

# ▶ BACKUP HEALTH

## Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening

### Component Vaccine Production

#### The challenge

Only about 1 % of vaccines used in Africa are currently produced on the continent. This leaves the continent critically dependent on global supply chains for a wide range of vaccines, from childhood immunisations to those for adults. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the severe challenges posed by this dependency, as African nations struggled to secure adequate supplies of vaccines and other life-saving health products. In 2021, the African Union (AU) launched the Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing (PAVM) hosted at Africa Centres for Diseases Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) with the ambitious goal of producing 60 % of the vaccines needed on the continent locally by 2040. In February 2024, the mandate of PAVM was expanded to medical countermeasures and it transitioned to the Platform for Harmonised African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM).

Building sustainable vaccine production in Africa will require substantial investment in infrastructure and manufacturing facilities. Additionally, challenges along the entire value chain must be addressed to create a more conducive environment for vaccine production. Regulatory processes and quality assurance systems in many countries are not yet robust enough to meet international safety standards. A shortage of skilled staff and high manufacturing costs further complicates efforts. Very few companies in Africa fill and finish vaccines today, far less develop vaccines and produce active pharmaceutical ingredients. Vaccines produced in Africa will need to secure a foothold in the global market. There is, however, a foundation to build on, and much potential for growth. Estimates suggest that the African vaccine market could be worth between 2.8 and 5.6 billion USD by 2040, indicating the potential for the emergence of a thriving regional industry.

Project title	BACKUP Health – Global Programme Health Systems Strengthening
Component name	Vaccine Production
Component objective	Strengthening the technical and institutional capacities of public and private actors for vaccine production in Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Co-funded by	European Union
Implementation partners	Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing (PHAHM), Team Europe initiative (TEI) on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies (MAV+), World Health Organization (WHO), Medicines Patent Pool (MPP), African Union Development Agency – The New Partnership for Africa's Development (AUDA-NEPAD), African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative, University of Johannesburg, University of the Witwatersrand
Project region	Worldwide
Duration	04.2021 – 03.2026

#### Our approach

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) commissioned the Global Programme BACKUP Health to **strengthen the technical and institutional capacities** of public and private actors for vaccine production in Africa. The project is part of the **Team Europe Initiative (TEI) on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies** in Africa (MAV+) and since January 2023 co-funded by the European Union. The project focuses on three areas:



Photo left: Ndllovu Research Centre, South Africa © GIZ/Nadia Said

Photo right: Pop-up vaccination site at the Pretoria community hall © GIZ/Nadia Said



Photo left: Bombo Hospital, Tanzania  
© GIZ/Dirk Ostermeier

Photo right: Sequencing machine at Ndllovu  
Research Centre, South Africa  
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### 1. Implementing the Team Europe Support Structure MAV+

The Team Europe Support Structure (TESS) MAV+ facilitates the TEI MAV+ by coordinating efforts, enhancing communication, monitoring progress and delivering technical expertise. Within TESS MAV+, we spearhead communication initiatives among Team Europe members and offer targeted technical support to PHAHM.

### 2. Strengthening of PHAHM at Africa CDC

We support PHAHM through capacity-building measures, stakeholder alignment and the implementation of workstreams on access to finance, market design and demand intelligence, talent development and monitoring and evaluation through embedded experts. Additionally, we organise workshops, commission studies and arrange study tours. Furthermore, our broader activities also contribute to the PHAHM agenda by improving the framework conditions for sustainable health product manufacturing in Africa.

### 3. Engaging with the Private Sector

The private sector plays a key role in the progress towards the AU's goal for vaccine production. Identifying synergies and shared business opportunities fosters collaboration between African and global companies. Our support includes organizing conferences, commissioning studies and facilitating technical exchange sessions to enhance these collaborative efforts.

## Our portfolio and activities in a nutshell

In the first phase of the project, our focus was on improving the framework conditions for sustainable vaccine production. In the current phase, we continue our support to **PHAHM**, the global **WHO mRNA Technology Transfer Programme** and the operationalisation of the **African Medicines Agency** through the

### African Medicines Regulatory Harmonisation (AMRH) Initiative.

In support of **PHAHM**, we co-organised a **technical study tour** on the vaccine and pharmaceutical ecosystem in Europe with site visits to regulatory bodies, development agencies, the private sector, universities and the European Commission. In collaboration with PHAHM, we commissioned a study and hosted a workshop on business and operational models for African bio-manufacturing training centres. In collaboration with WHO, we organised a **side event at the World Health Assembly**, connecting continental talent development initiatives. Moreover, in the field of education and training, we worked with the AMRH initiative to set up regional centres of regulatory excellence and train national regulatory officers. In collaboration with the **University of the Witwatersrand** in South Africa, we supported Africa-wide training and education in the field of vaccinology, in the form of a short course and a master's degree.

We commissioned a study and cost analysis tool to evaluate sustainable business models for contract manufacturing organisations, which contributed to the design of the **African Vaccine Manufacturing Accelerator (AVMA)** of Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance. Our cooperation with the **Medicines Patent Pool** focuses on mapping patents and licensing requirements for future technology transfers to bodies such as the newly established mRNA hub in South Africa. We co-organised the **first global event on strengthening the sustainability of vaccine manufacturing in Africa** with PHAHM, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and the African Vaccine Manufacturing Initiative in 2023. In 2024, we joined forces with PHAHM, the European Commission and the WHO to co-organise the **second edition of the global event on harnessing private sector engagement for sustainable vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing in Africa** and brought key stakeholders together.

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