Public–private partnerships for health require thoughtful evaluation

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There are now about 50 public–private partnerships operating internationally to provide the means of combating diseases associated with poverty. Their aim is to develop, or improve access to, health products such as drugs, vaccines, contraceptives, microbicides, diagnostics and bednets. Since getting under way during the last few years, they have been variously criticized but usually with no distinction made between their different ways of working (1–3).

The designations “public–private partnership” is claimed by a wide variety of arrangements. They range from small single-partnership” is claimed by a wide variety of arrangements. They range from small single

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