

SUSTAINABLE FINANCING FOR GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH

EXTERNAL ORGANISATIONS INVESTMENTS IN LOW & MIDDLE INCOME COUNTRIES

GLOBAL MENTAL HEALTH



+1billion

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



3 out of 4

People with mental disorders live in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs)



Only 1.6%

Of LMIC government health budget and 0.4% of development assistance for health allocated to mental health

↑ Expected to increase due to COVID-19

COVID-19

↓ Under further pressure due to COVID-19

How and why have external organisations invested in global mental health over the past 3 decades?

METHODS



35 elite interviews

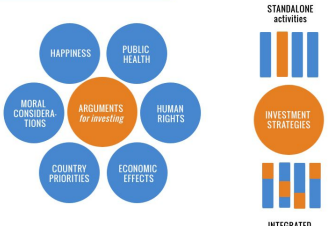
With decision-makers working in international organisations in global health and experts in global mental health



Documentary analyses

Peer reviewed and grey literature, and institutional websites of included organisations

RESULTS



CHALLENGES

ORGANISATIONS

Lack of individual support, especially at the leadership level
Poor understanding of mental ill-health, worsened by stigma
Lack of relevance to the organisation's strategic role and priorities
Large number of competing priorities
Lack of internal capacity
Unfavourable characteristics of mental ill-health as an issue

SOURCE COUNTRIES

Lack of political and public support
Lack of tax incentives

RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

Lack of political and public support
Lack of absorptive capacity and fiscal and regulatory spaces

GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

Lack of grassroots organisations
Tensions across organisations, especially for-profit organisations
Missed policy windows
Absence of governance structure

ORGANISATIONS

New, strong leaders and champions
Better understanding of mental ill-health, along with its destigmatisation
Expanding evidence base on mental ill-health burden and interventions

GLOBAL LANDSCAPE

Proliferation of organisations
Growing number of high-level and other meetings on mental health
Emerging global governance structure

SOURCE COUNTRIES

Increased public and political support

RECIPIENT COUNTRIES

Political support in some recipient countries
Fiscal and regulatory spaces in some recipient countries

OPPORTUNITIES

RECOMMENDATIONS

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS



All external organisations could invest in mental health

through activities aligned with their missions and priorities



Source countries could catalyse external organisations' investments

by increasing political support financial commitments to organisations in the public sector and incentives for the private and third sectors



Recipient countries could favour external organisations' investments

by increasing political support and creating fiscal and regulatory spaces



Global coordination mechanism involving all actors in global mental health

to coordinate and monitor efforts over time



Ethical considerations integrated into decision-making

to ensure sustainable and ethical financing of mental health in LMICs

RESEARCH RECOMMENDATIONS



Qualitative studies

- analyse contributions of external organisations in different settings and for different mental disorders
- ethical considerations

This visual summary is adapted from and should be cited as: Iemmi V (2021). Motivation and methods of external organisations investing in mental health in low- and middle-income countries: a qualitative study. *Lancet Psychiatry*. Freely available (after registration) at [http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366\(20\)30511-3/fulltext](http://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanpsy/article/PIIS2215-0366(20)30511-3/fulltext)



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