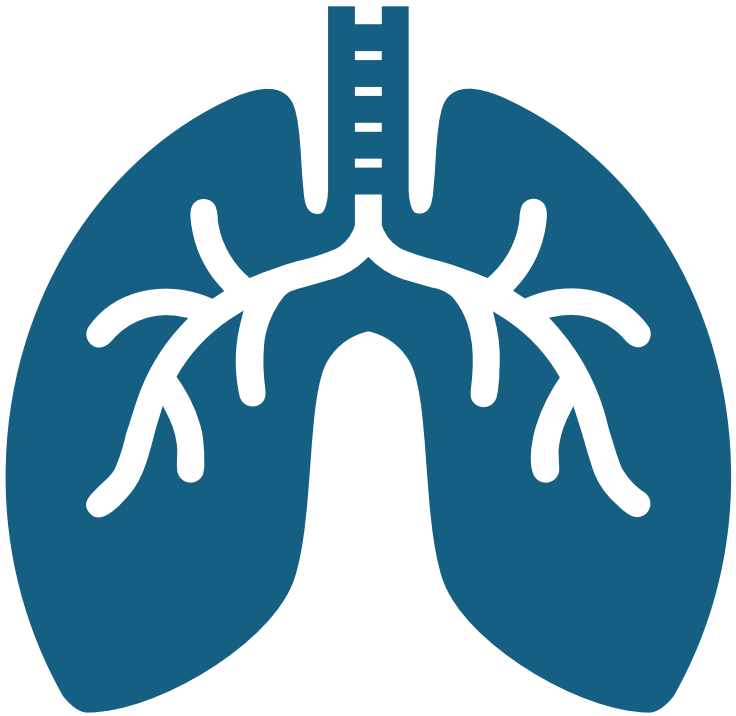


“Oxygen **delayed** is life **denied**.”

COVID-19 survivor, Kenya
Lancet Global Health Commission on Medical Oxygen Security Report

Current US Oxygen Landscape

REIMBURSEMENT HAS **DROPPED 89%** (ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION) SINCE THE 1990S.[1]

ACCESS TO LIQUID OXYGEN HAS **DROPPED AT LEAST 90%** SINCE 2013.[2]

THE NUMBER OF OXYGEN SUPPLIERS HAS **DROPPED APPROXIMATELY 38%** SINCE 2013.[2]

1. Internal COPDF research using legislative history data and inflation calculators.
2. Long-Term Trends in Home Respiratory Medical Equipment Among US Medicare Patients, 2013-2019 AJRCCM August 2022, https://doi.org/10.1164/rccm.202202-0238LE

Impact On Patients & Caregivers

8%

NEW PATIENTS WHO RECEIVED TRAINING **FROM A CLINICIAN**

35%

PATIENTS WHO FELT AT LEAST **SOMEWHAT UNPREPARED** TO OPERATE THEIR EQUIPMENT

79%

PATIENTS WHO FELT THEIR PORTABLE EQUIPMENT **LIMITED ACTIVITY** OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOME

Patient Perceptions of the Adequacy of Supplemental Oxygen Therapy
AnnalsATS January 2018, https://doi.org/10.4187/respcare.05916

The Next Pandemic

The BMJ

Cite this as: *BMJ* 2022;376:o829
http://dx.doi.org/10.1136/bmj.o829
Published: 29 March 2022

Covid-19: Oxygen shortages two years into pandemic highlight pre-covid failures, says WHO

Elisabeth Mahase

Two years into the covid-19 pandemic, access to oxygen is still a major problem in low and middle income countries, health leaders have warned.

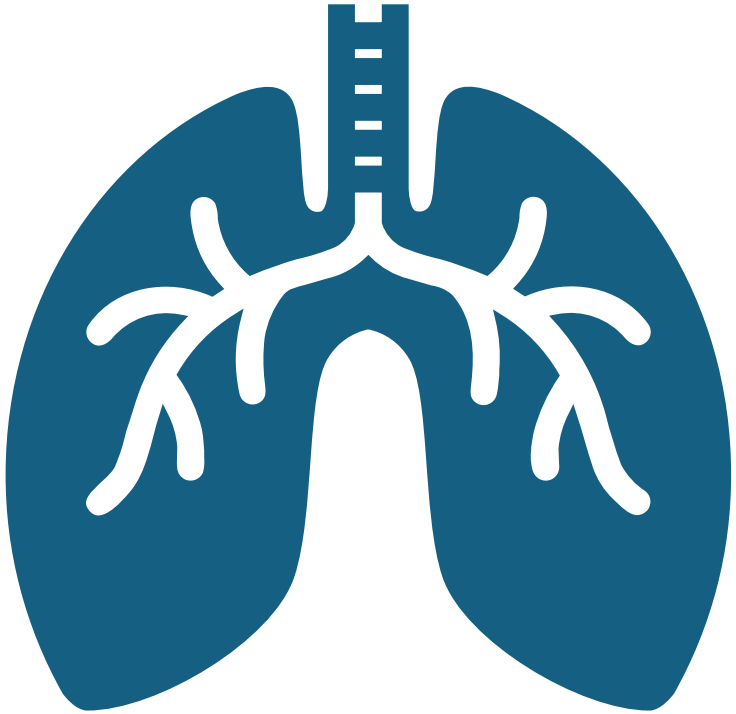
The shortages have highlighted the "abject failure" of the global community to develop and build up primary healthcare and universal health coverage over the past 20 years, said Michael Ryan, the World Health Organization's health emergencies programme executive director.

"Covid didn't cause this, covid uncovered this. Covid laid bare, tore away the bandages from, some very, very old wounds," Ryan told an Access to Covid-19 Tools (ACT) Accelerator briefing. "No one was interested in oxygen," he said, despite it being vital for the treatment of patients with covid-19 in the early stages of the pandemic.

"I went to meeting after meeting and I spoke about oxygen, and nobody was listening because oxygen wasn't sexy. It wasn't new. It wasn't some technological advance that could be delivered to the world. Oxygen was boring, oxygen was old," Ryan said.

But even now—a year after the ACT-Accelerator Oxygen Emergency Taskforce was launched to tackle critical oxygen gaps—supply is still a problem.

Speaking at the event, Leith Greenslade, coordinator for the Every Breath Counts Coalition, which campaigns

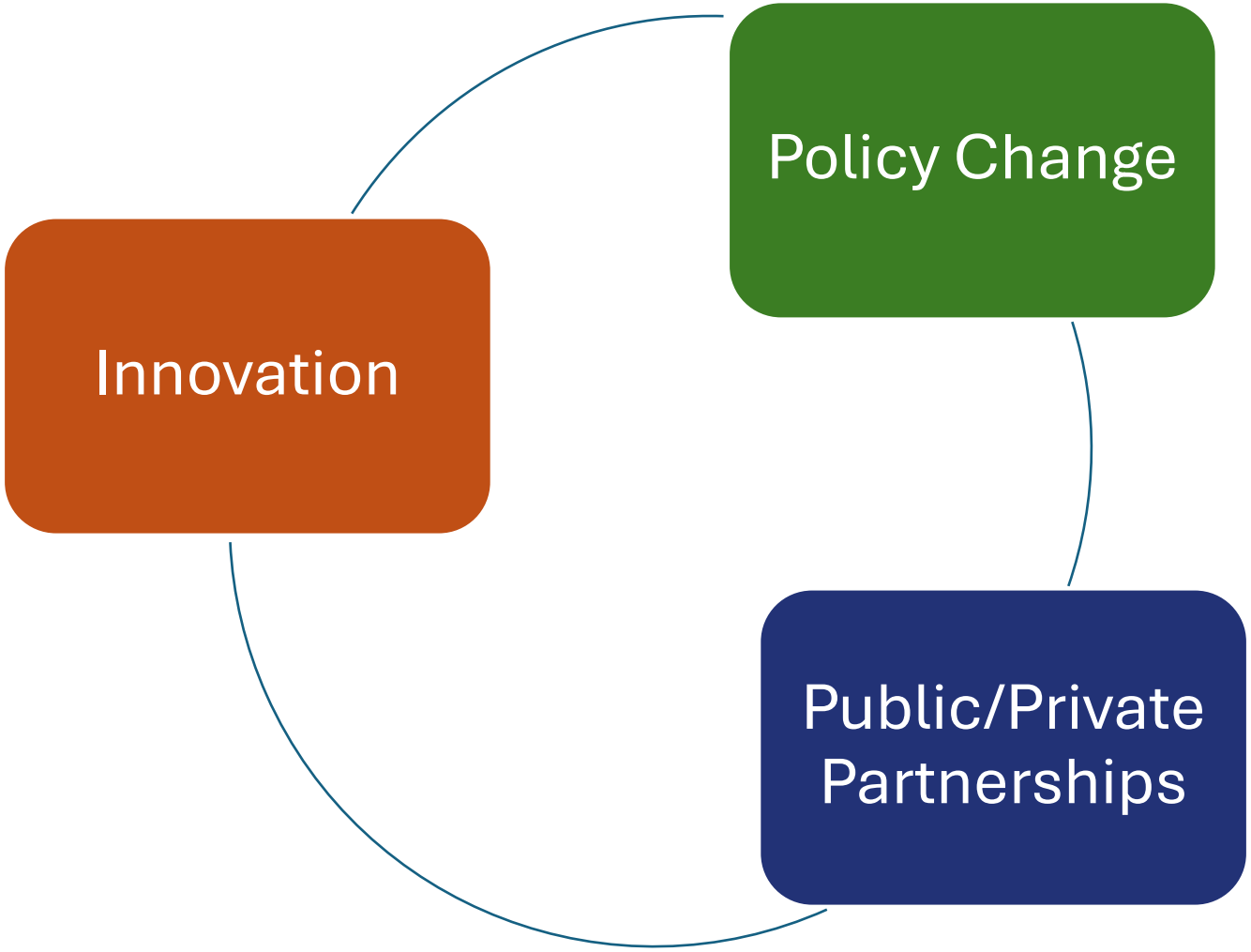


"It is a **Herculean task** for a family caring for someone who needs oxygen at home.

We are really **on our own**, with little support from the government."

COVID-19 survivor, Kenya
Lancet Global Health Commission on Medical Oxygen Security Report

Rethinking Homecare

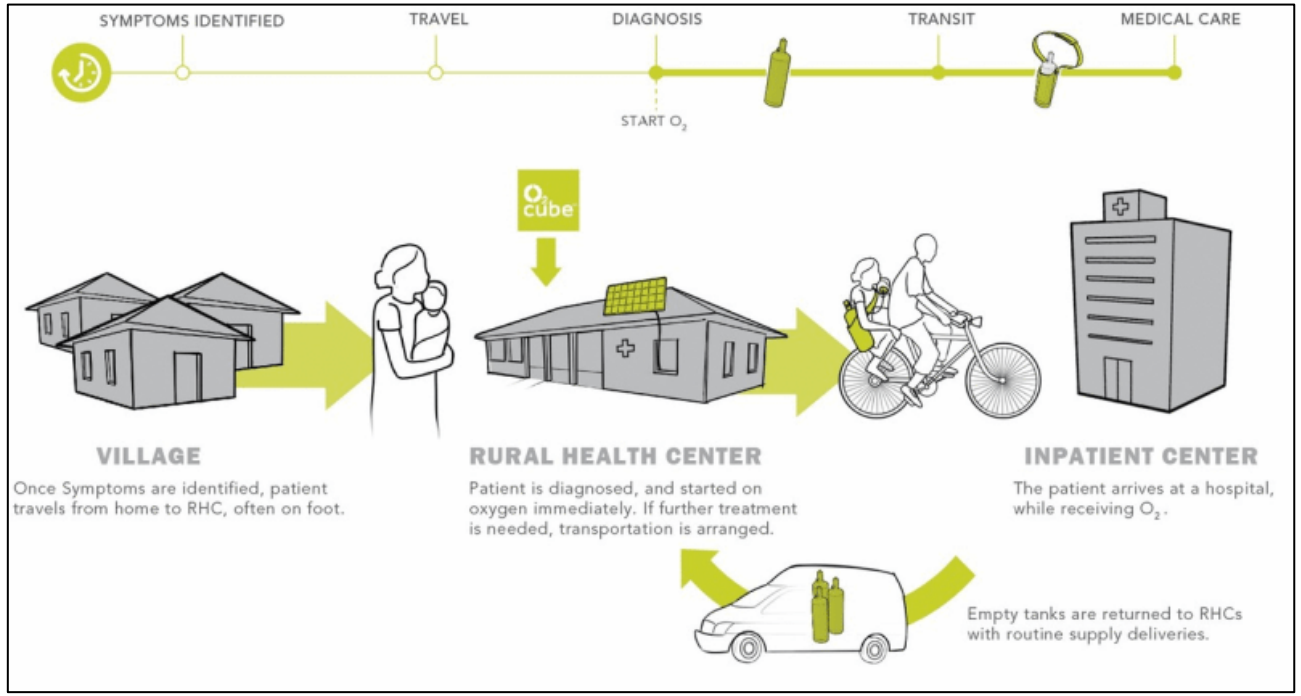


Innovation – O_2 Cube

SOLUTION

A solar-powered, supplemental oxygen system designed with proven technology & repackaged for ease of use & durability

O_2cube
every breath counts



Innovation – Pulm O_2

- Designed for rugged/austere(ish) environments
- Performs well in hot/humid/dusty conditions
- Designed for ease of use
- Energy efficient and resilient

https://www.makingbetterfutures.org/theoxygenconcentratordirectory

Policy Change – Disaster Readiness

- Backup power supplies
  - Added to standard equipment package reimbursement
  - Local emergency stockpiles

$300

$1,000

$600

Policy Change – Homecare's Role in the System

- "Homecare doesn't have lights and sirens."
- Community-based response and monitoring
- Coordination between hospitals, homecare companies, equipment suppliers, and EMS providers
- Reimbursement for "oxygen rounds" during states of emergency

Policy Change – SOAR Act (HR.2902/S.1406)

Move supplemental oxygen from being supplier-centric to being patient-centric by establishing a “patient bill of rights;”

Removing medical oxygen from the Medicare Competitive Bidding Program permanently and creating a carve-out for liquid oxygen;

Provide reimbursement for respiratory therapists in the home to provide training and education;

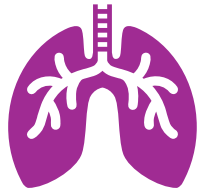
Standardize documentation requirements to enhance program integrity.

Public/Private Partnerships

Development of robust disaster planning kits/checklists

Oxygen/equipment registries

Emergency hotlines



“Oxygen-as-a-Service” model