



Why Does Global Health Matter to Washington?

Probably for more reasons than you think. Even though the term “global health” refers to diseases and health issues that disproportionately affect developing countries, global health matters to Washington. It matters to Washington’s economy and to Washingtonians’ health.

Washington has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Washington was the fourth largest merchandise exporter among the 50 states, exporting \$66.3 billion worth of goods to 208 foreign destinations. Some of Washington’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Washington benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 85,900 Washingtonians work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Washington’s economy as they expand their operations in the Evergreen State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 3,100 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Washington’s Seattle-Tacoma International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Washington, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 11,700 foreign students studied at Washington universities. International students and their families contributed \$268 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Washington

Washington's global ties benefit the state's economy, providing billions of dollars in revenue and thousands of jobs. For example, one in three manufacturing workers in Washington depends on international exports for his or her job.

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Washington's global ties link the state's economic health to the health and economic growth of other countries and regions. When health care crises in other countries threaten economic and political stability, they can end up affecting Washington as well.

What's the Link between Health and Wealth?

Epidemics and other health crises affect the ability of entire communities to work and limit the potential for economies to develop. The following examples illustrate the link between global health and economic development:

- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of many African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Washington businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Washington exports \$953 million worth of goods to Africa every year.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Washington, purchasing nearly \$9.6 billion worth of Washington exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Washington

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a world leader in biomedical research that improves health in the United States and around the world. Most of the research that is funded by NIH is conducted on university campuses across the country. NIH awards many grants to Washington universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Washington received approximately \$851 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of these grants are for research that will improve global health. For example, the University of Washington Institute of Translational Health Sciences received a five-year, \$62 million award to speed the transition from lab research to medical care, including better treatments, diagnostics, and vaccines for patients. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Washington at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

Washington and the Gates Foundation: Reaching out to the World

The Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, based in Seattle, Washington, is motivated by the belief that every life has equal value. The foundation is leading the quest to discover, develop, and deliver global health technologies. The Gates Foundation's philanthropic efforts have already reached almost every corner of the globe, and Seattle is seeing its economy benefit as well. The Gates Foundation has channeled more than \$1 billion to Seattle-based institutions, biotech companies, nonprofit organizations, and individual researchers. The University of Washington (UW), for example, received \$30 million from the foundation to launch its new Department of Global Health, which is expected to expand to 50 faculty members and up to 500 students. UW also received \$105 million for its new Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation, which will likely employ more than 130 people.



A report released by UW in 2007 found that global health work in Washington created \$4.1 billion in business activity and supported 44,000 jobs in the state. Lee Hartwell, Nobel Prize winning geneticist and Director of Seattle's Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center, said, "It's moral. We are not just a community that enjoys our wealth, but a community that is reaching out to the world and trying to make a difference."

The Gates Foundation, in partnership with NIH and others, began the Grand Challenges in Global Health initiative, which commits \$436.6 million in grants to support scientists in 33 countries. Bill Gates, co-founder of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, said, "It's shocking how little research is directed toward the diseases of the world's poorest countries. By harnessing the world's capacity for scientific innovation, I believe we can transform health in the developing world and save millions of lives." Together, the Gates Foundation, our nation's medical research agencies, and Washington State are saving lives through global health research.

Conclusion

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) are taking the lead in the research and development of drugs and vaccines aimed at improving global health and lessening the impact of deadly diseases such as HIV/AIDS, TB, and malaria.

To find out how we can accelerate the search for better medical technologies, please visit www.familiesusa.org/global-health.

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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