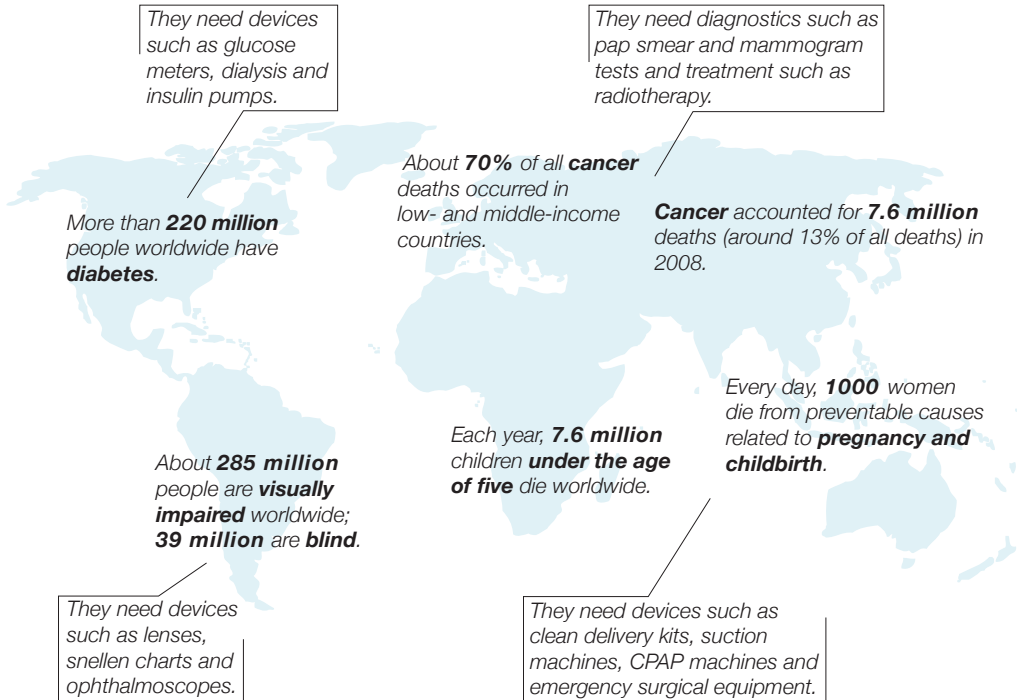


MEDICAL DEVICES SAVE LIVES



**World Health
Organization**

THE GLOBAL NEED



**Medical devices should be available to everyone. Everywhere.
But where they are most needed, they are least available.**

13 low- and middle-income countries do not have at least an average of 1 district hospital per 1 000 000 inhabitants.

23 low-income countries do not have a single computed tomography (CT) per 1 000 000 inhabitants and 7 out of 115 countries have no CT scanners at all.

Low- and middle-income countries face significant challenges such as:

- Limited financial resources
- Lack of available information
- Lack of training
- Inappropriate donations
- Fragmented health services
- Shortage of biomedical engineers

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

WHO is working to help bridge the gap between what is needed in limited-resource settings and what is available by:

Assessing the global situation

To make a difference, we need to know where we are.

- The first ever global **Baseline Country Survey on Medical Devices** was launched in February 2010. Respondents from 146 countries identified the key areas requiring support.

Strengthening capacity

To make a difference, we are providing tools and resources to improve access to medical devices.

- In 2011, WHO launched the **Medical Device Technical Series**. These reference documents provide those in low-resource settings with information and guidance they can adapt to their particular situation.
- The **Global Health Technology Information System** will be an online clearing house providing impartial information on medical devices, tailored to different levels of care and health interventions.
- The **Core Medical Equipment Fact Sheets** provide technical information to those in low-resource settings on the devices most commonly used in health care facilities.
- The **e-Documentation Centre** is a centralized repository of WHO documents and resources in various languages that relate to health technologies.



Encouraging innovation

To make a difference, we are informing innovators and those in low-resource settings on the need for the development and the implementation of appropriate medical devices.

- Medical devices currently on the market do not meet all of the global health needs. The **Priority Medical Devices Project** proposes a research agenda to inform innovators how best to address this gap.
- The **Compendium of Innovative Health Technologies** showcases medical devices that address health concerns in low-resource settings, in order to promote dialogue between biomedical engineers, ministries of health, donors, innovators, manufacturers and end users.

Fostering partnerships

To make a difference, we are bringing together the global medical device community to work across disciplines and diseases.

- The WHO Medical Devices Unit coordinates the activities of non-governmental organizations, academia, professional societies, governments, health professionals and WHO Collaborating Centres.
- In September 2010, over 300 participants from around the world gathered in Bangkok, Thailand, for the first ever **WHO Global Forum on Medical Devices**, building on three years of intense activity that followed the adoption of the first resolution on health technologies by the World Health Assembly in May 2007 (WHA60.29).

VISIT US TO LEARN MORE

www.who.int/medical_devices

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