

Dutch Global Health Strategy 2023-2030: Working together for health worldwide

Summary

Health challenges are increasingly international, multidimensional and complex. At the same time, there is great inequality; around a third of the world's population has no access to essential health services. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that the public health situation in the Netherlands is intrinsically linked to global developments and challenges.

The government is therefore scaling up the Netherlands' efforts in the field of global health, with a view to better integrated and more innovative collaboration at various levels. The Dutch Global Health Strategy aims to contribute in a coordinated and targeted way to improving public health around the world, and thus also in the Netherlands. These efforts are based on the Sustainable Development Goals – particularly SDG 3, on good health and wellbeing for all. As existing policy will not suffice to achieve this, the strategy provides a framework for more innovation and collaboration. We have outlined a new, integrated and sustainable perspective for the future, designed to provide a healthy world for all.

To ensure maximum effectiveness, the strategy defines clear priorities, based on (a) the biggest global challenges: growing international and intersectoral dependence and increasing inequality; and (b) the unique added value the Netherlands can provide in terms of global health: as a connector promoting multisectoral cooperation; as an innovator sharing knowledge, experience and expertise; and as an advocate championing multilateralism and defending human rights.

Improving global health is a continuous process of: (1) preventing health risks where possible; (2) preparing for and responding to health crises; and (3) strengthening health systems. These three pillars are firmly interconnected. By strengthening coordination and coherence both nationally and internationally, results achieved in one pillar contribute optimally to results in the others. In the strategy, we focus on three priorities:

- 1) Strengthening the global health architecture and national health systems
 - a) Focus area: international coherence and multilateral cooperation;
 - b) Focus area: improved access to primary healthcare and sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR).

- 2) Improving international pandemic preparedness and minimising cross-border health threats
 - a) Focus area: global access to medicines and health products;
 - b) Focus area: strengthened international action on antimicrobial resistance (AMR) and zoonotic diseases policy.

- 3) Addressing the impact of climate change on public health, and vice versa
 - a) Focus area: making healthcare more sustainable and climate-resilient;
 - b) Focus area: international action on climate, water and food.

We will establish an Interdepartmental Steering Group to promote collaboration between ministries and guarantee coherence in government policy. We will also set up a Dutch Global Health Hub with the aim of promoting collaboration between government, the private sector, knowledge institutions and civil society. By working with other countries, multilateral institutions and international financial institutions, we seek to better align global health policy. In this regard, we will examine how collaboration and coordination of priorities and roles with the EU can be strengthened, and how the EU's resources and influence can be more effectively deployed. The principles of One Health, Health in all Policies, policy coherence for development, Do No Harm, and a context-specific and demand-driven approach will guide efforts to strengthen coordination and coherence.

This document presents an outline of a global health strategy and provides a new framework for integrated, government-wide and intersectoral collaboration. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport will jointly coordinate the strategy's further operationalisation.