

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY FOR WORLDWIDE HEALTH SECURITY

SUPPORTING HEALTH INVESTMENTS AMIDST ECONOMIC CRISES

Preventing future epidemics

"The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that we are only as strong as our weakest health system."

António Guterres, Secretary-General of the UN

Recent disease outbreaks, ranging from COVID-19 to Ebola or Mpox, teach us that a delay in responses leads to large-scale loss of lives, a breakdown of fragile health systems, immediate and long-term loss of health workers, and destabilisation of society, trade and economy. Investments in surveillance and pandemic/epidemic preparedness are far less costly. We also learnt that Africa needs its production and supply chains for protective devices, medicines and vaccines and its own data-gathering mechanisms, not to wait for G20 countries to dominate the global market first. Cordaid believes that global solidarity is the only way to prevent future epidemics by ensuring that healthcare systems worldwide are strengthened in this interdependent world.

Cordaid's multi-layered approach to strengthening health systems

- Advocacy for Universal Health Coverage (UHC), particularly in conflict and disaster-affected countries, and advocacy for pandemic preparedness and increased sustained resource mobilisation at global levels, e.g. WHO, GAVI and CEPI.
- Strengthening national health systems through Results-Based Financing, which is by nature flexible and adaptable regarding the range of services and activities covered, for instance, by including payable indicators for early outbreak management.
- Strengthening drug- and vaccine distribution management with national health systems focusing on 'last mile delivery' and equitable access to life-saving drugs and vaccines.



Photo: Wilco van Dijen, Cordaid



Zoom in case

"Twiteho Amagara", a health resilience project in Burundi

"Twiteho Amagara" is a health resilience project in Burundi, funded by the EU since 2019, covering three provinces during a political security crisis with severe negative socio-economic impact on the population. The project, in collaboration with the public sector, aims 1) to strengthen the health system as a whole, 2) to improve access to SRHR services and commodities; 3) to strengthen the responsiveness of health workers and the health system towards humanitarian emergencies and disease outbreaks.

Lessons learnt from this project are (1) a pro-poor approach is a conditional element to enlarging equitable access to assisted deliveries in health facilities; and (2) improving the performance of health professionals through training, supervision, and more (protective) equipment and consumables.

Track record in global health system strengthening

- The Global Health, Global Access project at Cordaid focuses on advocacy towards the Netherlands government regarding increasing the Global Health budget. We hold the secretariat of the Dutch Global Health Alliance, with more than twenty civil society agencies in dialogue with the government.
- In the DRC, in its eastern part, Cordaid has implemented projects to support UHC, particularly the "strategic partnership for lobby and advocacy" (SPLA) project financed by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and implemented between 2016 and 2020. Thanks to this SPLA project, the DRC has aligned itself with UHC with firm commitments from the government through its national development plan and a national strategic plan for UHC coverage. Furthermore, in the context of health financing, Cordaid has implemented several projects on performance-based financing in the DRC.
- The HIV/TB supplies programme (funded by the Global Fund) and an SRHR project in the eastern provinces of DRC (funded by the Dutch government) develop the 'last mile' distribution of SRHR commodities throughout two provinces. With support from the Global Fund, in 2021, we were able to test over 3 million people for HIV, including close to 120 thousand people from key populations. Cordaid has been the fund manager of the Global Fund in the DRC since 2012 on the distribution of HIV, AIDS and TB supplies throughout the country. It currently implements a three-year programme with a fund value of 280M USD. In South Sudan, Cordaid is supporting the last mile delivery of TB/HIV supplies across 5 states through UNDP funding (Global Fund).

"17.2 million people reached through our health care interventions."



Photo: Cordaid

Key figures

Our key results for 2021 included:

- 4.7 million outpatient consultations.
- 143,000 fully immunised children.
- 172,000 women who have at least four antenatal care visits.
- 3.6 million people tested for HIV.
- 407 health facilities with improved (technical) quality (score).

Our partners

World Bank, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the European Commission, the German development bank KfW, the UN, the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs and various Dutch embassies.

ABOUT CORDAID

Cordaid is an internationally operating value-based development and emergency relief organisation, working in and on fragility. We support local communities in their efforts to improve justice, health care, food security, education, and economic opportunities. Our mission is to work towards a world without poverty and equal opportunity. We offer international expertise through a locally-led approach, having decades of in-country experience in the countries we operate in. Cordaid is a founding member of Caritas Internationalis and CIDSE, and member of the ACT Alliance.

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