

PharmaVax Ghana Programme

Strengthening the Ghanaian Pharmaceutical Sector with a Focus on Vaccine Production

Background

Ghana imports 70 % of the pharmaceutical products and 100 % of the vaccines it needs. As in many African nations, this reliance on imported pharmaceutical products is straining both the economy and public health security. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the vulnerabilities inherent in this dependency, highlighting the importance for self-reliance and resilient healthcare systems.

Ghana is therefore embarking on an ambitious initiative aimed at enhancing local manufacturing capacities for vaccines and medicines to foster availability and accessibility. The pharmaceutical sector has also been identified as an anchor industry for Ghana's industrial transformation and the creation of decent jobs. On the one hand, Ghana's pharmaceutical industry faces challenges such as cost-intensive procurement of primary products from abroad, a lack of product diversification, high financing costs and a lack of the necessary technologies, technical capacities and skilled workforce.

Programme name	Strengthening the Ghanaian Pharmaceutical Sector with a Focus on Vaccine Production (PharmaVax Ghana)
Team Europe Initiative	Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+)
Donors	European Union (EU) German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Volume	€33 million (EU: €23.1 million, BMZ: €9.9 million)
Duration	July 2024 to March 2028
Implementing agency	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Political partner	Ministry of Finance, Republic of Ghana

On the other hand, market opportunities are growing and the industry has a strong basis to build on, such as a network of existing local manufacturers, international collaborations for technology transfer, supply, skills development and research, as well as an enabling policy framework. Ghana thus has the potential to become one of the regional vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing hubs in Africa.

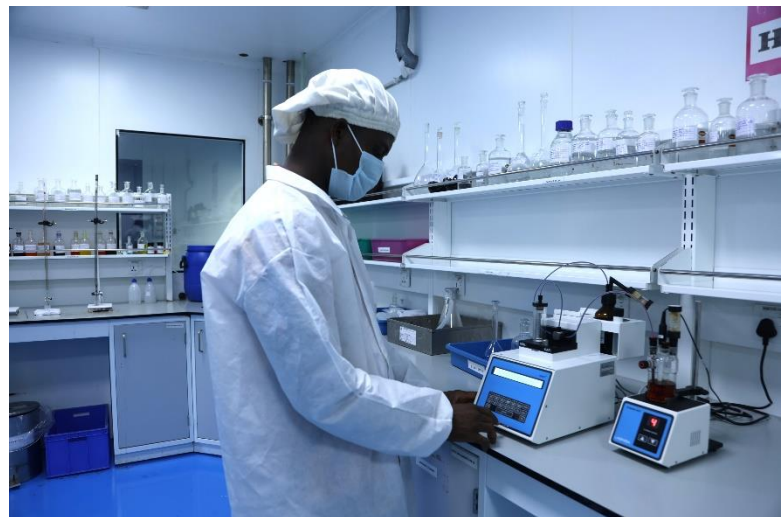
Approach

Building on this momentum, the European Union (EU) and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) are co-financing the programme “Strengthening the Ghanaian Pharmaceutical Sector with a Focus on Vaccine Production” (PharmaVax Ghana), implemented by GIZ.

Ghana’s Ministry of Finance is the programme’s political partner, with the Ministry of Trade, Agribusiness and Industry and the National Vaccine Institute being the key Ghanaian implementing partners. The programme also works in collaboration with the Food and Drugs Authority, line ministries for health, education and sciences, Ghana’s pharmaceutical manufacturers, private sector associations as well as relevant research and training institutions and it will create linkages with other African, European and international stakeholders.

The programme’s specific objective is to build a conducive public and private ecosystem of Ghana’s pharmaceutical industry to enable more competitive local manufacturing of pharmaceutical products and vaccines. In particular, it focuses on four key result areas:

- **Governance & Regulation:** Enhancing the capacities of public institutions to effectively govern, coordinate and regulate pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing.



- **Skills Development:** Supporting sustainable, practice-oriented and gender-responsive vocational, higher education and specialist training programmes for the pharmaceutical industry.
- **Research & Development:** Fostering applied pharmaceutical and vaccine R&D capacities of Ghanaian research institutions, in particular through partnerships with local industry and international research collaborations.
- **Private Sector Development:** Enabling pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturers to comply with international good manufacturing practices, become attractive for international business partnerships and investment, and grow their markets in Ghana and beyond.

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Project GIZ – PharmaVax Ghana
Capital Place (Block A), 11 Patrice Lumumba Road
Airport residential area - Accra - Ghana
www.giz.de

Contact Holger Till, Head of Programme,
PharmaVaxGH@giz.de

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