

▶ **BACKUP** HEALTH

Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening

Component Health Systems Strengthening

The challenge

Building up **resilient health systems** is key to achieving the **Sustainable Development Goal 3 Good Health and Wellbeing**. While Global Health Initiatives (GHI), such as the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (the Global Fund) have been instrumental for realizing achievements in the fight against specific diseases, health systems in recipient countries still face considerable constraints, as demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic. Thus, efforts need to be reinforced to further **optimize the use of global health funding to strengthen health systems** and ultimately achieve **health for all**.

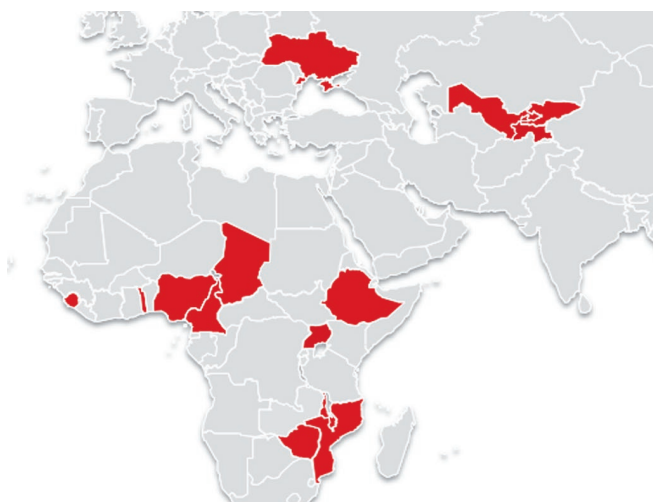
Project name	BACKUP Health - Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening
Component name	Health Systems Strengthening
Component objective	Partner countries make efficient use of resources provided by global and intergovernmental initiatives to strengthen health systems
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	British Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)
Partner	Global Fund to Fight Aids, Tuberculosis and Malaria
Project region	worldwide
Duration	04.2020 – 05.2025

Our approach

As a technical cooperation partner of the Global Fund, the project **supports partner countries through all stages of the funding cycle** to use the resources in line with the countries' priorities and in a **health systems strengthening way**.

At the same time, we **strengthen capacities of key actors** in national health system sand civil society organisations that are responsible for the planning and implementation of Global Fund financing, and enable them to plan, steer and implement global financing more effectively. In doing so, we increase the effectiveness and sustainability of health interventions.

In addition, we leverage our technical experiences across countries to **generate and disseminate scalable lessons learned** for national and global conversations.



Focus countries: Central Asia (Kyrgystan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan), Malawi, Nigeria, Mozambique, Uganda, Zimbabwe.
Further eligible countries: Cameroon, Ethiopia, Sierra Leone, Togo, Ukraine.



L. to r.: Capacity development of HIV issues in Tanzania
Hospital visit in Tanzania
Integration of Services in Kyrgyzstan

Our efforts focus on three core areas:

1. Community Engagement

Communities represent populations that access health systems and know best what is needed to build strong and inclusive health systems which respond to their needs. To this end, we support and strengthen communities' participation and inclusion in the management, implementation and oversight of GHI-funded projects and related processes, with a particular focus on empowering and mobilizing key and vulnerable populations.

2. Coordination and governance

Functional governance is critical for resilient and responsive health systems. At the same time, efforts and contributions of national and international partners need to be coordinated to address critical gaps and create synergies. By improving coordination and governance, the project strengthens accountability of stakeholders and supports effective evidence-based decision making in programming, prioritization and allocation of the funding resources, in particular with regards to Global Fund financing, thereby facilitating the shift away from silo-thinking to a system's approach.

3. Integrated, people-centred health systems (IPCHS)

IPCHS address an individual's multiple health needs along their lifespan. At a service delivery level, IPCHS lowers barriers for accessing health services, especially for marginalized populations. Therefore, the project adopts this system's perspectives and supports the integration of parallel funding streams from global initiatives as well as their integration into national programmes and strategies. Integrating HIV-, TB- and Malaria services financed by the Global Fund more sustainably into partner countries' health systems helps bridging disease-specific financing silos.

Following a **human-rights based approach**, the project also actively **promotes gender equity** and addresses the needs of **key and vulnerable populations** in all activities.

Our success stories

First commissioned in 2002, the project has implemented more than 800 measures with partners in approximately 90 countries and has developed effective forms of collaboration to strengthen health systems in partner countries.

Since the beginning of the current phase in 2020, we have reinforced national governance structures in 12 countries s.a. the Country Coordinating Mechanisms responsible for the planning and oversight of Global Fund programmes, and supported some 70 public institutions and 50 civil society organisations (CSOs), who are key actors in national health systems.

In the Global Fund's current grant cycle, we supported the funding request development in 16 recipient countries, which is a critical process to strategise and plan interventions that shape the direction of countries' health systems. For example, in Malawi, our support has enabled the participation of 68 CSO in the process to address the needs of communities and key groups. This way, we leverage global funding to focus on strategic areas of health system strengthening.

Other examples from our focus countries include:

In **Nigeria**, to improve access to integrated health services in Gombe state, the project supported the development of a digital social registry. By mobilizing a broad coalition of communities and civil society representatives, the digital registry accurately captures poor and vulnerable populations and enables their subsequent enrollment into the state's Basic Health Care Provision Fund (BHCPF), allowing them access to free basic health care incl. HIV, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria services. As of January 2024, some 50 000 beneficiaries have been enrolled into the BHCPF. More importantly, the digital registry has enabled further financial support from financing partners such as the Global Fund, which helps to ensure continued access to those services. The digital registry is also being used as a continuous source of data for social interventions.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, BACKUP Health strengthened the quality of care in people-centred integrated HIV and TB services at the primary health care level. From 2021 to 2023, the project provided technical assistance to the Ministry of Health of Kyrgyzstan in developing and implementing a training to enhance interpersonal communication and counselling skills of health workers, especially taking into account the needs of key and vulnerable populations. From May to September 2022, the training has been delivered to 10 facilities and around 280 health workers. Following an integrated, people-centred approach, this measure has contributed to improved treatment adherence and patient satisfaction. Now the training has been integrated into the national curriculum. This approach will be rolled out in Tajikistan in a next step.

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