

▶ BACKUP HEALTH

Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening

The challenge

Improving health and well-being worldwide is a long-standing priority of global development efforts. To address health challenges in low- and middle-income countries, global and multilateral initiatives have been set up to mobilize and disburse funds to support health projects. Despite achievements in disease specific areas, vertical approaches fall short to strengthen health systems sustainably. Thus, efforts need to be made to **optimize the use of the funding mechanism** to also build up resilient health systems and ultimately achieve health for all.

Our approach

BACKUP Health is a technical cooperation partner of global initiatives for health (GHIs), such as the Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) and the Providing for Health (P4H) Network.

The programme's components advise partners at regional and country level in the areas of **health systems strengthening (HSS), domestic health financing, and local vaccine production** to improve the use of global and national financing for health.

- We strengthen alignment and coordination of fundings from global health initiatives at global and country level to avoid competing priorities and improve efficiency;
- We provide tailored support to improve framework conditions for investments through GHIs, for instance by strengthening regional coordination for vaccine production and through advisory services on building up systems for health and developing health policies;

Project name	BACKUP Health - Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening
Components	Health Systems Strengthening Health Financing Improving framework conditions for local vaccine production in Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	European Union (EU), British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)
Partner	Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria, Providing for Health (P4H) Network
Project region	worldwide
Duration	04.2020 – 03.2026

- We strengthen capacity of key actors in national and regional health systems;
- We provide partners with lessons learned that can be scaled up and incorporated into the further planning and implementation of GHI-funded measures.

In our activities, we put a particular focus on gender equality, human rights, and civil society involvement.

Our portfolio and activities in a nutshell

Health systems strengthening

As a technical cooperation partner of the Global Fund, BACKUP supports recipient countries through all stages of the funding cycle to use the resources in a system-strengthening way in line with the countries' priorities. This includes integrating HSS into



Photos L. to r.:

Lt: Training for community-based health service providers, Burkina Faso

R: Ndlovu Research Centre, Limpop

funding requests, planning, and implementation of funds, as well as supporting civil society involvement throughout the process to promote equity.

In addition, BACKUP strengthens capacities of key actors in national health systems, including both state institutions and civil society organisations, and enables them to plan, steer and implement the fundings more effectively.

Besides technical and financial support to partners, we utilize our implementation experiences across countries and technical expertise to identify good practice and innovative concept, as well as generate evidence for potential scale-up in global conversations.

Health financing

Health financing is a core function of health systems and a key lever to improve equitable access to health services. A well-functioning health financing system provides effective service coverage and financial protection. At the same time, it reduces a country's dependency on external funding, easing the transition to domestic resource mobilization and increases the sustainability of investments from global development partners.

Here, we are strategically engaged in global networks for universal health coverage (UHC), such as the P4H Network, with a focus on countries in the middle of critical 'health financing for UHC' reforms. Since 2007, our health financing experts (country focal points) have advised and supported 14 eligible countries on topics s.a. health financing reforms and potentials for domestic resource mobilization. In 13 of these countries, health financing strategies and national UHC legislation have been finalized and/or adopted.

In addition to providing technical advisory, we also coordinate external and multilateral funding as well as facilitate collaboration among national and international actors at global and country level.

Improving framework conditions for local vaccine production

Reliable access to vaccines is essential for a resilient health system. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that access is not secured in times of crises. The African Union has since set the goal of extending the amount of locally needed and produced vaccines from 1 to 60% until 2040. Building sustainable vaccine production in Africa requires not only investment in manufactur-

ing facilities and infrastructure, but specific framework conditions need to be in place as well, which needs to be addressed on a continental level.

BACKUP improves framework conditions such as Africa-wide regulatory strengthening and harmonisation, technology transfer as well as enhancing education and training for a skilled workforce. In doing so, we foster local ownership and increase the sustainability of future investment in vaccines.

BACKUP works closely aligned with the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM), which was initiated by the African Union to implement their goal. The activities are also embedded in the Team Europe Initiative (TEI) for Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and health technology products in Africa (MAV+).

Success factors

Strong country presence

BACKUP Health is present in 11 focus countries and 1 focus region with in-country teams and/or focal points which allows our technical advisors to develop tailor-made solutions that best suit the countries' needs. Our implementation experiences in countries also enable us to provide feedback and advice on structural and procedural topics to improve the governance and overall efficiency of global health initiatives.

Long-standing partner in global financing for health providing flexible support

We are trusted partners for both state and non-state institutions to provide advice in the context of global financing for health. As a global programme we are flexible and quick to react to changing contexts, which is critical especially in-country reform processes.

Our global mandate supports synergy

BACKUP is a global programme commissioned by the BMZ and co-financed by multiple donors. We leverage our expertise in diverse areas and utilize our global mandate to coordinate stakeholders and set the agenda for important topics. This allows for synergies between our components, as well as with other projects and partners and increases the overall efficiency and outcome of the global funding for health.

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