

Dutch GHS internetconsultatie

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IAVI supplemental document

The current Dutch global health strategy has been informed by an approach with three main priorities: 1) Health systems strengthening, 2) Pandemic preparedness and response, and 3) National and international coherence. These priorities are sensible and already cover a broad range of activity. At the same time, we see that additional attention is needed for existing and evolving strategic partnerships, especially those involving global health research and development (R&D).

Additional support for strategic partnerships is needed

BuZa has generously supported other global health initiatives, including committing more than €300 million to Gavi and €150 million for the Global Fund. In addition, **we also need to ensure a strong pipeline of new tools in the future to use this funding as cost-efficient and effective as possible.** This means ensuring an aligned and strong investment in things such as the rollout of antiretroviral drugs are balanced by investments in R&D, to ensure our global health response remains sustainable over the longer term and the products designed do respond to the needs and preferences of the populations they serve. **Funding from the Dutch Government is also a force multiplier in that it helps PDPs to attract additional investments from other donors such as the European Commission,** as well as private donors and industry partners.

Investing in **PDPs is a cost-effective way** to drive global health and development priorities. This is because they are a cost-effective way of saving lives and boosting economies by preventing and treating disease; but also by building local R&D capacity and strengthening health systems, they reduce overall costs of treating and preventing disease. PDPs are consistently able to develop products at costs below those of the private sector, and by pooling and leveraging funding from different sources, can spread risk effectively across investors and donor governments. From a donor perspective, **the products that PDPs develop are essential to achieve universal health coverage and the UN 2030 Sustainable Development Goals.** And finally (as recent experience with COVID-19 shows) investing in health R&D and pandemic prevention in the short term has **the potential to generate huge economic benefits in the longer term.**

Commitment to integrated approaches is essential

Close collaboration and inter-sectoral work are increasingly advocated for within the global health field. Health systems strengthening requires not only increased financing for ministries of health, but also a serious recognition of the roles played by scientists, civil society, pharmaceutical companies, and local governments. Accordingly, a Dutch global health strategy should prioritize the integration of efforts and investments made all over the world. This includes investment in poverty-related diseases or neglected diseases – areas that disproportionately affect marginalized and vulnerable groups and are the result of various forms of inequality.

The Netherlands can be a leader in transparency during pandemics by recognizing the failures and inconsistencies of the COVID-19 pandemic and creating a strategy for a better response in the future. Such a strategy might include recognizing the multi-sectoral nature of pandemic response, including societal groups and the health sector to steer the decision-making process, and relying on existing structures to quickly develop vaccines. The government should also publicly acknowledge investment in scientific expertise, academia, and industry capabilities for preparing for and responding to pandemic threats.

About IAVI

IAVI is a nonprofit organization dedicated to developing vaccines and antibodies for HIV, tuberculosis, emerging infectious diseases, and neglected diseases. Our mission is to translate scientific discoveries into affordable, globally accessible public health solutions. As a current partner of the Dutch government in developing accessible products for HIV, TB, and other emerging infectious diseases, we recognize the importance of commitments to global health in general, and for research and development in particular. IAVI has several exciting products currently in the development pipeline, including mRNA vaccine for HIV, injectable broadly neutralizing antibodies, and vaccines for TB and Lassa fever. By working with local communities and clinical research partners, we prioritize the accessibility of new products from the earliest stages of development to the manufacture and roll-out in the places where they are needed most.