

THE IMPERATIVE OF INVESTMENTS IN GLOBAL HEALTH

“healthy lives and well-being for all at all ages”

- third of the WHO Sustainable Development Goals

This means ensuring:

- access to basic health services
- safe, effective, high-quality, and affordable medicine and vaccines
- protection against financial risks arising from illness

ACHIEVEMENTS



Child mortality drop



Until 1950, one in five children worldwide died before their fifth birthday. Today, one in 25 children.



385



216

Maternal mortality reduction

In the last 25 years from 385 to 216 women dying from complications out of every 100,000 live births

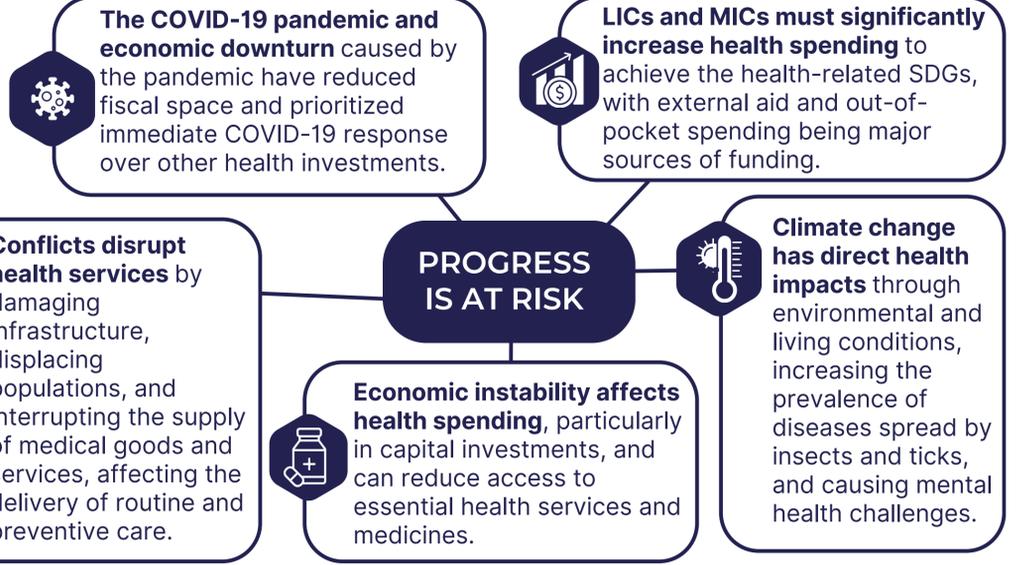
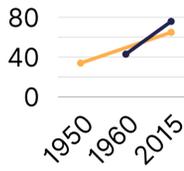
Life expectancy increase

E.g., Ethiopia, from 34 years in 1950 to 65 years in 2015; China, from 43 years in 1960 to 76 years in 2015.

50% decrease of extreme poverty



Measured against the international poverty line of USD 2.15 per day



DIFFERENCES BETWEEN RICH AND POOR COUNTRIES REMAIN

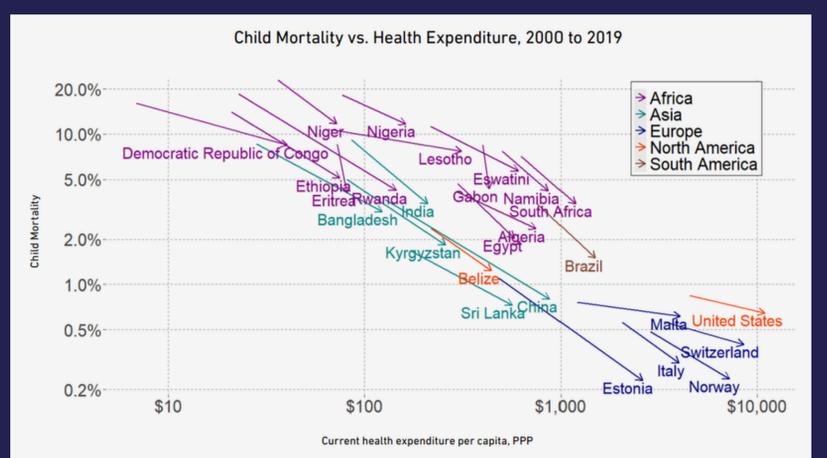


50x higher maternal mortality

In sub-Saharan Africa, the **maternal mortality rate is still 546** maternal deaths per 100,000 live births, compared to **10** in Western Europe (World Bank, 2023).

10x higher infant mortality

In LICs, the **infant mortality rate is around ten times higher** than in HICs.



POVERTY



Among populations living in poverty the **two most common causes of death** are **diarrhoeal diseases and respiratory infections**, both of which **could be completely avoided** if the people affected did not have to struggle with extreme poverty (WHO, 2023).

REASON: the lack of financial resources available to those living in poverty.



~30% of spending in the health sector in LICs is financed by external resources such as official development cooperation (WHO, 2021).
Citizens bear a large proportion of healthcare costs themselves.

- ‘Out-of-pocket’ share of the costs for the treatment of illnesses paid by individuals in LICs and MICs is almost 40%, while in HICs it is only around 10%.
- While public spending remains the main source of health financing, many LICs and MICs are likely to struggle to raise the necessary funds.

There is a close relationship between public spending on health and a country’s health situation.

Higher healthcare expenditure correlates with lower infant mortality over time. There remain considerable differences in health spending across geographies. In Niger, only 73 international dollars per capita were spent on health in 2019, while 8,532 international dollars were spent in Switzerland. The ratio between these two countries is 1 to 117. As can be seen in the visualization, this inequality remains relatively constant over time

VACCINATION PROGRAMMES SAVED MILLIONS OF LIVES AND INCREASED LIFE EXPECTANCY:



Vaccines can save millions

It is estimated that between 2010 and 2019, **measles vaccinations alone prevented 25 million deaths** (Patel et al., 2020). Another example is smallpox, which killed hundreds of millions of people over the course of recorded human history and has now been eradicated thanks to vaccination.



20 million children missing basic vaccinations

Although immunisation rates have improved massively in recent decades, more than **20 million children still have not received basic vaccinations as of 2022**. Almost 60% of these children live in just 10 countries in Africa, Asia and South America (WHO, 2023a).

SYNERGIES



Less children missing school

25%

When a programme in Kenya offered free anti-worm medication in schools, **the number of children who did not attend school fell by 25%** (Miguel and Kremer, 2004).



Cost-effective treatment

\$0.50

Deworming treatments cost around US \$0.50 per child and are therefore a cost-effective measure to improve children’s health and at the same time increase participation in lessons and school performance (Muralidharan, 2017)

CONCLUSION

- Investments in global health programmes are cost-effective and serve the self-interest of HICs such as Switzerland and the global community, particularly in terms of pandemic prevention.
- They contribute to improving the quality of life of millions of people and simultaneously help to minimise global health risks.
- The promotion of global health programmes supports the WHO’s goal of ‘Health for All’, helps to reduce inequalities in healthcare, and improves access to healthcare in disadvantaged communities.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals

- ✓ Public investment in global health programmes must be increased.
- ✓ Cost-effective programmes should be continued and expanded, especially in the poorest countries. Research provides indications as to which programmes are particularly effective.
- ✓ Since LICs cannot solve the health problem on their own, more international and multilateral cooperation is needed.

Help us strengthen investments in global health politically and administratively. Get in touch!

We are especially interested in those working for state organizations like the SDC, NGOs and international organizations working with highly effective methods such as GAVI or the Global Fund.



Rahel Mas, Switzerland
rahel.mas@cooperationglobale.ch



Pascal Roelcke, Switzerland
pascal.roelcke@cooperationglobale.ch



Gabriel Hanrieder, Germany
gabriel.hanrieder@kooperationglobal.de



Report by ETH Nadel