

GlZ portfolio: Strengthening vaccine and pharmaceutical production in Africa

Context

Access to affordable, high-quality vaccines and medicines is essential for the well-being of any population. Additionally, the fast, equitable global access to these health products is necessary to stop the development of diseases outbreaks to pandemics, strengthening health security for us all. Currently, 99 % of the vaccines used in Africa are imported. The COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vulnerabilities associated with this dependence, as many African nations struggled to secure sufficient supplies of vaccines and other life-saving health products. In response, expanding vaccine production within Africa has become a global priority, with the African Union (AU) setting a goal to produce 60 % of the continent's required vaccines locally by 2040.

The pharmaceutical sector has been identified as a key area for growth, with estimates suggesting that the African vaccine market could be valued between USD 2.8 billion and USD 5.6 billion by 2040 (see [gavi.org](https://www.gavi.org)), signalling the potential for a thriving regional industry. However, the pharmaceutical industry faces several challenges, including high financing costs, uncertain demand, inadequate infrastructure, limited regulatory capacity, and a need for technical expertise and a skilled workforce.

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the European Union (EU), the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH is implementing various projects across Africa aimed at expanding vaccine and pharmaceutical production capacity. These projects are part of the Team Europe Initiative on Manufacturing and Access to Vaccines, Medicines and Health Technologies in Africa (MAV+).

Objective

The goal is to build sustainable manufacturing capabilities for vaccine and pharmaceutical production in Africa by fostering an enabling environment and addressing challenges across the entire value chain.



CESARE Programme: Tour of Tanzania Medical Stores mask production facility, 2023.

Implemented by

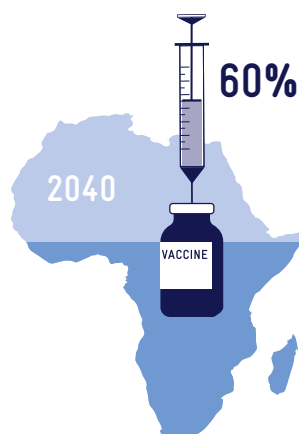
Approach

GIZ employs a multi-level approach working in alignment with the African Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (Africa CDC) and in a harmonized European approach. The GIZ portfolio includes projects at the continental level, in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the Eastern African Community (EAC), as well as in bilateral partner countries such as Ghana, Rwanda, Senegal and South Africa.

Taking an ecosystem approach, the projects focus on strengthening key enablers for sustainable vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturing, emphasizing the following areas:

- Supporting partner governments in policy development and stakeholder coordination.
- Enhancing procurement policies to boost demand for locally produced pharmaceuticals.
- Supporting the skills development of the pharmaceutical workforce.
- Strengthening pharmaceutical regulation and harmonization.
- Promoting private sector development to enhance production capacities and market access.
- Facilitating private sector collaborations to encourage technology transfer.
- Promoting research and development through cooperations between pharmaceutical and research institutions.

Partners include African Union agencies (Africa CDC, AUDA-NEPAD), Regional Economic Communities, national ministries, regulatory authorities, pharmaceutical manufacturers, private sector associations and relevant research and training institutions. Additionally, linkages are fostered with other African, European, and international initiatives, as well as research institutions and companies.



In 2021, the African Union (AU) launched the [Partnerships for African Vaccine Manufacturing \(PAVM\)](#) with the aim to increase vaccine production from currently meeting 1% of the African demand to meeting 60% by 2040.

KEY ACTIVITIES



AFRICA-WIDE ACTIVITIES

- Enhancing the institutional capacities of the Africa Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, incl. technical support through embedded experts at the Platform for Harmonized African Health Products Manufacturing
- Support to the African Medicines Regulatory Harmonization initiative and the operationalisation of the African Medicines Agency
- Support to the establishment and institutional development of the African Pharmaceutical Technology Foundation
- Financial contributions to the WHO mRNA Technology Transfer Programme
- Private sector engagement bringing together international health industries with African pharma manufacturers

Photo: Global Programme BACKUP Health: Study tour on the vaccine and pharmaceutical ecosystem in Europe. © Frauke Göbel



SOUTHERN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT COMMUNITY (SADC)

- Foster business opportunities and networking for pharmaceutical companies
- Improving access to essential medical products through coordinated procurement, local production and harmonization of their certification including SRH commodities
- Skills development through the SADC Regional Industrial Pharmacy Fellowship Programme
- Financial support and technology transfer to SADC training institutions and companies

Photo: CESARE Programme: Tour of Tanzania medical stores mask production facility, 2023. © GIZ/Salt Media

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SENEGAL

- Support the Ministry of Health in creating a legal and regulatory environment that promotes pharmaceutical manufacturing
- Strengthen the national regulatory authority through capacity building and technical assistance
- Enhance the development of the pharmaceutical value chain and the creation of a sustainable pharmaceutical ecosystem by strengthening local private sector actors
- Skills development of the pharmaceutical workforce

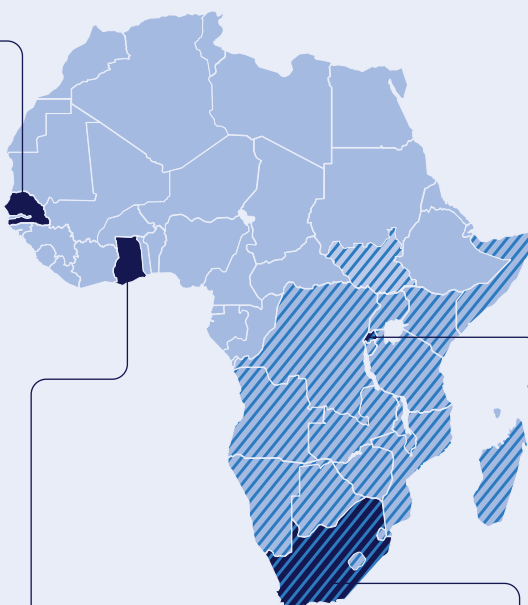
Photo: Developing innovative public health solutions at the Institut Pasteur de Dakar, 2025. © IPD



GHANA

- Enhance the capacities of public institutions to govern and regulate pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing
- Support sustainable, practice-oriented and gender-responsive skills development for the pharmaceutical industry
- Foster applied pharmaceutical and vaccine R&D capacities of Ghanaian research institutions with local industry and international research collaborations
- Enable pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturers to comply with international good practices and expand markets in Ghana and beyond

Photo: Junior scientists at the Kumasi Centre for Collaborative Research in Tropical Medicine, 2025. © GLZ/Barbara van Rijn



SOUTH AFRICA

- Scaled-up surveillance capacities
- Trained biotech experts in international standards
- Local innovations in vaccine and pharma sector with start-ups and research consortia
- Technical assistance to National Regulatory Authority
- Partnership with local vaccine & pharmaceutical manufacturers to access national and regional markets
- Collaborate with South African entities, AU, and SADC to ensure demand for local health products
- Design of an adult vaccination programme with the National Department of Health

Photo: Examining laboratory samples at Ndlovu Medical Group, South Africa, 2021. © GLZ/Nadia Said



EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY (EAC)

- Support to pooled procurement of essential medicines and SRH commodities to enhance availability
- Facilitation of regulatory harmonization and knowledge exchange among EAC authorities
- Assistance in implementing key EAC frameworks such as the GMP Compendium
- Capacity building through RCE-VIHSCM and coordination with the Africa CDC pooled procurement mechanism

Photo: Participants of the Conference on Public Health in Africa (CPHIA), Durban, 2025. © GLZ




RWANDA

- Strengthen the Rwanda Food and Drug Authority through organisational development and build a National Quality Control Laboratory
- Build skills to meet the industry needs through a blended learning certificate study programme and a practical laboratory skills programme
- Fostering entrepreneurship and innovation through the Rwanda Bioeconomy Hub
- Investment promotion and sector networking through conference organization

Photo: Skills Programme at Rwanda Bioeconomy Hub in Kigali, 2024. © UVU Bio

 Bilateral projects

 Cooperation as part of the regional projects in EAC and SADC



BioMex Certificate Study Programme, Rwanda.



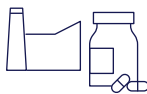
FDA inspectors (trainees) in a practical session, Leiden/Germany, 2023.



BACKUP Health: Study tour on the vaccine and pharmaceutical ecosystem in Europe.

Our achievements in numbers

102



We work with over **102 African vaccine and pharmaceutical manufacturers**, offering support through capacity building, networking, and investment barrier solutions.

23



Our programmes assist **23 regulatory bodies** and the African Medical Regulatory Harmonization to ensure medical products are safe, effective, and high quality.

1900



Through GIZ projects in Africa, over **1900 individuals** have access to training in pharmaceutical and vaccine manufacturing, contributing to a skilled workforce.

52



We collaborate with **52+ R&D institutions** and universities to align curricula with industry needs, strengthen the research ecosystem, and connect research with manufacturers.

14



We have aided in formulating **14+ policies and strategies** to promote the pharmaceutical sector.

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