



May 2026

Global and local O₂ challenges

Critical Resource Continuity: Securing Oxygen for Health System Resilience

Michael Lipnick, MD

Professor, Anesthesia & Critical Care

Associate Director, Center for Health Equity in Surgery and Anesthesia

Co-Director, WHO Collaborating Center for Emergency, Critical & Operative Care

PI, The Hypoxia Lab

Commissioner, Lancet Global Health Commission on Medical O₂ Security

University of California San Francisco



Center for Health Equity
in Surgery & Anesthesia
chesa.ucsf.edu

Where is this?

- Life expectancy is in the 60s
- Limited access to routine 'standard' healthcare
- Limited and inequitable access to oxygen
- Disparities in critical care outcomes

global = local + international



NBC News

Asian American COVID-19 death rate in San Francisco concerning, researchers say



San Francisco Chronicle

Bay Area Latinos, black people are hit hardest by coronavirus ...



KGO-TV

Coronavirus Impact: Black COVID-19 patients nearly 3 times more likely to be hospitalized, study finds



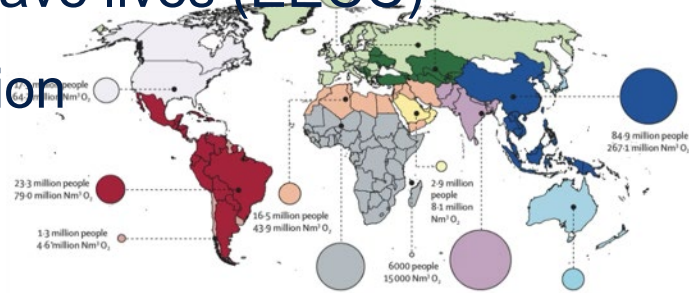
Navajo Nation faces devastating loss from Covid-19 pandemic

By Megan Marples, CNN

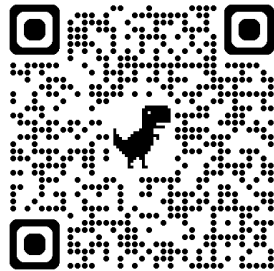
Updated 0822 GMT (1622 HKT) November 24, 2020

O₂ shortage: An old problem, amplified

- Most of worlds **8 billion** don't have reliable access to O₂
- **374 million** people per year need medical O₂
- **82%** of those needing O₂ are in LMICs
- **Simple resources** like O₂ and fluids save lives (EECC)
- O₂ is a **cost effective** health intervention
- 100k ORs and ICUs lack oximetry



Oxygen coverage



Less than 1 in 3 people who need oxygen for acute medical or surgical conditions receives it. This 70% coverage gap far exceeds treatment gaps for HIV/AIDS (23%) and tuberculosis (25%)



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MEDICAL OXYGEN SECURITY

O₂ ecosystem constraints & potentiators

Production

- LOX plants
- PSA plants
- Cylinders
- Reliable power
- Maintenance
- Parts

Distribution

- Roads & trucks
- Refill logistics
- Facility piping
- Rural support
- Supply chain
- Last-mile

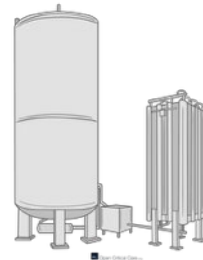
Delivery

- Device:context
- Consumables
- Monitoring
- Clinical workforce
- BME workforce
- Clinical protocols
- Access to care

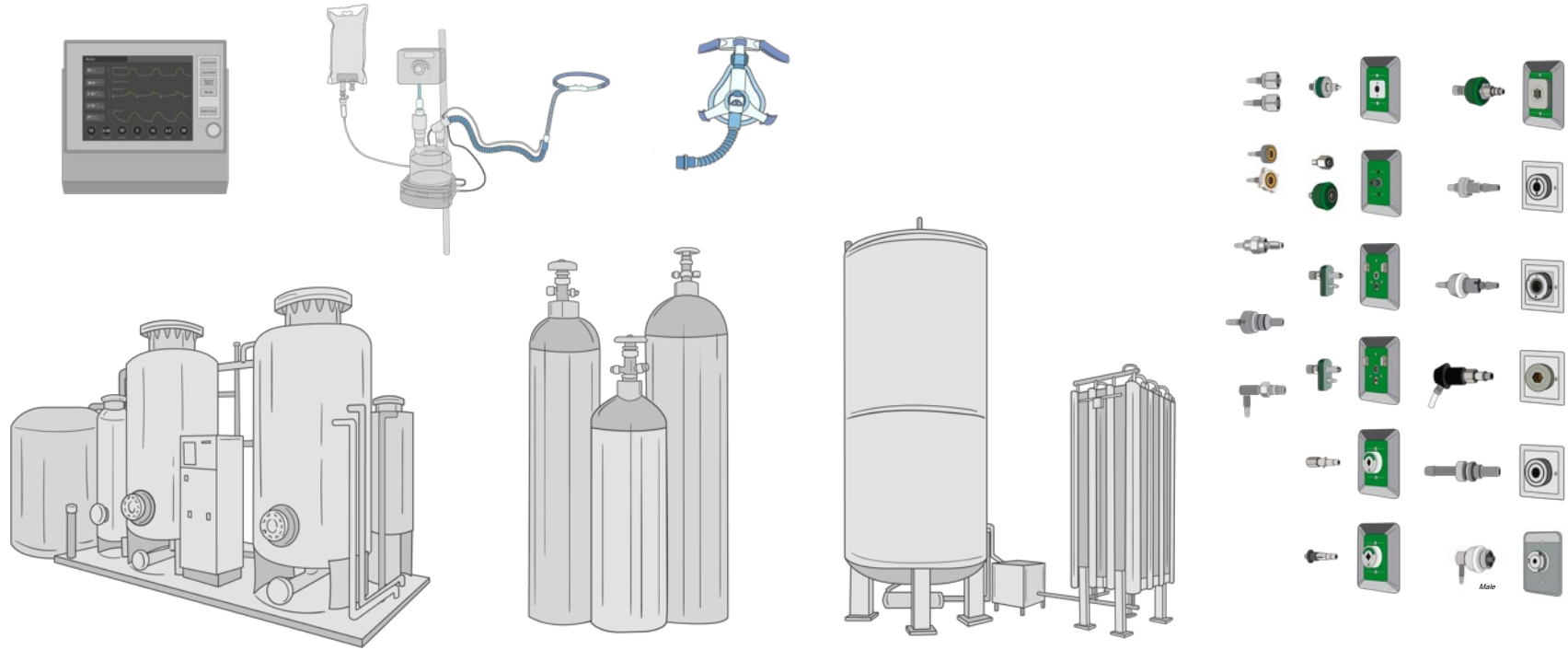
System Enablers

- Investment
- Regulatory
- Data (supply, demand)
- Coordination
- Policy priorities
- Competition
- Guidelines/open info
- Planning Tools

In LMICs: existing challenges exacerbated
In HICs: vulnerabilities exposed



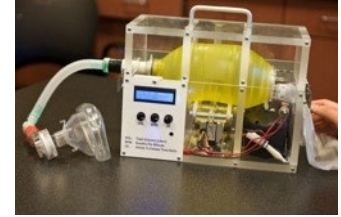
O₂ strategy: shiny solutions, no consensus



O₂ strategy: shiny solutions, no consensus

- Procurements & donations without context
- Donations without coordination
- Innovation without context
- Opportunistic & misleading sales
- Tech and panaceas > fundamentals
- *Don't just do something, stand there?*

In LMICs & HICs: chaotic, inefficient response



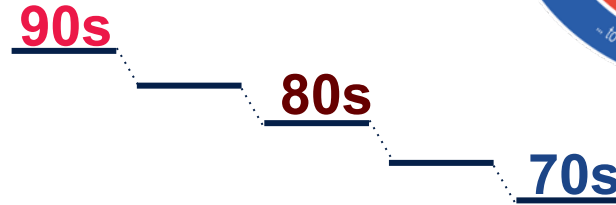
Case of oximetry



Can you test this oximeter and let us know if it is acceptable for donation of 100k units in South Asia asap? anonymous NGO



SpO2 vs **SaO2**



Local and global solutions



Local and global innovation



Expanding access to medical oxygen in Kenya

Novair
American Oxygen
NASA



OxygenCalculator.org

A screenshot of the OxygenCalculator.org website. The page has a light blue header with the site name 'Oxygen Calculator' and navigation links for 'Global O2 Maps', 'About', and 'English'. Below the header is a section titled 'What Would You Like to Calculate?' with tabs for 'O2 Demand', 'O2 Supply', 'SpO2 to PaO2', 'Cylinder Duration', 'Cylinder Size', and 'Consumables & Cost'. The 'O2 Supply' tab is selected. Below this is a dropdown menu for 'How much oxygen can my sources provide?'. The main content area is titled 'Facility Supply Calculator' and includes a 'Select Oxygen Source(s)' dropdown menu. Below this are four icons representing different oxygen sources: 'Oxygen Plant (PSA or VSA)', 'Portable Oxygen Concentrator (PSA)', 'Liquid Oxygen (VIE)', and 'Oxygen Cylinders'. On the right side, there are two yellow boxes showing 'Total Fixed Supply (Cylinders + Liquid)' and 'Total Generated Supply (Plants plus Portable Concentrators)', both with a value of '0' and a 'Liters' dropdown menu.

Oxygen cost



There should be no question as to whether investment in oxygen-system strengthening is value for money. Rather, the focus should be on how much funding is needed and how this money would be most effectively spent



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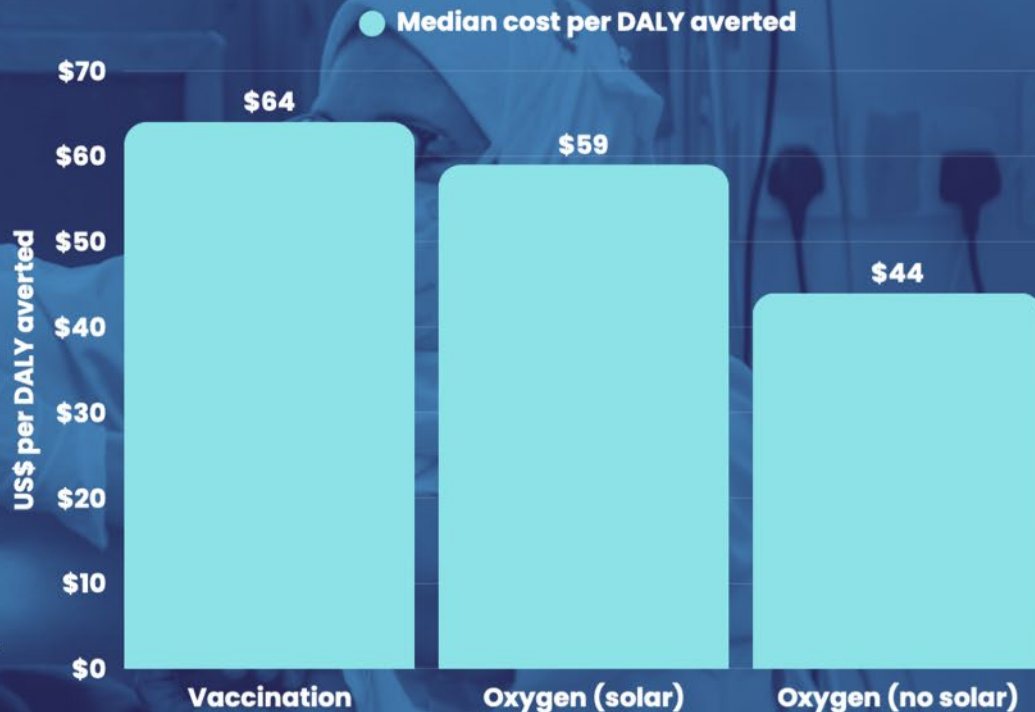
Costing the oxygen coverage gap

How much will it cost?

Highly cost-effective:

- US\$44–59 per DALY averted (based on child pneumonia)
- Similar to the most cost-effective child survival interventions (e.g., vaccination)

Each dollar invested could deliver estimated returns of US\$21, and additional funding can cost approximately US\$168 per disability-adjusted life year (DALY) averted, and as little as US\$23 in countries with very high burdens.



Global Oxygen Strategic Framework and Investment Case 2025–30, 2024

Recommendations



The Commission makes 52 recommendations for governments, industry, global health actors, academics, and professional bodies to work towards by 2030 and recommend that an independent body assess progress in 2027, with the results made publicly available

Commission Key Recommendations

Government - National plans, investment, industry negotiations

Industry - Price transparency, emerging market development

Civil Society - Patient advocacy groups and general advocacy

Academics - O₂ in BME & clinical curricula, research in priority areas, utilize core O₂ indicators

Donors - increase funding mechanisms, responsible procurement

Regulatory - harmonize standards, incr LMIC participation

O₂ global truths

- O₂ is an indispensable, cross cutting part of healthy systems
- No community immune to O₂ system limitations
- Poor and rural communities hit hardest
- O₂ systems need prevention + preparation > reactive response
- Coordination and context are key
- Local, national and global O₂ ecosystems are connected