

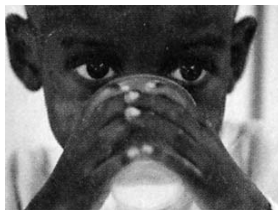
Tekst 5

Healing the world

1 TERRORISM is like
a hideous disease,
and sensible
countries seek to
5 eradicate it. But it
should not be
forgotten that
hideous diseases, in the literal sense of the
word, kill and cripple far more people,
10 especially in poor countries. Encouragingly,
recent decades have seen huge progress in
the struggle against sickness. Between 1960
and 1995, life expectancy in poor countries
rose by 22 years, largely because modern
15 medicine prevented millions of premature
deaths. In the 1950s, 15% of children died
before their fifth birthday; now only 4% do.

2 But the bad news is that not everyone
has benefited. In many African countries, as
20 AIDS sweeps through the population,
people are dying younger than they did a
decade ago. And in the world as a whole,
16m people still die each year from easily
preventable diseases. Rich countries could
25 greatly reduce this toll by giving more
towards improvements in health care in
poor countries. A new report estimates that
an extra \$27 billion would save 8m lives a
year.

3 30 Healing the afflicted is not merely a
matter of compassion. Poor countries are
sick because they are poor, but they are also
poor because they are sick. Sickness reduces
productivity, as anyone who has ever tried
35 to work while shaking with fever knows.
When a virus strikes, families often sell
productive assets, such as cows or hoes, to
pay for medicine. When parents do not
expect all their children to survive, they
40 have more, and so cannot invest as much to
educate each child. Tropical diseases scare
off tourists, and investors too, who prefer
their workers healthy. By one estimate,
malarial countries would be twice as
45 prosperous today if the disease had never
existed.



4 The chief responsibility for fighting
disease in poor countries lies with the poor
countries themselves. Several cheap and
50 powerful treatments exist for common
diseases, and could be applied more
systematically. Examples include
vaccination, DOTS treatment for
tuberculosis and oral-rehydration therapy
55 for diarrhoea. A few health-promoting
measures, such as tobacco taxes, place no
burden on national budgets. Governments
of developing countries could find out,
through surveys, which diseases inflict the
60 greatest burden on their people, and how
health budgets could provide the greatest
benefit at the least cost. And some
governments, notably South Africa's, could
do far more to prevent and treat one terrible
65 killer, AIDS, if they faced up to the reality
of its cause.

5 But even if all third-world health
ministers spent their budgets wisely and
rationally – as few at present do – many
70 children would still die for want of pills
that cost only a few cents. For the poorest
countries simply do not have the cash to
provide even basic medicines. This is where
sponsor countries come in. If they gave
75 more money and poor countries chipped in
and reformed their health-care systems, the
report's authors calculate that the cheapest,
tried-and-tested treatments could be made
widely available. Surprisingly, this would
80 include even some drugs for AIDS, which
are usually assumed to be too expensive for
the worst-afflicted countries.

6 It is a lot of money, but it could be
found. A colossal number of lives could be
85 saved, and immeasurable suffering relieved,
for about \$25 per rich-country citizen each
year. That is less than many parents in rich
countries will be spending on a Harry
Potter video game for their children this
90 Christmas.

The Economist

■ Tekst 5 Healing the world

- 1p **16** ■ What are lines 12-17 (“Between 1960 ... 4% do.”) meant to illustrate?
- A Far more people in poor countries are killed by diseases than by terrorism.
 - B Generally speaking, life expectancy of people in poor countries is low.
 - C Overall health in poor countries has improved in recent decades.
 - D Poor countries are perfect breeding grounds for terrorism.
- “Rich countries ... a year.” (regels 24-29)
- 1p **17** □ In welke alinea van het artikel begint het tekstgedeelte waarin de schrijver dit voorstel opnieuw aan de orde stelt?
- “Healing the ... of compassion.” (lines 30-31)
- 1p **18** ■ Which of the following could be put after this sentence to reflect the main point made in paragraph 3?
- A It is a lost battle, too.
 - B It is a risky business, too.
 - C It is our Christian duty, too.
 - D It is sound economics, too.
- 1p **19** ■ Which of the following summarises paragraph 4 best?
- Poor countries
- A can only fight diseases effectively if they recognise their existence.
 - B could carry out research in order to set priorities in fighting diseases.
 - C could take various steps to improve their populations’ health.
 - D should apply existing health programmes in a more structured way.
 - E should try to prevent diseases rather than try to cure them.
- 2p **20** □ Geef voor elk van de onderstaande aspecten aan of het volgens alinea 5 een oorzaak vormt van de gezondheidsproblemen in arme landen.
- 1 gebrek aan medisch personeel
 - 2 geldgebrek
 - 3 ongezonde leefgewoonten
 - 4 slechte organisatie van de gezondheidszorg
- Noteer het nummer van elk aspect, gevolgd door “wel” of “niet”.