



# Why Does Global Health Matter to Iowa?

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 Iowa. It matters to Iowa’s economy and to Iowans’ health.

## Iowa has global ties . . .

- . . . through trade and commerce.

Iowa is one of the nation’s largest agricultural exporters. In 2007, Iowa exported a total of \$9.6 billion worth of goods to 186 foreign destinations. Its global exports have grown by 84 percent over the last five years, well above the national growth rate of 61 percent. Some of Iowa’s trade partners include developing countries in Asia, Africa, and South America.

- . . . through foreign investment.

Iowa benefits from foreign investment and the creation of “in-sourced” jobs—employment by companies that are based outside the United States. About 37,300 Iowans work for foreign-owned companies, which invest in Iowa’s economy as they expand their operations in the Hawkeye State.

- . . . through its colleges and universities.

In the 2006-2007 academic year, 7,800 foreign students studied at Iowa universities. International students and their families contributed \$168 million to the state’s economy.



## Global Ties Benefit Iowa

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

## These Ties Can Be Jeopardized by Global Health Crises

Iowa'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 Iowa 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 some African countries, some of which are important trade partners for Iowa businesses, would be 30 percent greater than it is today. Iowa exported \$119 million worth of goods to Africa in 2007.
- UNAIDS estimates that the HIV rate in China is rising by 20-30 percent every year. China is a valuable trading partner for Iowa, purchasing more than \$278 million worth of Iowa exports in 2007 alone.

## Research to Improve Global Health Benefits Iowa

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 Iowa universities, which in turn bring money and jobs to the state. In 2007, Iowa received approximately \$202 million in research grants and contracts from NIH. Some NIH grants fund research that will improve global health. For example, Iowa receives funding from NIH for AIDS clinical trials conducted at the University of Iowa. NIH has also funded University of Iowa's Division of Infectious Diseases since 1988 to train scientists interested in careers in infectious diseases. Grants like these bring jobs and higher wages to Iowa at the same time that they help make progress in global health.

## Global Health, Agriculture, and Iowa



Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., an Iowa-based company, is the world's leading developer and supplier of advanced plant genetics to farmers worldwide. With approximately 1,500 employees, Pioneer Hi-Bred is among the 10 largest employers in Des Moines, exporting goods and services to nearly 70 countries. For Pioneer Hi-Bred, like many other Iowa businesses, the health of communities in developing countries determines the size and viability of the company's markets in those countries. "Pioneer is working with farmers in developed and developing countries to help improve their lives and their communities by increasing farm productivity," said Pioneer CEO Dean Ostereich. In an age of increasing economic interdependence, when workers in poor countries become too sick from HIV/AIDS or malaria to be productive, companies like Pioneer lose markets for their goods. "So investing in the stability and prosperity of these nations through U.S. foreign assistance is not only the right thing to do, it helps us here in Iowa."

## 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/global-health](http://www.familiesusa.org/global-health).

Sources available upon request from Families USA.



1201 New York Avenue NW, Suite 1100  
Washington, DC 20005  
202-628-3030  
[www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health/](http://www.familiesusa.org/issues/global-health/)