



France global health strategy

2023-2027

ABSTRACT



Global health has deeply evolved in recent years and its challenges now need to be addressed in relation to all global issues: climate change, epidemic risks, demographic growth, urbanization, economic and social inequalities, population mobility, environmental and security crises, as well as gender equality and sexual and reproductive health and rights.

France is a leading player in global health policy and works to strengthen equal access to health services and innovations, with a particular commitment to extending universal health coverage (UHC), health system strengthening and the fight against diseases.

France aims to address global health challenges by calling on all French and international actors and by building on long-term multilateral and bilateral partnerships. That is the goal of the new French Global Health Strategy for 2023-2027, in accordance with the priorities set down in July 2023 by the Interministerial committee for international cooperation and development (CICID).

France is fully committed to building a new global health architecture to help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 3 (Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages), but also to foster universal access to health services and to prevent and fight diseases and pandemics while promoting the One Health approach. That is the foundation of values and ambitions that France furthers in the various international negotiations and governance fora such as international organizations, multilateral funds, the European Union, the G7 and the G20.

Coordinated by the ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), the ministry of Health and Prevention (MSP) and the ministry of Higher Education and Research (MESR), the French Strategy for Global Health is the fruit of collaboration involving a wide range of French actors working in this field: public agencies, civil society organizations, higher education and research organizations, scientific institutions, foundations, organizations of human, animal and environmental health specialists, local government bodies and the private sector. They will all be represented within a monitoring committee to track the Strategy's implementation.

Ambitions

This new strategy aims to unite actors around five ambitions:

- Contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular SDG3
- Reduce health inequalities, working on all social and environmental aspects
- Strengthen the One Health approach to better prevent and prepare for future global health emergencies
- Address the health consequences of climate change and the environmental impact of health systems
- Promote French values, expertise and research, innovation and partnerships

Key figures

1.8 billion people

I.e. 24% of the world's population, live in situations of fragility where it is difficult to provide quality healthcare services¹.

10 millions

It's the shortfall of healthcare professionals by 2030 in low and middle-income countries, estimated by The World Health Organization (WHO). That is why France has made the training of healthcare professionals, 70% of whom are women, central to its Strategy, notably supporting the WHO Academy.

More than €10 billion

Invested by France the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria and Unitaid since they were set up.



Guiding principles

Health for all

France promotes universal access to health, combating all forms of inequality and exclusion and addressing factors of vulnerability and the specificities of populations and regions.

One Health

The One Health approach requires the interdependence between human, animal and ecosystem health to be fully taken into account.

Human rights

France considers that being in the best possible health condition is a fundamental right. Defending human rights, rejecting discrimination and protecting vulnerable populations are therefore priorities.

Gender equality

France promotes and advocates for health systems that address gender in order to reduce inequalities in access to appropriate prevention, screening, care and treatment.

Scientific results- and methods-driven approach

Critical analysis of available scientific results and data is essential to ensure the quality and effectiveness of global health actions and policies.

Joint design, ownership and sustainability

France's global health action incorporates the principles of ownership, alignment, results, harmonization and accountability. France strives to mainstream approaches ensuring joint design and ownership of actions.

Coherence and complementarity

The French Global Health Strategy addresses the goals of coherence and complementarity through reference frameworks like its other international sectoral strategies, the EU Global Health Strategy, European and international frameworks and norms to which France subscribes, as well as France's historical bilateral and multilateral commitments in global health.



Priorities

1. Promote equitable, sustainable, resilient, adaptable and person-centred health systems to achieve UHC

UHC is central to France's strategy, in a holistic approach to social protection. In light of new climate change and multi-crisis environments, this priority seeks to strengthen health systems, and particularly human resources, in a transversal and systemic way, so as to bring lasting change to policies, regulations, institutions and practices in health

2. Promote people health and well-being; prevent and combat diseases at all ages

France is committed to developing prevention and promotion strategies and programmes in the health sector that focus on the determinants of health. France will also work to develop healthcare pathways that guarantee appropriate care at all ages. It maintains strong commitment to fighting infectious diseases and antimicrobial resistance under the One Health approach.



Desertification in Africa, a major challenge for health systems. © Olivier Girard/AFD

3. Better anticipate, prevent, prepare for and address public health emergencies and climate change, under the One Health approach

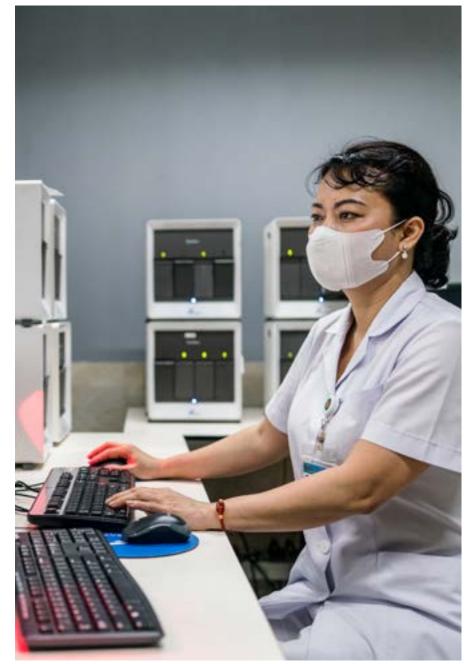
France is committed to ensuring a collective, multi-disciplinary and coordinated response to health emergencies and climate disasters with a major health impact. Remembering the COVID-19 pandemic, France will seek to strengthen prevention and surveillance under the One health approach and to prepare an equitable and effective response by strengthening health systems, national and regional public health institutions and local production capacities, while guaranteeing access to health products and innovations.

4. Foster a new global health architecture, drawing on the complementarity of bilateral and multilateral action

Because the challenges of today and tomorrow require a more robust and inclusive global architecture, France intends to guarantee access to health services as a global common good and better address country needs. To do so, it will promote inclusive, intersectoral and decentralized global health governance by helping strengthen the efficiency and functioning of health multilateralism and promoting regionalization of global health and the emergence of a shared vision of global health finance.

5. Ensure that research and public and private expertise are levers for action and influence to serve the Global Health Strategy

Scientists, researchers, humanitarian personnel, development specialists and civil society and private sector actors are seen as major players in health and are crucial for France's public health action. The Strategy fully takes into account their work and aims to strengthen coordination, training and partnerships to enhance their impact and make better use of French expertise and scientific knowledge to support the implementation of public policies for health.



Microbiology laboratory and Reference Center for tuberculosis at the National Lung Hospital in Hanoi, Vietnam. © Quinn Ryan Mattingly/Fonds mondial



Key actions

WHO Academy

France is deeply committed to training health personnel and is the leading donor to the WHO Academy, having invested almost €120 million. The Academy aims to become the leading centre for healthcare professionals' life-long training worldwide. Its simulation platform will help strengthen service quality and improve the preparedness of health systems for future pandemics.

The new global health architecture: the upcoming international pandemics agreement and the revision of the International Health Regulations (IHR)

France is working actively, in coordination with the European Commission, in the negotiation of an agreement under the World Health Organization to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, which should be adopted at the World Health Assembly in May 2024. Discussions to guarantee the creation of a permanent vaccine and countermeasure platform to ensure equitable access are also underway, and France is playing a full role. At the same time, France is engaged in work on the revision of the IHR, launched during the 75th session of the World Health Assembly, which is a key text for the whole global public health security system.

Multilateral and bilateral action to strengthen healthcare systems and fight diseases

France has chosen the path of multilateralism in its commitment to the fight against communicable diseases, investing in particular in the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria; Unitaid; Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance; and, more recently, the Global Polio Eradication Initiative (GPEI). France plays a leading political and financial role within these organizations in order to foster access to health products and services for the most vulnerable. This commitment to multilateralism is supported by bilateral actions, which are crucial to strengthen health systems in the long run, via L'Initiative and via hospital cooperation, deployment of technical experts to countries, and support for projects aimed at civil society and communities.

The PREZODE (Preventing Zoonotic Disease Emergence) initiative

The international PREZODE initiative was launched at the instigation of the French President at the One Planet Summit in January 2021. PREZODE is a tangible implementation of the One Health approach. Through the networking of governments, research institutes, foundations and associations, it promotes prevention (before humans are infected), early detection and surveillance, in order to reduce the risk of infectious diseases of animal origin.



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