

Tool. The WHO global health expenditure report

WHO has issued a [global expenditure report](#) annually since 2017 (46). The 2020 report provided global health spending in 190 countries between 2000 and 2018 and health spending between the Millennium Development Goals era and the SDG era, before the COVID-19 pandemic of 2020. The data show that out-of-pocket spending has remained high in low- and lower-middle-income countries, representing more than 40% of total health spending in 2018. The report summarizes data on expenditure for primary health care and by disease and intervention, including for immunization. The report also presents analyses of the data on budget allocation in response to the pandemic. In addition, the report combines projections from the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund of the macroeconomic and fiscal impacts of the pandemic, with an analysis of the historical determinants of health-spending patterns and UHC indicators. On this basis, they report the probable implications for future health spending, highlighting key policy and monitoring concerns.

The recommendations are as follows:

1. Secure domestic public spending on health as both a societal and an economic priority.
2. Fund common goods for health as step zero of UHC at country level.
3. Invest in global common goods for health to ensure global health security.
4. Prioritize public funding to ensure equitable access and financial protection through a primary health care approach.
5. Increase the level of aid to lower-income countries, but adjust aid modalities.
6. Fund national institutions for transparent, inclusive tracking of health spending at both national and global levels.