

# European Union actions to ensure better health for all in a changing world

APRIL 2024

Good health is the foundation for fair and resilient societies. The EU is adapting to growing health threats and taking steps to improve prevention, preparedness and response, notably through the **European Health Union** and the new **EU Global Health Strategy**. Team Europe initiatives under the **Global Gateway** are helping to improve health security and increase health systems resilience around the world. The EU has shown strong commitment to the pandemic agreement negotiations and revision of the International Health Regulations. The EU also works closely with the **G7**, **G20** and other global, regional and bilateral partners to ensure better health for all.

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## Looking back: Keeping people safe during the pandemic

The EU's role in fighting the COVID-19 pandemic reaffirmed EU's commitment to multilateralism, solidarity, and making major contributions to global objectives through the Team Europe approach.

- € 53.7 billion to help partner countries cope with the COVID-19 health emergency.
- Over 190 million **medical and personal protective equipment items** such as masks and ventilators distributed through the Civil Protection Mechanism to third countries.
- More than half a billion **vaccine doses donated** and over €5 billion provided in grants and loans, making Team Europe one of the biggest donors of COVAX.
- 3.1 billion COVID-19 **vaccine doses exported** from the EU.
- More than €1.7 billion in R&D **investments in COVID-19 vaccines** from the EU and Member States, which accounted for 28% of global investments.
- More than 2.2 billion **EU Digital COVID Certificates** issued in Europe by summer 2023.
- 78 **countries** and territories connected to the **EU Gateway** to verify Certificates.
- €43 billion of Recovery and Resilience Facility (RRF) resources earmarked to strengthen **resilience of Member States' health systems**.

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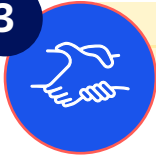


## Ensuring greater EU health security under the European Health Union

The EU has built a European Health Union in which all EU countries prepare and respond together to health crises, ensure access to medical supplies, and work together to address health challenges.

- A **stronger EU health security framework**, enshrined in law, with better preparedness planning, surveillance, and coordination between Member States.
- A **reinforced EU Health Security Committee** as a key mechanism for coordinated response.
- A **more robust European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control** and **European Medicines Agency**, so that they are fit for today's world.
- Creation of an **EU cross-agency One Health Taskforce** (ECDC, ECHA, EEA, EFSA, EMA).
- A new **Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority** (HERA) that strengthens Europe's ability to prevent, detect, and respond to cross-border health emergencies through medical countermeasures.
- A **EU4Health programme**, with a €2.6 billion **budget** for contributions that enhance EU health security.

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### Mobilising resources for global health and combating cross-border health threats

Good health, and good global health, are investments in our health security and in the future of our societies and our planet. The EU is backing its goals and its partners with concrete support.

- Team Europe **contributions to the Pandemic Fund worth €735 million** i.e. close to half of all pledges – making the EU and its Member States the largest donor.
- **A €353 million Team Europe Initiative** in 2022-2027 **on Sustainable Health Security** using a One Health approach to strengthen prevention, preparedness and response to infectious threats and anti-microbial resistance in African countries.
- **€715 million** Team Europe **contributions to the Global Fund** to fight against AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria in 2023-2025, constituting around 30% of the budget.
- **Contribution to Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**, of **€300 Million** for 2021-2025.

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### Improving information sharing, threat assessment, and research and development

The EU strengthens collaboration with global partners to gather intelligence, detect health threats, build surveillance capabilities, as well as to share capacity, data and samples. Critical areas of research include HIV, malaria, tropical diseases, vaccines, antimicrobial resistance and digital health.

- **Collaboration with major non-EU centres for disease control (CDCs) and network of major CDCs** established by ECDC for timely exchange of information and expertise.
- Support to **capacity building for African CDC (ACDC) and African Medicines Agency**.
- Open science approaches backed up recently by **€52 million** infrastructure **investments to support sharing life sciences data and biological samples**.
- Partnership with **64 countries** on **EU chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear (CBRN) Risk Mitigation Centres of Excellence**.
- **€8.2 billion** to support **international collaborations on health research and innovation**, including more than **€140 million** in 2024 to accelerate vaccine research, clinical trials, and the development of effective treatments in vulnerable countries.
- **€1.6 billion** to support the **EU-Africa Global Health Clinical Trials Partnership programme** in the fight against poverty-related, neglected and emerging infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa.
- Over **500 000 global users of Copernicus** services, and access to **analyses of climate change risks to health** through the European Climate and Health Observatory.





## Improving access to health products through resilient supply chains, manufacturing capacities and health innovations

The EU and its Member States improve global access and distribution of health products through resilient supply chains, local manufacturing and by providing 36% of all global humanitarian aid.

- **€1.3 billion Team Europe initiative to boost manufacturing of vaccines, medicines and health technologies** in Africa (MAV+).
- EU commitment to contribute to the **new African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)** co-created by Gavi and the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, to be launched in June 2024.
- Partnerships with the US, South Korea, Japan and the World Health Organization on **production of medical countermeasures to support third countries**.
- **€1.6 billion partnership** with the European Investment Bank and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation **to enhance health systems and health innovations**.
- **€170 million** from the **EU Civil Protection Mechanism** and **European Humanitarian Response Capacity** to respond to the Africa Centres to disease outbreaks in 2017-2021.
- **€1.9 billion for rescEU** capacity to respond to emergencies in the EU and beyond, including **23 medical and CBRN stockpiles**, the world's three largest field hospitals, **18 specialised care teams**, as well as medical evacuation and CBRN decontamination capacity.
- Emergency Toolbox activated **214 times in 2022-2023** as **first-line response to emergencies outside the EU**, including funding for the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement in disease outbreaks.
- Over 140 000 tonnes of **humanitarian aid to Ukraine**, worth **€60 million**, and evacuation of over 3000 Ukrainian patients to hospitals in **22 European countries**.

#EUGlobalHealthStrategy  
#GlobalGateway

*Health threats do not stop at borders. Health is a global common good.*

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