



## German contribution to promoting local vaccine and pharmaceutical production in Africa (last revised: July 2023)

### 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**, e.g. for the control of COVID-19, malaria and tuberculosis.
- The African Union (AU) has committed itself to increase the production of locally consumed vaccines from currently 1% to 60% by 2040.
- **Since 2021, Germany** has been supporting the AU and its member states in working towards this goal. So far, Germany has invested **more than 550 million euros** in various projects e.g. 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 **improve conditions of the enabling environment along the supply chain** for vaccine and pharmaceutical production, as it is not enough to simply build a factory.
- This includes: training of **experts** in vaccine and pharmaceutical production and the establishment and strengthening of **regulatory authorities** for approving locally produced medical products and for quality assurance. Moreover, **infrastructure** development and **access to finance** as well as **technology transfer** and targeted support to make products produced in Africa competitive on local **markets**.

- The German contribution is embedded in the **Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+)**. 1.1 billion euros in total were pledged towards the establishment of **regional production in Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa** by the European Commission and EU member states.
- Private sector initiatives and corporate partnerships are needed to develop production capacity. **BioNTech**, for example, has announced the establishment of **mobile production facilities (“BioNTainers”) for mRNA vaccines in Rwanda** – in close consultation with the respective countries and the AU. The modules consisting of six containers arrived in Kigali in March.

### German engagement in detail

#### Regional and global support

- **Germany is promoting knowledge transfer in the area of mRNA technology** through cooperation with the WHO mRNA technology transfer hub in South Africa, funded by BMZ and BMG.
- **BMBF** supports product development partnerships worldwide, funding the development of and clinical research on **malaria and tuberculosis vaccines**. The product development partnerships also promote the collaboration of different actors, including academic and research institutions as well as pharmaceutical and biotechnology companies.
- The **European-African partnership EDCTP**, supported by BMBF, promotes clinical trials in **Sub-Saharan Africa** for the development of novel diagnostics, vaccines and therapies. The aim is to combat poverty-related and neglected

infectious diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

- Moreover, BMBF supports **CEPI** in its mission to accelerate the development of vaccines and other biologic countermeasures against epidemic and pandemic threats and to make them accessible to all people.
- **BMZ** facilitates **intensive dialogue** with the **German pharmaceutical industry** on the provision of knowledge and technologies to other countries. BMZ is providing support to corporate partnerships through funding programmes and the provision of advisory services.
- This includes a funding program for public-private partnerships by BMZ (**develoPPP project**) between the funding institution DEG, Siemens and South African pharmaceutical company Aspen on introducing a **digitalized production system** and training staff accordingly to make production more competitive.
- Moreover, **DEG is providing 144 million euros to a joint financing package** through which several development banks are assisting Aspen in the cost-effective production of medicines and vaccines.
- To increase access to financing of African companies, the KfW development bank provides a **loan to Afreximbank** for up to **250 million euros**. This is being supplemented by BMZ through a project preparation facility – Prep4Vac – amounting to around 12 million euros.

### 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.

- In **Ghana**, BMZ is working with the EU to strengthen the regulatory authority and provides support to promote processes and structures for vaccine production in Ghana (e.g. through training and business partnerships). **The Ghanaian Government** has drawn up a **long-term strategy** for developing the vaccine industry with German support.

- In **Senegal**, BMZ is improving conditions to produce vaccines and pharmaceutical products and their distribution in the ECOWAS region. This includes improving 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** strengthens the capacity and the institutional development of **regulatory authorities** and **national control laboratories** in **Ghana, Senegal, Rwanda, South Africa, Sierra Leone, Gambia, Zimbabwe, Liberia and other countries in West and Southern Africa**. Fields for support include clinical trial approval and oversight, pharmacovigilance and post-approval safety monitoring, marketing authorization of medical products as well as drug quality assurance.

- In **Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe**, BMG strengthens the regulation of products containing blood and blood components. Regulatory requirements are being harmonized across the African continent.

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