



## U.S. FOREIGN ASSISTANCE SUPPORT OF GLOBAL HEALTH AND DEVELOPMENT = A STRONG RETURN ON INVESTMENT (ROI)

Global health and development offer significant short-and long-term Returns on Investment. Here we provide a range of *economically-focused benefits* of foreign assistance. We in no way prioritize certain areas to the exclusion of others, nor do we take into account the invaluable contribution to human flourishing.

### ROI: GLOBAL HEALTH

#### Polio

- The \$9 billion invested by governments and donors to support the global polio eradication program since 1988 has resulted in a \$27 billion ROI in terms of avoided treatment costs and losses of productivity, and saved millions of children from paralysis.  
<http://www.polioeradication.org/Portals/0/Document/Resources/StrategyWork/EconomicCase.pdf>
- Eradication of polio would save at least \$40-50 billion over the next 20 years.  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs114/en/>

#### Maternal and Child Health

- Increasing investment in women and children's health by \$5 per person per year until 2035 in 74 high-burden countries could yield:
  - Up to 9 times that value in economic and social benefits
  - Greater GDP through improved productivity
  - Prevention of 147 million child deaths, 32 million stillbirths, and 5 million maternal deaths.  
<http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736%2813%2962231-X/abstract>

#### Water and Sanitation

- Investments in clean water and adequate sanitation bring an ROI of \$4.30 per \$1 by reducing patient expenses and lost productivity, time savings due to improved water access, days of school attendance gained, and prevented deaths.  
[https://www.who.int/water\\_sanitation\\_health/publications/glaas\\_report\\_2014/en/](https://www.who.int/water_sanitation_health/publications/glaas_report_2014/en/)

#### HIV/AIDS

- Care for 3.5 million patients between 2011-2020, at a cost \$14.2 billion is expected to save 18.5 million life-years and return between \$12 and \$34 billion through increased labor productivity, averted orphan care, reduced medical treatment for opportunistic infections and end-of-life care. In addition to large health gains, economic benefit of treatment will offset, and likely exceed, program costs within 10 years.  
<http://www.plosone.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pone.0025310>

#### Malaria

- For every \$1 invested in malaria prevention and treatment programs, a \$40 return can be expected due to healthier, better educated and more productive working communities.  
<http://www.forbes.com/sites/skollworldforum/2013/04/25/world-malaria-day-2013-we-cannot-afford-to-wait/>

## Nutrition

- Nutritional interventions can bring to \$138 ROI for every \$1 invested, through better health and increased productivity. Typical interventions include zinc and Vitamin A supplements, iron fortification, salt iodization, and, to prevent loss of nutrients, deworming drugs.  
<http://thousanddays.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/05/1000-Days-June-2013-Investment-in-Growth-Policy-Brief.pdf>
- Iodine deficiency, which can be remedied by iodizing salts costing five cents per person per year, affects 1.8 billion people and is the single greatest preventable cause of mental retardation.  
<http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/hungerandmalnutrition.pdf>
- Inadequate nutrition caused shortfalls of 0.23% and 4.70 % in the annual growth rate of GDP per capita in 122 countries studied over three decades.  
[http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Investing\\_in\\_Children.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Investing_in_Children.pdf)

## Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs)

- USAID's \$386 million investment has leveraged \$6.7 billion in donated medicines to 25 countries since 2006.  
<http://www.usaid.gov/sites/default/files/documents/1864/GHreportUpdatedOnePageView.pdf>
- The toll of the seven leading NTDs on health care costs and loss of productivity create an economic burden of billions of dollars. But prevention and treatment returns are high:
  - Hookworm:** Controlling hookworm in children can increase future earnings by 43%.  
<https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/113/hr4847/text>
  - River blindness:** Control programs have protected over 150 million people from blindness in over 30 countries. An annual cost of \$0.58 per person produces an ROI of 20% over a span of 39 years.  
<http://www.plosmedicine.org/article/info%3Adoi%2F10.1371%2Fjournal.pmed.1000255>  
[http://www.globalnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Social%20and%20Economic%20Impact%20Review%20on%20Neglected%20Tropical%20Diseases%20Hudson%20Institute%20and%20Sabin%20Institute%20November%202012\\_1.pdf](http://www.globalnetwork.org/sites/default/files/Social%20and%20Economic%20Impact%20Review%20on%20Neglected%20Tropical%20Diseases%20Hudson%20Institute%20and%20Sabin%20Institute%20November%202012_1.pdf)

# ROI: GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT

## Agriculture and Food Security

- Enhanced crop and livestock productivity and reduction of yield losses can result in an ROI of \$16 for every \$1 invested. Investments reduce malnutrition, child stunting, and reliance on food aid in times of crisis.  
<http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/hungerandmalnutrition.pdf>

## Biodiversity

- Current deforestation rates cause a loss of biodiversity benefits, such as food variety, medical discoveries, clean water, survival of ecosystems and species, that could equal as much as 7% of global GDP by 2050.  
[http://www.unep.org/pdf/OP\\_sept/2010/EN/OP-2010-09-EN-FULLVERSION.pdf](http://www.unep.org/pdf/OP_sept/2010/EN/OP-2010-09-EN-FULLVERSION.pdf)

## Basic Education

- Fifty-eight million children worldwide are out of school—40% of them in countries in crisis and conflict; failure to educate girls to the same standard as boys in 65 less-developed countries costs those countries \$92 billion collectively every year.  
<http://www.usaid.gov/news-information/press-releases/oct-20-2014-usaid-announces-new-efforts-fight-global-poverty-through-education>. "Paying the Price: The Economic Cost of Failing to Educate Girls," Plan International, 2008.
- Increasing preschool enrollment in Sub-Saharan Africa from the present 18% to 59% would generate an estimated \$33 in increased wages for every \$1 invested.  
[http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/education\\_assessment\\_-\\_psacharopoulos\\_0.pdf](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/education_assessment_-_psacharopoulos_0.pdf)

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