


### 4.6 PUBLIC HEALTH



| We are dedicated to sustainable healthcare and have established a thematic, impact driven sustainable healthcare fund to evidence our commitment and expertise. We also engage on broader healthcare related topics with companies.

#### Our position

Access to healthcare is a basic human right and one of the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 3). Many people living in the world's poorest countries do not have access to vital healthcare. The COVID-19 pandemic has made the extent of this crisis undeniably clear. The gaps in access, quality and affordability of medical care must be closed, and investors have a role to play in narrowing this gap.

We expect companies with businesses relevant to public health to develop approaches for systematically ensuring that Research and Development (R&D) projects are paired with plans to increase healthcare access in poorer countries, ensure responsible promotional practices and have policies in place to address anti-bribery and corruption risks, product safety and supply chain management issues.

We also believe that other important healthcare-related issues need to be addressed as part of a broader approach to healthcare, including that of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and healthy diets.

AMR occurs when microbes become resistant to medicines developed to fight them. A consequence of this is that even simple infections become more difficult to treat, which increases the risk of severe illness, death and the continued spread of diseases. The World Health Organisation (WHO) has named AMR as one the top 10 global public health threats facing humanity, and we believe it is key to address.

### What we do

We are a member of the PRI Collaborative Engagement on Access to Medicine and UN SDG3. We are also a member of the Access to Medicine Foundation. Good health is impossible without access to affordable pharmaceutical products and healthcare services. We engage with the Big Pharma, generic medicine manufactures, vaccine manufacturers, diagnostic companies and private hospitals, referencing data and research provided by Access to Medicine Foundation<sup>18</sup> and our internal analysis. We encourage companies to reference the Sustainable Development Investment Asset Owner Platform taxonomy<sup>19</sup> when considering their UN SDG contributions to affordable healthcare.

The topic of AMR is important to address, therefore we work with the Investor Action on AMR initiative to leverage investor influence to combat drug-resistant superbugs. As part of this, we engage with investee companies, either bilaterally or as part of collaborative engagements. One topic we have engaged on is with food companies and their commitments around policies governing antibiotic use in their supply chains, as this has been identified as an area that could contribute to AMR.

### How we engage

The engagement objectives are for illustrative purposes only and may differ by companies.

For our global equity sustainable healthcare strategy, we

- ◆ Assess a company's contribution to sustainable healthcare through value-for-money and innovation improvements
- ◆ Apply an additional social aspect evaluation through production and operational impact, including supply chain), and through the lens of UNGP



18. More information can be found on the website of [Access to Medicine Foundation](#)

19. More information can be found on the website of [SDI Asset Owner Platform](#)

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