The Health Impact Fund.

Millions of people – mainly in low-income countries – die each year from diseases that could be treated. One reason is that new medicines are rewarded with markups protected by patents. This leads pharmaceutical innovators to neglect the diseases of the poor while also selling their products at prices that most people around the world cannot afford.

The Health Impact Fund is intended to address these problems, helping to incentivize pharmaceutical research into diseases of the poor while also increasing access. It is market-based and compatible with the patent system. Here is how it would work …

1. The Health Impact Fund distributes each year a fixed pool of reward money supplied by states and charitable funders.

2. Pharmaceutical innovators register certain new products with the Health Impact Fund – often ones they would otherwise not have developed – and thereby commit to selling them at the cost of manufacture and distribution.

3. The Health Impact Fund assesses the registered drugs and measures to what extent they lengthen lives and improve health. It rewards products according to their health gains.

4. Because drugs registered with the Health Impact Fund are sold without markup, they can produce rewardable health gains even among the poor. Wealthier countries that contribute to the Health Impact Fund enjoy the same low prices. Moreover, all patients benefit when innovators are paid not merely for selling such drugs but according to their therapeutic benefits.

5. We cannot do it without your help! We hope you will collaborate with us in refining and implementing the Health Impact Fund idea so that new medicines can really benefit all.