2.5 Global-commission reports by challenge type

Global-commission reports provide an interesting window into how challenges are viewed by the 'eminent persons' who often fill the ranks of commissioners. Our analysis of the 70 commission reports published since January 2016 found that:

- most commission reports (46) address both domestic and global levels
- only three sectors have been the focus of more than seven commission reports, namely health, public safety and justice, and food safety and security, with 22, 17 and 12 reports, respectively
- only four Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been the focus of more than six commission reports, Good health and well-being (SDG 3), Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG 16), Zero hunger (SDG 2), and Decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) with 25, 16, 10 and seven reports, respectively
- nearly half of the commission reports (33) labeled the problem they were addressing as complex and none used the labels simple, complicated or wicked
- the most common reasons used to justify calling a challenge a problem worth paying attention to were values (59) and comparisons to the past (52)
- most challenges were framed positively as goals or targets (39) rather than negatively as problems (31)
- most commission reports (43) propose a package (or bundle) of interventions, albeit not with the rigour of a report like Disease Control Priorities 3, but don't speak to how the interventions were developed or how they should be managed over time.

Note that a commission report can address more than one sector and SDG so the numbers do not always add up to the total number of reports we analyzed.

Challenge types		Number of commission reports
Ways of looking at challenges		
Level at which a challenge is typically addressed	Both domestic and global	47
	Domestic (e.g., national or sub-national)	17
	Global coordination	6
Sector addressed	Health	23
	Public safety and justice	17
	Food safety and security	12
	Economic development and growth	7
	Natural resources	5
	Infrastructure	4
	Climate action	4
	Culture and gender	3
	Education	3
	Employment	2
	Energy supply	2
	Environmental conservation	1
	Government services	1
	Children and youth services	1
	Community and social services	1
	Housing	1
	Recreation	0
	Transportation	0
	Citizenship	0

SDG addressed	**3** Good health and well-being	26
	16 Peace, justice and strong institutions	16
	2 Zero hunger	10
	8 Decent work and economic growth	7
	6 Clean water and sanitation	5
	10 Reduced inequalities	5
	12 Responsible consumption and production	5
	4 Quality education	4
	9 Industry, innovation and infrastructure	4
	17 Partnerships for the goals	4
	5 Gender equality	3
	1 No poverty	3
	13 Climate action	3
	7 Affordable and clean energy	2
	14 Life below water	2
	11 Sustainable cities and communities	1
	15 Life on land	1
	Not stated explicitly	1
Complexity of the underlying problem	Complex	33
	Simple	0
	Complicated	0
	Complex cubed (or wicked)	0
	Not stated explicitly	37
Reason to label a challenge a problem worth paying attention to	Values	60
	Past	52
	Other groups within jurisdiction	12
	Other jurisdictions	7
	Other framing	3
	Not stated explicitly	1
Framing	Positive	39
	Negative	31
Ways of addressing challenges		
What is being offered	Package (or bundle) of interventions	43
	Synergistic combination of interventions	20
	Single intervention	1
	Not stated explicitly	6
How it is developed	Co-designed intervention	14
	Evidence-based intervention selected	4
	New intervention developed	1
	Community-led action	1
	Not stated explicitly	50
How it is managed over time	Systems thinking	12
	Portfolio management	5
	Not stated explicitly	53