

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT FOR GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH: EXTERNAL ACTORS IN LOW- AND MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES



+1 billion

- People living with mental disorders (PLMD) (including substance use disorders, self-harm and dementia) worldwide.



3 out of 4

- PLMD live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) and their number is projected to increase.



<1 in 10

- PLMD in LMICs receiving support, although effective and low-cost interventions are available.



1.6%

- LMIC government health budgets and 0.4% of development assistance for health.



With most LMIC governments already under considerable economic pressure, external funding is urgently needed.

In line with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) recommend the mobilisation of additional external funding from a wide range of sources (e.g. development assistance, foreign direct investments, remittances) while assuring sustainability through local ownership and a gradual increase in domestic resources.

Who are the key external actors in global mental health?



This research and policy tool typology of external actors adapted for the SDG-era provides a framework for policy planning and research in sustainable development in global mental health and global health. It is for researchers, policy makers, funders and investors, advocates, people with mental disorders and their families and carers.

DFIs: development financial institutions.
 GOs: governmental organisations.
 SMEs: small and medium enterprises.

PUBLIC SECTOR

- **Governmental organisations** in high- and middle-income countries provide goods and services in LMICs, in agreement with recipient country governments. Bilateral governmental organisations in agreement with recipient countries are funded by just one state and include aid agencies (e.g. United States Agency for International Development, USAID) and other governmental agencies investing in development (e.g. ministries of foreign affairs or their equivalents, research councils). Multilateral governmental organisations are funded and composed by multiple states at the regional (e.g. European Commission), international (e.g. Colombo Plan), or global level (e.g. World Health Organization).
- **Development finance institutions (DFIs)** are organisations offering financial products (e.g. loans) in contexts where commercial banks would not usually invest, due to what might be perceived to be high political, socio-economic or environmental risks. Bilateral DFIs are funded by just one state and provide financial products usually at a commercial rate (e.g. United States Overseas Private Investment Corporation, OPIC). Multilateral DFIs provide financial products usually at facilitated rates and are funded by multiple states, at the regional (e.g. African Development Bank), international (e.g. Islamic Development Bank) or global level (e.g. World Bank).

PRIVATE SECTOR

- **Corporations and small and medium enterprises** are for-profit organisations providing goods and services through foreign investments and corporate social responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Foreign investments include foreign direct investments (FDIs), foreign portfolio investments (FPIs) and commercial loans. FPIs are foreign indirect investments made by corporations, financial institutions and private investors using both equity (e.g. stocks) and debt instruments (e.g. bonds). FDIs are substantial physical investments and purchases usually made by corporations in another country. CSR includes financial and in-kind contributions, in both products and human resources.
- **Foundations** include non-profit organisations either created and mainly funded by private-sector companies (e.g. Microsoft Philanthropies) or created by wealthy individuals and their families and funded through gifts of shares or endowments (e.g. Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation). They are often grant-making entities.
- **Individual households** contribute through donations, including financial and in-kind contributions in goods or services, and private foreign investments. A small number of individuals are described as 'high-net-worth': individuals with financial assets greater than US\$1 million. A different and larger group of individuals are diaspora movements, including almost three-quarters (186 million) of international migrants coming from LMICs.

THIRD SECTOR

- **Third sector organisations** constitute the most heterogeneous group of non-profit organisations providing goods and services. Among others, this group includes non-governmental organisations (e.g. BasicNeeds), professional associations (e.g. World Psychiatric Association) and research centres (e.g. universities).

MULTISECTOR PARTNERSHIPS

- **Multi-sector partnerships** are a heterogeneous group of organisations arising from arrangements between actors from two or more sectors aimed to leverage additional funding for global health, usually for specific conditions. Amongst others, this group include global health initiatives (e.g. Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria) and innovation funds (e.g. Dementia Discovery Fund).

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