

Global Surgical Care: the numbers

5

billion

The number of people without access to essential and emergency surgical care

90

percent

The share of the world's poor that lack access to safe and affordable surgical care

30

percent

The share of worldwide diseases that can be treated by surgery or LMICs by require a surgeon's care

12

trillion US\$

The lost economic output in 2030 through surgical diseases

There is increasing recognition of the urgent need to upscale access to safe and affordable surgery, especially in low and middle-income countries (LMICs). We know that Universal Health Coverage (UHC) and other health related objectives outlined in the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not achievable without ensuring that surgical, obstetrical and anaesthesia care is accessible, safe, timely and affordable.

- It is recognised that 90% of the world's poor do not have access to safe and affordable surgical care services, and this results in significant death and disability, with the subsequent economic consequences on communities
- It is now well established that robust surgical care systems serve as one of the key foundational components of national health systems' ability to respond effectively to their populations health care needs; and that these systems provide a rapid response mechanism for emergency events, disasters and pandemics
- It is also well recognised that surgical care services are very cost-effective, but despite this and alarmingly, the lack of investment in surgical care services results in severely compromised outcomes, thereby limiting efficiencies and increasing cost in the entire health system
- Investing in surgical services in LMICs is affordable, life-saving, and promotes economic growth
- Traumatic injury alone causes more death and disability than HIV, malaria and TB combined and is considered by the WHO to be a neglected global epidemic
- In most countries, traumatic injury is the leading cause of death and disability for people under the age of 45. This age group is considered to be a country's main workforce and hope for the future
- The global burden of non-communicable diseases (NCDs) and injury is increasing at an alarming rate, eclipsing infectious diseases, especially in low and middle-income countries (LMIC)
- Surgical care is the foundation of the treatment options for most of these diseases
- Lost economic output due to poor access to safe and affordable surgery will cost LMICs an estimated \$12.3 trillion USD by the year 2030 unless access to surgical, obstetrical and anaesthesia care is quickly improved
- Building capacity in surgical care services in LMICs positively impacts a country's entire health system, with improvements seen across all sectors of health, patient age & gender