GLOBAL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT REPORT 2019

Resilience of the 2030 Agenda in the Pandemic: lessons for SIDS & countries in special situations

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Pandemics WHO

- Chikungunya V
- Cholera B
- Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever V
- Ebola virus disease V
- Hendra virus infection V
- Influenza (pandemic, seasonal, zoonotic) V
- Lassa fever V
- Marburg virus disease V
- Meningitis B F V
- MERS-CoV V
- Monkeypox V
- Nipah virus infection V
- Novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) V
- **Plague B**
- Rift Valley fever V
- SARS V
- **Smallpox V**
- Tularaemia B
- Yellow fever V
- Zika virus disease V
- ?

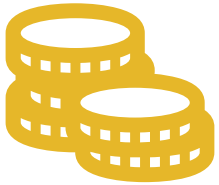
COVID-19 Impacts & Mitigation

Health

7.2 million cases

407,000 deaths

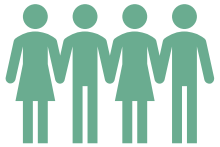
3.3 million recovered



Economic

Global reduction of about 5.2% of GDP in 2020

2.5% in developing economies

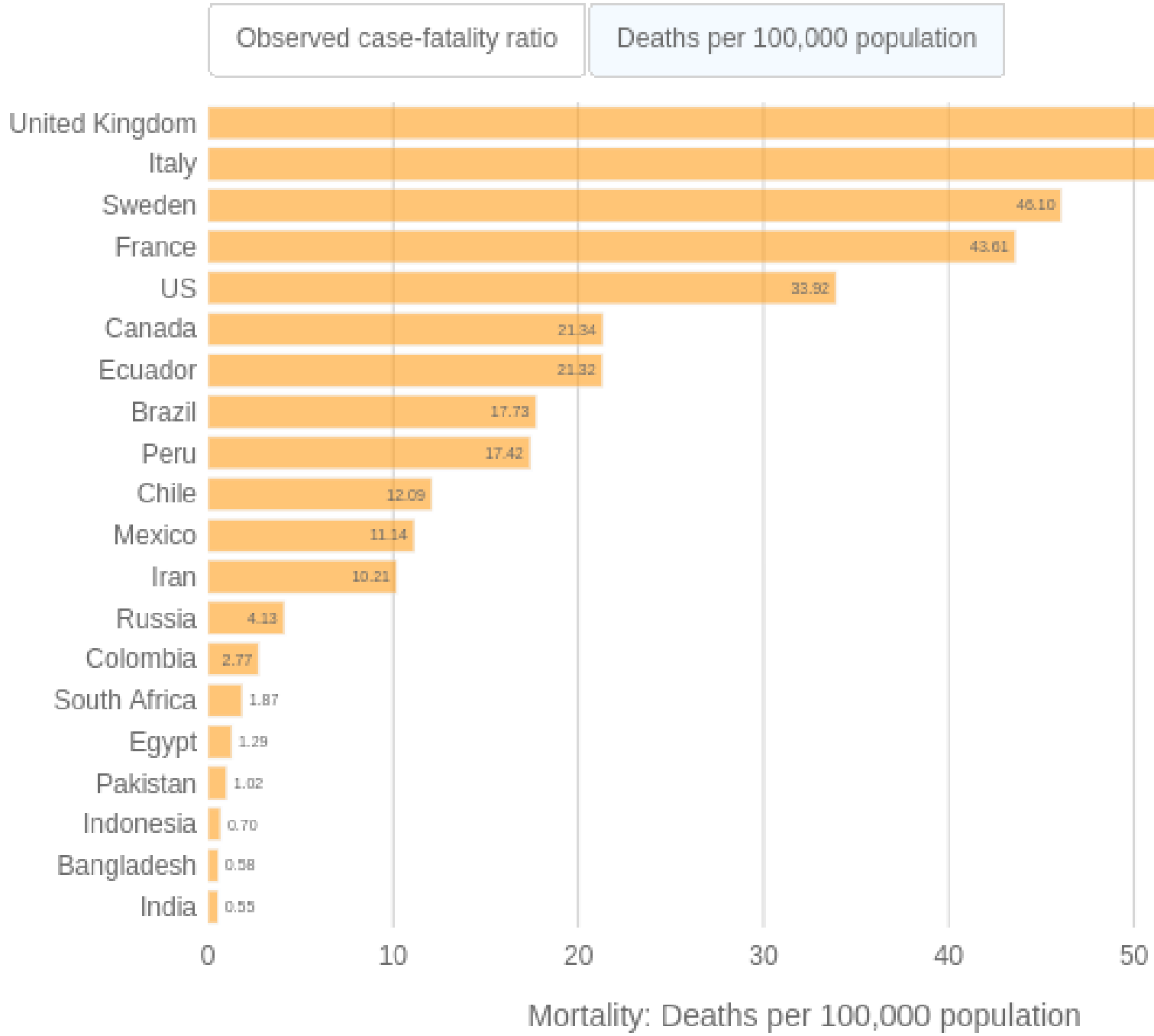


Social

Not Population Size or GDP

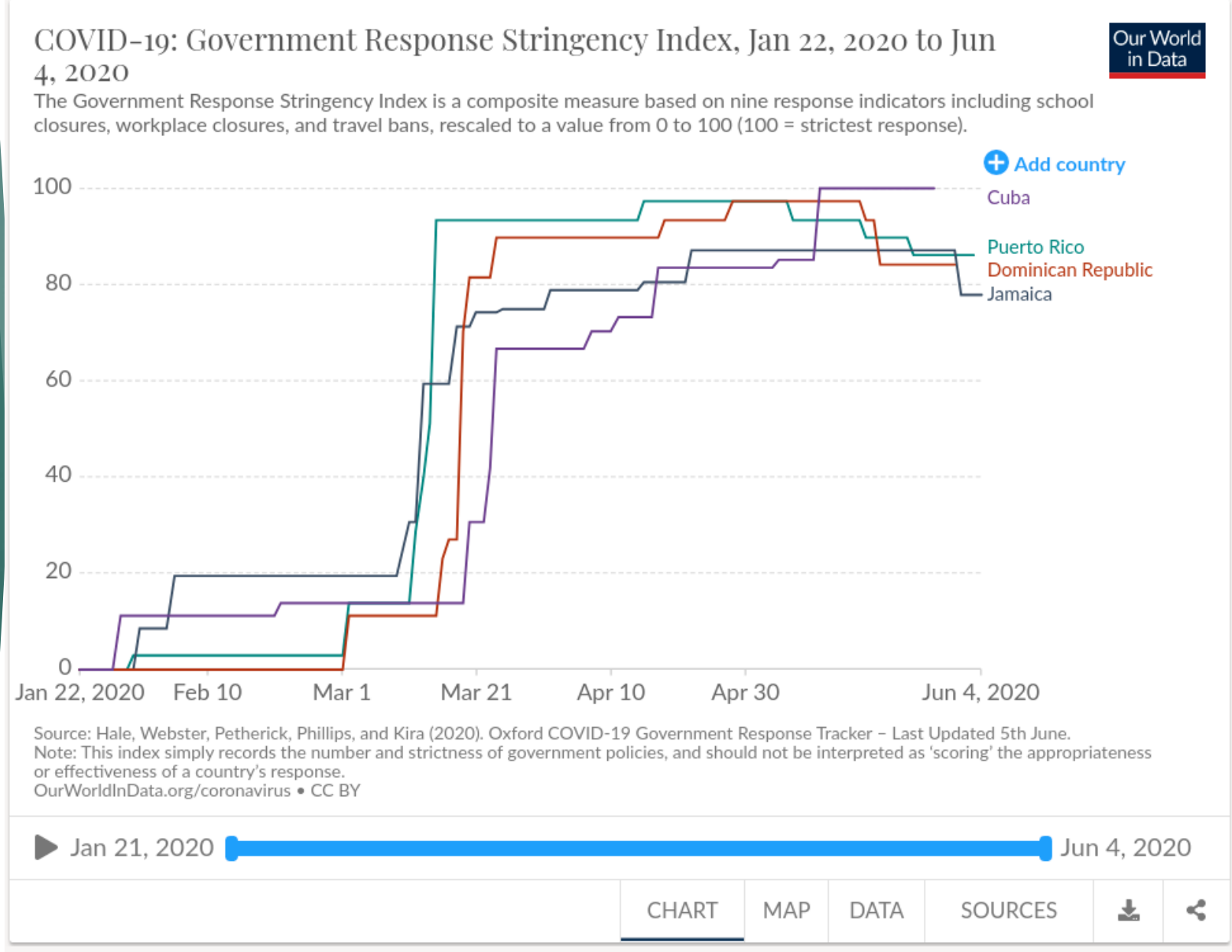
Science-based Government action, Public awareness & action

- **Turkey 5.7**
- Sao Tome & Principe 5.7
- Dominican Republic 5.1
- Puerto Rico 4.2
- **Russia 4.1**
- Barbados 2.4
- Cuba 0.7
- Singapore 0.4
- Jamaica 0.3
- **China 0.3**
- Senegal 0.3

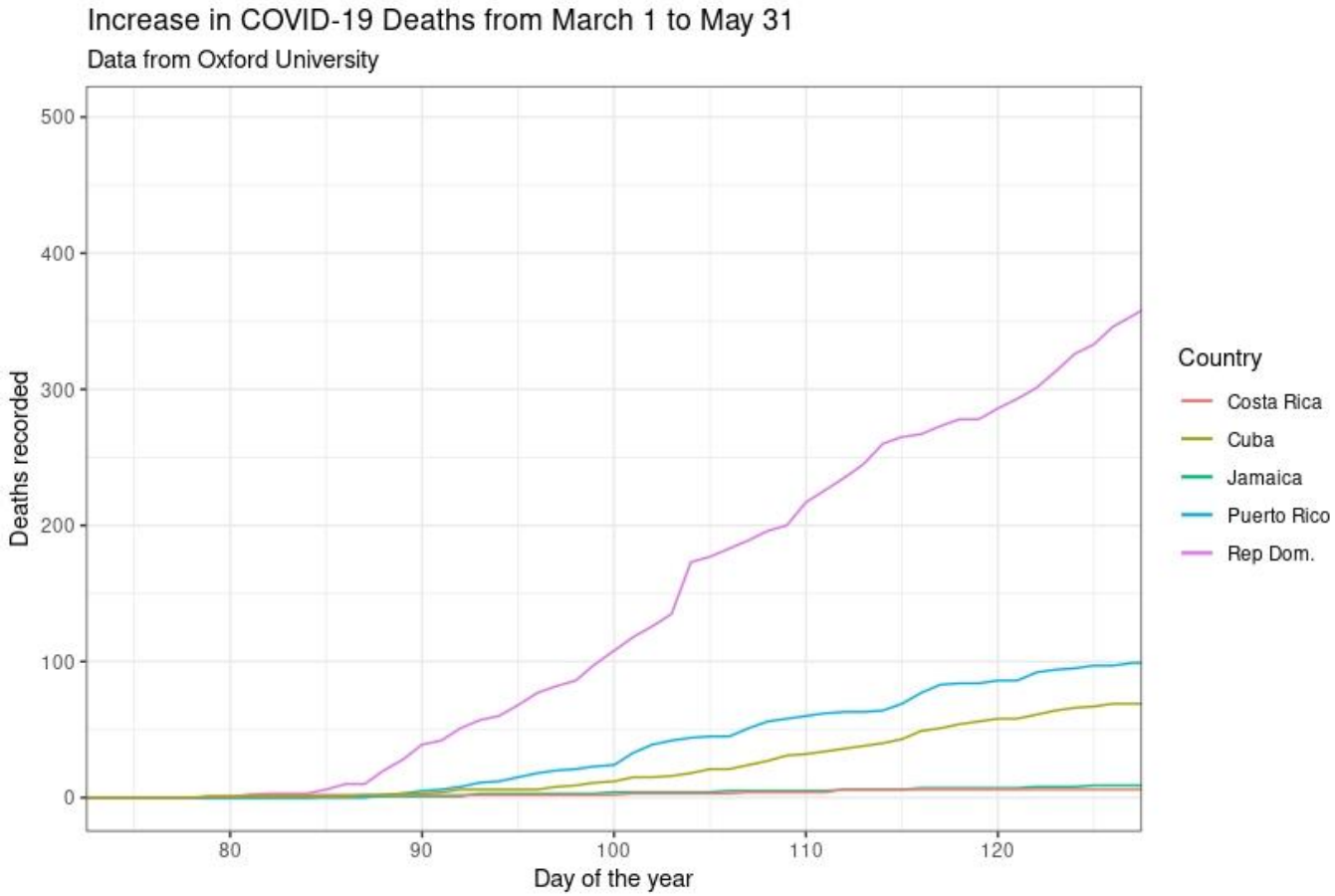


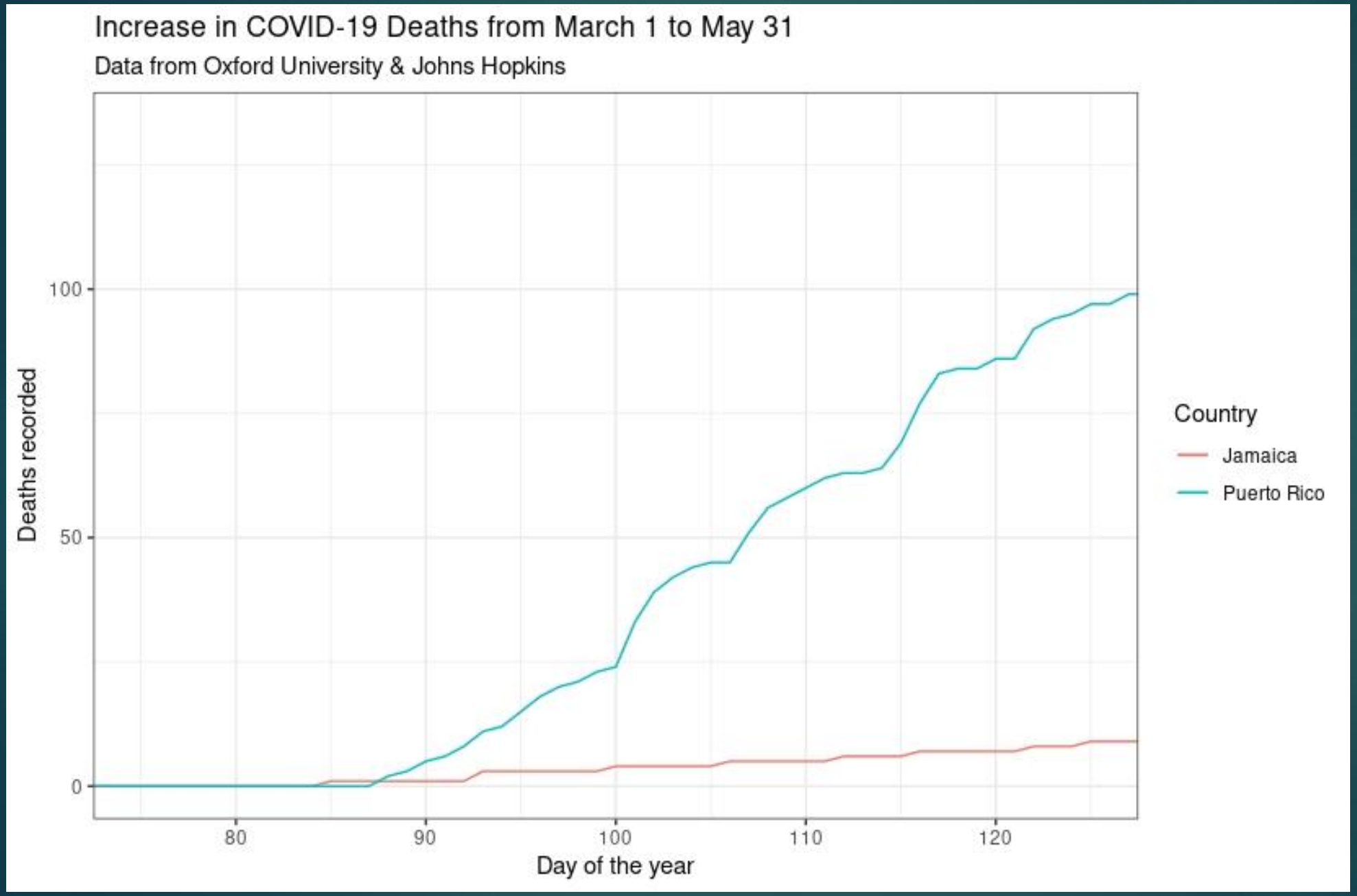
How did Caribbean SIDS manage COVID?

- They took similar measures
- Some at around the same time
- Puerto Rico DID NOT close its airports

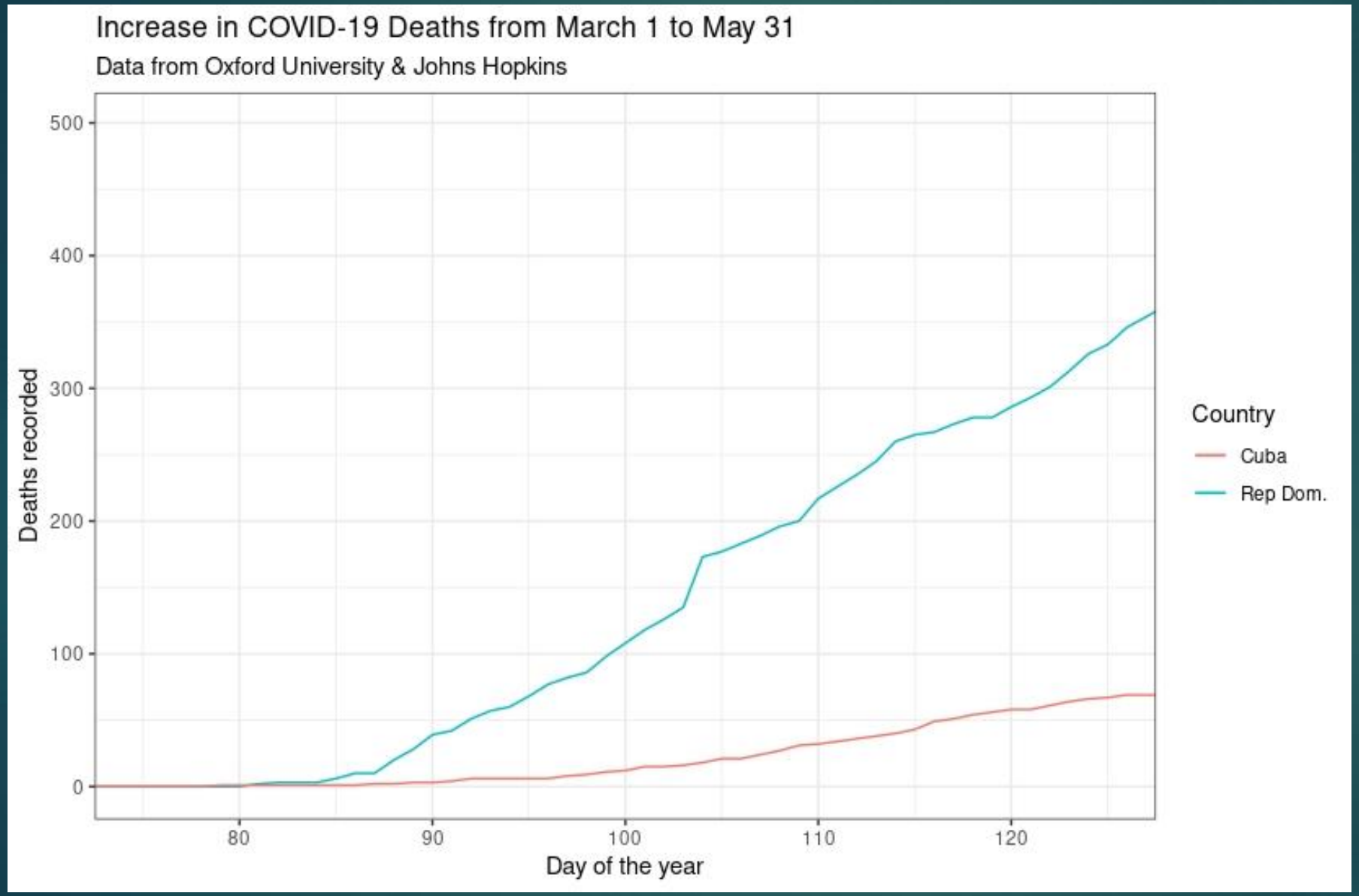


- Deaths are not related to population size
- Not necessarily related to GDP per capita between nations (though may be related to income within)
- Government intervention and people's actions are more important





Jamaica and Puerto Rico have similar sized populations.



Cuba and the Dominican Republic have similar sized populations.

Vulnerability to travelers & tourism

- Infections came from OECD urban centers with tourists or people visiting relatives
- E.g. Italy, Canada, London & New York,
- There was community transmission in all those places *prior* to the infection in the Caribbean. But this was not known at the time.

What worked, & what didn't

The better performers (Cuba and Jamaica)

- Started public information campaigns a month before the poorer performers

Spikes in cases

- Parties & Boat cruises (as well as cruise shipping)
- People who refused to be quarantined
- Poor business practices (e.g call centre in Jamaica)

Responses

- Quarantines of villages
- Curfews & restrictions on gathering, commerce etc.
- **Closed Borders and airports**

What next?

- Tourism-based economies (most SIDS) will soon re-open to tourism & new infections:
  - Tourists are from countries with much higher infection rates e.g. USA, UK, Italy.
  - The sector will need to operate in new ways to protect their employees, clientele and brand
  - Avoid or ban cruise shipping until ways to make it safe can be found?

What next?

- Set up appropriate border protocols
- Improve data collection & monitoring
  - Test visitors
  - Test workers in the tourism sector
  - Test people living in areas where tourism takes place
  - monitor new infections.
- Implement restrictions as needed
- Be prepared to re-close borders as necessary & with short notice

Wicked problems

	High agreement on values among stakeholders	**Low agreement on values among stakeholders**
High level of Scientific knowledge	Simple Problems	Complicated problems: build stakeholder agreements on values
Gaps in knowledge, research lacking, disagreements	Complex systems: experts work to improve knowledge	**Wicked Problems: multi & trans disciplinary – problem taming**

From Balint, Stewart & Desai 2011

COVID a wicked problem? In some places…….

The virus is new so there are gaps in knowledge

- we don't know if a vaccine will provide lasting immunity,
- we don't know how much immunity is caused by previous infections

Stakeholders vary widely on values:

- Are jobs/the economy more important than the premature death of some older people or people from minority groups?
- Some leaders feel the pandemic's importance is exaggerated
- People who are currently out of work need a source of income
- Who should provide social safety nets?

Risk reduction

- Taming wicked problems requires multi and transdisciplinary approaches and non-traditional approaches to problem solving.
- Not Science vs. economics, but economics based on natural science and an understanding of the natural systems that allow for human wellbeing,
  - Its vital to implement policy and practice based on good science
  - Investigate the linkages maximize benefits minimize tradeoffs, science-led policy actions.
- Does going back to normal make sense? Not if there was something wrong with normal.

Risk Reduction

Improve the accessibility to internet for

Education

Skills training

Provision of government services

Public education about hazards and disaster risk reduction

This would include increased phone & internet coverage

Schools, Public libraries and government supported outlets

Internet shops and cafes

Improved phone services, cash etc.

Home access through low cost computers and FOSS

Lessons learned

- COVID has exposed pre-existing weaknesses and inequalities in our social and economic systems.
- We should address those and not seek to restart them as we go back to business
- Resist the urge to go back to business as usual. (Build the economy back better)
- Lead with science-based policies
- Address the needs of the vulnerable
- Educate, and find ways to diversify economies
- Prepare for the next cyclone or drought with COVID-19