

SO, WHAT'S A DALY?



DISABILITY-ADJUSTED LIFE YEAR

Essentially, it's a year of healthy life lost. People can lose a healthy year of life because of death or being sick (disability).

Measuring the Health of a Population

It's important to understand that a **DALY** is used to measure the health of a population, country, region etc. not just one person. So, to calculate the **DALYs** of a population, you would add up:

Years of life lost due to **DEATH** + Years lived with a **DISABILITY** = **DALYs**

Still sound too complicated?

No worries, let's break it down further with an example. The real calculations are a bit more complicated with models, coefficients, estimations, etc, but the **CONCEPT** is important to understand. And that's what we're focusing on here.

Let's Say There is a Village of 100 People in 2012...

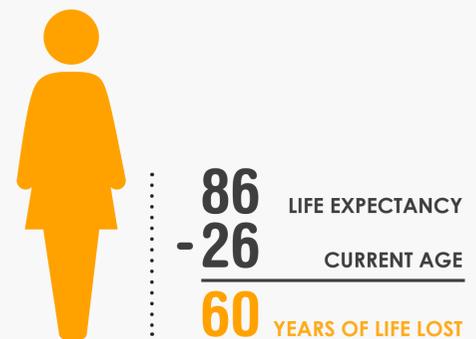
One child suddenly dies from malaria at **age 3**, when ideal life expectancy is **86**. So that child **lost 83 years** of life.



One man contracts TB when he's 54. Over the course of his illness, let's assume he will **lose 3 years** of healthy life.



One woman suddenly **dies** in childbirth from postpartum hemorrhage at **age 26**, when ideal life expectancy is **86**. She's **lost 60 years** of life.



The remaining 97 people in the village are all healthy and do not get sick or die in 2012.

So, to estimate the **DALYs** lost in this village in 2012

83 + 3 + 60 = 146 DALYs

Now, Let's Say PSI Works in that Village...

Then those 146 years of healthy life lost could add up to 146 years of healthy life gained. Or in other words, 146 DALYs averted.

This is how PSI estimates its health impact.

