

Defining Underserved communities

Equal access to health services is not a given for everyone. Despite progress in recent decades, many people worldwide still struggle to get the best possible level of healthcare. Underserved communities are particularly at risk: Health inequities greatly impact their living conditions and therefore quality of life.



At Boehringer Ingelheim, a streamlined definition of who underserved communities are helps us to better understand which barriers they face, their concrete needs and how our initiatives can deliver the most impactful and sustainable solutions.

Our definition is:

“People and animals who live in environments of inequality and face clearly demonstrated barriers to access healthcare.”

Based on this definition, underserved populations face barriers in the **following areas:**



The value of a common understanding

Our ambition is to create value in areas of unmet medical need and enabling equitable solutions to healthcare along our value chain. Through our “Sustainable Development for Generations” framework, we aim to expand access to healthcare for 50 million people in underserved communities and invest EUR 35 billion in health innovation and research to tackle non-communicable diseases by 2030.

By developing a company-wide definition, we create a credible and consistent approach to identifying underserved communities. This enables us to apply impactful solutions which address healthcare disparities.

Our understanding of underserved communities is based on existing definitions of vulnerability from established, reputable organizations. These include the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Additionally, valuable insights from consultations with external stakeholders were included.

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