence of the other

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

"If the path to development does not lead to sustained improvements in health, it cannot be conceived as sustainable development"

Health in the Americas

PAHO, 2017

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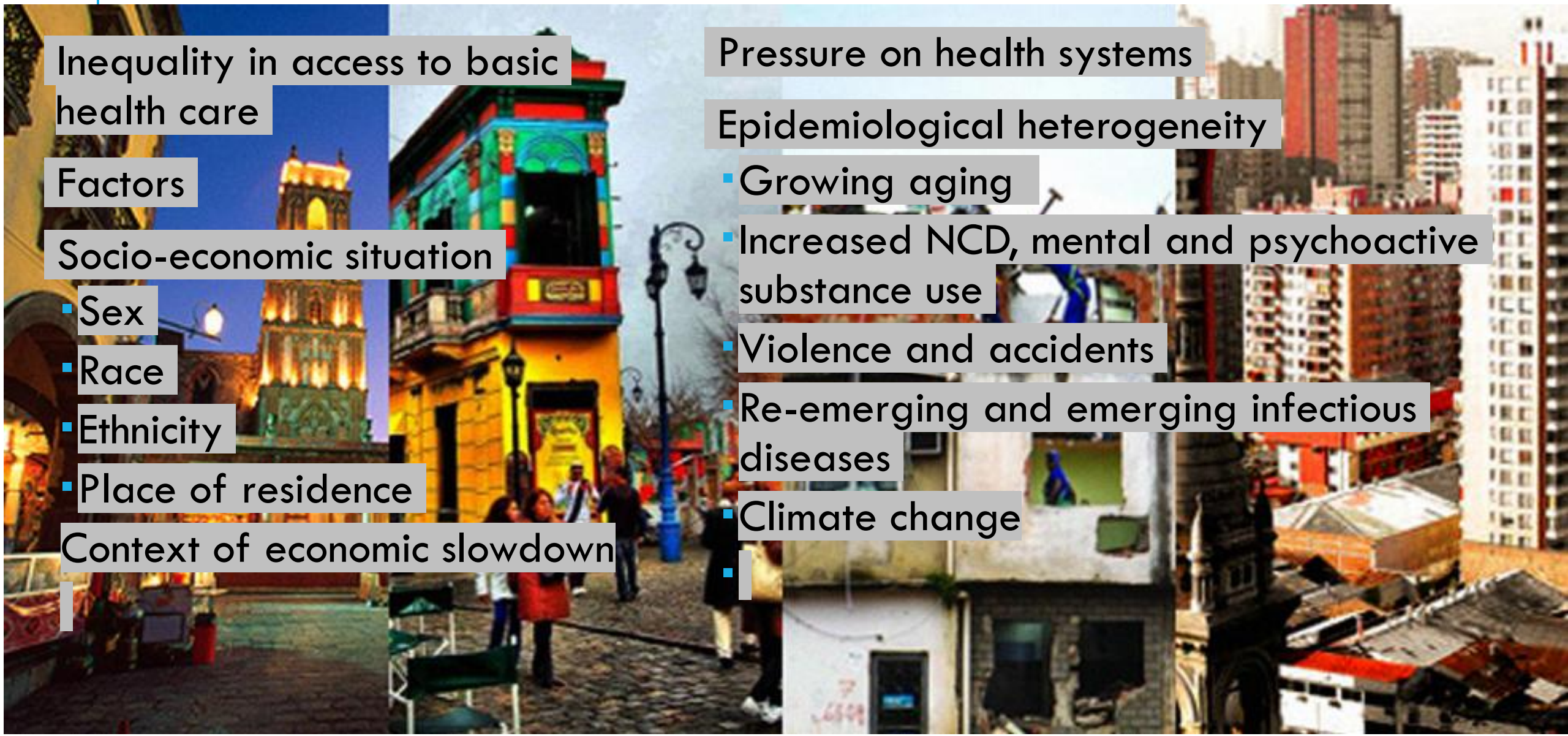
THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

It intertwines human health and well-being, with economic growth and environmental sustainability.

Goal 3.5.- Strengthen the prevention and treatment of abuse of addictive substances, including drug abuse and harmful alcohol use

Indicator 3.5.1 Coverage of treatments (pharmacological and psychosocial and rehabilitation and aftertreatment services) of addictive substance abuse disorders

HEALTH IN LATIN AMERICA



Inequality in access to basic health care

Factors

Socio-economic situation

- Sex
- Race
- Ethnicity
- Place of residence

Context of economic slowdown

Pressure on health systems

Epidemiological heterogeneity

- Growing aging
- Increased NCD, mental and psychoactive substance use
- Violence and accidents
- Re-emerging and emerging infectious diseases
- Climate change
-

MENTAL, NEUROLOGICAL AND PSYCHOACTIVE SUBSTANCE USE DISORDERS

Main contributors to the burden of disease in the Americas:

Morbidity

- Disability
- Injury
- Premature death
- Risk factors for other health problems

HEALTH SYSTEMS IN LATIN AMERICA

Inequity

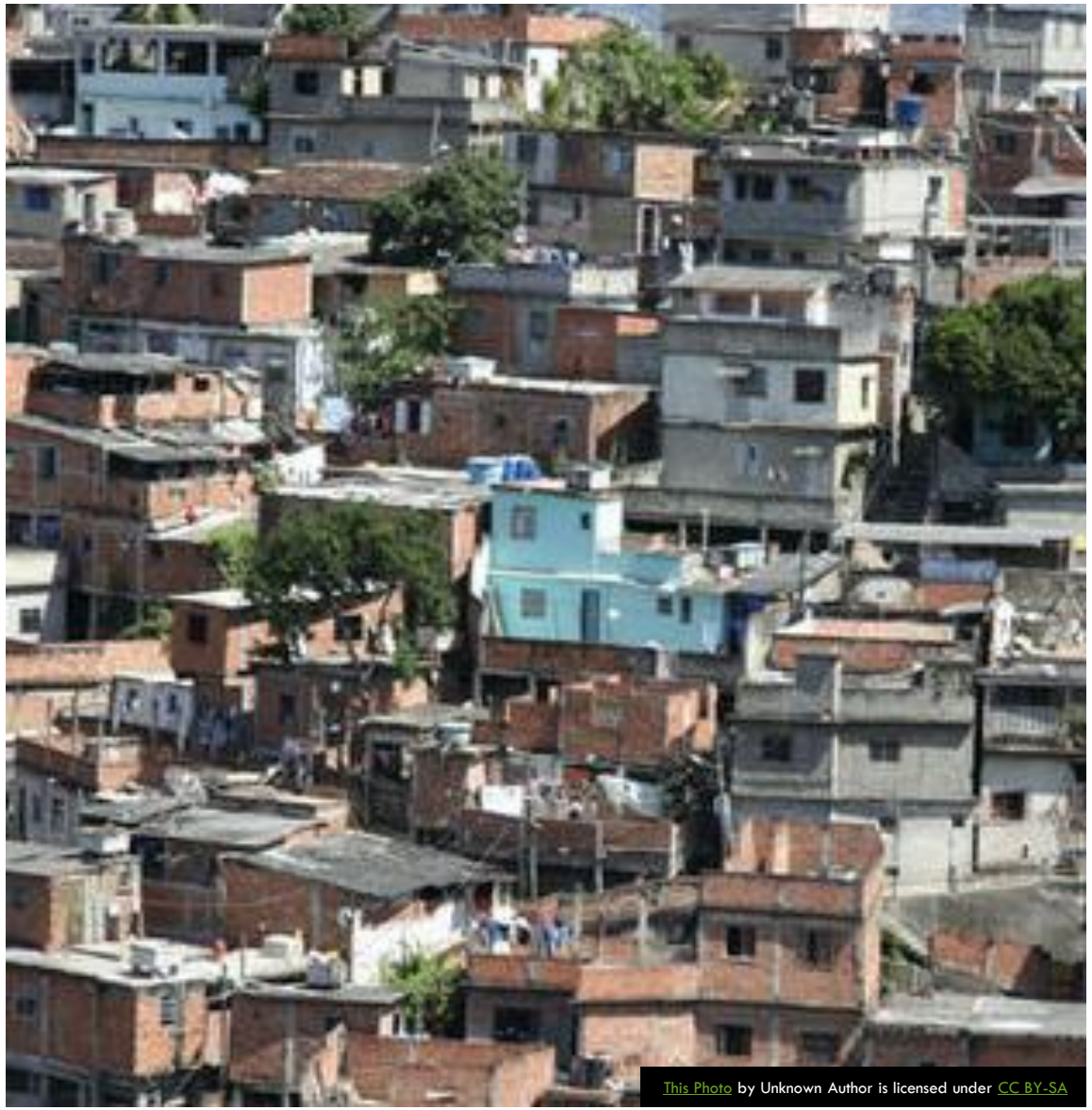
Unequal Financing

Fragmentation

Segmentation

Lack of sustainability

Little flexibility



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UNIVERSAL HEALTH AND SUBSTANCE USE

Right to Health, Equity and Solidarity

Universal access and coverage

Need to remove barriers to access to services (Determinants)

Inequity in access to health care for problem users of psychoactive substances prevents their enjoyment and exercise of the right to health and is associated with a context of economic, social, cultural and environmental inequalities

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SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND DRUG USE

Poorer people face increased risk of drug use disorders

Poverty, limited education and social marginalization are associated with an increased risk of drug disorders and worse consequences.

SOCIAL DETERMINANTS AND DRUG USE

“Vicious circle of disadvantage”

Socioeconomic disadvantage

Unemployment, poverty and homelessness

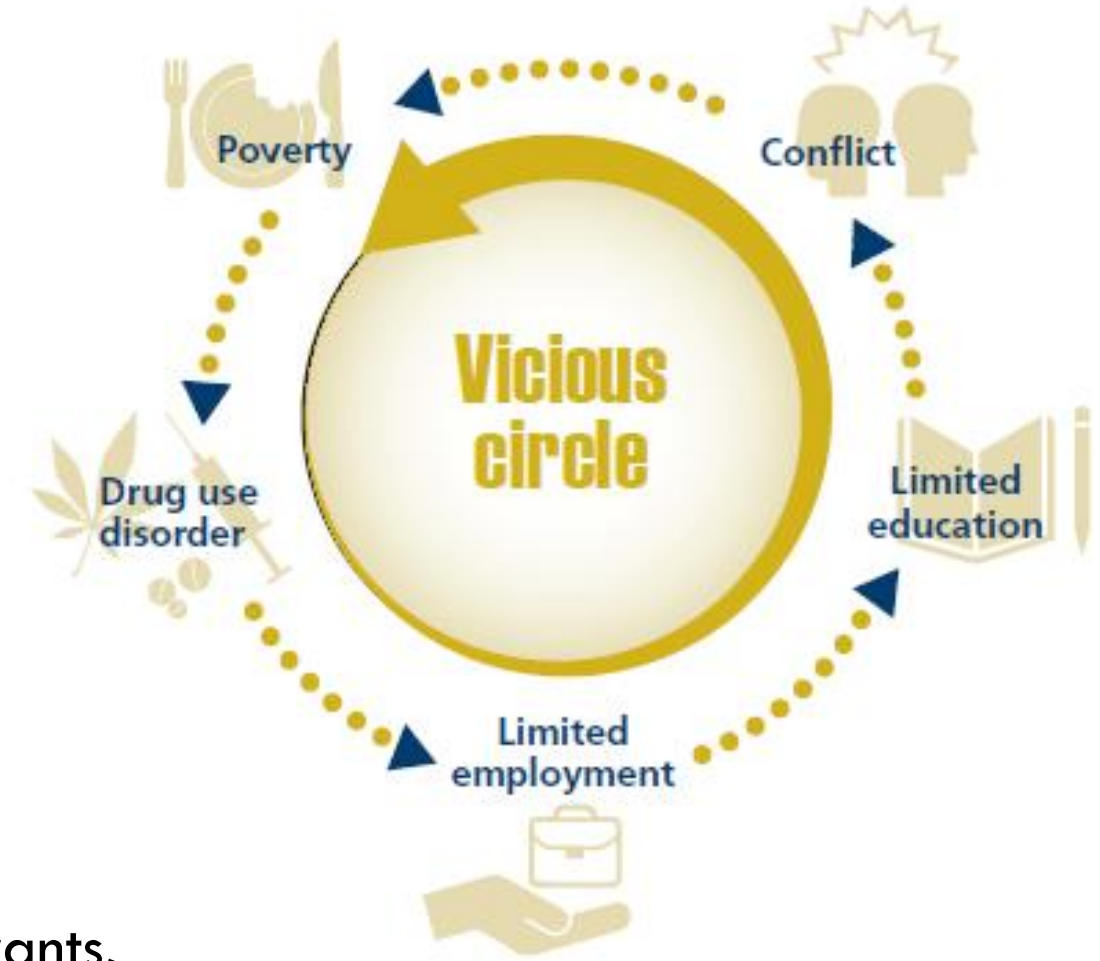
Drug use disorders

Barriers to access to treatment

Stigmatization

Criminal consequences

Vulnerability: Women, ethnic minorities and immigrants, sexually diverse groups, people displaced by armed conflict or disasters and people living in rural settings



INADEQUATE RESPONSE TO THE DRUG PROBLEM

Insufficient coverage … very low?

Variability in the availability of interventions (substance type, country)

Range of access to treatment: < 1% …… 86%

Difficulty in determining progress in the scope of the SDG 3.5

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

- **According to the World Drug Report** (UNODC, 2020), In 2018, some 269 million people used drugs and 35.5 million had SUD

- Development of SUD is directly related to the usage pattern and socioeconomic disadvantages
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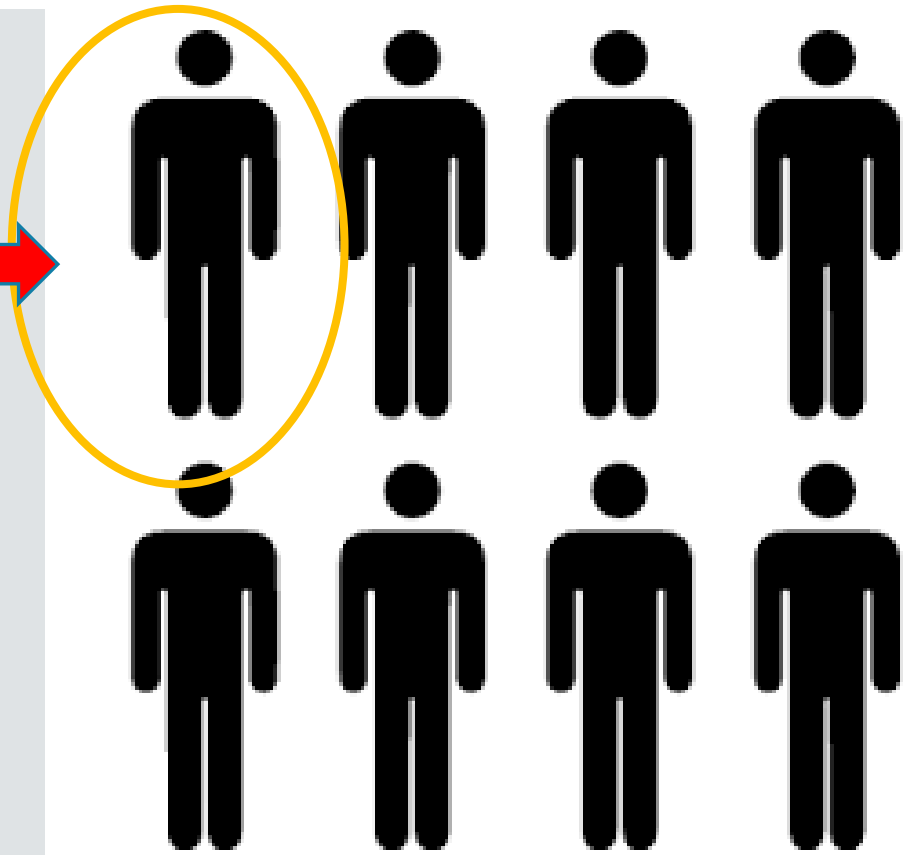
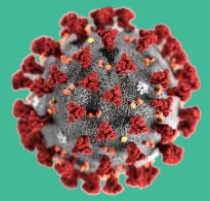
- Only 1 in 8 people who need treatment for SUD gets it



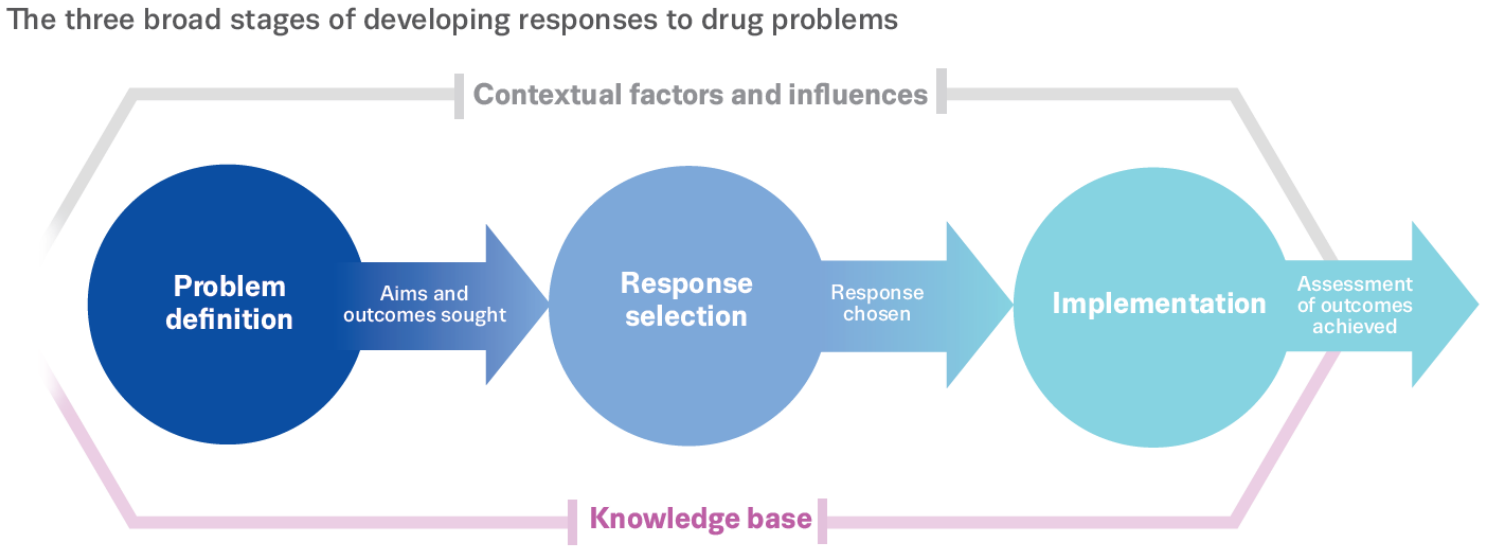
COVID 19: DOBLE IMPACTO

- RECESIÓN ECONÓMICA
- DISTANCIAMIENTO SOCIAL
- VULNERABILIDAD AL CONTAGIO Y COMPLICACIONES

- DIFICULTADES PARA EL ACCESO AL TRATAMIENTO Y OTROS SERVICIOS



RESPONSES TO DRUG PROBLEMS (PHASES)
(EMCDDA, 2017)



(1) Identify the nature of problems

(2) Select possible effective interventions

(3) Apply /Implement, Monitor and Assess Impact

INTERVENTION OPTIONS TREATMENT

FACTORS:

CHARACTERISTICS OF PROBLEMS

HEALTH SYSTEM ORGANIZATION

TREATMENT ENVIRONMENTS

- Specialized Treatment Units
- Primary Care
- Mental Health Clinics
- Low Threshold Services
- Hospital Residential Services
- Specialized Residential Centers
- Prison Services

INTERVENTION OPTIONS TREATMENT

PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

DETOXIFICATION

PHARMACOLOGICAL SUPPORT

PSYCHOSOCIAL INTERVENTIONS

- Counseling
- Motivational Interview
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
- Case Management
- Group Therapies
- Family Therapy
- Relapse Prevention

DETOXIFICATION

Hospital

Specialized centre

Residence with medical/psychiatric service

HOSPITAL/RESIDENTIAL INTERVENTIONS

Structured and individualized psychosocial treatments

Rehabilitation

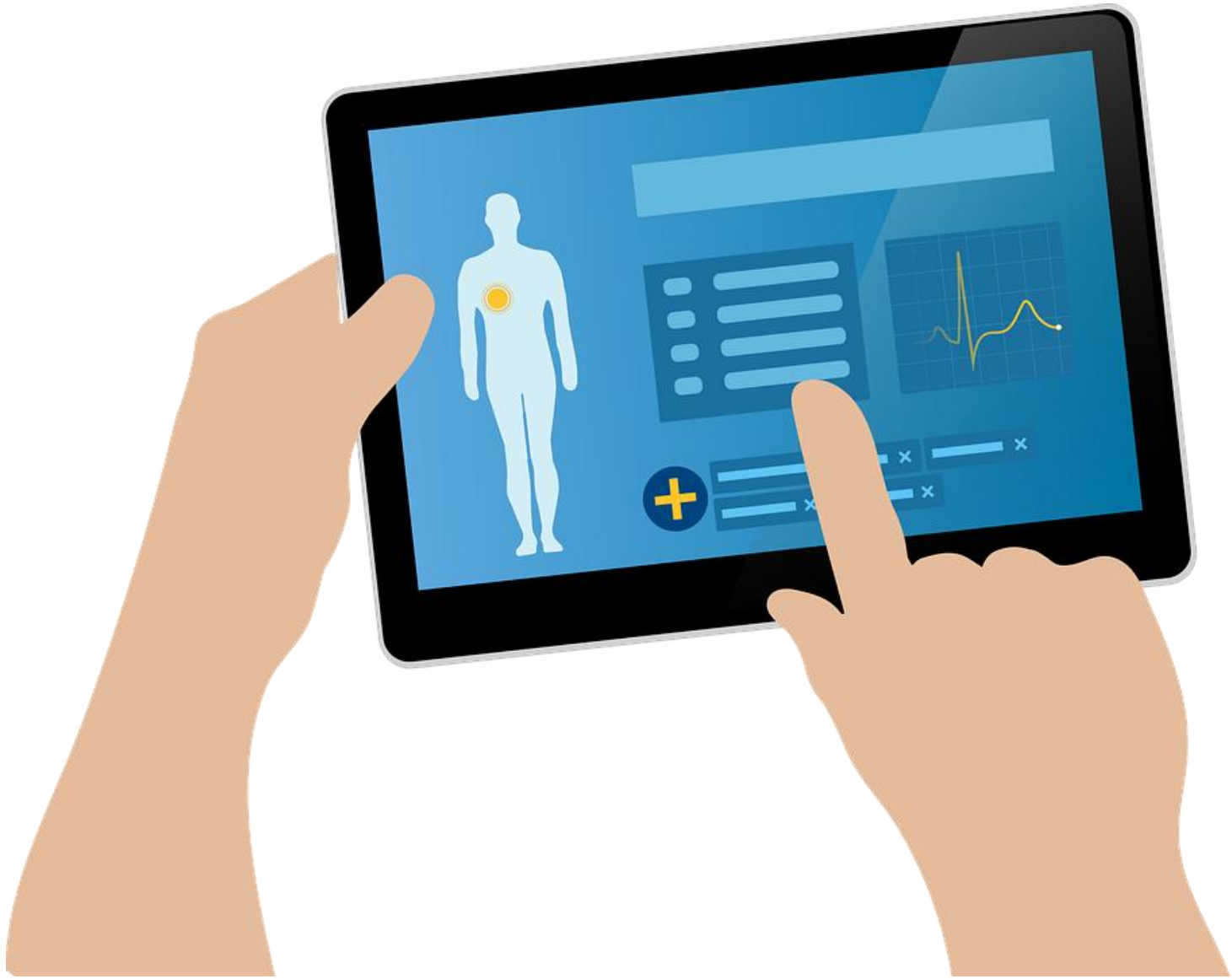
Social Reintegration

Community therapeutic approach

Psychiatric care (Dual Dx)

OPPORTUNITY: ELECTRONIC HEALTH

Use of technology (mobile phones, computers, etc.) for health improvement



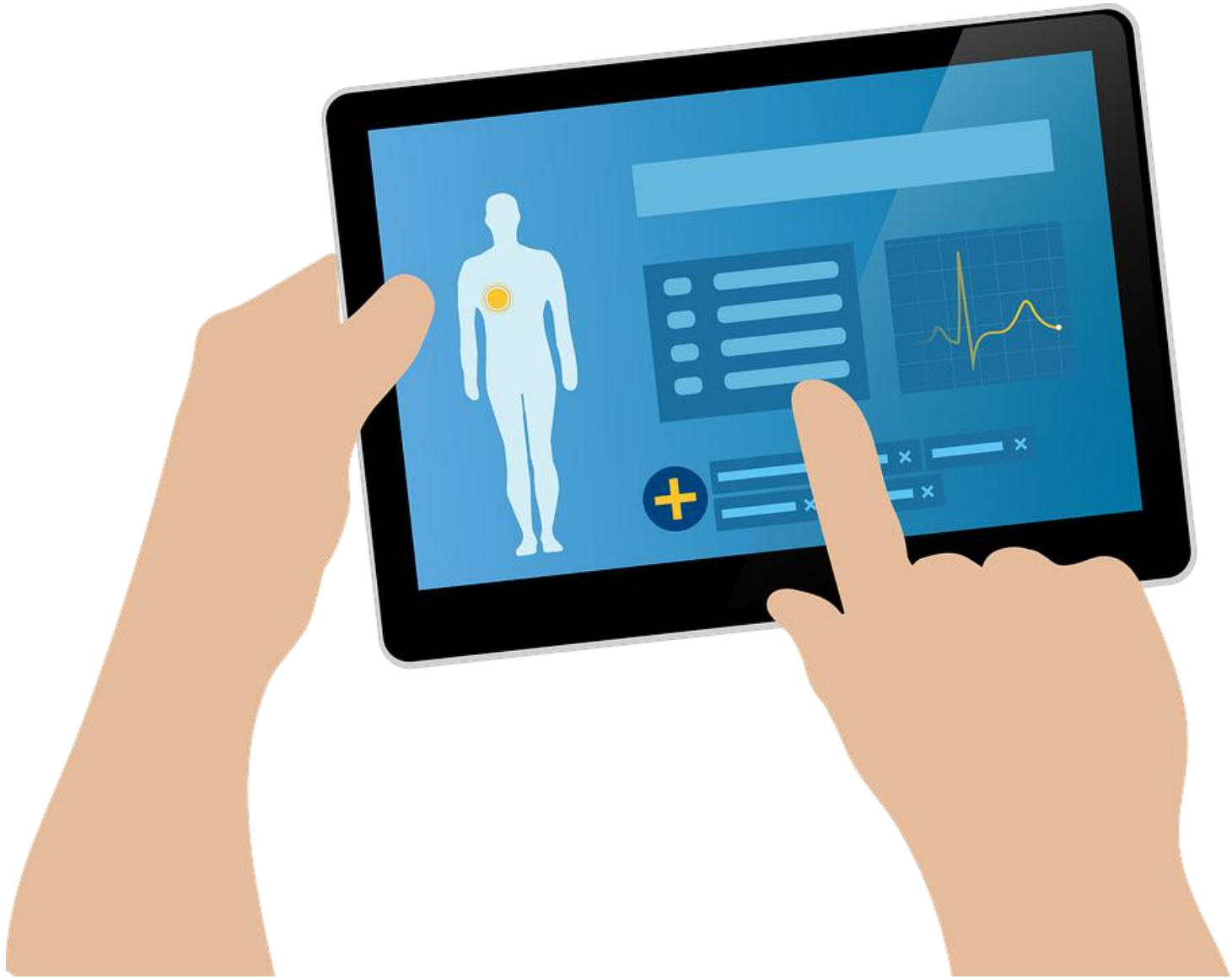
ELECTRONIC HEALTH

(1) Drug Information:

-Harm reduction advice

-Personalized advice from professionals

-Linking with services



ELECTRONIC HEALTH

(2) Treatment for people with substance use disorders

(3) Human resources training (virtual treatment training modules)

(4) Digital monitoring of people in treatment

(5) Screening and Brief Interventions

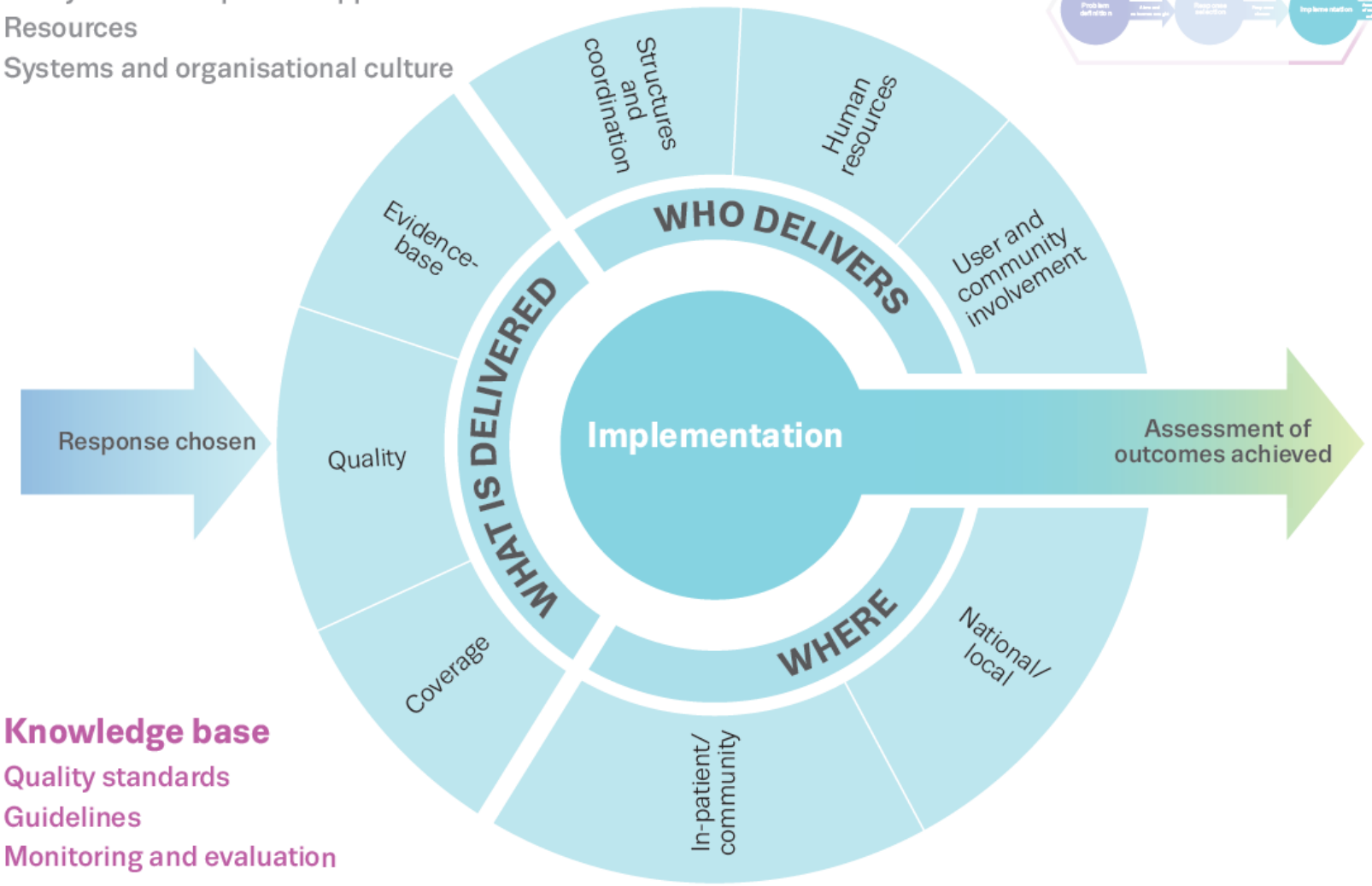
ELECTRONIC HEALTH WARNING

Quality Management and Computer Security

Protecting Confidentiality

Contextual factors and influences

Policymaker and public support
Resources
Systems and organisational culture



Knowledge base

Quality standards
Guidelines
Monitoring and evaluation

(EMCDDA, 2017)

CHANGING PERSPECTIVE ON DRUG POLICIES

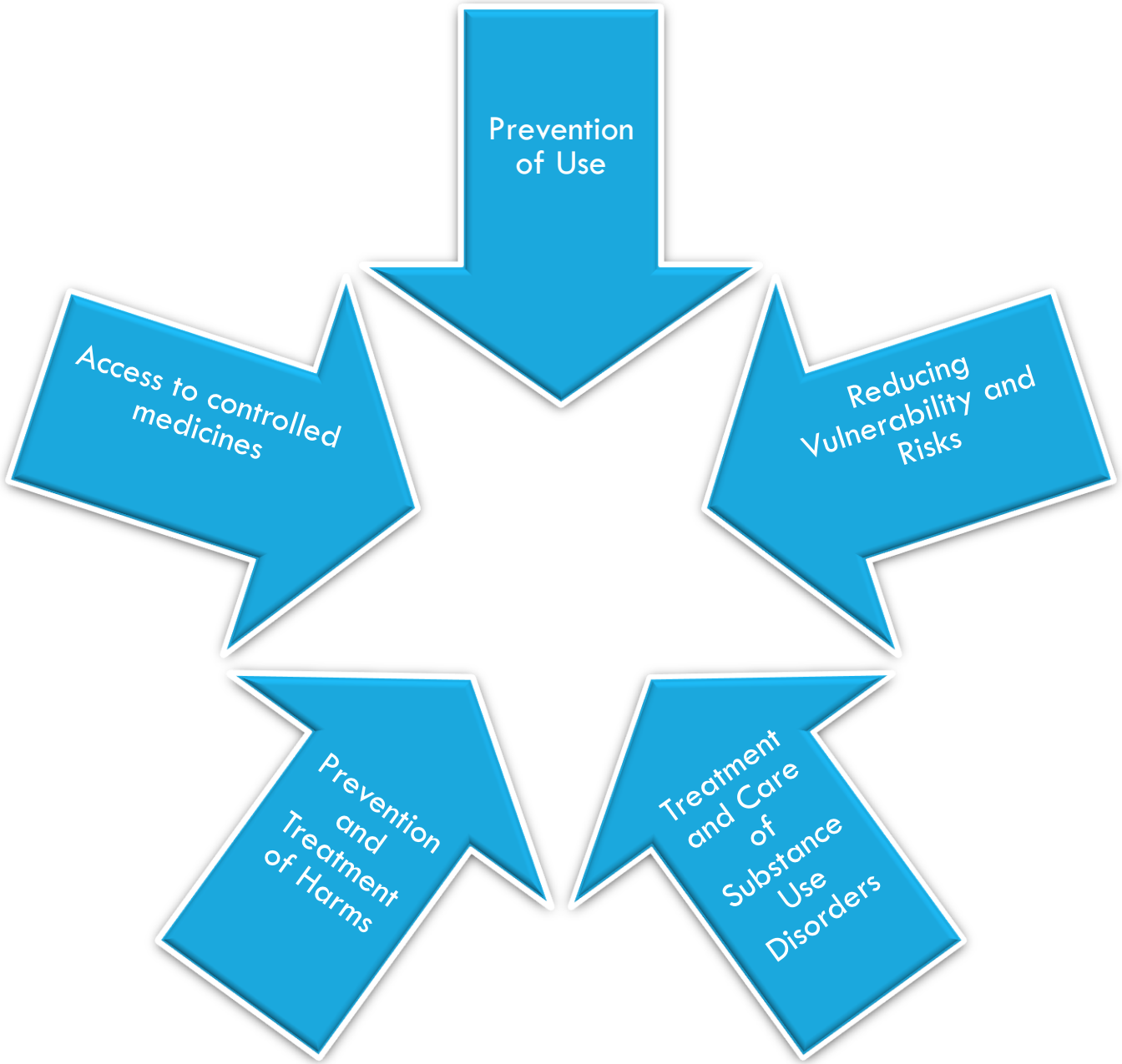
More balanced and inclusive approach

Attention to results in public health and development

Political Declaration (CND, 2009)

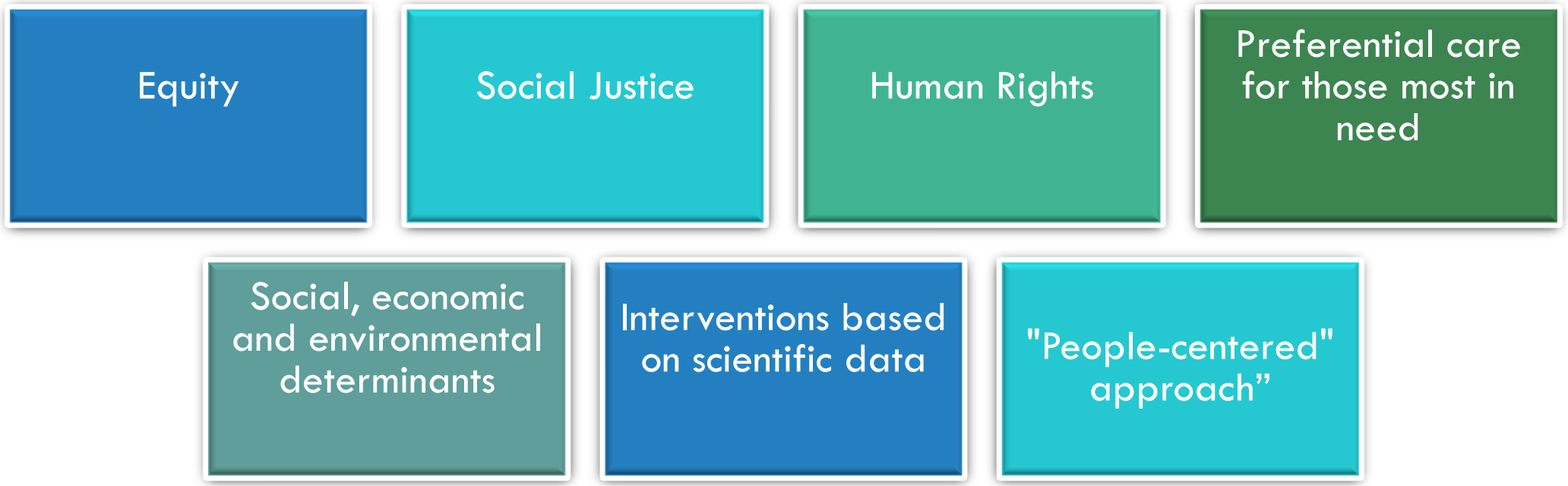
UNGASS 2016

Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development



ESSENTIAL ELEMENTS OF PUBLIC HEALTH IN A COMPREHENSIVE, BALANCED AND COMPREHENSIVE DRUG POLICY

FUNDAMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH PRECEPTS (…THAT A DRUG POLICY MUST COMPLY)



MUCHAS GRACIAS

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