

## R&D to make policies cheaper for the long run

Many problems in Africa and the world have clear and well-understood solutions that simply need more resources — mostly money — to move towards resolution. Lack of access to clean water has well-understood solutions based on existing technology, where extra dollars relatively straightforward can be converted into more people having access to clean water, helping resolve the problem. In the first part of this report, we discussed about 30 such policies that could be immediately scaled up with existing technology. The question there was simply: for each of these existing solutions, where can spend a shilling (or naira, rand or franc) to help produce the most social good.

But other problems have more expensive solutions or maybe no solutions at all. Here, it might be possible for investment into specific research and development (R&D) to help make these problems cheaper to solve and hence produce more value per dollar spent. Especially for problems we will be at least addressing partly anyway, investment in R&D could reap large benefits.

Clearly analyzing the possible future of knowledge creation is fraught with uncertainty. Moreover, this report had very limited time available, and we have focused most of our attention to the immediately unscalable solutions presented in part one.

Thus, we here presenting previous work we have done on global development R&D. Since Africa has a significant part of both the global challenges and will stand to gain much from cheaper ways to tackle these challenges, it is likely that much of the global estimates will be applicable for Africa in specific. We reconnected to the researchers that originally helped us put this overview together, but it was clear that in the time available, it was impossible to substantially improve these previous, back-of-the-envelope estimates.

With this in mind, let us look at a preliminary scoping of the R&D opportunities across a wide number of areas relevant for Africa. It presents a valuable starting point from which more detailed analysis could and should be undertaken.

### The general argument for R&D

This part makes three main arguments concerning the priorities for development R&D

First, R&D investments in public challenges is often an extraordinarily good investment. It promises to deliver benefits many times its cost. However, it is crucial to focus on the right investments — if the spending is done poorly and without regards to the likely benefits, it is possible that the entire project could miss out on benefits worth more than \$100 billion in total benefits. For Africa, it is worth investigating the possible range of R&D policies available.

Second, we will outline many of the most promising R&D areas along with their costs and benefits. Our most recent global research, the Post-2015 Consensus, focused on the UN's Global Goals (otherwise known as the Sustainable Development Goals for 2016-2030) and in it we covered all areas of development and worked with more than 80 of the world's top economists. You can see more of the project and its 1800+ pages of peer reviewed research at [post2015consensus.com](http://post2015consensus.com).

We returned to involve as many of the economists from our Post-2015 Consensus project, and asked each to identify the best R&D options within their area of expertise, which ensured that we covered all the major fields of international development. A broad understanding of R&D was used. Traditionally, R&D is more often associated with technology and product development, for example investing in new drug development, but for the purposes of this part, R&D also encompasses policy and implementation issues.

Between them, the economists identified around 70 concrete ideas which they considered worthy of R&D investment. For 35 of these ideas we present preliminary assessment on the costs and benefits that are relevant for Africa, and where it has been possible do a rough 'back of the envelope' calculation, which gives an order of magnitude for a benefit cost ratio.

In coming up with the cost benefit assessment we identified the first-order magnitude of the cost of the problem that the research and development could possibly address, the likely size of the cost of the R&D, and the likely size of the actual impact on reducing the cost of the problem. We used existing data and evidence to make these estimations, also drawing on the expertise of the economists we consulted with, as well as our own judgements and experience. While this has not provided detailed analysis of the costs and benefits, it is nevertheless a well-informed expert assessment, which provides us with an order of magnitude. Bringing these estimates together in a cost benefit calculation, this gave us a very back-of-the-envelope assessment of the cost of the R&D compared to the likely benefits. That means we can start to identify proposals as to their effectiveness, all the way from projects that are likely to only just cover their costs with similar benefits, to projects that will achieve amazing benefits for a small cost.

Third, these analyses make it possible to make a broad preliminary ranking for R&D spending, helping focus which areas Africa could produce the most social good in R&D first.

### Development R&D is often very efficient

In previously research, we have looked in depth at three concrete development R&D proposals: agricultural R&D to achieve yield enhancement (also presented in section 1 since one can argue that improving practices and deployment of technology are an integral part of modern agriculture); the cost-benefit of extra spending on R&D into an HIV vaccine; and the costs and benefits from increased green energy R&D.

All three analyses showed two things. First, the benefit-cost ratio of R&D can be very high and thus very attractive: for agricultural R&D, for every dollar invested, a return of \$34 was calculated; in the case of the HIV vaccine, the total benefit-cost ratio as a central estimate is likely to be \$17 back on the dollar; and for green energy, it is likely the BCR of an ambitious green energy R&D policy is at least 11 and likely much higher. This is a clear indication that development R&D can be a very effective investment. Of course, it also means that if the

best development R&D projects are *not* chosen, the potential loss can also be very great. This means that we need to choose carefully.

This work in estimating the benefit-cost ratio of an R&D project shows that it requires a very substantial amount of academic work, including many scenarios and large or even global models run across a variety of assumptions. So, for example, when assessing the impact and cost benefit of a vaccine on HIV/AIDS, three different scenarios were considered, which included one scenario where a cure was developed. The two other scenarios made differing assumptions on the political will and resource allocation to access treatment. The analysis then turned to what difference it would make within each scenario to bring forward the development of a vaccine by approximately 10 years. Experts identified that an additional investment of approximately \$100 million annually on vaccine research, on top of existing investments which stood at around \$900 million, as substantially accelerating progress. This figure was then used as the basis for further analysis. More assumptions were made on the elasticities of accelerated time-to-product with respect to R&D spending, using discount rates at 3% and 5%, to give an evaluation of the benefits of research into HIV vaccine.

All three of the analyses we conducted, into agricultural R&D and energy, as well as an HIV vaccine, show that they hinge on very specific assumptions on the effect of R&D. This is not surprising, since R&D is in essence about affecting *future* knowledge to increase productivity. It is thus intrinsically unknowable, because such information relies on knowledge that has not yet been created. Hence, all analyses use specific, expert-generated, literature-based estimates of crucial parameters. In R&D for agricultural yield increase, the fundamental assessment of the annual yield increase is based on a literature review but essentially an estimate. In the additional R&D for an AIDS vaccine, multiple assessments of future scenarios (Scenario I-III likelihoods) and of the elasticities of accelerated time-to-product are crucial for generating the results. In the green energy R&D

analysis, the choice of comparison along with estimates of early-vs-late R&D success generates a wide range of plausible BCRs.

This is why this current study will also have to liberally apply assumptions and expert assessment. Of course, it would be wonderful to *know* the real BCRs rather than these back-of-the-envelope estimates. But first, the limited time and resources sets a hard back-stop to what is possible. Secondly, even with much better and more sophisticated analyses we could peer further into the future, but still we would not know the unknowable. Thus, we can only ever know approximately what is a good and a less good R&D project.

## Estimating BCRs for development R&D projects

### Identifying R&D ideas and the size of the problem being addressed

In order to get a well-rounded sense of possible projects we took as our starting point the areas covered by the UN's Global Goals (the so-called Sustainable Development Goals for 2016-2030). Here, we reached out to all of our economists again. Of course, because of the tight time frame and the limited availability of researchers we have here been consulting with a subset of all researchers, outlined in Appendix A. Through telephone interviews we asked the researchers to identify what they would think the best and/or the most important development R&D opportunities in an African context within their area of expertise.

In some cases the ideas were clear and concrete, but in other cases, the ideas needed some additional work to clarify them. In all cases, the ideas are not presented as fully formed research proposals. Some areas of international aid have a stronger track record of applying cost benefit analysis to R&D, for example in health and agriculture, and overall this meant it was easier to make estimates than in a field such as education where R&D is not as well developed a concept.

Where the economists consulted were able and willing to provide us with figures, we used these, and in other cases we made estimates based on existing research and data, and

confirmed these with the economists. There were five steps in our calculations, and these are set out for each of the R&D ideas listed in the main part of this report. First we estimated the cost of the R&D activities. The framework for doing this is outlined below, and depended on the nature of the problem and its heterogeneity. Second, we estimated the size of the problem being addressed by the particular R&D idea, whether that was in terms of number of people dying or disability adjusted life years (DALYs), which is so widely used in health research, or some other recognized measure. We made use of data from the Global Burden of Disease, from UN agencies, as well as from our own research and other peer reviewed research. This was then converted in the third step to an estimate of the cost, and therefore the potential benefit in coming up with a solution. For the purposes of this paper, we standardized the value of a global DALY which is estimated across all areas at \$3,000. In addition, following Global Burden of Disease, all DALYs used in this report are not age weighted. For almost all the analyses in this report, we also standardized the costs and benefits calculated to a per year basis in order to simplify the calculations. Below we discuss how we set up the model so that a decision on discount rate becomes unnecessary.

The fourth step, which in this report is perhaps the most speculative and therefore dependent on expert judgment, was the potential impact of the R&D on the problem in question. This step depends on both the potential success of the research, and the potential impact of the research in practice. Because of the speculative nature of this step, we tended to be conservative in our assessment, and the potential impact of the research was framed in terms of a range of percentage. The fifth and final step was to take the first cost, the estimated R&D, and the final estimated benefit, to calculate a benefit cost ratio. This then gave a broad order of magnitude estimate for the BCR, and in almost all cases is presented as a range of possible values, and while these should not be considered definitive, they provide initial guidance on where R&D investments can do the most good.

## A basic framework for assessing the R&D costs

Before we describe the research ideas, it is useful to outline the basic framework we have used for assessing the costs of each R&D effort. Experience shows that there can be large variance in how much money needs to be spent on R&D to yield results, and in this section we detail two key dimensions that influence this.

Two considerations were applied to each intervention and, although the approach is not wholly comprehensive, this was done to ensure some level of consistency between the analyses. The two dimensions are:

- Whether the intervention primarily addresses a **social problem**, or a **technology problem**
- Whether the intervention addresses a problem that has **low levels of heterogeneity** or **high levels of heterogeneity**

The first dimension is the extent to which the problem can be defined as **a social or a technology problem**. Social problems are issues where the barrier to improved outcomes rests mainly in the human response to a particular situation. Why more households do not use clean cook stoves or why parents do not seek health treatment when their children have diarrhea are examples of social problems. The approach to solve these problems typically requires investigation of a social science nature, for example, randomized controlled trials exploring the cultural root causes of the issue and the efficacy of potential solutions.

Technology problems are issues where the barrier to improvement is that humanity currently does not have a robust, useable, scalable and / or affordable solution to the problem at hand. The approach required to solve these types of problems is what might be considered the 'traditional' method of R&D, mostly associated with hard science: design, proto-typing, piloting, trials of increasing size, iteration, refinement and rollout. Designing

new medical drugs, new seed varieties or new diagnostic tools are examples of technology problems.

For a given level of problem heterogeneity, we assume that R&D addressing social problems has lower cost than R&D for technology problems. This is mainly because of the inherent nature of the two problems: problems of a social nature typically do not involve inventing new technologies<sup>94</sup>. Research can be as simple as measuring which of multiple approaches, *already used by individuals*, is more effective in addressing a certain problem in specific types of context. It can also involve understanding why certain cultures might not prefer to use or cannot readily adopt existing technology used elsewhere. It will also involve testing approaches that might improve the uptake of that technology. Assuming the research passes the necessary ethical clearances, there is a reasonable 'line of sight' between applying the research and finding a partial solution.

In contrast problems of technology, by definition, require innovation to solve. We assume this is more costly because the technology must be identified where it does not already exist, almost certainly at the technology frontier. Beyond that new technologies must undergo rigorous testing, especially where there are hazards to people and the corresponding ethical consideration, and this can be very costly.

This is not to say that social science research is 'easy'. Some social problems have been shown to be just as intractable as technology problems, for example reducing corruption. We are merely noting that the expected costs of investigation for social problems tend to be lower than for technology problems. For example, a typical randomized control trial experiment (RCT) in economics might cost \$1m-\$3m. Additionally, many NGOs, government departments and multilateral actors at the forefront of development, alter their interventions in response to real-time

<sup>94</sup> In this case the word 'technology' is used quite liberally, and might represent for example different behaviors like better teaching practices or more

vigilant attention to child health, not just physical goods like clean cook stoves.

feedback. In this way they engage in 'R&D' every day on much smaller budgets. In contrast, the full range of costs required to develop a new drug, engage in the required testing rounds, pass regulatory hurdles and bring it to market could foreseeably fall within the realm of \$10m-\$1bn.

The second dimension which we have applied is the level of *problem heterogeneity*. In this category we are making an assessment of how individuals experience the problem in their day-to-day lives, and the extent to which it differs across contexts. We assume that more heterogeneous problems cost more to solve than less heterogeneous problems. For example, the reasons people use or do not use clean cook stoves appear to be culturally specific, and we can have little confidence a solution in one country will hold in another country. On the other hand, a disease such as malaria shows reasonable homogeneity across regions in terms of transmission, symptoms and response to treatment. To give one example, ninety-five percent of all malaria is transmitted by two parasites, *P. falciparum* and *P. vivax*. Therefore, we can have reasonably high confidence that a treatment regime for one person who has malaria will work in a similar fashion on a person in another part of the world with the same strain. Put differently, the same solution will be applicable to many people and in different contexts.

These two dimensions can be applied to form a two category options matrix – social/technology problem and low/high problem heterogeneity. We assign a cost range to each combination of type of problem and problem heterogeneity. Obviously in real life, problems fall on a spectrum and are not strictly dichotomous. Nevertheless for the purposes of estimating order of magnitude costs this framework is suitable for the task at hand. Figure 1 below outlines the costs for each and where each R&D suggestion falls within the framework.

FIGURE 1. R&D COST ESTIMATE MATRIX

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| R&D addresses<br><b>Social Problem</b> | <p><b>COST = \$1m-\$10m p.a.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Irrigation in sub-Saharan Africa</li> <li>• Better use of Insecticide impregnated bednets</li> <li>• Distribution of polypill for hypertension</li> <li>• Expanding early childhood stimulation programs</li> <li>• Opportunities for improved trade agreements between Asia and Africa</li> </ul>  | <p><b>COST = \$10m-\$100m p.a.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better promotion of clean cook stoves</li> <li>• Intimate partner violence</li> <li>• Identifying health gains from education</li> <li>• Early school drop out</li> <li>• Action research programs for governance</li> <li>• Public awareness campaign for HIV / AIDs</li> <li>• Treatment seeking behaviour for diarrhea</li> <li>• Public information campaign for pregnant women</li> <li>• Public information campaign on complementary feeding</li> <li>• Public awareness campaign to improve diet</li> <li>• Improving adherence to TB treatment</li> <li>• Mis-invoicing in trade transactions</li> <li>• Better implementation of nutrition interventions</li> <li>• Chronic disease in LMICs</li> <li>• Understanding needs and characteristics of the very poor</li> <li>• Urban infrastructure</li> <li>• Adolescent health and nutrition</li> <li>• Mental health and self-directed violence</li> </ul> |
|  | <p><b>COST = \$10m-\$100m p.a.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coastal protection and map digitization</li> <li>• Long lasting reversible contraceptive</li> <li>• Drug delivery for PrEp</li> <li>• Drug delivery for ARTs</li> <li>• Rapid diagnosis and treatment for HIV/AIDS</li> <li>• New drug development for artemisinin</li> <li>• Polypill for hypertension</li> <li>• Affordable home testing for diabetes</li> <li>• Improved diagnostics for TB</li> </ul> | <p><b>COST = \$100m-\$250m p.a.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing premature adult mortality</li> <li>• Application of CRISPR technology to all 17 neglected tropical diseases</li> </ul>   |
|  | R&D addresses problem of<br><b>low heterogeneity</b>  | R&D addresses problem of<br><b>high heterogeneity</b>  |

### **Estimating the effectiveness of the R&D proposal and its potential impact**

As earlier exposition described, assessing the effectiveness of R&D in solving a given problem often requires sophisticated modelling and complex analysis. This was not possible in the time frame for this report. As such, the economists interviewed provided their order of magnitude estimate for how much each R&D might solve the problem at hand. This effectiveness estimate accounts for several factors:

- the likelihood of R&D being successful
- the tractability of the problem now and in the future
- how neglected the problem is, including the existence of competing solutions
- the likely efficacy of the intervention if R&D is successful
- the intensity of the R&D

A more detailed cost-benefit analysis of R&D in the future would make each of these components explicit.

### **The first concrete proposal**

Our methodology is perhaps most easily described through an example.

*Urbanization and infrastructure development* was mentioned by several of the economists as one of the most pressing challenges facing the world, especially given the rapid rates of urbanization in many countries and particular developing countries. Research into city planning and infrastructure development associated with the rapid urbanization experienced in developing countries was identified as a critical issue. Current estimates are that 2.5bn more people than at present will live in urban environments. Cities in Africa and Asia in particular are growing faster than ever, and a lot of money is being spent on

infrastructure and it is clear that even more is going to be spent in the future.

We worked to identify what would be the best way to have development R&D help urbanization and infrastructure. Currently, there are no relevant models of city development to inform current growth patterns. Research and development is needed to understand new forms of urban growth and to develop options for city planning and more specifically for effective infrastructure investment and maintenance. One specific issue is to research and assess ways to better manage and integrate private water and energy supplies implemented privately with improving public supply and ensuring reliable service. Many of the benefits will relate to the efficiency gains made on existing public investment into urbanization and urban infrastructure.

We then tried to find the best estimates of the size of the problem, which conversely would also be the maximal size of the benefit of the project (if it was possible to implement a project that made the costs entirely disappear).

What is the cost of lack of well-coordinated infrastructure with regards to urbanization and infrastructure? Well, the McKinsey Global Institute (2013)<sup>95</sup> has estimated that the total cost globally of badly needed major infrastructure investment for 15 years up to 2030 is \$57 trillion, with two-thirds in developing countries. We assume that half of this goes to urban infrastructure. Thus, the total cost for developing countries is therefore about \$19 trillion, or on a per-year basis about \$1.27 trillion.

The cost of a development R&D project to help find better solutions to these infrastructure problems is in the order of \$100 million per year.

The central question then becomes what does these \$100 million per year produce in terms of benefit. With an in-depth literature review of

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<sup>95</sup> Dobbs, R., Pohl, H., Lin, D.Y., Mischke, J., Garemo, N., Hexter, J., Matzinger, S., Palter, R., and Nanavatty, R. (2013). "Infrastructure productivity: How to save \$1 trillion a year." *McKinsey Global Institute*. Available online:

<http://www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/infrastructure-productivity> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

urbanization and infrastructure development and a meta-study of the relevant R&D projects and their effectiveness, it could potentially be possible to estimate an interval for the R&D spending's likely annual benefit. However, this approach would for resource constraints alone fall outside the current project, and moreover it would have to be repeated across all 40 proposals to make possible a comparison. Even then, it is likely that many of the proposals would find few (or no) studies that could help link future R&D spending to very specific benefit outcomes.

Therefore, we have in the current study chosen to base our estimates on expert elicitation – essentially asking the relevant economic experts what are not-unreasonable estimates for the annual benefits. Here, our expert has accepted that a not-unreasonable estimate of the \$100 million per year R&D project for urbanization and infrastructure development would tackle somewhere in the range of 0.1-1% of the full problem. This would both cover that the R&D project could reduce the cost of the problem, and that it could do so with a certain probability. For instance, both an assumption that developmental infrastructure R&D could reduce costs by 1% for certain (100%), and could reduce cost by 10% with a likelihood of 10% would result in the overall estimate of 1% reduction. It bears repeating that this range is obviously a very rough estimate, based on broad but not specific understandings of the challenge area.

The methodology uses estimates for both costs and benefits measured per year in perpetuity. This idealized model is chosen for several, and overlapping reasons. First, it is unlikely that a much more detailed specification would dramatically change the outcomes: in the real world it is likely that a specific R&D project would be run over a time period of, say, 10 years, with the likelihood of a break-through increasing throughout the period, and declining after the end of the project. However, we try to model the impact of a large number of R&D projects running in partially overlapping periods across the whole area of urbanization and infrastructure development. It is not unrealistic to expect the total cost runs to a near-permanent \$100 million and the near-

permanent effect is a constant probability of reducing the problem by 0.1-1%. Second, the annual costs and benefits approach is also the one on which the probabilistic estimates are based on, so in that sense, the estimates have the methodology baked-in. Third, all of the estimates below have been elicited on a similar methodology meaning all are comparable.

This methodological setup of estimating annual costs and benefits also means we can avoid the complications of setting a discount rate, since the time profile of the costs and expected benefits are entirely symmetric.

With these considerations we can finally estimate that a \$100 million annual investment will be able to provide annual benefits of 0.1-1% of \$1.27 trillion or about \$1-10 billion per year. Each dollar spent will provide benefits that are about 10 to 100 times higher, as an order of magnitude. It is important to emphasize that the total benefits for this effort are likely to be significantly higher, in particular to include improved quality of life (including health) and increased economic opportunities for the populations.

This proposal will be presented in the following way:

### ***Urbanization and infrastructure***

Research into city planning and infrastructure development associated with rapid urbanization experienced in developing countries. Current estimates are that 2.5bn more people than at present will live in urban environments. Cities in Africa and Asia in particular are growing faster than ever, and a lot of money is being spent on infrastructure and it is clear that even more is going to be spent in the future. There are no existing relevant models of city development to inform current growth patterns. Research and development is needed to understand new forms of urban growth and to develop options for city planning and more specifically for effective infrastructure investment and maintenance. One specific issue is to research and assess ways to better manage and integrate private water and energy supplies implemented privately with improving public supply and ensuring reliable service. Many of

the benefits will relate to the efficiency gains made on existing investments into urbanization.

**Costs of R&D:** US\$100m per year

**Cost of problem(i):** US\$57 trillion for 15 years up to 2030, two thirds of which is in developing countries. Assume that roughly half of that is for urban infrastructure, meaning approximately \$1.27 trillion annually.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The benefit would be in reducing the costs of attaining a given set of services in the future. For the purposes of this calculation, we assume that there could be a savings of between 0.1% (US\$1.3bn) to reducing 1% of the problem (\$12.6bn) per year

**Estimated BCR:** order of magnitude, approximately 10 to 100

**Additional benefits:** While the benefits would occur in future years, they are likely to be significantly higher and in particular to include improved quality of life (including health) and increased economic opportunities for the populations as well as on-going accumulated benefits.

(i) <http://www.mckinsey.com/industries/capital-projects-and-infrastructure/our-insights/infrastructure-productivity>

## Agricultural R&D

### Expanding the potential for irrigation in Sub-Saharan Africa

Sub-Saharan Africa currently lags behind in irrigation development. Currently 93% of SSA agriculture is rain-fed. The IFPRI team assessed the potential of several smallholder irrigation technologies:

|                                 |  |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Motor pumps                     | can profitably irrigate 30 million ha and full adoption of the technology can generate annual net revenues of \$22 billion/yr for irrigated farmers. Potentially 185 million people could benefit. |
| Treadle pumps                   | 24 million ha for treadle pumps, with annual net revenues of \$19 billion/yr Potentially 243 million people could benefit.   |
| Communal river diversions       | 20 million ha for communal river diversions, with net revenues of \$14 billion/yr. Potentially 113 million people could benefit.   |
| Small reservoirs                | 22 million ha for small reservoirs, with net revenues of \$20 billion/yr. Potentially 369 million people could benefit.  |
| <b>Total potential benefits</b> | <b>\$75 billion/yr</b>   |

Additional investments in Irrigation and water use efficiency would increase crop yields, reduce prices, and thereby generate higher incomes. Enhanced rural infrastructure also reduces post-harvest losses and marketing margins, improving the profitability of farm production, and boosting supply to consumers for any given level of production.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year

**Potential benefits:** US\$75bn in increased farm revenues per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** We assume that R&D of \$10m per year could capture 1% of the potential benefit or US\$750m per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 100

## Air Pollution R&D

### Promote behaviour modification for cleaner cooking technologies

The challenge is the limited adoption of existing cook stove solutions to tackling household air pollution. R&D is needed to identify how to best promote cleaner cooking solutions, adapt stoves to meet demand concerns and ensure that they are appealing, affordable and suited to people's needs and habits. Research should focus on factors such as: household cooking habits, use of single or multiple burners, awareness and understanding of health effects, time spent cooking, how time is valued in the household, household decision-making and power structures, peer and community perceptions, financial constraints and barriers, and marketing of cleaner cooking solutions in order to improve both the products and their promotion and adoption. Research should also address how to maximize community-wide adoption of cleaner cooking solutions, as this is the most effective way to reduce the effects on communities of individual households cooking with dirty fuels/stoves.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$25m per year. The challenge of effective promotion / adoption is linked to each culture's unique cooking and diet preferences. Cook-stoves need to be promoted and modified in ways that will ensure greater uptake and acceptance, and each new approach is likely to be culturally specific.

Research for every major country or region that uses solid fuels would be required to identify these parameters. Assuming \$2m per country and 125 unique countries or regions, this is \$250m in total or \$25m per year, assuming the research is relevant for 10 years.

**Size of problem:** The Global Burden of Disease Project estimates that 2.9m people died prematurely from illnesses resulting from household air pollution from solid fuels in 2015 (Global Burden of Disease 2015). With respect to the Africa Region, the Global Health Estimates (2016) calculate that lower respiratory infections account for 9.8% of total DALYs.

**Cost of problem:** The costs of are estimated at approximately US\$333bn per year<sup>96</sup>.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** It is possible that improved promotion would improve uptake of cook stoves by 10-20%. While research has noted resistance to cook stoves in India and Bangladesh<sup>97 98</sup>, promotion has been much more successful in China<sup>99</sup>, suggesting that there is potential for enhanced adoption if the right conditions are implemented.

The effectiveness of improved cook stoves in reducing the health burden are typically around 20%, depending on the type of cook stove used, the surrounding environmental conditions and whether cooking occurs inside or outside the main living areas.<sup>100</sup> This implies a potential benefit of 2% to 4% of the problem or

<sup>96</sup> Larsen, B. (2014). "Benefits and Costs of the Air Pollution Targets for the Post 2015 Development Agenda." *Working Paper, Post-2015 Consensus*. Copenhagen Consensus Center. Available online: [http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/air\\_pollution\\_assessment\\_-\\_larsen.pdf](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/air_pollution_assessment_-_larsen.pdf) (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>97</sup> Rema Hanna, Esther Duflo and Michael Greenstone. "Up in Smoke: The Influence of Household Behavior on the Long-Run Impact of Improved Cooking Stoves," *American Economic Journal: Economic Policy*.  
A. M. Mobarak, P. Dwivedi, R. Bailis, L. Hildemann and G. Miller. "The Low Demand for New Cookstove Technologies," *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 109(27): 10815-20, July 2012

<sup>98</sup> G. Miller and A. M. Mobarak, "Learning about New Technologies through Social Networks: Experimental Evidence on Non-Traditional Stoves in Rural Bangladesh," *Marketing Science*, 34 (4): 480-499, July-August 2015

<sup>99</sup> Smith, K., Shuhua G., Kun H. and Daxiong Q., 1993, 100 million cookstoves in China: How was it done?, *World Development*, vol 21, p941-961

<sup>100</sup> Larsen, B. (2014). "Benefits and Costs of the Air Pollution Targets for the Post 2015 Development Agenda." *Working Paper, Post-2015 Consensus*. Copenhagen Consensus Center. Available online: [http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/air\\_pollution\\_assessment\\_-\\_larsen.pdf](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/air_pollution_assessment_-_larsen.pdf) (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

approximately 60,000 to 120,000 lives saved per year.

However, in order to achieve this health benefit, there would need to be additional expenditure on top of the proposed R&D investment. The households which adopt and use the new cook stoves would also need to spend on their maintenance and, for LPG based stoves, they would need to spend significant sums on the fuel. This could be partially offset by the time saved for cooking and fuel collection. These additional costs and benefits are not factored into the BCR reported below.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 250 to 500.

## Biodiversity R&D

### Coastal protection

Research is needed on several fronts: Research into the extent to which ecosystem adaptations such as mangroves provide enhanced coastal protection, and what if any additional protection is needed. This would be especially relevant in areas of large coastal populations where there are increasing risks of climate change and where there is not a full evaluation of what combinations of protective interventions offer worthwhile investment. Most notably, the crucial role of mangroves is well recognised as an important protection, but the need for additional protective measures is not so well acknowledged. This is especially the case in South Asia and South East Asia. The research would involve computer modelling which is most likely to be carried out by national governments (UN and NGOs do not have the funding structures to invest in this kind of research). This is an issue which is not adequately addressed or funded at either the international or national level at present. In order to reduce monitoring costs of protected areas, there is also need research into advanced technological approaches for tracking activities. Finally, coastal protection has a high opportunity cost, as fisheries are important to local African economies and a vital component to diets as a source of protein. Research is needed to discover alternative livelihoods and sustainable sources of protein.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$10m per year.

**Cost of problem:** The projections<sup>101</sup> for present and future flood losses for major cities around the world are US\$6bn in 2005, reaching an estimated US\$61.5bn in 2050 (a conservative estimate, given that projections for losses could be \$1 trillion per year in 2050).

Assuming that the increase between 2005 and 2050 is linear this adds approximately US\$1.24bn per year, meaning that estimated losses in 2018 are US\$22.1bn. The assumption

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<sup>101</sup> Hallegatte, S. et al.(2013). "Future Flood losses in major coastal cities." *Nature Climate Change* 3, 802-806. 18 August. Available online:

<http://www.nature.com/nclimate/journal/v3/n9/full/nclimate1979.html> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

is that half of these losses take place in developing countries, which have the resources and protection in place to manage this. Furthermore, this R&D proposal is less likely to directly benefit richer countries, where coastal protection systems would likely take a different form. As a rough order of magnitude approximation, the value of losses for coastal cities in 2018 in developing countries is estimated at US\$10bn.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The R&D could contribute approximately an additional 1% to 10% to coastal protection, averting US\$100m to US\$1bn in flood related losses per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 to 100.

### Map Digitization

One of the biggest hurdles in designing better conservation interventions is the limited availability of good maps of current land use. Current maps used lack fine resolution. R&D is required to update high resolution maps for SSA: to help improve systems for collecting, collating, on-the-ground-checking, and digitizing land use and making it available to the right people in the right formats with a view to setting international standards to enable easy access and comparison. It would contribute to more accurate needs assessment and better targeting of resources currently spent on conservation interventions.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Cost of problem:** A 2012 Nature study estimates the amount of money required to preserve global biodiversity is US\$76bn<sup>102</sup>. However, in reality much less is actually spent on biodiversity conservation. Waldron et al (2012)<sup>103</sup>, drawing on multiple sources, create the largest database on global conservation expenditure. They estimate spending in 2001-

2008 at \$21.5bn p.a. in 2005 dollars, or roughly \$27bn in 2017 dollars.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Better land use data could improve the effectiveness of existing spending on biodiversity by 0.1% to 1%, providing estimated efficiency benefits of \$27m to \$270m.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 3 to 30.

<sup>102</sup> Cressey, D. (2012). "Cost of Conserving Global Biodiversity Set at \$76 Billion." *Scientific American, Nature*. Available online: <https://www.scientificamerican.com/article/cost-conserving-global-biodiversity-set-76-billion/> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>103</sup> Waldron, A. et al., 2012, Targeting global conservation funding to limit immediate biodiversity declines, *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, vol.110, no 29. <http://www.pnas.org/content/110/29/12144.full>

## Conflict & Violence R&D

### Intimate partner violence

There is growing recognition, as well as data, into the extent of interpersonal violence directed against women and children and which generally takes place within the household. Improving understanding of the nature of such violence and the possible interventions which would tackle it requires research into the relationship between social norms and cultural practices at the level of the household, and evaluation of specific programs in different cultural settings. In particular there is a need for a focus on African countries, where governments have the fewest resources or capacities to address this. **Additional research is also needed into the correlation between IPV and mental health.** It would also be productive to find meaningful ways of grouping countries which are dealing with similar issues or which have similar characteristics in order to identify scalable solutions.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$100m per year<sup>104</sup> given the complex and the country specific nature of the problem.

**Cost of problem:** The estimated global cost is US\$4.4 trillion per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** While the problem of domestic violence is significant and neglected, there is emerging evidence that some programs could be effective in reducing the burden. For example, education programs directed at teenagers could reduce violence in adulthood, for example the SAFE DATES program has been shown to reduce incidence of domestic violence among teenagers in the

United States by more than 56%<sup>105</sup>. Encouragingly there appears to be evidence that the program can be translated to a developing country setting. Another study piloted the same program in Haiti and found that it has had some success in increasing knowledge of dating violence<sup>106</sup>. More programs of this nature would need to be tested in countries around the world, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa, where the prevalence of domestic violence is the highest globally at 28%. It is reasonable to assume that the benefit could be somewhere between 0.1% of the problem (US\$4.4bn) to 1% of the problem (\$44bn) per year. This equates to a reduction in prevalence of domestic violence in sub-Saharan Africa alone of around 0.3 to 3.6 percentage points. Any benefits which were then experienced in the rest of the world would further increase the BCR, adding value to the proposed R&D.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 45 to 450

### Mental health and self directed violence

Self directed violence kills more people than all other forms of violence put together, yet little is understood about the relationship between mental health and self directed violence. This is an area of growing concern both in developed as well as developing country contexts. The main challenges are to make progress on identifying the nature of the problem in different contexts and what interventions work in which contexts. Research should focus on both identifying a range of interventions and how these might vary depending on the particular setting, as well as developing their potential to scale-up.

<sup>104</sup> Fearon, J. and Hoeffler, A. (2014). "Benefits and Costs of the Conflict and Violence Targets for the Post-2015 Development Agenda." *Working Paper, Post-2015 Consensus*. Copenhagen Consensus Center. Available online: <http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/publication/post-2015-consensus-conflict-and-violence-assessment-hoeffler-fearon> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>105</sup> Foshee, V. A., Reyes, H. L., Gottfredson, N. C., Chang, L. Y., & Ennett, S. T. (2013). A longitudinal

examination of psychological, behavioral, academic, and relationship consequences of dating abuse victimization among a primarily rural sample of adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 53(6), pp. 723-729.

<sup>106</sup> Gage, A.J., Honoré, J. G., and Deleon, J. 2016. Short-term effects of a violence prevention curriculum on knowledge of dating violence among high school students in Port-au-Prince, Haiti. *Journal of Communication in Healthcare*, 9(3): 178-189.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** The number of people dying from self-harm is 830,000, or 34 million DALYs (Global Burden of Disease, 2015). According to the Global Health Estimates (2016), mental and substance abuse disorders account for 3.3% of total DALYs in the Africa Region.

**Cost of problem:** approximately US\$102bn (34 million x \$3,000).

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The benefits are estimated at between 0.01% (US\$10m) and 0.1% (US\$102m), which equates to 83 to 830 fewer self-harm deaths per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 10.

## Education R&D

### Identifying health gains from education (going beyond the economics)

Considerable progress has been made understanding the relationship between education and economic benefits, and there is growing evidence on a range of other externalities including significant health gains (such as improved life expectancy and reduced infant mortality) and higher levels of democratic engagement, especially in developed countries. Research into the relationship between education and health in developing countries, and the potential for increased investment in education as contributing to improved health outcomes. By taking account of a fuller range of benefits for each education intervention – health as well as productivity benefits – resources in education could be allocated more efficiently to produce more social good.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year, most likely in a series of longitudinal studies to assess short and long term health impacts of education.

**Cost of problem:** UNESCO estimates that developing countries spend about 5% of GDP on education<sup>107</sup>. The World Bank estimates developing world GDP at 27 trillion USD, which suggests 1.3 trillion USD is spent on education every year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** While benefits could be very large from better resource allocation, public education investments tend to be ‘sticky’, changing only marginally from year to year. Health benefits would accrue mostly in the long term via intergenerational effects, which would also reduce discounted benefits. Benefits are therefore estimated at a modest 0.01% (US\$130m) to 0.1% (US\$1.3bn) per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 13 to 130

<sup>107</sup> UNESCO, 2012, Chapter 2 Financing Education for all, *Global Monitoring Report*, available online: <http://www.unesco.org/fileadmin/MULTIMEDIA/H>

<Q/ED/pdf/gmr2012-report-ch2.pdf> accessed: 24 April 2017

### Early school drop out

Research is needed into the causes of children dropping out of school early, in particular what is the relationship between poverty, cultural practices like child marriage, sexual and reproductive health, and child labor practices in the home, and what incentives or combination of incentives support children remaining in school in different settings. Completing schooling has a significant impact on potential labour market participation and earnings. While not attending school at all is clearly significant, it is considered that it may be easier to implement interventions which reach out to children who have attended school in the past and have subsequently dropped out, rather than children who have never attended, for example through incentive schemes aimed at parents as well as directly at children.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year. The conditions that drive dropouts and the interventions to reduce them are likely to be context specific, though we already have robust evidence on incentives to improve school attendance such as conditional cash transfers and subsidies.

**Size of problem:** UNICEF (2015)<sup>108</sup> report 58 million primary age children are not in school, of which 23% had attended in the past, meaning approximately 13 million children have dropped out.

**Cost of problem:** Unesco (2014)<sup>109</sup> reports that the cost of 250 million children not learning the basics is equivalent to \$129 billion. Therefore, the potential benefit of 13 million children not dropping out and 'learning the basics' is approximately US\$7bn per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The benefits of research could mean 13,000 to 130,000 children stay in school. This equates to 0.1% (approximately \$10m) and 1% (approximately \$70m) in benefits. CHECK WITH BRAD

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 10. THE FIGURES WE USE GIVES BCRS OF 10 TO 100

### Expanding early childhood stimulation programmes

Studies in Jamaica have shown very high returns for early stimulation of young children who have experienced deprivation and poor nutrition, and there is growing evidence that interventions can be effective in a variety of settings<sup>110</sup>. More investigation is needed on how to structure and deliver quality programmes in different contexts and how to scale them up resource-constricted settings.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** Unicef<sup>111</sup> estimate that globally 23% children under-5 are stunted, which is 156 million children. A single cohort is therefore 31 million children.

**Estimated cost of problem:** As mentioned previously (in the analysis on complementary feeding), the global cost of stunting is around \$1 trillion per year in lower future productivity.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** This intervention has shown to be as effective as averting stunting in the Jamaican context. However the absolute value of improvement in wages (35%) is lower than the improvement in avoiding stunting altogether (66%). We therefore estimate the benefits as between 0.01% (US\$100m) and 0.1% (US\$1bn) per year

<sup>108</sup> UNESCO Institute for Statistics (UIS) and UNICEF (2015). Fixing the Broken Promise of Education for All: Findings from the Global Initiative on Out-of-School Children. Montreal: UIS. <http://dx.doi.org/10.15220/978-92-9189-161-0-en>. Available online: [https://www.unicef.org/publications/index\\_78718.html#](https://www.unicef.org/publications/index_78718.html#) (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>109</sup> UNESCO. (2014). Education for All Global Monitoring Report. Teaching and Learning: Achieving quality for all 2013/4. UNESCO.

<sup>110</sup> Gertler, Paul, et al. "Labor market returns to an early childhood stimulation intervention in Jamaica." *Science* 344, no. 6187 (2014): 998-1001.

<sup>111</sup> UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women. Available online: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

or mitigating the effects of stunting for 3,100 to 31,000 children per year.

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 and 100.

## Gender R&D

### **Long acting reversible contraceptive**

Research into an affordable, reversible, easy to administer and long acting contraception for women. The direct impact is on enhanced control over child bearing, but additional benefits women's empowerment and all the benefits of potential labour market participation and improved health outcomes, as well as beneficial impacts on mitigating climate change. R&D would focus on improving existing technologies and providing options for the development world markets.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$10m per year

**Size of problem:** Potential DALYs saved by expanding family planning programs is<sup>112</sup>:

Women – 12,430,000/year

Newborns – 23,710,000/year

Total is approximately 36 million DALYs/year

**Cost of problem:** The estimated costs based on the size of the problem identified above: US\$3,000 x 36 million DALYs = approximately US\$110bn per year.

However, the Koehler and Berman analysis finds that DALYs constitute only one-third of the total potential benefit of contraception, with the other two-thirds coming from increased economic growth due to the demographic dividend. Thus, the total cost of the problem is likely about three times as big at \$330bn per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** increasing access and effectiveness of contraceptive could give a benefit of approximately 1% (US\$3bn)

**Estimated BCR:** As an order of magnitude estimate, the BCR is approximately 320

<sup>112</sup> From Singh et al (2010), quoted in Koehler and Behrman (2014), table 4, p38. Copenhagen Consensus Center. Kohler, HP and Behrman, JR (2014). Benefits and Costs of the Population and Demography Targets for Post-2015 Development

Agenda. Working Paper, Post-2015 Consensus. Copenhagen Consensus Center. Available online at: [http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/population\\_assessment\\_-\\_kohler\\_behrman\\_0.pdf](http://www.copenhagenconsensus.com/sites/default/files/population_assessment_-_kohler_behrman_0.pdf)

## Governance R&D

### Action research programs

Action research is a particular approach and type of research, which, when carried out in cooperation or in partnership with receptive government departments, can support program implementation. Action research involves a high level of engagement between researchers and practitioners. Such an approach can help to compress 100s of years of learning which has taken place in rich countries, into 10 years in developing countries. Action research provides on-going iterative support to improve the implementation of projects across a wide range of issues (education, nutrition, health care, etc). Over 6 months, a dedicated research team works with government officials on the implementation of approximately 5 projects within a field, focusing research on how to improve performance and overcome specific problems. The process helps to institutionalize learning in the implementing teams, providing insight, increasing problem-solving capacities, as well as directly improving individual project efficiency and quality. The benefits of learning and improved performance are therefore likely to be sustained and to have a broader impact beyond the particular focus projects.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$500k over 6 months across 5 projects in one country. For 150 developing countries this would be approximately \$75m, and would need to be updated every 4-5 years.

Possible example. This is a methodology which can be applied across a range of different issues, including education, social care, and health. The key factor is that there is government engagement. For the purposes of this report, health care India has been chosen as an example for which a quick estimate can be calculated.

**Size of problem:** All health problems across India result in an estimated loss of 500 million DALYs. Average per state (29 states) is approximately 17m DALYs.

**Estimated cost of problem per state:** US\$3,000 x 17 million DALYs = approximately US\$51bn.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Improving implementation could foreseeably result in a reduction in the health burden by 1,700 DALYs (0.01% or \$5m) to 170,000 DALYs (1% of the problem or \$0.5bn). To put this in perspective this is approximately 60 to 6000 additional lives saved per year in an 'average' Indian state of 35m people.

**BCR:** As an order of magnitude estimate, the BCR is approximately 10 to 1,000. This is a particularly wide range as the effectiveness of the research will depend very much on the exact context and the issue and programs being researched.

## Health Systems R&D

### Reducing premature adult mortality

Low to middle income countries have limited tools to reduce adult mortality at low cost. Furthermore they are not using the tools which are readily available, in particular in preventing and treating vascular, neoplastic and respiratory diseases, and controlling tobacco use and the consequences of obesity, including diabetes. Given the progress in recent years on child mortality and infectious disease, there is potential to successfully tackle premature adult mortality in a systematic way. In addition there are successful treatments available in developed countries which are therefore good bets for quick and cost effective results in terms of R&D investments, in particular for coronary illness, stroke, diabetes, and many common forms of cancer. The idea proposed here is to conduct a 5-year, three phase, multi-disciplinary research program, drawing on big data and focusing on both global trends and national contexts to address premature adult mortality in low and middle income countries.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$250m per year for 5 years.

**Size of problem:** The number of adults dying prematurely, between the ages of 20 and 59, is approximately 14 million a year, equivalent to 1bn DALYs. (Global Burden of Disease 2015)

**Estimated cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 1bn = approximately US\$3 trillion

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** 0.01% (US\$300m) to 0.1% (US\$3bn)

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 12

**Tobacco control:** Triple the excise tax and adopt other effective tobacco control interventions

On current smoking patterns, with about 50% of young men and 10% of young women becoming smokers in early adult life and relatively few stopping, annual tobacco deaths will rise from about 5 million in 2010 to more than 10 million a few decades hence, as the young smokers of today reach middle and old age. This is due partly to population growth and partly to generations where few smoked

substantial numbers of cigarettes throughout adult life being succeeded by generations where many did so. There were about 100 million deaths from tobacco in the 20th century, most in developed countries. If current smoking patterns persist, tobacco will kill about 1 billion people this century, most in low or middle income countries (LMICs). About half of these deaths will be before age 70 years.

Worldwide, a reduction of about a third could be achieved by doubling the real price of cigarettes, which in many low and middle-income countries could be achieved by tripling the real excise tax on tobacco. Smart taxation involves large increases (above the rate of inflation), plus focus on narrowing the gap between cheap and more expensive cigarettes (which leads to downward substitution). Other interventions recommended by the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control could also help reduce consumption and could help make substantial increases in real excise tax politically acceptable. Without large price increases, a one-third reduction in smoking would be difficult to achieve.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$25m per year. The main area of research involves substantial efforts on taxation (local estimates of price elasticity, impact on poor/non poor smokers), industry tracking research and research on newer interventions, such as plain packaging (adopted successfully in Australia). Such R&D would need to be paired with active dissemination to Ministries of Finance and to global agencies to spur uptake of tax increases. (WHO reports that 106 countries have raised taxes from 2012 to 2014, but only a handful of countries have used big, smart taxes). A global R&D effort would substantially increase local and global evidence to enable action.

**Size of problem:** The WHO and the Global Burden of Disease Project estimates that about 6 million people died prematurely from tobacco use in 2015 (Global Burden of Disease, 2015).

**Cost of problem:** The costs of smoking-attributable disease (ignoring smaller effects of passive smoking) are estimated at

approximately US\$13 trillion from 2010-2020 (David Bloom, CC 12) or US\$650bn per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Tripling real excise taxes would, in many LMICs, approximately double the average price of cigarettes (and more than double prices of cheaper brands), decrease consumption by about a third and increase tobacco revenues by about a third. Where government owns most of the industry, as in China, distinction between taxes and profit is fairly arbitrary, but still doubling the average prices would substantially reduce consumption and increase revenue. Worldwide, raising excise taxes to double prices would raise about another US \$100 billion a year in tobacco revenues, in addition to the approximately US \$300 billion that governments already collect on tobacco.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately between 450 and 650.

## Health R&D: HIV/AIDS

### Drug delivery for PrEP

Drug treatments known as PrEP can be effective at protecting vulnerable groups from HIV/AIDS but adherence is a big issue when lifestyles are erratic, regular medical access is unpredictable, and there is limited motivation for taking drugs when people are not actually ill. This proposal is focused on research and development into drug treatments which are longer lasting, for example for 3 months or more, and can be used by people during periods of particular vulnerability.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** approximately 67 million DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 67 million DALYs = approximately US\$200bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Estimated benefits are between 6,700 DALYs (0.01% of problem, US\$20m) to 67,000 DALYs (0.1% of problem, US\$200m). This is equivalent to roughly 150 to 1,500 lives saved per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 2 to 20.

### Drug delivery for Antiretroviral Therapy (ART)

The effectiveness of current combination drug treatments mean that people living with HIV/AIDS can have a relatively normal life expectancy. However adherence can be limited, especially in developing countries where it is difficult to make regular medical visits and getting prescriptions can be challenging. Research and development is needed into improved drug delivery for ART, for example by using existing technologies such as patches, chips or injections to deliver the drug treatments. This would reduce the need for regular medical visits and for repeat prescriptions, making access to ART much easier and cheaper, potentially improving adherence rates.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** Globally, approximately 1.2 million deaths per year are attributed to HIV/AIDS, and the number of DALYs is 67 million per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 67m DALYs = approximately US\$200bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Estimated benefits are between 67,000 DALYs (0.1% of problem, US\$200m) to 670,000 DALYs (1% of problem, US\$2bn). This is equivalent to roughly 1,500 to 15,000 lives saved per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 20 to 200.

### Public awareness campaigns

Public awareness campaigns are commonly used to influence behaviour change but little is known about their impact or effectiveness in tackling HIV/AIDS. For example, on-going and detailed evaluations of the impact and effectiveness of circumcision campaigns could add considerable value to improving future campaigns and therefore rates of circumcision, which in turn helps reduce the spread of HIV/AIDS.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** The estimated size of the problem is approximately 67m DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 67m DALYs = approximately US\$200bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Public awareness campaigns tend to have a relatively low impact, and are important alongside focused interventions. As such benefits are estimated at between 6,700 DALYs (0.01% of problem, US\$20m) and 67,000 DALYs (0.1% of problem, US\$200m). This is equivalent to roughly 150 to 1,500 lives saved per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 2 to 20.

## Health R&D: Infant Mortality

### Treatment seeking behaviour for diarrhea

Effective and low cost treatment for diarrhea is readily available, but is not used consistently, and diarrhea remains a common but preventable cause of death among small children and infants. Early treatment is critical in reducing mortality rates, however currently the potential seriousness of diarrhea is under-appreciated until the condition is very serious and treatment is much less effective. Research should focus on how to encourage early treatment seeking behaviour, especially by parents and carers of under-5s.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** The estimated size of the problem of diarrhea among the under 5 year olds is approximately 45m DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 45 million DALYs = approximately US\$135bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The expected benefit of this intervention is estimated to help avoid between 4,500 DALYs (0.01% of problem, US\$14m) and 450,000 DALYs (1% of problem, US\$1.4bn).

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1.4 to 140.

## Health R&D: Malaria and other tropical diseases

### New drug development to replace artemisinin

Research and development is required into new drug development for treating malaria, to anticipate emerging drug resistance, in particular to artemisinin, which has been critical to the successful treatment of *P. falciparum* malaria over the past several decades. Drugs need to be approved and ready for use as drug resistance spreads, or there is a risk that recent progress in tackling malaria will be significantly set back.

**Costs of R&D:** The cost of bringing a new drug to market to tackle ‘diseases of the poor’, taking account of failures, has been estimated at approximately US\$100 to US\$150 million in total<sup>113</sup>.

**Size of problem:** An estimated 730,000 die from malaria each year, which is approximately 56m DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** Artemisinin resistance is increasing in South East Asia. As of October 2016, WHO reports more than 10% failure (the threshold for changing first line treatment) of at least one of the five artemisinin combination therapies in all countries in the Greater Mekong Subregion.

Despite these failures, the World Health Organisation notes that: “... ACTs remain the most effective treatment for uncomplicated *falciparum* malaria. Most patients with delayed parasite clearance are cured, as long as the partner drug remains effective.”

Additionally, artemisinin resistance appears not to have developed in Africa, where the greatest burden of malaria lies. The rationale for increased R&D for a replacement to artemisinin is therefore not primarily based on addressing a pressing existing problem of great magnitude,

rather as insurance against increased drug resistance in the future.

We assume the current and expected future costs of artemisinin resistance are about 25% of the global burden of malaria. This includes the potential for ACT resistance in sub-Saharan Africa. Within one year, an estimated US\$3,000 x 56m \* 25% = approximately US\$840m. Assuming a new drug could act as a replacement for artemisinin and would be effective for approximately 20 years, the potential cost of malaria over that period totals 20x\$840m = US\$17bn.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Assuming that the effectiveness of the new drug within developing countries is 10% and the chance of delivering it is between 1% and 10%, and given the cost of the problem is approximately US\$17bn, the estimated potential benefit is between 0.1% (US\$17m) and 1% (US\$170m)

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1. However, if artemisinin resistance increases in the GMS or exhibits in sub-Saharan Africa, the BCR will increase substantially

### Insecticide impregnated bed net replacement

Impregnated bed nets have been at the forefront of successfully tackling malaria over recent years, especially across Sub-Saharan Africa, where malaria is a major cause of death especially among infants. Following significant progress, however, the continued effectiveness of bed nets is dependent on not only their proper use, but also on timely repair and replacement given that their normal lifespan is between 2 and 5 years. Research is needed into distribution systems and incentive schemes to ensure that nets are maintained and replaced in timely manner so that they continue to be effective.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year

<sup>113</sup> DNDi (2014). An innovative approach to R&D for neglected patients. Ten years of experience & lessons learned by DNDi. Available online:

[https://www.dndi.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/DNDi\\_Modelpaper\\_2013.pdf](https://www.dndi.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/03/DNDi_Modelpaper_2013.pdf)

**Size of problem:** The World Health Organization (WHO) estimates that approximately 35m cases of malaria per year since 2001 have been avoided in sub-Saharan Africa due to the widespread use of insecticide treated bed nets. Assuming that the case fatality rate from malaria is 0.3%, this implies that:  $35m \times 0.3\% = 105,000$  deaths have been avoided each year because of the use of bed nets. This is equivalent to 8m DALYs.

**Cost of problem:**  $US\$3,000 \times 8$  million DALYs = US\$24bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Improving distribution and introducing incentive schemes for bed net replacement might ensure 0.1% to 1% more of current bed net users repair or replace their bed nets in a timely fashion. This in turn would lead to 35,000 to 350,000 fewer cases of malaria, and 105 to 1,050 fewer malaria deaths per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 2 to 24

### Application of CRISPR technology to tropical diseases

Over the past few years, the biotech industry has developed CRISPR technology to edit gene materials and this has proven to be an effective way to tackle disease. While CRISPR research and development is expensive, once a new CRISPR technique is developed, it is cheap to apply. Research should be focused on diseases which affect poor people in developing countries.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$100m per year. There are 17 tropical diseases.

**Size of problem:** Estimated impact of tropical diseases, DALYs 26m<sup>114</sup>

**Cost of problem:**  $US\$3,000 \times 26$  million DALYs = US\$78bn per year

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** estimated between 1% (US\$800m) and 10% (US\$8bn)

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 to 100

<sup>114</sup> Hotez PJ, Alvarado M, Basáñez MG, Bolliger I, Bourne R, et al. (2014). "The Global Burden of Disease Study 2010: Interpretation and Implications for the Neglected Tropical Diseases." *PLOS Neglected Tropical Diseases*, 8(7): e2865. doi:

10.1371/journal.pntd.0002865. Available online: <http://journals.plos.org/plosntds/article?id=10.1371/journal.pntd.0002865> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

## Health R&D: Maternal Health

### Public information campaigns for pregnant women

Data in India (from 1999) shows that even where pregnant women have reasonably good access to medical facilities, they rarely visit a doctor. The assumption is that they do not think it's important or necessary. Research is needed into how to improve the effectiveness of public information campaigns which encourage pregnant women to access medical care.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m a year

**Size of problem:** Maternal disorders total approximately 4m DALYs and neonatal disorders approximately 62m DALYs, giving a total of 66m DALYs (Global Burden of Disease 2015)

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 66 million DALYs = approximately US\$200bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** estimated between 0.01% (US\$20m) and 0.1% (US\$200m)

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 2 to 20

### Evaluation of public information campaigns on complementary feeding

There are a lot of myths around what an infant and mother should eat which are taken very seriously, and these vary from country to country, and even within countries, they vary from place to place. This can lead to a lack of awareness of what foods are important as a baby starts to eat solid foods alongside milk, known as complementary feeding, and in turn this can result in poor nutrition which has significant detrimental effects on infants. Poor nutrition in the first few years of life, can lead to stunting which impacts on both physical and cognitive development, and is difficult if not impossible to compensate for in adults. Research and evaluation is needed into public

information campaigns on promoting good nutrition in complementary feeding, with a particular focus on: how to work within local dietary norms and habits; how to challenge unhelpful myths about what children and mothers should eat; and how to better inform people in meaningful ways with clear and accurate information.

**Costs of R&D:** approximately US\$100m per year. The estimate is relatively high because of the need to be very country specific. Recent evidence indicates that context matters greatly when assessing the improvement of complementary feeding education on stunting outcomes. For example, the results from Hirvonen et al (2016) indicate that access to food markets is critical for complementary feeding promotion to be effective in diversifying diets and reducing stunting. Households more than 5km away from a market do not respond to complementary feeding education. Homestead food production of animal source foods can help to provide the dietary diversification that reduces the risks of stunting (Hoddinott, Headey and Dereje, 2015; Hirvonen and Headey, 2016). However, the strategy is not effective when animals and children share the same living space (Han, Kim and Park, unpublished) potentially because pathogen transmission between animals and children puts a greater toll on the child's immune system.

**Size of problem:** Assuming the main impact of inadequate complementary feeding is stunting, Unicef estimate there are approximately 156 million<sup>115</sup> children under-5 in developing countries who are stunted. The number of stunted children per year, ie in a cohort, is approximately (156/5) million = 31 million.

**Cost of problem:** We know from Hoddinott et al (2011) that the lifetime consumption of stunted children is reduced by 66%. If the average consumption per year is approximated by \$3000 then the net present cost per stunted child is \$33,000 assuming 4% growth rate in wages, 5% discount rate and working age from

<sup>115</sup> Figures from UNICEF, 2016. Available online: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/#>. (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

16 to 55. Total cost of 31m stunted children is therefore  $31m * \$33,000 = \$1$  trillion per year.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** estimated at between 0.1% (US\$1bn) and 1% (US\$10bn)

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 to 100

## Health R&D: NCDs

### **Aging population and impact of chronic diseases**

The composition of diseases in low/mid income countries is changing rapidly and radically, in particular as populations are aging and non-communicable diseases are having a greater impact. We know a lot about controlling and treating such conditions both medically and behaviourally from experiences in the developed world. However, behavioural issues in particular are likely to be very different in developing countries. Research should focus on understanding the social and cultural issues affecting chronic diseases in low to middle income countries, and in particular: behavioural, lifestyle, dietary habits, physical activity; and the potential role of tax incentives and other fiscal tools in shaping positive behaviours

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$100m per year.

**Size of problem:** The number of people over the age of 70 who die from chronic diseases is 23 million, meaning that 23 million older people are living with a chronic condition. The total global DALYs per year is 319 million. (Global Burden of Disease 2015)

**Estimated cost of problem:** The cost of the problem is estimated at  $US\$3,000 \times 319$  million DALYs, which is approximately US\$1 trillion.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Assuming that the R&D could bring an estimated potential benefit of between 0.01% (US\$96m) and 0.1% (US\$960m).

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 10.

### **Distribution of polypill for hypertension and cardiovascular disease**

R&D into distribution of polypill for treating hypertension and cardiovascular disease. The target audiences would be people with a diagnosis, people in high-risk groups, and possibly blanket coverage of people over a defined age. The cost effectiveness of targeting and distributing the pills to these different groups needs to be evaluated. In addition,

assessing existing and new distribution mechanisms for treatment, including information and training for health workers, and for government regulators and policy makers.

**Costs of R&D into distribution of polypill:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** The number of deaths reported from hypertension in 2015 is almost 1 million, and from cardio-vascular disease is almost 18 million, which is equivalent to 365 million DALYs (Global Burden of Disease, 2015).

**Estimated cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 365 million DALYs = approximately US\$1 trillion.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Depending on a range of factors, such as timescales and affordability this may reduce the impact of hypertension by between 0.1% (\$1bn) and 1% (\$11bn) per year, or approximately 1,800 to 18,000 deaths annually from hypertension and cardiovascular disease.

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 100 to 1,000

### Affordable home testing for diabetes

Many people are not aware they have diabetes or are vulnerable to diabetes, and often the condition becomes serious before they seek treatment. The costs are then high in terms of medication and impact on livelihood and quality of life. Catching diabetes earlier, through research and development into low-cost, easy-to-use home and community-based tools would potentially have a huge impact. Based on existing self-testing technologies developed in the West, research into the kinds of adaptations required to produce an affordable test which could be distributed and used in developing countries would be beneficial to millions of people.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately \$10m per year

**Size of problem:** Using figures from the Global Burden of Disease for 2015, the following can be estimated, for World Bank regions (low income and lower middle income):

| Condition/Region                                | WB Low Income     | WB Lower Middle Income |
|---|-------------------|------------------------|
| Diabetes mellitus                               | 3.5 million DALYs | 28.3 million DALYs     |
| Chronic kidney disease due to diabetes mellitus | 0.5 million DALYs | 4.4 million DALYs      |

This gives a total of approximately 37 million DALYs.

**Estimated cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 37 million DALYs = approximately US\$110bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Assuming that the key challenges are affordability and distribution, and that these are difficult to assess and predict but will likely be difficult in low and low/mid income countries, the impact of R&D is estimated at between 0.01% (US\$11m) and 1% (US\$1bn) per year.

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 100.

### Evaluation of public awareness campaigns to improve diet

One of the biggest challenges to improving health outcomes is diet, and changing practices and behaviours around eating and exercise to create more positive patterns. The impact of poor diet is not just on nutritional deficiencies, but on broader health outcomes and susceptibility to a range of acute and chronic conditions. Research to evaluate the effectiveness of public awareness campaigns in specific contexts and their impact on lifestyle and eating habits.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$100m per year given the context specific nature of the issue, and that it is known to be difficult to change dietary habits and norms.

**Size of problem:** The figure for nutritional deficiencies for World Bank defined low to lower middle income countries is approximately 60m DALYs (Global Burden of Disease 2015). This is an underestimate of the size of the problem of diet, as poor nutrition has additional longer term effects, which are not confined to specific nutritional deficiencies, but associated with chronic conditions such as

for example cardiovascular disease and diabetes.

**Estimated cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 60 million = approximately US\$180bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The impact of the R&D would be to contribute to improving the effectiveness of public awareness and information campaigns on diet within local contexts. The impact is likely to be small, and is estimated as between 0.01% (\$18m) and 1% (\$2bn) per year.

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 0.2 to 20.

## Health R&D: Tuberculosis

### Improved diagnostics for tuberculosis

Research and development is required into cheap diagnostic tools which are more sensitive to TB and can be used cheaply and accurately with target populations in different countries. Currently diagnostics either under or over diagnose TB, and a particular challenge is to identify people who are asymptomatic. This implies that a range of different tools are needed at different price points, for example, some would be used in a clinical setting and others as part of community health outreach. The R&D focus should be on matching the diagnostic tools with their application for at risk groups, ensuring that they can be incorporated into existing health systems and can easily be used effectively.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year.

**Size of problem:** An estimated 1.1 million people die from tuberculosis a year, equating to 40 million DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 40 million DALYs = approximately US\$120m

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The impact of the R&D globally will be dependent on how effective the developed tools are, how easy they are to distribute and use, as well as their affordability in different country contexts. It will also depend on follow through in terms of treatment. Taking into account the likelihood of successful research and the likelihood of its effectiveness, there is estimated benefit of between 0.01% (US\$12m) and 0.1% (US\$120m).

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 12.

### Improving adherence to treatment

One of the biggest challenges in successfully treating TB is adherence to the full treatment regimen. Improving adherence involves a multi-dimensional approach, which covers not only the drugs available, but is also country specific in how it is implemented. Research and development might take the form of a package

of interventions focused on how treatment can be accessed and delivered in order to improve adherence, including: how drug treatment regimens can be shortened; promotion of the importance of completing the prescribed drug treatment; awareness raising of how to avoid spreading TB.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$100m per year. The costs are high because of the expenses associated with developing and testing new drugs.

**Size of problem:** An estimated 1.1 million people die from tuberculosis a year, equating to 40 million DALYs per year (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

**Cost of problem:** US\$3,000 x 40 million = approximately US\$120m

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** Taking account the likelihood of successful research and the likelihood of its effectiveness, there is estimated benefit of between 0.1% (US\$120m) and 1% (US\$1.2bn)

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 12.

## Illicit Financial Flows R&D

### System to tackle mis-invoicing in trade transactions

Trade mis-invoicing is by far the largest problem in illicit financial flows. Given current developments in technology and data analytics, research is needed into on how to use transaction level data collected from customs offices in real time to create models which help to signal potential illicit transactions before they are completed. Conducting feasibility studies in countries with government agreement and co-operation, could not only support tackling mis-invoicing at the national level, but could form the basis for the development of an international system. The potential for establishing a global framework for preventing mis-invoicing, rather than identifying and prosecuting after the event, would also likely lead to reductions in attempts at illicit transactions.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at around US\$1m for a pilot

**Benefits:** if trade mis-invoicing in a single African country results in an estimated loss of government revenues amounting to approximately US\$10bn - maybe this work will help stop approximately 10% (US\$1bn) of losses. **The Tax Justice Network confirms the potential scale of this channel of illicit flows and many African countries are particularly vulnerable in this area.**

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 100

## Nutrition R&D

### Improving implementation of nutrition interventions

There has been great progress in identifying nutrition needs and solutions, and current challenges are now centered on implementation and ensuring that these solutions reach people in the most effective ways. One example would be research into the relationship between community level implementation of specific interventions and national level information and awareness campaigns. A second focus could be reviewing existing RCT research and researching how to scale up models from India where local women provide community based support in the form of nutritional education, home visits, group sessions, showing positive impacts. R&D would focus on scaling up the model to expand across India and to test its feasibility in other countries in South and South East Asia.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$100m. The estimate is relatively high because of the need to be very country specific.

**Size of problem:** Unicef<sup>116</sup> estimate that globally 23% children under-5 are stunted, which is 156 million children. A single cohort is therefore 31 million children.

**Estimated cost/benefit of problem:** As mentioned previously (in the analysis on complementary feeding), the global cost of stunting is around \$1 trillion per year in lower future productivity.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** estimated potential benefit of the R&D is between 0.1% (US\$1bn) and 1% (US\$10bn) or about 31,000 to 310,000 fewer stunted children per year. The interventions are well researched and understood. The challenge is the implementation, so if the R&D is successful

then there should be a relatively high likelihood of impact.

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 to 100.

### Adolescent health and nutrition

Adolescents are a large and growing population, and are increasingly a priority for national governments. Health related behaviours and habits apparent between ages 10 and 19 are found to impact on future adult health and life expectancy, in particular rising levels of obesity and mental health disorders. Research to identify a program of interventions specifically targeting adolescents, focused on issues such as health, diet, nutrition, and exercise where there are long term benefits, and that could then be supported through national government strategies and budgets. This would help increase the benefits from existing government spending, as well as potentially increase government spending on adolescents.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at US\$10m per year over a number of years, and are assuming a cohort approach.

#### Size of problem:

- 1.8 billion adolescents and young adults in the world, aged 10-24 – of which 89% live in developing countries
- <http://www.healthdata.org/news-release/lancet-investing-adolescent-health-and-well-being-could-transform-global-health>
- A cohort is therefore  $(1.8\text{billion} * 89\% / 14) =$  approximately 114 m adolescents in the developing world.

Assume that the costs of an unhealthy lifestyle lead to the equivalent loss of 2 DALYs per person<sup>117</sup> over their lifetime so the total size of the problem for adolescents is 114m x 2 DALYs = 230m DALYs. The cost is experienced in the

<sup>116</sup> UNICEF Data: Monitoring the Situation of Children and Women. Available online: <https://data.unicef.org/topic/nutrition/malnutrition/> (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>117</sup> May, AM et al (2015) The impact of a healthy lifestyle on Disability-Adjusted Life Year: a

prospective cohort study. *BMC Medicine*. Available online: <https://bmcmmedicine.biomedcentral.com/articles/10.1186/s12916-015-0287-6>

future but for the purposes of this rough calculation, the cost is under-estimated but then not discounted.

**Estimated cost of problem:** 230m DALYs x US\$3000 = US\$700bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The potential for healthier lifestyles and behaviour in adolescents are between 0.01% (US\$70m) and 1% (US\$7bn).

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 70.

## Poverty R&D

### Needs and characteristics of the very poor

The relationship between poverty, ethnicity, and exclusion among the poorest communities. Over the past 20 years, there has been dramatic progress as millions of people have been lifted out of poverty. The people who are now living in extreme poverty have different characteristics and different experiences than 20 years ago, and new research is needed to better identify who they are and what their needs are. In particular to research the relationship between economic and social marginalization, where certain minority groups in different countries seem to have been left out of recent economic development. For example Vietnam where 15% of the population are different ethnic minorities, research should focus on groups which are being left behind, are unable to access the benefits of urbanization, education etc. Identifying ways to target policies more effectively.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$25m per year.

**Size of problem:** Assuming that the number of people dying from communicable, maternal, neonatal, and nutritional diseases is an indicator of the numbers living in poverty. The number of deaths in 2015 was 11 million people (Global Burden of Disease 2015).

Total global DALYs in 2015: 742m DALYs

**Estimated cost of problem:** The estimated global cost is US\$3,000 x 742 million DALYs = US\$2.2 trillion. Assume 10% of this population are marginalized and living in extreme poverty, US\$220bn.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** estimated between 0.01% (US\$22m) and 0.1% (US\$223m), or the equivalent of lifting 70,000 to 700,000 people out of poverty.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 1 to 10.

## Trade R&D

### Opportunities for improved trade agreements between Africa and Asia

Given current indications of an increased turn to trade protectionism in the West (specifically the US and UK), there are nevertheless potentially beneficial trading opportunities for developing countries, and in particular between regional trading blocks in Africa and Asia. The recent focus on major trade deals such as TTP, means that the impact of regional trade potential in Asia has been under-researched and the opportunities and terms for developing countries to negotiate beneficial agreements is not well understood. R&D would help support better trade deals among Asian and African countries.

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at approximately US\$10m per year or \$200m in perpetuity at 5%.

#### Potential benefits:

Global merchandise<sup>118</sup> trade, 2014, is US\$18.5 trillion

Merchandise trade between Asia and Africa, 2014, is approximately US\$360bn

The proportion of trade between Asia and Africa in terms of total global trade is therefore: US\$(360/18,500) billion = approximately 0.02%

**Estimated benefits:** Assuming that the benefits from improved trading relationships are similar to what could be achieved with a successful Doha round, approximately US\$330 trillion to 2100. Estimating the potential impact on improved trade between Africa and Asia:

0.02% x US\$330 trillion = approximately US\$65bn

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** assume approximately 1% (US\$650m)

**BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 3.

## Urbanization R&D

### Urban infrastructure

Research is needed into city planning and infrastructure development associated with rapid urbanization experienced in developing countries. Current estimates are that 2.5bn more people than at present will live in urban environments. Cities in Africa and Asia in particular are growing faster than ever, and a lot of money is being spent on infrastructure and it is clear that even more is going to be spent in the future. There are no existing relevant models of city development to inform current growth patterns. Research and development is needed to understand new forms of urban growth and to develop options for city planning and more specifically for effective infrastructure investment and maintenance. One specific issue is to research and assess ways to better manage and integrate private water and energy supplies with public supplies to ensure reliable services. Many of the benefits will relate to the efficiency gains made on existing investments into urbanization. (Additional closely related issues raised include research into improving policy and regulations supporting urban development, better understanding of the advantages and disadvantages of urban living and how to mitigate the disadvantages, improving sanitation infrastructure)

**Costs of R&D:** The research costs are estimated at US\$100m per year.

**Cost of problem:** Estimated US\$57 trillion<sup>119</sup> for 15 years up to 2030, two thirds of which is in developing countries. Assume that roughly half of that is for urban infrastructure, meaning approximately \$1.27 trillion annually.

**Estimated potential benefit of R&D:** The benefit would be in reducing the costs of attaining a given set of services in the future. For the purposes of this calculation, we assume that there could be a savings of between 0.1%

<sup>118</sup> Figures are from World Trade Organization statistical report, available online at [https://www.wto.org/english/res\\_e/statis\\_e/its2015\\_e/its2015\\_e.pdf](https://www.wto.org/english/res_e/statis_e/its2015_e/its2015_e.pdf). (Accessed on 07 April 2017).

<sup>119</sup> Dobbs, R., Pohl, H., Lin, D.Y., Mischke, J., Garemo, N., Hexter, J., Matzinger, S., Palter, R., and Nanavatty, R. (2013). "Infrastructure productivity: How to save \$1 trillion a year." *McKinsey Global*

(US\$1.3bn) to reducing 1% of the problem (\$12.6bn) per year.

**Estimated BCR:** An order of magnitude estimate gives a BCR of approximately 10 to 100.

**Additional benefits:** Benefits are likely to be significantly higher, in particular to include improved quality of life (including health) and increased economic opportunities for the populations as well as on-going accumulated benefits.