

KNCV recommendations on Dutch policy on Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation

The Netherlands is host to many strongholds of expertise in life sciences and global health (e.g. AMR, infectious diseases and infection control, health system financing etc) and joining forces will be to the benefit of all. The Dutch private sector has for many countries much to offer in terms of innovative approaches and health system strengthening interventions. At the same time, joint responses to national and international challenges have a clear added value to an open economy and society as the Netherlands.

The role of the public sector lies in formulating and implementing an integrated approach on global health. Implementation can consist of facilitation and representation at high level towards other governments, and influencing global policy making in EU, UN, WHO and other relevant fora, like G20. An integrated approach also requires a common vision on public private partnerships, seed funding for innovation and investing in technological development and human resources.

Thus the elements for a new Dutch policy that the [Clingendael Report](#)¹ “*Why the Netherlands should step up its ambitions on global health*” argue for include:

- a) An open, broad and continuously evolving sector assessment where the Netherlands value added (with private, NGO, academic and public actors) is in relation to the *international* global health agenda and the health system priorities of *Dutch development & trade focus* regions, including emerging economies.
- b) Defining an interdepartmental vision and holistically defined ambition of Dutch engagement in global health (through private, NGO, academic and public actors).
- c) Defining areas for supportive/enabling government engagement in global health policy platforms
- d) How instruments for investment stimulation may be shaped.
- e) This vision to be implemented through a Special Envoy for Global Health, charged with delivering the Dutch global health agenda through interdepartmental cooperation and coordination.
- f) Basing the Global Health policy on a longer term strategic vision which is solidly anchored in the SDG and UHC agenda and aligned / coherent with Dutch national health, migratory pressures, climate and security considerations.
- g) Basing the Global Health policy on an economic and financial risk assessment, e.g. ‘prevention is better than cure’, and the aversion of costly lapses in prevention (such as prevention of AMR).
- h) Restoring a *health system* and *sustainable finance* focus within our development policy for global health. We recommend aiming to support and incentivize countries with the building of Resilient and Sustainable Systems for Health while investing domestic resources to address the actual challenges of disease and equitable access in country health systems.

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