Health Security for People Under the Poverty Line

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries have lost the momentum that they had in keeping up with the medical demand of their countries. Due to this, the number of immunizations in the world has decreased, and deaths from diseases like malaria and TB. Many countries health systems have been stretched thin by the pandemic which in turn creates a much lower supply of healthcare that simply cannot meet the demand. Another major issue from the COVID-19 pandemic was a major world recession, that created economic hardships for many countries especially third world countries. This caused many would be patients to be unable to pay for medical care at the simplest level.

But the disparity did not begin with the pandemic. In the last few years leading up to the pandemic, almost 1 billion people had to pay 10 percent of their wages in order to gain basic medical care. This is still a major red flag to the World Health Organization as it shows that this was a pressing issue even before the pandemic. In 2019, 68% of the world’s population was covered by essential health services. The World Health Organization calls upon all of the countries involved to find a way to return to the numbers pre-pandemic and improve them into
the future. Since the beginning of the pandemic, the World Health Organization has made over $157 billion dollars available to help fight the health, economic, and social impacts of the pandemic. The World Bank group is also deploying $20 billion dollars to low- and middle-income countries to help bring the vaccines to these impoverished countries.

I have a couple of questions that might be helpful in your research. What is a sustainable plan to combat poverty especially as it relates to basic medical services seeing it as an essential part of life? What are ways that high income countries can help combat poverty? Are there ways to set up a sustainable system that helps to combat a potential pandemic in the future?

Links to research with:

https://www.who.int/news/item/12-12-2021-more-than-half-a-billion-people-pushed-or-pushed-further-into-extreme-poverty-due-to-health-care-costs