

European Union Leadership in Global Health Innovation: A STRATEGIC OPPORTUNITY



Every **€1** invested
in Global Health Research
and Innovation (R&I)
generates a societal
return of **€405**.



The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the critical importance of EU investment in health preparedness and research for rapid response to transnational health challenges. It has also reinforced the EU's pivotal role in promoting global public health, equality, and sustainable development through international cooperation, such as Global Gateway.

Despite these lessons, significant gaps remain in addressing global health issues such as **poverty-related and neglected diseases, antimicrobial resistance (AMR), and women's health** which disproportionately affect marginalized communities in low- and middle-income countries.

As the **new European Parliament and Commission** take office, they have an opportunity to reinvigorate global health initiatives, fulfilling commitments to the **Global Health Strategy** and **Sustainable Development Goals**.

While the EU has committed to developing policies and research solutions for a sustainable global future, there is compelling evidence that EU-funded global health R&I also strengthens its internal priorities of **competitiveness, health security, and geopolitical interests**.

Global Health Innovation is a Smart Investment for EU Competitiveness, Security and Geopolitical Goals

A new **Impact Global Health report** shows that funding for global health R&I delivers exceptional returns, boosts European economic activity and competitiveness, scientific excellence, creates high-quality jobs, and attracts private co-investment.

The report maps what the EU has invested so far, forecasts future **investments needed to complete the pipeline** and models the impact that will be achieved. If EU investments in neglected disease R&I are sustained, the resulting global health innovations could achieve the following **transformative outcomes by 2040**:



€12.8 BN

in additional economic
activity



Over 6,000

high-quality jobs created
in Europe



€1.3 BN

leveraged private R&I
co-investments



**1.45 M
lives saved**

**by new neglected
disease products
enabled by EU
R&I funding**



**101 M
DALYs¹
averted**



**186 M
cases
averted**

**for the period
between
2000-2040**

**This will amount
to an overall
societal return of
€1.63
trillion
generated by
the EU by 2040.²**

The report also highlights the EU's role in addressing **AMR** and the rising threat of neglected disease vectors, exacerbated by climate change. Investments through initiatives like **Global Health EDCTP3** strengthen Europe's health security and geopolitical influence through equitable, mutually beneficial partnerships.

Strengthening Global Health Innovation in the EU: A Roadmap

EU-funded R&I supported groundbreaking global health innovations, including **COVID-19** vaccines,³ and the first-ever vaccines for **Dengue**,⁴ **Malaria**,⁵ and **Chikungunya**.⁶ It also contributed to new treatments for **Sleeping Sickness**,⁷ **Schistosomiasis** in children⁸ and Malaria in pregnant women with **HIV**,⁹ as well as to new rapid tests for **TB**¹⁰ and **Ebola**.¹¹

Building on those success stories, EU policymakers have the crucial opportunity to continue working toward a stronger EU global health innovation ecosystem.

At the same time, this will be fundamental to achieving forthcoming policy priorities, such as the **EU Life Sciences Strategy**, the **EU Biotech Act**, and the future preparedness targets of **HERA**.

Key actions to achieve these goals, starting with the next European Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (FP10):



► **PRIORITISING GLOBAL HEALTH R&I INVESTMENTS** focusing on areas with unmet needs at a global level and that require public support to overcome market failures.

► **ADVANCING EQUITY AND DIVERSITY**, funding research aimed at closing the gender health gap and delivering innovations in women's health.

► **CREATING THE RIGHT MIX OF PUSH AND PULL INCENTIVES** to feed health innovation pipelines and pull products through development to deliver technologies that are affordable, accessible and adequate for those who need them most.

► **PROMOTING INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND SYNERGIES** through global partnerships such as EDCTP3 and CEPI, mobilising Global Gateway investments to drive R&I and maximise its impact, and fostering mutually beneficial collaborations with key regions for Europe's geopolitical goals, such as Africa.

1. Disability-Adjusted Life Years
2. Estimating the value of the average year of life saved by neglected disease R&D –16,000 EUR
3. [https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOLE_STU\(2023\)740072](https://www.europarl.europa.eu/thinktank/en/document/IPOLE_STU(2023)740072)
4. <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/804744>
5. <https://www.edctp.org/news/rtss-as01-malaria-vaccine-edctp-contributions-and-next-steps/>
6. <https://cepi.net/chikungunya>
7. <https://www.edctp.org/news/ema-gives-positive-opinion-of-fexinidazole-winthrop-as-first-oral-treatment-of-acute-form-of-sleeping-sickness-rhodesiense-found-in-east-and-southern-africa/>
8. <https://www.edctp.org/news/ema-recommends-arpraziquantel-for-treatment-of-schistosomiasis-in-preschool-aged-children/>
9. <https://publications.edctp.org/international-partnerships-against-infectious-diseases/mamah>
10. <https://www.edctp.org/projects-2/success-stories/tb-diagnostics/>
11. <https://www.ih.europa.eu/projects-results/project-factsheets/ebola>

Scan to explore
the **Impact Global Health** report

