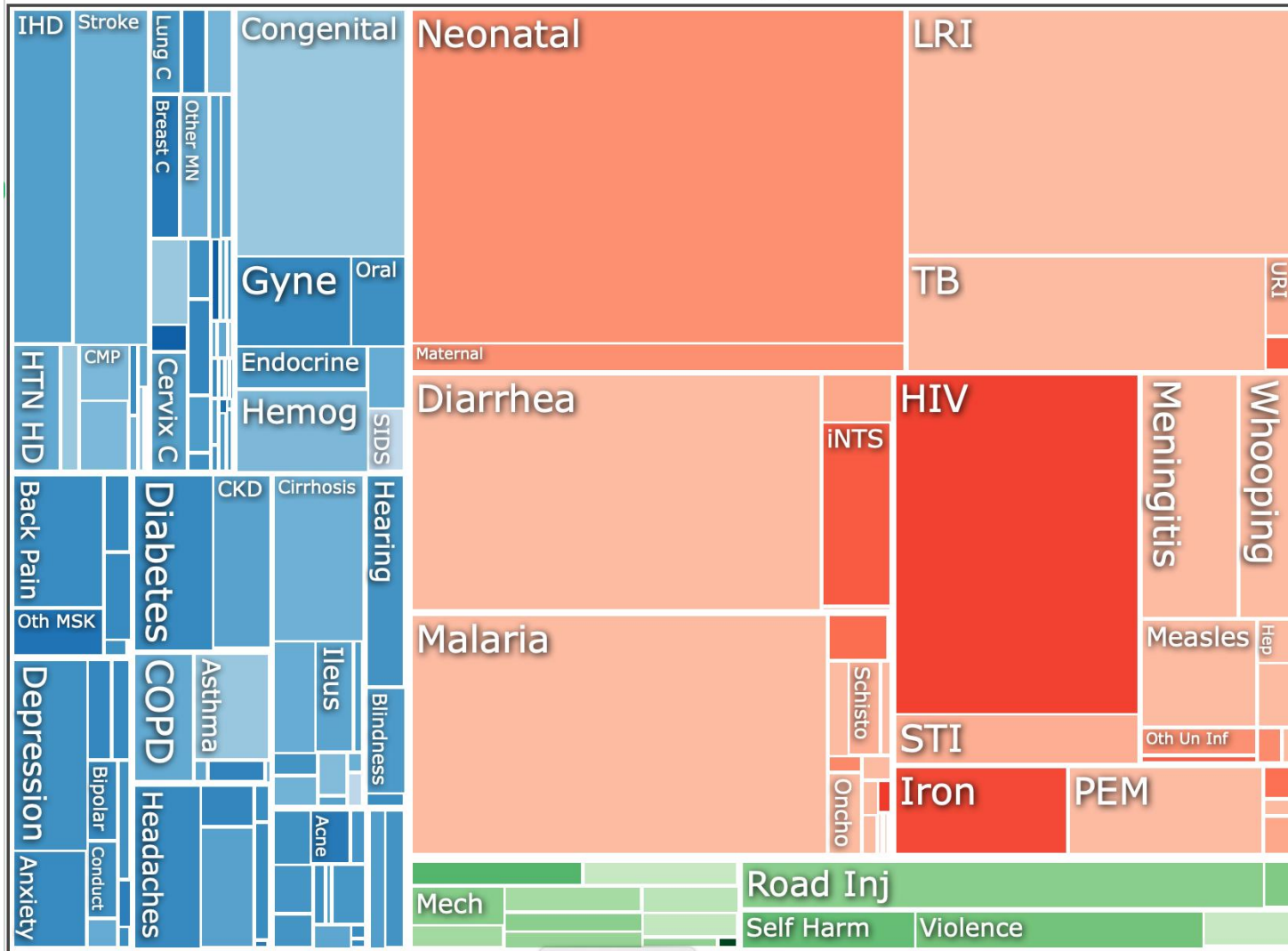


Foreign trade and development cooperation

| | Priority in the Government of Netherlands Foreign Trade and Development Cooperation Document (Dec 2021) | Comments from Dr. Lawrence Haddad, Executive Director of the Global Alliance for Nutrition (GAIN) and Winner of the 2018 World Food Prize |
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| 1. | The Netherlands will conduct an active trade policy , with trade and investment treaties (such as CETA) as a major instrument. We will press for these treaties to set high standards for fair production, human rights, food safety, sustainable growth and climate action. | Food safety standards and infrastructure that are developed for export rarely serve “double duty” to improve the food safety in domestic informal markets of the exporters. The Gov of NL can change that. |
| 2. | At the same time, we will protect Dutch businesses from unwanted investments and unfair competition . We will support both larger businesses and SMEs so that they can be successful in the wider world. We will make our trade instruments greener, in line with the provisions of the Paris and Glasgow agreements. | Here a B2B initiative to support African SMEs would have benefits for larger Dutch businesses via the building of understanding and trust in potentially new markets, while supporting SMEs to grow and develop. |
| 3. | At EU level, the Netherlands will support legislation on international corporate social responsibility (ICSR) , and will introduce national ICSR legislation that promotes a level playing field with neighbouring countries and is in line with the implementation of possible EU legislation. | A percentage of profits to ICSR could fund the B2B programme mentioned above in priority 2. |
| 4. | We will promote arbitration where possible through the new multilateral investment court or national institutions, and by making supplementary mechanisms transparent. | |
| 5. | We will structurally raise spending on development cooperation by €500 million a year to move closer to complying with the international norm, and will spend these extra funds on the global vaccines programme COVAX, on helping developing countries make a new green start on climate mitigation and adaptation, and on reception in the region (possibly as part of broader migration agreements). | All 3 are worthy goals. A new green start for African and some low middle income countries is essential because while their GHG emissions are low per person, their population continues to rise and per person emissions will also rise as income grows. This will mean more animal source food production and consumption which has to become MUCH more efficient to decouple future GHG emissions. This is an obvious business opportunity for Dutch businesses—to help make animal sourced food production greener. |
| 6. | We will ensure that development cooperation policy is focused on making a greater contribution to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and addressing the root causes of poverty, terrorism, migration and climate change. We will pursue these ambitious goals together with national partners, including civil society, and international partners. | Not quite sure what this means. It could mean addressing undernutrition which leads to poverty, and conflict. It could also mean education or good governance. |
| 7. | We will develop a Dutch Global Health Strategy and aim to eliminate HIV, in the framework of sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), and tuberculosis by 2030. | This should connect strongly to 8 below. Diets are the main driver of the burden of disease in nearly all countries, whether low, middle or high income. HIV=6.99% of Burden of Disease (DALYs) in SS Africa. Food related burdens are 8.22% for Diarrhoea + 1.33% Iron Deficiency + Protein energy malnutrition 1.5% = 11% (see figure below) |
| 8. | We will also formulate a dedicated Africa strategy , aimed at encouraging economic development founded on equality, reducing poverty, improving respect for human rights and limiting irregular migration. | This should centre firmly on food systems. Food is the biggest broad based economic business in Africa. Africa has enormous potential but needs catalytic support in areas of policy, technology, capacity development, and investment. The Netherlands is a leader in the kind of public-private partnerships that African food systems need so they can power food systems outcomes like reducing hunger and malnutrition, promoting biodiversity, reducing GHG emissions, promoting livelihoods and building resilience. |

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| | | The invasion of Ukraine just makes this all the more urgent as already high prices of food are due to skyrocket in Africa and elsewhere due to shortages in grain production, high fertilizer costs, high energy costs, and the high cost of borrowing. |
| 9. | Part of the development cooperation budget will still be available for emergency aid , for example through Dutch partners like the Dutch Relief Alliance. The emergency aid budget will include funds for the provision of psychosocial care. | <p>Excellent that psychosocial care will be addressed. The psychosocial scars persist long after the physiological ones have.</p> <p>The Netherlands can also be a bridge between the development and emergency worlds. Too often emergency work undermines future development prospects (e.g. by continuing to support unsustainable practices long after the emergency has passed) and too often development work creates potential for future emergencies (e.g. focusing on too few crops, too few growing areas, and too few income sources). The persistence of the most sensitive form of child undernutrition (wasting) is an example of how the poorest and most vulnerable have to bear the burden of false division.</p> |

Sub-Saharan Africa
Both sexes, All ages, 2019, DALYs



<https://vizhub.healthdata.org/gbd-compare/>