



# German contribution to promoting local vaccine and pharmaceutical production in Africa

## Context

- Only about **1% of vaccines** used in Africa are produced on the continent, leaving Africa **critically dependent** on global supply chains.
- Therefore, expanding **vaccine and pharmaceutical production capacity** in African countries is an important **instrument** for **pandemic prevention and control around the world, as well as** for the control of common infectious diseases such as malaria and tuberculosis.
- The **African Union (AU)** has committed itself to **produce 60% of required vaccines in Africa by 2040**.
- **Since 2021, Germany** has been supporting the **AU and its member states** in working towards this goal and invests primarily in **Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa**. This includes contributions by the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (**BMZ**), the Federal Ministry of Health (**BMG**) and the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (**BMBF**).
- The aim is to **create an enabling environment along the entire value chain** for vaccine and pharmaceutical production, as it is not enough to simply build a factory – it is also necessary to create a suitable environment.
- This requires: training of **experts** in vaccine and pharmaceutical production; the establishment and strengthening of **regulatory authorities** for approving locally produced medical products and for quality assurance; building local entrepreneurial environments; **infrastructure** development and **access to finance**; as well as **technology transfer** and targeted support to make products produced in Africa competitive.

- The German contribution is embedded in a European approach in collaboration with the European Commission and other EU member states. As part of the **Team Europe Initiative (MAV+)**, **access to and production of** vaccine and pharmaceutical production in Africa is promoted.
- Private sector initiatives and corporate partnerships are needed to develop production capacity. **BioNTech**, for example, inaugurated a **modular production facility (“BioNTainers”)** for **mRNA vaccines in Rwanda in December 2023**.

## German engagement in detail

### Regional and global support

- **Germany (BMZ, BMG) promotes the knowledge transfer in the area of mRNA technology** through cooperation with the WHO mRNA technology transfer programme in South Africa.
- **Germany (BMZ, BMG) supports the regional harmonisation and strengthening of regulation**, e.g. the development of the future **African Medicines Agency (AMA)**.
- At the board of the **Vaccine Alliance Gavi** Germany lobbied for Gavi's procurement processes to be adjusted to include more vaccines that are produced in Africa. To this end, a new financing mechanism was established, the **African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)**, which supports local manufacturers to become competitive.
- **BMBF supports product development partnerships (PDPs)** worldwide, funding the development of and clinical research on malaria

and tuberculosis vaccines. These PDPs also promote the collaboration of different actors.

- BMBF supports the **European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)**. EDCTP accelerates the clinical development of new or improved health technologies for the identification, treatment and prevention of poverty-related and neglected infectious diseases in sub-Saharan Africa. EDCTP funds activities for research capacity building in Africa, supporting researchers' careers and strengthening national health research systems.
- Moreover, BMBF supports the ***Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI)*** in its mission to accelerate the development of vaccines and select biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats and to make them accessible to all people in need.
- **BMZ** facilitates a close dialogue with the German pharmaceutical industry on the provision of knowledge and technologies to other countries. Additionally, there is a **regular exchange with the industry as part of a round table**.
- In addition, BMZ supports **partnerships with the industry** through subsidised programmes and advisory services. This includes a public-private-partnership (**develoPPP project**) between the funding institution **DEG, Siemens** and South African pharmaceutical company **Aspen** on introducing a **digitalized production system**.
- BMZ finances investments in impact investment funds in global health. Those investment funds provide equity and debt to young companies that develop new health products and technologies, with applications in low- and middle-income countries. Several of the companies are members of the "Developing Countries Vaccine Manufacturing Network" (DCVMN).
- **EU-Commission** and BMZ support the South African Development Community (**SADC**) in **developing regional value chains** for HIV medication, Covid-19 vaccines and medication. It also supports the East African Community (**EAC**) with the **development and implementation of regional pharmaceutical production plans**.

→ **BMZ** supports training of experts by EAC's Regional Centre of Excellence for Vaccines, Immunisation and Health Supply Chain Management in Kigali in the fields of pharmaceuticals, quality assurance, governance and vaccinology.

### Bilateral support

- In **Rwanda**, BMZ is supporting the training of experts in vaccine production and the strengthening of the Rwandan regulatory authority.
- In **South Africa**, BMZ is strengthening the conditions for vaccine production and logistics. Measures include training of experts, strengthening of regulation, market analyses, the development of pilot plants and a training lab for vaccine technologies.
- **Ghana** has drawn up a **long-term strategy** with German support for developing its local vaccine industry. BMZ is supporting relevant government agencies, cooperating with the private sector incl. through trainings, and strengthening the regulatory authority together with the EU. The German-European support will be significantly expanded in 2024 to comprehensively strengthen the pharmaceutical ecosystem in Ghana.
- In **Senegal**, BMZ helps to improve conditions to produce vaccines and pharmaceutical products and their distribution in the ECOWAS region. This includes strengthening the regulatory environment for quality assurance, supporting the expansion of company capacities for production and marketing and training measures in cooperation with Institute Pasteur in Dakar.
- **BMG** supports the capacity and the institutional development of **regulatory authorities** and **national control laboratories** with regards to clinical trial approval and oversight, market authorization of medicinal products, pharmacovigilance and post-approval safety monitoring.