



Safe Surgery Impacts

This document provides an overview of the current medical instrument sterilization infrastructure at rural healthcare clinics in developing regions as well as the social and economic impacts of sub-standard surgical capacity.

Current Surgical Infrastructure

Despite the remarkable gains that have been made in global health in the past 25 years, mortality and morbidity from common conditions needing surgery have grown in the world's poorest region, both in real terms and relative to other health gains. Concurrently, the development of safe, essential and life-saving surgical care in low-income and middle-income countries (LMICs) has stagnated or in some cases regressed.¹

- 5 billion people do not have access to safe, affordable surgical and anaesthesia care when needed. Access is worst in low-income and lower-middle-income countries, where nine of ten people cannot access basic surgical care.
- 1/3 patients in the developing world suffer from post-operative infections due to unsafe surgery (including the lack of medical instrument sterilization capacity).²

Economic Impact

Unsafe surgery within LMICs has a pronounced impact on their economic potential. Without urgent and accelerated investment in surgical scale-up, LMICs will continue to have losses in economic productivity, estimated cumulatively at US \$12.3 trillion (2010 US\$, purchasing power parity) between 2015 and 2030 Economic impact.¹

- Every surgery performed with unsafe instruments compromises the productive potential of individuals, and in turn degrades the economic potential of communities at large.²
- Put simply, compared to the costs associated with unsafe surgery, investing in surgical services in LMICs is affordable, saves lives, and promotes economic growth.

Building Safe Surgery Capacity

At a 2014 convening hosted by the World Bank, the Lancet Commission on Global Surgery stated that surgery is an “indivisible, indispensable part of health care.”¹

- Utilizing multiple energy inputs our technology ensures that medical instruments can be sterilized and made ready for surgery, regardless of the health facilities operating context.
- We recognize that we are one part of a multifaceted approach to increase safe surgical capacity at rural health facilities and are proud to have partnered with leading organizations spearheading the Safe Surgery 2020 movement, including LifeBox and SPECT, each with its own powerful contribution to making safe surgery a reality worldwide.

1. Global Surgery 2030: evidence and solutions for achieving health, welfare, and economic development. The Lancet Commission. 2015

2. WHO Guide to Identifying the Economic Consequences of Disease and Injury. World Health Organization. 2009