



Why Does Global Health Matter to Minnesota?

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

Minnesota has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

In 2007, Minnesota exported \$18 billion worth of goods to 204 foreign destinations. Some of Minnesota’s trade partners are developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Minnesota benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced jobs” – employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 85,600 Minnesotans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Minnesota’s economy as they expand their operations in the North Star State.

- . . . through travel and tourism.

Every day, some 3,400 passengers depart from cities all over the world destined for Minnesota’s Minneapolis-St. Paul International Airport. Among the arrivals are international tourists and business people who spend millions of dollars a year in Minnesota, generating wages and jobs that contribute significantly to the state’s economy.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 9,000 foreign students studied at Minnesota universities. International students and their families contributed \$186 million to the state’s economy.



Global Ties Benefit Minnesota

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

These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

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

What's the Link between Health and Wealth?

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

- Malaria costs Africa \$12 billion in lost economic output every year. It is estimated that without malaria, the economic output of several African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Minnesota businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Minnesota exports \$200 million worth of goods to Africa every year.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Minnesota, purchasing nearly \$1 billion worth of Minnesota exports in 2007 alone.

Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Minnesota

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) is a world leader in biomedical research that improves health in the United States and around the world. Most of the research that is funded by NIH is conducted on university campuses across the country. NIH awards many grants to Minnesota universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Minnesota received approximately \$486 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some of this research will go on to spur innovations in medicine that will improve domestic and global health. Grants from NIH bring jobs and higher wages to Minnesota at the same time that they help the world to make progress in global health.

Land O'Lakes and Minnesota: Developing Agricultural Economies Overseas

Based in Arden Hills, Minnesota, Land O'Lakes is an agricultural cooperative that has become one of the country's largest producers of butter and cheese. Although known for its dairy products, which are found on store shelves in the United States and worldwide, the company is also a provider of agricultural supplies and services to farmers and ranchers. The hundreds of producers and cooperatives that own Land O'Lakes have built a Fortune 500 company with annual sales of more than \$8 billion, and they are re-investing that money back into Minnesota communities, as well as in more than 70 cities in other states.



Land O'Lakes has identified and pursued an international development strategy to generate economic growth and reduce poverty and poor health around the world. The company leverages its expertise in crop, livestock, and dairy production, as well as business management, to create profitable small businesses in developing countries.

For Land O'Lakes, the primary motive is a genuine commitment to world-class humanitarian service. But CEO Chris Policinski is also keenly aware of the potential benefit of development assistance to Land O'Lakes, Minnesota, and the United States. "Land O'Lakes believes that agricultural development must be a priority for U.S. foreign assistance. Through public/private partnerships, agricultural development overseas promotes economic progress, opens up trade opportunities, increases incomes so that local populations can purchase U.S. agricultural commodities, secures stability, reduces hunger, and improves health and nutrition, especially for women and children."

When poor health, hunger, and nutrition imperil stability and prosperity in developing countries, as they currently do in many countries, they also jeopardize the potential benefits of trade and foreign investment for local companies like Land O'Lakes. An investment in global health is also an investment in the future of Minnesota and local companies like Land O'Lakes.

Conclusion

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

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

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



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