

# EU INVESTMENT IN GLOBAL HEALTH A LIFE-SAVING SCIENTIFIC SUCCESS STORY

**Poverty-related and neglected diseases (PRNDs)**, such as HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs), affect more than a billion people worldwide. Yet tools to prevent, diagnose, treat and cure PRNDs remain scarce due to chronic underinvestment and weak market incentives for research and innovation (R&I). EU programmes have delivered much-needed progress!

→ **The next multiannual financial framework (MFF 2028 – 2034), the tenth R&I framework programme (Horizon Europe/FP10), the new European Competitiveness Fund (ECF), and an ambitious successor to the Global Health EDCTP3 Joint Undertaking need to build on this success to harness the full potential return on investment!**

## EU TOOLKIT

### EU Research and Innovation Framework Programmes

Horizon Europe and prior programmes committed to supporting PRND R&I through their legal bases and have funded projects ranging from investigator-driven basic research to collaborative preclinical studies.

→ **This explicit acknowledgement of global health and PRND R&I should be re-introduced in the FP10 regulation.**

### The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (Global Health EDCTP3)

between the EU, its Member States and sub-Saharan African Countries is a dedicated instrument for PRND R&I and focuses on clinical trials and capacity building.

→ **FP10 and negotiations of future Joint Undertakings need to foresee an ambitious successor partnership – ‘EDCTP4’.**

### EU-Medicines4all Procedure of the European Medicines Agency (EMA)

Previously known as “Article 58”, it provides scientific opinions on medicines, including vaccines that address an unmet medical need outside the EU.

→ **The EMA’s assessment can help national regulators to decide on the use of a health tool in their country, accelerating patient access.**

### Other Channels

The **Innovative Health Initiative (IHI)** and its predecessors **Innovative Medicines Initiatives (IMI1+2)**, loans granted through the **InnovFin Infectious Diseases Finance Facility** of the European Investment Bank, and funding provided through the EU’s external action have all contributed to the EU’s global health efforts.

### Future Channels

The Health Emergency Preparedness and Response Authority (HERA) could reinforce the global health emergency preparedness and response architecture through

→ **Investments in PRND R&I and in addressing infectious diseases impacted by climate change.**

## ACHIEVEMENTS

### BREAKTHROUGH VACCINES



Malaria



Dengue



Chikungunya



COVID-19



Ebola



Promising TB vaccine candidates in the pipeline

### NEW TREATMENTS AND FORMULATIONS



Sleeping sickness



Leishmaniasis



Schistosomiasis in children



Malaria in pregnant people



HIV in children

### INNOVATIVE DIAGNOSTIC TOOLS



New rapid TB test



Portable Ebola test

### REGULATORY ACHIEVEMENTS



Revised WHO guidelines



Strengthened regulatory systems



91 countries authorised new medicines

# EU INVESTMENT DELIVERS RESULTS!

## MALARIA



The EU contributed to development of and access to the **first-ever malaria vaccine** (RTS,S/AS01) through EDCTP funding and an EMA scientific opinion under EU-M4all. EU-funded projects also developed **insecticide treated nets** reducing mosquitoes in the house by up to 90%, and **rapid diagnostic tests** suitable for low-resource settings.

The not-for-profit Product Development Partnership (PDP) Medicines for Malaria Venture (MMV) received EU funding to launch Coartem Baby and Pyramax, the **first malaria medicines safe for newborns, young infants, and for pregnant women with HIV**.

## TUBERCULOSIS



Globally, more than half of the **promising TB vaccine candidates**, such as MBTVAC, currently in Phase III trials, have originated in EU-funded projects from FP7 onwards, showing the importance of long-term R&I funding.

Supported by the Joint Undertaking Innovative Health Initiative (IHI), FIND developed **diagnostics against multidrug-resistant TB**, enabling timely detection of emerging resistance, and TBAlliance and partners are advancing promising drug candidates, e.g. as part of the UNITE4TB project.

## HIV and AIDS



Thanks to the EDCTP-funded CHAPAS trial, a **new child-friendly formulation** combining antiretroviral drugs was developed and serves to increase African children's access to treatment.

Evidence from EDCTP-funded projects on more effective ways to prevent mother-to-child transmission was taken up in **revised WHO guidelines**.

## NEGLECTED TROPICAL DISEASES



After backing the PDP Drugs for Neglected Disease Initiative (DNDI) in developing the **first new sleeping sickness treatment in 25 years**, Fexinidazole, EDCTP also supported a new **single dose oral treatment**, Acoziborole, which recently received a positive scientific opinion under EU-M4all.

EU funding also supported a consortium in the development of safer, more field-adapted and **patient-friendly treatments for visceral leishmaniasis**, one of the world's deadliest parasitic diseases.

An EDCTP-supported project is delivering **guidance on more effective ways to screen, diagnose and treat patients with skin conditions, such as leprosy** affecting some of the most underserved communities in three countries in Africa.

## EMERGING INFECTIOUS DISEASES (EIDs)



IMI funding contributed to the development of an Ebola diagnostic tool for low-resource settings that reduces infection risk exposure at treatment centres by enabling home testing. It also contributed to the development of some of the **first Ebola vaccine regimens** including Zabdeno and Mvabea.

EDCTP co-founded LEAPWA, a large Phase IIb Lassa fever vaccine trial partnership that included IAVI, CEPI, and various research centres in Liberia, Nigeria, and Sierra Leone, which has **enhanced durable regional capacities for EID vaccine trials**.

### GEOPOLITICAL INFLUENCE

International cooperation in health R&I with strategic regions such as Africa places the EU at the forefront of science diplomacy and global medical innovation.

### THE VALUE OF BASIC RESEARCH

Basic research creates new ideas and feeds the innovation pipeline. More basic science is still needed to address poverty-related and neglected diseases.

### THE BENEFIT OF FAILURE

Most pre-clinical candidates do not reach late-stage testing or approval, but so-called failed studies produce valuable knowledge for researchers and health systems.

### EU ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Investing 1 EUR in global health R&I returns 405 EUR, while creating high-quality jobs domestically and boosting scientific excellence.

## POSITIVE RIPPLE EFFECTS OF GLOBAL HEALTH R&I

### HEALTH SECURITY

PRND R&I expertise was crucial to rapidly find innovative solutions to COVID-19, and it is crucial for EU preparedness against AMR and climate-related diseases.

### CAPACITY BUILDING ACROSS THE WHOLE R&D PIPELINE

EDCTP supports the training of hundreds of African researchers each year. It also funds research infrastructure and supports the strengthening of ethics reviews and regulatory systems in sub-Saharan Africa.

### CLOSING THE GENDER R&I GAP

Advancing women's health requires reversing the historic systemic neglect of gender in medical R&I, and clinical trials. EDCTP has prioritised underserved or excluded groups and improved standards, including for pregnant and breastfeeding women.