

Global Health Impact

Extending Access on Essential Medicine



The Global Health Impact Index is a new way of promoting global health and helping people access essential medicines. Millions die every year from diseases like malaria, tuberculosis (TB), and HIV/AIDS. Our research evaluates the global impact of medicines for these diseases and encourages companies, countries and international organizations to extend access to their innovations around the world.

How We Measure

There are three main considerations that go into evaluating each drug's potential impact. These are 1) the need for the drug, 2) its effectiveness, and 3) how many people who need the drug can access it around the world. Using this information, we calculate the amount of death and disability each drug prevents. Very roughly, we multiply the need for the drug - measured in Disability Adjusted Life-Years (DALYS) lost to the diseases they treat -- times drug efficacy and treatment percentages to get the final impact scores. All of the data we rely upon is publically available from international organizations and academic research.

Working Together

These drug scores measure the collective impact of many organizations and not effort or responsibility. Companies' innovations, country-level health systems, and international institutions' policies all matter. No one would have much of an impact without others' efforts. So, we look at drugs' impacts in four ways - by country, company, drug, and disease.

Initial Results

Nigeria is the highest ranked country primarily because drugs for malaria are having a large impact there. Sanofi tops the company list because it holds the patent on key anti-malaria and TB medicines. Artemether-lumefantrine, lamivudine, and isoniazid are the highest impact drugs for malaria, HIV/AIDS and TB, respectively. There is great unmet need for drugs for all diseases. The drugs for each disease together are having approximately equal global impact.

Potential Uses

There are many ways Global Health Impact information is useful to policy makers, researchers, companies, investors, consumers, and other people interested in global health. The Index can be used for evaluating success in extending access on essential medicines and seeing where needs remain unmet. Researchers can use the Index to examine the factors that contribute to impact and its consequences. International organizations, countries, companies, consumers, civil society and other stake holders can use the Index to evaluate performance and incentivize greater access to essential medicines.

The Organization

The Global Health Impact Organization aspires to advance global access to essential medicines, with particular focus on resource-poor settings, by providing data that can encourage the development of equitable access to medicines policies that have the greatest impact on global health. It is an independent academic consortium that does not accept funding from the pharmaceutical industry. To learn more or contribute to our efforts, check out: global-health-impact.org.

*Together we can leverage the
Global Health Impact Index
to address some of the worst
global health problems!*